

ART VISIT GUIDE PRIVATE PLAN

Rome, 23 to 25 October

Prepared for Margaret & Paul

Friday to Sunday · Balanced pace · For two

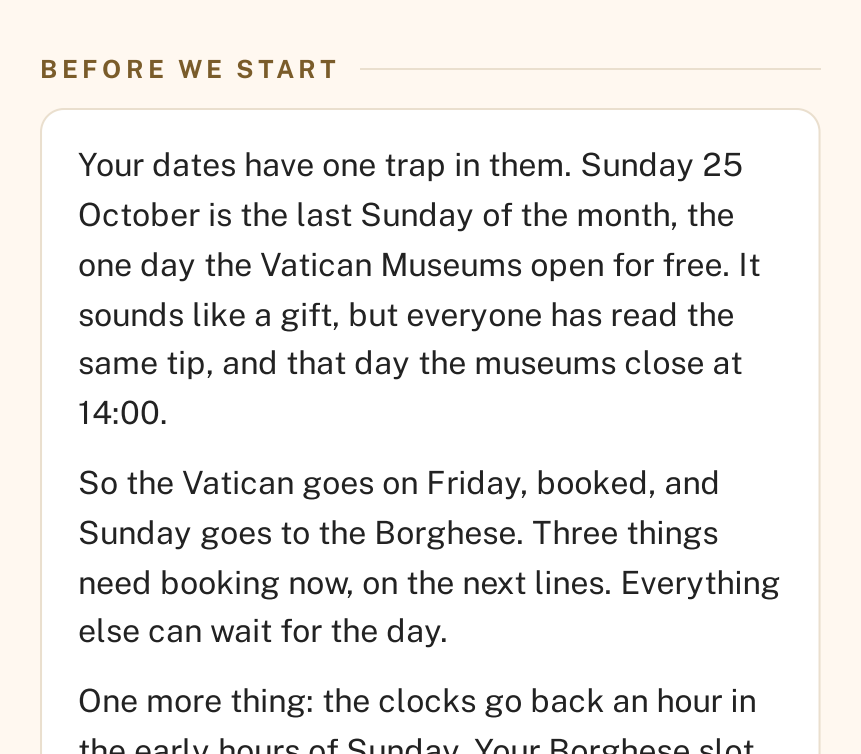


Photo: Gökrem Özdemir / Pexels

3 days

6 visits

3 to book now

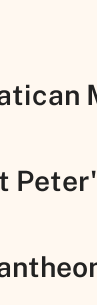
BEFORE WE START

Your dates have one trap in them. Sunday 25 October is the last Sunday of the month, the one day the Vatican Museums open for free. It sounds like a gift, but everyone has read the same tip, and that day the museums close at 14:00.

So the Vatican goes on Friday, booked, and Sunday goes to the Borghese. Three things need booking now, on the next lines. Everything else can wait for the day.

One more thing: the clocks go back an hour in the early hours of Sunday. Your Borghese slot is in the new time, so you get an extra hour of sleep.

Every opening day, hour and price here was checked against the official sites. Give each one a quick look the morning you go, in case something changes.



Adrià

Art Visit Guide · reply to my email with any question

BOOK THESE NOW



Vatican Museums · Fri 23 Oct, 9:00

Booked entry on the official site: €20 plus a €5 online booking fee. The Sistine Chapel is at the end of the visit, so don't rush the start.

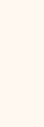
[Book on tickets.museivaticani.va](https://book.on.tickets.museivaticani.va) →



Colosseum, Forum and Palatine · Sat 24 Oct, 9:00

The 24h ticket, €18, with a timed entry to the Colosseum. It also covers the Forum and the Palatine. Book as soon as your date opens on the official site.

[Book on ticketing.colosseo.it](https://book.on.ticketing.colosseo.it) →



Borghese Gallery · Sun 25 Oct, 9:00

Booking is mandatory for everyone. €18 including the €2 booking fee, for a 2-hour slot. Slots sell out, so book the day your date opens.

[Book on the official ticket site](#) →

AT A GLANCE

Fri 23 Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica
Free: St Peter's Basilica

Sat 24 Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon

Sun 25 Borghese Gallery, Villa Borghese

WHO IS CLOSED WHEN

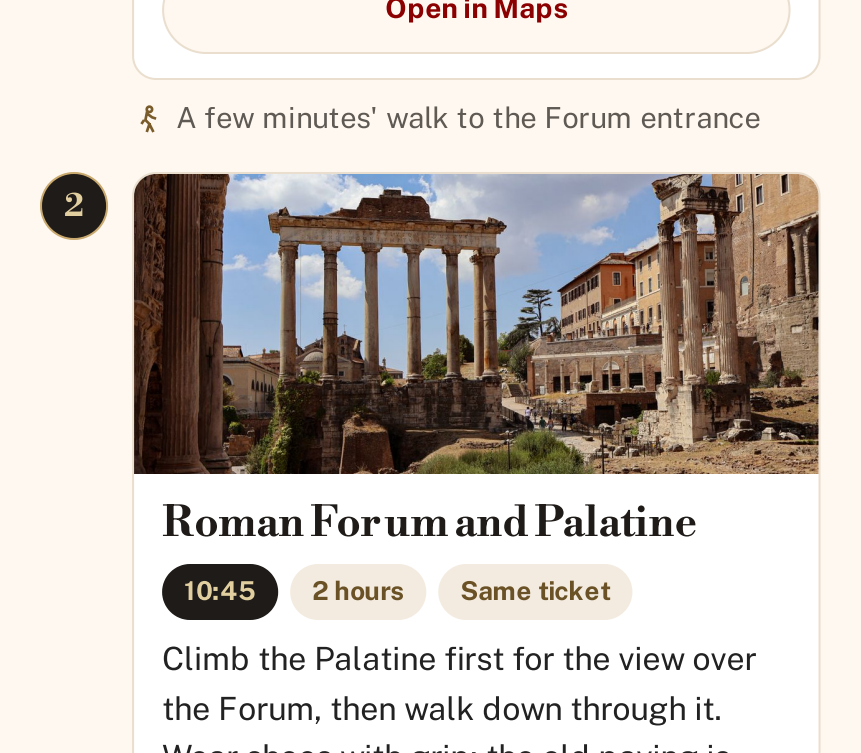
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Vatican Museums					✓	✓	*
St Peter's					✓	✓	✓
Pantheon					✓	✓	✓
Borghese					✓	✓	✓

× closed all day. Your days are underlined in gold.

* The Vatican Museums close on Sundays, except the last Sunday of the month: free, 9:00 to 14:00, final entry 12:30. That's your Sunday.

DAY 1 · FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

The Vatican, then St Peter's



Why this order. The Vatican is free on Sunday, but Sunday is short and crowded. On a Friday with a booked entry you have the whole morning, and St Peter's is next door and free.

1



Vatican Museums

9:00 3 hours €25

It's a long one-way route. Take it slowly up to the Raphael Rooms and keep energy for the Sistine Chapel at the end.

🕒 Mon-Sat 8:00-20:00, final entry 18:00

🎫 Booked entry: €20 + €5 online booking fee

🚶 Ottaviano (line A)

DON'T MISS

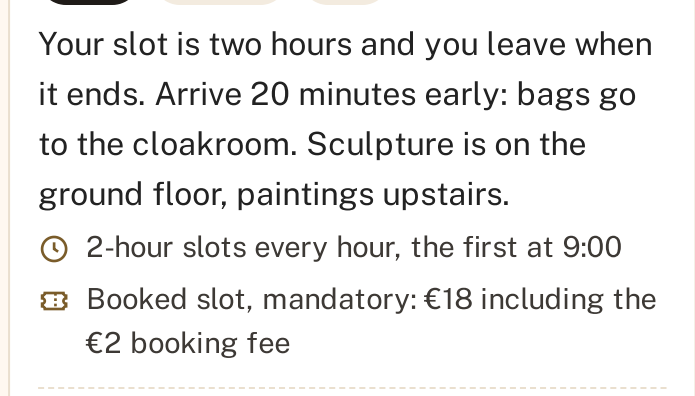
- The Gallery of Maps, a 120-metre corridor of painted maps of Italy
- The School of Athens, in the Raphael Rooms
- The Sistine Chapel: the ceiling, then turn round for the Last Judgment

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[What to see inside](#)

🚶 About 15 minutes' walk round the Vatican walls to St Peter's Square, with lunch on the way

2



St Peter's Basilica

13:30 1 hour Free

Entry is free. There's a security check, so expect a queue. Shoulders covered, and long trousers or a skirt below the knee.

🕒 Every day 7:00-20:00

🎫 Free. A paid timed slot with audioguide is optional

DON'T MISS

- Michelangelo's Pietà, behind glass in the first chapel on the right
- Bernini's bronze canopy over the altar, under the dome

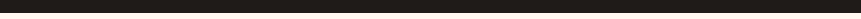
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[Our St Peter's guide](#)

⇒ **Plan B.** If the basilica queue is long after lunch, skip it today and come back on Saturday at 7:00, when it opens. You'll still make the Colosseum.

DAY 2 · SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

Ancient Rome, then the Pantheon



Why this order. One ticket covers the Colosseum, the Forum and the Palatine, and they're side by side. Morning is cooler for the Forum, which has almost no shade. The Pantheon is in the centre, on your way back.

1

Colosseum

9:00 1.5 hours €18

Your entry time is fixed. Be there 15 minutes early for security. The ticket gets you into the first and second levels.

🎫 24h ticket, €18, timed entry. Includes the Forum and the Palatine

🚶 Colosseo (line B)

DON'T MISS

- The view from the upper arcades across the arena and down into the underground passages

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🚶 A few minutes' walk to the Forum entrance

2

Roman Forum and Palatine

10:45 2 hours Same ticket

Climb the Palatine first for the view over the Forum, then walk down through it. Wear shoes with grip: the old paving is uneven.

🎫 Included in your Colosseum ticket

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[Our Forum guide](#)

🚶 About 20 minutes' walk to the Pantheon, lunch on the way, then a rest

3

Pantheon

15:30 45 min €7

The ticket carries your name: bring ID. There's no skip-the-line ticket on any channel. Shoulders covered: it's a church.

🕒 Every day 9:00-19:00, last entry 18:30.

Hours can change during services

🎫 €7, named ticket, online or on site

DON'T MISS

- The oculus, the open eye at the top of the dome. Stand under it and look up
- Raphael's tomb, on the left as you walk in

[Open in Maps](#)

☁ **Plan B.** Rain is the Forum's problem, not the Colosseum's. Do the Colosseum, skip the Forum, and go to the Pantheon earlier: rain falls through the oculus onto the floor, which is worth seeing on its own.

DAY 3 · SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Bernini, then the park

Why this order. This is the free Vatican Sunday, and you've already been. The Borghese is small, booked and calm, and the park around it is where Romans spend their Sunday.

1

Borghese Gallery

9:00 2 hours €18

Your slot is two hours and you leave when it ends. Arrive 20 minutes early: bags go to the cloakroom. Sculpture is on the ground floor, paintings upstairs.

🕒 2-hour slots every hour, the first at 9:00

🎫 Booked slot, mandatory: €18 including the €2 booking fee

DON'T MISS

- Bernini's Apollo and Daphne: walk round it slowly
- Bernini's Rape of Proserpina, and Pluto's hand pressing into her thigh
- Canova's portrait of Paolina Borghese

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🚶 About 12 minutes' walk through the park to the lake

2

Villa Borghese park

11:30 as long as you like

Walk to the little lake and its temple, have lunch in the park, and end the trip slowly.

[Open in Maps](#)

⇒ **Plan B.** No Borghese slot left for Sunday? Take one on Saturday afternoon instead of the Pantheon, and do the Pantheon on Sunday morning. It opens at 9:00 every day.

ONE LAST THING

That's it. Three days, six visits, four tickets.

If something changes on the ground, a closure, a strike, a queue that isn't worth it, reply to my email and I'll help you rearrange.

And when you're back, tell me how it went. It's the only way I know what to plan better next time.

Sample plan. A real plan is built on your own dates.

Prices, opening days and hours checked on 23 September 2026.

Photos from Pexels: Gökrem Özdemir · Osviel Rodriguez Valdés ·

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