

# Vatican City

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Today we started off early at the Vatican in front of the abeles where would we met Vince. After arriving we walked around the Vatican City to the entrance to meet our tour guide and the ISA representative. After we gathered all together and where handed our tickets we walked inside the Vatican Museum. There were thousands of people from all over the world ready to experience what we were about to see and learn about. The tour first started out in the courtyard where we approached a guide with pictures about the Sistine Chapel. Our tour guide discussed the whole sign with us pointing out interesting facts because when we enter the chapel we have to be completely silent. As she talked about the painting on the ceiling done by Michael Angelo we were taught so many different little hidden figures. The painting on the ceiling told the story of God creating the earth, to Adam and Eve, to Jesus dying on the cross. The painting done on the wall in the front of the chapel was also done my Michael Angelo. This painting depicted judgment day. As the bible says judgment day is when Jesus returns to earth as him and Satan will have a war; all the Christians will ascend to heaven and the non believers we go to hell. This is what you see in the painting in the chapel done by Michael Angelo. This painting has been restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and they left behind some hidden squares to show how dark the painting was before the restored it. An interesting fact about this painting is there was a holy

man that criticized Michael Angelo's work and questioned his ideas and skill was depicted in the bottom right corner "hell" with a snake wrapped around his body. The man was furious and went to the pope asking for him to have it changed and the pope answered with, "I do not have power of what happens in hell".

Moving on from the courtyard we entered the first hall in the museum which contained marble roman statues owned by previous popes. There were statues of all walks of people like, Augustus, Venus, Nero, Trajan, Hadrian, and Commodus; these are just a few of the hundreds of statues in the collection. We also talked about what the statues looked like as if they were just carved. Each statue was painted in full color hence why they way we see them today, white, look blind and white. Another interesting fact is the majority of the women statues such as Venus have evidence of holes in the ears where they used to dress the statues with earrings and other jewelry. We talked a lot about Augustus the emperor of roman emperor in 27 BC, unfortunately the place where his statue stood was closed off to the public due to a civic meeting. Augustus died in 14 AD.

Continuing down the different halls and rooms of the museum we learned a lot of interesting facts about the objects. Many of us were amazed by the baths that used to be in the wealthy and royal family's houses. The baths were so large they could fit the entire family. Next to that we viewed a lot of coffins. Coffins were made of many different materials including marble, purple granite, and pink granite from Egypt. We also seen a fountain made of purple granite from Egypt called Nero's Fountain.



Continuing on we saw two identical Egyptian statues found at Hadrian's Villa. The guide told us that Hadrian loved Egyptian art so he had two statues shipped to him from Egypt. We seen dining room mosaics that depicted the foods that they used to eat; foods like grapes, olives, duck, and pork. One of the favorite statues that we seen today was Diana wearing garland made out of bull testicles, bull testicles are a sign of fertility. The next hall we traveled to was the tapestry hall. On each sign of this room hung huge tapestries over 10 feet wide and tall. These tapestries were made in Belgium. Another favorite hall was the maps hall. There were paintings of all of Italy on each side as you walked down the ceiling was also painted amazingly.



Next we entered the Papal's apartment where the popes at the time used to live. In the various rooms were wall paintings done by Raffael. In the one room that he actually painted contained a self portrait of himself and a portrait of Michael Angelo on the body of philosopher. After touring through they apartment we went through a contemporary exhibit of donated

modern art and paintings. Included in these paintings was a piece from Salvador Dahli. After going through the whole museum we finally reached the Sistine chapel which capped up our tour if the Vatican Museum.

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