

## A virtual trip into the unknown, or how to explore the world in your Orange Lab

Long journeys and discovering unknown corners of the Earth are for many people one of their greatest dreams. However, if for some reason you can't pack your bags and go out into the world for now, organize an exciting trip... in the privacy of your Orange Lab. Ready? Let's go!



### OBJECTIVES

The participant:

- knows the possibilities of VR technology in the educational context and entertainment,
- can use Google Maps and use the Google Street View function,
- can create their own simple graphics with the help of an easy, user-friendly internet tool,
- learns the topography and monuments of new, previously unseen places,
- can find necessary information online,
- expands their knowledge of geography,
- integrates with other group members,
- develops a sense of belonging to the local community.



### EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- cut-out cards with monuments and attractions of Rome (Appendix 1),
- work card: place card (Appendix 2),
- computers or tablets with internet access (one for a maximum of 2-3 people) and a printer,
- two pairs of VR goggles with the YouTube VR app installed.

#### AGE

18+

#### DURATION

80–100 minutes

#### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

12 people



## SPACE

To go on this journey, you don't have to buy tickets, book a hotel room, or prepare your luggage. However, it is worth making certain preparations to get the most out of this virtual tour. A well-organized space is of great importance here. Plan a cooperative work zone near computers, where you will spend a part of your trip, share your observations and impressions, as well as... create souvenirs from your travels.

Choose two special workstations for working with VR goggles. It would be best if they were separate rooms, but if your housing conditions don't allow it, it may just be a few square meters of free space in a room. It is important to remove potential obstacles from this space (e.g., chairs, hangers). Thanks to this, your adventures with VR will be more comfortable and, above all, safe.



## APPLICATION

YouTube VR  
<https://www.oculus.com>



scan the QR code

In this scenario, we offer you a trip to Rome. Wearing VR goggles, watch the film *One Day in Rome* – a VR/360° guided city tour available on the Orbitian Media channel. It's in English, but if you don't know it doesn't matter. Just try to focus on the visual sensations and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the places you visit, ignoring on-screen comments.

**Note:** The app used in the scenario is compatible with Oculus Quest 2, but if you have other VR goggles, you can search for an application tailored to your hardware.



### **What if...**

If you feel like it and feel that such a format would work in your Orange Lab, it would be an interesting idea to modify the workshop script by connecting it with a book or film discussion club. In this case, it should be proposed to interested parties in advance to read a book or watch a film with Rome in the background and expand the programme of the meeting by adding a small discussion panel during which the participants can share their experiences and opinions.

## **WORKSHOP**

### **Welcome**

Invite participants to sit in a circle or around a table. Welcome them and tell them briefly what the meeting today will look like. Tell them that you're going on a virtual journey together today where, as the ancient proverb says, all roads lead to Rome!

Then ask everyone to briefly introduce themselves and in a few sentences describe their personal travel experiences. What places have they visited? Which of the places did they like the most?

### **Introduction to the topic**

Spread out in front of the participants the cut-out cards with images of the most popular Roman places, landmarks, and monuments (Appendix 1). Ask them to choose one card each. This may be the place that they like the most and have been fascinated by for a long time or on the contrary – one whose existence they were previously unaware of. Remind everyone to keep their card: it will influence where each person will stop for a bit longer during the main part of your tour.

## Main part – A virtual trip across Rome

We're on our way! Inform participants that your joint Roman holiday is about to start and that it will take place simultaneously in two modes – using two different tools.

Unlike most trips, start with... free time. Invite the participants to use computers (or tablets) and inform them that in the next several minutes they will have the opportunity to get to know the places they selected in the previous exercise, and their surroundings. Ask them to open Google Maps and try to locate the selected landmarks and tourist attractions of Rome with their help. It's a good moment to take a closer look at them. Also, give the participants a printed copy of the worksheet: card of the place (Appendix 2), and ask them to try, during the "walk around Rome", to find the most important information online about the place they have chosen.

### ABC of Google Map

To move to a specific place in the world, it is enough to enter its name in the white box that says: "Search in Google Maps", located on the left side of the screen and press Enter. The plus/minus buttons visible on the right in the bottom corner will help you to zoom in or out on the map.

However, during class pay special attention to the little yellow figure of a human under these icons. By dragging the figure anywhere on the map, we open the Google Streetview function and jump straight onto the streets of Rome. Encourage the participants to go on such a "walk". To do so, just „capture” the yellow figure by hovering on the icon and holding down the left mouse button, then drag it to the place on the map you want to watch, and „drop it” by releasing the left mouse button. Further navigation is very intuitive – it's enough to left-click on the arrows pointing in a given direction to move, or to click, hold and move the mouse to turn and look in another direction.

Inform the participants that at the same time everyone will have an opportunity to look at Rome from a different perspective by putting on VR goggles. Invite the first two participants to the previously prepared VR workstations, tell them briefly what they will be doing now and hand them the goggles along with controllers. When they reach the end of their individual Roman excursions, ask them to re-join the group working on computers, and then invite two more people to the VR zone. Repeat these „exchanges” until everyone manages to use VR goggles. Before moving onto the next exercise, make sure everyone has found every necessary information online and completed the worksheet.

### **Postcards from Rome**

Sightseeing done? Time for souvenirs! And time for another pleasant task: creating your own original postcard straight from Rome. Ask the participants to open Canva. If they haven't used it yet, tell them briefly how to use it, and show how to create a postcard design step by step. When preparing their postcard, the participants can use free graphic resources collected in the Canva library (if you use the free version of the software, watch out for paid items marked with a crown icon), or search for appropriate photos outside of the site.



#### **Libraries of free public domain images that you can use in your projects:**

1. Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/>,
2. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/>,
3. Pexels: <https://www.pexels.com/pl-pl/>,
4. ISO Republic: <https://isorepublic.com/>,
5. Foter: <https://foter.com/>.

When all the postcards are ready, be sure to save them to disk and print.

## Conclusion

Invite the participants to sit in a circle or around a table. Ask them to briefly present places that they chose at the beginning of the workshop, using the filled-in work sheets and cards. What interesting things did they learn about these places? What surprised them and what they enjoyed the most? Did they – during their two virtual trips (VR goggles and Google Street View) – discover for themselves any new fascinating places?

Thank everyone for their participation in the workshop meeting. Print two copies of each postcard created by the participants. Give one copy to the author, as a souvenir of their unusual trip, and put the other copy on display in your Orange Lab. May the reminder of the trip brighten up even overcast and rainy days!

## Useful links

This workshop script of a tourist meeting with Rome can be easily modified to travel to other places thanks to VR technology. Who knows, perhaps you will even create a cyclic series of travelling club meetings? If you decide to do so, make sure you prepare in advance a destination-specific set of sheets and cards to be used during your workshop. Have a look at some of YouTube VR channels that may provide you with a pretext for organizing a meeting:

- Orbitian Media – *One Day in...* – a short film series about world metropolises:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@OrbitianMedia>
- VR Gorilla – a collection of films:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@Vrgorilla1>
- AirPano – high-altitude films of flights over the most picturesque corners of the globe:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@AirPanoVR>

## Appendixes:

1. Sheet with landmarks and tourist attractions of Rome
2. Work sheet: Place card

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