

Besides the mail system, Vatican has its own Passport system as well for its citizens, who as we mentioned above, are appointed and therefore would typically comprise of the Pope (of course!), other cardinals, clergymen as well as members of the Swiss guards.\

As hard as it may seem to believe, it is true that Vatican has a telescope of its own in distant Arizona in the US, which helps it with its astronomical research, in view of increasing light pollution in Rome.

Today, Vatican has a very active presence on the social media circuit, with its own website, YouTube channel as well as the Pope's own Twitter account.

Vatican museums are said to be so prolific that even if one took a minute to look at each painting in them, it would take 4 years to see them all!

So as you can see, Vatican sure has some very interesting facts about it!

7. THERE'S NO VICE-POPE

Today all leadership in the world has the distinction the mayor and deputy but for the state of Vatican it is different. Once a cardinal becomes the Pope, he's the designated leader of the Catholic Church and God's representative on Earth for the rest of his life. As with Supreme Court Justices, he can resign before his death, but that's unlikely. (It's been more than 500 years since the last papal resignation.) Further, as modern medicine improves, even seriously ill people tend to stick around longer; meaning that a Pope could be alive but unable to perform his duties for years, as was the case with John Paul II. What happens then? Well, no one is really sure. A cardinal can take over the Pope's responsibilities as the Vatican's head of state, but no one else is allowed to carry out his ceremonial duties. In the end, many masses and benedictions simply go unperformed until the Pope either passes away or recovers.

8. CRIMINALS IN VATICAN.

With 1.5 crimes per citizen, Vatican City has the highest crime rate in the world. It's not that the cardinals are donning masks and repeatedly robbing the bank, it's just that the massive crowds of tourists make Vatican City a pickpocket's paradise. The situation is complicated by the fact that the Vatican has no working prison and only one judge. So most criminals are simply marched across the border into Italy, as part of a pact between the two countries. (The Vatican's legal code is based on Italy's, with some modifications regarding abortion and divorce.) Crimes that the Vatican sees fit to try itself—mainly shoplifting in its duty-free stores—are usually punished by temporarily revoking the troublemaker's access to those