INTRODUCTION
Saint Helena, Ascension Island, and the island group of Tristan da Cunha were discovered by the Portuguese in the early 1500s. Saint Helena was garrisoned by the British during the 17th century and Napoleon BONAPARTE was exiled and later died there in 1821. The British garrisoned Ascension Island in 1815 to prevent a rescue of Napoleon. The island hosts one of four ground antennas that support the Global Positioning System. Tristan da Cunha consists of Tristan da Cunha, Nightingale, Inaccessible, and Gough Islands.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II
Head of Government
Governor Philip RUSHBROOK
Government Type
Overseas Territory of the UK with limited self-government; parliamentary democracy
Capital
Jamestown
Legislature
 unicameral Legislative Council (17 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 394 sq km
Land: 122 sq km Saint Helena Island, 88 sq km Ascension Island, 194 sq km Tristan da Cunha island group
Water: 0 sq km

Climate
Saint Helena: tropical marine; mild, tempered by trade winds; Ascension Island: tropical marine; mild, semi-arid; Tristan da Cunha: temperate marine; mild, tempered by trade winds

Natural Resources
fish, lobster

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income, British Atlantic Ocean territorial economy; native (but pegged to British pound) currency user on 2 of 3 islands; significant UK financial support; unique land/farming commune structure; military-related economic activity; sport fishing locale

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $31.1 million (2009 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $7,800 (2009 est.)
Industries - construction, crafts (furniture, lacework, fancy woodwork), fishing, collectible postage stamps
Agricultural products - coffee, corn, potatoes, vegetables, fish, lobster, livestock, timber

Exports $19 million (2004 est.)
crustaceans, fish, integrated circuits, air conditioners, clothing/apparel (2019)
partners: US 47%, Japan 12%, South Korea 10%, France 9%, Australia 5% (2019)

Imports $20.53 million (2010 est.)
refined petroleum, cranes, communion wafers, iron sheeting, cars and vehicle parts (2019)
partners: UK 65%, South Africa 21% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
7,920 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.14% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
African descent 50%,
White 25%, Chinese 25%

Language
English
Religion
Protestant 75.9% (includes Anglican 68.9, Baptist 2.1%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.8%, Salvation Army 1.7%, New Apostolic 1.4%), Jehovah's Witness 4.1%, Roman Catholic 1.2%, other 2.5% (includes Baha'i), unspecified 0.8%, none 6.1%, no response 9.4% (2016 est.)
note: data represent Saint Helena only