



## **“Coronavirus” Emergency** **Modalities, procedures and rules for visits to the Apostolic Palace** **and the Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo**

*Dear visitors!*

**Due to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 infection and for a period, the duration of which is still difficult to determine**, visits to the Apostolic Palace and Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo 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. Therefore *they prevail over the ordinary conditions* reported in the individual sections of our official website ([www.museivaticani.va](http://www.museivaticani.va)).

**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 to our collections.**

Our Office of Services and Public Relations remains at your disposal to provide useful assistance and to answer your questions (email: [accoglienza.villepontificie@scv.va](mailto:accoglienza.villepontificie@scv.va)).

The Pope’s Summer Residence and Gardens await you with pleasure!

### **1. OPENING HOURS**

**From 14 September to 31 October 2020**, the opening hours to the public will be the following:

- Monday and Friday: from 08.30 a.m. to 02.00 p.m., with last entry at 01.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 01.30 p.m.).
- Saturday and Sunday: from 10.00 a.m. to 07.30 p.m., with last entry at 06.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 07.00 p.m.).

**From 1 November to 31 December 2020**, the opening hours to the public will be the following:

#### **November**

- **Monday**: 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30;
- **Friday**: 6, 13, 20 and 27;
- **Saturday**: 7, 14, 21 and 28;
- **Sunday**: 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- On **Monday (except for Monday 2)** and **Friday**: opening of the entrance door at 08.30 a.m. and closing at 01.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 01.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 02.00 p.m.).

**N.B. Monday 2 November**: opening of the entrance door at 09.00 a.m. and closing at 05.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 05.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 06.00 p.m.).



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- On **Saturday** and **Sunday**: opening of the entrance door at 09.00 a.m. and closing at 05.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 05.30 p.m. and definite closing at 06.00 p.m.)

#### **December**

- **Monday**: 7, 14, 21 and 28;
  - **Tuesday**: 8, 22 and 29;
  - **Wednesday**: 23 and 30;
  - **Thursday**: 24 and 31;
  - **Friday**: 4, 11 and 18;
  - **Saturday**: 5, 12 and 19;
  - **Sunday**: 6 and 27.
- On **Monday (except for Monday 7), Tuesday (except for Tuesday 8), Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**: opening of the entrance door at 08.30 a.m. and closing at 01.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 01.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 02.00 p.m.).

**N.B.** On **Monday 7** and **Tuesday 8**: opening of the entrance door at 09.00 a.m. and closing at 05.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 05.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 06.00 p.m.).

- On **Saturday**: opening of the entrance door at 09.00 a.m. and closing at 05.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 05.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 06.00 p.m.).
- On **Sunday 6** and **27**: opening of the entrance door at 09.00 a.m. and closing at 05.00 p.m. (with exit from the exhibition halls of the Palace and the Gardens at 05.30 p.m. and definitive closing at 06.00 p.m.).

#### **2. ACCESS**

To have access to the Apostolic Palace and Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo, it is possible to book your visit via the official ticket office portal at [tickets.museivaticani.va](https://tickets.museivaticani.va), or, subject to availability, to purchase your entry ticket directly at the ticket office situated at the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo.

Access will be restricted, and phased in intervals.

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

**To enter the Apostolic Palace and Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo it is obligatory to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth. The mask must be worn for the entire duration of the visit.**



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### **Modalities, procedures and rules for visits to the Apostolic Palace and the Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo**

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 Apostolic Palace and Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo 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 Apostolic Palace or Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo.**

**At the time of booking the visit - or of purchasing the entry ticket at the ticket office (Palace entrance) - it is understood that all people who have access to the Pontifical Villas 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.

### **3. VISIT TO THE APOSTOLIC PALACE**

**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 10.00 a.m. and no later than 10.15 a.m.). Once the selected fifteen-minute phase has passed, the *Guard Corps* staff who is responsible for checking the voucher will be able to prevent access to the Palace and, in this case, **no refund will be available.**

Visits will be possible in groups made up of a **maximum of 25 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 of all the other current rules and regulations.

The Directorate of the Museums will also organise guided tours entrusted to their own educational workers, again for groups of 25 people. It will be possible to book them in advance upon request by email at [accoglienza.villepontificie@scv.va](mailto:accoglienza.villepontificie@scv.va).

The use of radio headset systems (*group tour*) will not be permitted. Therefore, tour guides are recommended to moderate their tone of voice during explanations in order not to disturb other visitors.

For the visit to the Apostolic Palace it will be possible to use the audioguide service free of charge. The scrupulous sanitisation of the equipment shall be guaranteed.



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#### **4. VISIT TO THE GARDENS OF THE APOSTOLIC VILLAS OF CASTEL GANDOLFO**

Aside from the Apostolic Palace, it will be possible to admire the botanical and architectural beauty of the Gardens of the Pontifical Villas in the following ways:

- **Guided tours on foot:** for pre-constituted groups made up of a maximum of 25 people, organised by the Directorate of the Vatican Museums and entrusted to their own educational guides. Booking is **obligatory**, via the official ticket office portal at [tickets.museivaticani.va](https://tickets.museivaticani.va). The duration of the guided tour is two hours.
- **Walk in the Gardens:** for individual visitors or groups made up of a maximum of 25 people, who will be accompanied in the Gardens by staff of the *Guard Corps*. The duration of the walking tour is around 60 minutes. It is possible to book the walking tour of the Gardens via the official ticket office portal at [tickets.museivaticani.va](https://tickets.museivaticani.va) or at the ticket office located in the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo.

**Visitors are reminded that also 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 Apostolic Palace, each visitor will be subjected to a body temperature check using suitable thermometric instruments. **The control is mandatory.**

**Access to the Gardens will be denied to all those with a body temperature of 37.5° C or more.**

Both for the guided tour and for the walking tour, visitors are advised to arrive 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the visit booked. Once the guided tour or walk has commenced, it will not be possible to participate in the visit. **The ticket will not be refunded in any case.**



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### **APPENDIX**

#### *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 an 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.



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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**