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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	35.guide . . . . .	1
1.2	35.guide/British Indian Ocean Territory . . . . .	1
1.3	35.guide/Header (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	2
1.4	35.guide/Geography (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	2
1.5	35.guide/People (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	3
1.6	35.guide/Government (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	3
1.7	35.guide/Economy (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	4
1.8	35.guide/Communications (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	4
1.9	35.guide/Defense Forces (British Indian Ocean Territory) . . . . .	5

# Chapter 1

## 35

### 1.1 35.guide

Texified version of data for British Indian Ocean Territory.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock  
Neuhäuselerstr. 12  
D-66459 Kirdel  
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134  
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de  
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive  
Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet) hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet,  
Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

British Indian Ocean Territory

### 1.2 35.guide/British Indian Ocean Territory

British Indian Ocean Territory

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Header (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
Geography (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
People (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
Government (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
Economy (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
Communications (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
Defense Forces (British Indian Ocean Territory)

### 1.3 35.guide/Header (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Header (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
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Affiliation:  
    (dependent territory of the UK)

### 1.4 35.guide/Geography (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Geography (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
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Location:  
    in the Indian Ocean, south of India about halfway between Africa and  
    Indonesia  
Map references:  
    Standard Time Zones of the World  
Area:  
    total area:  
        60 km<sup>2</sup>  
    land area:  
        60 km<sup>2</sup>  
    comparative area:  
        about 0.3 times the size of Washington, DC  
note:  
    includes the island of Diego Garcia  
Land boundaries:  
    0 km  
Coastline: 698 km  
Maritime claims:  
    exclusive fishing zone:  
        200 nm  
    territorial sea:  
        3 nm  
International disputes:  
    the entire Chagos Archipelago is claimed by Mauritius  
Climate:

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tropical marine; hot, humid, moderated by trade winds  
Terrain:  
flat and low (up to 4 meters in elevation)  
Natural resources:  
coconuts, fish  
Land use:  
arable land:  
0%  
permanent crops:  
0%  
meadows and pastures:  
0%  
forest and woodland:  
0%  
other:  
100%  
Irrigated land:  
0 km2  
Environment:  
archipelago of 2,300 islands  
Note:  
Diego Garcia, largest and southernmost island, occupies strategic location  
in central Indian Ocean; island is site of joint US-UK military facility

## 1.5 35.guide/People (British Indian Ocean Territory)

People (British Indian Ocean Territory)

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Population:  
no indigenous inhabitants  
note:  
there are UK-US military personnel; civilian inhabitants, known as the  
Ilois, evacuated to Mauritius before construction of UK-US military  
facilities

## 1.6 35.guide/Government (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Government (British Indian Ocean Territory)

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Names:  
conventional long form:  
British Indian Ocean Territory  
conventional short form:  
none  
Abbreviation:  
BIOT

Digraph: IO  
 Type:  
     dependent territory of the UK  
 Capital:  
     none  
 Independence:  
     none (dependent territory of the UK)  
 Leaders:  
     Chief of State:  
         Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952)  
     Head of Government:  
         Commissioner Mr. T. G. HARRIS (since NA); Administrator Mr. R. G. WELLS  
         (since NA 1991); note – both reside in the UK  
 Diplomatic representation in US:  
     none (dependent territory of UK)  
 Flag:  
     white with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and six blue  
     wavy horizontal stripes bearing a palm tree and yellow crown centered on ↔  
     the  
     outer half of the flag

## 1.7 35.guide/Economy (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Economy (British Indian Ocean Territory)

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Overview:

All economic activity is concentrated on the largest island of Diego Garcia ↔  
 ,  
 where joint UK-US defense facilities are located. Construction projects and  
 various services needed to support the military installations are done by  
 military and contract employees from the UK, Mauritius, the Philippines, ↔  
 and  
 the US. There are no industrial or agricultural activities on the islands.

Electricity:

provided by the US military

## 1.8 35.guide/Communications (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Communications (British Indian Ocean Territory)

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Highways:

short stretch of paved road between port and airfield on Diego Garcia

Ports:

Diego Garcia

Airports:

total:

1  
usable:  
1  
with permanent-surface runways:  
1  
with runways over 3,659 m:  
1 on Diego Garcia  
with runways 2,439-3,659 m:  
0  
with runways 1,229-2,439 m:  
0  
Telecommunications:  
minimal facilities; broadcast stations (operated by US Navy) - 1 AM, 1 FM, ↔  
1  
TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.9 35.guide/Defense Forces (British Indian Ocean Territory)

Defense Forces (British Indian Ocean Territory)  
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Note:  
defense is the responsibility of the UK