

# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME

“God so loved the world...” shouldn't we?

## San Marino

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Source: CIA World Factbook; Britannica.com; the Convention on Biological Diversity (www.cbd.it)



**CAPITAL:** San Marino (City)

**LOCATION:** Southern Europe, an enclave in Italy; the country is about 1/3 the size of Washington D.C.

**Population:** 34,467

**Overview:** Geographically the third smallest state in Europe (after the Holy See and Monaco), San Marino also claims to be the world's oldest republic. It is the last of 200 city-states that existed in medieval Italy. According to tradition, it was founded by a Christian stonemason named Marinus in A.D. 301.

The country's landscape is dominated by the huge, central limestone mass of Mount Titano. Its three summits were crowned by ancient

triple fortifications and may be seen from many miles away. Mount Titano and San Marino were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008.

Italian is San Marino's official language. San Marino's foreign policy is aligned with that of the EU, although it is not a member; social and political trends in the republic track closely with those of its larger neighbor, Italy.

**Economy:** Because centuries-long quarrying have exhausted Mount Titano's stone and ended the economy that depended upon it, San Marino is now without mineral resources. All electrical power is transferred via electrical grid from Italy. San Marino's economy relies heavily on tourism, banking, the manufacture and export of ceramics, clothing, fabrics, furniture, etc. Agriculture, although no longer the principle economic resource in the country, remains vital. Wheat, grapes and barley are the chief crops. About ¾ of the land is given to permanent cultivation.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Natural Resources and Environment:** San Marino has the typical Mediterranean climate with warm summers and mild to cool winters. Despite its small size, the country contains a high level of biological, geological and landscape diversity. Due to the presence of several ecotone belts, different vegetation types and a mosaic of human and wild landscapes, a large variety of species of floral and fauna exists in the country.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and petition:

- Social programs for the citizens of San Marino are extensive. All citizens receive free, comprehensive medical care and assistance in sickness, accident and old age. Education is free and compulsory up to age 16
- Tourism in San Marino has the greatest expansion, which makes a major contribution to the inhabitants' income. Alongside traditional excursion tourism, there is convention-type tourism, based on modern hotel facilities and residential vacation rentals
- Air pollution, water shortage and decreasing of rural farmlands due to urbanization are the main environment concerns