



Big Bus Tours in Rome

by Alexandra Cohen

Big Bus Tours is the largest operator of open-top sightseeing bus tours in the world. Inspiring the spirit of adventure in over 25 cities, across four continents. Beginning with a fleet of three, today hundreds of buses and guides are helping over four million tourists explore each year.

Their aims are simple: to make hop on, hop off sightseeing the number one thing to do on your city break, offer a day or two (or three) of memorable, cultured and even educational fun and to help you tick off the best bits their world-famous cities have to offer, and then some.

While in Rome, Italy, the Big Bus Tours represented our first activity. Seated on the top deck it represented the perfect introduction to the city and the best photo opportunities of iconic landmarks. This daytime sightseeing tour showcased the Eternal City in all of its glory: the Colosseum, Circus Maximus, Piazza Venezia, Piazza Navona Fountain, Vatican City, and more, with stops located nearby so we could hop off the bus to explore them at our own pace. During the tour, we were able to tune in to pre-recorded commentary, which is available in a variety of languages



When you book the tour you will need to select the date you'd like to hop on the bus. If you're touring with them for more than one day, your ticket must be used across consecutive days, and the date you select at time of booking should be the first day of your tour. Some tours also require you to select a time of travel, to secure your seat. If your ticket has extra inclusions, you may also need to book dates and times for these inclusions after your purchase is complete via their Booking Portal.

Services operate daily from 9 am to 6 pm so see the service information page on their website for tour schedule information and notices. Alternatively, you can check times with a Big Bus Tours team member, buses pull up at each stop every 20 minutes

Educational and informative pre-recorded commentary are available on board all buses. Tune in via complimentary headphones to learn secrets and stories about the rich history of Rome, its famous inhabitants, dazzling architecture and vibrant culture. Commentary is available in the following languages: English, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Brazilian, Portuguese and Mandarin Your complimentary headphones are distributed when you board the bus. They are brand new and you are welcome to keep them!

All buses are equipped with wheelchair ramps and there is of course room downstairs. However, the only way to reach the upper deck is by going up the steps. ■

WWW.BIGBUSTOURS.COM



Contiki, the world's leading travel brand for 18-35 year-olds, is expanding its Africa portfolio with the launch of four new trips in Africa. Designed to make bucket-list safaris more accessible to younger audiences, each new itinerary, across Kenya, Tanzania and Eswatini and South Africa, delivers the classic safari experience with added adrenaline and cultural immersion, without the premium price tag.

From Kenya to Tanzania, these new trips cover key Africa destinations with local immersion and unbeatable safari experiences:

- **Kenya & Tanzania Adventure:** Ideal for young travelers who want to see the best of East Africa in one seamless experience, this trip covers five national parks over 11 days, including the Maasai Mara and Amboseli - while offering a rich mix of wildlife encounters, optional adventure activities and cultural immersion.
- **Kenya Adventure:** Travelers will explore three of Kenya's most iconic national parks across six action-packed days. Highlights include Big 5 game drives, mountain biking through nature and villages, white-water rafting, ziplining, archery, a hot air balloon safari over the plains, and a cultural visit to a Maasai village.
- **Tanzania Adventure:** This six day itinerary ticks off the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Lake Manyara. In addition to daily game drives, travelers can opt into treetop walks, cultural village visits, and a night safari for a rare opportunity to see big cats in action after dark.

Each trip includes a custom overland vehicle for the best views during safaris and premium campsites accommodations, where travelers will fall asleep under the stars, with tents pre-assembled by the on-ground team, and all amenities taken care of. These trips are led by experienced Trip Managers who are also fully trained safari guides, alongside a dedicated driver and on-road chef for freshly-prepared meals throughout the journey.

In addition to the new East Africa trips, Contiki has announced a new version of its popular Cape, Safari & Falls itinerary. The new trip 'Cape Town, Kruger & Bushfire Festival' now features the Bushfire Festival - one of Africa's most celebrated music events. This 9-day itinerary combines South Africa's must-see highlights, from Cape Town's dramatic coastline to iconic game drives in Kruger National Park, finishing with three nights at the iconic Bushfire Festival, with a host of acts from across the continent, local food, art and more.

With the launch of these new trips, Contiki's Africa portfolio now includes over 30 itineraries across the continent - from Egypt and Morocco to Namibia and multiple safari adventures.

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