

Overview of Monaco

An independent city-state west of the French Cote d'Azur, the Principality of Monaco is the playground of Europe's celebrities and idle rich. Most people are drawn by the sun, glamorous lifestyle, and tax-free income, and there are more millionaires per capita in Monaco than anywhere else on the planet. True Monacans make up only about 15 percent of the population in a country packed with wealth, opulence, and the world's most expensive real estate.

The sweeping roads of its unofficial capital Monte Carlo serve as the course for the legendary Monaco Grand Prix. The buildings that line the streets are themselves unattractive monstrosities; huge tiered blocks that belie the fabulous lives of its residents. However, Monaco does have a suitably glamorous history. Disguised as a Franciscan monk, Francois Grimaldi reclaimed a fortress on the Rock of Monaco from a rival Italian bloc in 1297. This gave the principality its name, deriving from the word 'monk'. Lord Honore II took power in 1604 and declared himself prince. France later annexed Monaco, with the Grimaldis regaining power. In the late 1800s, Prince Charles created the Societe des Bains de Mer in order to restore wealth. It consisted of a casino, hotels, and a theatre, from which sprung the glittering Monte Carlo area.

Monaco isn't good for those who love the great outdoors, apart from a few ornate parks. Those with light wallets should also stay away, unless they want to try their luck filling it up in Monaco's famous Casino de Monte Carlo. If one wants to rub cloaks with royalty and high society, then Monaco is the place to be.

Key Facts

Language:

The official language of Monaco is French, but English and Italian, as well as Monegasque and Occitan (local languages) are also spoken.

Passport/Visa:

The borderless region known as the Schengen Area includes the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. All these countries issue a standard Schengen visa that has a multiple entry option, and which allows the holder to travel freely within the borders of all the aforementioned countries. Monaco is considered a de-facto member of the Schengen zone because a traveller will need to pass through a Schengen zone country to enter Monaco. Although Monaco does not have its own visa policies, it closely follows the Schengen visa rules. Additionally, non-EEA passengers to Monaco must hold proof of repatriation, such as return or onward tickets, the necessary travel documentation for their next destination, and sufficient funds to cover their expenses while in the country. It is highly recommended that travellers' passports have at least six months' validity remaining after the intended date of departure from their travel destination. Immigration officials often apply different rules to those stated by travel agents and official sources.

Currency:

The unit of currency is the euro (EUR), divided into 100 cents. Money can be exchanged at banks, bureaux de change or hotels. Bank hours are usually 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday and are closed on weekends. The Credit Foncier de Monaco is open daily. Travellers cheques (US\$ are the preferred currency) are not widely accepted and should be exchanged at banks or a bureaux de change. All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Electricity:

The electrical current is 230 volts, 50 Hz. European round 2-pin plugs are used.

Travel to Monaco

Climate in Monaco

Monaco enjoys a mild, pleasant Mediterranean climate, averaging about 300 days of sunshine a year. Summer temperatures are usually in the 80F to 84F (26C to 29C) range, while winter temperatures range between 48F and 58F (8C to 14C). July and August are the hottest months, while spring and autumn are perfect times to travel to Monaco, as temperatures are at their mildest. The winter months of January and February tend to be the coldest and also receive the most rainfall.

Health Notes when travelling to Monaco

In general, no immunisations are necessary for travel to Monaco and there are no major health risks. The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) does not provide health cover in Monaco. It's advisable to carry enough personal medication with accompanying doctor's letter; medical insurance is recommended.

Safety Notes when travelling to Monaco

Trips to Monaco are usually trouble-free, but the usual, sensible precautions such as being vigilant after dark and taking care of valuables apply.

Customs in Monaco

Swimsuits, bare chests, and bare feet are restricted to beaches and swimming areas in Monaco. Appropriate dress is required for visits to religious buildings, as Monaco is largely Roman Catholic. Jacket and tie are required at the Casino.

Duty Free in Monaco

Passengers are allowed to bring in 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, one litre of spirits, medicines sufficient for personal requirements and other goods (for air travellers) up to a total value of EUR 430 per adult.

Doing Business in Monaco

Business in Monaco is usually conducted formally, so suits and ties are the norm. Greetings include a handshake and business cards are exchanged. French is the official language, though some English is spoken; it's best to ascertain beforehand which language will be used. Business hours are usually 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Communication in Monaco

The international access code for Monaco is +377. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). Visitors can purchase local prepaid SIM cards for unlocked phones; hotels, cafes and restaurants provide WiFi.

Tipping in Monaco

Most hotels and restaurants add a service charge in Monaco, but tipping extra for excellent service is appreciated. Porters and valets usually expect a tip. It is not necessary to tip taxi drivers, as they are self-employed.

Passport/Visa Note

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Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for Americans:

US citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond period of intended stay in Monaco.

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No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

Entry requirements for Canadians:

Canadian citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond their arrival in Monaco. No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

Entry requirements for UK nationals:

UK citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond period of intended stay in Monaco. No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

Entry requirements for Australians:

Australian citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond their arrival in Monaco. No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

Entry requirements for Irish nationals:

Irish citizens must have a passport that is valid upon their arrival in Monaco. No visa is required.

Entry requirements for New Zealanders:

New Zealand citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond their arrival in Monaco. No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

Entry requirements for South Africans:

South African citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least three months beyond their arrival in Monaco. A visa is required.

Tourist Offices

Monaco Tourism Office, Monaco: +377 9216 6116 or <http://www.visitmonaco.com>

Monaco Embassies

In the United States:

French Embassy, Washington DC, United States (also responsible for Monaco): +1 202 944 6000.

In Canada:

Monaco Consulate, Montreal, Canada: +1 514 878 5878.

In the United Kingdom:

French Embassy, London, United Kingdom (also responsible for Monaco): +44 (0)20 7073 1000.

In Australia:

French Embassy, Canberra, Australia (also responsible for Monaco): +61 (0)2 6216 0100.

In Ireland:

French Embassy, Dublin, Ireland (also responsible for Monaco): +353 (0)1 277 5000.

In New Zealand:

Consulate of Monaco, Auckland, New Zealand: +64 (0)9 523 3313.

In South Africa:

Honorary Consul of Monaco, Cape Town, South Africa: +27 (0)21 702 0991.

Foreign Embassies in Monaco

American Embassy

United States Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 4312 2222.

Canadian Embassy

Canadian Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 4443 2900.

British Embassy

British Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 4451 3100.

Australian Embassy

Australian Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 4059 3300.

Irish Embassy

Irish Honorary Consulate, Monaco: +377 93 157 045.

New Zealand Embassy

New Zealand Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 4501 4343.

South African Embassy

South African Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Monaco): +33 (0)1 5359 2323.

Currency

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Exchange rate for 1 EUR - Euro

0.00 BMD Bermudan Dollar	1.07 USD U.S. Dollar	0.86 GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	164.39 JPY Japanese Yen	1.47 CAD Canadian Dollar	0.97 CHF Swiss Franc
1.63 AUD Australian Dollar	42.33 UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	476.99 KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	100,010.53 LBP Lebanese Pound	5.22 LYD Libyan Dinar	7.37 BOB Bolivian Boliviano
0.00 NPR Nepalese Rupee	0.00 OMR Omani Rial	0.00 QAR Qatari Rial	1.45 SGD Singapore Dollar	11.63 SEK Swedish Krona	0.00 TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar
0.00 VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	62.44 DOP Dominican Peso	0.00 HRK Croatian Kuna	18.22 MXN Mexican Peso	656.03 XOF West African CFA Franc	0.00 PGK Papua New Guinean kina
0.00 BSD Bahamian Dollar	0.00 FJD Fiji Dollar	0.00 HNL Honduran Lempira	143.84 DZD Algerian Dinar	0.00 MMK Myanma Kyat	0.00 BWP Botswana Pula
4.00 PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	1,008.37 CLP Chilean Peso	415.67 AMD Armenia Dram	25.03 CZK Czech Koruna	18.94 MDL Moldova Lei	150.32 ISK Icelandic Krona
13,519.98 UZS Uzbekistan Sum	4.00 ILS Israeli New Sheqel	0.76 JOD Jordanian Dinar	0.00 KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	41.00 UYU Uruguayan Peso	0.00 MUR Mauritian Rupee
0.00 NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	11.69 NOK Norwegian Krone	4.33 PLN Polish Zloty	4.03 SAR Saudi Riyal	0.00 LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	39.53 THB Thai Baht
3.94 AED U.A.E Dirham	5.47 BRL Brazilian Real	4.98 RON Romanian New Leu	8.40 HKD Hong Kong Dollar	656.03 XAF Central African CFA Franc	27,298.82 VND Vietnamese Dong
943.81 ARS Argentine Peso	0.00 XCD East Caribbean Dollar	0.00 GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	10.81 MAD Moroccan Dirham	0.00 BHD Bahrain Dinar	1.07 PAB Panamanian Balboa
1.83 AZN Azerbaijan Manat	4,212.10 COP Colombian Peso	95.01 KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	388.98 HUF Hungarian Forint	11.70 TJS Tajikistan Ruble	17,271.44 IDR Indonesian Rupiah
51.52 EGP Egyptian Pound	1,460.09 KRW South Korean Won	8,012.15 PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	5.09 MYR Malaysian Ringgit	546.19 CRC Costa Rican Colón	1.79 NZD New Zealand Dollar
298.58 PKR Pakistani Rupee	98.20 RUB Russian Rouble	19.89 ZAR South African Rand	3.37 TND Tunisian Dinar	0.00 BBD Barbadian Dollar	1.96 BGN Bulgarian Lev
34.74 TRY Turkish Lira	61.55 PHP Philippine Peso	34.72 TWD New Taiwan Dollar	1,251.64 NGN Nigerian Naira	0.00 XPF CFP Franc	0.00 GHS Ghanaian Cedi
0.00 JMD Jamaican Dollar	0.00 ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	0.00 BND Brunei Dollar	117.02 RSD Serbian Dinar	7.78 CNY Chinese Yuan	7.46 DKK Danish Krone
3.75 TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	89.63 INR Indian Rupee				

Overview of the Attractions in Monaco

Public Holidays in Monaco

	2023	2024
New Year's Day	Mon. January 1	Mon. January 1
Saint Dévote's Day	Sat. January 27	Sat. January 27
Easter Monday	Wed. April 10	Mon. April 1
Labour Day	Wed. May 1	Wed. May 1
Ascension Day	Sat. May 18	Thu. May 9
Whit Monday	Wed. May 29	Mon. May 20
Corpus Christi	Sat. June 8	Thu. May 30
Assumption Day	Thu. August 15	Thu. August 15
Christmas Day	Wed. December 25	Wed. December 25