

MONACO

Monaco, officially the **Principality of Monaco** is a small sovereign city-state located in South Western Europe on the northern central coast of the **Mediterranean Sea**, having a land border on three sides only with **France**, and being about 16 km (9.9 mi) away from **Italy**. Its size is just under 2 km². Monaco is the world's most densely populated sovereign country, and the world's smallest French-speaking country. An average person takes only 56 minutes to walk across the width of the country. Monaco is the name of the country as well as the name of its capital city. It is often regarded as a tax haven, and many of its inhabitants are wealthy and from foreign countries, making up a majority of the population.

Monaco is a constitutional monarchy and principality, with **Prince Albert II** as head of state. The **House of Grimaldi** has ruled Monaco since 1297, and the state's sovereignty was officially recognized by the Franco-Monegasque Treaty of 1861.



The Prince's Palace of Monaco is the official residence of the Prince of Monaco. Founded in 1191 as a Genoese fortress, during its long and often dramatic history it has been bombarded and besieged by many foreign powers. Since the end of the 13th century, it has been the stronghold and home of the **Grimaldi** family who first captured it in 1297. The Grimaldi ruled the area first as feudal lords, and from the 17th century as sovereign princes, but their power was often derived from fragile agreements with their larger and stronger neighbours.

The Napoelonic History Museum and the Palace's Historical Archives Collection. This museum brings to life the history of the Principality with a rich collection of more than a thousand items and documents from the First Empire



The Oceanographic Museum houses remarkable collections of various species of sea fauna (starfish, seahorses, turtles, jellyfish, crabs, lobsters, rays, sharks, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, eels, cuttlefish etc.) both stuffed and in skeletal form. The museum's holdings also include a great variety of sea related objects, including model ships, sea animal skeletons, tools, weapons, etc. An aquarium is housed in the basement of the museum which showcases a spectacular array of flora and fauna. 4000 species of fish and over 200 families of invertebrates can be seen. It features a presentation of

Mediterranean and tropical marine ecosystems. The Oceanographic Museum was inaugurated in 1910 by Monaco's modernist reformer, **Prince Albert I**. This monumental architectural work of art has an impressive façade towering above the sea, towering over the sheer cliff face to a height of 279 feet (85.04 m). It took 11 years to build, using 100,000 tons of stone from La Turbie.



Saint Nicholas Cathedral, known also as **Monaco Cathedral** is the cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Monaco in **Monaco-Ville**, where many of the Grimaldis were buried, including **Grace Kelly** and more recently, **Rainier III**. The cathedral was consecrated in 1875, and is on the site of the first parish church in Monaco built in 1252 and dedicated to St. Nicholas. Of note are the retable to the right of the transept, the Great Altar and the Episcopal throne in white Carrara marble.

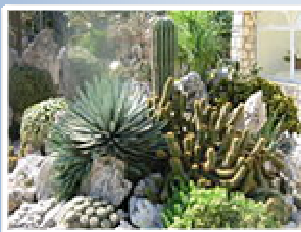
Monaco Tops Cars Collection. Among the hundred or so vehicles belonging to the Prince of Monaco, visitors can discover 1903 De Dion Bouton, 1986 Lamborghini Countach or Citroën Torpedo from the Croisière Jaune (Yellow Expedition) The museum is situated at the Terrasses de Fontvieille.

The Naval Museum. A collection of around 250 model boats tracing naval history from antiquity through to the present-day. Souvenir shop in the museum located at the Terrasses de Fontvieille.

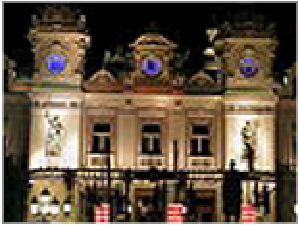


The Museum of Stamps and Coins presents the philatelic and numismatic collections of the crowned Princes, as both a historic and artistic testimony to the technical and cultural development of the Principality. From the first pieces struck in Monaco with the head of Honoré II in 1641 and the first stamp issued by the Principality with the head of Charles III in 1886, up to the latest stamps and Euros now in use, all the elements included in the development of these symbols of sovereignty are brought

together.



The Exotic Garden and the Observatory Caves and the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology. Laid out on the flanks of the rocky hillside, the Exotic Garden includes thousands of so-called "succulent" plant varieties which flower all year round. On the same site, visitors can also discover the Observatory Caves with their stalactites, stalagmites and lime concretions, or learn about mankind's early history at the Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology.



The Monte-Carlo Casino. First among the great casinos, this masterpiece of arts from the Belle Epoque gave credibility to European Roulette. Opened in 1863, it has the most prestigious and complete range of table games providing a legendary style of gaming unique in the world.

GET OUT IN MONACO

- Monte-Carlo Ballet
- Opera of Monte-Carlo
- The Summer Sporting-Club

EVENTS

- Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix
- Tennis Masters Series
- International Circus Festival
- Monaco International Dog Show
- Monte-Carlo Television Festival
- Monte-Carlo Rally
- Monte-Carlo International Fireworks Festival

CASINO AND POKER

Casino de Monte-Carlo

Place du Casino

Café de Paris

Place du Casino

Sun Casino

12 avenue des Spélugues

Bay Casino

40 avenue Princesse Grace

Casino d'été

26 avenue Princesse Grace

INFORMATION

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