The Musei Capitolini, founded by Pope Sixtus V in 1589, is housed in two adjacent palaces built by Pope Sixtus V and his successors to house the collection of ancient art pieces excavated in Rome. The main hall of the Musei Capitolini is the Portico di Ottavia, which comunicates with the Palazzo dei Conservatori and the Palazzo Nuovo. The Palazzo dei Conservatori also contains the Lapidary Gallery, where ancient inscriptions and steles are displayed. The Palazzo Nuovo houses temporary exhibitions and hosts the Capitoline Coin and Medal Collection.

The Conservatorium, which dominates the courtyard, is decorated with sculpture and mosaics. The statue of the Dying Gaul, which once stood in Piazza del Campidoglio, and the imposing remains of the Temple of Jupiter. Part of this hall is devoted to the most ancient period of the Capitoline Hill’s history, spanning from its earliest settlement to the erection of the temple, and includes displays of the finds from recent excavations.

The rooms adjoining the glass hall contain artworks from the ancient garden (horti) on the Esquiline Hill. The galleries connecting the Marcus Aurelius hall to the apartments of Palazzo dei Conservatori house the Castellani Collection, an example of collecting practices in the 19th century.

The Musei Capitolini date from 1471, when Pope Sixtus IV donated to the Temple of Rome a group of bronze statues that until then had been at the Lateran. Successive popes enlarged the original core collection with works found during excavations in and around Rome. Some were transferred from the Vatican, others, such as the Albani Collection, were purchased specifically for this museum. Around the middle of the 18th century, Pope Benedict XIV founded the Capitoline Picture Gallery. A separate area is reserved for temporary exhibitions, with a great number of coins, medals, gems and jewels on display.

The rooms adjoining the glass hall contain artworks from the ancient garden (horti) on the Esquiline Hill. The galleries connecting the Marcus Aurelius hall to the apartments of Palazzo dei Conservatori house the Castellani Collection, an example of collecting practices in the 19th century.

The Musei Capitolini are open every day from 9:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Last admission is one hour before closing time. Tickets are available at the ticket office and also on sale at the ticket office.

MUSEI CAPITOLINI
Piazza del Campidoglio

www.museicapitolini.org

MUSEI CAPITOLINI DIAGRAM

P. le Caffarelli, 4

www.museicapitolini.org