

If you choose to join us for a 4-hour tour, you will visit the Vatican Museums as described above, and then visit **St. Peter's Basilica**, the world's most famous church.

The first stop at St. Peter's is in the **square** where the guide will explain the architecture and the fascinating external details. The church was designed by Michelangelo, although he died before its final completion. Bernini designed the huge square in the 17th century.

Upon entering the Basilica, the group will stop at Michelangelo's **Pietà**. His only signed work, Michelangelo sculpted this beautiful marble statue when he was only 25 years old. It is protected behind a glass panel because it was once attacked by someone with a hammer.

The next and last stop is at Bernini's **Baldacchino**. Made in the 17th century, this huge bronze sculpture stands above the high altar and St. Peter's tomb.

At the completion of the tour, visitors are free to further explore the Basilica on their own, but they cannot return to the Museums.