

# Vatican City

**Continent:** Europe

**Languages Spoken:** Italian, Latin

**Population:** 800

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Area:** 0.44

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'St. Peter's Basilica', 'writeup': 'A Renaissance-era church and one of the largest in the world, it is a major pilgrimage site and the papal enclave's centerpiece.'}
- {'name': 'Sistine Chapel', 'writeup': 'Famous for Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes, it serves as the Pope's chapel and the site of the papal conclave.'}
- {'name': 'Vatican Museums', 'writeup': 'A vast collection of art and historical artifacts amassed by the Catholic Church over centuries.'}
- {'name': 'St. Peter's Square', 'writeup': 'An expansive plaza in front of St. Peter's Basilica, designed by Bernini, used for papal ceremonies.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Pope Francis

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Easter Mass', 'writeup': 'A significant religious event led by the Pope, attracting pilgrims worldwide.'}
- {'name': 'Christmas Eve Mass', 'writeup': 'A major liturgical celebration held in St. Peter's Basilica.'}
- {'name': 'Canonization Ceremonies', 'writeup': 'Events where the Pope declares new saints, often held in St. Peter's Square.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Vatican City does not have a distinct cuisine but shares culinary traditions with Rome, featuring Italian staples like pasta, pizza, and gelato.

## Brief History:

Established as an independent state in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty, Vatican City is the spiritual and administrative center of the Roman Catholic Church and the smallest internationally recognized independent state.

## Important People:

- Pope Francis
- Pope John Paul II
- Pope Benedict XVI
- Michelangelo (artist of the Sistine Chapel ceiling)

## Current Conflicts:

None. Vatican City maintains a neutral stance in international conflicts.

**Youtube Links:**

- Vatican City: The World's Smallest Country Explained
- Inside the Vatican Museums - Art and History
- St. Peter's Basilica Tour - Vatican City
- The Sistine Chapel Ceiling by Michelangelo
- Pope Francis and the Vatican's Role in the World