

# Intersting Vatican facts

## Interesting facts about Vatican city

What are the most interesting facts about Vatican city ? You can find them below.

### **1. It is the smallest country on the world.**

The area of the country is only 0.44 square kilometers. You can walk around the whole Vatican country in less than 1 hour.

### **2. It is surrounded by wall like a castle.**

The Vatican city is a hill surrounded by a wall.

### **3. Swiss guards consist of actual Swiss citizens.**

They must be men between 19 and 30 years old and at least 174 cm (5 ft 8.5 in) tall. They need to be Christians who completed basic military training.

### **4. It is the most militarized country on the world!**

10% of the Vatican population are soldiers. Of the nearly 900 citizens, there are about 100 soldiers of the Swiss Guard.

Their main task is to protect the Pope.

### **5. It has one of the highest crime rate on**

## **the world.**

Vatican city has less than 1000 citizens. However, every year about 7 million tourists come here. That is why the crime rate per capita is so high.

## **6. The first non-Italian Pope since XVI century was John Paul II.**

He was Polish, elected in 1978.

He helped end Communist rule in Europe, improved the Catholic Church's relations with other religions (Islam, Judaism etc.)

He also officially made public apologies for over 100 wrongdoings made by Catholic Church through the years.

## **7. The Apostolic Palace has more than 1400 rooms!**

It's really huge. The most famous room in The Apostolic Palace is Sistine Chapel, venue of the Conclave (election of a new pope).

## **8. St Peter's Basilica has an area of 40 000 square meters.**

It's enormous. It is more than area of six football fields.

## **9. Vatican license plates of cars are marked with letters SVC- "Stato Citta Vaticano".**

It means "The State - Vatican City". Malicious read it as "Se Vedesse Christo," means "If only Christ could see this."

# 10. The most frequently traveling pope was John Paul II. He visited approximately 130 countries.

He was also one of the most travelled world leaders in history. That's why we like him so much ☐

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