GENERAL INFO

About St Helena

St Helena is a small British Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic Ocean. One of the remotest places on Earth, it is also one of the most extraordinary places to visit. Its unique character and unspoilt beauty lies in contrasting and spectacular scenery, a rich cultural heritage and an environment extremely rich in biodiversity. These are just a few of the reasons why this remote jewel is a perfect location for active exploration and discovery, especially now that it can be reached by plane for the first time.

- Walking and hiking
- Birding and wildlife
- Indigenous Fauna and Flora
- Diving, snorkelling, fishing and other marine activities
- Whale Shark, dolphin and whale tours
- Historic legacy and cultural tours
- Napoleonic heritage
- Astronomy and photography

Visit Jamestown

Jamestown, the capital of the remote island of St Helena, retains much of its remarkable heritage which tells the story of colonial conquest, slavery, imperialist ideas, the age of sailing ships, war and exile.

For more information

visit.sthelenatourism
@sthelenatourism
www.sthelenatourism.com

St Helena, STHL 1ZZ, South Atlantic Ocean

Jamestown is the capital of the remote island of St Helena, situated in the South Atlantic Ocean. This Georgian seaport nestles in a deep valley and retains a remarkable heritage, a 500-year history waiting to be discovered. The town’s streets echo with impressions recalling the past – Napoleon walked this way as did the Duke of Wellington; Captain Bligh, Edmund Halley, Charles Darwin and Captain James Cook. Jamestown’s overwhelming texture tells of colonial conquest, slavery, imperialist ideals, the age of sailing ships, war and exile. Jamestown has a unique quality; it’s a town which brings together much of its remarkable heritage and tells the story of colonial conquest, slavery, imperialist ideas, the age of sailing ships, war and exile.

1550
- 1502: Adriaen Brouwer sighted St Helena.
- 1562: St Helena was uninhabited when he landed on 21st May 1562 – the anniversary of Emperor Constantine’s mother, Saint Helena.
- 1588: The Portuguese kept the island a secret and little is recorded until 1589 when the Dutch pilot Johan van Linschoten described in his journal the first landing at Jamestown, then known as Chapel Valley.
- 1589: Island annexed by the English East India Company.
- 1673: Emanuel Swedenborg, a famous Swedish philosopher, scientist and theologian, undeservedly termed the “Father of Astrobiology,” tours St Helena and records his findings in his book "De mundi termino". He returned to St Helena in 1674.
- 1674: Saint James’ Church is built near the site of the original chapel.
- 1700: The population, some 700 individuals, includes soldiers, Huguenot refugees, victims of the Fire of London and there are 300 simple dwellings, mostly in Jamestown.
- 1719: St. James Church is built near the site of the original chapel.
- 1729: The construction of Jacob’s Ladder, a prominent feature of Jamestown. It comprises of 699 steps leading up to Ladder Hill Fort.
- 1749: The construction of Jacob’s Ladder, a prominent feature of Jamestown. It comprises of 699 steps leading up to Ladder Hill Fort.
- 1829: During the 18th century new buildings took on a Georgian flavour, later to be coloured by Victorian embellishment. All these treasures give Jamestown its distinct and unmistakeable character.

JAMESTOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES

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