

Italy: Biblical Backgrounds, Christian Origins, and Cultural Heritage  
The Society for Biblical Studies  
11 Day Platinum Select Journey  
16-26 October 2023  
3 day elective: Florence and Renaissance Italy, returning 29 October 2023

## Syllabus

### Objectives:

- To appreciate the cultural heritage of Italy
- To enjoy the beauty of the Italian countryside, seascapes and architectural landmarks and to enjoy its rich cuisine
- To explore Italy's contributions to Western Civilization, especially its splendid Classical, Medieval, Renaissance and Modern art and architecture
- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the New Testament.
- To become acquainted with the key issues in biblical studies and the study of Christian origins

### Suggested Reading:

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.

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

Day 1            Depart USA  
16.10, M

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

Day 3            Theme: Life & Death in the Shadow of Vesuvius  
18.10, W        Field trip: visit the excavations of Herculaneum, Oplontis, The National Archeological Museum in Naples  
Dinner on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Naples

- Day 4  
19.10, 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 Sorrento
- Day 5  
20.10, F 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 6  
21.10, Sa Theme: Paul in Italy?  
Field trip: Pozzuoli/Puteoli (Act 28:13-14), Flavian amphitheatre, forum, Phlegrean Fields, transfer to Rome. Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 7  
22.10, 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.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 8  
23.10, M Theme: Underground Rome  
Field trip: Ostia (ancient port of Rome), San Clemente Church, (Mithraeum), Baths of Caracalla, Domus Aurea/house of Nero (time permitting). Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 9  
24.10, Tu Theme: From Sect to Imperial Church  
Field trip: Catacombs of San Callisto, 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  
25.10, W Theme: Monumental Architecture in Imperial Rome  
Field trip: 9:45 AM The Coliseum, Imperial Forum, the Palatine, view the Circus Maximus, Dinner is on your own in a restaurant close to the hotel.  
Dinner is included.  
Overnight in Rome
- Day 11  
26.10, Th Return to the USA or continue on the elective to Florence

Elective: 3 days Renaissance and Baroque Italy—Florence (\$1,228 based on a group of 10)

Day 10 Theme: Renaissance Italy  
26.10, 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 11 Theme: The Renaissance  
27.10, F Field trip: the Uffizi Gallery, the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Galleria del Accademia. Dinner is on your own.  
Overnight in Florence

Day 12 Theme: The Renaissance  
28.10.Sa Field trip: Free day for self directed exploration. Late afternoon train to Rome. Dinner is on your own.  
Overnight in Rome

Day 13 return flight to the USA  
29.10, 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.