

# First papal visit to Arabian peninsula

Pope Francis' visit to the United Arab Emirates marks the first ever papal visit to the Arabian Peninsula, the birthplace of Islam

## NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS BY COUNTRY

% of total population



UAE  
1.2 million  
12.8%

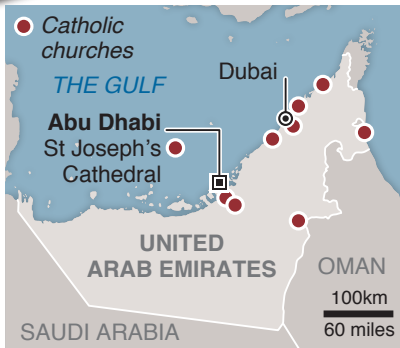
Home to around 1 million Roman Catholics, almost all expatriate workers

## ITINERARY

- Feb 3:** Pope flies to Abu Dhabi
- Feb 4:** Meets with **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, at Presidential Palace

Visits **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** – largest in UAE – to hold private meeting with Muslim Council of Elders

Attends International Interfaith Meeting at **Founder's Memorial** – built to honour late **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**, founding father of UAE



- Feb 5:** Visits **St Joseph's Cathedral**. Celebrates Mass at **Zayed Sports City** stadium, attended by around 120,000 people

**Departs for Rome**