

# SAINT HELENA

Think of a place far from the madding crowd, think of a place where heritage and nature are in harmony; think of a place with warm and friendly people .. think no more ... come and see for yourself.

**A tropical Island of unspoilt peace and**



beauty

**Latitude 16° S  
Longitude 5°45' W**

Saint Helena in The South Atlantic Ocean.

**THE ISLAND OF ST HELENA**

The turtle Jonathan. The oldest known animal on earth.

**A DISCOVERY**

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Welcome to the homepage of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. You are visitor no. **27605** since May 1997. This site is situated in Sweden and hence the extension .se. Everything concerned with this site is non-profitable.

The island of Saint Helena is no longer a hidden secret, you can find many pages on the Web dealing with South Atlantic Islands but only this site has a [mailing-list](#), especially for those who have a deeper interest in Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island. The island offers a unique Napoleonic museum as well as interesting [endemics](#) - both flora and fauna. The only way to visit the island is by ship. The [RMS St Helena](#) (Curnow Shipping) has regular services to the Island from UK and Cape Town.

**Sunday morning, 20th December**, Stedson Francis will host a special phone-in on Radio St. Helena where messages can be sent 'live' to listeners on the island. This will take place between 0900 and 1100 hrs GMT and callers must phone +290 4669

## **An emerald set in bronze**

St Helena is small yet beautiful. It is an island of contrasts, from wind eroded desert with multi coloured ridges and valleys, to emerald hillsides, soft pastures and lush vegetation filled valleys. It has a magnificent bronze surrounding coastline



with 1000 feet high cliffs that have been carved over the centuries by the pounding Atlantic rollers. This ancient volcanic island is set in the tropical South Atlantic

1500 miles north-west of Cape Town. There is no airport and the island can only be reached by ship. St Helena became a British dependency in 1834 and still retains its 19th century values and is imbued with some 300 years of colonial history; manifested in the architecture and ambience of Jamestown.

## **A Georgian seaport**

Protected by 18th century fortifications is

## **Leisure activities**

The island is ten and a half miles long and 6 and a half miles wide is blessed with a pleasant climate with temperatures ranging between 14°C to 32°C in summer and 14°C to 26°C in winter. The island has a rich history and a fascinating heritage evidenced by the early military fortifications set in a spectacular scenery. There are superb walks which can be gentle or arduous, offering a chance to see the endemic flora and fauna. Visitors can enjoy the magnificent underwater scenery by diving or snorkeling around our island but should note that they must be accompanied by a local diver at all times. Spear fishing is prohibited. Good sport can be had by fishing in our waters. Tuna, marlin and barracuda are in abundance. If golf is essential part of your relaxation you will enjoy the opportunity of playing 18 holes on the remotest golf course in the South Atlantic.

## **Accommodation**

There are three fully operational hotels: The Consulate and Wellington House in Jamestown and Farm Lodge in the country. There is also a

Jamestown the island's capital, a Georgian seaport which is abundantly endowed with a living heritage from its early days. The town nestles in a deep narrow valley, is the seat of Government and houses the museum, hotels and shops. The way out of Jamestown by road is by one of two routes (Side Path and Ladder Hill) each cut into steep hillsides. For the more adventurous, there is Jacob Ladder with its 699 steps embedded into the steep cliff face, rising from the valley floor to the top of Ladder Hill.

### The Discovery

Discovered 21 May 1502 by Portuguese admiral João da Nova on his return voyage from India, the anniversary of Saint Helena mother of Emperor Constantine. The island soon became a haven for sea travellers because of its luxuriant vegetation, equable climate and wealth of fruit trees. Ships would drop off those suffering from scurvy so that they could benefit from the citrus fruits and then been picked up by another ship after recovery. The Saints, as the islanders are affectionately known, have their own special charm, having descended from British settlers sent out by the East India Company, slaves and indentured workers from Africa and the East. This amazing combination has contributed to the Saints captivating, friendly and unique character.

### Famous visitors

Over the centuries St Helena has welcomed many famous visitors among them Darwin, Halley, Bligh, and Cook. The most internationally renowned figure associated with St Helena is, of course, Napoleon Bonaparte who was exiled to the island in 1815 following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. He lived in Longwood House until his death in 1821, and the residence is now a museum owned by the French Government.

### Stamps

St Helena began issuing stamps in 1856. The discovery issue was released in May 1997 and is the first of a five part series which will be released in May every year until 2002 - the 500th anniversary of the discovery of St Helena.

range of self catering and bed & breakfast accommodation available in Jamestown and the country areas. Pressure accommodation is at its peak during the traditional summer holiday months of December and January.

### Local cuisine

As with most isolated communities throughout the world St Helena has developed its own unique multi ethnic cuisine. There are six eating places on St Helena each with their own special character: Consulate Hotel Tel: 2380; Wellington House Tel: 2529; Ann's Place Tel: 2797; Dot's Cafe; C&M's Coffee Shop Tel: 2730 in Jamestown and Farm Lodge, St Paul's Tel: 4040.

### Bank/Currency

St Helena currency is used on the island. Coins in use have values of 1p, 2p, 10p, 50p and £1. Notes in circulation have values of £5, £10 and £20. One St Helena £ is equal to One British £ Sterling. There are no international banks, and credit cards are not widely accepted. Travellers cheques (1% commission charge) are recommended.

### Visa requirements

All visitors require valid passports and will normally be granted an entry permit for a period of three months. Visitors must have a return ticket and pre-booked accommodation. The entry permit may be extended up to a period of one year.



### St Helena Tourist Office

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### Who's behind this site?

Updated November 20, 1998