



Barrington Community School

presents

Ancient Italy

Exploring the Origins of the Roman Empire

September 9 - 18, 2008

Rome is called the "Eternal City," and many people consider the Roman Empire to be the beginning of Italy's history, but on this fall adventure with Sandi Tinyk and the Barrington Community School we're going to turn the clock back even further.

In the area north of Rome, the present day regions of Umbria, Tuscany and Lazio, there existed a culture and civilization that pre-dated the Roman Empire by hundreds of years. These were the Etruscans and their province, Etruria, comprised a federation of 12 city-states stretching from the Arno river (present day Florence) to the Tiber (present day Rome), with an influence reaching up as far as the Po River plain in the north of the country.

From our base in a charming hotel on Lake Bolsena, a crystal-clear lake formed in a volcanic crater, we'll visit cities founded over 3,000 years ago, and explore their ancient burial sites. We'll marvel at their art and ponder over their (recently-deciphered) alphabet. These were the pre-cursors of the Romans.

But of course, this is Italy, so we'll also sample fantastic food, visit Renaissance villas, marvel at timeless Roman architecture and, best of all, we'll do it in places that tourists seldom visit! This fall join Barrington Community School's Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's Fiona Bennett on another of their explorations of undiscovered Italy.



Lake Bolsena



The Colosseum at Night

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure:	\$3880
Land Only:	\$2890
Single supplement:	\$540

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from Boston to Rome.
All customs fees and airport taxes included.
- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, including round trip transfers from Barrington to Boston.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners, 1 lunch..
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director & BCS escort throughout.
Local guide for Rome sightseeing.
- Expenses:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

Please Note that this itinerary can be taken as an extension to Barrington Community School's trip *A Week in Provence*. The land only cost applies.

For further information & registration please contact:

Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School

(401) 245-0432



Tuesday, September 9th

This afternoon a private coach will take us to Boston Logan Airport for an evening departure.

Overnight: Plane

Wednesday, September 10th

Your tour guide, Fiona Bennett, meets you this morning in Rome and escorts you on the drive to our hotel in the heart of Umbria. Our destination is the charming town of Bolsena, on the shores of the lake of the same name and close by the regional capital of Orvieto. There will be time to rest from the flight before we gather for our opening dinner party in an exuberant welcome to Italy! **(D)**

Overnight: Bolsena

Thursday, September 11th

Our excursion from Bolsena this morning, takes us north into southern Tuscany. Our first stop is the ancient hill town of Chiusi, one of the original 12 sovereign cities of Etruria. We'll visit the archeological museum and have a tour of the Etruscan tombs just outside the town. Our next stop is Montepulciano, perched on the crest of a volcanic hill with marvelous views of the surrounding countryside. We'll stop here at a local vineyard for an agriturismo lunch (included) before making our way to the Renaissance town of Pienza. Pienza was designed

Overnight: Bolsena

by the architect Bernardo Rossellino, under the auspices of its native son, Pope Pius II, as an "ideal town," bringing into harmony the civil and religious buildings. We return to Bolsena for a free evening. **(B, L)**

Friday, September 12th

Heading west towards the coast today, our first stop is the town of Pitigliano. In the valley below the town is a network of early Etruscan pathways, deep channels sculpted out of the solid rock. We continue to the coast to visit the promontory of Argentario, a limestone island linked to the shore by "tomboli," causeways built up by sand over the centuries. We'll stop for lunch in Orbetello, a city built on top of the central of the three causeways and then take a tour of the island, pausing in Porto Ercole, a charming fishing village, before returning to Bolsena for a free evening. **(B)**

Overnight: Bolsena

Saturday, September 13th

Today we explore a different section of the coast, crossing back into the province of Lazio, southwest of Bolsena. The focus of our visit will be the ancient town of Tarquinia, founded, according to legend, in the 12th century BC – around the time of the fall of Troy! We'll visit the Palazzo Vitelleschi, housing the National Museum, the massive Etruscan Necropolis just outside the town and have free time for lunch and individual exploration before returning to Bolsena for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Bolsena

Sunday, September 14th

South of Bolsena, we stop in the medieval walled city of Viterbo and continue out of town to the Palazzo Farnese di Caprarola. This palace was built between 1559 and 1575 for Cardinal Alessandro Farnese in the late 16th-century Mannerist style and is set in a 44- acre park complete with terraces and monumental fountains. On the way back to Bolsena we'll stop at Bomarzo to visit the Parco dei Mostri, another Mannerist creation, this time by Vicino Orsini and adorned with a series of fantastically shaped sculptures. We'll return to our hotel in Bolsena for a free evening. **(B)**

Overnight: Bolsena

Monday, September 15th

Today will be completely free to explore Bolsena and relax by the lake. You could take a boat trip out to Bisentina Island, once a papal summer residence, or take the bus into Orvieto for the day. There may also be a chance for a trip to a local spa. We'll have dinner together at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Bolsena

Tuesday, September 16th

Leaving our base in Bolsena, we head south to Rome – the Eternal City - stopping on the way at Cerveteri to visit the ancient Etruscan Necropoli della Banditaccia. After free time for lunch we'll visit Ostia Antica – the ancient port of Rome, founded in the 7th century BC. We'll tour the ruins and then head to our hotel in the center of Rome. The evening is free. **(B)**

Overnight: Rome



The Capitoline Wolf

Wednesday, September 17th

A morning tour of the city highlights with a local guide focuses on the ancient monuments of Rome's imperial past. We'll see the Colosseum, stroll through the Forum, and explore the Palatine Hill before we cross the river into Trastevere, where we'll drive up to the Gianicolo (the Janiculum) for a fabulous view over the whole city. We'll end our tour with a visit to the Villa Giulia, the home of the National Museum of pre-Roman history. The afternoon is free for individual exploration and this evening we gather for a farewell dinner party at a restaurant near our hotel. **(B, D)**

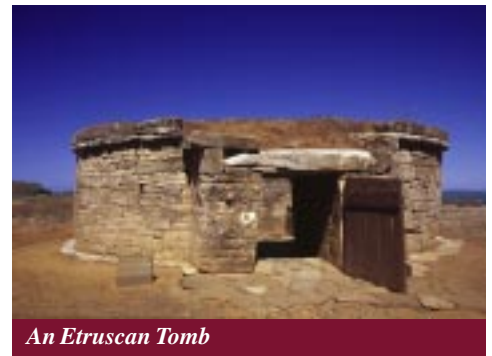
Overnight: Rome

Thursday, September 18th

Morning transfer to Rome Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Overnight: Home

*Key to included meals:
B - breakfast, L - lunch,
D - dinner*



An Etruscan Tomb