

Seven Hills of Rome

Vatican City (the smallest country in the world) is an independent country inside the city boundaries of Rome, the only existing example of a country within a city. Rome is often referred to as the City of Seven Hills due to its geographic location, and also as the "Eternal City". Rome is generally considered to be the cradle of Western civilization and Western Christian culture, and the centre of the Catholic Church.

Rome. (2023, Dec 30). In *Wikipedia*.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

Illustration: Roman coin of Vespasian showing their goddess Roma sitting on the Seven Hills of Rome. From about AD 71.



Vatican City

Vatican City...officially the Vatican City State...is a landlocked independent country, city-state, microstate, and enclave within Rome, Italy. It became independent from Italy in 1929 with the Lateran Treaty, and it is a distinct territory under "full ownership, exclusive dominion, and sovereign authority and jurisdiction" of the Holy See, itself a sovereign entity under international law, which maintains the city-state's temporal power and governance, diplomatic, and spiritual independence. With an area of 49 hectares (121 acres) and as of 2023 a population of about 764, it is the smallest state in the world both by area and by population. As governed by the Holy See, Vatican City State is an ecclesiastical or sacerdotal-monarchical state ruled by the Pope, who is the bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church. The highest state functionaries are all Catholic clergy of various origins.

Vatican City (2023, Dec 30). In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_City

The Holy Father

The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful. LUMEN GENTIUM, 23

The Holy Father (2023 Dec 31) *The Holy See*. https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/index.htm