

# UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF UKOTA · SEPTEMBER 2019



St Helena Fort

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# TERRITORY NEWS

## Pre-JMC held in the Cayman Islands



Leaders attending the Pre JMC

The Cayman Islands Government acted as hosts to the Premiers, Leaders of Delegations and UK Representatives from the Overseas Territories for this year's pre-Joint Ministerial Council meeting. Almost all members of the UK Overseas Territories Association were represented.

The meeting, held on 26 June, decided on topics that the Territory Governments would like to see on the agenda, and format for the Joint Ministerial Meeting in November. These included: trade, environmental issues and funding, banking, oceans policy and frozen pensions. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee report, published in February, was discussed in some detail with general dissatisfaction being expressed about the methodology and the outcomes of the exercise.

## UKOTA Environment Workshop

As OT leaders gathered in London for the last Joint Ministerial Council, UKOTA hosted a workshop entitled "Resourcing Sustainable Environments in the UK Overseas Territories."

The aims were to better understand the financing of OT environment projects, and provide a forum for stakeholder discussion around Government funds. The event also increased awareness of opportunities for private finance.

The workshop included representatives from the Territories, relevant HMG departments, and NGOs including Foundations/Charities.

The workshop was opened by the Hon Alden McLaughlin MBE JP MLA, Premier of the Cayman Islands and President of the UKOTA Political Council. Dr Colin Clubbe of Kew Gardens very ably facilitated the workshop.

A three-minute presentation was made by panellists before interventions/questions from the floor.

It was a lively discussion and brought greater understanding of the importance of OT environments and the finance and expertise available to them. Environmental funding post-Brexit and the importance of the NGO sector; universities and associations in addressing environmental issues in the Territories were discussed. The opportunities around philanthropic funding, especially given a changing landscape and global challenges such as climate change, were explored.

A networking session enabled delegates from the Territories to make contact with UK-based delegates. The UKOTA Environment Working Group continues to follow up on these discussions.



Panel at the Workshop

# Overseas Territories Trade Summit

Following the pre JMC, the first ever OT International Trade Summit was held on 27 and 28 June, the objectives of which were to develop a broader partnership on trade between the UK Government and the UKOTs, and to find mechanisms to grow trade between the OTs and the rest of the world.

The Minister of State for the Overseas Territories, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, co-hosted the Summit with Premier Alden McLaughlin MBE JP MLA of the Cayman Islands. A video message from the then Secretary of State for International Trade Dr. Liam Fox MP commenced the proceedings, which included presentations from the Department for International Trade, UK Export Finance, the China/Britain Business Council, OCO Global (dealing with trade into the US and Canada), and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council - the latter being represented by their Deputy Chairman, the Rt Hon Sir Hugo Swire MP, former FCO Minister.

Sessions covered at the Summit included: luxury and eco tourism; the blue economy; healthcare provision; and building a fintech economy.



Panel presenting on the Blue Economy



Delegates at the Summit

## Student Conference

Forty five students, studying in the UK, from Overseas Territories attended the third OT Student Conference on 4th November, at the Natural History Museum, London.

The event, organised by UKOTA, presented a great opportunity for students from a wide range of cultures to come together and celebrate their shared histories and distinctiveness. The theme of the conference was 'Identity', something that resonates strongly amongst the Overseas Territories. At this time of change, both the UK and its Overseas Territories are reflecting upon their historic ties and cultural identity.

Students were invited to produce a short film depicting their homeland, under the broad 'Identity' theme. Films were shown at the conference as part of an Overseas Territories Film Festival, and were judged by the political and cultural geography academics Dr Alasdair



Delegates at the conference

Pinkerton (University of London) and Dr Matt Benwell (Newcastle University). The academics then led a discussion on the themes coming out of the students' original film work.

The Natural History Museum hosts gave a talk highlighting the vast range of exhibits and specimens held at the museum from UK Overseas Territories across the globe. Students were given the opportunity to tour the museum behind the scenes, to see artefacts relating to their various Territories.

The final speaker was Jawara Alleyne, fashion designer from the Cayman Islands, who inspired

students to follow their passion and think about how identity comes into fashion and their everyday lives.

Dr Mark Carine, Principal Curator in Charge of the Algae, Fungi and Plants Division at the Museum, remarked: "We are very pleased and excited to be working with the UK Overseas Territories and their students and to have had the opportunity to show the huge and important collections gathered from around the world over the centuries. We were so impressed by how confident and engaged the students were, and this kind of event is extremely valuable to the Museum."

# Ascension Island

## First UK Overseas Territories Blue Belt Symposium

On 29-31 July 2019, the Ascension Island Government, the University of Exeter, Great British Oceans coalition and the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme jointly hosted the first Blue Belt Overseas Symposium at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus focusing specifically on the topic of 'big ocean' management.

With many of the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) at pivotal moments in the future management of their Exclusive Economic Zones, the Symposium provided an opportunity for Territory representatives to meet face-to-face and forge personal relationships by sharing knowledge and experiences for addressing common challenges across marine management. The UK-based agencies and organisations involved in delivering the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme were also in attendance to help celebrate the achievements of Blue Belt and inspire its future progress and extension into new areas, for example the Caribbean OTs.

A varied programme across the three days enabled participants to explore several cross-cutting themes including "stories from the front line", where OT representatives passionately introduced their territories and the significance of their marine environments while honestly highlighting the challenges that they face. With the ability of small OT governments and NGOs

to deliver their marine management aspirations heavily dependent on the level of long-term logistical and financial support available to them, delegates listened with interest to thought-provoking talks that explored creative ways to generate sustainable inputs.

There is broad consensus that marine management should be evidence-based and adaptive, with robust monitoring in place to assess its effectiveness. Thus, day two took a broad view of the world-leading marine science already taking place in the OTs with the support of academic institutes and other organisations and encouraged debate about research and monitoring priorities and approaches moving forward. Delegates were also fortunate to have representatives from Big Ocean in attendance who spoke about their experiences in ocean conservation and highlighted the importance of public engagement. The Symposium ended with presentations on the new and developing technologies available for monitoring compliance and surveillance bringing together OT marine managers and specialists to assess the practicalities of these approaches within an OT setting.

While acknowledging the environmental impacts associated with travel to such conferences, much was gained from a rare opportunity to network with international

colleagues, initiate new collaborations and strengthen partnerships across the OT family, including side meetings focussing on issues such as marine plastic pollution. Participants remarked that they felt that a deeper understanding had been achieved between the different entities working to deliver the Blue Belt Programme and, for some, a renewed sense of purpose and clearer way forward for monitoring the success of management.

The Symposium was one of the final outputs of the Darwin Initiative-funded Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary project, which has sought to ensure that the imminent designation of a large scale pelagic marine protected area at Ascension Island is underpinned by strong science and long-term monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Through the Blue Belt Symposium, the project has also helped consolidate an active network of marine managers, scientists and policymakers working across the OTs and will hopefully provide the impetus for ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange, including perhaps the organisation of future symposia.

*A link to resources from the Symposium is available on request from Ascension Island Government Conservation Department and coverage can be accessed on Twitter from #BlueBeltSymposium and @ExeterMarine*



Delegates at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall

© Billy Heaney, Muddy Duck Productions

### Ascension Island – At a Glance

Capital: Georgetown | Size: 88 sq km | Population: 806 (2016 census) |  
Currency: Pound Sterling | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

## Brexit

The main imperative for Bermuda regarding Brexit is the ability to retain visa-free access to the European Union for business and personal travel. As British Overseas Territories Citizens, we, alongside British Overseas Citizens, British Protected Persons and British Subjects, have been allowed to travel visa-free to the EU Schengen Area for a maximum of 90 days.

With 40% of Bermuda's (re)insurance markets being made up of European business, we will retain equivalency measures for the island's successful reinsurance regime, as we enjoy solvency equivalence with EU. It is our intention to retain this equivalence regime with the UK upon its departure from the EU. After six years of work, Bermuda was granted 'Solvency II' third-country equivalency officially on 24 March 2016. The insurance regulation standards for commercial (re)insurers in Bermuda are equivalent to those of the EU. Therefore we can act as EU-approved (re)insurers. Achieving this solvency equivalence marked a noteworthy accomplishment for the Bermuda Monetary Authority and industry leaders.

## Marine Protected Area



Turtles



© Government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources website

Bermuda has long been committed to marine conservation. As stated by Hon. Walter Roban, the Home Affairs Minister and Deputy Premier, the island has been "protecting sea turtles [as far back as] the 1600s."

In line with this long-standing commitment to ocean prosperity, the Bermuda Government has pledged to transform at least 20% of its Exclusive Economic Zone into a Marine Protected Area (MPA). A Memorandum of Understanding has been undertaken between a public policy group, the Waitt Institute in Washington, and the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences to introduce the Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme. Minister Roban noted the enthusiasm of the Bermuda Government to be included in the partnership,

"around the development of a marine spatial plan and also the development of our blue economy." The emphasis will be on economic growth achieved through developing sustainable ocean industries, such as ocean-based renewable energy, like wind and wave energy.

The specifics of the initiative are that, at a minimum, at least 90,000 of Bermuda's 465,000 square kilometers of ocean would be turned into an MPA. Under the MPA these waters would be fully protected; full protection entails a ban on fishing, extraction or any kind of destruction in the relevant area. The programme additionally includes the creation of a plan with the aim of improving ocean industries such as tourism and responsible fishing. The programme is to be designated and implemented by 2022.



The Hon. E. David Burt JP MP, Premier, meets with the US Ambassador.

## Ambassadorial visit

The US Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Robert Wood Johnson, visited Bermuda to assess the island's economic and social activity. Mr Wood Johnson was optimistic that the strong relationship formed between Bermuda and the US would remain unaffected by Brexit.

Bermuda's impressive insurance market was described as "world class" due to its impressive governance and regulators, which were identified by the Ambassador as providing significant value to the US market.

## Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital: Hamilton | Size: 53.3 sq km | Population: 63,779 (2016 census) |  
Currency: Bermudian Dollar (BMD) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

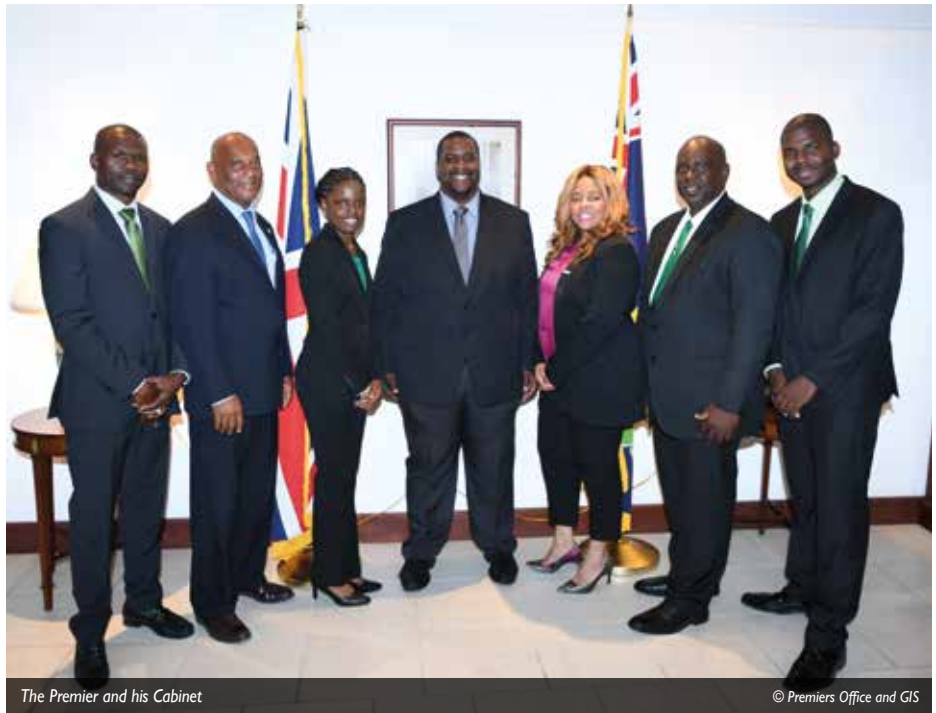
# British Virgin Islands

## Honourable Andrew Fahie is new Premier



Honourable Andrew Fahie

© Premiers Office and GIS



The Premier and his Cabinet

© Premiers Office and GIS

**His Excellency Mr. Augustus Jaspert, Governor, has appointed Honourable Andrew A. Fahie to be the Premier of the British Virgin Islands.**

Governor Jaspert appointed Mr. Fahie after receiving the Writs of Election from the Supervisor of Election, Ms. Juliette Penn, who certified the results from the General Election, which was held on 25 February. Hon. Mr. Fahie led the Virgin Islands Party (VIP) and gained a majority (8 of 13) of the seats of elected Members of the House of Assembly. In a letter to the Governor, the elected members of the VIP recommended the appointment of Andrew Fahie as Premier. He also serves as the Minister of Finance.

In his first address as Premier, Hon. Mr. Fahie said that it was a tremendous opportunity for the people of the BVI. "We campaigned with a clear vision to set the BVI and its people on course for future sustainability and prosperity, whilst also addressing the most pressing issues of today through a clear plan of action."

He added that the new ministerial assignments would strengthen the Government's ability to deliver on their agenda for the Territory. He said, "Our first order of business will be to undertake a comprehensive review of the state of the Territory which will greatly assist us to more effectively tackle the many challenges which must be addressed."

Premier Fahie said that a sound economy would be fundamental to implement their plans. The financial services industry was vital to the recovery of Government revenues, following the hurricanes (of 2017) at a time when the tourism industry had been devastated. BVI faces continued challenges in the international arena and his Government would continue to work closely with their industry and regulators to ensure that it continues to thrive.

He went on to say that "The rebuilding and expansion of our tourism industry will be a major focus. It is essential that our industry is made resilient and sustainable in order to face the climate change challenges that we will undoubtedly face. This will require significant infrastructure investment and proposals in this area will be a priority for your new Government."

He finished by saying that "I am truly honoured and humbled by the confidence placed in me and the entire Virgin Islands s Party team. I will carry this great responsibility forward with integrity and I will always strive to do what is best for the BVI and its people. Let us move together in one direction forward, as one people and a united Virgin Islands."

### British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

**Capital:** Road Town (Tortola) | **Size:** 153 sq km | **Population:** 32,000 |  
**Currency:** US Dollar (US\$) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

# Cayman Islands

## New UK Representative



André Ebanks has been appointed as the new Representative to the United Kingdom and Europe. His three-year secondment follows on from the successful tenure of Eric Bush JP, who has returned to the Cayman Islands to head up the new Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs.

Mr Ebanks said of his post: "In view of Brexit, the UK faces its most complex and polarising political crisis since the Second World War. It will be critical for the Cayman Islands to monitor matters closely to determine how best to position itself in a post-Brexit world. Therefore, an immediate priority will be to assist Cayman in mapping its strategic objectives in this potentially new global landscape. Brexit provides an opportunity to recreate our relationship not only with the UK as part of a revitalised Global Britain, but with the rest of the world."

During familiarisation trips to the UK, Mr Ebanks attended events and met with MPs, Peers and Representatives from other Overseas Territories to prepare for his secondment.

Full Biography can be found at: [cigouk.ky/andreebanks](http://cigouk.ky/andreebanks)



Eric Bush meets with the Permanent Under Secretary for Financial Services in Hong Kong

## New Ministry

Eric Bush JP, former Representative to the UK and Europe, has been appointed Chief Officer of the Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs.

Of his new role Mr Bush says: "The Ministry will focus on capitalising on our current successes whilst identifying new opportunities to secure the future of the Cayman Islands. We will aim to broaden and enhance our international image

and to ensure that Government's interactions across the globe, in areas like financial services, tourism or our aviation and maritime registries, are conducted with one voice."

Priorities for the new ministry include the opening of the Cayman Islands Government Office for Asia, in Hong Kong, and creating strategic plans in global communication and international trade and investment.

Full statement can be found at: [cigouk.ky/newministry](http://cigouk.ky/newministry)

## Friends given thanks and appreciation at CORE luncheon



André Ebanks with Chef Clare Smyth and Eric Bush

Friends, associates, Cayman Islands Government Officials and UK parliamentarians enjoyed an appreciation partnership luncheon at CORE restaurant in Notting Hill, London.

The lunch was the second annual event hosted by the Cayman Islands Government Office in London at CORE, to thank those who have

worked with the Cayman Islands Government in the UK throughout the year.

The lunch also signifies the partnership with acclaimed chef Clare Smyth MBE, renowned with the accolade of "World's Best Female Chef" and holder of two Michelin stars. Chef Clare has enjoyed a partnership with the Cayman Islands since a successful pop-up restaurant in the Cayman Islands in 2016; she will return to Cayman for the Cayman Cookout early next year.

Clare Smyth said: "I am delighted to be partnering with the Cayman Islands at such high-level events, the Cayman Islands Government have been a part of my journey and I am very happy to be going back to Cayman for Cayman Cookout in the new year."

Full article at [cigouk.ky/core19](http://cigouk.ky/core19)

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## Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital: George Town | Size: 264 sq km | Population: 60,765 |  
Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar KYD | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |



Lord Ahmad speaks at Celebration Breakfast



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness receives gift from Premier McLaughlin

## 60th Anniversary of the first Written Constitution

Celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the Cayman Islands' first Constitution were held following the Inaugural Trade Summit.

Leaders and delegations from the Pre-JMC and Trade Summit were invited to attend the

various celebratory events, along with the guest of honour, the Hon Andrew Holness ON MP, the Prime Minister of Jamaica. The events included a cultural evening, a community breakfast, and a football match between the

Cayman Islands and Jamaica. A Thanksgiving church service was followed by a community lunch, and 1 July saw a celebration of Cayman's history.

*More information at [celebratecayman.ky](http://celebratecayman.ky)*

## Royal Visit by TRH Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall

On 28 March, TRH Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall arrived in Grand Cayman for a busy schedule of activities across all three islands.

During their stay the Royal couple opened some long-awaited public service facilities including the Owen Roberts International Airport, a new hospice facility and a competition size swimming pool in Cayman Brac.

At a reception in their honour at Pedro St James, the Prince of Wales presented Deputy Governor Franz Manderson with the medal recognising him as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Felicia McLean and Andrew Smilley received the Cayman Islands Certificate and Badge of Honour at the same event.



Royal arrival in Grand Cayman

*A full account of Cayman Islands Government Office activity for 2018/19 can be found at: [www.cigouk.ky/2018/19](http://www.cigouk.ky/2018/19)*

# Falkland Islands

## Concerns of the potential impact of Brexit

Despite being 8,000 miles away from London, the economy of the Islands is deeply linked to the EU's single market. Our largest export is fish, with 78,000 tonnes - a value of £173m - being exported to the EU in 2018.

Based on official data from DataComex, 34% of all the loligo squid (calamari) imported by Spain came from the Falkland Islands (2017).

As the Brexit negotiations continue, it is not for the Falkland Islands to tell Members of Parliament in the UK to support a particular deal, but what is important to the Islands is that the UK leaves the EU with a deal that retains our current tariff and quota-free access to EU27 markets. If the UK were to leave the EU without a deal, fishery exports from the Falkland Islands into the EU27

are likely to be subject to WTO tariffs of between 6% and 18%.

Meat products would likely to be subject to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and subject to tariffs of an average of 42%. However the uncertainty surrounding a no-deal is already having an effect on meat exports, with lower prices and slower sales already experienced.

The Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) reports that buyers from EU27 have been reluctant to buy produce without knowing whether it would be subject to import tariffs by the time ships arrive in the EU. The net effect has been a 25% drop in prices compared to 2018.

The slow sales are also causing an issue with storage capacity, which once full, results in highly a disruptive halt to abattoir production. The fresh speculation of a no-deal Brexit is likely to further hamper sales, and the problems encountered this year may well be exacerbated in 2020 and 2021.

The Falkland Islands Government fears hefty tariffs will impact its ability to invest in critical infrastructure, jobs and public services. The

potential impact upon exports and associated taxation revenue would reduce the budget available to deliver essential public services and to invest in vital infrastructure for the future growth of the Islands, as laid out in the Islands Plan.

Hon. Leona Roberts MLA, Chair of the Legislative Assembly, said; "The Falkland Islands do not question Brexit; we respect the right of the people of the UK to determine their own future. However, it is vital that the current uncertainty surrounding Brexit is resolved as soon as possible as it is already having a negative impact on our exports to both the UK and the EU27".

"We have been engaging with UK Parliamentarians and officials for many months now, in order to ensure that the Falkland Islands is not forgotten in the negotiations, and are grateful for the support we have received".

"All that we ask is that our voice is heard by those in Westminster who are tasked with the ongoing Brexit negotiations, so that a good deal for the UK is also a good deal for the Falkland Islands."

## New weekly commercial flight service with South America



A LATAM aircraft at Mount Pleasant airport.

An agreement has been finalised with LATAM Airlines Brazil to introduce a second international commercial air link to the Falkland Islands with a weekly service from São Paulo/ Guarulhos (with a monthly stop in Cordoba, Argentina), complementing the existing weekly flight from Santiago, Chile.

This significant achievement comes following the successful conclusion of a formal commercial process which identified LATAM as the preferred operator last year. LATAM is Latin America's leading airline group, serving over 140 destinations in 27 countries worldwide. The new route will allow passengers to make onward connections to multiple destinations in South and North America and Europe, and once a month it will transit in both directions via Cordoba in Argentina.

The inaugural flight has been scheduled for 6 November 2019 with further details regarding ticket sales and itinerary to be communicated in the coming months.

The process of establishing the flight has followed the principles set out in the July 1999 Joint Statement and Exchange of Letters, later supported through the signing of the 2016 Joint Communiqué, between Britain and Argentina where it was agreed to make further progress in establishing additional air links between the Falkland Islands and third party countries.

The Government is working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that interim arrangements will be in place to accommodate this new flight at Mount Pleasant International Airport in November. Plans for a new permanent terminal development are being progressed.

Speaking of this historic event, MLA Barry Elsbey, Portfolio lead, said: "We have made no secret of our determination to build better air links between the Falkland Islands and the rest of the world, and I am certain that this latest development will be successful. "This new flight, together with our plans for a new port and air terminal, will support long term economic growth in the islands and will result in significant growth for our tourist industry in particular."

## Appointment of the new Representative

Richard Hyslop has been appointed as the new UK Representative, succeeding Sukey Cameron MBE, who retires from the post in October 2019, after 36 years of service, 29 of which were as UK Representative.

Richard is currently employed as the Senior Policy Adviser working within the Policy and Economic Development Directorate of the Falkland Islands Government. He has 16 years' experience working within Westminster and Brussels, having worked for members of the Scottish and European Parliaments, been a Civil Servant, and ran his own public affairs consultancy. Prior to taking up his current role, he was Chief Executive of a leading industry trade body.

On his appointment, Richard said, "I am honoured to have been appointed as the new UK Representative. I look forward to working with the team at FIGO to build on the successes of the current UK Representative, Sukey Cameron, who has served the Islands with distinction over a number of years."

FIG is also pleased to announce that the Assistant Representative Michael Betts, has been re-designated as Deputy Representative, and will have a strengthened future role.

## Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Stanley | Size: 12,173 sq km | Population: 3,200 |  
Currency: Falkland Islands Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours |

## Natwest International Island Games XVIII

The Island Games XVIII were held in Gibraltar from 6 to 12 July. Once every two years, athletes from 22 islands across the globe - from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, the North Atlantic to the Caribbean - come together to compete.

Months of rigorous training are put to the test over a week of events as competitors swim, shoot, sprint and swing their way to victory. From target and endurance events to team sports such as sailing, basketball and beach volleyball, the NatWest International Island Games holds competitions in a diverse range of sports and is open to competitors as young as 13.



The NatWest International Island Games welcomes spectators at all events, giving host islanders an exciting and all too rare opportunity to watch live international sport on their home turf.

Fourteen sports were contested at this year's Games, including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cycling, Judo, Sailing, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling and Triathlon.

UK Overseas Territory teams competing were: Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and St. Helena.

## Tourist Board Shortlisted for Tourism Award

The Gibraltar Tourist Board has been shortlisted in the Travel Bulletin Star Awards 2019. Travel Bulletin is a leading industry title aimed at travel agents and industry professionals.

Nominated in the category 'Star Cultural & Heritage Destination', Gibraltar will compete for the award against India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, South Africa and Thailand.

Minister for Tourism, Gilbert Licudi QC, said "We are very pleased to be included among this impressive list of culturally rich destinations. This nomination is the culmination of the Tourist Board's 'Gibraltar - A Year of Culture' campaign which launched 18 months ago and aims to promote various elements of Gibraltar's diverse heritage and culture."

## Andrea Bocelli concert

Fifty years after the famous Preamble to the Constitution guaranteed UK sovereignty over Gibraltar, legendary tenor Andrea Bocelli has announced that he will perform in the Territory with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra as part of Gibraltar's 'National Week' Celebrations. The September concert, to be held at the Europa Point Sport Complex, will be Bocelli's first visit to Gibraltar and will form part of his world tour.

His performance will feature a unique repertoire from Bocelli's landmark release "Si," his first ever chart-topping album on the

Billboard 200 chart. The world-renowned tenor will also treat audiences to his beloved traditional selection of arias, love songs and crossover hits.

Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, said, 'I am delighted that we are able to bring the world's favourite tenor to Gibraltar for a concert to celebrate 50 years of the Preamble and to commemorate the suffering of the closed-frontier generation. He will be accompanied by one of the greatest orchestras in the world and will perform in front of 10,000 people at Europa, between the Pillars of Hercules. This will be an unforgettable night of music which will appeal across the generations. It is an honour for me, as Chief Minister, to be able to announce this magnificent concert for our people.'

## Gibunco Gibraltar International Literary Festival 2019

In November, the Sixth International Literary Festival will be hosted on The Rock, where world-class writers and speakers come together for four days of public events, staged in the famous Regency Garrison Library and other historic buildings within the walled and ancient

City of Gibraltar. The four-day event will feature talks and events covering everything from literature and journalism, to history, travel, food and the world. Further details can be found at <http://www.gibraltarliteraryfestival.com/>

# Montserrat

## Twenty-Four Years of Volcanic Activity

The Hon. Premier, Mr. Donaldson Romeo, attended a Service of Thanksgiving at the Bethesda Methodist Church on 26 July to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the eruption of Soufriere Hills volcano.

Most Montserratians and residents of Montserrat recall vividly the evening of 18 July 1995, when Soufriere Hills awakened from its centuries-old slumber. Twenty-four years on, the volcano remains quietly active.

The eruption has significantly altered the landscape and the living conditions on the island. The economy which was once thriving was destroyed – plunging the island into grant-in-aid. Montserrat has lost more than one half of its pre-volcano population, when many of the residents were forced to abandon their homes as the eruption rendered two thirds of the island uninhabitable. Plymouth, the capital, lies buried under tonnes of volcanic rubble.

With assistance from HMG and other aid donors, the Government and people of Montserrat have embarked on development of the north of island.



Plymouth Barclays

© Ishwar Persuad

## RFA Mounts Bay Visit



Captain Jeremy A. Macanley MA, MSC, AFNI,  
Royal Fleet Auxiliary Commanding Officer RFA Mounts Bay

As part of this year's hurricane season preparations of the UK Government, Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Mounts Bay paid a courtesy visit to Montserrat from 8 to 10 July.

While on Montserrat the Commanding Officer, Captain Jeremy A. Macanley and senior officers made courtesy calls on H.E the Governor and the Hon. Premier, and had familiarisation meetings with key Disaster Management response and security officials.

Additionally, the ship's company conducted a series of training exercises with the Royal Montserrat Police Service, Royal Montserrat Defence Force and Disaster Management

Co-ordination Agency. RFA Mounts Bay's helicopter assisted Montserrat Utilities Limited and the Montserrat Volcano Observatory with access to remote locations not normally accessible other than by air.

The Royal Engineers detachment also worked on community projects while on the island.

## Montserrat – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Brades | Size: 102 sq km | Population: 4,649 |  
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

## EU Links in the Pacific



Conference of the Pacific community

As well as being a member of the associations of UK and EU territories, the Pitcairn Islands are also part of the Pacific Community. The Pacific Community is made up of 26 Countries and Territories in the Pacific region - from small territories like Pitcairn to major Pacific players like Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States. There is a significant EU presence in the Pacific, indeed the EU is the largest donor to the region.

The EU's Development Fund supports the Pacific's four Overseas Territories: French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and Pitcairn. Part of Pitcairn's funding has been allocated to the installation of solar renewable energy to replace diesel generators, reducing carbon footprints and more in line with

Pitcairn's Blue and Green economic objectives, to support the creation of the world's third-largest Marine Protected Area, and to helping the Island group become the first in the world to be designated a Dark Skies Sanctuary. The EU regional funding is being managed by fellow EU Overseas Countries and Territories Association member New Caledonia.

The UK is once again looking to increase its presence in the Pacific region and is taking a greater interest in Pacific affairs. This is welcomed by all members of the Pacific Community. HMG have appointed a Development Councillor for the Pacific, based in Fiji. Pitcairn's Governor Laura Clarke, who is also the UK's High Commissioner to New Zealand, attended the recent Conference

of the Pacific Community in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Discussions have been held with Pitcairn's close friend and nearest neighbour French Polynesia as to our future relationship post-Brexit. Pitcairn's relationship with French Polynesia goes back over 1000 years. The Pitcairn community will continue to use the hospital and dental facility in Tahiti for its citizens and the domestic port at Mangareva, in the southernmost part of French Polynesia, with the support of both the French Polynesian and French Governments. Despite Brexit it is pleasing to note that the future relationship between Pitcairn and French Polynesia will remain strong.

## Pitcairn – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Adamstown | Size: 47 sq km | Population: 57 |  
Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -8 hours |

# St Helena

## New Opportunity for International Investment

St Helena is the new opportunity for international investment. Having only recently emerged from the enforced isolation of a five-day sea voyage, the opportunities of this unique Territory are still unknown to many abroad. Now, with a new airport, St Helena has a modern gateway to the world.

Commercial flights to the Island have opened the door to trade and investment opportunities: with a renewable energy agenda, a Digital Strategy, scope for growth in agriculture, and the ocean economy; one-by-one fishery and whale sharks, the Island is advancing opportunity towards becoming a premium brand.

Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook, said: "Just a handful of hours from the major South African cities, a rising number of business and leisure visitors have begun to discover the Island. Its beauty, its stability, its respect for the law, and its desire to build a new future, all signal the Island is open and encouraging to business investment.

"I invite everyone to come and explore the opportunities the Island can offer: I have seen advances being made in encouraging tourist expansion, a growing overseas interest in developing new buildings and facilities, and the arrival shortly of a high speed internet connection and a 100% renewable energy supply, mean now is the time for businesses to make an early move."

St Helena has embarked on an exciting journey towards building a sustainable economy. With a rich biodiversity inclusive of unique environments; indigenous, natural, marine, history, heritage and culture, St Helena is poised as a place to live, invest, work and play.

## Preparations for Napoleon Bicentenary

St Helena is currently preparing to mark the Bicentenary, on 5 May 2021, of Napoleon Bonaparte's death. The French Emperor was exiled to St Helena in October 1815 and died, in his residence on the Island, Longwood House, six years later in May 1821. A Visioning Group has recently created a Vision for how the Island will commemorate this globally important event.



The exciting programme is planned to involve a range of activities and events including exhibitions, re-enactments, high profile visitors, educational projects, development of themed mementoes and souvenirs, arts, crafts and live music. With many of the events live-streamed, and linked to Paris, the entire programme will be reflective of Napoleon's time on St Helena, and the influential period of the Island's history.

Chief Executive for Economic Development, Dawn Cranswick, said: "With many of the Island's locations and place-names remaining the same as during Napoleon's time here, visitors can - quite literally - walk in his footsteps."

The Bicentenary programme will make a visit to St Helena during this period especially unique.

## Fibre Optic Connectivity in 2021

St Helena is soon set to benefit from plugging into a passing fibre optic cable, having sent a letter of intent to become a part of the Equiano Cable project with final contract negotiations underway. This will improve existing connectivity and it is envisaged that internet speeds will greatly increase in even the most remote parts of the Island.

St Helena Government's Chief Economist, Nicole Shamier, explained: "This will make possible so much more, such as gaining access to telemedicine, streaming videos in classrooms, business to business video calling, and file sharing using cloud-based systems. St Helena intends to develop a Digital Sector; to include a Space Park for Earth Stations, and provision for more home-based work possibilities."

A St Helena Connected group has also been established, tasked with preparing the Island for the arrival of the cable and ensuring that all are poised to reap the benefits of improved connectivity. The St Helena Community College has also made available various courses to ensure the community are ready to take advantage of a new digital era for St Helena.

## A Sweet Initiative

The Sustainable Economic Development Plan, implemented by St Helena Government in 2018, contains a number of key areas where it is evident that further opportunity exists in relation to import substitution and export promotion, particularly in respect of agricultural production.

One of these areas which is currently being explored further by Enterprise St Helena is the potential to increase honey production, alongside the possibility of farming queen bees for export purposes.

This exploratory activity is being undertaken in partnership with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division and other local stakeholders, most notably the Beekeepers Association and the Saint Helena National Trust.

Whilst aspects of this initiative relate to increasing local awareness around what types of plant are best to use to support increased honey production and encouraging further planting, a part of this work focuses on being able to identify the genetic origins of the St Helena honey bee and DNA samples will be used in order to do so.

## St Helena – At a Glance

Capital: Jamestown | Size: 410 sq km | Population: 4,289 |  
Currency: St Helenian Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

# Tristan da Cunha



Left: Government accommodation opened to the elements. Top right: St Mary's School suffered extensive damage. Bottom right: devastation inside the police station.

Photos: © Robin Repetto / [www.tristandc.com](http://www.tristandc.com)

## Island faces nature's fury

**The world's remotest community has been rallying-round in the face of a damaging storm that crippled key public infrastructure.**

On 18 July Tristan da Cunha was struck by a fierce south-easterly storm. The island's anemometer registered a wind speed of 107.5mph before the instrument itself was destroyed: no-one will ever know the peak force of the storm. Sheltered by the volcano, islanders were unhurt and their homes were almost all spared, but the destruction to infrastructure was severe and widespread.

Electricity and water supplies were briefly cut, while main communication links with the outside world – crucial in the remotest community on earth – were severed for days.

The Government administration centre, police station, communications building and school were all badly hit, as was the Post Office and tourism centre which houses the island's precious museum artefacts.

Also hit was the lobster processing building, heart of the sustainable fishing industry that is the mainstay of the Tristan da Cunha economy.

The island's famously neighbourly community rallied-round to begin repairs using whatever materials were to hand, but the scale of the devastation was such that an appeal for external help was made.

First to respond was the UK Government, with financial support for emergency repairs.

Overseas Territories Minister Lord Ahmad said: "Our quick response to the storms in Tristan da Cunha, which is in the South Atlantic, embodies the broader preparedness work the UK Government is doing. We are working closely with all Territories so they are better prepared for natural disasters before they strike".

The Tristan da Cunha Association, based in the UK, has launched an appeal to raise funds for the remaining repairs, with a special focus on islanders' priorities including St Mary's School. Please visit [www.tristandc.com](http://www.tristandc.com) to read more about the storm and learn how you can help.

## Poised for new ocean protection

**The Island Council is set to make crucial choices about how to protect the archipelago's vast 750,000km<sup>2</sup> ocean zone.**

The island has committed to the UK's 'Blue Belt' programme, using its devolved environmental powers to help a worldwide drive towards sustainable use of the oceans. For a fishing community already endorsed by the Marine

Stewardship Council, it was essential that UK help for scientific research, legislative drafting and marine monitoring equipment was in support of local decision making, not rulings from London. The refurbishment of the fishery patrol vessel Wave Dancer was part of the assistance provided by the UK government.



Wave Dancer after refit in Lymington, England, with refurbishment project-manager Iain Woolgar and Tristan fisheries officer Rodney Green

## Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

**Capital:** Edinburgh of the Seven Seas | **Size:** 98 sq km | **Population:** 246 |  
**Currency:** Pound Sterling | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time |

# Turks and Caicos Islands



## New Governor welcomed

The Government and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands welcomed new Governor Mr. Nigel Dakin on 15 July. The swearing-in of the new Governor took place at the House of Assembly and was attended by the Deputy Governor Hon. Anya Williams, the Premier, Members of Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and members of the House of Assembly. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Margaret Ramsay-Hale.

Following taking the oath of office, Governor Dakin brought remarks, in which he promised: "to 'care', to 'listen', to 'serve', to be 'clear' and in being clear, to be 'straight.'" The underpinning theme of his period in office would be to help the Islands "preserve and improve." He emphasised the importance of the Governor's role, as Her Majesty's representative, in stewarding the Constitution so all remained equal before the law, a Constitution he described as the country's 'swords and shield.'

The Premier Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson in her welcoming remarks said: "You will find that we are among the friendliest people in the world and we occupy the best corner in the world. I assure you that at the end of your sojourn with us, you will find your time here to be one of the most rewarding and enriching life experiences."

Governor Dakin was accompanied by his wife Amanda and their children, Fraser and Charlie.

## Polystyrene and plastic straw ban



TCI government recently approved a ban on styrofoam food packaging, takeout containers, cups and straws and other products made with polystyrene. The ban will take full effect on 1 November; vendors using these products will have until April 2020 to get rid of all of their merchandise in stock.

TCI has now become the latest country in the region to join the growing worldwide effort to ban plastics.

On making this announcement, Premier Sharlene Cartwright Robinson said that her Government is determined to preserve TCI's

famously beautiful natural landscape, while creating a more climate-resilient nation: "As a community, we do not take Mother Nature's gifts for granted. Our commitment to remaining 'beautiful by nature' is genuine and we have made tremendous efforts to preserve the natural beauty throughout the length and breadth of this nation for residents and visitors for generations to come."

The Government successfully implemented a nationwide ban on single use-plastic bags on 1 May 2019.

## Advanced Passenger Information System implemented

On 1 June the Ministry of Immigration and Border Control introduced the Advanced Passenger Information System, which captures passengers' biographic data and travel details prior to arrival in the Territory.

The electronic databases of passenger details which will be shared among co-operating countries the United Kingdom, the United States and members of the CARICOM Caribbean Community, is an undertaking in collaboration with the Joint Regional Communications Centre and the United States of America.



It is anticipated that adoption of the APIS will lead to an improvement in crime perception and detection, and deterrence of engagement in the smuggling of drugs, humans, weapons and other contraband. Additionally, this new system will reduce congestion and delays at the ports, especially during peak travel days at Providenciales International Airport.

## Turks and Caicos – At a Glance

Capital: Cockburn Town | Size: 98 sq km | Population: 41,369 (2018) |  
Currency: United States Dollar (US\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |

# Member Territories & Contacts



## 1 ANGUILLA

Mr. Charlie Wheeler  
Chargé d'Affaires  
Her Majesty's Government of  
Anguilla Overseas Office  
c/o The West India Committee  
Suite 53, 3 Whitehall Court,  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EL  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 5441  
charlie.wheeler@govanguillaukeu.org

Hon. Victor F. Banks, Premier  
Ministry of Finance, Economic  
Development, Commerce, Tourism  
and Information Technology  
PO Box 60, The Secretariat,  
The Valley, Anguilla, West Indies  
Tel: +264 497 2547  
Victor.Banks@gov.ai  
www.gov.ai

## 2 ASCENSION ISLAND

Councillor Kitty George  
Ascension Island Council  
Tel: +(00) 247 66836  
councillorgeorge@atlantis.co.ac  
aigenquiries@ascension.gov.ac

## 3 BERMUDA

Ms Kimberley Durrant  
United Kingdom Representative  
Government of Bermuda London Office  
6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7518 9900  
kdurrant@gov.bm  
londonoffice@gov.bm

The Hon. E. David Burt JP, MP Premier  
Cabinet Office, 105 Front Street  
Hamilton HM12 Bermuda  
Tel: +1 441 292 5501  
cbhayward@gov.bm  
www.gov.bm

## 4 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Ms. Tracy Bradshaw  
Operations Manager  
BVI London Office  
British Virgin Islands Government  
15 Upper Grosvenor Street  
London W1K 7PJ  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7355 9570  
tbradshaw@bvi.org.uk

The Hon. Andrew A. Fahie  
Premier and Minister of Finance  
Administration Complex  
Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands  
Tel: +1 284 494 3701  
premier@gov.vg  
www.bvi.gov.vg

## 5 CAYMAN ISLANDS

Mr André Ebanks  
United Kingdom Representative  
Cayman Islands Government Office  
34 Dover Street, St James's,  
London W1S 4NG  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7491 7772  
Andre.Ebanks@gov.ky  
www.cigouk.ky

The Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin  
Jr. MBE, JP, MLA  
Premier and Minister of Home Affairs,  
Health and Culture  
Government Administration Bldg,  
Box 131, Grand Cayman KY1-9000  
Cayman Islands  
Tel: +1 345 949 7900 ext. 2454  
Alden.McLaughlin@gov.ky  
www.gov.ky

## 6 FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr. Richard Hyslop  
United Kingdom Representative  
(from 01.11.19)  
Falkland Islands Government Office  
Falkland House, 14 Broadway,  
London SW1H 0BH  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7222 2542  
representative@falklands.gov.fk

Mrs. Cherie Clifford  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Office of the Legislative Assembly  
Gilbert House, Ross Road, Stanley  
Falkland Islands FIQQ 1ZZ  
Tel: +500 27451  
clerkofassembly@sec.gov.fk  
www.falklands.gov.fk

## 7 GIBRALTAR

Mr. Dominique Searle MBE  
United Kingdom Representative  
H.M. Government of Gibraltar  
150 Strand, London WC2R 1JA  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7836 0777  
ukrep@gibraltar.gov.gi  
www.gibraltar.gov.uk

The Hon. Fabian Picardo QC MP  
Chief Minister of Gibraltar  
6 Convent Place, Gibraltar  
Tel: +350 200 70071  
Em@gibraltar.gov.gi  
www.gibraltar.gov.gi

## 8 MONTSERRAT

Mrs. Janice Pantou MBE  
United Kingdom Representative  
Government of Montserrat  
52 Grosvenor Gardens,  
London SW1W 0AU  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5125  
j.pantou@montserrat.gov.org

The Hon. Donaldson Romeo  
The Premier, Government of Montserrat  
PO Box 292, Brades, Montserrat  
Tel: +1 664 491 3463  
op@gov.ms  
www.gov.ms

## 9 PITCAIRN ISLANDS

Councillor Leslie Jaques OBE  
Councillor for International Relations  
Pitcairn Islands Council,  
Pitcairn Islands Office,  
PO Box 105 696 Auckland  
New Zealand  
Tel: +64 9 366 0186  
ljaques@council.gov.pn

## 10 SAINT HELENA

Mrs. Kedell Worboys MBE  
United Kingdom Representative  
Government of St Helena  
Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street,  
London SW1H 0QS  
Tel: +44 (0)20 3818 7610  
shgukrep@sthenagov.com

Miss Anita Legg  
Secretary to Elected Legislative  
Council Members  
The Castle, Jamestown, St Helena  
Tel: +290 22590  
sec.em@helanta.co.sh  
www.sainthelena.gov.sh

## 11 TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Mr. Chris Carnegie  
United Kingdom Representative  
Government of Tristan da Cunha  
29 Hulse Road, Salisbury SP1 3LU  
Tel: +44 (0)7768 622245  
ukrep@tdc.uk.com

Councillor James Glass, Chief Islander  
Administration Building  
Edinburgh of the Seven Seas  
Tristan da Cunha  
South Atlantic Ocean, TDCU 1ZZ  
Tel: +44 (0) 203 014 5013  
jamespglass@gmail.com  
www.tristandc.com

## 12 TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Ms Tracy Knight  
United Kingdom Representative  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
Government Office  
25 North Row, Mayfair,  
London W1K 6DJ  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3691 6997  
t.knight@tcilondon.org.uk  
www.tcilondon.org.uk

The Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson MP  
Premier and Minister of Finance,  
Investment and Trade  
Office of the Premier  
NJS Francis Building,  
Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands  
Tel: +001 (649) 338 5745  
premier@gov.tc  
www.gov.tc

UKOTA Secretary, Ms Karen Mentiply  
c/o Government of St Helena,  
Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street,  
London SW1H 0QS  
Tel: +44 (0)203 818 7610  
secretariat@ukota.org



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