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## **Andorra – the largest of the European microstates**

**Andorra is one of the smallest states in Europe, covering 468 km<sup>2</sup>, but is home to a wealth of nature and important culture. Ten per cent of the territory is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but the Pyrenean country hides many curiosities such as wine-growing recovery, despite its altitude, or the smallest Romanesque architectural site on the continent.**

Andorra is a country to discover year-round, with many hidden spots providing it with its own personality and standing. Not only thanks to its surface area, covering 468 km<sup>2</sup>, but also for a series of curiosities that visitors will discover on their trip. One of the country's singular features is its political make-up. It is also the only European country with two Heads of State: the Bishop of Urgell (Lerida) and the President of the French Republic.

Continuing with the political sphere, the Casa de la Vall, built in 1850 and home to the Andorran Parliament, is the smallest in the continent. However, its nature heritage is highly valuable for the Pyrenean country since 10% of the country is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The jewel in the crown is the Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley, although Andorra has many environmentally interesting spots.

### **Reduced size to miniatures**

Architecture is also one of Andorra's historical legacies. There are dozens of Romanesque buildings, although the over 40 churches are small in size. This is due to the mountain geography that set the nature of these beautiful structures which preserve all their splendour.

Another curious visit is the Maragda Building (Ordino) at the Miniature Museum, home to the largest private collection of miniatures and micro-miniatures by Nikolai Siadrityi. The work of this artist, produced in gold, platinum, fruit seeds, grains of rice and paper, can be appreciated through the microscope. An unmissable trip to a curious and interesting museum.

### **Wine at altitude**

Andorra's wine-growing tradition has been recovered in recent years thanks to the Bodega Beal. The winery is located 1,050 metres high and, despite the land and weather conditions, has managed to produce the region's wine, *Cim del cel*, which has won major sector renown around the world. A unique and interesting country.

### **Further information:**

[www.andorra.ad](http://www.andorra.ad)