

Audrey Binford – Age 10

My family and I went to Rome because my parents had gone to Italy for their honeymoon. My parents wanted to revisit Italy for their twelfth anniversary so my aunt, uncle, and three cousins from Kansas City, Missouri and an uncle from Seattle Washington met us there.

To get to Rome my family and I had to fly from Dallas, Texas to Chicago, where we got onto the Alitalia airplane. Our flight number was 629, and our plane was a Boeing 767-400 Passenger(764). The flight attendants were very nice and made sure we were comfortable. The Italian food was a preview of the delicious food we would have that week in Rome. Our return flight was supposed to be flight number 628 a Boeing 767-400 Passenger(764). However, we could not get on our plane. Several Alitalia employees did everything they could to get us back on schedule. We were put on a different plane to New York in business class. Sleeping, eating and watching movies were easy and comfortable. My family and I enjoyed the flight back so much we will fly business class the next time we fly overseas. An added bonus was spending the night in New York City, with shopping and sightseeing the next day before we flew back to Dallas. I enjoyed my experience with Alitalia thoroughly.

In Rome it is easy to get around by walking or riding the Metro. The city is made up of seven hills, which offer views of ancient buildings, the river, giant palm trees, gardens, and fountains. One day we rode the metro directly to the Coliseum. It was amazing being inside it because the building is so huge and old. We went to Trajan's Market, and Vatican City. When my family was in the Vatican Museum my mom pointed out Belvedere's Torso, and when we were in St. Peter's I saw La Pieta. We went to the Roman Forum, the Spanish Steps, Palatine Hill, and shopped at many different types of stores. One evening we walked to the Pantheon. Then our whole family ate a three-course dinner at a restaurant right in front of the Pantheon. We finished off the evening with some of the best gelato I had ever tasted. On the last day I made sure we could go the Trevi Fountain so we could throw a coin in the fountain to make the wish that we would come back to Italy again.

One of my favorite things about Rome is the different culture and way of life. People walked instead of driving cars, and went to hang out at the fountains or piazzas. When you were hungry you could grab lunch and eat on the streets. I also liked that everyone is nice and friendly and willing to help. My trip was especially memorable because my cousins, uncles and aunt were there. I will always remember chasing my cousins up the many stairs to the top of the St. Peters dome.

If you go to Rome I recommend seeing Vatican City, the Coliseum, the Roman Forum and Trajan's Market. You should enjoy an Italian dinner viewing a 2,000-year-old monument. A must is getting gelato on a hot afternoon.

Our trip to Rome has piqued my interest in Rome's history, architecture, and innovations. I was able to see the famous statue of Romulus and Remus depicting the legendary beginning of Rome. Afterwards I was able to see the structures that people lived in at the beginning of Rome. I learned the Coliseum and many other ancient buildings were made under compression and many archways are used for strength. My dad enjoyed sharing these engineering facts with me. We spent several days photographing these beautiful structures that have been copied all over the world. I learned to respect the ancient Roman's intelligence and innovations. Rome governed a large empire, and now is a model to other governments. The building and engineering of the aqueducts allowed Rome to grow into a thriving city. I enjoyed living a week in a different culture, experiencing a different language, music, art, and surroundings. I also learned that even though we are very different in some ways we are a lot alike in many ways. There is a lot more about Rome I would like to experience. The next time I come to Rome I would like to see the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, and Pisa.