

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Australian Indian Ocean Territory External territory of Australia	
Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands <i>Pulu Kokos (Keeling)</i> (Cocos Islands Malay) <i>Wilayah Kepulauan Cocos (Keeling)</i> (Malay)	
Flag of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Flag	
Motto: "Maju Pulu Kita" (Cocos Islands Malay) (English: "Onward our island")	
Location of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Location of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (circled in red)	
Sovereign state	Australia
Annexed by the United Kingdom	1857
Transferred from Singapore to Australia	23 November 1955
Capital	West Island 12°11′13″S 96°49′42″E
Largest village	Bantam (Home Island)
Official languages	None
Spoken languages	Malay · English ^[a]
Government	Directly administered dependency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">MonarchGovernor-GeneralAdministrator	Charles III David Hurley Natasha Griggs

• Shire President	Seri Wati Iku
Area	
• Total	14 km ² (5.4 sq mi)
• Water (%)	0
Highest elevation	5 m (16 ft)
Population	
• 2016 census	544 (not ranked)
• Density	43/km ² (111.4/ sq mi) (not ranked)
Currency	Australian dollar (AUD)
Time zone	UTC+06:30
Calling code	+61 891
Postcode	WA 6799
ISO 3166 code	CC
Internet TLD	.cc

The **Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands** ([Cocos Islands Malay](#): *Pulu Kokos (Keeling)*) is a territory of [Australia](#). There are two [atolls](#) and twenty-seven coral islands in the group. The [islands](#) are in the [Indian Ocean](#), about one-half of the way from Australia to [Sri Lanka](#).

History

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Captain [William Keeling](#) was the first European to see the islands, in 1609, but they remained uninhabited until the [nineteenth century](#), when they became a possession of the Clunies-Ross Family. [Slaves](#) were brought to work the [coconut](#) plantation from [Indonesia](#), the [Cape of Good Hope](#) and East Asia by Alexander Hare who had taken part in [Stamford Raffles'](#) takeover of [Java](#) in 1811. A [Scottish](#) merchant seaman called Captain John Clunies-Ross, who had also served under Raffles in the takeover, set up a compound and Hare's severely mistreated slaves soon escaped to work under better conditions for Clunies-Ross.

On [November 23 1955](#), the islands were transferred to Australian control under the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955*. In the 1970s, Australian government dissatisfaction with the Clunies-Ross feudal style of rule of the island increased. In 1978, Australia forced the family to sell the islands for the sum of AU\$6,250,000, using the threat of compulsory purchase. By agreement the family retained ownership of Oceania House, their home on

the island. However, in 1983 the Australian government moved to dishonour this agreement, and told the former last ruler, John Clunies-Ross, that he should leave the Cocos. The following year the High Court of Australia ruled that the government could not buy Oceania House. Instead the Australian government ordered that no government business was to be given to his shipping company, an action which contributed to his bankruptcy. John Clunies-Ross lives in exile in Perth, Australia, but his successors still live on the Cocos.

In 2004 there were 629 people living on the Cocos (Keeling) islands. There are about 120 Europeans on West Island and 500 Malays on Home Island. A Cocos dialect of Malay and English are the main languages spoken and 80% of Cocos Islanders are [Sunni Muslim](#). India does not recognise Anglo annexation of these Cultural Indo-Indian/Indies islands as part of Australia and disputes its status to counterbalance regional hegemonic sea power.

Government

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The capital of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is [West Island](#) while the largest settlement is the village of Bantam ([Home Island](#)). Governance of the islands is based on the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955* ^{[1][2]}

Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Atoll Research Bulletin vol. 403 Archived](#) 2006-09-12 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
- [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands Tourism website Archived](#) 2018-11-11 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
- [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands Archived](#) 2018-12-24 at the [Wayback Machine](#) entry from the [CIA World Factbook](#)
- [Shire of Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#)
- [Noel Crusz, *The Cocos Islands mutiny*, Reviewed by: Peter Stanley, Principal Historian, Australian War Memorial Archived](#) 2001-09-11 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
- [History of Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands Archived](#) 2012-09-25 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
- [Areas of individual islets Archived](#) 2006-09-13 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
- [The man who lost a 'coral kingdom'](#)

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Notes

1. [↑] English does not have *de jure* status on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and in Australia, but it is the *de facto* language of communication in government.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Cocos (Keeling) Islands***.

1. [↑] "*Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955*". Archived from *the original* on 22 July 2008. Retrieved 9 September 2007.
2. [↑] "*Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955*".

<div>States and territories of Australia</div> <div>States</div> <div>New South Wales • Queensland • South Australia • Tasmania • Victoria • Western Australia</div> <div>Territories</div> <div>Mainland: Australian Capital Territory • Jervis Bay Territory • Northern Territory</div> <div>Overseas: Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Antarctic Territory • Norfolk Island • Christmas Island • Cocos (Keeling) Islands • Coral Sea Islands • Heard and McDonald Islands</div>			
<div>v · t · e</div> <div>States and territories of Australia</div>			
States	New South Wales • Queensland • South Australia • Tasmania • Victoria • Western Australia		
Territories	Internal territories	Australian Capital Territory • Jervis Bay Territory • Northern Territory	
		Defunct: Central Australia (1927–31) • North Australia (1927–31)	
	External territories	Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Antarctic Territory ¹ • Coral Sea Islands • Heard Island and McDonald Islands • Norfolk Island	
		Defunct: Nauru (1920–68) ² • New Guinea (1920–49) • Papua (1902–49) • Papua and New Guinea (1949–75)	
		Indian Ocean Territories	Christmas Island • Cocos (Keeling) Islands
(1) Sovereignty recognised only by France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom.			
(2) Co-mandate with New Zealand and the United Kingdom.			
<div>v · t · e</div> <div>Members of the Commonwealth of Nations</div>			

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	New Zealand	Cook Islands · Niue · Ross Dependency · Tokelau
	United Kingdom	Akrotiri and Dhekelia · Anguilla · Bermuda · British Antarctic Territory · British Indian Ocean Territory · British Virgin Islands · Cayman Islands · Falkland Islands · Gibraltar · Guernsey · Isle of Man · Jersey · Montserrat · Pitcairn Islands · St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha · South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands · Turks and Caicos Islands
Source: Commonwealth Secretariat - Member States		

<div>v · t · e</div> Militaries of Asia	
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	Syria · Taiwan · Tajikistan · Thailand · Timor Leste · Turkey · Turkmenistan · United Arab Emirates · Uzbekistan · Vietnam · Yemen
States with limited recognition	Abkhazia · Artsakh (Artsakh Defence Army / Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army) · South Ossetia · Northern Cyprus · Palestine (militant groups: Al-Qassam Brigades , Saraya Al-Quds)
Dependencies and other territories	British Indian Ocean Territory · Christmas Island · Cocos (Keeling) Islands · Hong Kong · Macau
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Other	NARA

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