

San Marino

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

San Marino is a tiny, **landlocked** republic completely surrounded by Italy, perched on the slopes of Monte Titano. According to legend, a stonemason named *Marinus* fled religious persecution in the 4th century and founded a small community here that grew into a self-governing state. San Marino is often called the world's oldest surviving republic, still run under a constitution written in 1600.

Most visitors come on a day trip from Italy's Adriatic coast, especially nearby Rimini. The historic center sits on top of the mountain, its medieval towers, walls, and viewpoints looking out over the surrounding hills toward the sea. San Marino suits travelers who enjoy walking through a car-free old town and taking in wide views rather than those planning a multi-day stay — a few hours covers the highlights.

Money & payments

San Marino is not part of the European Union, but it uses the euro as its official currency under a special monetary agreement, so no currency exchange is needed if you're arriving from most of Europe.

Currency

CURRENCY

EUR

1 EUR

1.102 USD

1 USD = 0.9073 EUR

Cards widely accepted

ATMs are easy to find in the historic center and in Borgo Maggiore. Budget travelers sticking to cafés and self-guided walking can get by cheaply; costs rise quickly with sit-down restaurant meals and museum tickets.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room in the historic center	80 – 160 EUR $88 – $176
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) two-course meal with a drink	25 – 45 EUR $28 – $50
Inexpensive meal piadina or pizza lunch	10 – 16 EUR $11 – $18
Local beer	4 – 6 EUR $4 – $7
Coffee	1.2 – 2 EUR $1 – $2
Water small bottle	1.5 – 2.5 EUR $2 – $3
Transit ticket local bus fare	1 – 1.5 EUR $1 – $2
Taxi (per km)	1.5 – 2.5 EUR $2 – $3

Tipping

San Marino follows Italian tipping habits: a service charge is sometimes already built into the bill, and any extra tip is a way to reward good service rather than an obligation.

Restaurant round up or ~5-10%	Optional
Hotel small amount for porters/housekeeping	Optional
Taxi round up	Optional
Tour guide €5-10 for a private tour	Optional
Bar	Not customary

Rounding up the bill or leaving a few euros is appreciated at restaurants and for taxi drivers. Bar staff and hotel porters do not expect anything extra.

Electricity

San Marino uses the same plugs and power as Italy: Type C, F, and L, at 230 V / 50 Hz. Most modern phone and laptop chargers handle this automatically; you'll only need an adapter if you're arriving from outside Europe.

ELECTRICITY



Type C

ELECTRICITY



Type F

ELECTRICITY

Type L

230 V · 50 Hz

Language

Italian is the official language and what you'll hear in shops, on signs, and in daily life. Staff at the main towers, museums, and hotels in the historic center generally speak enough English to help visitors; it's less common once you're outside the capital.

Useful phrases

Hello	Buongiorno
Thank you	Grazie
Please	Per favore
Yes	Sì
No	No
Goodbye	Arrivederci
Excuse me	Scusi
Sorry	Mi dispiace
How much?	Quanto costa?
Where is...?	Dove si trova?
Help	Aiuto
Cheers	Salute

Staying connected

San Marino is not an EU member, so a European mobile plan's roam-like-at-home allowance may not automatically cover it the way it covers Italy — check with your provider before relying on it for data. Mobile coverage itself is good throughout the historic center and surrounding towns, on the same networks used in neighboring Italy.

Safety & emergencies

San Marino has very little crime, and violence against tourists is essentially unheard of. The main risks are the ordinary kind: pickpocketing in crowds near the towers and main square in peak season, and steep, sometimes slippery cobblestone streets and steps in the historic center, so wear sturdy shoes.

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	AMBULANCE	FIRE BRIGADE
112	113	118	115

Health

Tap water is safe to drink everywhere in the country. Pharmacies are easy to find in the historic center and in Borgo Maggiore and can help with minor ailments without a doctor's visit. San Marino has no unusual health risks and no required vaccinations for travelers. Because the country sits outside the EU, an EU health insurance card may not be accepted here, so check that your travel insurance covers care in San Marino specifically before you go.

Visas & entry

San Marino has no border checks with Italy, so in practice visitors cross freely as part of a trip to the surrounding region. It is not a Schengen member itself, but because it has no independent border control, entry works in line with Italy's Schengen rules: most nationalities that can enter the Schengen Area visa-free for up to 90 days can visit San Marino the same way, and travelers who hold a Schengen visa for Italy do not need a separate one for San Marino.

Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Dress modestly for the Basilica di San Marino and other churches — cover shoulders and knees. The Captains Regent's changing of the guard at Palazzo Pubblico draws a crowd; keep a respectful distance and stay quiet during the ceremony itself. San Marino has no real bargaining culture, so prices in shops and restaurants are fixed.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays can close shops, banks, and some restaurants, especially the Feast of San Marino and the Republic on 3 September, the country's national day, when the historic center fills with parades and reenactments in medieval costume.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Epiphany
Feb 5	Feast of Saint Agatha
Mar 25	Anniversary of the Arengo
May 1	Labour Day
Jul 28	Liberation from Fascism
Aug 15	Ferragosto (Assumption)
Sep 3	The Feast of San Marino and the Republic
Nov 1	All Saints' Day
Nov 2	Commemoration of all those who died at war
Dec 8	Immaculate Conception
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	St. Stephen's Day
Dec 31	New Year's Eve
movable — May/Jun	Corpus Christi
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Monday
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Sunday

Many small shops and some restaurants close for a couple of hours in the early afternoon, and Sunday hours are more limited — check ahead if you plan to shop or eat outside the main tourist streets.

Getting around

- On foot: The historic center is compact and mostly pedestrian, but steep and stepped in places — comfortable shoes make the walk between the towers and the main square much easier.
- By cable car: The San Marino Cable Car links Borgo Maggiore, at the foot of the mountain, with the historic center in about two minutes, saving a stiff uphill walk.
- By bus: Local buses connect the capital with Borgo Maggiore and the country's other towns, and a direct line runs to Rimini in Italy; buy tickets on board or from ticket machines.

Driving

- Speed limits: 50 km/h in built-up areas and around 70 km/h on other roads — San Marino has no true motorway.
- Parking: Signed car parks ring the historic center just outside the old walls; public elevators and escalators carry you up into town from them, which is much easier than the steep walk in.
- Fuel: Petrol (benzina) and diesel (gasolio) are usually a bit cheaper than in Italy. Stations are self-service or attended and take cards.
- Tolls: San Marino has no toll roads or vignette system.

URBAN	RURAL	PETROL	DIESEL
50 km/h	70 km/h	Benzina	Gasolio

Drive on the right

No motorway vignette needed

Food & drink

San Marino's food is close to that of the surrounding Emilia-Romagna and Marche regions of Italy, built around fresh pasta, cured meats, and local cheeses. A typical day starts with coffee and a pastry, a light lunch, and a longer meal in the evening, often several courses eaten slowly at the table.

Local specialties include *piadina*, a thin flatbread filled with cheese, cold cuts, or vegetables, and *torta tre monti*, a layered wafer cake shaped like San Marino's three towers and coated in chocolate. Formaggio di fossa, a cheese aged in underground pits, and cured meats such as prosciutto and salami are common on antipasto plates.

San Marino also makes its own wine on the slopes below the capital, mainly from the Sangiovese grape. Meals are usually eaten at small family-run trattorie rather than chains, and a slow, unhurried lunch or dinner is the norm.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Piadina
Thin flatbread filled with cheese, cold cuts, or vegetables.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Torta Tre Monti
Layered wafer cake shaped like San Marino's three towers, coated in chocolate.

DRINKS

Sangiovese
The main red-wine grape grown on the slopes below the capital.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Formaggio di fossa
Cheese aged in underground pits, a regional specialty.

San Marino – Plan Your Trip

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Where to explore

San Marino's tourist life centers on two towns.

San Marino is the walled historic capital on top of Monte Titano, home to the three medieval towers, the Basilica di San Marino, and the government seat at Palazzo Pubblico. This is where almost all visitors spend their time, walking the old streets and viewpoints inside the walls.

Borgo Maggiore sits at the foot of the mountain and is the country's main market town, linked to the capital by the San Marino Cable Car. It has a lively Thursday market and makes a good base if hotels in the historic center are full.

Authentic Italian Dining

This selection features five authentic Italian dining venues in San Marino, each offering traditional cuisine with a focus on regional recipes and pizza specialties. The list includes establishments known for their local cultural significance and diverse Italian culinary styles, from classic trattorias to contemporary bars with Wi-Fi amenities.





A Il Beccafico

Traditional Italian restaurant located in the heart of San Marino.

43 Contrada Santa Croce, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93527, 12.44809)

B Ristorante La Fratta

Serves classic Italian dishes with an emphasis on regional flavors.

10 Salita alla Rocca, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93496, 12.44873)

C Smaller

Offers Mediterranean cuisine specializing in pizza and Italian classics.

(43.93423, 12.44789)

D Il Matterello

Italian restaurant known for its authentic recipes and local ingredients.

(43.98168, 12.49378)

E Cappuccino

Bar and Italian restaurant featuring Wi-Fi and casual dining options.

4 Via 3 Settembre, Serravalle 47892, San Marino
(43.97377, 12.48516)

Historic Landmarks of San Marino

Discover San Marino's rich medieval heritage through its iconic trio of fortress towers—Guaita, De La Fratta, and Montale—each perched atop Mount Titano with commanding views over the city. Explore the Basilica of St. Marino, an important Catholic landmark, and admire the Statua della Libertà in the central piazza. This collection highlights Monte Titano, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the highest peak in the republic, known for its natural beauty and historical significance.





A Guaita Castle

Historic medieval fortress and tower built in the 11th century, known as the oldest and most prominent of three towers overlooking the city. It features well-preserved medieval architecture and panoramic views.

Salita alla Rocca, Città di San Marino, San Marino (43.93526, 12.44928)

sanmarinosite.com, +378549991369

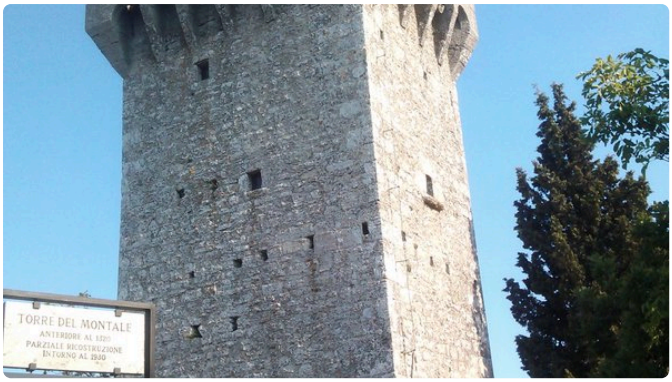


B De La Fratta Castle

Medieval tower built in the 13th century on the remains of an ancient Roman fortress, featuring a museum with a large collection of weapons.

Salita alla Cesta, 47890, San Marino (43.93263, 12.45136)

+378 549 991295



C Torre del Montale

The Montale is one of three towered peaks overlooking the city of San Marino, the capital of San Marino.

Salita al Montale, 47890, San Marino (43.92999, 12.45247)

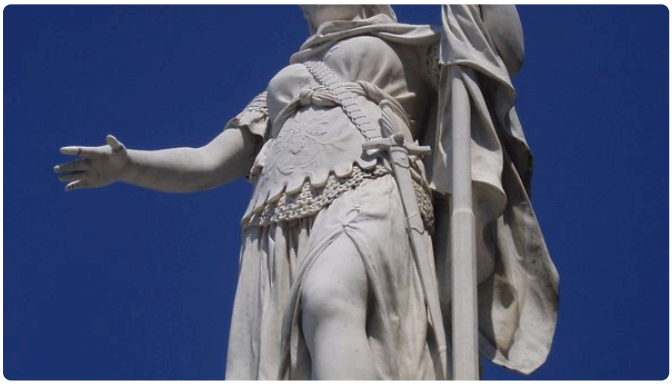


D Basilica of St. Marino

The Basilica of Saint Marinus is a Catholic church located in the Republic of San Marino.

8 Via Il Contradino, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93714, 12.44668)

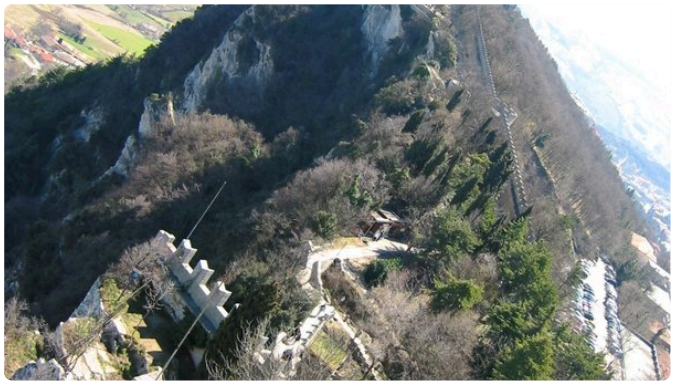
castellidisanmarino.com/basilica-san-marino/



E Statua della Libertà

Statua della Libertà is a statue in Piazza della Libertà, City of San Marino, the capital city of the Republic of San Marino.

20 Via Eugippo, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93650, 12.44660)



F Mount Titano

Monte Titano is a mountain of the Apennines and the highest point in the country of San Marino.

Salita al Montale, 47890, San Marino (43.93183, 12.45133)

San Marino Art & Museums

This collection highlights San Marino's diverse museums featuring archaeological artifacts, artistic collections, and thematic exhibits on migration and curiosities. It also includes a cultural venue offering contemporary art and event spaces, reflecting the country's rich heritage and evolving cultural scene.



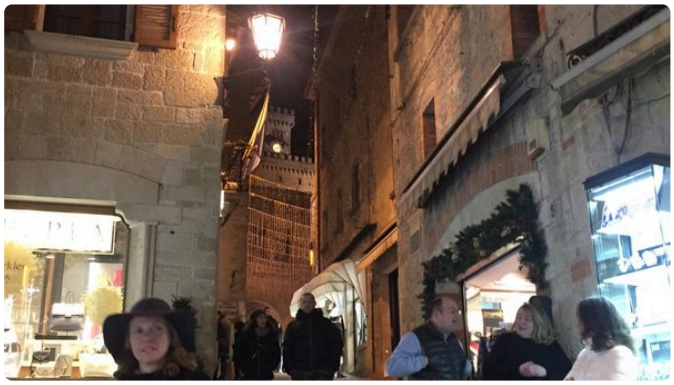


A Curiosity Museum

Museum showcasing an eclectic collection of bizarre, rare, and unusual objects and curiosities from around the world.

26 Salita alla Rocca, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93518, 12.44850)

museodellecuriosita.sm, +378992437



B State Museum

Museum with archaeological, artistic, and numismatic collections showcasing the history and culture of San Marino across four floors.

Contrada Santa Croce 20 (43.93562, 12.44740)

Mo–Fr	09:00–17:00
Su	09:30–22:30

titanusmuseum.com, +39 0549 982845

C Museo della Tortura

Exhibits focusing on historical instruments of torture and penal practices.

2 Piazzetta del Placito Feretrano, San Marino 47890, San Marino (43.93525, 12.44690)

thetorturemuseum.it

D Emigrant Museum

An intriguing museum devoted to all aspects of migration. Documents and pictures come together to explore the topic.

Contrada Omerelli 24, 47890 San Marino, San Marino (43.93748, 12.44520)

museoemigrante.sm, +378 549 885 171

E Kursaal Sala Congressi

Contemporary art center and conference venue hosting cultural events.

(43.92834, 12.45220)

DATA SOURCES

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