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## **Rome + Venice + Cruise**

# Trip Summary

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Learn more about Rome while you on flight

The City

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## Day 2

Welcome to Rome!

Day at leisure

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Cruise on Rhapsody of the Seas

Rhapsody of the Seas - Rhapsody of the Seas 2017-deckplans.pdf, Rhapsody of the Seas factsheet.pdf

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## Day 1



### Depart for Rome

Airfare is not included into package.

Please [contact us for flight options](#).



### Learn more about Rome while you on flight



### The City

Where should one begin to summarise the history of the Eternal City? A good date might be 21 April 753 B.C., when Romulus founded the city after murdering his twin brother Remus. During the following centuries, Rome grew into a powerful empire, peaking during the rule of Marcus Aurelius in 161-180 A.D.

Like the ancient city, today's Rome is built on seven hills: Capitolino, Palatino, Quirinale, Viminale, Esquilino, Celio, and Aventino. The central area is called Campo Marzio, named after the Roman god of war, and was the ancient army's training grounds. This is where many of the famous sights are located. Other well-known areas are Trastevere, on the other side of the Tiber river, and Monti. Little Pigneto is considered to be the most typically Roman neighbourhood.



## Day 2



### Welcome to Rome!

#### Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome - one of the most famous cities in the world.

Take a train from Rome Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport to

Roma Termini Railway Station.



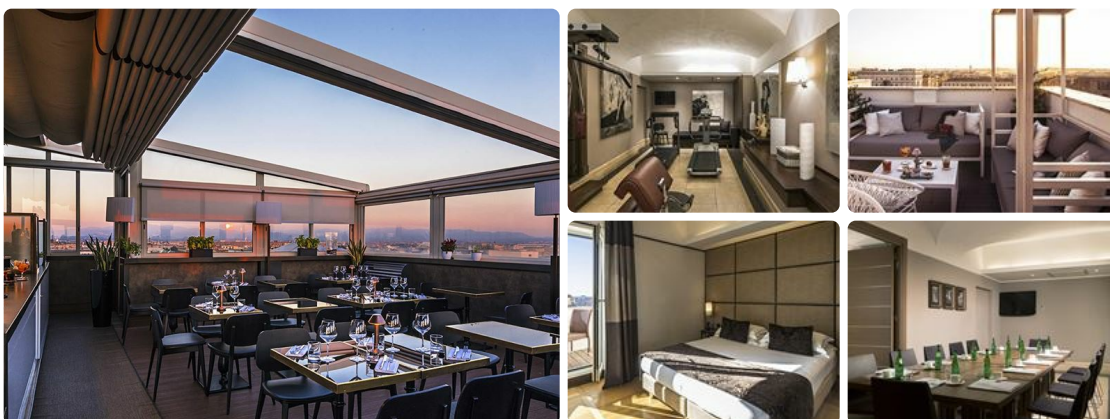
Your hotel is nearby

The rest of the day is at your own leisure to relax after the trip.



## Day at leisure

Check-in into hotel: 3 or 4 stars, will be defined at finalization of your cruise vacation.



## Day 3



## Explore Rome

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy your full-day Rome tour.

### Skip the Line: Colosseum, Vatican and Historic Rome Small-Group Tour

Want to see the best of Rome but limited on time? This 7.5-hour tour combines two must-do Rome experiences into one full-day excursion. Delve into the very essence of Roman history, culture, art, and architecture on this incredible tour, which introduces visitors to Rome's best-known sights in a single day. Travel from the ancient roots of the Eternal City to the very height of the Roman Empire through the stories and anecdotes of your guides, and enjoy a fully immersive experience.

Get acquainted with Rome's most important sites, including skip-the-line entry at the Vatican and the Colosseum, on this whirlwind full-day tour. Optimized for travelers without time to spare, you'll learn about ancient Rome's history, culture, art and architecture. Round-trip transportation from downtown Rome included.

- Full-day tour of Ancient Rome's highlights
- Great choice for travelers who want to see Rome in a day
- Skip-the-line access to Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Vatican Museums included
- See Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, and sample handmade gelato
- Small group of 15 people or fewer

### What To Expect

For the morning portion of your tour, meet your guide and small group of fellow travelers outside of Oppio Caffè near the Colosseum. Skip the long lines with your fast access tickets and proceed directly inside to begin exploring the ancient world's epic sports arena. Listen as your guide describes the harrowing contests that took place there.

Head over to the Roman Forum, where you'll climb up a nearby overlook to get a peek inside instead of slogging through the crowds awaiting entrance. From your vantage point, you can see the Temple of the Vestal Virgins and the Senate House, and your guide will help you imagine how the forum functioned as the center of Rome's society two millennia ago.

Step inside the Pantheon, the largest un-reinforced concrete dome in the world, and hear how it was built. Then head for the Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona, streets made famous in the film Roman Holiday, with a gelato in hand.

Take a break for lunch on your own, then meet your guide in Piazza del Risorgimento Square. Enjoy skipping the lines again and head inside for a curated tour of the Vatican's highlights, during which you'll see the Laocoön Group, the sculpture galleries and the Raphael Rooms. End up in the Sistine Chapel, gazing upwards at Michelangelo's famous frescoes.

From there, choose between extending your stay in the chapel and the Vatican Museums, or skip the lines and enter St. Peter's Basilica directly from the Sistine Chapel.



## Day 4

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### Welcome to Venice!

After breakfast, take a speed train to Venice in 2nd class coach.

Taking the train from Rome to Venice

Traveling by train in Italy from Rome to Venice is as scenic as it is convenient. The distance from Rome to Venice is 330 miles; some Trenitalia Freccia high-speed trains make this journey in just 3 hours and 45 minutes.

The Rome to Venice train cuts diagonally across Italy, from one coast to the other through the scenic Apennine mountain range. Many Trenitalia Freccia AV trains stop in Bologna en route to Venice.

#### Rome to Venice train times

Trenitalia trains leave Roma Termini station once or twice per hour for Venice's Santa Lucia station — averaging 62 trains per day. The earliest Trenitalia train leaves Rome Termini station at 5:35 a.m. The last train to Venice leaves Rome at 11:50 p.m.

Note that weekends and holidays typically mean less frequent service and sometimes longer travel times.

#### Amenities on the Freccia trains between Rome and Venice

Italy's high-speed trains are equipped with air conditioning and electrical outlets at your seat to charge devices. There is WiFi on Frecciarossa and Frecciargento trains, but the signal will drop in tunnels and at stations. Expect a cafe car on every train, as well as food cart that brings snacks, sandwiches and beverages to your seat. At the end of each car you'll find a restroom and plenty of racks to store large luggage.



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### When you arrive in Venice

We can include your vaporetto ticket into package.

Come out of the train station and bear right. Head to the 'biglietteria' ticket point and join the queue. Don't even bother looking for your wharf until you've got your tickets!

You can use the automatic machines if you want, but the ticket office is better because you can ask questions and get an up-to-date route map.

### **Which type of vaporetto ticket to buy**

Single tickets are good for an hour's worth of travel and are €7.

If you're in Venice for a day or two, buy 24-/48-hour tickets. They're much better value. You can also get up to a 7-day pass, depending how long you're there.

If you're arriving in the afternoon, buy a single ticket and a 24- or 48-hour ticket. They only start working once you validate them, so you can use the single the day you arrive and the longer ticket from the following day.

Not all vaporetto stops have ticket offices but all of them have validation machines.

It's very important you validate your tickets before you get your first vaporetto. If you don't, it's very likely you'll be fined. Wave your ticket in front of the little machine, the lights should come on and that's all you have to do. You only have to do this once.

You won't be asked to show your ticket every time you get on a vaporetto, only if there's an inspector on board. So once it's validated pop your ticket in your wallet.

### **Tactics for vaporetto travel**

- Tickets include just one piece of luggage and you can't buy extra tickets! If you have more luggage than this, you'll just have to chance it. We had a small trolleybag and a large suitcase each, and we just tried our luck and got away with it. If you're worried or you have lots of luggage, either organise storage before you get to Venice or organise a private boat transfer with your hotel.
- Vaporetto routes can go in both directions unless it has a .1 or .2 after it. For example 4.1 and 4.2. Look at the final destination shown on the ferry (which can be hard to spot) or work out which way it'll be heading before your vaporetto arrives.
- Carry your backpack in your arms on the vaporetto – not on your back. The locals hate this and even have signs telling people how it should be done.
- If you're only going a couple of stops, stay nearer the doors up on deck, otherwise stay out of the way and away from the doors.
- Allow extra travel time in peak hours. Sometimes – especially in the busy tourist season – vaporetti are full and you won't get on. Be especially careful if you've got a specific train to catch as the routes to the station are always busy.

<https://www.venetoinside.com/transport-in-venice-and-veneto/public-transport-in-venice/>





## Check-in into your hotel

Your hotel location is carefully selected. It will be close to cruise port. Hotels in Venice are small - only 20-30 rooms. So, book your cruisetour far in advance to stay in the best hotel possible.

Check-in time - 2pm.

## Day 5



## Explore Venice

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a wonderful walking city tour of all the must-see places.

### Grand Day Tour of Venice with Skip-the Line Doge's Palace and St Mark's Basilica

Explore the best of Venice at a 10% discount with this Super Saver combo of three popular tours. Skip the line at the Doge's Palace, where you can wander through ornate public rooms and across the notorious Bridge of Sighs. You'll also head to the front of the long queue at St Mark's Basilica to tour the dazzling interior of this Byzantine masterpiece and enjoy a guided walking tour of Venice's hidden gems. Finally, cruise down the Grand Canal aboard a motorboat and soak in the majestic passing scenery.

- Combine three best-selling Venice tours
- Enjoy skip-the-line access to Doge's Palace and St Mark's Basilica
- Explore Doge's Palace and see ornate public rooms, frescoes by Tintoretto and the Bridge of Sighs
- See top Venice attractions such as St Mark's Square on a walking tour
- Cruise around the Grand Canal in a motorboat and hear about many palaces that line the banks of the most unique avenue in the world
- Choose from two different tour lengths to suit your schedule and preference

### What To Expect

Spend a delightful day in Venice with three best-selling tours. Choose from two different touring options to suit your schedule. With either option, begin your day with a 9am skip-the-line tour of the Doge's Palace. Afterward, opt to explore the city at your leisure for 1 hour before the start of your next tour, or meet your next guide right away.

Enjoy skip-the-line access to the glorious St Mark's Basilica, followed by a walking tour of the city's quieter backstreets and historic treasures. Complete your day with an exciting motorboat cruise down palazzo-lined banks of the Grand Canal. See Itinerary below for tour details.

- A dress code is required to enter places of worship and selected museums. No shorts or sleeveless tops allowed. Knees and shoulders **MUST** be covered for both men and women. You may risk refused entry if you fail to comply with these dress requirements



## Dining

Venice has a large variety of restaurants. As usual with Italian cities, the best dining experience can be enjoyed at a simple neighbourhood trattoria off the tourist rabble. Venice has many culinary specialities, like bigoli in anchovy sauce or castraure — tiny artichokes with Parmesan shavings and olive oil.

Make sure to always look at the bottom of the menu to see if a service fee is added to your bill. "Service included" or "12% added/charged" means that another 12% of the total cost will be added to your bill. "Non cover" means no service fee will be included in the price and there will be no additional charge.



## Day 6



### Cruise on Rhapsody of the Seas

Departure time: 5 pm

**Passengers:** 2,040

**Best for:** Families and fun seekers who want plenty to do but don't want to navigate a mega-sized ship

**At a Glance:** Refurbished in 2016, Vision-class ships are known for their smaller size and beyond-the-Caribbean itineraries. *Rhapsody of the Seas* specializes in Mediterranean cruises, with multiple sailings in the Greek isles and Croatia. And though it's more intimate than Royal Caribbean's largest ships, it still has plenty of fun activities to choose from (rock climbing, anyone?).

#### Five Things to Know About Rhapsody of the Seas Cruise Ship

##### #1 You Won't Get Lost

While Royal Caribbean is best known for floating metropolises like *Symphony of the Seas*, aka the largest cruise ship in the world, the line's Vision class feels much more intimate. *Rhapsody of the Seas* carries fewer than half the passengers as *Symphony*. But you'll still find many Royal Caribbean's signature activities, kids' programs, and restaurants.

##### #2 It's a Great Way to Explore

There may be a less to do onboard, but *Rhapsody of the Seas* keeps its passengers plenty busy with island-hopping and mainland-centric itineraries on both sides of the Atlantic.

##### #3 You Can Stay Active

*Rhapsody of the Seas* may not be the biggest Royal Caribbean ship, but it still offers many ways to play. There's a rock-climbing wall, a video arcade, two pools, and a poolside movie screen. And if you're in the mood for a workout, you can always hit the fitness center where you'll find lots of classes to help you work off that buffet.

##### #4 Relaxation is a Priority

If you'd rather chill by the pool with a book than hit the rock-climbing wall, this is the ship for you. The adults-only Solarium pool has a retractable glass roof. Or book a treatment at Vitality Spa, which offers everything from body wraps and massage to acupuncture and Botox.

##### #5 There's Plenty to Eat

When you're not sampling the local cuisine onshore, you'll have several onboard options to choose from. During the day, grab a sandwich at Park Café or hit the buffet at Windjammer Café, then grab a scoop at Ben & Jerry's. For dinner, do the main dining room or pay an extra fee for steak at Chops Grille, Japanese at Izumi, Italian at Giovanni's Table, or a five-course, wine-paired extravaganza at the intimate Chef's Table.



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## Rhapsody of the Seas

The Rhapsody of the Seas started sailing in 1997. Former names: none. The Rhapsody of the Seas is registered in Nassau, Bahamas. The Rhapsody of the Seas has 1013 cabins. 23 percent of the staterooms on board have balconies.

You can expect between 2026 to 2431 passengers on a typical sailing. This means that at the higher number (usually peak and holiday sailings) Rhapsody of the Seas has a space ratio of 32.3. *(A space ratio less than 33 means that you may find the ship crowded in areas. A space ratio greater than 39 means that there should be plenty of space for each passenger.)* When this ship isn't sailing at capacity the space ratio can be as good as 38.7.

The Rhapsody of the Seas has 765 crew members on board. There are 3 passengers for every crew member on board. There are no self-serve laundromats on this cruise ship.

The ship's last major refurbishment was in Nov 2016.

There are 12 decks on this ship. The highest deck number is 12. The number of decks with passenger cabins is 5.

There are 14 special needs cabins on this ship. These cabins have been modified for accessibility purposes.

- 1 Indoor Pools
- 1 Outdoor Pools
- 6 Whirlpools (hot tubs)
- Rock Climbing Wall

### Features

- WiFi Ship Wide
- Casino
- No Cigar Lounge
- Chapel
- Video Arcade
- No Cinema



- Show Lounge
- Hair Salon
- Spa
- Fitness Center
- Library
- No Bridge Viewing Area
- Outdoor Movie Screen
- Teen Lounge
- Passenger Promenade Deck
- Sea Viewing Lounge on upper deck
- Adult Only Outside Lounge Area



**Rhapsody of the Seas 2017-deckplans.pdf**



**Rhapsody of the Seas factsheet.pdf**



Check-out from your hotel and check-in for your cruise!

## Day 7



### **Split, Croatia**

Arrival time: 9 am

Departure time: 6 pm





## The City

Split is the second largest city in Croatia. It is a dynamic and vibrant holiday resort that turns into life over the lively summer season. Its pulsating heart is concentrated in the compact Old Town, composed of the orderly streets and monuments of the imposing Roman emperor's abode.

Just a stone's throw away from the Palace, Riva, the evocative seafront promenade, runs parallel to the city in a hub of activities that buzzes with life since the early hours – wealthy in shops, cafes and bars, the seafront boardwalk is where both locals and tourists congregate day and night, mingling and mixing.

If the city centre and the crowded beaches have become a major draw for tourists, Split peninsula is where serenity reign supreme and a backdrop of Mediterranean flora shapes the atmosphere.

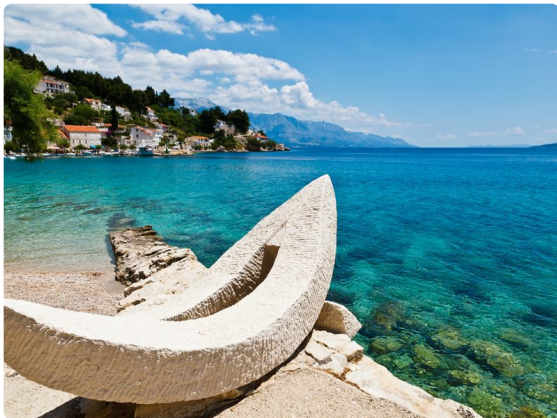


## Do & See

The ancient walls of the Old City encircle squares, crescents and architectural beauties that create a cultural hub for the travellers to discover. Split has a rich history as you will notice when exploring the city. Here you will find historical sites like The Cathedral Of St. Domnius, Pjaca Clock Tower and Diocletian's Palace to name a few.

Split has also a beautiful nature, its crystalline waters, long stretches of white beaches and a green lung embedded in the peninsula are a major draw for nature-lovers, offering hundreds of options for outdoor activities or water-sports.

Thanks to its stunning surroundings the captivating city of Split has beautifully developed around tourism, creating a destination where its natural peculiarities have been enhanced by a vibrant atmosphere of bars, restaurants and shops.



## Day 8

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### Dubrovnik, Croatia

Arrival time: 7 am

Departure time: 4 pm



### The City

Few places in the world master the mix of young and modern with the medieval and baroque better than Dubrovnik. The city naturally evolves around the Old Town which is inside the city walls.

The Old Town provides a blend of shops, cafés and bars, a fantastic atmosphere, and some very beautiful sights as you walk along down the Stradun. The squares in the Old Town are lined with bars or restaurants that have outdoor seating, giving the visitors, as well as the locals, a chance to relax with a drink in the sunshine.

Outside the city walls, modern Dubrovnik offers everything you would expect from a Mediterranean country and figs, lemons, oranges and peaches are to be found dangling from the trees in many of the gardens.



The town's architecture displays very little evidence from the 'Siege of Dubrovnik' in 1992, during which more than two thousand bombs were dropped on the town. The only hint of this is the presence of all the newly tiled roofs in town.

Dubrovnik is well worth a visit any time of the year, but, naturally, spring and summer brings out the best in the city.



## Do & See

"The pearl of the Adriatic" as the city is described, Dubrovnik, offers a great mix of history, sun and sea making it a popular tourist destination. Thanks to its location between the towering Dinaric Alps and the Adriatic Sea, the city has an incredible scenery that just needs to be seen with your own eyes. There are plenty of gems and spots to discover and the visitors are spoiled with choices all year round. Start your day by exploring the town's history and walk around the city walls and the Old Town, no visit to Dubrovnik would be complete without these two spectacular attractions. If you want to cool down, head over to one of the beaches with crystal clear sea and within easy reach. Alternatively, why not take a water taxi to one of the islands around Dubrovnik and enjoy gorgeous beaches, lush vegetation and the relaxed vibe. Either way, you will find endless things to do, so you better start planning.

All [optional excursions are available here](#).





## Day at Sea

Enjoy day at sea.



## Day 10



## Santorini, Greece

Arrival time: 7 am

Departure time: 6 pm



## The Island

The island's beauty has been waxed lyrical over the years, fully earning the epithet "kalliste" (the most beautiful). Along with "Strogili", this was one of the former names lent to the island over its troubled history. Its history is one of battles and conquests, of a tragic eruption and a blossoming renaissance – events that haven't altered Santorini's charm but that undoubtedly scarred it.

Together with the inhabited Thera and five other smaller islands, Thera (Santorini's Greek name) belongs to the namesake archipelago which is the vestige of a volcanic caldera. Places of unspoiled nature and postcard-like views, the islands are reachable by boat and bear the original appeal of the old-fashioned Santorini.



The main island is split further into picturesque villages masterly painted in dazzling blue and white hues, outlining the holiday resort's multi-faceted personality and its extraordinary variety of landscapes.



## Do & See

The scent of wine grapes and vineyards stretching lazily down Santorini's unrefined hills; the unique taste of tomatoes grown solely on volcanic soil and the soaring temperature of the island; the subtle sand or the smoothness of white pebbles and turquoise waters of some of Europe's most suggestive beaches; the upbeat sound of the buzzing nightlife; the spectacle of the sun setting behind the village of Oia and the caldera to finally plunge into the skyline. Santorini gratifies all 5 senses, treating the traveler to enchanting views and thousands of colours.

Please [find all optional activities and excursions here.](#)



## Day 11



### Katakolon

Arrival time: 9 am

Departure time: 5 pm



Katakolon Port serves as the main sea-gate to Olympia, one of the most important sites in Greece. With all the pine and olive groves, the imposing remains of the temples and the stunning stadium of the Games, Ancient Olympia stands as one of the most important archaeological sites in the world.



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### Katakolon, Greece: Seaport to Ancient Olympia

The seaside Greek town of Katakolon, with a population around 600, is your typical small-town cruise port -- fishing boats bob in the harbor; cafes lace the waterfront; shops sell T-shirts, hats and jewelry; and a small beach draws swimmers and splashers. But that's not why ships make this town a destination. They arrive because Katakolon serves as the cruise gateway to Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

Drive 40 minutes from Katakolon and you are transported back thousands of years. Stroll the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ancient Olympia, and you walk in the footsteps of early Greek and Roman athletes -- wrestlers, chariot drivers, discus throwers, runners and long-jumpers -- who vied for glory and the gods' favor. Stand alongside the massive columns, and, with the tales of a good guide, you can envision the once-magnificent temples, athletes training in the palestra and runners readying on the track. Alexander the Great, Nero, Plato and Aristotle are among those who watched the games from where you stand.

Tourists flock to the site and its companion museums, including the Archaeological Museum of Olympia, a treasure trove of pieced-together sculptures and statues that once adorned the ancient structures, and the Museum of the History of the Ancient Olympic Games, where you can learn about the original competitions.

If you've already visited Ancient Olympia, there are other sights in the area, including the spectacular temple of Apollo Epicurius and the medieval Chlemoutsi (Hlemoutsi) fortress -- or seek out the golden-sand beaches that ring the Gulf of Kyparissia.

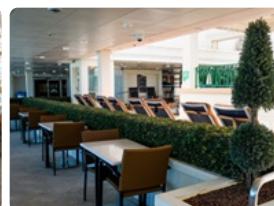
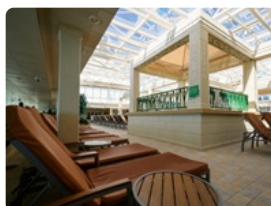
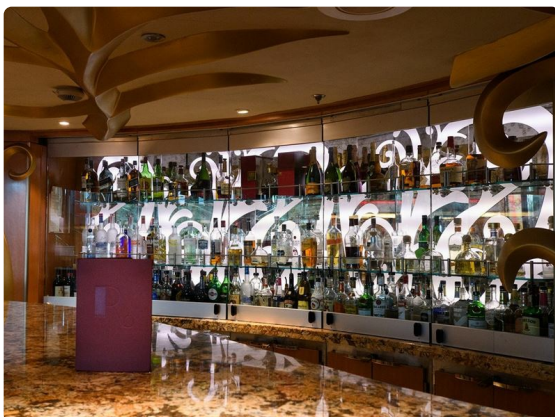


## Day 12



### Day at Sea

Enjoy Day at Sea!



## Day 13



### Venice

Arrival time: 6:45 am

Departure transfers are optional.