

Monaco

Europe

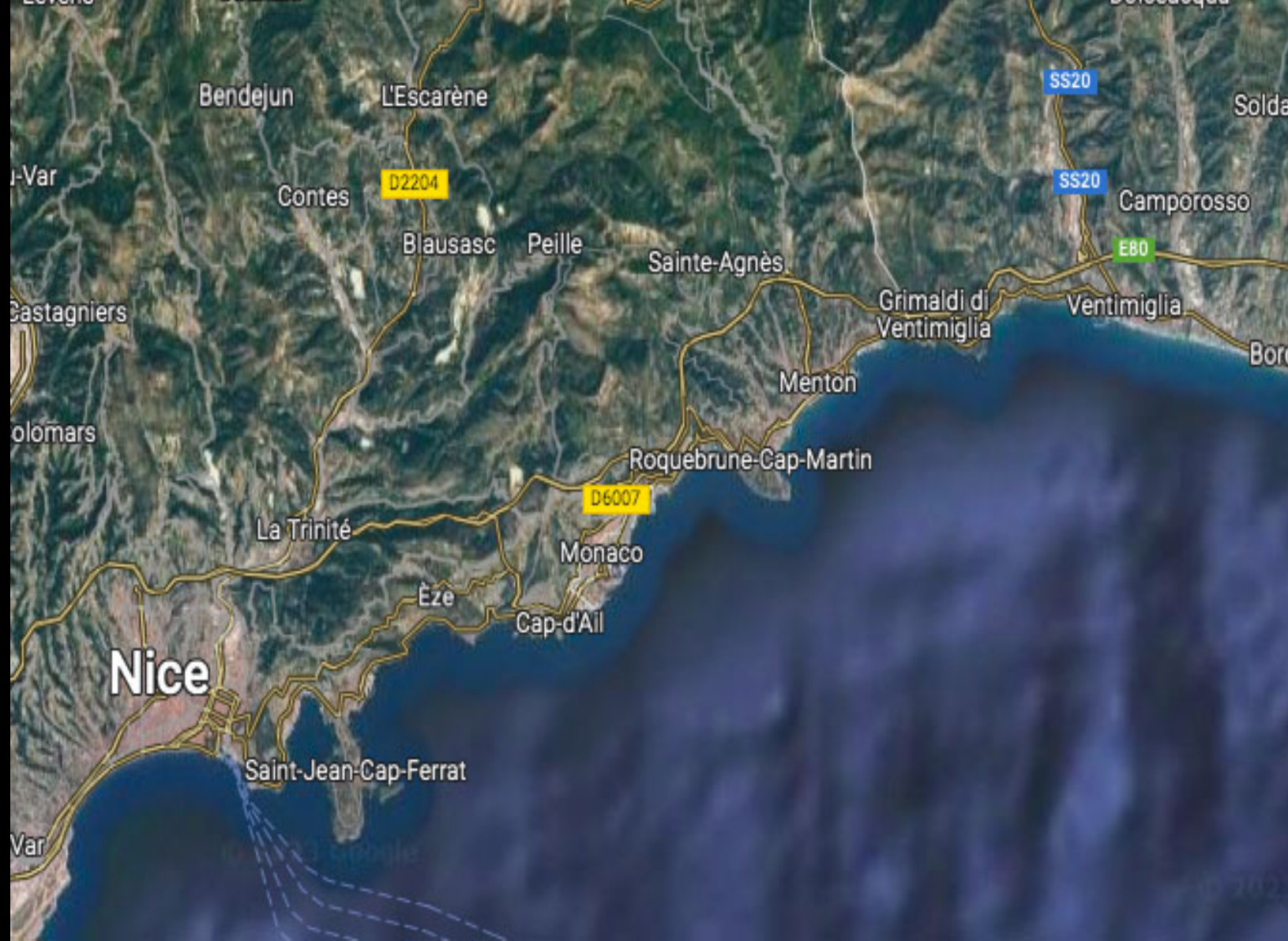
Teaching the Bahá'í Faith

Bahá'í Geography - Monaco

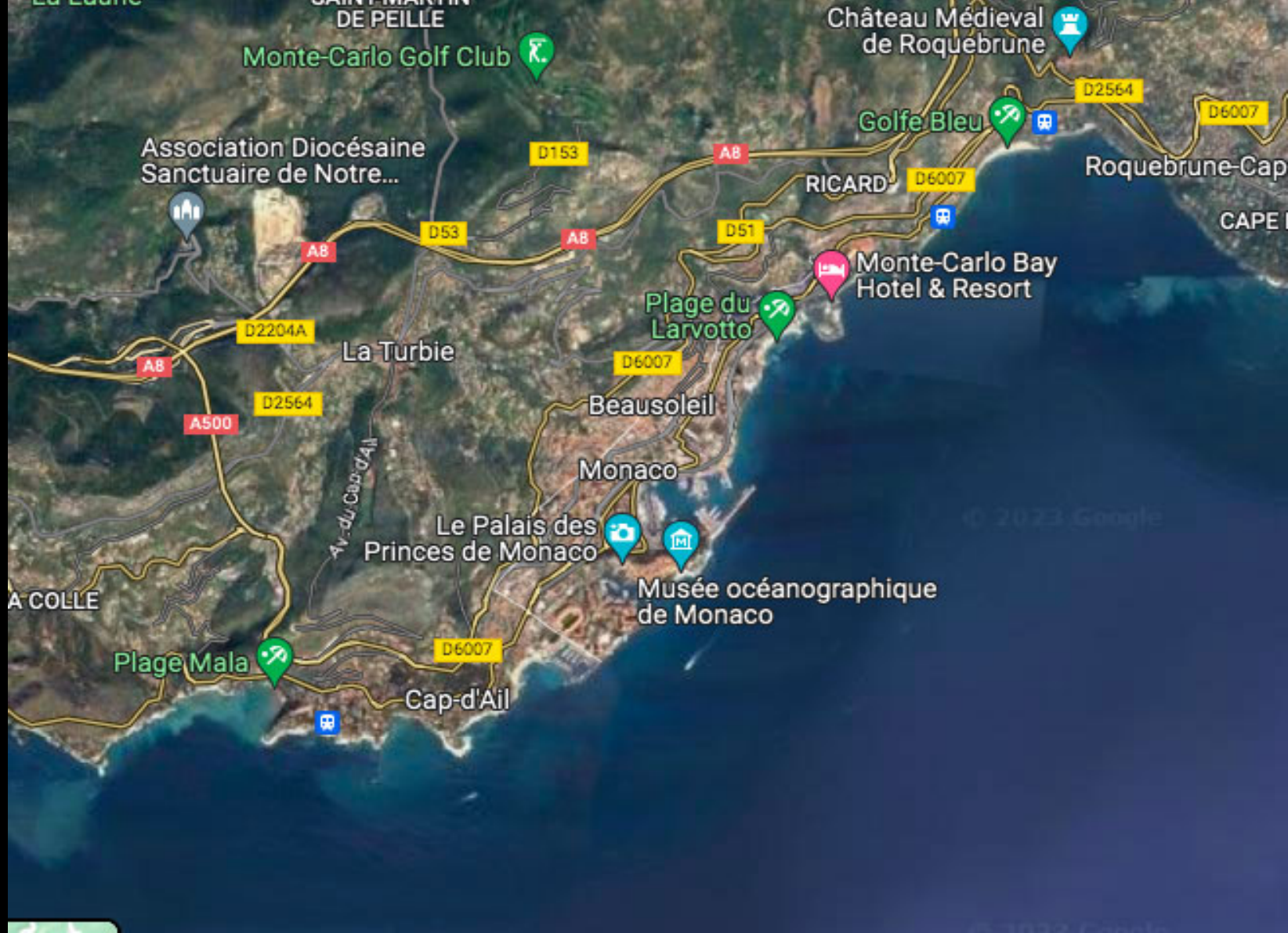
Monaco

The Principality of Monaco on the French Riviera is a sovereign city-state with an area of 2.1 km², a land border with France of 5.47 km and a coastline of 3.83 km. Its population today of 38,700 residents, of which 9,500 are Monégasque, makes it the most densely populated country in the world. The Monte Carlo Casino and Monaco's role as a tax-free haven have made it wealthy, with over 30% of the residents millionaires.

Monaco
on the
Mediterranean
Coast
of
France



Monaco



Monaco





Monaco

Monaco



Monaco



Monaco



Monaco



Monaco



Monaco

Monaco is a constitutional monarchy, with Prince Albert II as head of state. The House of Grimaldi has ruled Monaco since 1297. Monaco is a member of the United Nations. There is a famous Oceanographic Museum, and the International Atomic Energy Agency Environment Laboratory, part of the UN.



Monaco

Knights of Bahá'u'lláh

There were five Knights of Bahá'u'lláh for Monaco:

- Nellie French
- Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí
- Olivia Kelsey, and
- Florence Ullrich.



Casino de Monte Carlo, Monaco

Nellie French

Nellie French (1868-1954) from the United States, studied singing in Italy 1888-1892 and learned of the Bahá'í Faith in 1896. She met 'Abdu'l-Bahá on pilgrimage in 1921, and Shoghi Effendi on a second pilgrimage in 1952. She had already been travel-teaching in Spitsbergen, the Magallanes in South America, Iceland and Australia. She arrived in Monaco on 12 September 1953 at age 85, the oldest Knight of Bahá'u'lláh. She died at her post in January 1954.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Nellie French

©Bahai World News Service

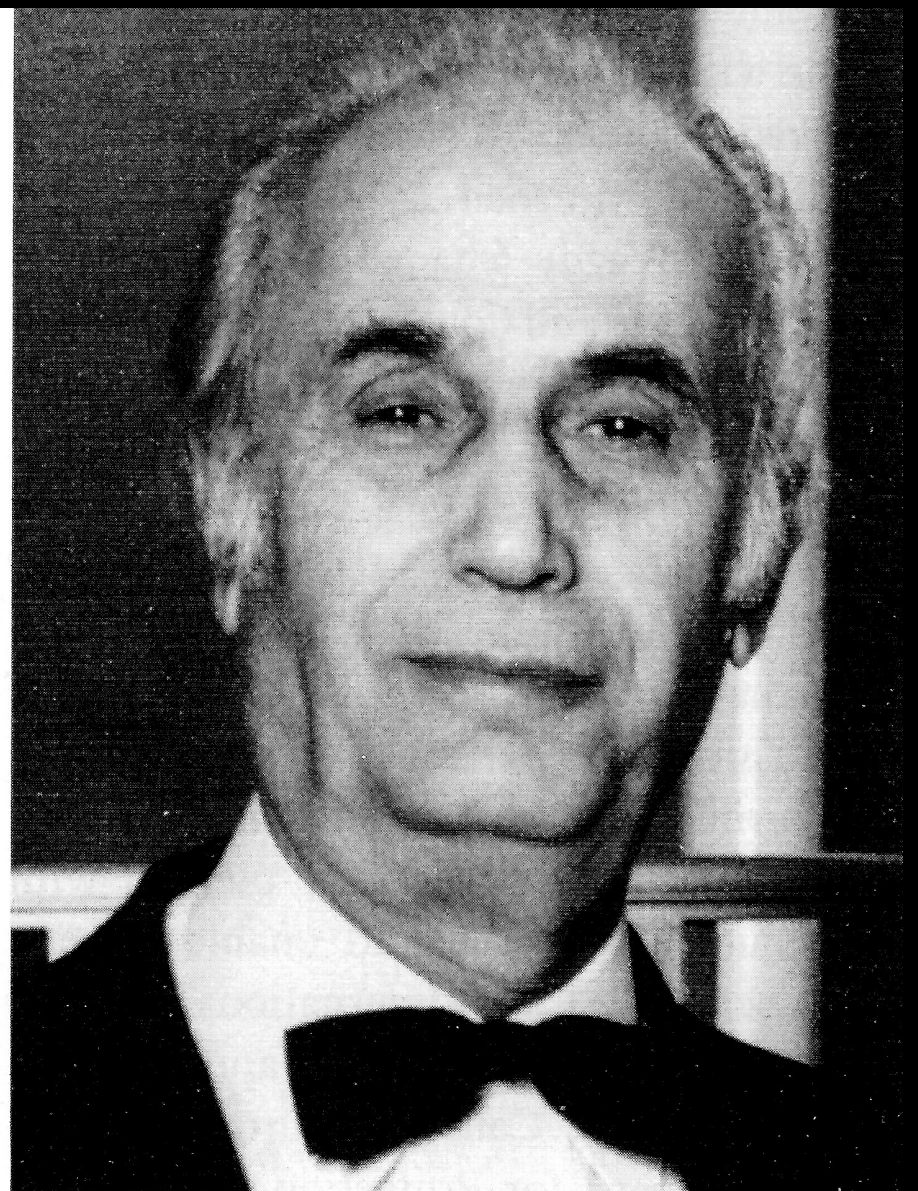


Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí

'Azízu'lláh Navídí (1913-1987) was a lawyer in Teheran defending the innocent, rich or poor, free of charge, especially the oppressed Bahá'ís, becoming legal advisor to the Ministries of Interior and Defence. He married Shamsí (1925-2007) in 1940. On pilgrimage to meet the Guardian in 1953, Shoghi Effendi said Aziz would be the representative of the Guardian, and 'had been chosen to safeguard the security' of Iran and that 'he would defend the Bahá'ís internationally'. He showed them the map of the goals of the Ten Year Crusade and asked them to 'spread to the four corners of the Earth.'

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Aziz Navidí



Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí

They attended the Stockholm and Kampala Intercontinental Teaching Conferences, and decided to leave all their wealth and position in Teheran behind. The Guardian first suggested that they go to the Marquesas Islands, but the week before departing, they received a cable from the Guardian, 'Change of plans please proceed to Monaco as Mrs French has passed away.' Shamsi and her two daughters arrived in March 1954 and Aziz joined them in November 1954 after defending the Bahá'ís in Yazd.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí

Their 12 year old daughter had studied in a French school and served as interpreter. They would go to parks to meet other mothers and teach them the Faith, inviting them for tea in their small home.

Aziz studied international law in Paris, and the Guardian appointed him to the Commission that appealed to the United Nations in Geneva and New York about the Iranian attempt to exterminate the Bahá'í community. He then defended imprisoned Bahá'ís in Algeria and Morocco. Shoghi Effendi gave him the title 'Shield of the Faith'.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí

Aziz met Prince Rainier of Monaco, and made such an impact on him that 'One of the most beautiful responses to the Peace message... was received by the House of Justice from Prince Rainier of Monaco.' They pioneered to Mauritius in 1968 for nine years, getting legal recognition for NSAs in the Indian Ocean and Africa.

Shamsí and 'Azízu'lláh Navídí

When Aziz passed away in London in 1987, the Universal House of Justice praised his indefatigable resourcefulness and sacrificial effort. Shamsí went to London to teach in diplomatic circles, recognised by the House of Justice in 2008 as 'Ambassador of the Faith in the United Kingdom.'

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Olivia Kelsey

Olivia Kelsey (1889-1991) from Ohio, married Arthur Kelsey in 1929 and became a Bahá'í three years later, writing articles, plays and books about the Bahá'í Faith. When Arthur died, she began pioneering, and was asked to settle in Monaco to replace Nellie French. On pilgrimage in 1954, Shoghi Effendi told her to stay until the first Local Spiritual Assembly was formed.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)



Olivia
Kelsey
←
and
Florence
Ullrich
→



Florence Ullrich

Florence Ullrich (1933-2016), a niece of **Hand of the Cause Leroy Loas**, attended the Intercontinental Teaching Conference in Chicago, and gave up continuing to graduate school to go pioneering. She and Olivia met in New York and sailed for France together, reaching Monaco in March 1954. In April 1955, after three local people became Bahá'ís, they were able to form a Local Spiritual Assembly.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)



An early Local Spiritual Assembly of Monaco

back row: Shamsí Navidí (second left), Olivia Kelsey (fourth left), Aziz Navidí (right)
front row Florence Ullrich (left)

Olivia Kelsey

In 1959, she moved to Toulouse to help the Bahá'í community, and traveled throughout France for the protection of the Faith. In 1964, with her health failing, she returned to America and during the Five Year Plan from 1974 continued travel teaching at the age of 85, passing away in 1981.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Florence Ullrich Kelley

Florence remained in Monaco until July 1957, when Shoghi Effendi gave her permission to leave in order to get married in Rome to US Navy Captain Lawrence Kelley. After Rome, following Larry Kelley's assignments, Florence served on the National Spiritual Assembly of Hawaii in 1966, then moved to Alexandria, Virginia in 1968, serving on the US NSA 1972-74 before returning to Hawaii where she passed away in 2016.

(Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 341-344)

Monaco

