



Country Profile: Macao

Macao, formerly a Chinese territory under Portuguese administration, became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on December 20, 1999. The SAR maintains a high degree of autonomy, except in the areas of defense and foreign policy. Macau retains its own currency, laws, and border controls. Facilities for tourism are well developed. Gambling and tourism are the largest sectors in Macau's economy. With a population of approximately 543,000, Macau covers a 29.2 square-kilometer area including the peninsula of Macau, connected to the PRC, and the two islands of Taipa and Coloane linked by a causeway 2.2 km long. Read the [Department of State Background Notes](#) on Macau for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Macao SAR (Special Administrative Region {of China})
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Macao
Boundary Countries:	China
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Macao
Country Size:	28.2 sq km
Population:	456,989

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Cantonese 87.9%, Hokkien 4.4%, Mandarin 1.6%, other Chinese dialects 3.1%, other 3%
Currency:	Macao Pataca (MOP)
Predominant Religions:	Buddhist 50%, Roman Catholic 15%, none and other 35%
National Holidays:	National Day (Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China), 1 October (1949); note- 20 December 1999 is celebrated as Macau SAR Establishment Day
Economic Status:	Macao's well-to-do economy has remained one of the most open in the world since its reversion to China in 1999.
Security:	No regular military forces. Defense is the responsibility of China.
US Presence:	There is no US diplomatic or consular presence in Macau. Consular assistance for US citizens is provided by the US Consulate General in Hong Kong, 26 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong; tel (852) 2523-9011 or (852) 2841-2211; fax (852) 2845-4845; e-mail questions@hongkongacs.com ; website http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov . The mailing address (from the US) of the Consulate General in Hong Kong is PSC 461, Box 5, FPO AP 96521-0006. US citizens living in or visiting Macau are encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the US Consulate General in Hong Kong and obtain updated information on travel and security within Macau.

Major Airports:	Airports: 1, Airports w/paved runways: 1 Macau International Airport (MFM/MMC) Macau Airport, Macau, 29/F Bank of China Building, Av. Dr. Marco Soares, Macau International Airport, MACAU Tel: +853 861111 Fax: +853 785465 Website: www.macau-airport.com Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +853 8981 422 Fax: +853 861 192
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