INTRODUCTION
Colonized by the Portuguese in the 16th century, Macau was the first European settlement in the Far East. Macau became the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China in 1999. China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's political and economic system would not be imposed on Macau, and that Macau would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" in all matters except foreign affairs and defense for the subsequent 50 years.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President of China XI Jinping
Head of Government
Chief Executive HO Iat Seng
Government Type
executive-led limited democracy; a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China
Legislature
unicameral Legislative Assembly or Regiao Administrativa Especial de Macau (33 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income, Chinese special administrative region economy; known for apparel exports and gambling tourism; currency pegged to Hong Kong dollar; significant recession due to 2015 Chinese anticorruption campaign; COVID-19 further halved economic activity
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $35.58 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $54,800 (2020 est.)
Industries - tourism, gambling, clothing, textiles, electronics, footwear, toys
Agricultural products - pork, poultry, beef, pig fat, pig offals, eggs, pepper, cattle offals, cattle hides, goose/guinea fowl meat
Exports $1.45 billion (2018 est.)
  broadcasting equipment, jewelry, watches, trunks/cases, telephones (2019)
  partners: Hong Kong 66%, China 9% (2019)
Imports $11.1 billion (2018 est.)
  jewelry, watches, electricity, aircraft, cars (2019)
  partners: China 33%, Hong Kong 31%, France 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
630,400 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.79% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Chinese 88.7%, Portuguese 1.1%, mixed 1.1%, other 9.2% (includes Macanese - mixed Portuguese and Asian ancestry) (2016 est.)
Language
Cantonese 80.1%, Mandarin 5.5%, other Chinese dialects 5.3%, Tagalog 3%, English 2.8%, Portuguese 0.6%, other 2.8% (2016 est.)
Religion
folk religion 58.9%, Buddhist 17.3%, Christian 7.2%, other 1.2%, none 15.4% (2010 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 100% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.46% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 28.2 sq km
Land: 28.2 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
subtropical; marine with cool winters, warm summers
Natural Resources
negligible

as of October 2021