

= Rail transport in Vatican City =

Rail transport in Vatican City consists of two 300 @-@ metre sets of rail tracks and two freight sidings within Vatican City (named Vatican Railway , Ferrovia Vaticana) , the shortest national railway system in the world , with only one station . Access to Italian rail lines was guaranteed by the Lateran Treaty (1929) , and tracks and station were constructed during the reign of Pope Pius XI . The only station is referred to as Vatican City (officially : Città del Vaticano [tʰitʰta del vatiʰkaʰno] , also named Stazione Vaticana [statʰtsjoʰne vatiʰkaʰna]) .

Most railway traffic consists of freight good importation , although the railway has occasionally carried passengers , usually for symbolic or ceremonial reasons .

= = History = =

Pope Gregory XVI (died 1846) prevented the construction of railways in the Papal States , and was reputed to have said " chemin de fer , chemin d 'enfer " (" road of iron , road of hell ") . Gregory XVI 's successor , Pope Pius IX , began the construction of a rail line from Bologna to Ancona but the territory was seized by the armies of the Risorgimento in 1861 before it was completed . The utility of rail travel for the mass pilgrimages of the 19th century , beginning with those at Lourdes circa 1858 , was one factor that softened opposition to such technology within the Roman Curia .

The construction of a railway station in Vatican City and its linkage to the Italian rail lines was guaranteed by the Lateran Treaty of February 11 , 1929 . The Directorate of New Railway Construction of the Ministry of Public Works of the Kingdom of Italy implemented this provision with construction beginning on April 3 , 1929 , to establish earthworks 38 m above sea level (the height of the " Roma - San Pietro " station) between Piazza Santa Marta and the Palazzo del Governatorato . The construction of the viaduct leading to Vatican City was paid for by the Italian government ; the station within the Vatican was financed from the ? 750 million indemnity agreed to in the Lateran Treaty 's financial part . The total cost of construction was reported to be ? 24 million .

The station building (see below) was constructed between 1929 and 1933 .

The first locomotive entered the Vatican in March 1932 . The station was opened officially on October 2 , 1934 . A Railway Convention was ratified between Italy and Vatican City on September 12 , 1934 , on which date the property passed from Ferrovie dello Stato (Italian State Railways) to the Holy See . In October 1934 the Ministry of Public Works gave the completed rail lines to Vatican City and Ferrovie dello Stato , respectively . Legge sulle fonti del diritto (June 7 , 1929) made Italian railway legislation binding on Vatican @-@ controlled railways .

In late March 1944 , during the allied bombing of Rome in World War II , the Vatican discovered a German munitions train stopped on the line by the Vatican railway station .

Pope John XXIII , on October 4 , 1962 , became the first pope to use the Vatican railway during his pilgrimage to Loreto and Assisi one week before the beginning of Second Vatican Council using the Italian presidential train ; the trip was broadcast on the Eurovision Network . Prior to John 's trip in 1962 , Pope Pius IX had been both the last pope to visit Loreto (as the head of the Papal States) and the last pope to travel by train . John XXIII also arranged for the remains of Pope Pius X to be transferred to Venice using the Vatican railway .

Pope John Paul II used the railway a few times for symbolic purposes , as early as November 8 , 1979 , but did not use the railway to leave Rome until January 24 , 2002 .

On 21 May 2011 , a special train ran from Vatican City station to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Caritas .

Pope Benedict XVI used the railway as well (e.g. , for a pilgrimage to Assisi on 27 October 2011) .

Pope Francis 's desire to open the Church 's treasures to the public has resulted in a weekly special train from Vatican City Station that is open to the public and is provided by the Vatican Museums and the Italian railway . A special train for invited guests and reporters inaugurated the run with on 11 September 2015 . This inaugural train was hauled by FS Class 625 steam locomotive 625 @-@ 017 , built in 1915 . The same engine was used by the Italian royal family , and also hauled the train

which carried Pope John XXIII to Loreto and Assisi in 1962 . Scheduled trains use contemporary suburban rolling stock to travel from Vatican City railway station to Albano Laziale , via Castel Gandolfo .

= = Railway station = =

The Vatican City railway station (in Italian , Stazione Città del Vaticano or Stazione Vaticana) is the only railway station of the Vatican Railway . It was built approximately 20 m from the Entrance Gateway by architect Giuseppe Momo . Construction began on April 3 , 1929 , and the station began operation in 1933 . Its simple white , Italian marble design was described by writer H. V. Morton as " more like a branch of the Barclay Bank in London . " The station building is composed of white marble , and its dimensions are 61 x 21 @. @ 5 m . The central body is 16 @. @ 85 m tall and the lateral ones 5 @. @ 95 m . Part of the station building continues in use as passenger station and goods (rail freight) office , whilst part now houses the Vatican numismatic and philatelic museum . The railway station also houses the small Vatican tax @-@ free department store , a private facility open only to Vatican subjects and diplomats .

= = Route = =

The Vatican City State Railway branches off from the Rome to Viterbo railway line at the Roma San Pietro railway station and crosses Gelsomino valley via a 143 @. @ 12 metre long masonry viaduct of eight 15 @. @ 30 metre arches (bearing the Fasces and the Savoy Coat of Arms) , which crosses Viale Vaticano (which it interrupts) and Via Aurelia . The Via delle Cave and the Via del Gelsomino are also interrupted by the viaduct and thus merge with the Via Aurelia .

Before passing through the Vatican City walls and terminating in the Vatican City railway station , the line passes under an arch decorated with the Coat of Arms of Pope Pius XI with a two @-@ piece 35 @. @ 5 ton iron gate which slides into the recesses of the Vatican walls . The gate is closed when there is no traffic scheduled on the line .

The railway has two tracks (partly located in Rome , outside the gateway) , but only one is served by a station platform . Two terminal load tracks , for freight wagons , are situated on the northeast side of the building . They are linked to the main track that ends in a headshunt in a tunnel .

The station is near the Vatican Gardens , behind St. Peter 's Basilica . The gateway separating the station from rail track in Italian territory is part of Leonine Wall . Other buildings near the station are the Governorate Palace and the Domus Sanctae Marthae .

= = Uses = =

The Vatican railway has been used primarily for importing goods (before automobile travel became more common and less expensive) into the Vatican and intermittently for ordinary passenger trains .

The planned papal train of Pius XI was never constructed and the Vatican has never employed any railway workers or registered any rolling stock . The official train of Pope Pius IX remains on display at the Museum of Rome in the Palazzo Braschi .

The Vatican City station has no regularly scheduled passenger trains . Pope Francis 's desire to open the Church 's treasures to the public has resulted in a weekly special train from Vatican City Station that is open to the public and is provided by the Vatican Museums and the Italian railway . Starting from September 12 , 2015 , on each Saturday , visitors to the Vatican Museums can board a train and travel to the Pontifical Villas in Castel Gandolfo . There , passengers can tour the newly created museum and visit the pontifical gardens as well as visit the town . The tour returns the same afternoon to the station of Roma San Pietro . The trains use contemporary suburban rolling stock to travel from Vatican City railway station to Albano Laziale , via Castel Gandolfo .

= = Gallery = =

