

Christian Rome

This city tour includes the visit of the Basilica St. Paul outside the walls, the Basilica St. John in the Lateran and a Catacomb. Rome, the Eternal City, is not only a metropolitan city, but has also a millenium-old Christian tradition. With the inspections of St. Paul outside the walls, a Catacomb and the Basilica St. John in the Lateran you get an interesting impression of the history and the development of the Christians in Rome. Both, the churches as well as the Catacombs represent and accommodate outstanding works of art. Before Basilica of St. Peter was built, the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls was the largest church in the world and in a unique way it still reflects the structure of an antique Basilica until today. In the 4th century, the basilica was built on top of the grave of St. Paul. According to the inscription in the front, the Basilica of St. John in the Lateran is assigned to be the „mother and head of all churches of the city and the continent“. It is the cathedral of Rome, the bishop church of the city and as the bishop of Rome, the Pope still celebrates the ceremony of washing the feet of the poor at Maundy Thursday.

- **by coach**
- **duration: approx. 4 hours – half day**

In front of the Lateran Basilica, you find the Holy Stairs (Scala Santa) with the small chapel Sancta Sanctorum, former private chapel of the Pope with exceptionally beautiful frescoes from the 13th century. This chapel normally cannot be visited and is exclusively opened for you (upon request) - a completely unusual privilege. Afterwards the tour takes you to via Appia Antica, where you find numerous Catacombs. The Catacombs are Christian graves, which are located outside the city walls, following the Roman law by that time. They offer a view of the early Christian life and the development of the early Christian municipalities and to their faith life.

*Exclusive reevaluation:
Inspection of the Chapel Sancta Sanctorum*