



Tour Information



Caravaggio – A Turbulent Genius





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Italy.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it

Website: <https://conslondra.esteri.it/en/>

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents. You will need to quote / show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. Online check-in where possible is available 24 hours prior to departure.

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit

www.britishairways.com

Transfers

On arrival in Rome, transfer by coach (approx. 1 hour) to the Galleria Doria Pamphilj and the Medici Hotel.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Accommodation

Medici Hotel, Rome

Located within an historic area of the city the traditional three-star hotel has a bar and lounge and comfortable bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, wifi, safe, minibar and air-conditioning. For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.hotelmedici.com/en/>

NYX Hotel, Milan

Located next to the Milano Centrale station and a short walk into the centre of Milan, the four-star NYX Hotel has a gym, 5th floor terrace overlooking the Milan skyline, rooftop terrace, bar, restaurant and modern bedrooms. All rooms have en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, wifi, air-conditioning, minibar, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://www.leonardo-hotels.com/milan/nyx-hotel-milan>



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces. Notwithstanding its imperial heritage, Roman cuisine is one of the people. Using seasonal ingredients, prepared in a simple way, Roman cuisine is based on locally grown vegetables (peas, artichokes, courgettes, and fava beans), meat (mainly goat and lamb), cod, cheese (Pecorino Romano and ricotta), and flavoured with olive oil and aromatic herbs. *Bruschetta* (bread rubbed with olive oil, topped with tomatoes and garlic), is a popular appetiser (*antipasto*) and the preferred pasta form in Rome is spaghetti, accompanied with a delicious sauce, such as *amatriciana*, *carbonara* (pancetta, cheese and egg), *Alfredo* (with butter and parmesan cheese) or *cacio e pepe* (cheese and pepper). Other local specialities include *Suppli* (fried rice croquette, filled with beef and mozzarella),

Saltimbocca alla Romana (veal with ham and sage), *trippa* (tripe with tomato sauce and pecorino cheese), *Abbacchio alla cacciatora* (lamb chops), *Fiori di Zucca* (deep fried courgette flowers filled with mozzarella cheese), and *Coda alla vaccinara* (oxtail tomato and chocolate stew).

Traditional desserts include *Crostata di ricotta* (ricotta cheesecake, flavoured with lemons and Marsala wine), *Maritozzi* (cream filled pastry), *canoli* (tube-shaped pastry filled with ricotta), sweet ravioli with ricotta, and the Italian classic *Tiramisù*.

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* or *caffè latte* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality. In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner's pride. Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – Two dinners with wine at a local restaurant.



Destination

This tour will look at the life and work of Caravaggio, one of early modern Europe's most colourful characters and influential artists, in the company of accomplished art historian, Dr Peter Higginson. When he died in 1610 aged 38, he was one of the most famous and influential painters in Italy. Whilst his reputation slumped in subsequent centuries, in more recent times his stock has risen steadily to a new peak. His works are now widely regarded as the most immediately compelling and dramatically charged in the whole history of Italian art and many of them remain on display in their original cities and even original settings, which adds a fascinating component to the telling of his dramatic story. Join Dr Peter Higginson on our tour which visits Rome, Naples and Milan to find out the truth of this most iconic of artists, whose paintings were radical and shocking and whose personality was arrogant, tempestuous and violent. It's a heady mix of art and drama, brought to vivid life by your expert lecturer and guide, whose doctoral and later research has focused on the patronage, political, and the turbulent social context of Caravaggio's formative years in Rome. The visits will consist of a host of galleries and churches, packed with masterpieces by the hero of this tour.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Galleria Doria Pamphilj

The Galleria Doria Pamphilj collection was started by Pope Innocent X Pamphilj in 1644. It currently consists of over 400 paintings dating from the 15th to the 18th century and is considered the best-known private gallery in Rome. The mansion houses valuable works by great masters such as Raphael, Tiziano, Brueghel the Elder, Velazquez and Bernini, as well as Caravaggio.

For more information about the Galleria Doria Pamphilj, please visit:

<https://www.doriapamphilj.it/en/rome/>

San Luigi dei Francesi

The Church of St. Louis of the French is a Roman Catholic church in Rome, not far from Piazza Navona. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St. Denis the Areopagite and St. Louis IX, king of France and is famous for the masterpieces by Caravaggio, amongst others. The famous Contarelli Chapel is

where you'll find Caravaggio's triptych composed of *The Martyrdom of St. Matthew*, *The Vocation of St. Matthew* and *St. Matthew and the Angel*. The chapel takes its name from Cardinal Mathieu Cointrel, later Italianized to Contarelli, who commissioned Michelangelo Merisi with the three altarpieces focused on the figure of San Matteo.

For more information about San Luigi dei Francesi, please visit:

<https://saintlouis-rome.net/>

Basilica di Sant'Agostino

The plain white facade of this early Renaissance church, built in the 15th century and renovated in the late 1700s, hides the impressive art inside. The most famous work is Caravaggio's *Madonna dei Pellegrini* (Madonna of the Pilgrims; 1604-06), in the first chapel on the left, but you'll also find Raphael's muscular *Profeta Isaia* (Prophet Isaiah, 1512) and a much-venerated sculpture by Jacopo Sansovino.

The *Madonna del Parto* (Madonna of Childbirth), Sansovino's 1521 statue of the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, is a favourite with expectant mums who traditionally pray to it for a safe pregnancy. The Madonna also stars in Caravaggio's *Madonna dei Pellegrini*, which caused uproar when it was unveiled in 1604 due to its depiction of Mary's two devoted pilgrims as filthy, badly dressed beggars.

For more information about Sant' Agostino, please visit:

<https://www.turismoroma.it/en/places/basilica-sant%E2%80%99agostino-campo-marzio>

Vatican Museums

The Vatican Museums (*'I Museu Vaticani'*) are some of the largest museums in the world with an enormous collection that varies from ancient Roman and Egyptian artefacts, religious objects, beautifully painted rooms and even modern art. The 26 different museums of the Vatican, housed throughout 54 halls, are part of a complex of multiple Apostolic palaces, and are by far the most popular museum destination in Rome, in part because of the famous Sistine Chapel.

For more information about the Vatican Museums, please visit:

<https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en.html>

Galleria Borghese

The Borghese Gallery is one of the most famous art galleries in the world showcasing exceptional paintings by artists such as Caravaggio, Canova and Raphael. It is located in Rome, Italy, and housed in the former Villa Borghese Pinciana. The gallery houses a considerable part of the Borghese collection of paintings, sculpture and antiquities, begun by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, the nephew of Pope Paul V (reign 1605–1621).

For more information about Galleria Borghese, please visit:

<https://galleriaborghese.beniculturali.it/en/>

Santa Maria della Concezione

The church of Santa Maria della Concezione dei Cappuccini, better known as Our Lady of the Conception, is certainly one of the most evocative of the hundreds of churches that adorn Rome. Located in the famous Via Veneto, it was built near Palazzo Barberini by Pope Urban VIII, in honour of his brother Antonio Barberini who was part of the Capuchin order. One of the highlights is the churches' crypt full of bones, as well as the Caravaggio of Saint Francis in meditation.

For more information about the Santa Maria della Concezione, please visit:

<https://museocriptacappuccini.it/en/>

Palazzo Barberini

The Palazzo Barberini is a 17th-century palace in Rome located close to the Piazza Barberini. The palace now houses the "Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica" (*National Gallery of Ancient Art in Barberini Palace*), the most important national collection of older paintings in Rome. The founder of the palace is Maffeo Barberini (1568 - 1644), who later became Pope Urban VIII. Barberini bought the original villa from the Sforza family for his cousins Taddeo, Francesco and Antonio. At the time, he had the most innovative artists working on the project to convert the villa into a beautiful palace. For example, the square stairwell was designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and the oval spiral staircase by Borromini. The total palace now has 187 rooms and covers 12000 m². Striking here is the family crest of the Barberinis; the bee. You will find these bees in many places, such as in the ceilings and statues.

For more information about the Palazzo Barberini, please visit:

<https://www.barberinicorni.org/en/>

Pio Monte della Misericordia

The first floor gallery of this octagonal, 17th-century church delivers a collection of Renaissance and baroque art, including works by Francesco de Mura, Jusepe de Ribera, Andrea Vaccaro and Paul van Somer. It's also home to contemporary artworks by Italian and foreign artists, each inspired by Caravaggio's masterpiece *Le sette opere di Misericordia* (The Seven Acts of Mercy). Considered by many to be the most important painting in Naples, you'll find it above the main altar in the ground-floor chapel. Magnificently demonstrating the artist's chiaroscuro style, which had a revolutionary impact in Naples, *Le sette opere di Misericordia* was considered unique in its ability to illustrate the various acts in one seamlessly choreographed scene. Pio Monte della Misericordia's archives are home to the *Declaratoria del 14 Ottobre 1607*, an original church document acknowledging payment of 400 ducats to Caravaggio for the painting. A photocopy of the document is on display in the first floor gallery, where you can also view the painting from the gallery's Sala del Coretto (Coretto Room).

For more information about the Pio Monte della Misericordia, please visit:

<https://piomontedellamisericordia.it/>

Galleria di Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano

Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano houses a compact yet stunning collection of Neapolitan and Italian art spanning the 17th to early 20th centuries. The star attraction is Caravaggio's mesmerising swansong, *The Martyrdom of St Ursula* (1610). Completed weeks before the artist's lonely death, the painting depicts a vengeful king of the Huns piercing the heart of his unwilling virgin-bride-to-be, Ursula. Positioned behind the dying martyr is a haunted Caravaggio, an eerie premonition of his own impending fate. Caravaggio's masterpiece is one of around 120 works on display in the *palazzo's* sumptuous rooms. Among the numerous standouts are Luca Giordano's robust *The Rape of Helen*, a graphic *Judith Beheads Holofernes* attributed to Louis Finson, Francesco Solimena's *Hagar and Ishmael in the Desert Confronted by the Angel* and a series of bronze and terracotta sculptures by Vincenzo Gemito.

For more information about the Galleria di Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano, please visit:

<https://gallerieditalia.com/en/naples/>

Museo di Capodimonte

Museo di Capodimonte is an art museum located in the Palace of Capodimonte, a grand Bourbon palazzo in Naples, Italy. The museum houses Neapolitan painting and decorative art, with several important works from other Italian schools of painting, and some important ancient Roman sculptures.

For more information about the Museo di Capodimonte, please visit:

<https://capodimonte.cultura.gov.it/>

Palazzo dei Conservatori

The Palazzo dei Conservatori, which stands on the south side of Piazza del Campidoglio, was built during the reign of Pope Nicholas V (r. 1447-55), but its facade is the work of Michelangelo (1475-1564). The two storeys of the beautifully proportioned palazzo are united by gigantic pilasters. The building is crowned with a balustrade topped with statues. The palazzi house the Musei Capitolini, two of the finest collections in Rome.

For more information about the Palazzo dei Conservatori, please visit:

https://www.museicapitolini.org/en/sede/piazza_e_palazzi/palazzo_dei_conservatori

Baroque Palazzo Corsini

The Palazzo Corsini, formerly known as Palazzo Riario, is a 15th-century palace that was rebuilt in the 18th century by architect Ferdinando Fuga for Cardinal Neri Maria Corsini. Inside this late-Baroque palace, on the second floor, the Corsini Museum exhibits mostly Italian art, starting from early Renaissance up to the end 18th century. Works by Caravaggio, Giovanni Baglione, Raphael, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Hans Holbein, Giulio Romano, Nicolas Poussin and many more can be found here.

For more information about the Baroque Palazzo Corsini, please visit:

<https://www.barberinicorsini.org/>

Palazzo Farnese

Farnese Palace is one of the most beautiful and important buildings in Rome. The Palace was commissioned in 1513 by Alexander Farnese (1468-1549), who was subsequently elected Pope under the name of Paul III. Completed in 1589, it was built under the direction of four great architects: Sangallo the Young, Michelangelo, Vignola and Giacomo Della Porta. Once inside, the famous 20-metre long Carracci gallery of arches decorated with frescoes

stands out. The Carracci brothers, Annibal and Augustin, were rumoured to be Caravaggio's arch rivals.

For more information about the Palazzo Farnese, please visit:

<https://turismoroma.it/en/places/farnese-palace>

Pinacoteca Ambrosiana

The Pinacoteca Ambrosiana was founded in 1618 by Cardinal Federico Borromeo who donated his collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings to the Ambrosian Library already instituted in 1607.

La Pinacoteca was born to ensure a free cultural and artistic training to anyone with artistic or intellectual capabilities. This institution was created as a model and support for the Academy of Fine Arts, which existed in Milan from 1621 until 1776. Despite the closure of the Academy, the Ambrosiana Gallery enriched its collections over the centuries and today houses a large number of important works.

For more information about the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, please visit:

<https://www.ambrosiana.it/en/>

Brera Gallery

The Brera Gallery was officially established in 1809 even though the first group of works existed since 1776. This first work set and the Accademia di Belle Arti were enriched with an educational purpose, by request of Mary Therese of Austria. Her desire was to create a collection with exemplary works to form students. Later, when Milan became the capital of the Italian Kingdom, and by wish of Napoleon, the collection became a museum with the intention to show the most important paintings from all territories that were conquered by French Army. After the suppression of many religious orders, in the early years of the XIX century, paintings from the churches and monasteries of Lombardy were joined to this collection, as were the paintings confiscated from the various regions of the Kingdom of Italy.

For more information about the Brera Gallery, please visit:

<https://pinacotecabrera.org/en/>

Your lecturer / Guide

Dr Peter Higginson specialises in the art and culture of early modern Europe, and the modern period. He has taught numerous university courses abroad and has wide experience in leading cultural tours to different parts of Europe including Bilbao, Rome, Venice, Florence, Paris and further afield to Cuba. Caravaggio is probably his greatest artistic passion and formed the focus of his doctoral research. His enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment have earned him rave reviews from the many clients who have travelled with him on a Travel Editions' tour over the years.

Peter will give the following lectures during the tour:

'The Challenge of Mother Rome: Religion, Politics, Society, Patrons and Critics'

'The Artist Takes Flight: An Itinerant Artist in Naples, Malta and Sicily'

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Demanding**: On your feet all day, uneven terrain (e.g. cobbles).



The Basics

Climate – The weather at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Immaculate conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are

closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Rome
Via Venti Settembre, 80A
00187 Roma RM
Italy
Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 0001
Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 0001.

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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