



VATICAN CITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	1	Contact Addresses
	2	General
	3	Passport
	4	Money
	5	Duty Free
	6	Public Holidays
	7	Health
	8	Accommodation
	9	Resorts & Excursions
	10	Social Profile
	11	Business Profile
	12	Climate
	13	History and Government
	14	Overview

1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

Location: Europe, Italy (Rome).

Note: Italian State Tourist Offices can provide advice and information on visiting the Vatican City. For addresses, see Italy section.

Holy See Press Office

Via della Conciliazione, 1, 00193 Rome, Italy

Tel: (06) 698 921. **Fax:** (06) 698 885 178. **Web site:** <http://www.vatican.va>

Apostolic Nunciature

54 Parkside, Wimbledon, London SW19 5NE

Tel: (020) 8946 1410. **Fax:** (020) 8947 2494.

Opening hours: 1000-1700 Monday to Friday.

British Embassy to the Holy See

Via Dei Condotti 91, 00187 Rome, Italy

Tel: (06) 69 92 35 61. **Fax:** (06) 69 94 06 84.

Apostolic Nunciature

3339 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Tel: (202) 333 7121. **Fax:** (202) 337 4036.

Embassy of the United States of America to the Holy See

Via Veneto 119, 00187 Rome, Italy

Tel: (06) 46 741. **Fax:** (06) 46 74 22 17 (visa section). **E-mail:** romevisa@state.gov

Web site: <http://www.usis.it/>

Apostolic Nunciature

724 Manor Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1M 0E3

Tel: (613) 746 4914. **Fax:** (613) 746 4786.

Canadian Embassy to the Holy See

Via della Conciliazione 4D, 00193 Rome, Italy

Tel: (06) 68 30 73 16. **Fax:** (06) 68 80 62 83.

E-mail: vaticn@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Country dialling code: 39 followed by the area code for Rome, 06. The 0 of Italian area codes should not be omitted when dialling from abroad.

2 GENERAL

Area: 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq mile).

Population: 1640 (1997).

Population Density: 3727.3 per sq km.

Geography: The Vatican City is situated entirely within the city of Rome, sprawling over a hill west of the River Tiber, and separated from the rest of the city by a wall. Vatican City comprises St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, the Vatican and the Vatican Gardens.

Government: The State of the Vatican City came into existence in 1929. Head of State and Government: His Holiness Pope John Paul II since 1978.

Language: Italian and Latin are the official languages, though most international languages are spoken to some extent.

Time: GMT + 1 (GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in September).

Electricity: 220 volts, 50Hz.

Communications:

Telephone: IDD is available. The international dialling code is that for Italy (39), plus 06. Outgoing international code: 00. The Vatican has its own telephone network.

Telegram: Vatican City has its own telegraph service.

Post: Stamps issued in the Vatican City are valid only within its boundaries.

Radio: Vatican Radio broadcasts worldwide on a daily basis. Programmes are offered in 34 languages and are sent out from the Vatican on short wave, medium wave, FM, and satellite. For frequencies, see the Vatican web site (<http://www.vatican.va>).

Press: The daily newspaper published in the Vatican City is L'Osservatore Romano, with weekly editions in English and other international languages.

3 PASSPORT

There are no formalities required to enter the Vatican City, but entry will always be via Rome,

ndItalian <i>regulations must therefore be complied with (see Passport/Visa in the Italy section).</i>	<i>There is free access only to certain areas of the Vatican City; these include St Peter's</i>	<i>Church, St Peter's Square, the Vatican Museum and the Vatican Gardens. Special</i>	<i>permission is required to visit areas other than those mentioned.</i>
--	---	---	--

Visa Required?	Return Ticket	Required	Passport Required?
British			
Australian			

Canadian
USA
OtherEU
Japanese

4 MONEY

Currency: Vatican coins are similar in value, size and denomination to those of Italy, although the monetary system is separate from that of Italy; Italian notes and coins are, however, legal tender in the Vatican City (see Money in the Italy section). Vatican coins are the Gold Lire 100 (nominal); Silver Lire 500; 'Acmonital' Lire 100 and 50; 'Italma' Lire 10, 5 and 1; and 'Bronzital' Lire 20.

5 DUTY FREE

There are no taxes and no customs/excise in the Vatican City. For Italian duty-free allowances see Duty Free in the Italy section.

6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

See Italy section.

7 HEALTH

See Italy section.

<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
----------------------------	-----------------------------

Yellow Fever	
Cholera	
Typhoid and Polio	
Malaria	
Food and Drink	

Travel - International

Travel: The Vatican City has its own small railway, which runs from the Vatican into Italy. For travel in Rome, see the Italy section. There is a speed limit of 30kph (20mph) in the Vatican City.

8 ACCOMMODATION

Board and lodging is not available to members of the general public in the Vatican City itself; for information on accommodation in Rome, see the Italy section.

9 RESORTS & EXCURSIONS

The Vatican City is best known to tourists and students of architecture for the magnificent St Peter's Basilica. Visitors are normally admitted to the dome 1615-1800. The Museum & Treasure House is open 0845-1300 in winter and 0845-1600 during the summer months. Leading up to it is the 17th-century St Peter's Square, a superb creation by Bernini. On either side are semicircular colonnades, and in the centre of the square is an Egyptian obelisk hewn in the reign of Caligula. It is also possible to visit the Necropoli Precostantiniana, the excavations under St Peter's, although permission has to be obtained in advance and is usually granted only to students and teachers with a professional interest in the work being carried out. Contact the Tourist Information Office in St Peter's Square. The Vatican Gardens can be visited only by those on guided tours or bus tours. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Office in St Peter's Square; it is advisable to apply two days in advance. To the right of St Peter's stands the Vatican Palace, the Pope's residence. Among the principal features of the Palace are the Stanze, the Sistine Chapel, the Garden House or Belvedere, the Vatican Library and the Vatican Collections, containing major works of art and valuable pictures. The Museum & Treasure House includes the Collection of Antiquities, Museo Pio-Clementino, the Egyptian Museum, the Etruscan Museum and the Museum of Modern Religious Art. There is a restaurant in the museum and a bar and cafeteria on the roof of St Peter's.

10 SOCIAL PROFILE

Special Events: Following on from the Holy Year which marked the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ, there are a number of events held in the Vatican throughout 2001. For more information about events occurring throughout the year contact the Holy See Press Office (see address section). Below are a list of some events in 2001:

Jan 1 2001 Solemnity of Mary Mother of God; 34th World Day of Peace. Jan 6 Epiphany. Mar 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

In continuity with the traditions of previous holy years, there will also be penitential events and pilgrimages. For further details, contact the Vatican's Central Reception (Servizio Accoglienza **Centrale SAC**), **Piazza San Marcello 4, 00187 Rome (tel: (6) 696 221; fax: (6) 69 92 48 53)**.

11 BUSINESS PROFILE

Economy: The Vatican has three main sources of income: the Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR, Institute of Religious Works); voluntary contributions known as 'Peter's Pence' and the interest on the Vatican's investments. The IOR - the Vatican Bank - has attracted some controversy in recent years through the emergence of huge debts and allegations of corruption. Nonetheless, as the heart of a worldwide entity with millions of adherents, the Vatican continues to wield immense financial influence. The Vatican produces little other than religious artefacts, and its material requirements are largely met from Italian sources.

Commercial Information: The following organisations can offer advice: Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, Palazzo delle Congregazioni, Largo del Colonnato 3, 00193 Rome (tel: (06 698) 84263; fax: (06 698) 85011); or Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR), 00120 Città del Vaticano, Rome (tel: (06) 69 88 33 54; fax: (06) 69 88 88 09).

12 CLIMATE

See Italy section.

13 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

History: For over 1000 years - from the era of Charlemagne's Frankish empire until 1870 - much of the central Italian peninsula was under the direct or indirect rule of the Pope, who at the same time, wielded immense power throughout the whole of Europe. The Papacy was often deeply involved in the political issues of the times and the office itself was often in the gift of powerful lay rulers. The Popes were responsible for the launch of the Crusading movement from the late-11th century onwards and played a crucial role in almost all the major European events of the medieval period; despite such influence (often exercised very much at variance with the ideals of the Christian faith), the Papacy was often riven by schisms, notably the Great Schism (1305-1378) when a succession of rival Popes established themselves at Avignon with the blessing of the King of France. The Reformation of the 16th century broke the spiritual dominance of the Papacy in Europe, despite the counter-reformatory work of the Council of Trent (1545-63) and from this time on the Popes, with some notable exceptions, were forced into a less dominant position in European affairs. After the unification of Italy in the late-19th century, the Pope retreated into the Vatican enclave until the Lateran treaty of 1929, between the Vatican and the Italian state, recognised Papal jurisdiction within the city. In 1978, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla became the first non-Italian incumbent of the Papacy since the 16th century, taking the title John Paul II. During his pontificate, the Vatican has experienced a major administrative upheaval and embroilment in a massive financial scandal. This applied further pressure on the already parlous Vatican finances, which are presently running a large deficit. Unlike any of his 270 predecessors, Pope John Paul II has made frequent overseas trips, usually to countries with a large Catholic population, and has pursued an active 'foreign policy', even where the Catholic Church has little or no direct religious influence (eg South-East Asia). Meanwhile, the world Catholic movement, particularly in the Third World where priests have been taking on political and social burdens, has become increasingly restive with what they perceive as reactionary attitudes on the part of the Vatican. Typical of this was the denunciation of a recent Italian proposal to introduce a new contraceptive pill as 'chemical warfare'. The Pope's enthusiastic support of fundamentalist Catholic sects, such as Opus Dei and the bizarrely-titled Neocatechumenate, is causing concern to mainstream church members. Yet the Vatican is still capable of deft diplomacy. At the end of 1989 it settled the crisis in Panama, when ex-ruler Manuel Noriega, hunted by invading American forces, sought asylum in the Papal Nunciature. Since then, the Pope has naturally been deeply concerned with events in Eastern Europe, and particularly his native Poland, where the fall of the communist regime has resulted in a resurgence of the Catholic Church. In the former Soviet Union, the Vatican played a key mediating role during the Lithuanian crisis of 1990 and there has been an improvement in relations with Israel, which the Holy See refused to recognise until 1994. Following the establishment of diplomatic relations with Jerusalem, the Vatican then moved quickly to improve links with the Arab world, notably Jordan, Libya and Morocco.

Government: The Vatican City State is ruled by the Pope, who is elected for life by a 'conclave' composed of members of the College of Cardinals. The Pope appoints a Pontifical Commission to conduct the Vatican's administrative affairs, and he has legislative, executive and judicial powers within the Vatican City and in Papal possessions elsewhere.

14 OVERVIEW

Country Overview: The Vatican City is situated entirely within the city of Rome, sprawling over a hill west of the River Tiber, and separated from the rest of the city by a wall. Vatican City comprises St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, the Vatican and the Vatican Gardens. The Vatican City is best known to tourists and students of architecture for the magnificent St Peter's Basilica.

Leading up to it is the 17th-century St Peter's Square, a superb creation by Bernini. On either side are semi-circular colonnades, and in the centre of the square is an Egyptian obelisk hewn in the reign of Caligula.

The Vatican Gardens can be visited only by those on guided tours or bus tours. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Office in St Peter's Square; it is advisable to apply two days in advance. To the right of St Peter's stands the Vatican Palace, the Pope's residence. Among the principal features of the Palace are the Stanze, the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Collections, containing major works of art and valuable pictures.

There is a restaurant in the museum and a bar and cafeteria on the roof of St Peter's.

More countries : <http://www.umzugs.com>