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## Vatican city tourist map pdf

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Rome may not be quite Italy, but no Italy is without Rome... And the Romans, like all their fellow Italians, like Fresco, hence the abundance of... Looking for news about coronavirus in Rome, Italy? Visit my page here. Are you planning a visit to the Vatican? Here's everything you need to know! Here's what you really need to know about visiting the Vatican: when I first came to Rome as an adult, I missed seeing the Sistine Chapel because I had no idea that the Vatican Museums were closed at 2 p.m. Fortunately, the museums are now open later. Now that I live here, I often go to St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square, and the Vatican Museums. I have also helped thousands of our B&B guests plan their visit there. Based on years of first-hand experience, I know how to tell you what to do and what not to do. You can avoid a stressful visit to the Vatican by reading my tips first! Visit to the Vatican - When to go in the queue to get into St. Peter's Basilica in the summer There really is no best day for visiting the Vatican, i.e. if there are fewer people. The Vatican is Rome's most popular tourist destination and is pretty much always busy. You can consider Tuesday or Thursday as your best bet. Dates around a weekend can be a bit busier, and on Wednesday there is (usually) the papal audience, which means even more crowds. From April to October, guests can book a visit to the Vatican Museums on Friday evenings. And then it's much less crowded. In the morning, many tour groups come, including tour groups, offering early skip-the-line access. People in general also come early to try to get the line so you can find the Vatican Museums much more crowded than you expected if you go early in the morning, and a little less crowded in the afternoon. St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums tend to be even more crowded on Saturdays as Rome fills with weekend visitors from other parts of Italy and Europe. The Vatican Museums are closed on Sundays, with the exception of the last Sunday of each month, month, they are free. This is the most crowded day you can imagine for visiting the Vatican Museums. On Wednesdays (except in July, when the Pope takes a break), the Pope holds an audience in St. Peter's Basilica. In the warmer months it will be on the pitch. In the colder months it will be in an auditorium-type hall just to the left of the basilica. This means that the whole area will be full due to the tens of thousands of people who visit the papal audience, many of whom choose to visit the Vatican Museums after the audience. If you visit the Vatican on a Wednesday, when the papal audience takes place in St. Peter's Square, you know that St. Peter's Basilica will be closed until the papal audience is over (approx. noon-1p). As for the season, winter low season months are best if you want to be more relaxed and find smaller crowds. This means most of December (except 8 December and Christmas until Epiphany, 6 January), January and February. Believe it or not, it is as crowded in the Vatican between Christmas and January 6 as it is in summer. Here's how and when to include the Vatican on a three-day itinerary in Rome. You will see large crowds at the Vatican in the week after New Year in Rome the most important things when you visit the Vatican are St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums. (To be clear, Michelangelo's Pieta is located in the Basilica of St. Peter, and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel is in the Vatican Museums.) You can see one thing, not the other. However, the visit of both in a single day is very good. Just don't try to plan another big visit (like another museum or the Colosseum) for that day, as you'll be pretty exhausted after that. They could spy on one of the Swiss Guards at the gateway to Vatican City. The Swiss Guard wears different outfits depending on the tasks, but is all dressed in costumes originally designed in the early 1500s. Don't miss a visit to the Vatican Post Office if you want to send postcards. It's easier and more efficient than going to the Italian post office, and your post will reach it faster! Are you looking for a brief history of the Vatican? Visit my page here. What to see first - The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, or St. Peter's Basilica? NO MORE SECRET SHORTCUTS from 2019, it is no longer possible to take the (secret) abbreviation from the Sistine Chapel to St. Peter's Basilica unless you are on a tour. They check and enforce this quite rigorously. So if you don't book a tour, you'll have to wait in both lines of security - one in the Vatican Museums and the other in St. Peter's Basilica. And you have to choose between them for your Go. If you visit the Vatican on your own (without a tour), I would advise to visit the museums first, because they are the most intense part of the visit. If you want to see the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica, I recommend a tour. Simple shortcut to St. Peter's Basilica - A tour allows you to easily get from the Chapel in the basilica. Help everything in without exhausting yourself - There is really so much to absorb, and with a good guide will help you focus on the most important aspects. Whether you're on a tour or not, there's no way to get from St. Peter's Basilica to the Vatican Museums. If you only want to visit St. Peter's Basilica, not the museums, or if you prefer to visit the basilica first, and do not plan to do a tour, you can avoid waiting in line at St. Peter's Basilica when you book this skip-the-line ticket with audio guide. (It is free to enter the basilica, but by purchasing a skip-the-line ticket, you can bypass the long lines.) St. Peter's Basilica The central nave of St. Peter's Basilica, one of the largest and probably one of the most beautiful churches in the world. St. Peter's Basilica is a Renaissance church and one of the largest in the world. The Vatican is a basilica, but not a cathedral, as it does not have its own bishop. The main cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, as the Pope is called, is San Giovanni in Laterano, or Saint John in Lateran. But the Pope is the head of Vatican City, where he lives. It's a little confusing, isn't it? Anyway, just think of the Vatican as a huge church, with a lot to see inside. Want to see the Pope in Rome? Click here to find out how! St. Peter's Basilica Michelangelo's dome in St. Peter's Basilica It's very much worth visiting the Vatican dome, but you should know it can be a little crowded up there, and there are a lot of steps. The first level is 231 steps, but there is an elevator option. The second part is another 320 steps, and there is no elevator option. In fact, the dome becomes narrower when you go up, allowing you to climb this part single file, and with the roof obliquely over your head. I say this as someone with a close relative with dizziness: you can avoid climbing the dome in the Vatican if you suffer from dizziness or claustrophobia. But if none of this is a problem, do it! You will love the view from up there, both to the church and the surrounding cityscape. Michelangelo's Pieta Michelangelo's Pieta in St. Peter's Basilica My favourite work of art inside St. Peter's Basilica is Michelangelo's Pieté. Don't miss this when you visit the Vatican. It is on the right as soon as you go to St. Peter. When I visited it with my mother, she cried and said, Look at her face, it's just about a mother's love for her child. Unfortunately, someone wielded an axe once attacked her, and she is now behind glass. But you can still see it very well. And take note of Mary's face. It's really special when you see it in person. Michelangelo Tidbit: This was one of the first Michelangelos at all. He made it when he was only 22 years old. He wasn't sure if people knew he was doing it, so he grabbed his name (Michelangelo Buonarroti) on Maria's sash late in the night. The Pieté is the only sculpture Michelangelo has ever signed. Vatican Caves - The Tombs of Popes During a visit to the Vatican, you can walk down a plane and see the area where some of the popes are buried. St. Peter is to be buried directly under the church. That is why many popes are buried here. It is very interesting to visit the tomb of the popes called the Vatican Caves - there is a lot of history down there. Don't worry, it's not dark or claustrophobic. On the contrary, it is a huge open space full of light and much to see (no photos allowed). To visit the Vatican Caves, come close to Bernini's canopy (huge 4-pillar roof), and look for the entrance nearby. It is free to visit the Vatican Caves. Not to be confused with the tomb of St. Peter When people talk about visiting the Vatican Caves, they refer to a place where you can see the graves of many popes (as I wrote above). But this is not the same as the visit to the Vatican necropolis (city of the dead or burial place) where St. Peter is to be buried. A visit to the tomb of St. Peter, also referred to as Scavi visit, is a special and wonderful thing to do, and I highly recommend it. (Scavi means excavations.) It is a delicate archaeological site, and they take only 250 people a day, in 12-person tours at a time, so you need to book well in advance. (No photos allowed.) Wondering where the bathrooms are in the Vatican? Find out here. The Vatican Museums This is the part about the visit to the Vatican, which will take up most of the time and energy. The Vatican Museums contain the largest private art collection in the world (and imagine that much of the art they possess is not even on display!) The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums. Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1508-1512. Can you only see the Sistine Chapel? No, you can't just see the Sistine Chapel. To see the Sistine Chapel, you have to walk through the entire Vatican Museums, which can last at least 2 hours when you visit them and see the highlights. The Sistine Chapel is at the very end. However, if you are interested in an express tour of the Sistine Chapel, you can book this tour that skips the line, then to the Sistine Chapel and ends in St. Peter's Basilica. This tour lasts only 1 hour and 45 minutes and does not include a tour of the rest of the Vatican Museums. You still have to go through it, but the focus of the tour will be the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. I don't want to sound clichéd, but I really believe that it is worth visiting the Vatican Museums in their entirety, even if you only wanted to see the Sistine Chapel. The rest of the museums are truly wonderful as you have the Raphael rooms, the map hall, the floor-to-ceiling tapestries, papal apartments, Etruscan art and much more. Raphael's School of Athens in the Vatican Museums When visiting the Vatican Museums, I suggest a tour. But if you go your own, I strongly recommend at least pre-booking your tickets. If you want to visit the Vatican in Tomorrow you can visit St. Peter's Basilica first and later the museums, because the lines in the Vatican Museums are more crowded in the morning. When you first go to the Vatican Museums, just make sure to leave enough time to visit St. Peter's Basilica while there is still some daylight so that you can enjoy the sun that comes through all the stained glass paintings. Did you know that the Sistine Chapel is a functioning chapel and that special services are held there? I was so lucky to be invited by my friend Travel Angel to visit the Vespers in the Sistine Chapel. Watch my video below to see how the chapel should be used! Would you like exclusive VIP access to the Sistine Chapel? With these tours you have a truly VIP exclusive experience, and you can enjoy the Sistine Chapel almost alone: IMPORTANT TIME-SAVING TIP: After visiting the Vatican Museums, you can save a lot of time by going directly to St. Peter's Basilica without waiting in any lines. That is no longer the case. Now, to visit St. Peter's Basilica directly from the Sistine Chapel, you need to be on a tour, whether it's something you've booked directly through the Vatican or with an external travel company. You're pretty vigilant about it, so while you might want to try to take the shortcut on your own, you're not likely to be able to. If you are not on a tour, you simply have to leave through the regular exit and make your way to St. Peter's Basilica from the front. Skipping the line to get to the Vatican Museums: this is perhaps the number one question I get about visiting Rome - How do I skip the line for the Vatican Museums? In fact, it is quite simple: you can buy tickets to the Vatican Museums in advance via the Vatican website. (This means you don't have to queue up and wait to buy tickets. However, you will have to wait in a short row of others like you who have booked tickets in advance and need to pick them up. They also have to go through security, as everyone does. So you won't completely skip the line, but your line will be much shorter.) You can buy an Omnia Pass or Turbo Pass. They also receive a tour with a guide from the Vatican Museums, as above. It's not as simple as it sounds and you need to be careful to understand what you're getting in. Click here to go to my page about the Roma Pass and Omnia Pass or to this page via other Rom City Passes for more details about these passes. You can book a tour of the Vatican Museums. The guide/tour company buys tickets for you and you enter the Vatican Museums with your guide/tour without having to wait in line. When you book a visit to the Vatican Gardens, you are included in the price! I don't recommend this at all, but if you haven't booked tickets and they're sold out online, and you'll find yourself arriving at the Vatican Museums, you'll find ALWAYS touts selling you a skip-the-line ticket or tour. I don't recommend it because you can't be sure they're legit, and if they are, you have no idea what kind of tour you get. I just can't bear the fact that every time I'm within a mile of the Vatican, I'm bombarded by these guys. But it can be a good option if it's your last regress and the lines are crazy long. Visiting the Vatican Museums with a guide to the Vatican Museums with a tour is one of the best ways to get the most out of your visit. There's just so much to see! Most of the guided tours consist mainly of a visit to the Vatican Museums and always include the Sistine Chapel. Some include a visit to St. Peter's Basilica. You can expect a guided tour of the Vatican Museums and Basilica to last a total of about three hours. Only licensed tour guides can give tours within the Vatican City. To find out about the many different types of tours you can book, visit my Page on Vatican Museum Tours, which breaks down your options between group tours, early travel tours, semi-private tours and more. How to plan all your Vatican visits for your trip The typical way of the Vatican is to spend half a day with views of the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. These are easy to book and easy to fit into a typical 3-day visit to Rome. The spiral staircase inside the Vatican Museums is one of the most photographed things in the museums. I have often found that when people can get tickets for special things in the Vatican, such as the tomb of St. Peter (the Vatican necropolis or scavi), the papal audience or the Vatican Gardens, people often want to visit the Vatican Museums on the same day. Here is my advice to visit the Vatican if you want to see more than just the Vatican Museums: Including the Papal Audience How to Visit the Vatican Museums and Visit the Papal Audience. Pontifical public tickets are not hard to get, and since it is in the morning, many visitors assume that it would be a good idea to go directly after the audience to the Vatican Museums. After the papal audience, Pope Francis climbs into his papal mobile and walks through the crowd. I got this near shot by being there at 7 a.m. and grabbing a seat in front of and in the middle! I do not agree with that. If you really have little time, you can go to the Vatican Museums after the papal audience. It's just that this will make for a pretty stressful day. To go to the papal audience, you have to get there at 8 a.m. to get a decent seat, let alone a seat. The audience ends around noon. (You will probably have at least one snack or a want to snap there.) This means visiting the Vatican Museums from about 2 p.m. If you also visit St. Peter's Basilica after the museums (which is typical), this is a 3-4 hour visit. And a very long day. (Even if you want to climb the dome, you probably won't get there in time). My suggestion? If you can cancel these visits over two days, I suggest that it is a better way to visit the Vatican AND including the papal audience. Visit a visit to the Scavi (Tomb of St. Peter) HOW TO VISIT THE VATICAN MUSEUMS AND also make a Scavi tour At the end of the Scavi Tour (Tomb of St. Peter's Basilica) you will end up in St. Peter's Basilica. So you'll see that. You can also climb St. Peter's Dome if you have time and energy. Visiting the Vatican Museums takes easily 2.5 - 3 hours, and that does not include the time it takes to get there. If you come to the museums from St. Peter's Basilica, you have to come about a 15-20 minute walk to the entrance of the Vatican Museums. This is after you've already done a 1.5-hour Scavi tour and spent time walking through one of the largest churches in the world. As you can see, adding the Vatican Museums makes it a pretty busy day. If you need to do everything in one day, make sure you book your Scavi tour first, then book your museum visits with at least 4 hours between visits. My suggestion? Break this up over two days. Book the Scavi Tour. They have no control over when they're going to give you tickets, so if you're lucky enough to get them, you can book other things around that. Plan to see St. Peter's Basilica (and the dome) that day. Then book your visit to the Vatican Museums for another day. HOW TO VISIT ST PETERS TOMB, THE VATICAN MUSEUMS (SISTINE CHAPEL), AND ATTEND THE PAPAL AUDIENCE You will definitely need two days. Book your Scavi visit first. Then plan to visit St. Peter's Basilica, as you will come to the basilica after the tour anyway. If you want to climb the dome of St. Peter, you will do so that day. This is a pretty long and whole day in itself. Visiting the Vatican can be quite exhausting. There is much to see and do, so step yourself and if necessary, distribute your visits over 2 or more days. Then, as soon as you receive your papal public tickets, book your tickets or tour the Vatican Museums for after the audience (although I said above, I discourage this, at least if you don't include the basilica, it's a little less strenuous). This will also be a very full and long day, including a visit to the Vatican Gardens IF YOU want TO VISIT THE VATICAN GARDENS AND THE SCAVI (Tomb of St. Peter) when you receive tickets for the Tomb of St. Peter (scavi) and also the Vatican Gardens, congratulations! Here you can also find the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. One of my loved ones in the Vatican Gardens is this precious fountain with turtles! Book your Scavi visit first. Then book the Vatican Garden Tour on another day and plan to visit the Vatican Museums directly after the gardens, as they will be included in your ticket price with the gardens Is. Visit St. Peter's Basilica after the Scavi, again on a different day than the gardens/ museums. How you plan your days in these visits depends on two things - the papal audience, which is always Wednesday morning 10am-12pm (although you have to get there by 8am at the latest); and the time of your Scavi booking (which (the on the scavi office - you can not control this). Once you have received these two bookings, the next difficult booking for the Vatican Gardens. A visit to the Vatican Gardens is a fantastic thing. Just make sure you have time to do it if you want to make other special Vatican visits! So book that you can take the papal audience and scavi tour. Please note that guided tours of the Vatican Gardens are offered at 9:00 or 11:00. Nor will they take place on the morning of the papal Audience.My proposal? I would suggest that you spread this over 3 days. Or, to fit this in two (intense) days, try to do the Scavi tour after the papal audience if you can get Scavi tickets for the afternoon. Then book the Vatican Gardens, the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica on a separate day. (And climb St. Peter's Dome as soon as you are in St. Peter's Basilica, if you like.) Getting to the Vatican During a visit to the Vatican, you have several ways to get there. But the most important factor to consider is what you visit first. Directions to the Vatican Museums The entrance to the Vatican Museums is located on Viale Vaticano. If you want to take a taxi, just tell the driver Vatican Museums. So, what exactly is the Vatican? Find out here! Visiting the Vatican Museums and arriving by metro Otherwise is the most common way to get there by metro.Rome's metro red line A has two stops, equally far from the entrance to the museums (about 10-12 minutes walk): Ottaviano and Cipro. The Ottaviano metro station in Rome is the bus stop most frequently used for a visit to the Vatican. Ottaviano Metro Station is the first to come to you when you come from the centre of Rome. When you come from the metro station, you just have to follow the crowd towards the Vatican, and if you see Michelangelo's walls, follow them to the right and you come to the entrance of the Vatican Museums. If you visit the Vatican Museums from the opposite direction, or if you forget to get off at Ottaviano, or, even better, if you want to get off at the next stop to get a fabulous pizza from the slice of Bonci's Pizzarium, then you will get off at the Cipro stop. For me, Bonci's pizza visit is one of the highlights of the Vatican visit. It's right at the Subway stop Cipro, so it couldn't be more convenient (as if I needed an excuse). From this stop you cannot see the same stream of people, nor can you immediately see the Vatican walls. You just have to go a little bit until you see the walls. Follow them until you arrive at the entrance. Visit to the Vatican Museums and travel by bus Another for arrival at the entrance of the Vatican Museums is to take a bus or bus. Many buses will take you pretty close to the entrance of the Vatican Museums. These include the 492, 49, 23 and the 81st ascent to St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square. This is about 15-20 minutes walk from the Vatican Museums, so if you want to do not visit the Vatican Museums (or do not visit them first), and want to go directly to the basilica, you can still take the metro, but make sure to get off at Ottaviano, not Cipro.From Ottaviano metro stop, St. Peter's Square is about 15 minutes walk. Follow the crowds, but on the walls, do not make a right towards the museums, just go straight. The buses closest to St. Peter's Square include the 40 and 64. Bus 64 is probably the one that takes you closest to St. Peter's Square. How to get to Scavi/St. Peter's Tomb If you visit the Vatican for an appointment to see the tomb of St. Peter, the quickest and easiest way to arrive by taxi. You can drop your right in front of the entrance where you have to go, that is at the Swiss Guard, on the left side of the basilica as you look at it. If you take a bus, get the 64 as it drops you about a block away. To take the subway, make sure you get off in Ottaviano, and treat yourself about 20 minutes walk from there to get to the entrance of St. Peter's tomb. Where to eat near the Vatican There is no place to eat in St. Peter's Basilica or St. Peter's Square (there is a small snack bar on the roof of the basilica that you can only access if you climb the dome.) The Vatican Museums have some cafes and fast food options. There are also entertaining dining options that you can book and combine with your visit to the museums. Powered by GetYourGuide. Become a partner. Otherwise visit my page about many possibilities for breakfast, lunch, dinner and aperitivo near the Vatican. Do you want to share this page on Pinterest? Pin it here! Here!

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