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General

The principality of Monaco is located in Western Europe on the Mediterranean Sea and borders France.

The climate is Mediterranean with mild, wet, winters and hot, dry summers.

Monaco consists of four quarters: Monaco-Ville, the capital, situated on a rocky headland; La Condamine, the business district; Monte Carlo, the N section; and Fontvieille, the industrial area in La Condamine, is the fourth section.

Monaco is the site of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the French franc, consisting of 100 centimes.

Government

Monaco is a constitutional monarchy with a hereditary monarch, and an elected National Council, and Communal Council. The capital is Monaco.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 27, National Holiday; Easter Monday; Ascension Day; Whit Monday; Aug. 15, Assumption Day; Nov. 1, All Saints' Day; Nov. 19, National Day; Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

Tourism is the principal industry. Light industries, including chemicals, plastics, electronics, and engineering are also important to the economy.

Languages

The official language is French. English, Italian, and Monegasque are also spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALPHA (-1).

U.S. Embassy

There is no embassy in Monaco; however, the U.S. Consul General in Marseille, France is accredited to Monaco.