



# Branch Associations

## Gibraltar



### Climate

This Mediterranean climate has mild winters, with rainfall brought by westerly winds, and dry summers with easterly winds

### History

Strategically important, Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain by Spain in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. The British garrison was formally declared a colony in 1830. In a 1967 referendum, Gibraltarians ignored Spanish pressure and voted overwhelmingly to remain a British dependency

### Economy

Gibraltar uses sterling and issues its own notes and coinage, in the same denominations. It benefits from an extensive shipping trade, offshore banking, internet gaming, and its position as an international conference centre. The British military presence has been sharply reduced. The financial sector accounts for 20% of GDP. Tourism (almost 7 million visitors in 2004), shipping services fees, and duties on consumer goods also generate revenue. Major structural change from a public to a private sector economy has occurred, but changes in government spending still have a major impact on the level of employment.

### Geography

Gibraltar is a narrow peninsula jutting southwards from the south west of Spain. Across the straits of Gibraltar, 32 km to the south, is Africa. The total surface area is 6.5km<sup>2</sup>, and the land rises to 1,380 ft on a limestone and shale ridge, known as 'the Rock'. This is home to the famous Barbary apes, which are actually members of the monkey family. There is no natural fresh water.



### Government / Legal

Gibraltar has a Parliament with elected members. A Governor is appointed by the British Government.

### Transport / Travel Information

GMT plus 1 hour. There are 49.9 km of roads and a system of tunnels within the Rock. Vehicles are driven on the right. International and British licences are accepted. Delays at the frontier remain a regular feature of life in Gibraltar with frequent periods of long queues. The harbour is extensive and able to take large ships. Gibraltar airport is 1.6 km from the town centre. British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch operate regular flights to various U.K. airports.

## How Guiding Started

Guiding officially began in Gibraltar in 1925. Lady Munro, wife of the Governor, became the first President. The first Commissioner was Mrs Brown-Smith, who remained Commissioner until the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. During the war most people were evacuated from Gibraltar to either the UK, Madeira or Jamaica. Despite this, guiding activities continued and were quickly re-established when evacuees returned to Gibraltar after the war.



<b>1925</b>	Guiding began in Gibraltar.
<b>1952</b>	Five Guides attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.
<b>1954</b>	The Queen visited Gibraltar, and Brownies and Guides helped with the tree planting ceremony. A Brownie also presented a bouquet to the Queen.
<b>1957</b>	The Baden-Powell Centenary. A party of Guides went to the Windsor World Camp.
<b>1960</b>	Golden Jubilee of guiding. The World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, visited Gibraltar and attended a camp fire and ceremony.
<b>1978</b>	A fire at Guide Headquarters destroyed all records.
<b>1981</b>	A group of Rangers visited Our Chalet.
<b>1985</b>	Visit by the Commissioner for Branch Associations for the 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.
<b>1994</b>	A Guider from Gibraltar was Assistant Leader on a visit to Our Chalet.
<b>1995</b>	Gibraltar Guide Association celebrates its 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
<b>2002</b>	Branch Association Commissioners attend the Branches Gathering and Commonwealth Conference in Singapore.
<b>2005</b>	Branch Association Commissioners attend the Branches Gathering in London.
<b>2006</b>	First 4 - Peer Education training to take place in a Branch Association. A group of senior section members visited Our Chalet.
<b>2010</b>	A patrol of guides from B.V.I. came over with their Leaders to join in with the Centenary Camp and then onwards to "Branch Out" at Waddow for a special Centenary Branch Association gathering for Branch members.

## Guiding Today

The girls follow the UK programme and wear the same uniform.

The Association has its own small campsite in a wood high on the Upper Rock. There is room for 3 - 4 tents, and also a small hut, which is regularly used for Brownie Holidays. The Guides often camp overseas and also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Thinking Day is celebrated with a weekend of activities, including a service, parade and party. There is also a parade for Commonwealth Day and St. George's Day.

Every year a Girlguiding UK trainer visits Gibraltar and delivers a training weekend.

