

APPUNTI di SANDRINO

SAN MARINO

San Marino is the only modern independent state to use the style of being officially called **Most Serene Republic of San Marino** (Italian: Serenissima Repubblica di San Marino)

Located on the northeastern side of the **Apennine Mountains**, San Marino covers a land area of just over 61 km² (24 sq mi), and has a population of 33,900. (2019)

The site *San Marino: Historic Centre and Mount Titano* became part of the **UNESCO World Heritage List** in 2008.

HEALTHCARE and COVID

As of 11 May 2021, with 5,083 confirmed cases out of a population of 33,600 (as of 2020), it was the country with the fourth-highest percentage of confirmed cases per capita at 15.13% – 1 confirmed case per 7 inhabitants. Also, with 90 confirmed deaths, the country has one of the highest rate of confirmed deaths per capita at 0.268% of the total population – 1 death per 373 inhabitants.

The Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine available for €50.

As of May 2021, San Marino had administered 36,000 doses and fully vaccinated approximately 22,000 people.

San Marino's healthcare system is consistently rated as one of the top three in Europe.

The country has one hospital, called San Marino Hospital, with an emergency room and other services. There are some medical treatments not available in the country that require patients to go abroad.

The highest proportion of doctors for its population in Europe – 4735 per 100,000 in 2015. It has the lowest number of dentists – 27.

GOVERNMENT

The official founding date is **3 September 301**

San Marino is **the world's smallest and oldest constitutional republic**. *A republic is a form of government in which "power is held by the people and their elected representatives".*

Two heads of state are elected every six months.

It is **one of only three countries** in the world to be **[enclave]** completely enclosed by another country (the others being **Vatican City**, also enclosed by Italy, and **Lesotho**, enclosed by South Africa).

It is the **third smallest country in Europe**, after **Vatican City** and **Monaco**, and the **fifth smallest country in the world**.

San Marino became a member of the **Council of Europe [CE]** in 1988 and of the **United Nations** in 1992. It is **not a member of the European Union**, although it uses the **euro** as its currency.

The **Council of Europe** [CE] is an international organization founded in the wake of World War II to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Founded in 1949, it has 47 member states, with a population of approximately 820 million.

The **European Union (EU)** is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

As of **June 2020**, San Marino had the **highest death rate per capita** of any country, due to the effects of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. In April 2021, the nation received headlines for using the Russian Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine rather than vaccines approved by the EU following a slow rollout for the latter vaccines.

MILITARY

San Marino's military forces are **among the smallest** in the world.

National defense is, by arrangement, the **responsibility of Italy's armed forces**.

Different branches have varied functions, including performing ceremonial duties, patrolling borders, mounting guard at government buildings, and assisting police in major criminal cases.

CORPO DEI BALESTRIERI

Once at the heart of San Marino's army, the **Crossbow Corps** is now a ceremonial force of approximately 80 volunteers. Since 1295, the Crossbow Corps has provided **demonstrations** of crossbow shooting at festivals. Its uniform design is medieval. While still a statutory military unit, the Crossbow Corps has **no military function today**.

GUARDIA DELLA ROCCA

The **Guard of the Rock [Guardia di Rocca]** is a **front-line military unit** in the San Marino armed forces, a state **border patrol**, with responsibility for **patrolling borders** and **defending them**. In their role as **Fortress Guards** they are responsible for guarding the **Palazzo Pubblico** in San Marino City, the seat of national government.

In this role they are the forces **most visible to tourists**, and are known for their colorful ceremony of **Changing the Guard**. Under the 1987 statute the Guard of the Rock are **all enrolled as "Criminal Police Officers"** (in addition to their military role) and **assist the police** in investigating major crime.

The **uniform** of the Guard of the Rock is a distinctive red and green.

GUARDIA DEL CONSIGLIO

The Guard of the Grand and General Council commonly known as **The Guard of the council** or locally as the "Guard of Nobles", formed in 1741, is a volunteer unit with **ceremonial duties**. Due to its **striking blue, white, and gold uniform**, it is perhaps the best-known part of the Sammarinese military, and appears on countless postcard views of the republic. The functions of the Guard of the council are **to protect the captains regent**, and to defend the Grand and General Council during its formal sessions. They also act as **ceremonial bodyguards** to government officials at both state and church festivals.

This unit **remains the basic fighting force** of the armed forces of San Marino, but is **largely ceremonial**.

GENDARMERIE [*armed police*]

Established in 1842, the **Gendarmerie of San Marino** is a **militarized law enforcement agency**. Its members are full-time and have responsibility for the **protection of citizens** and property, and the **preservation of law and order**.

The **police** are not included in the military of San Marino.

ECONOMY

It is one of the **wealthiest countries** in the world in [GDP per capita] with a figure comparable to the most developed European regions.

Key industries include **banking, electronics, and ceramics**. The T&A Company (TECNOLOGIE e AMBIENTE), a service company related to the safety, construction and maintenance of Gas Stations and is the sponsor for the San Marino Baseball Team.

The main agricultural products are **wine and cheese**.

San Marino **imports** mainly **staple goods from Italy**.

It has the world's highest rate of **car ownership**, being the only country with more vehicles than people.

The **tourism** sector contributes **over 22% of San Marino's GDP**, with approximately **2 million tourists** having visited in 2014.

There is one legally operating **casino**.

Italy provides San Marino with an **annual stipend**, and at cost, of **sea salt** (not more than 250 tonnes per year), **tobacco** (40 tonnes), **cigarettes** (20 tonnes) and **matches** (unlimited amount).

At the border there are **no formalities with Italy**. However, at the tourist office visitors can **purchase officially cancelled souvenir stamps** for their passports.

San Marino has a population of approximately 33,000, with 4,800 foreign residents, most of whom are Italian citizens.

Over 97% of the population profess the **Roman Catholic** faith,

TRANSPORTATION

There are 220 km (140 mi) of **roads** in the country, the main road being the **San Marino Highway**.

The road is **8.9 km (5.5 miles)** long and 18 meters wide, providing for two lanes in each direction.

There is a 1.5 km (0.93 mi) **aerial tramway** connecting the City of San Marino on top of Monte Titano with Borgo Maggiore, a major town in the republic, with the second largest population of any Sammarinese settlement.

Today, there is **no railway** in San Marino, but for a short period before World War II, it had a single narrow-gauge line called the **Ferrovia Rimini–San Marino** which connected the country with the Italian rail network at Rimini.

EDUCATION

The **Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino** (University of the Republic of San Marino) is the main university. **Accademia Internazionale delle Scienze San Marino** (International Academy of Sciences San Marino). The latter is known for adopting **Esperanto** as the language for teaching and for scientific publications; further, it makes wide use of electronic educational technology (also called **e-learning**).

SPORTS

Soccer is the most popular sport.
Basketball and **volleyball** are also popular.

Professional baseball team which plays in Italy's top division.

Little success at the **Olympic Games**, winning no medals.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

The pop singer **Little Tony** achieved considerable success in the United Kingdom and Italy in the 1950s and 1960s.

The country has a long and rich **musical tradition**, closely linked to that of Italy

Only **one television network**, San Marino RTV and two **radio networks**, Radio San Marino and Radio San Marino Classic.

HISTORY

From this initial community the state of San Marino later grew. **Saint Marinus** was the founder of a chapel and **monastery** in **301**.

In about the year 300, Marino, a stone cutter from present-day Croatia,

Marino began preaching to Christian slaves at Rimini, but soon became distracted from the evil of the world. Marino decided to **seclude** himself on **Mount Titano**, living the life of a **hermit** in holy contemplation.

He found **refuge** here, on **Monte Titano** and decided to stay and help the community of other fleeing Christians.

For his efforts, **Marinus was canonized as a saint**, and later, the State of San Marino grew up from the centre created by the monastery.

His feast day/memorial day is **3 September, commemorating the day, in 301, when he founded what became known as San Marino**, which is also **the state's national holiday** and remains the patron saint of this country to this day.

The country was **OCCUPIED** on 17 October 1739 by the **legate (Papal governor) of Ravenna**, Cardinal Giulio Alberoni, but **independence was restored** by Pope Clement XII on 5 February 1740, the **feast day of Saint Agatha**, after which she became a patron saint of the republic.

The advance of **Napoleon's army** in 1797 presented a brief threat to the independence of San Marino, but the country was saved from losing its liberty by one of its regents, Antonio Onofri, who managed to gain the respect and friendship of Napoleon.

During the later phase of the **Italian unification process** in the 19th century, San Marino served as a refuge for many people persecuted because of their support for unification, including **Giuseppe Garibaldi** and his wife Anita.

The government of San Marino made **United States President Abraham Lincoln** an **honorary citizen**. He wrote in reply, saying that the republic proved that *"government founded on republican principles is capable of being so administered as to be secure and enduring"*.

During **World War I**, when Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary on 23 May 1915, **San Marino remained neutral** and Italy adopted a hostile view of Sammarinese neutrality, suspecting that San Marino could harbor Austrian spies who could be given access to its new radiotelegraph station. Italy tried to forcibly establish a detachment of **Carabinieri** in the republic and then cut the republic's telephone lines when it did not comply. **Two groups** of ten volunteers joined Italian forces in the fighting on the Italian front, the first as **combatants** and the second as a **medical corps** operating a Red Cross field hospital. The existence of this hospital later caused Austria-Hungary to suspend diplomatic relations with San Marino.

During **World War II**, San Marino remained **neutral**, although it was wrongly reported in an article from The New York Times that it had declared war on the United Kingdom on 17 September 1940. The Sammarinese government later transmitted a message to the British government stating that they had not declared war on the United Kingdom.

On 26 June 1944, San Marino was **bombed** by the Royal Air Force, in the belief that San Marino had been overrun by German forces and was being used to amass stores and ammunition.

In September 1944, it was briefly **OCCUPIED by German forces**, who were defeated by Allied forces in the Battle of San Marino.

During **World War II**, San Marino provided a **haven** for more than 100,000 **Jews** and other Italians (approximately 10 times the Sammarinese population at the time) **from Nazi persecution**.

