



# St Helena



Think of a place far from the madding crowd, think of a place where heritage and nature are in harmony, think of a place with warm and friendly people .. think no more ... come and see for yourself.

A tropical Island of unspoilt peace and beauty



Latitude 16° S  
Longitude 5°45' W



Looking for a book on St Helena?  
Here is a list with more than 200 items.  
Lists also for Ascension  
Falklands, Pitcairn  
and Tristan da Cunha.

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## [Views of St Helena](#)

*Many pictures from all over the island*

Welcome to the homepage of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. More than since 250.000 visitors to this webpage since its start in May 1997 making it into one of the most popular when seeking information on St Helena This site is situated in Sweden and hence the extension .se. Everything concerned with this site is non-profit.

The island of Saint Helena is no longer a hidden secret, you can find many pages on the Web dealing with South Atlantic Islands but only this site has a [mailing list](#) , especially for those who have a deeper interest in Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island. The island offers a unique Napoleonic museum as well as interesting [endemics](#) - both flora and fauna. The only way to visit the island is by ship. The [RMS St Helena](#) (Andrew Weir Shipping - [www.aws.co.uk/](http://www.aws.co.uk/)) has regular services to the Island from UK and Cape Town.

**Celebrating**

**St Helena 500 years**

**1502-2002**

[The story of the first inhabitant - Fernão Lopez](#)

A presentation by St Helena Foundation

Search for a name, a place or a word

[www.sthelena.se](http://www.sthelena.se)

### An emerald set in bronze

St Helena is small yet beautiful. It is an island of contrasts, from emerald hillsides, soft pastured ridges and valleys, to emerald hillsides, soft pastured and lush vegetation filled valleys. It has a magnificent bronze surrounding coastline with 1000 feet high cliffs that have



been carved over the centuries by the pounding Atlantic rollers. This ancient volcanic island is set in the tropical South Atlantic 1500 miles north-west of Cape Town. There is no airport and the island can only be reached by ship.

St Helena became a British dependency in 1834 and still retains its 19th century values and is imbued with some 300 years of colonial history; manifested in the architecture and ambience of Jamestown.

### A Georgian seaport

Protected by 18th century fortifications is Jamestown the island's capital, a Georgian seaport which is abundantly endowed with a living heritage from its early days. The town nestles in a deep narrow valley, is the seat of Government and houses the museum, hotels and shops.

The way out of Jamestown by road is by one of two routes (Side Path and Ladder Hill) each cut into steep hillsides. For the more adventurous, there is Jacob Ladder with its 699 steps embedded into the steep cliff face, rising from the valley floor to the top of Ladder Hill.

### The Discovery

Discovered 21 May 1502 by Portuguese admiral João da Nova on his return voyage from India, the anniversary of Saint Helena mother of Emperor Constantine. The island soon became a haven for sea travellers because of its luxuriant vegetation, equable climate and wealth of fruit trees. Ships would drop off those suffering from scurvy so that they could benefit from the citrus fruits and then been picked up by another ship after recovery. The Saints, as the islanders are affectionately known, have their own special charm, having descended from British settlers sent out by the East India Company, slaves and indentured workers from Africa and the East. This amazing combination has contributed to the Saints captivating, friendly and unique character.

### Famous visitors

Over the centuries St Helena has welcomed many famous visitors among them Darwin, Halley, Bligh, and Cook. The most internationally renowned figure associated with St Helena is, of course, Napoleon Bonaparte who was exiled to the island in 1815 following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. He lived in Longwood House until his death in 1821, and the residence is now a museum owned by the French Government.

### Stamps

St Helena began issuing stamps in 1856. The discovery issue was released in May 1997 and the fifth part in the series will be released in May this year - celebrating the 500th anniversary of the discovery of St Helena.

### Leisure activities

The island is ten and a half miles long and 6 and a half miles wide is blessed with a pleasant climate with temperatures ranging between 14°C to 32°C in summer and 14°C to 26°C in winter. The island has a rich history and a fascinating heritage evidenced by the early military fortifications set in a spectacular scenery. There are superb walks which can be gentle or arduous, offering a chance to see the endemic flora and fauna.

to reach the island

Updated July 23, 2002