

# INDIANA JUNIOR CLASSICS LEAGUE 2007 ODYSSEY: ROME AND SORRENTO *12 days*



## **DAYS 1-2: ARRIVAL, EVENING WALKING TOUR**

Rome is your destination; a wide-bodied jet is your vehicle. Swoop down over the Alps and touch down on the wide concrete runway at Fiumicino. You've arrived.

Meet your **passports** courier on the other side of customs and proceed to your centrally-located hotel.

The remainder of the day is yours to spend as you wish. Take in some sights or indulge in some shopping in the area enclosed by *Piazza di*

*Spagna, Via Condotti, Via del Corso* and *Via Frattina*. For more modest budgets, check out *Via dei Giubbonari, Via Tritone* or *Via Babuino*.

This evening, enjoy a walking tour past the illuminated ruins of the Forum and the Colosseum, and up the Capitoline Hill.

Dinner and overnight in Rome.

## **DAY 3: PALATINE HILL, ROMAN FORUM, IMPERIAL FORA, SAN PIETRO IN VINCOLI, DOMUS AUREA, COLOSSEUM, SAN CLEMENTE CHURCH**

Start this day with a visit to the oldest site in Rome, *Il Palatino*, which was an exclusive residential area during Roman times. Among its notable ruins, see the *Domus Flavia* and the *Domus Augustana* — parts of a huge palace built by Domitian in the 1st century AD — and the House of Livia, a prime example of a wealthy

Republican-era dwelling decorated with delicate frescoes. A visit is included to the Palatine Museum. The Palatine Hill itself is bordered on one side by the Colosseum and on the other by the Circus Maximus, where more than 300,000 spectators could watch chariot races.

Next, visit the Roman Forum. Once the heart of a vast empire, the Forum was filled with extravagant buildings and crowded with people from all over the known world.

Continue your explorations with the Imperial Fora, one of the world's largest archaeological sites. This area, where Roman civilization was born and flourished, comprises fora built by Caesar, Augustus, Trajan, Nerva and Vespasian. These once-glorious statements



of power and wealth have endured the assault of time and still contain some exceptional monuments, such as Trajan's Column.

You will also visit the church of *San Pietro in Vincoli* to view Michelangelo's *Moses* and St. Peter's chains.

In the vicinity are the remains of Nero's fantasy palace, the *Domus Aurea*, once covered with gold and filled with the utmost luxury of its times. A guided visit may be included according to availability.

Then, visit the *Coliseum*, the immense amphitheater completed in AD 80 and where 50,000 spectators could be seated while gladiators fought to the death.

Conclude with a visit to the church of *San Clemente*, known for its three distinct layers: at street level, a 12th-century sanctuary with remarkable mosaics and frescoes by Masolino; below, a 4th-century church; and farther down, a Roman temple to Mithras.

Dinner and overnight in Rome.



#### **DAY 4: PIAZZA NAVONA WALKING TOUR, S. MARIA IN COSMEDIN, TREVI FOUNTAIN WALKING TOUR**

Today's walking tour starts in the *Piazza Navona*, built on the site of Domitian's stadium and adorned with trendy bistros and statues, notably Bernini's *Fountain of Four Rivers*. You'll visit the Pantheon, "Temple to All the Gods", originally built in 27 BC and then completely redesigned by Emperor Hadrian in AD 125. This is one of the better-preserved and most harmonious monuments of antiquity. Stand

in a shaft of sunlight under the *oculus* of the most perfect dome ever built.

Then, visit the church of *Santa Maria sopra Minerva*. This Gothic sanctuary (rare in Rome) is built over the remains of a Roman temple and houses remarkable artwork. Famous Italians buried here include Fra Angelico and St. Catherine of Siena.

Continue with a visit to the *Area Sacra del largo di Torre Argentina* to see four temples which are among Rome's oldest, dating back to the era of the Roman Republic.

On to the small district by the Tiber River which became the Jewish Ghetto in 1556 when, on orders of the Pope, the city's Jewish population was confined within a walled area, locked there at night and forced to wear emblems that identified them as Jews. Until 1848, all Roman Jews were also forced to hear Christian sermons on Sundays.

You will also see the Portico of Octavia, built by Augustus around 30 BC in honor of his sister and now the only remnant of the monumental Circus Flaminius. Next, see the Renaissance palace built on the ruins of the Theater of Marcellus and the *Forum Boarium* with its elegant monuments from the second century BC.

Visit the church of *Santa Maria in Cosmedin*, first built in the 6th century, to see its mosaic floor and the grotesque *Bocca della Verità*, the Mouth of Truth, dating back to the 4th century BC and transformed by tradition into one of the world's earliest lie detectors!

Next, see the Circus Maximus, a long, grassy esplanade that was once Rome's largest stadium. With a capacity to hold nearly 300,000 spectators, many bets were made on the horse and chariot races, athletic contests and animal fights which were staged here; the last

races were held around AD 549.

This evening's walking tour takes you past the majestic Column of Marcus Aurelius to the huge Temple of Hadrian, and ends at the Trevi Fountain, an aquatic marvel which is one of Rome's most celebrated sights. For centuries this place marked the terminal of the *Aqua Virgo* aqueduct. The fountain is best seen at night, when it is illuminated; throw a coin into the spray to ensure your return to this wonderful city!

Dinner and overnight in Rome.

## DAY 5: THE VATICAN, EXCURSION TO TIVOLI

In the company of your courier, make your way to the Vatican where you will meet the local guide who will spend this morning with your group.

Your guided tour of the Vatican Museums begins with the section known as the Pio-Clementino Museum and its superb collection of Greek and Roman sculptures; its Octagonal Courtyard of the Belvedere houses the famous *Laocoön* and *Apollo Belvedere*. You will also visit the other Greek and Roman section, the Chiramonti Museum, which includes the *Braccio Nuovo* museum with statues such as *Augustus of Prima Porta*. In the *Stanze de Raffaello* (Raphael Rooms), which Raphael was commissioned to decorate, you will see outstanding frescoes such as *The Parnassus* and *The School of Athens*. Then, marvel at Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* and brightly-colored ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Follow with a guided tour of the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica, which houses priceless works of art, in particular Michelangelo's *Pietà* and Bernini's *Dove of the Holy Spirit*.

This afternoon, enjoy an excursion to Tivoli, known for its gardens and fabulous fountains. This hilltop town supplied travertine marble, from which much of imperial Rome was built.

A visit to the *Villa d'Este* introduces visitors to the frivolous luxury enjoyed by the papal families. This Benedictine monastery was converted into a country retreat in the 16th century by the grandson of an infamous Borgia pope.

Then, enjoy a visit to *Villa Adriana*, where Emperor Hadrian recreated some of the wonders he saw during his travels. Widely acknowledged to be one of the largest and most spectacular villas ever built in the Roman Empire, *Villa Adriana* once covered an area greater than the center of Imperial Rome!

Dinner and overnight in Rome.





## **DAY 6: EXCURSION BY TRAIN TO FLORENCE, UFFIZI VISIT**

Today's excursion takes you to *Firenze*, the "jewel of the Renaissance." Hear about the Medici family and the art of politics, as a local guide leads you on a city tour. See the *Duomo*, the Baptistery with Ghiberti's *Doors of Paradise*, Giotto's Bell Tower and the *Piazza della Signoria*. In the church of *Santa Croce*, see the final resting places of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. A visit is also included to the *Accademia*, where you'll admire the best known

of all Florentine treasures, Michelangelo's *David*. You will also visit the Leonardo Leather Workshop, where a craftsman will demonstrate steps used in the manufacture of world-renowned Florentine leather goods.

You will also visit the Uffizi Gallery, which houses the world's most impressive private collection of Italian Renaissance art. See masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Lippi, Giotto, Raphael and Tintoretto.

Dinner in Florence and overnight in Rome.

## **DAY 7: ARA PACIS MUSEUM, BORGHESE GALLERY**

This morning, visit the new Ara Pacis Museum, which opened in 2006. This modern building was designed by the American architect Robert Meier to shelter the *Ara Pacis Augustae*, an altar surrounded by a sculpted marble screen, which was built in 13 BC to celebrate the era of peace brought on by the Emperor Augustus' military successes. It is a major work of the Augustan Golden Age, as is the nearby *Augusteum*, or Mausoleum of Augustus, where Augustus, his wife Livia and many of his descendants were buried.



In the afternoon, make your way to Rome's most beautiful park, *Villa Borghese* to view the superb art collection on display in *Galleria Borghese*. This museum owns Bernini masterpieces, such as *David* and *Apollo and Daphne*, and Canova's famous statue of Pauline Borghese, the sister of Napoléon Bonaparte.

End with a visit to the elegant Spanish Steps.

Dinner and overnight in Rome.



## DAY 8: MUSEO NAZIONALE ROMANO, CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS, DINNER WITH MUSIC

This morning, visit the *Museo Nazionale Romano*, comprised of two of the most important museums of ancient Roman art. Begin your explorations with a visit to the once superb Baths of Diocletian. Besides evidence of the past splendor of the baths (you'll see original columns 45 feet high and more than 5 feet in diameter), the museum contains a considerable number of works of art which retrace the history of art and

the history of Western Civilization.

Then, enjoy a guided visit to the nearby *Palazzo Massimo alle Terme*, which contains one of the finest collections in the world of classical sculpture, as well as superb ancient Roman wall-paintings, stuccoes and mosaics.

This afternoon, go up the Capitoline Hill, which was once the site of Rome's foremost temples. There, visit the *Musei Capitolini*, housed in the neighboring *Palazzo Nuovo* and *Palazzo dei Conservatori*. Their collections include artifacts from all periods of the Roman Empire, pieces of a colossal sculpture of Constantine the Great, Roman busts which stand as a kind of ancient *Who's Who* as well as remarkable Renaissance paintings.

Enjoy dinner with music.

Overnight in Rome.

## DAY 9: NAPLES, SORRENTO

This morning, travel by coach down the *autostrada*, past Montecassino, the monastery and World War II fortress town.

Stop in Naples for a visit to the *Museo Archeologico Nazionale*, one of the world's great museums of Greek and Roman antiquities, housed in an impressive 16th-century palace. It holds ancient statuary, including the *Sosandra Aphrodite*, the *Artemis of Ephesus*, a fabulous collection of mosaics from Pompeii, artwork from the *Villa Pison* at Herculaneum, and more.

Continue to Sorrento, the fabled town of poets and sunsets, also renowned for its embroidery and *intarsia* (wood inlay).

This evening, discover the city's scenic delights and spectacular views. For the finest overlook of all, go to the *Punta di Sorrento* and watch the sunset from the belvedere.

Dinner and overnight in Sorrento.





## **DAY 10: EXCURSION TO CAPRI, BLUE GROTTO**

Today, descend the winding road to the port of Sorrento, and board a boat for a crossing to the Isle of Capri. A guided tour of the island includes a visit to the iridescent Blue Grotto, weather and tide permitting. Then, transfer by funicular to the town of Capri's main *piazza*, passing tropical gardens on the way. On the island stands Villa Jovis, the imperial residence from which Tiberius once ruled his empire. Recall tales of the Emperor Augustus, and of the mischievous

Caligula.

Dinner and overnight in Sorrento.

## **DAY 11: POMPEII, MT. VESUVIUS, ROME**

Get an early start this morning. Your coach takes you first to Pompeii for a visit to the excavated city. A guide will explain how well-to-do Romans lived 2,000 years ago and how life in Pompeii ended abruptly in 79 AD when Mt. Vesuvius spoke, at once destroying this city and preserving it forever. You'll have time to explore on your own: if it wasn't included in your tour, check out the *Villa dei Misteri*, a large villa built around a central court and surrounded by terraces, which is known for its outstanding frescoes.



Then, weather permitting, enjoy a ride up the flank of Mt. Vesuvius (road opened in dry weather only). The final leg to the rim of the crater, at 4,200 feet, is done on foot (sturdy walking shoes a must!). The volcano is dormant and increasingly cooler, but it is a fitful sleep, closely monitored by vulcanologists.

Afterwards, your coach takes you up the *autostrada* to Rome, where the evening is free to spend as you wish.

Plan a visit to the Trevi Fountain, one of Rome's most celebrated sights, which was the terminus of the *Aqua Virgo* aqueduct. The Trevi is at its best at night, when the fountain is illuminated. Throw a coin into the spray to ensure your return to this wonderful city!

Dinner and overnight in Rome.

## **DAY 12: RETURN FLIGHT**

*Ciao, Europa!* Statistics show that visitors do in fact return to Rome, although it may not have anything to do with coins in a fountain. Race the sun and arrive home later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.