

## Vatican City (Italy)

- Information on visiting:
  - Hours are 8a-8p. Museums close at 2pm. Papal audiences on Wednesdays create late openings in several areas.
  - Meals - there are six eateries inside the Vatican walls, they accept cash (euros), visa and mastercard.
  - Attire - guests will not be admitted wearing any clothing deemed to be inappropriate by the Catholic Church; this includes but is not limited to: sleeveless or low-cut garments, shorts above the knee, miniskirts, hats, any visible personal objects as well as similarly visible distinctive personal signs (such as, for example, tattoos).
  - Bags - large bags are not permitted inside the Vatican, small bags/purses are subject to security check.
- St. Peter's Basilica contains:
  - La Navicella Mosaic
  - The Fountains in St. Peter's Square
  - Statue of St. Peter
  - Tomb of Innocent XI
  - St. Peter's Throne
  - La Porta Santa (Holy Door)
  - Baldacchino
  - Tomb of St. Peter
  - Holy Mass
    - 8:30 am: At the chapel of the Sacrament, 9 am: At the altar of St. Joseph, 10 am: At the altar of St. Joseph, 11 am: At the altar of St. Joseph, 12 pm: At the altar of St. Joseph, 5 pm: At the chapel under the Cathedral of St. Peter
- Sistine Chapel contains:
  - Decor from floor to ceiling by the most famous Renaissance painters including the famous frescos; Michelangelo's nine ceiling panels.
- Vatican Palace contains:
  - Pinacoteca (Da Vinci's 1482 work "St. Jerome", Raphael's "The Crowning of the Virgin", "The Annunciation", "Transfiguration")
  - The Raphael Rooms (Liberation Of St. Peter fresco)
  - Borgia Apartments (15th century frescoes)
  - Cappella Niccolina (15th century frescoes)
  - Gallery of the Candelabra (Artemis Of Ephesus)
  - New Wing ("Augustus Of Prima Porta")
  - Room of Muses (The Belvedere Torso)
- Piazza San Pietro (St. Peter's Square)
- Museo Pio Clementino contains:
  - Nero's Bathtub
  - Sarcophagus of Saint Helena
  - The Aphrodite



- Hercules from Pompey's Theatre
- Vatican Grottoes - under St Peter's, this is where the Popes are buried.
- Vatican Necropolis - a level below the grottoes, where St Peter is buried. (referred to as a Scavi visit)
- Vatican Gardens - 57 acres of medieval fortifications, buildings, and monuments from the 9th century to the present, along with vibrant flower beds, lawns, and forest.
- Etruscan Museum - artifacts of the life, art, religion, and burial practices of the Etruscans, between the 9th and 1st centuries. The museum is a 16th-century Mannerist Villa, constructed for Pope Julius III.
- Vatican Post Office - mail a postcard home..

## Independent Touring

\*The larger sites are only available by advance ticket sales, there are no ticket sales "at the door". Several options in the Vatican only take cash (no cards). Lines are lengthy for entry and security into larger sites, guided tours will bypass the majority of the waiting. Scavi visit tickets need to be purchased several months in advance.



## Guided Tours

This offers the advantage of having a local with the experience and information to get you straight to the highlights in the most efficient way possible. Most guided tours offer the ability to "skip the line" which is invaluable in this heavily touristed location (20,000 visit Vatican City daily). Some historical locations are only available with a guide. Note; previously there were "early entry" Vatican Tours (7:30am) offered with a guide, as of 2024 this is no longer an option.

Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel & St Peter's Basilica

starts \$85pp

(offers headsets so you can hear your guide, ends at St Peter's so you can continue your visit after the tour)

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Rome/Skip-the-Line-Vatican-Museums-and-Sistine-Chapel-Guided-Tour/d511-3731VATICAN?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

VIP Vatican, Sistine Chapel & Basilica Tour with Vatican Grottoes

starts \$85pp

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Rome/V-I-P-Small-Group-Vatican-Museums-and-Sistine-Chapel-Tour/d511-7356P16?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

Skip the Line Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Basilica & Papal Tomb Tour

starts \$85pp

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Rome/Skip-the-Line-Vatican-Museums-and-Sistine-Chapel-Tour/d511-7356P1?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

