



Holy See (Vatican City)



Background	Popes in their secular role ruled portions of the Italian peninsula for more than a thousand years until the mid-19th century, when the newly established Kingdom of Italy seized many of the Papal States. In 1870, the pope's holdings were further circumscribed when Rome itself was annexed.
Capital	name: Vatican City
Government type	ecclesiastical elective monarchy; self-described as an "absolute monarchy"
Area	total : 0 sq km land: 0.44 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	temperate; mild, rainy winters (September to May) with hot, dry summers (May to September)
Natural resources	none
Population	total: 1,000 (2024)
Population growth rate	0% (2014 est.)
Ethnic groups	Italian, Swiss, Argentinian, and other nationalities from around the world (2017)
Religions	Roman Catholic
Languages	Italian, Latin, French, various other languages
Executive branch	chief of state: Pope LEO XIV (since 8 May 2025) head of government: President of the Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City and President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State Fernando VERGEZ ALZAGA (since 1 October 2021)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Apostolic Nuncio Cardinal Christophe PIERRE (since 27 June 2016)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Laura HOCHLA (since 8 July 2024)
Economic overview	limited, tourism-based economy; euro user with own minted coins; produces commemorative stamps, coins, and publications to support museums and religious needs; residents pay no direct taxes; "zero deficit" plan to address budget shortfall