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Chapter 1

35

1.1 35.guide

Texified version of data for British Indian Ocean Territory.

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British Indian Ocean Territory

1.2 35.guide/British Indian Ocean Territory

British Indian Ocean Territory

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 km²
 land area:
 60 km²
 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:

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