



THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

The Vatican Museums contain one of the largest art collections in the world spread out over 9 miles, with about 1400 rooms, chapels and galleries, which were once part of the Vatican Palace.

Pope Julius II started the collection in the early 1500s and opened it to the public because he wanted to promote knowledge of art history and culture.

The original collection included sculptures that were located in the Octagonal Court, but it was far from the size it is nowadays. Pope Clemente XIV and Pius VI, both in the 1700s, set up the curatorial section, while Pius VII, in the early 1800s, considerably expanded the collections of Classical

Antiquities.

In the middle of the 1800s, Gregory XVI founded the Etruscan Museum which the finding from the archeological excavations in Etruria. He later established the Egyptian Museum, too. In the late 1900s, Pius IX added the Lateran Profane Museum and the Pio Christian Museum, which encompasses ancient Christian sarcophagi and the Hebrew Lapidary which contains inscriptions from ancient Hebrew cemeteries.

Pius XI, in the early 1900s, established the Missionary-Ethnological Museum while Paul VI added the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Religious Art, in the late 1900s.

To avoid long lines you should buy your tickets in advance by following this link

[VATICAN MUSEUMS](#)

You will find all the info you need regarding prices, hours and procedure.

USEFUL INFO

The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel are opened every day except for religious festivities, which include January 6th, February 11th, March 19th and 28th, June 29th, August 15th, November 1st, December 8th, 25th and 26th. Opening hours are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Opened and free of charge on the last Sunday of the Month, but this means you cannot skip the very long line!

Please note that by buying the tickets in advance you skip the on location purchasing line but you still have to go through the security check line.

The ticket you should get is "Admission Ticket". On the next page the option is "Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. Now you get to select the date and Time. You now get to fill in your personal details and purchase. Please note that entrance is suggested at 10:00 am except for Wednesdays and Saturdays, when we suggest 2:00 pm instead. Do to the vastness of the site we suggest you consider hiring one of our licensed guides to make the best of your visit. Please remember to dress respectfully for religious sites. Knees and shoulders must be covered to enter.



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