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Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the New Zealand dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government

The British High Commissioner in New Zealand was appointed Governor.

The Pitcairners essentially rule themselves through an island magistrate and a council.

There is also an island court to handle community and civil offenses.

The capital is Adamstown.

Holidays

The following holiday is observed:

Celebration of the Birthday of the Queen (second Saturday in June).

Industries

The main industries are based on postage stamps and handicrafts.

Pitcairn's revenue is derived mainly from the sale of postage stamps overseas, interest from investments, and from irregular British development grants.

Fruit, vegetables, and curios are sold to passing ships.

General

The Pitcairn Islands, a dependent territory of the United Kingdom, consist of four islands. They are Pitcairn, Oeno, Ducie, and Henderson.

Pitcairn Island, the largest and only inhabited island of the group, is located in the South Pacific Ocean about 25°04'S, 130°06'W.

It is a small irregular-shaped island about 2 miles long by 1 mile wide and at its highest point near the W end it rises to a peak of 305m.

The coast consists of high, almost vertical cliffs except at Bounty Bay and a small cove on the W side of the island.

There are no streams, but abundant rainfall ensures fresh water, and the island is most productive.

The soil, of decomposed lava and rich black earth, is very fertile.

The climate is tropical being hot and humid. It is modified by SE trade winds. The rainy season is from November to March.

The terrain is composed of rugged volcanic formations and the rocky coastline has cliffs.

Languages

The official language of the Pitcairn Islands is English, but the dialect of Pitcairn, a mixture of English and Tahitian, is also spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is VICTOR (+9).

U.S. Embassy

There are no U.S. diplomatic offices.