

“Coronavirus” Emergency
Modalities, procedures and rules for visits to the Vatican Museums and Gardens

For a period, the duration of which is still difficult to determine, visits will be organised according to the criteria briefly described below.

These rules are necessary to ensure that your visit can take place in the best and safest conditions.

For this reason, we invite you to take due note of them before making your reservation and to keep them in mind during your visit.

The extraordinary openings on the last Sunday of the month are suspended. As well as on Sundays, the Vatican Museums will be closed to the public on the following dates: 11 June, 29 June, 14 and 15 August.

ACCESS: to have access to the Museums, it is obligatory to book your visit. Access will be restricted, and phased at 15-minute intervals.

At the moment of booking, it will be necessary to choose your preferred entry time among those available.

On the day of the visit you must observe with extreme precision the time on the booking voucher (for example: those who have booked for 10.00 a.m. may enter no earlier than 10.00a.m. and no later than 10.15 a.m.). Once the fifteen-minute phase has passed, the Guard Corps staff who is responsible for checking the voucher will be able to prevent access to the Museums and, in this case, no refund will be available.

Only for the guided tours organised by the Directorate of the Vatican Museums and for the visits to the Vatican Gardens on foot or by open bus are visitors requested to arrive 15 minutes in advance of the time on the voucher, so as to enable the necessary reception procedures and to guarantee the punctual departure of the tour.

To enter the Vatican Museums and Gardens it is obligatory to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth.

The mask must be worn for the entire duration of the visit.

Each visitor will be subjected to a body temperature check using suitable thermometric instruments. The control is mandatory. Access will be denied to all those with a body temperature of 37.5° C or more.

Within the Museums it will be necessary to maintain an interpersonal distance of over 1 metre and to avoid gatherings. The Guard Corps will ensure that the rule is respected scrupulously.

Visitors are reminded to observe carefully the health rules, intended to guarantee the health and safety of all and set out at the end of this document. It is the duty of every visitor to read these rules carefully before the visit, and then to observe them for the duration of their stay within the Museums or the Vatican Gardens.

At the time of booking the visit it is understood that all people who have access to the Museums and who receive the booking voucher will have read, understood and fully accepted all these rules, without exception.

Every violation will be brought to the attention of the competent Authorities. Those who do not follow the rules may be required to leave the Museums.

GUIDED TOURS AND GROUP VISITS: visits will be possible in groups made up of a maximum of 10 people (plus guide). It will be the responsibility of the guide to ensure that interpersonal distance is maintained between the members of the group, and the observance for all the other current rules and regulations.

Visitors are reminded that in this case they are requested to arrive 15 minutes in advance of the time on the voucher, so as to enable the necessary reception procedures and to guarantee the punctual departure of the tour.

The use of radio-transmitter equipment (group tour/whisper systems) is not permitted. Therefore, tour guides are reminded to moderate their tone of voice during their explanations, so as not to disturb other visitors.

AUDIOGUIDES: it will be possible to hire audio and video guide systems, provided by the official Vatican Museums licensee. They may be hired either on site or, preferably for hygiene reasons, through the website at the moment of booking the visit.

The licensee will guarantee the scrupulous sanitisation of the equipment.

ACCESS TO SAINT PETER'S BASILICA: the exit that provides direct access from the Sistine Chapel to Saint Peter's Basilica will remain closed until further notice.

VISIT TO THE VATICAN GARDENS: the Directorate of the Museums will offer the traditional visits to the Vatican Gardens on foot, entrusted to our own educational workers, for groups of 10 people. In addition, it will be possible to book a new visit to the Vatican Gardens alone by the ecological panoramic open bus, which does not include passage through the Museums. A total of 12 places will be available for each trip, in order to ensure the necessary interpersonal distance. For both visits, participants are reminded to arrive 15 minutes in advance of the time on the voucher, so as to enable the necessary reception procedures and to guarantee the punctual departure of the tour.

The open buses will depart from the entrance to Vatican City State entitled "Petriano" in Largo del Sant'Uffizio. Museum staff will be present on-site to offer useful assistance.

The specific rules are given on the booking voucher. Visitors are reminded that in this case it is obligatory to arrive wearing a mask covering the nose and mouth, which must be worn throughout the entire visit.

As in the case of access to the Museums, each visitor will be subjected to a body temperature check using suitable thermometric instruments. The control is mandatory. Access to the open bus will be denied to all those with a body temperature of 37.5° C or more.

Please also note that you will not be allowed access to the open bus with luggage (suitcases, bags, packages and containers in general) of dimensions greater than cm. 40 x 35 x 15. **There is no cloakroom service.**

The most punctuality is recommended. Once the open bus has started its tour it will not be possible to participate in the visit. The ticket will not be refunded in any case.

Healthcare rules for the containment of COVID infection (as dictated by the Directorate of Health and Hygiene of the Governorate of Vatican City State)

1) Obligatory use of masks

Masks serve to reduce the risk that the wearer may infect others, as they stop a good part of the tiny droplets emitted from the mouth and nose when we cough, sneeze, talk. The use of the mask therefore helps to limit the spread of the virus, but it must be adopted in addition to hand washing and respiratory hygiene measures (sneezing and coughing in the crook of the elbow). Even with the mask, the safety distance (over 1 metre) must be maintained.

How to use the mask:

- Before putting on the mask, wash your hands with soap and water or with a hydro-alcoholic solution.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the mask, ensuring that it fits closely to the face.
- Avoid touching the inner part of the mask while putting it on.
- If the mask becomes damp, it is advisable to substitute it with a new one and not to re-use it; indeed, masks are single-use only.
- The mask should be removed by the elastic loops, without touching the front; it must be disposed of immediately in the undifferentiated waste.

Surgical masks should in any case not be used for more than one day. It is advisable to wear the mask also in open spaces if frequented by several people, in any case continuing to maintain the safety distance of more than 1 metre.

2) Frequent hand washing

Washing and disinfection of the hands are decisive to prevent infection. They must be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, it is possible to use a hydro-alcoholic disinfectant gel.

Disinfectant gel dispensers will be available inside the Museums.

3) Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth with hands

The virus is mainly transmitted through the respiratory tract, but it can also enter the body through the eyes, nose and mouth. Therefore, avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. If your hands come into contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus, they can cause infection.

4) Avoid close contact with other people

Maintain an interpersonal distance from other people of over 1 metre.

5) Use of elevators

The use of elevators will normally be reserved for people with mobility difficulties or particular health conditions that make it advisable. Normally it will be permitted only to ascend by elevator, other than in particular conditions that would imply use also for descent. Access to the elevator cabin will normally be possible for just one person at a time. Disabled visitors may enter elevators with a companion.

6) Avoid sharing bottles and glasses