MEET THE ROMANS IN ROME & POMPEII

With private visit to the Sistine Chapel

SMALL GROUP | EXPERT-LED | EXCLUSIVE TO OU | WITH OU HOSTS HOPE & CLIVE MANDER
Dear Sightseeing Sooner,

Greetings from the OU Alumni Association. We are thrilled to unveil our new tour - Meet the Romans - introducing one of the mightiest empires in human history. Cultural, fascinating and fun, this tour has been especially arranged for the OU Alumni Association. Yes, that’s right folks, you’ll be traveling exclusively with fellow OU alumni and friends, in a small group (max 25 participants). You will also be accompanied by OU hosts Hope and Clive Mander.

A fantastic opportunity to reconnect with your university while exploring 2000 years of history amid the glorious Italian scenery.

Our eleven day trip begins in Rome, the Eternal City before we travel south to Pompeii – one of the wonders of the ancient world. Your journey will be guided throughout by expert scholar, Dr Rick Jones, a writer and archaeologist specialising in the history of Italy. Rick will introduce the whole story of the Romans: from the ambition of Emperors, to the tragic towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, destroyed and buried by the cataclysmic eruption of Vesuvius.

Our tour is based in two hand-picked hotels, the first in the very heart of ancient Rome, the second an elegantly refurbished Palazzo in Herculaneum. This tour is exclusively for OU alumni and friends and a portion of your tour price will come back to the OU Alumni Association.

So why not join your fellow Sooners in 2015 for a unique trip to the heart of old Europe: immerse yourself in culture, history, archaeology and adventure!

Live On, University!

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
OU Alumni Association

• **Bloodthirsty imperialists or the greatest empire the world has ever known?**

• **From slaves to Caesars - the definitive introduction to the people of Roman Italy at Rome and Pompeii.**

• **Includes a privileged private evening visit to the Sistine Chapel, a rare opportunity to see Michaelangelo’s masterpiece at close quarters.**

**Day One**
Depart from the US and begin your journey to Italy.

**Day Two**
Land in Rome and travel by private coach to our hotel in the heart of this ancient city. Take time to relax and get your bearings or enjoy a walk to explore independently the hidden history which is tucked away around every corner. Our hotel is located close to some of Rome’s most imposing monuments. Join together for an introductory lecture, followed by dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day Three**
A day on foot, walking the ancient routes which connect the monuments designed to “shock and awe” both allies and enemies, and to fill the citizens of Rome with civic pride and respect for the state. We begin the day at the Pantheon, rebuilt by the architecturally daring Emperor Hadrian and still retaining the largest unsupported concrete dome in the world. We see the Imperial Fora and Trajan’s column, celebrating his military victories over the barbarian Dacians. We then continue on foot through the medieval city.
Day Four
Having seen what are perhaps the most famous sites of the city, we go beyond the usual tourist trail. Begin with a visit to the titanic bath complex built by the Emperor Caracalla which, while ruined, remains imposing. It provided a public library and shopping center in addition to bathing facilities. In the afternoon we travel down to the coast, to visit the port city of Ostia, where the riches of the Empire were unloaded and transported upriver to Rome.

Day Five
Back at the heart of Roman power, we head out to the Forum, the political and commercial hub of the city. Visit the house of the Senate and the ancient temples which lined the Forum. Ascend the Palatine Hill, to explore the beautifully situated palaces once inhabited by the Imperial family. These luxurious dwellings were built over earlier houses of senators. We then visit the infamous Colosseum - where up to 50,000 spectators could come to watch the gladiatorial contests. Free afternoon to further explore the city or revisit sites, or optional visit to the Capitoline Museum.

Day Six
Depart Rome and travel into the countryside to the villa of the Emperor Hadrian at Tivoli, set in the foothills of the Sabine hills. The renowned fountains and gardens of the villa, including their artificial island, represent only part of the opulence with which this magnificent complex was constructed. After lunch, we travel South, in part along the Appian Way (the same route that ancient pleasure seekers followed) down the coast from Rome to the Bay of Naples and our hotel in Herculaneum.

Day Seven
We begin the day with a visit to Naples Museum, which houses the extraordinary treasures (and the ordinary, everyday artifacts) discovered over the centuries at Pompeii and Herculaneum. In the afternoon, travel by coach to Oplontis, where a spectacular villa awaits you. The wall paintings of this Roman mansion remain vivid and colourful, filled with life.

Day Eight
Visit the exceptionally well-preserved town of Pompeii. Once a bustling trading center, the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD covered the city in ash and pumice, submerging the buildings and their inhabitants. After rediscovery in the 18th century and years of excavations, we can now see the houses, bars and brothels that filled this town. Many of the bodies of the inhabitants who perished are preserved in the eerie plaster casts produced by 19th and 20th century archaeologists.

Day Nine
We spend the morning at Herculaneum, a smaller resort town than Pompeii but in an even better state of preservation. The volcanic matter that engulfed Herculaneum was hotter than that at Pompeii, and, as a result, preserved wooden objects and other organic material. Return to Rome this afternoon where we partake in a special private evening visit to the Sistine Chapel - after the crowds have departed.

Day Ten
Our final day is spent explore the legacy of Rome's role as centre of the Christian world for over 1500 years. We begin with a morning in the Vatican, whose museums and galleries hold a cornucopia of art and artifacts, from the Romans to the Renaissance and beyond. Lunch is followed by free time - perhaps to pack or do last minute shopping before a farewell dinner.

Day Eleven
Depart from Rome and return to the US.
WHAT’S INCLUDED?

FLIGHTS - From Dallas to Rome

EXPERT SCHOLAR - Dr Rick Jones

OU HOSTS - Hope and Clive Mander

LOCAL TRAVEL - Private a/c coach and taxis

MEALS - All meals included, with wine at dinner (Except lunch on day 5 and 8). Eating at local restaurants, the chance to sample the best of Italian food

ENTRIES & TIPS - Entry to all sites in program; tips included

FIELD NOTES - Written by our expert scholars especially for this trip

Sun 13th - Wed 23rd September 2015
11 Days | $6,265
($4,690 without flights | sgl supp $800)

HOTELS

Albergo Santa Chiara
6 nights in a long-established and family-owned stylish 3* hotel in the very heart of ancient Rome, next to the iconic Pantheon. Stay in a characteristic Roman building with wings from many eras looking out into the vibrant Roman streets. Enjoy a drink in the tranquil open-air bar that overlooks the Minerva Square, which is reserved exclusively for hotel guests. Rooms are comfortable, each with a travertine bathroom, and are equipped with TV, Wi-Fi connection, heating, air conditioning, safe deposit box and hairdryer.

Miglio D’Oro Park Hotel
3 nights in the cleverly converted Villa Aprile, one of the great eighteenth century Vesuvian Villas built along the coast. 4* accommodation set within 25,000 square meters of woodland, fruit gardens and ancient ruins. Rooms are spacious and stylish and are tastefully furnished with their original decorative stuccos and modern art work by international artists, striking an aesthetically-pleasing contrast between history and modernity. Rooms are also equipped with modern amenities; air conditioning, safe, satellite TV and jacuzzi bath. Whether you prefer walking round the spectacular park of century-old trees and pond or relaxing by the swimming pool, this hotel is a perfect base for exploring Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Bay of Naples.

EXPERT SCHOLAR AND OU HOSTS

Expert Scholar - Dr Rick Jones has been directing fieldwork at Pompeii since 1994. He co-directed the Anglo-American Project in Pompeii which excavated and recorded a complete block of the ancient city, revealing in full detail the history of the lives of the people who lived there over four centuries till the destruction of the city in 79CE. The project also trained hundreds of students in field archaeology. Rick now teaches Classical Archaeology at the University of Leeds, after many years at the University of Bradford. As well as his work at Pompeii, he has directed excavations in England, Scotland and Spain. He has published widely on questions of urbanisation, Roman frontier relations and burial.

OU Hosts - Hope & Clive Mander
Hope Mander is the Associate Director for the Institute for Quality Communities (IQC), an outreach arm of the College of Architecture at OU. At IQC Hope develops and maintains relations with Oklahoma communities and teaches an IQC Community Workshop class. She received her degree in Environmental Design and her Masters of Regional and City Planning from OU. Clive Mander is the Chief Audit Executive for the OU Board of Regents with internal audit responsibilities for OU, Cameron University and Rogers State University. Clive was a corporate tax manager for an international insurance group in London before coming to OU in 2005. He has recently started teaching classical music appreciation courses at OU.
BOOKING INFORMATION

INSURANCE - It is a condition of booking that all travelers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance and do not travel against medical advice. You should organize it immediately when you book so as to have cover against possible cancellation charges, medical treatment and repatriation. We will need to know the details of your policy at the very latest 4 weeks before departure.

DEPOSIT - A deposit of $750 is required to confirm your place on this tour.

BALANCE PAYMENT - Balance payments will be requested 2 months before you depart for most tours. We will then send you practical information regarding the tour; flights; hotel and joining instructions. Field notes, detailing the sites you see on the tour, written by our expert scholar, will be sent to you a few weeks before the tour, then your tickets 10 days before departure.

CANCELLATION BY YOU - Cancellation charges payable to Andante Travels are calculated on time prior to departure as follows:
Up to 56 days: Deposit* / 55 - 41 days: 35% of tour cost / 40 - 29 days: 55% of tour cost / 28 - 8 days: 75% of tour cost / 7 days to date of departure: 100% of tour cost | *plus any invoiced flight costs

CANCELLATION BY US - If we have to cancel your vacation before the date of departure, you will have the choice of taking an alternative vacation (paying or receiving a refund/credit in respect of any price difference) or accepting a full refund of all money paid.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION - The UK travel industry is one of the most strictly-regulated in the world. In order to operate in the UK, we adhere to the highest standards of financial regulation, and customer safety and protection.

ABOUT US

Founded over 29 years ago, Andante Travels has grown to become a respected and renowned provider of cultural vacations. In recent years, increasing numbers of people from the USA have sought out our tours. Our comprehensive and wide ranging program introducing the best of history, archaeology and culture all over the world. We also work in partnership with Oxford and Cambridge Universities, arranging numerous tours for their University Alumni programs.

From the Classical civilizations of old Europe, to the pre-Columbian temples of South America, we leave no corner of history unexplored. Every tour we offer is planned and led by renowned scholars at the forefront of their academic fields.

We pride ourselves not only on our expertise, but on our meticulous attention to detail. Nothing is off-the-shelf: from securing special access to ancient sites, to carefully-chosen hotels, professional Tour Managers, and seamless travel arrangements. Our customer service is second to none; with Andante, you are looked after from start to finish, allowing you to completely immerse yourself in the wonders of the ancient world.

All you need to enjoy our tours is enthusiasm and an inquiring mind. Some of our travelers have a lifelong passion for archaeology, others have no prior knowledge. Guests often report coming home amazed at how much they saw and learned, almost without realizing, while simply immersed in the past.

However far-flung or close to home the destination, our mission remains the same: a real vacation, led by an expert scholar, where every day is spent in good company, amid beautiful landscapes, uncovering the stuff of past lives.

Andante Travels have won numerous awards including Best Small Company for Customer Service at the British Travel Awards 2013. Our tours have also been named 'Trips of a Lifetime' by National Geographic Traveler Magazine 5 years in a row. Over the years we have introduced thousands of people from all over the world to the wonders of human history.

- As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organizers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Andante Travels has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. In the event of insolvency, protection is provided for non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK and other non-flight packages excluding pre-arranged travel to and from your destination. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Andante Travels. In the above circumstances, if you have not yet traveled you may claim a refund, or if you have already traveled, you may claim repatriation to the starting point of your non-flight package.

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Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
OU Alumni Association
900 Asp Avenue, Suite 427
Norman, OK 73019-4051

For more information
Please call the OU Alumni Association
405-325-1710
Or to book please contact Andante Travels via the details below

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