

Who will be our spiritual leader on this trip?

Father Doug Owens

Where can I find the hotel information?

[Crowne Plaza Rome - St. Peter's](#)

Do the hotels have hair dryers in the room?

Yes.

Is tipping included in what we already paid?

Tips for servers of included meals, as outlined in your itinerary, bellmen, and door attendants are included in the tour package price.

Tips not included in the package are for:

Bus driver: 2 euros per person per day suggested

Tour Manager: 5 euros per person per day, more if they exceed your expectations. Usually paid at the end of the tour. Suggested

Tour Guides: 2 euros per person for 1/2 day tours, up to 5 euros for full day or if they exceeded your expectations. Suggested

[Tips for Tipping in Italy](#) My guide that will may help you with other items

Where is the best place to exchange money?

Some clients feel better exchanging money with their personal bank before leaving the states. The exchange rate is basically the same whether you get money here or there. What is different is the fees. Fees generally tend to be higher here. But not so much that it outweighs the value of not having to worry about it once you arrive.

I can take you to an ATM on our first full day in the city center.

Never exchange money in any airport here or abroad; the exchange rate is over-inflated and the fees are high.

Any guidelines on how much cash we should bring?

Credit cards are widely accepted all over Italy. I always take an Amex and my Visa (debit- so I can use it at ATMs also).

Tips at restaurants cannot be charged. And you most likely do not want to use your card for an espresso or water (Although many places in Rome now do that phone swipe thing-anyone going with us that wants to tutor me on this process, please do).

Having said all that, 250 euros for tips listed above for tour staff plus restaurant tips, incidentals, etc., would work. Currently 250 euros exchange rate is 290 US dollars.

Remember, if you go to your bank to get euros, tell them you want as close to 250 euros in hand after the fees and exchange rate.

What is the weather like in Rome during October?

Temperatures:

- Average high: 68–73°F

- Average low: around 54–59°F

- Cool mornings, warmer afternoons, and cooler evenings.

- Expect occasional rain showers, especially later in the month.

What kind of clothes do you recommend?

Comment about clothing etiquette with regard to the places we will be visiting.

- Light layers: t-shirts or long sleeves for daytime, a light sweater or jacket for mornings and evenings.
- Pack a hooded rain jacket for rainy days.
- Comfortable walking shoes are essential.

PLEASE NOTE: Attire for entering churches and the Sistine Chapel: shoulders and knees are to be covered before entering.

-If you pack using the 5,4,3,2,1 method, a carry-on per person is all you need. 5 tops, 4 bottoms, 3 shoes, 2 outerwear, 1 dress. I wear the bulkiest of the following on the plane: 1 top, 1 bottom, 1 outerwear, 1 shoes on the plane, which leaves more space in my carry-on.

What type of converter (electric) do we need for Italy?

A Universal Travel Adapter (I use the ExtraStar brand) that is also a surge protector works well.

Should each person in the room have an electric converter?

That depends on how many electrical items each person brings. Cell phones and other USB items can be charged by plugging them into USB connections inside your hotel room.

Will we get luggage tags from Collette?

Yes, one tag for the one bag included in the "Baggage Handling Benefit" in the price of your tour package.

Will we get our tickets and travel packet before we leave for the airport?

Yes. Generally, Collette ships them to the mailing address you provided at the time of your booking, 1-2 weeks before your departure.

Is our luggage paid (1) bag.

Luggage Handling (porter service, load & unloading to bus, etc. is included. Regarding luggage as part of your air travel: With Collette package airfare one free bag of 50lbs is included per person. Anyone without our airfare would need to contact the airlines for baggage information. The newsletter I sent dated August 5th provided a link for you to check bag restrictions I recommend you read it or your airline website to find out restrictions for carry-ons and any other baggage information you need. All air carriers are different regarding checked luggage.

Where can I find our daily itinerary?

A daily itinerary will be included in your travel packet. [You can also find it here.](#) Then scroll down the page until you see Itinerary and click on that.

What area will we be in when we break for lunches?

Day 2: Scala Sancta, Day 3: St. Paul Outside the Walls, Days 4, 6, & 7: St. Peter's Basilica.

Where can I find information about other excursion options (ie, The Colosseum, maybe a train ride to another city)?

The Colosseum tour was advertised by me in our Jubilee Newsletters (July 1 and Aug 5). Please let me know ASAP if you want to join and I will do my best to fit you in with the rest of our group that signed up prior to the deadline.

[Other tours \(such as day-trips, cooking classes, food tastings, you may be interested in\), and also good for "last-minute" bookings.](#)