

# World Box



## Ascension Island /St. Helena

Ascension Island is an isolated and relatively young volcanic island in the South Atlantic Ocean, some 100 km (62 mi) west of the mid-Atlantic Ridge, 1,504 km (935 mi) from Liberia (Cape Palmas), and 2,232 km (1,387 mi) from Brazil (Recife). The nearest land is Saint Helena, 1,296 km (805 mi) to the south-east.

The Ascension Island is named after the day of its recorded discovery, Ascension Day. It is part of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, of which the main island is St Helena.



The island is the location of a Royal Air Force station with a United States Air Force presence, a European Space Agency station and the BBC World Service Atlantic Relay Station. There is in the island one antenna of the five that assist in the operation of the Global Positioning System (GPS) navigational system.



The island is roughly triangular in shape, about 13 km across, with an area of 88 km<sup>2</sup> (34 sq mi), and has about 100 km of coastline. While the west and north-west coasts have sandy beaches, the south and southeast coasts form steep cliffs. The highest point of the island is Green Mountain, or just *The Peak* (7°57'S 14°21'W / 7.950°S 14.350°W), which is 859 m (2,818 ft) high. Other high mountains are Weather Post (680 m - 1,995 ft), White Hill (525 m - 1,722 ft) and Sisters Peak (445 m - 1,460 ft).

There are several small islands (islets) and rocks surrounding the Ascension Island; the largest is Boatswainbird Island, 305 m (1,001 ft) north of the eastern part of the island.

The human population is about 1,000, made up of civilians working for the RAF and USAF, and a small number of military personnel. The personnel are mainly from the UK, USA and St Helena, none of whom are permanent residents.

**Groups from BSO which operate in the Ascension Islands are**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ascension Island**

**1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown (St. Helena)**



Watch this short film clip about Ascension Island -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpLeHUCuY8c&t=571s>