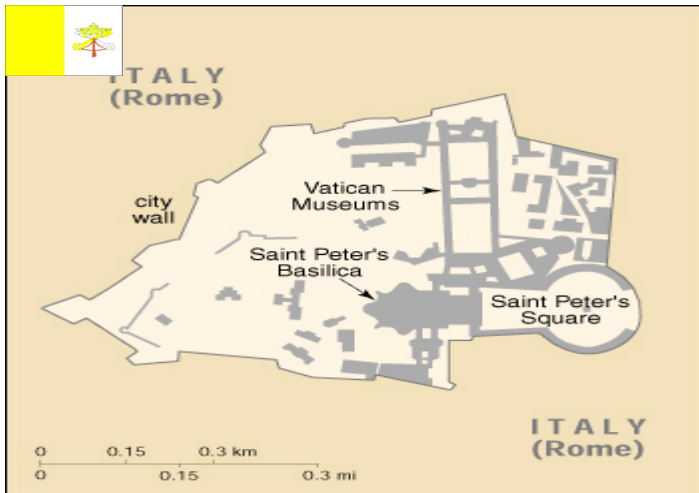


VATICAN CITY



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++39

Holy See Press Office: Via della Conciliazione, 54 00193 Rome, Italy Tel: (06) 698 921 Fax: (06) 698 885 178 Website: www.vatican.va

Capital: Vatican City **Time:** + 1 (GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in September).

Background: Popes in their secular role ruled much of the Italian peninsula, including Rome, for more than a thousand years, until 1870. Disputes between a series of popes and Italy were resolved in 1929 by three Lateran Treaties, which established the independent state of Vatican City out of the former Papal States and granted Roman Catholicism special status in Italy. In 1984, a concordat between the Vatican and Italy modified certain of the earlier treaty provisions, including the primacy of Roman Catholicism as the Italian state religion. Present concerns of the Holy See include the failing health of Pope John Paul II, who turns 80 on 20 May 2000, interreligious dialogue and reconciliation, and the adjustment of church doctrine in an era of rapid change. About 1 billion people worldwide profess the Catholic faith.

Location: Southern Europe, an enclave of Rome (Italy)

Map References: Europe

Area: total: 0.44 sq km, land: 0.44 sq km, water: 0 sq km

Climate: temperate; mild, rainy winters (September to mid-May) with hot, dry summers (May to September)

Terrain: low hill

Natural Resources: none

Population: 880 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: none, adjective: none

Ethnic Groups: Italians, Swiss, other

Religions: Roman Catholic

Languages: Italian, Latin, various other languages

Economy: This unique, noncommercial economy is supported financially by contributions (known as Peter's Pence) from Roman Catholics throughout the world, the sale of postage stamps and tourist mementos, fees for admission to museums, and the sale of publications. The incomes and living standards of lay workers are comparable to, or somewhat better than, those of counterparts who work in the city of Rome.

Industries: printing and production of a small amount of mosaics and staff uniforms; worldwide banking and financial activities

Currency: 1 Vatican lira (VLit) = 100 centesimi

Railways: total: 862 m; note - connects to Italy's network at Rome's Saint Peter's station, narrow gauge: 862 m 1.435-m gauge

Highways: none; all city streets

Ports and Harbors: none

Airports: none

Heliports: 1 (1999 est.)

Visa: see Visa in the Italy section.

Duty Free: see Duty Free in Italy section.

Health: see Health in Italy section.

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HISTORICAL SITES

SISTINE CHAPEL (CAPPELLA SISTINA) , Address: Viale Vaticano Vatican City , Italy , Tel: 06 6988 3333, <http://www.christusrex.org>

ST. PETER'S BASILICA, Piazza San Pietro Vatican City, Italy, Tel: 06 6988 4466, Vatican Switchboard + 39 06 6982 , <http://www.saintpetersbasilica.org>

MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

VATICAN MUSEUM , Viale Vaticano, Metro stop: Ottaviano or San Pietro Vatican City , Italy, Guided Tours for Individuals, Ph: + 39 06 6988 4676, Fax: + 39 06 6988 5100, Email: visiteguidate.musei@scv.va , <http://mv.vatican.va>

ENTERTAINMENTS

VATICAN ART WALKS , Vatican City , Italy, <http://vaticanartwalks.com/index.html> , vaticanartwalks@gmail.com