

# Branch Associations St Helena & Dependencies



## Capital – Jamestown

### Geography

St Helena lies in the South Atlantic, with Ascension 1,131km north-west and Tristan da Cunha 2,100km south. St Helena is 122km<sup>2</sup>, volcanic and mountainous. Ascension is a fairly barren volcanic peak of 88km<sup>2</sup>; Tristan da Cunha is 98km<sup>2</sup>, an almost circular volcanic island rising to 6,760ft. The other islands

### History

Uninhabited when first discovered by the Portuguese in 1502, St. Helena was garrisoned by the British during the 17th century. It acquired fame as the place of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile, from 1815 until his death in 1821, but its importance as a port of call declined after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.

### Climate

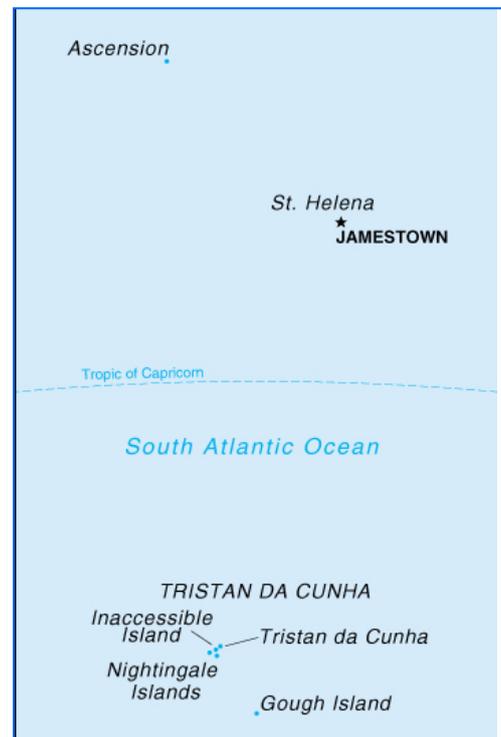
St Helena is mild with few variations; summer average temperature is 25°C and winter 20°C. Average rainfall is 100cm. Ascension, near the Equator, is tropical with little rain. Tristan is temperate and changeable, with strong winds

### Government / Legal

The constitution provides for a Governor & Commander-in-Chief of the islands, and a Legislative Council for St Helena. The Governor acts on behalf of the Crown and is assisted by an Executive Council.

### Economy

The currency is the St Helena pound, equivalent to sterling. The economy depends largely on financial assistance from the UK. The local population earns income from fishing, the raising of livestock, and sales of handicrafts. Due to limited jobs many people have left to seek employment on the Falklands and in the UK.



### Transport / Travel Information

GMT as UK. BST minus 1 hour. In St Helena there are 118km of paved roads. The R.M.S. St Helena provides a passenger and freight service between St Helena, Ascension, and South Africa. The only port is Jamestown. Construction has started on international airport for St Helena, the likely scheduled completion date is late-2015.

## How Guiding Started

Guiding was started on St Helena in 1921 by Mrs Walcott, wife of the Revd Walcott who had started Scouting a few years earlier. At the first meeting 100 girls in Jamestown wanted to join. Mrs Walcott divided them into nine patrols. Soon after, guiding spread to other areas of the island.

Guiding began on Tristan in 1946 when the wife of the new clergyman formed a Brownie Pack. At that point there were not enough girls for a Guide Unit, but as the Brownies grew older they wanted to remain in guiding, so a Unit was formed later. Currently there are no Guides or Brownies due to the small size of the population.

Guiding did not begin on Ascension until the early 1960s and was started for the children of families working there.



<b>1921</b>	Guiding began on St Helena.
<b>1936</b>	Visit of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell to St Helena aboard the SS Llandoverly Castle, after a visit to South Africa. A Guard of Honour of 60 Scouts, 140 Guides, plus many Cubs and Brownies were formed. Lady Baden-Powell was quoted as saying "every boy and girl on the island must belong to one of our two Movements".
<b>1946</b>	Guiding began on Tristan da Cunha.
<b>1950</b>	The first Guide camp was held on Tristan.
<b>1953</b>	Guides on St Helena planted a commemorative hedge at Government House to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth.
<b>1960s</b>	Guiding began on Ascension.
<b>1977</b>	Guides on St Helena celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee with a parade showing uniforms from 1910-1977.
<b>1984</b>	Visit of Prince Andrew to St Helena. Guides joined the parade.
<b>1996</b>	75 years of guiding celebrated with carnival floats and a tree planting ceremony.
<b>1997</b>	St Helena nominates a UK based representative to serve on the UK Association's Junior Council. 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.
<b>2010</b>	

## Guiding Today

The islands follow the UK programme, with some adaptations for local circumstances. All wear the lighter items of the UK uniform.

Guides enjoy a range of activities, On St Helena in particular, attendance at parades is a regular part of the programme. Thinking Day is celebrated with a service. The Guides also take part in the annual carnival.

Because these islands are so remote, it is difficult for the girls to visit other countries. However, trainers from the UK visit St Helena and Ascension to work with the leaders from time to time.

