

Review

LISTS



Maldives



Monaco

Small is (Occasionally) Beautiful

A handful of little countries have made it big, in part because they are so small. San Marino, Monaco and Liechtenstein, the European fairy-tale states, all benefit from rich, friendly neighbors and curious tourists. Brunei has oil and Barbados has turquoise waters, while Iceland has codfish, a NATO base and Bjork.

But far more often than not, small means physical isolation, few resources and no way to achieve economies of scale in manufacturing or agriculture. With economies that are just too small to work efficiently, many of these mini-states would probably have been better off insisting on remaining dependents of 19th-century powers – an approach that has done wonders for living standards in territories ranging from Anguilla (Britain) to Greenland (Denmark) to St. Pierre et Miquelon (France).

COUNTRY	POPULATION	AREA (SQ. KM.)	PER CAPITA INCOME	LIFE EXPECTANCY
San Marino	29,000	61	\$34,600 (2001)	82
Monaco	32,000	2	\$27,000 (2000)	80
Liechtenstein	33,000	160	\$25,000 (1999)	79
Barbados	280,000	431	\$17,000 (2005)	73
Iceland	299,000	103,000	\$35,600 (2005)	80
Brunei	379,000	5,770	\$23,600 (2003)	75
Tuvalu	12,000	26	\$1,100 (2000)	68
Nauru	13,000	21	\$5,000 (2005)	63
Palau	21,000	458	\$5,800 (2001)	70
Sao Tome and Principe	193,000	1000	\$1,200 (2003)	67
Vanuatu	209,000	12,000	\$2,900 (2003)	63
Maldives	359,000	300	\$3,900 (2002)	64

SOURCE: CIA World Factbook, 2006

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