

Christian Travel Study Programs, Ltd.

and

Preserving Bible Times Present:

“Paul’s Roman World”

Bible-in-Context Study Program in Italy

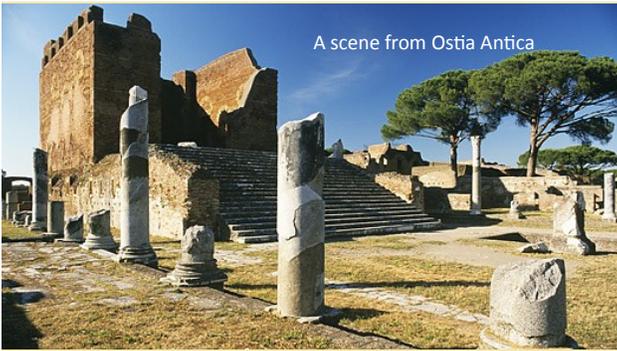


This first century fresco was removed from the wall of a home in ancient Boscoreale, near Pompeii.

April 28 - May 7 , 2016

\$4695 (from East Coast gateway); \$3495 (land only)

\$510 (single supplement)



A scene from Ostia Antica

Day One: Depart the USA for Italy. *Overnight: In flight.*

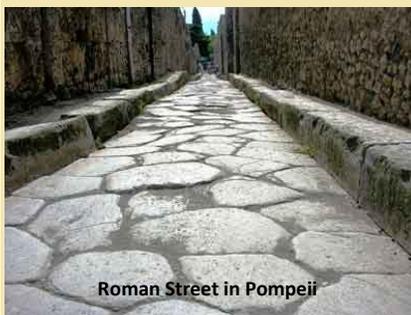
Day Two: **Stepping Back into the Roman World.** Theme: To be a Roman - how goods, services and transport held an Empire together. Rome was both an Empire and an *idea*. Today we will examine what held the identity of this vast Empire together at the first colony ever established by the Romans in Ostia, at the mouth of the Tiber River. We will be staying along the coast nearby. Sites include: Ostia and views of Tyr-

rhonian Sea. *Overnight: Ostia Lido (D).*

Day Three: **Paul in the World that was Rome.** Theme: To be Paul – how God used a man with a Hebrew heart, a Greek tongue and Roman mind. Departing Ostia Lido, we will drive along the coast to Sperlonga, the site of an ancient villa of Emperor Tiberius. On to the excavations at Minturno, a Roman town known to Paul and his companions. We will travel on to the city of Pozzuoli (ancient Puteoli), the harbor city where Paul first stepped onto the Italian Peninsula (Acts 28:13). *Overnight: Pozzuoli (B,D).*



The Sorrentine Peninsula



Roman Street in Pompeii

Day Four: **Paul and His Epistles.** Theme: Daily Life at the time of Paul. Paul used motifs in his Epistles that sprung from the daily images of Roman life. By examining an expansive site frozen in time from 79 CE, we will uncover these images and see them much more clearly. (Puteoli harbor area, Ercolano, Pompeii, Sorrento). Dinner is on your own to explore the wonderful Italian cuisine among the world class restaurants. *Overnight: Sorrento (B).*

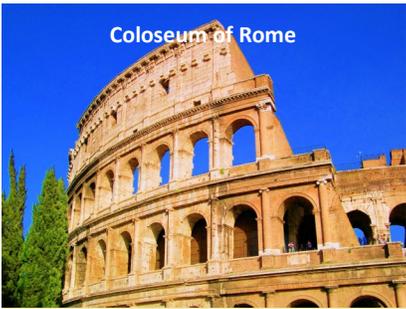
Day Five: **Emperors and Empire.** This is a “do your own thing” day with options for high activity vs. leisure activity: To understand the political world of Rome and its impact on the New Testament story, some may want to take a small vessel from Sorrento to the island of Capri (for its opulent shopping, or to trek up to where Emperor Tiberius ran the entire Empire for a time (Villa Jovis) during the ministry of Jesus. (Cost is about fifty euros.) Others will remain in Sorrento and explore (or even shop!) in one of Europe’s most exclusive and fun destinations! Of course, one could elect to arrange a tour to the beautiful Amalfi coast as well. A dinner theater with local music and Italian culture is included this evening. *Overnight: Sorrento. B,D*

Day Six: **Playboys, Pagans and Philosophers.** Theme: Today we will touch Paul's life by examining artifacts taken from homes at his time, as well as visiting villas of people who were his contemporaries! At impressive sites we will discuss the popular philosophers of the time and become familiar with some of the more attractive pagan rites of his contemporary culture. Sites include: Maritime Villas, Oplontis (Villa Poppea), Abbey at Montecassino. *Overnight: Mansio Foro Appio. (B,D).*



Italian Market in Naples

Day Seven: **A Spectacular Civilization.** Theme: Rome was held together as much by spectacle and entertainment as by anything else. After a panorama tour of Rome by bus, we will visit the Forum Romana and the Colosseum in search of the spectacles familiar to all Romans. Tonight go out on the town and try world famous Lazio cuisine! Sites include: Foro Romana, Colosseo. *Overnight: Rome (B).*



Day Eight: **Paul's Visits in Rome.** Theme: Paul came to Rome the first time under guard and house arrest. During this two-year period he wrote the so-called "Prison Epistles." Today we visit the Rome most never see. In the morning we will experience the setting where Paul was likely writing from. Later, we will follow Paul's second visit from his arrival to his beheading and burial. Sites include: Pantheon, San Paolo alla Regola and Jewish Ghetto, Three Fountains Abbey, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Catacombs. Rome IS food! There is much more than pasta for dinner! (Piazza Navona is lit beautifully at night and may be an excellent choice for an after dinner stroll called "La Passeggiata"). *Overnight: Rome (B,L).*

Day Nine: **From Empire to World Faith.** Theme: the Gospel did not stop with Paul, but was transmitted through the centuries to the ordinary people by means of the arts. One cannot spend time in Rome and miss a visit to the incredible **Vatican Museum** and **Sistine Chapel**. So today we will shift our focus away from Paul's life and break some new ground in our understanding of Bible art. This is your last chance to try some of the excellent restaurants of Rome. Ask your guide for suggestions for a "rooftop dining" experience for a breathtaking view of Rome at night. (Vatican and St. Peter's Church.) *Overnight: Rome (B).*

Day Ten: Morning **transfer to the airport** for your flight back to the USA ... or continue with your own extension.



The harbor at modern Sorrento



The cliffs overlooking the bay of Naples



The Tiber River in Rome

Send the registration form to:

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PBT Italy Trip

3333 Golfview Rd.

Sebring, Florida 33875 USA

For more information, call: CTSP (863-382-9603) or PBT (410-953-0557)



- Understand the writings of the Apostle Paul and the issues he faced as you never have before!
- Learn how the challenges of the Gospel in a thoroughly pagan world can and *will* make a difference in how to engage our culture for Christ today!
- Deepen your walk as you broaden your grasp of the context of the New Testament and its implications for today!

“An Essential Story for *Our* Time”

Want to significantly expand your contextual understanding of Paul and his writings? Then come with us to the first-century epicenter of the Roman world – Rome south to the Bay of Naples. There you can engage Paul’s Roman context more intensely and efficiently than on a Paul’s Journeys trip.

For example, consider the theatre imagery (1 Cor. 13:1) and meat market arguments (1 Cor. 8-10) Paul uses in his letter to the Corinthian church. Paul knows those images are very familiar to his readers. You can travel to Corinth today and see the archaeological remains of the theatre and the outline of the meat market, or you can go to southern Italy and see much fuller representations of both.

Likewise, you can visit first-century Colossae and see very little of what’s left of that city (a few rocks on a large mound). Or you can go to Pompeii and Herculaneum to see first-century cities (that Colossae was modeled on) “petrified in place” by Mt. Vesuvius, leaving hundreds of buildings with their walls, roofs, atriums, triclinium dining rooms, frescos still in place.

All too often we preach and teach the Epistles without a sufficient appreciation of the Roman worldview of the First Century – a complex culture that featured an array of adversarial major, minor and household gods; a multi-level aristocracy, a patronage system, freedmen and slaves; the pleasure principle; ancestor worship; cultic practices; entertainment spectacles; and more. It was a highly religious world void of faith in anything but the State.

All of Paul’s Epistles and Letters were written in the context of the Roman world and its populace. Even though the content of his writings is timelessly meant for the world, their perspective is uniquely Roman, and the best place to engage that context is studying the relevant historical relics/remains found from Rome south to Sorrento/Capri.

Because there is much to learn about the context that shaped the issues Paul dealt with in the first-century, Gentile Christian church, our time together will

- Develop the mosaic that constituted Roman society by examining the lifestyles of a variety of Romans of antiquity. Special attention will be given to the life of the Roman nobility and celebrities as well as to Roman slaves, poor Romans, Roman women, Roman soldiers and Jews in the Roman world of the diaspora. We will study the unique challenges each faced in becoming a follower of Jesus.
- Orient ourselves to the entertainment and spectacle world of the time of Paul. Implications for our own “media” world of today will be plentiful.
- Explore a thoroughly pagan sexuality, a polytheistic and superstitious cultic tradition, a profoundly sensual culture, and examine the response of Paul in his letters with implications for today.
- Appreciate Paul’s challenges and approach in creating a common, shared identity in Christ in believers drawn from all levels of Roman society.

On this ground-breaking trip you will experience the spectacular scenery of the **Sorrentine** peninsula and the **Amalfi** coast; the breathtaking beauty of the Isle of **Capri**; the immensity of the **Pompeii** experience; the amazement of strolling through first-century **Herculaneum**; the wonder of walking on the 2,000 year old Appian Way in **Minturno** (literally in Paul’s footsteps), of standing in devotional silence where Paul was held in house arrest at **San Paulo alla Regola**, and of being within 100 feet of where Paul was beheaded at (what is now) the **Abbey of Three Fountains**; the grandeur of **Rome**; and more. Implications for “how shall we then live” as disciples of Jesus will be abundant.

Come join us on our third trip to Italy as we explore and experience this fascinating missing piece of Pauline context!



Doug Greenwald
Preserving Bible Times