

# *Journey to Rome*

Sunday 29 November - Tuesday 1 December 2026



# Rome

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Rome. Jerusalem's greatest friend turned deadly nemesis. Ideological centre of medieval persecution of Jews. Symbol of Jewish defiance, custom and community.

From the Arch of Titus to the Vatican via one of the oldest continuous Jewish communities in the world, join LSJS for an unforgettable educational journey meeting Jewish life and history in all its tragedy and glory.

Led by Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum and Michael Rainsbury, this carefully curated journey combines Jewish history, art, architecture, Torah and contemporary community life — bringing Rome's iconic landmarks to life through a distinctly Jewish perspective.

We will learn on site in synagogues, museums, ancient ruins and city streets – and see the grandeur of the Roman Empire, Renaissance art and the heart of the Catholic world. We will walk the same roads that Jews walked 2,000 years ago and gain perspective into the rabbis' post-Temple worldview by seeing their texts in conversation with their context.

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## ***What will be unique about an LSJS trip to Rome?***

- Having studied the Renaissance deeply for many years, Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum will share his unique expertise on the Vatican Museums, offering a perspective of what it means to be a Jew looking at one of the marvels of Europe through the lens of our texts, traditions and history.
- High-quality educators and tour guides will bring together Torah, history, art and archaeology offering you a rich appreciation for the sites we visit.
- A carefully curated itinerary including classic Rome landmarks - the Jewish Ghetto, Colosseum and the Vatican - alongside special opportunities, such as a Kosher cookery class with an expert Italian chef and the chance to learn about the modern Jewish community of Rome.
- Beautiful 4\* hotel located a few minutes' walk from the Jewish Ghetto and meals at some of the world's top kosher restaurants.

# Our Educators

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## *Michael Rainsbury*

Head of Lifelong Learning at LSJS, leads immersive Jewish tours across Israel, the UK and Europe. He created the first English-language tours of the President's Residence in Jerusalem and has developed LSJS journeys exploring Jewish history in Poland, Paris and beyond. Passionate about bringing pivotal moments in Jewish history to life, Michael explores their meaning for us as Jews today and inspires thoughtful reflection.



## *Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum*

Dean of LSJS and the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought, established by the Zandan family. He is an international lecturer, rabbinic leader, academic, author and podcaster. He has devised many LSJS tours, synthesising Torah teachings with artistic, archaeological, historical and scientific research. His renowned museum tours bring artefacts and exhibits to life, transforming museums into dynamic Torah classrooms.



# Itinerary

## Sunday 29 November

Meet at our beautiful **4\* hotel**, the Chapter Roma, ideally located just a few minutes' walk from the historic Jewish Ghetto. Settle in and enjoy a packed lunch on arrival, before setting off together on foot to begin our journey.

Walk through centuries of Jewish history and tradition at the magnificent **Great Synagogue**, one of the city's most beautiful and important landmarks, and visit the **Jewish Museum**, housed within the synagogue complex.

Continue with a guided exploration of the **Jewish Ghetto**, established by Papal decree when Jews were forced to live within a restricted walled quarter. Discover how the community maintained vibrant religious and communal life despite centuries of challenges, and how the area remains a living testament to Jewish resilience today.

Experience the renowned **Kosher restaurant Yotvata** in a unique way by **cooking your own exquisite Italian dinner!** Learn under the guidance of a local professional chef to prepare fresh pasta, authentic tiramisu and traditional limoncello, before sitting down to enjoy your creations together.



## Monday 30 November

Explore the heart of ancient Rome with a guided tour of the **Roman Forum**, once the political, religious and commercial centre of the Roman Empire.

Come face-to-face with the **Arch of Titus**, the monument to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE — and discover its modern symbolism following the Jewish return to the Land of Israel.

Continue to the iconic **Colosseum**, the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built. Discover the hidden stories behind its construction, its original purpose and the people whose lives shaped this extraordinary monument.

Enjoy further exploration of Rome, including famous landmarks on a scenic **boat trip on the Tiber** and a visit to the **Spanish Steps**. Learn about Rome's unique Jewish life by meeting members of the local Jewish community.

Dinner will be served at a high-quality kosher restaurant.

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## Tuesday 1 December

Experience the treasures of the **Vatican Museums**, one of the world's greatest collections of art and history. With **Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum**, alongside an expert local guide, explore the Vatican through a Jewish lens — discovering the Jewish significance of its art and examining the complex historical relationship between the Catholic Church and Jewish communities throughout the ages.

Visit the magnificent **Pantheon**, the resting place of the Renaissance master Raphael, before concluding at the iconic **Trevi Fountain**, Rome's largest and most famous Baroque fountain renowned for its dramatic sculptures and flowing waters.



\*Itinerary subject to change

# Booking Information

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**Dates:** Sunday 29 November - Tuesday 1 December 2026

**Price:** £1,525 | **Deposit:** £425 | **Single Room Supplement:** £235

*(Balance of £1,100 to be paid no later than Sunday 1 November)*

## **Including:**

- 4\* accommodation *(based on twin occupancy)*
- Local transport
- Site entry fees
- All meals from Sunday lunch through Tuesday dinner inclusive
- Local security guard

## **Excludes:**

- Flights
- Travel insurance including medical cover
- Airport transfers



## ***Travel Information***

Participants should make their own way to the hotel, **and the tour will begin at 14:00 from the hotel.** A packed lunch will be available upon arrival at the hotel - please allow time to eat before the tour begins.

We recommend the following flights:

- British Airways flight from Heathrow, arriving at 11.20am, or
- Ryanair flight from Stansted, arriving at 10.10am.

Our itinerary takes into consideration participants who wish to travel on the Wizz Air flight from Luton, arriving at 12.45pm, however please note the risk that you may miss the start of the tour.

**On the final day, we will return to the hotel by 17:00, which will be the end of the tour.** There will be a packed dinner available at the hotel.

From there, all participants should make their own way to the airport for their onward journey.

***Booking Deadline:*** Sunday 6 September 2026

*Spaces limited*

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