

The Society for Biblical Studies  
Exploratory Journey in Italy  
10 Day Biblical Backgrounds in Italy  
6-15 May 2024  
3 Day Elective: Florence and Renaissance Italy, returning 18 May 2024

## Syllabus

### Objectives:

- Experience biblical study travel and assess its suitability for ministry and education
- To explore the traditions of Peter and Paul in Italy, their origins and the relative probability of their historicity
- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the New Testament.
- To explore Christian origins in Italy
- To explore Italy's contributions to Western Civilization, especially its splendid Classical, Medieval, Renaissance and Modern art and architecture
- To enjoy the beauty of the Italian countryside, seascapes and architectural landmarks and to enjoy its rich cuisine
- To appreciate the cultural heritage of Italy

### Suggested Reading:

Beard, Mary. *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*. New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2015.

Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Fox, Robin Lane. *Pagans and Christians*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1986.

Miano, Peter J. *The Word of God and the World of the Bible: and Introduction to the Cultural Backgrounds of the New Testament*. London: Melisende, 2001.

Stambaugh, John E. & Balch, David L. *The New Testament in its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1986.

Twain, Mark. *The Innocents Abroad*. New York: Signet Classics.

Watkin, David. *The Roman Forum*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.

### Daily Itinerary (subject to change due to local circumstances):

Day 1            Depart USA  
6.5, M

Day 2            Theme: Introductions and Orientation  
7.5, Tu          Field trip: arrive Naples, touring as time permits, transfer to the hotel, orientation and introductions. Dinner is included.  
overnight in Sorrento

- Day 3  
8.5, W  
Theme: The Amalfi Coast & Classical Influences in Italy  
Field trip: the Amalfi Coast drive, visit to Paestum. Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Sorrento
- Day 4  
9.5, Th  
Theme: City Life & *La Dolce Vita*  
Field trip: Pompei and Stabia. Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Naples
- Day 5  
10.5, F  
Theme: Life & Death in the Shadow of Vesuvius  
Field trip: visit the excavations of Herculaneum, Oplontis  
Dinner on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Naples
- Day 6  
11.5, Sa  
Theme: Paul in Italy?  
Field trip: The National Archeological Museum in Naples, transfer to Rome. Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 7  
12.5, Su  
Theme: Renaissance and Baroque Rome  
Field trip: walking tour of Rome, including Piazza della Repubblica, Church of St. Mary of the Martyrs and the Angels, Piazza di Spagna (Spanish steps), Fontana di Trevi (Trevi Fountain), Piazza Rotunda, Piazza Navona, and Campo dei Fiori. Worship will be arranged when it is most appropriate in the itinerary. Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 8  
13.5, M  
Theme: From Sect to Imperial Church  
Field trip: The Coliseum, Imperial Forum, the Palatine, view the Circus Maximus, San Clemente Church (Mithraeum), Baths of Caracalla.  
Dinner is included.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 9  
14.5, Tu  
Theme: Monumental Architecture in Imperial Rome  
Field trip: Catacombs of San Callisto, Monte Testaccio, Vatican museums and Sistine chapel, Vatican City, St. Peter's Square, St. Peter's Basilica.  
Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Rome

Day 10            Return to the USA or continue on the elective to Florence  
15.5, W

Elective:        3 Days: Renaissance and Baroque Italy—Florence (\$1,353 based on a group of 10)

Day 10            Theme: Renaissance Italy  
15.5, Th          Field trip: depart Rome by train and arrive in Florence, walking tour including the central market. Dinner is on your own.  
Overnight in Florence

Day 12            Theme: The Renaissance  
16.5, F          Field trip: the Uffizi Gallery, the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Galleria del Accademia. Dinner is on your own.  
Overnight in Florence

Day 13            Theme: The Renaissance  
17.5, Sa         Field trip: Free day for self directed exploration. Late afternoon train to Rome. Dinner is on your own.  
Overnight in Rome

Day 14            return flight to the USA  
18.5, Su

- The itinerary is subject to change due to local circumstances.
- The order of visits in the itinerary is subject to change.
- Lunch stops will be arranged around midday each day during the program. Lunch is on your own.
- Breakfast is included each day. Dinner is on your own except as indicated in the itinerary. There are numerous restaurants within walking distance of the hotels.