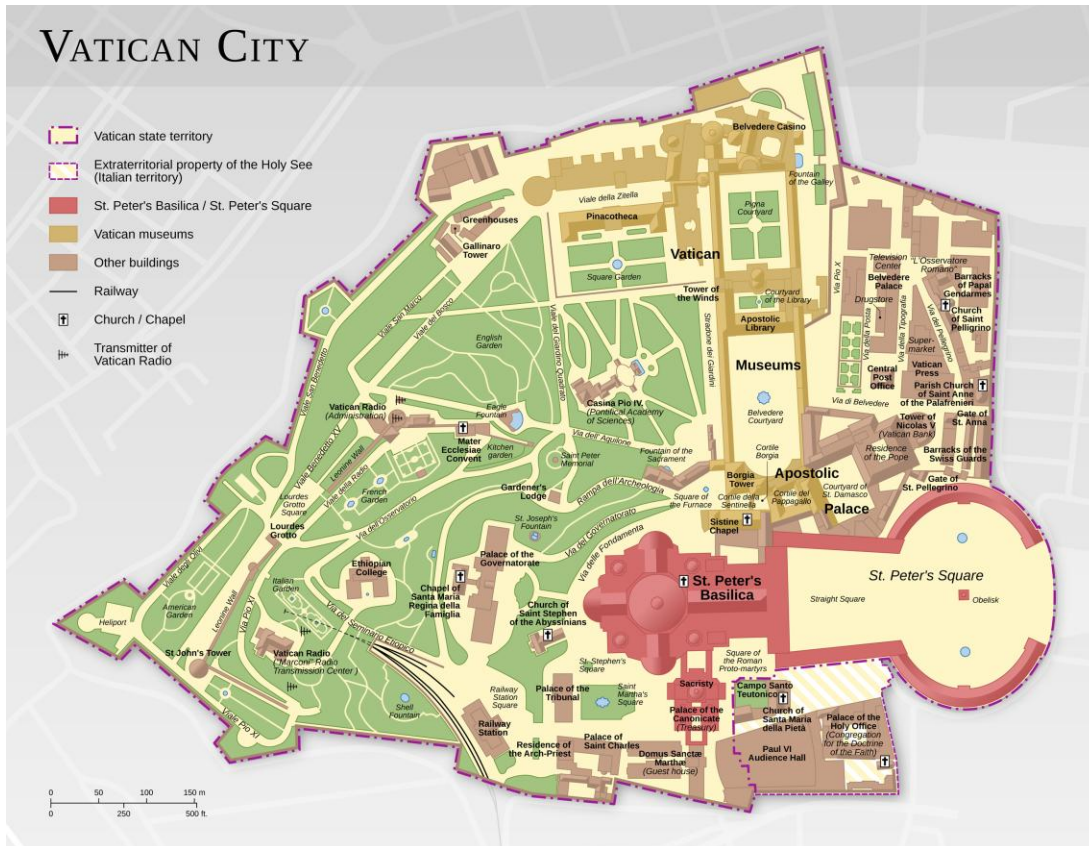


The museum I chose was based on a place that I would like to visit, which is Rome, Italy. The museum I would like to visit while there is the Musei Vaticani or the Vatican Museums. It's located in the Vatican city which is in the center of Rome. I also chose this museum because of its rich art history.

It's located on Viale Vaticano, 00165 Roma, Italy.



The Vatican Museums were started back in 1503 by Pope Julius II. He first displayed a group of sculptures that he had collected. It evolved with yet more Popes opening their art collections to the public so they can promote knowledge of art culture and history. Around 1769 under the patronage of Pope Clement XIV and later Pius VI the Vatican Museums, known today as a complex of varied pontifical museums and galleries, really came to life because they set up the first major curatorial section. The Pio-Clementine Museum was named after them. The museums continued to expand from there. Pius VII expanded the collections of Classical Antiquities and added Chiaramonti Museum. He also helped with making the Epigraphic Collection better in the Lapidary Gallery. The Vatican Museums contain so many different collections including but not limited to, the Gallery of Tapestries which is a collection of 15th and 17th century tapestries, the Gallery of Maps, decorated under pontificate of Gregory XII 1572-85 and restored by Urban VIII 1623-44. There's also the Sobieski Room and the room of the Immaculate Conception, the Raphael Stanze and the Loggia decorate under the direction of Julius II and Leo X 1513-21. One main attraction amongst others is the Sistine Chapel which is in the Apostolic Palace, this is where the Pope resides. The chapel gets its name from the Pope that restored it, Pope Sixtus IV back in 1477. The Etruscan Museum was founded by Gregory XVI in 1837. It contains archeological finds from an excavation starting in 1828. He also created the Egyptian Museum in 1839 containing ancient Egyptian artifacts as well as other pieces already preserved in the Vatican and from the Museo Capitolino and Lateran Museums, which contained statues and base-relief sculptures and mosaics from the Roman era. The Lateran Profane Museum was expanded to include the Pio Christian Museum which contains ancient sculptures, mainly

sarcophagi and things that are inscribed with ancient Christian content. The Hebrew Lapidary was founded under Saint Pius X in 1910. It contains inscriptions from ancient Hebrew cemeteries. Pope John XXII transferred these later collections into the Lateran Palace in 1970. Other collections are the Vatican Pinacoteca, created under Pius XI 1922-32 it is placed in a special building by the new entrance of the museums, the Missionary-Ethnological Museum founded by Pius XI in 1926 which has been moved to the Vatican where it is open again to the public. More current additions are the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Religious Art in 1973, the Vatican Historical Museum 1973 and the Carriage and Automobile Museum added in 2000 as part of the Vatican History Museum. A larger entrance was created in 2000, which displays many new artworks two beautiful pieces specifically designed for this area.

The webpage for the museum is http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html. I feel it has a nice layout and is very informative. There is an educational section on the website. They offered interactive guided tours for children and they also offer free tours for deaf people in Italian sign language. They also have an online store that you can purchase Museum publications and other paraphernalia from the art pieces displayed in the Museums. The website also contains a virtual tour of the different Museums. It's amazing that we are able to take a tour of a museum that is thousands of miles away. I'm sure it's much more beautiful in person but I was impressed with the realness of the virtual tour, how it makes you feel as if you are there.

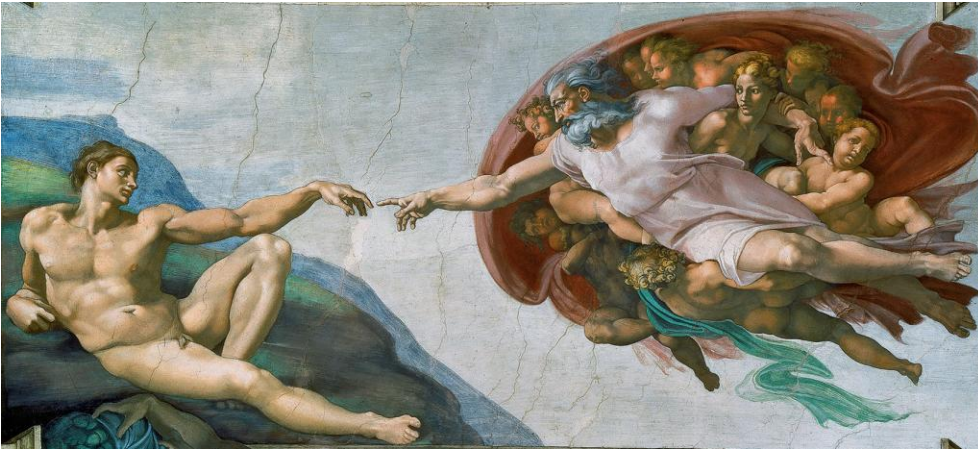
Some new things happening at the Vatican Museums are one, not actually in the Museums but on the grounds, they are now offering an open bus tour of the Vatican Gardens. They are using environmentally friendly, open buses that allow you a panoramic view as well as an audio guided itinerary. Another thing happening right now is the rebirth of the marble statue Augustus of Prima Porta, due to the celebration of the two-thousandth anniversary of the death of the first emperor of Rome. There's also a restored exhibit in the Room of Tributes, the Decorative Arts Collection, visitors will see it as they are leaving the Sistine Chapel. Lastly, the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo, they've opened up the options for tourists to be able to enjoy this area more as well as to have access where there was none before to the Apostolic Palace to see the new museum space there, The Gallery of the Pontiffs. The most significant is the activation of the Vatican-Castel Gandolfo-Albano Laziale railway where visitors can take an historical journey from the station of the world's smallest state and get to experience a invaluable artistic, flowery and architectural treasure.

Other things I would like to see when I visit Rome would be the Pantheon. I'm fascinated by its ability to hold up after all of these years. I would love to go inside and look up at the dome. Another thing I would like to see while there is the Fontana di Trevi. It was restored sometime in 2015, which it already seems impressive but with it being resorted I'm sure it's even more amazing in beauty.

The Vatican City is associated with the Renaissance era or more correctly the Italian Renaissance. Many of the greatest art pieces we have come from this area.

Major works or collections that these museums are known for are the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms and Loggia, the Chapel of Beato Angelico and the Borgia Apartment.

The three pieces I chose were first, Michelangelo's, *The Creation of Adam*, a fresco painted in 1512. This painting is 9ft. 2in. by 18ft. 8in. Michelangelo is known as the most famous artist of the Italian Renaissance. He was born in Caprese, Italy. He started out as a painter's apprentice and then later studied in the sculpture gardens of the powerful Medici Family. He lived with them for about 3 years which allowed him to mingle and learn from societies elite. From there he went on to become a very talented artist.



I chose this piece because of the detail with line and shading that really makes this painting come to life. This painting tells the story in Genesis. Everything looks in proportion but especially the two hands of God and Adam that are reaching out to each other, they especially look so real because of the dimensions and shading and line. This is also the focal point of this painting. The viewer feels the tension of anticipation of that last moment where God connects with Adam to breath life into him. Color is strong as well, God is wearing a white robe that stands out against the darker colored figures behind him and the red cloth he's floating on. I imagine with just the basic art tools they had back then that it was very challenging to paint this on a ceiling so I am impressed by that as well.

The next piece that I chose is by Sir Thomas Lawrence, *George the IV of England*, 1819 oil on canvas. This



was donated to the museum by George IV. It is possible that George's wife had an affair with the artist Sir Thomas Lawrence. This piece comes from a different era, from the Romantic time period. I really like the choice of color in this painting. It's a regal painting and there's a strong presence of red and royal blue, two colors associated with power. The details in the clothing, the folding lines and the shading create depth and realistic detail. The detail on the ribbons, feathers, tassels and chains hanging around his neck make them look real. The hatching in his hair makes it look like real. The lines and color variations in the floor make it look like real tile. There is so much detail throughout this whole painting that I am awed by. I still can't believe how lifelike these artists can make their paintings look.



My last choice is from the Gregorian Egyptian Museum. It is the *Isis-Sothis-Demeter*, from Tivoli, Hadrian's Villa, Palestra, created around 131-138 AD. It's made of white marble and is 120cm tall. This bust is of the goddess Isis-Sothis-Demeter who was said to be the bearer of the flood of the River Nile. I chose this piece because it is an older piece and was created in the Roman era. For a piece from this early of a time in history its impressive how they create the statues. The details were good. The ripples in her veil give it dimension. The lines of her hair and neck piece are simple but still give the sense of depth. The face is mostly proportionate except for the chin that seems to protrude. There isn't detail in the eyes so it feels a little cold to me.

It's interesting to see the different art styles from these different eras and what they put more importance on in each era.