

ROME

THE ETERNAL CITY

a. THE VATICAN: ART TREASURES AND PAPAL GARDENS – A SECRET TOUR

This tour reveals the Vatican's wealth of art treasures starting with classical Roman statues and proceeding through rooms holding some of the greatest treasures of European art.. We visit the Sistine Chapel and compare the difference before and after the restorations and see dome of St Peters and take a tour of the Pope's private gardens (should you wish to do this you have to take your passport to the Vatican booking office and leave it there for a security check first) but the gardens are fascinating. .



© THE VATICAN
VATICAN: GARDENS AT THE VATICAN



© BERNINI
ROME: BERNINI FOUNTAIN

b. ROME, THEN AND NOW – FROM CLASSICAL TIMES TO BERNINI

We take an armchair tour of the Colosseum and see computerised recreations of what happened there in the days when the Roman emperors were expected to provide bread and circuses and slaughter thousands of wild animals. We look the ruins of the Forum with a computerised projection of their appearance in classical times and visit the Pantheon, the 2nd century Imperial building used for worship of pagan Gods and subsequently re-dedicated to the Virgin Mary, see it as Canaletto painted it and how it has influenced later architects including Palladio, the architect from Vicenza who placed a similar façade on villas he designed. We look at the Via Appia and pay a visit to Tivoli and its wonderful display of fountains, Hadrian's magnificent setting for his great pleasure villa and finally to the legacy of Bernini a great sculptor and architect and his designs for magnificent fountains and other statuary and his work on the basilica of St Peters.



© ARCH
ROME: TRIUMPH ARCH



© PAN
ROME: THE PAN THEON



© ST PETERS
ROME: THE SPINNING STERS

c. MICHELANGELO IN FLORENCE AND ROME

We follow this artist from an apprentice in the sculpture garden of Cosimo the elder and the earliest sculptures now in Florence to his move to Rome, the problems that underlay the making of the *David*, the *Pieta*, the Sistine Chapel and the debacle of the Julius tomb, the house Michelangelo bought in Florence, now a museum containing artefacts and art by him. In Rome we examine the *Pieta* and the blighted plans for the Julius tomb and the statues designed for it, looks at the Sistine Chapel [and its modern restoration]; we see this great artist turn architect and design the Medici tombs and the Laurentian library and finally his designs for St Peters and the *Pieta* he made in old age.



ROME. RUINS OF FORUM



ROME. ST. PETER'S