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1860s, undated

AMERICAN RED CROSS CLUB TOURS
GENERAL TOUR - AFTERNOON

THE PANTHEON

The Pantheon is the most famous of the buildings of Ancient Rome and is the only ancient edifice which has come to us in a perfect state of preservation. The structure was founded in the first century B.C. (27 B.C.) by Marcus Agrippa and dedicated to all Gods (Pan Theos). During the reign of Emperor Titus in 80 A.D., it was damaged by a lightning bolt and fire which resulted but was restored by Hadrian in the years 110-125 A.D. Today it is said to be the greatest achievement in interior architecture accomplished by the Romans. The sixteen monolith granite columns which support the portico measure 46 ft. in height. The gilt bronze tiles which once covered the dome are gone; but the ancient bronze doors remain and are the greatest of all Roman doors that have been preserved. As to the interior the whole is one plane or equality - the diameter of the Rotonda (143 ft.) being exactly equal to the height from the floor to summit - and the height from the floor to cornice, equal to that from cornice to apex. The Pantheon is lit by the circular hole in the dome - this dome being the largest and oldest in the world. When Christianity replaced Paganism, Pope Boniface IV in 609, consecrated the Pantheon as a Christian Church and it is still used as such today (The Royal Church). It was dedicated to the Mother of God under the name of Sancta ad Martyres and it is said that on this occasion of its consecration, a large number of bones of martyres were brought to the Pantheon from the catacombs. The tombs of Victor Emanuel II, Umberto I and Raphael are located here with those of other great artists.

THE PYRAMID OF CAIUS CESTIUS

The pyramid was built in the year 30 B.C. to mark the tomb of Caius Cestius, who was a praetor, a tribune and a member of the college of Septemviri Epulones and had charge of the solemn, sacrificial banquets. It is about 117 ft. high and is covered with slabs of white marble.

ST. PAUL'S OUTSIDE THE WALLS

San Paolo fuori le Mura is one of the major churches of Rome. The site is that of a church built by Constantine over the tomb of St. Paul, which was also the site of a Roman Cemetery. St. Paul was martyred approximately 1 1/2 miles away. The church was largely destroyed by fire in 1823, but rebuilt along the same plans and dimensions and was finally consecrated by Pope IX in 1854. Poletti built it - with the whole world contributing.

The interior is 394 ft. by 197 ft. and 75 ft. high. The interior is 394 ft. by 197 ft. high. The 80 columns of grey granite were quarried in Bavona on Lake Maggiore and brought to Rome on rafts. The high altar is surmounted by a famous tabernacle by Arnolfo da Cambio (1285). Along the frieze of the nave and aisles are medallions of all the Bishops of Rome St. Peter until the present day (numbering 264 in all) Beneath the altar lies the body of St. Paul in a simple stone coffin marked "Paul Apostle". The cloisters were built by the school of Cosmati in the 13th century.

PIAZZA VENEZIA

The large white building - monument - rising from the slope of the Capitoline Hill is named in honor of the first King of unified Italy, Victor Emanuel II. It was begun in 1885 and construction continued for 26 years. It is 500 ft. long, 250 ft. high and was designed by Sacconi. The statue of the King is in gilded bronze and is over the tomb of the Unknown Soldier of World War I on the Altar of the Fatherland.

As you see the monument on the right hand side of the Piazza is the Palazzo Venezia. It takes its name from the fact that the Venetian Ambassador lived here in the days when Venice was an independent republic - the most powerful in Europe. Mussolini had his office here during the days of his dictatorship and in the center of the building they hold at the present an Art Exhibition.

CASTLE SANT'ANGELO:

Castle San'Angelo was built in the II Century A.D. by Hadrian. In Roman times it was the tomb of Emperor Hadrian. In Middle Age it was transformed into a fortress. From 1870 it was first used as Barracks and then turned into a Museum. It was at present one of the most important, and interesting sights of Rome, since the former apartments of the Popes, who generally came here for protection when danger arose, are still in excellent condition.

The Armory and the dungeons as well as the plaster models of the Castle in different epochs, add great interest.

TOMBS OF AUGUSTUS:

The Tomb of Augustus was erected in the 1st Century B.C. and was used, up the short time ago, as a Concert Hall for the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia.

CAPITOLINE MUSEUM:

The Museum was founded in 1471 by Sixtus IV, chiefly built by pupils of Michelangelo. Contains the famous "Dying Gaul", original of the 1st century BC, "Venus of the Capitol", Greek Statue found in 1684, an Etruscan bronze "Wolf of the Capitol", the statue of a boy extracting a thorn from his foot, called the "Shepherd Martius", the "Rosso Antico" marble Faun, The Centaurs and the interesting Roman tapestries.

CHURCH OF ARA COELI:

The name of this church is generally attributed to an altar erected by Augustus Caesar. In the Middle Ages, Ara Coeli was the church of the Roman Senate and it has often served as a Parliament House for the city of Rome. In the 1st Chapel, on the right, is a painting of St. Bernardino da Siena, a work of Bernardino Pinturicchio.

In the "Presepio" there is a famous XVI Century wooden sculpture of the "Infant Christ".

MAMERTINE PRISON:

The Mamertine Prison and the Carcere Tulliano, is the oldest Roman dungeon, in which St. Peter and Paul are said to have been bound to a pillar for nine months.

PIAZZA NAVONA:

A vast oblong Piazza occupying the site of the Circus Agonialis of Domitianus which had seats for 30,000 spectators and boats three handsome fountains.

The center fountain, built by Bernini in the XVII Century is called the Fountain of the four Rivers. Others were built in the XIII Century.

BASILICA OF ST. PETER'S

In 327, Constantine the Great began the erection of a Basilica, laboring with his own hands. In 846 the Basilica suffered severely by the Saracenic invasion, and later was restored by Leo IV. In 1506 Julius II began the new St. Peter's from design by Bramante, Raffaello and the Architect Sangallo. The dome was designed by Michelangelo, however it was very different from what we now admire. The present dome is the work of Giacomo Della Porta, and was finished in 1570. The ball and cross were installed in 1593. The Church was consecrated by Pope Urban VIII November 18, 1626. The colonnade was added by Alexander VII in 1667, the sacristy by Pius VI in 1780. The facade of St. Peter's is 387 ft long and 148 ft high. It is surmounted by a balustrade six ft in height bearing statues of the Saviour and the 12 Apostles. The central door of bronze is a remnant of the old Basilica and was done by Antonio Filareta in 1451. The floor of the Basilica is of inlaid coloured marble designed by Giacomo Della Porta and Bernini. Confession is the work of Casanova, the Canopy in bronze was done by Bernini in 1633. In the first Chapel is the Statue "Pietà" by Michelangelo. The Sacristy of St. Peter's was built by Pius VI in 1755 from design by Carlo Marchioni. The Treasury of St. Peter's, which stands above the Papal Altar (the grave of the Apostle Peter) contains works by Polainolo, Benvenuto Cellini; ancient jewels and crucifixes.

THE CATACOMBS

There are 42 Catacombs which are used as underground burial vaults. They are formed by subterranean galleries, the number of which constantly increased as Christianity kept spreading. The Catacombs of St. Callisto are the largest and also contain the tomb of St. Cecilia's. Those of St. Sebastian's, guarded up to the time of Constantine, contain remains of the Bodies of the Apostles Peter and Paul, which brought back to their original graves by Constantine, the Basilicas of St. Peter's and Paul were built over these graves.

CIRCUS MAXIMUS

The Circus Maximus, Rome most extensive monument, was almost completely destroyed in the time of Paul V. It was used for chariot races, first institute by Tarquinius Priscus in honor of Consus. It was a vast oblong of 730 yards, ending eastward in a semi-cycl, and surrounded by three tiers of seats. At one time the Circus was capable of accommodating more than 350,000 persons. The circus was used until the sixth Century.

THE BATHS OF CARACALLA

These Baths which could accommodate 1000 bathers at once, were begun by Caracalla in 212 A.D. and finished under Alexander Severus. They were supplied with water by the Antonine Aqueduct, which branched hither for that purpose from the Claudine, over the masonry Arch of Drusus, seen further along the road near the gate.

THE ROMAN FORUM

Once a swamp between the Palatine, Velia, Esquiline, Quirinal and Capitoline Hills, it was first the center of Rome, and later the center of the world. It was the center of all activities, up to the time of Constantine. It suffered immensely when Robert, the Guiscard, of Normandy, sacked Rome in the 11th century. From then for several centuries, it was used as a dumping place. The rubbish poured in here, raised its level up to the street level of today.

Excavations were started by Pope Pius IX in the XIX Century. Among the buildings and monuments to be seen, special mention should be made of the Roman Senate, begun by Julius Caesar and inaugurated by Augustus in B.C. 29. The temple of Caesar is the site where the body of Caesar was cremated. Here one finds the the Temple of Vesta is where the everlasting fire was left burning. Temples of Castor and Pollux, which have the oldest and best columns of the forum, The Triumphal Arches of Titus and Septimus Severus and, the Basilica of Constantine.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Built by Constantine, simultaneously to the Forum "Lectura Palatii", was concentrated originally to the name of "Our Savior". Greatly enlarged in the XIX Century, was named after St. John's.

It suffered from many alterations, which turned it into a Baroque construction. Through the bronze main door, a relic of the Roman Senate, we enter the main nave, surmounted by a beautiful wooden ceiling, of the XVI Century. The marble statues along the main nave represent the 12 Apostles and the plaster Bas-relief, on the left and right, represent scenes of the old Testament.

The floor restored by Pope Pius XI was laid in the XIII Century. In the canopy, which surmounts the main altar, are St. Peter's and St. Paul's skulls. At the "Tribuna" is the Papal Throne, surmounted by a beautiful mosaic, representing three different epochs.

At the left end above the Altar, and below the bronze canopy right inside the wall, a few wooden boards are kept, which were brought from Mount Zion, by St. Helena, and are said to be the remains of the Last Supper's Table.

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OUT OF TOWN TOURS

OSTIA

Ostia was built at the mouth of the Tiber in the beginning of the IV Century B.C., as a "Castrum" or fortified encampment to prevent eventual enemies from entering the Tiber River, and move up towards Rome.

Later it became very important harbour and the city grew to more than 100,000 inhabitants, as all large vessels transporting food, etc., were unloaded here and goods stored in its spacious "Horreas" or Warehouses. The cities' ruins offer interesting examples of architecture, and one can get a good idea of Roman life in that period.

TIVOLI

The ancient "Tibur" which may have been built before Rome and situated on the slopes of the Appennine Mountains, is famous for its Waterfalls and its magnificent Villa D'Este. The latter was planned by Pirro Ligorio in the XVI Century for the Cardinal Ippolito D'Este. Its informal garden is considered to be one of Italy's finest.

ALBAN HILLS

On the Appian Way, passing by the picturesque Aqueducts, we reach Albano, built over the remains of the Emperor Domitian's body guard barracks. Then we come to Castle Gandolfo, where the Papal summer Residence, on the shore of the enchanting volcanic lake Albano, is located. Here we generally take a stroll through the magnificent formal gardens. Then Marino, famous for its wines, and on the first Sunday of October wine flows freely from one of the town's oldest fountains. We reach Grottaferrata, noted for the delicacy of its wines and for its Abbey and Church of the XI Century. We visit the Church and Chapel where we find the famous frescoes by Domenichino. Then, permitting we drive to Frascati, built below the hilltop, where once stood the ancient town of Tusculum.

BORGHESE GALLERY

The Borghese Palazzo, which is now the Borghese Gallery, was the private summer residence of the Borghese family. Built in XVII Century contains many famous pictures and statues by Italian artist.

Among them we mention : Canova, Bernini; paintings on the second floor by Raffadolo, Tintoretto, Botticelli, Perugino, Malboin, Veronese etc.

ST MARIA MAGGIORE

St. Maria Maggiore is one of the great Basilicas of Rome. Built in the IV Century by the Pope Liberius I, it contains two big chapels, Paolina and Sistina, also the tomb of the great sculptor Bernini. Notice a marvolous XV Century mosaic by Torrita.

ST. PETER IN CHAINS

The Church was built in the V Century. It contains the chains of St. Peter and Paul. You can admire the famous Statue of Moses - by Michelangelo - done in the XVI Century.

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