

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

Thank you for your request for information on our pilgrimage to Rome in 2019, staying at the English College's retreat and pilgrimage centre of Palazzola outside of the city of Rome .

PALAZZOLA is a former Franciscan monastery, built on the site of a Roman villa, that occupies a dramatically beautiful position high above Lake Albano in the Alban Hills, 18 miles from the centre of Rome. The Cistercians, who formed the first community here, built the Church of Our Lady of the Snows in the 13th century. In 1919, after 500 years as a Franciscan House, the English College bought Palazzola as a summer retreat from the heat of Rome.



The Villa Palazzola stands in 16 acres of mainly wooded land. From the terraced garden, there is a breathtaking view over Lake Albano, with its steep wooded sides, to the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo and down over the city of Rome and across the countryside to the sea.

The villa has been modernised in a way that retains its simplicity and character. Standard room accommodation in the 13th century Old Wing is provided in simply furnished rooms with washbasins providing hot and cold water along with shared modern bathroom and shower facilities. There is a lift in the Old Wing. En-suite rooms are provided in different locations around the Villa including the 17th century New Wing annex. Towels and soap are provided.



Main meals are are taken outside (weather permitting) on the terrace or in the 18th century panelled refectory of the Friars. Coffee and tea making facilities are available 24 hours a day and there is a well-stocked bar (with plenty of soft drinks and ice-creams!). For further information and photographs, please see www.palazzola.it.

Palazzola is so beautiful that you can happily stay put for the entire time just enjoying being there! At Palazzola there are many things to do - reading in the garden, enjoying the swimming pool, local walks through the woods, watching the sunset with a drink in hand, sitting quietly in the chapel - or just do nothing! For those more active you can enjoy walks through the woods to nearby villages, play tennis and other games on the court, and take the bus/train into Rome.

PROGRAMME

(Subject to change)

- Mon 26** Morning transfer by coach from Hereford to Bristol Airport for *Easyjet* Airbus 320 flight **EZ6185** at 12.10 to Rome. Arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport at 15.45 and transfer to **Palazzola**. Evening Mass. Dinner.
- Tue 27** Free morning to enjoy Palazzola. Morning Mass. Lunch. Afternoon excursion to the outskirts of Rome to visit the **Catacombs of Saint Callixtus** and the **Basilica of Saint Paul's outside the Walls** (with its many English connections and also the mosaic portraits of the 266 Popes).
- Wed 28** Packet breakfast and early morning transfer into Rome to join Pope Francis for his weekly **Audience**. Return to Palazzola for lunch and a free afternoon. Evening Mass. Dinner.
- Thu 29** Morning excursion to the Benedictine Monastery of Sacro Speco at **Subiaco** for a tour by one of the monks and Mass. Picnic lunch overlooking the Aniene Valley. Afternoon visit to the fountained gardens of the **Villa D'Este** at Tivoli. Dinner.
- Fri 30** Early Mass. Morning excursion around the lake to visit the village of **Castel Gandolfo** for a eco-bus tour of the Papal Gardens and Farm followed by free time for a coffee or ice-cream and shopping in the village and to visit the exhibition in Papal Palace including the apartments. Lunch. Afternoon excursion into Rome for a guided tour of the **Saint Peter's Basilica**. Early evening visit with buffet supper to the **Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel**.
- Sat 31** Free morning at Palazzola. Morning Mass. Lunch. Afternoon excursion into Rome to visit the **Basilica of Saint Mary Major** ((where the Popes celebrated the first Mass of Christmas until 1870) and the 12th century **Basilica of San Clemente** with its 1st and 4th century levels. Pizza Supper. Evening stroll around the outside of the **Colosseum** (built by the emperors Vespasian and his son Titus from AD70).
- Sun 01** Morning Mass and transfer to Rome Fiumicino Airport for *Jet2* Boeing 737 flight **LS1228** at 12.25 arriving Birmingham Airport at 14.15 and return transfer to Hereford.

FITNESS

Rome, a city built on seven hills, is best seen on foot so a reasonable level of fitness is required for sightseeing. Also due to the number of steps in and around the major attractions of Rome, this tour is unfortunately not suitable for those with walking difficulties.

DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, we will only use your personal information to administer your booking and to provide the services you have requested from us. We will supply your passport details to airlines for them to meet their requirements in terms of security and border control and to hotels as required by Italian law.

COSTS:	Per person	Standard (Single, twin and 1 triple)	Ensuite (Single, twin, double, 1 triple, 2 triple/quad)
	Adult	£1145	£1295
	Children (06 to 16)	£ 845	£1295 (£995 if sharing a triple/quad)
	Children (02 to 05)	£ 485	£1295 (£635 if sharing a triple/quad)
	Infants (under 2 years)	£ 100	£ 100

inclusive of:

- airport transfers from/to Hereford
- flights UK/Rome as listed
- airport taxes and security charges
- one piece 22 kg hold-luggage
- 6 nights accommodation at Palazzola
- simple continental buffet breakfasts
- main meals as per the programme
- water and wine with main meals
- full programme of excursions
- all entry charges
- Mass offerings and coach driver tips

The following items are not included:

- travel insurance
- in-flight refreshments
- entry and transport in free time.
- personal expenditure.

HOW TO BOOK

Please complete (all sections) of the booking form and send this with your deposit (of £300 per person) to **Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX** (Tel: 020 7431 3414).

The balance of the cost of this pilgrimage is then due eight weeks prior to departure. All cheques made payable to: *Anthony R Coles Travel and Conferences*.

When flights are booked through us your holiday/pilgrimage is financially protected by the ATOL (Air Travel Organisers' Licensing) scheme. When you book, you or your parish/group organiser will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate as evidence of this protection.