

RULES REGARDING VISITS TO THE CATACOMBS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology (when the conditions of the monument permit this) also offers the possibility to students, individual scholars and Cultural Associations to have access to the catacombs that are normally closed to the public only if such visits have a real and exclusive cultural purpose, and so no profit motive is admitted. Moreover, the dissemination by the Associations—through the press, radio or other media—of the visits requested gives this Pontifical Commission the faculty to revoke the permit granted immediately. For access to these monuments it is necessary to adhere scrupulously to the following instructions:

- a) The request, which must arrive at least 20 days before the date of the visit, has to be sent in writing to the attention of the Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology, and specify the monument one intends to visit, the date, the time, the possible presence of an archaeological guide, and the number of persons. The authorization is granted at the sole discretion of the Secretary.
- b) For these visits, the presence of a grave-digger designated by this Pontifical Commission and assigned to the service of custodianship and assistance is compulsory. The applicant is wholly responsible for the fees for this person's presence at the following rate:
 1. The grave-digger's fee for being called, which includes a 75-minute visit for each group, is €100. This fee must be paid—after previous phone agreement—in the days preceding the visit at the office of the Commission (*from Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*), or by bank transfer:

From abroad to:

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A.

AG. 41 ROME

(IBAN) IT 16 S 01030 03241 000000098035

(BIC) PASCITM1R41

In the name of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology

In the reason for payment, the protocol number of the document must be indicated.

From Italy to:

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena

AG. 41 ROME

c/c No. 98035

cod. ABI 01030; cod. CAB 03241; cod. CIN S

In the name of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology

In the reason for payment, the protocol number of the document must be indicated.

2. for each hour or fraction of an hour over the 75-minute visit, the sum of €25 must be paid as compensation, which will be calculated after the day of the visit.
- c) for guided visits with an explanatory lesson by an archaeological guide, in addition to the costs in point 1.b.1, there is a fee of €20 for each group which must be paid together with the cost of the visit.

We remind you that:

1. The group of visitors allowed into the catacombs must not exceed 15 persons.

2. If any damage to places or persons should occur during the visit, the applicant is required to compensate for the damages caused.
3. It is strictly forbidden to introduce photographic machines and video cameras into the catacomb. Any transgression of this rule will result in the immediate suspension of the visit.
4. The visit can be cancelled by sending a written communication by fax or e-mail within and no later than 3 working days before the date of the visit. If no cancellation is received, the obligation to pay for the visit remains.
5. In the event that the visit is cancelled by the Pontifical Commission for reasons beyond its control and with no possibility to notify the applicant in good time, it is understood that the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology will grant another visit on another date agreed upon with the applicant. Therefore, the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology is exonerated from compensating any payment made by the applicant.

The participants are also asked to wear comfortable shoes and to each bring a flashlight for illumination.