

# MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS



## Time Travel is Easy

See Rome's magnificent ruins like they haven't been seen since antiquity. **Tiffany Parks** reports.

**T**he Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill: awe-inspiring sites that nevertheless leave most visitors wondering, what did it look like way back when? It's almost impossible to visit these evocative ruins without the desire to somehow travel back in time and see them in all their original "un-ruined" splendor. A brand-new experience from **LivItaly Tours** enables its clients to do just that.

No matter how knowledgeable your tour guide, or how thorough their visual aides, it's never easy to imagine what that pile of seemingly random stones once looked like, to visualize the *velarium* (a sail-like canopy) soaring over the Colosseum, or to imagine the sheer immensity of the temples that would have once surrounded you, reduced to a few lonely columns today. Enter virtual reality technology. By donning a pair of VR goggles at the beginning of the tour, you'll see these ancient sites, once

just a hazy idea, come clearly and convincingly to life, literally right before your eyes.

The tour kicks off just outside the Colosseum, where visitors are met with the (virtual) sight of the Colossus of Nero, a towering 30-meter bronze statue that was destroyed over 1500 years ago.

Inside, guests experience the great amphitheater as an ancient Roman would have seen it, complete with streamers, banners and the miraculous *velarium*. The imperial palaces of the Palatine Hill can be admired in all their intact majesty, and the virtually reconstructed basilicas, temples, and monuments of the Roman Forum testify to the glory that was Rome. Along with the VR technology, an expert guide regales visitors with the history, technical details, and curiosities of the three sites, rendering them that much more fascinating.

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