[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Gibraltar** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)) is a [British Overseas Territory](/wiki/British_Overseas_Territories) located on the southern end of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) It has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and shares its [northern border](/wiki/Gibraltar–Spain_border) with Spain. The [Rock of Gibraltar](/wiki/Rock_of_Gibraltar) is the major landmark of the region. At its foot is a densely populated city area, home to over 30,000 [Gibraltarians](/wiki/Gibraltarian_people) and other nationalities.[[3]](#cite_note-3) An Anglo-Dutch force [captured Gibraltar](/wiki/Capture_of_Gibraltar) from [Spain](/wiki/Spain) in 1704 during the [War of the Spanish Succession](/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession) on behalf of the [Habsburg](/wiki/Habsburg) pretender to the Spanish throne. The territory was subsequently ceded to [Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) "in perpetuity" under the [Treaty of Utrecht](/wiki/Treaty_of_Utrecht) in 1713. During World War II it was an important base for the [Royal Navy](/wiki/Royal_Navy) as it controlled the entrance and exit to the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea), which is only eight miles (13 km) wide at this point. Today Gibraltar's economy is based largely on tourism, online gambling, financial services, and shipping.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) The sovereignty of Gibraltar is a major point of contention in [Anglo-Spanish relations](/wiki/Spain–United_Kingdom_relations) as Spain asserts [a claim to the territory](/wiki/Disputed_status_of_Gibraltar).[[5]](#cite_note-5) Gibraltarians overwhelmingly rejected proposals for Spanish sovereignty in a [1967 referendum](/wiki/Gibraltar_sovereignty_referendum,_1967) and [again in 2002](/wiki/Gibraltar_sovereignty_referendum,_2002). Under the [Gibraltar constitution of 2006](/wiki/Gibraltar_Constitution_Order_2006), Gibraltar governs its own affairs, though some powers, such as defence and foreign relations, remain the responsibility of the [Government of the United Kingdom](/wiki/Government_of_the_United_Kingdom).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name *Gibraltar* is the Spanish derivation of the [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) name *Jabal Ṭāriq* ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), meaning "Mountain of Tariq". It refers to the [Rock of Gibraltar](/wiki/Rock_of_Gibraltar), which was named after the [Umayyad](/wiki/Umayyad) general [Tariq ibn-Ziyad](/wiki/Tariq_ibn-Ziyad) who led the initial incursion [into Iberia in advance of the main Umayyad force](/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) in 711 under the command of Umayyad Caliph [Al-Walid I](/wiki/Al-Walid_I). Earlier, it was known as [*Mons Calpe*](/wiki/Mons_Calpe), one of the [Pillars of Hercules](/wiki/Pillars_of_Hercules).<ref name=Hills-13>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|upright|View of the northern face of the](/wiki/File:The_Moorish_Castle.jpg) [Moorish Castle's](/wiki/Moorish_Castle) Tower of Homage. Built in the 14th century.

Evidence of [Neanderthal](/wiki/Neanderthal) habitation in Gibraltar between 30,000 and 26,000 [BP](/wiki/Before_Present) has been discovered at [Gorham's Cave](/wiki/Gorham's_Cave), making Gibraltar the last known holdout of the Neanderthals.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Within recorded history, the first inhabitants were the [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicia), around 950 BC. Subsequently, Gibraltar became known as one of the [Pillars of Hercules](/wiki/Pillars_of_Hercules), after the [Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) legend of the creation of the [Strait of Gibraltar](/wiki/Strait_of_Gibraltar) by [Heracles](/wiki/Heracles). The [Carthaginians](/wiki/Carthage) and [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) also established semi-permanent settlements. After the collapse of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire), Gibraltar came briefly under the control of the [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals).

The area later formed part of the [Visigothic Kingdom](/wiki/Visigothic_Kingdom) of [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania) from 414 AD until the [Islamic conquest of Iberia](/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) in 711 AD.

### Settlement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:POV section](/wiki/Template:POV_section) In 1160, the [Almohad](/wiki/Almohad_Caliphate) Sultan [Abd al-Mu'min](/wiki/Abd_al-Mu'min) ordered that a permanent settlement, including a castle, be built. It received the name of Medinat al-Fath (City of the Victory).<ref name=norris>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> On completion of the works in the town, the Sultan crossed the Strait to look at the works and stayed in Gibraltar for two months. The Tower of Homage of the [Moorish Castle](/wiki/Moorish_Castle) remains standing today. From 1274 onwards, the town was fought over and captured by the [Nasrids](/wiki/Nasrids) of Granada (in 1237 and 1374), the [Marinids](/wiki/Marinids) of Morocco (in 1274 and 1333) and the kings of [Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) (in 1309). In 1462, Gibraltar was finally captured by [Juan Alonso de Guzmán, 1st Duke of Medina Sidonia](/wiki/Juan_Alonso_de_Guzmán,_1st_Duke_of_Medina_Sidonia).[[7]](#cite_note-7) After the conquest, King [Henry IV of Castile](/wiki/Henry_IV_of_Castile) assumed the additional title of [King of Gibraltar](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Gibraltar), establishing it as part of the [*comarca*](/wiki/Comarca) of the [Campo Llano de Gibraltar](/wiki/Campo_de_Gibraltar).[[8]](#cite_note-8) Six years later, Gibraltar was restored to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, who sold it in 1474 to a group of 4,350 [*conversos*](/wiki/Converso) (Christian converts from Judaism) from [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba,_Spain) in exchange for maintaining the garrison of the town for two years, after which time they were expelled, most returning to Córdoba and a few seeking refuge in [Seville](/wiki/Seville) or the [Nasrid Kingdom of Granada](/wiki/Nasrid_Kingdom_of_Granada).[[9]](#cite_note-9) In 1501, Gibraltar passed back to the Spanish Crown, and [Isabella I of Castile](/wiki/Isabella_I_of_Castile) issued a [Royal Warrant](/wiki/Royal_Warrant) granting Gibraltar the coat of arms that it still uses today. [thumb|left|upright|*The last of Gibraltar*, by](/wiki/File:El_ultimo_de_Gibraltar.jpg) [Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau](/wiki/Augusto_Ferrer-Dalmau).

In 1704, during the [War of the Spanish Succession](/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession), a combined [Anglo](/wiki/Kingdom_of_England)-[Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_Republic) fleet, representing the [Grand Alliance](/wiki/Grand_Alliance_(League_of_Augsburg)), [captured the town of Gibraltar](/wiki/Capture_of_Gibraltar) on behalf of the [Archduke Charles of Austria](/wiki/Charles_VI,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) in his campaign to become King of Spain. The occupation of the town by Alliance forces caused the exodus of the population to the surrounding area of the Campo de Gibraltar.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) As the Alliance's campaign faltered, the 1713 [Treaty of Utrecht](/wiki/Treaty_of_Utrecht) was negotiated and ceded control of Gibraltar to Britain to secure Britain's withdrawal from the war. Unsuccessful attempts by Spanish monarchs to regain Gibraltar were made with the [siege of 1727](/wiki/Siege_of_Gibraltar_(1727)) and again with the [Great Siege of Gibraltar](/wiki/Great_Siege_of_Gibraltar) (1779 to 1783), during the [American War of Independence](/wiki/American_War_of_Independence).

Gibraltar became a key base for the [Royal Navy](/wiki/Royal_Navy) and played an important role prior to the [Battle of Trafalgar](/wiki/Battle_of_Trafalgar) (21 October 1805) and during the [Crimean War](/wiki/Crimean_War) of 1854–56, due to its strategic location. Its strategic value increased with the opening of the [Suez Canal](/wiki/Suez_Canal), as it lay on the sea route between the UK and the British Empire east of Suez. In the later 19th century, there were major investments in improving the fortifications and the port.[[12]](#cite_note-12)

### Modern history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

During [World War II](/wiki/Military_history_of_Gibraltar_during_World_War_II), Gibraltar's civilian population was evacuated (mainly to London, England, but also to parts of Morocco, Madeira and Jamaica) and the Rock was strengthened as a [fortress](/wiki/Fortification). Spanish dictator [Francisco Franco's](/wiki/Francisco_Franco) reluctance to allow the [German Army](/wiki/Wehrmacht) onto Spanish soil frustrated a German plan to capture the Rock, codenamed [Operation Felix](/wiki/Operation_Felix). In the 1950s, Franco renewed Spain's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar and restricted movement between Gibraltar and Spain. Gibraltarians voted overwhelmingly to remain under British sovereignty in the [Gibraltar sovereignty referendum, 1967](/wiki/Gibraltar_sovereignty_referendum,_1967), which led to the passing of the [Gibraltar Constitution Order](/wiki/Gibraltar_Constitution_Order_1969) in 1969. In response, Spain completely closed the border with Gibraltar and severed all communication links.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The border with Spain was partially reopened in 1982 and fully reopened in 1985 before Spain's accession to the [European Community](/wiki/European_Community).

In [a referendum held in 2002](/wiki/Gibraltar_sovereignty_referendum,_2002), [Gibraltarians](/wiki/Gibraltarian_people) rejected by an overwhelming majority (98%) a proposal of shared sovereignty on which [Spain](/wiki/Spain) and [Britain](/wiki/United_Kingdom) were said to have reached "broad agreement".[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) The British government has committed itself to respecting the Gibraltarians' wishes.[[16]](#cite_note-16) A [new Constitution Order](/wiki/Gibraltar_Constitution_Order_2006) was approved in referendum in 2006. A process of tripartite negotiations started in 2006 between Spain, Gibraltar and the UK, ending some restrictions and dealing with disputes in some specific areas such as air movements, customs procedures, telecommunications, pensions and cultural exchange.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

#### Brexit[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

During the campaign leading up to the United Kingdom's national referendum on whether to leave the European Union (known as 'Brexit') the Spanish government warned that if the UK chose to leave, Spain would push to reclaim control over Gibraltar 'the very next day'.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo warned the UK that if Brexit went ahead Spain could "pounce on us" also stating that "it is safer and more secure for Gibraltar to remain in the EU".[[19]](#cite_note-19) On 23 June 2016 Gibraltar voted with the rest of the United Kingdom on whether the UK should remain in, or leave the European Union. Although the final decision saw the UK decide to leave, Gibraltar overwhelmingly voted to remain in the Union. There was a strong voter turnout of 82% resulting in 19 322 votes to remain and only 872 to leave.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The very day after the result of the Brexit vote, Spain's acting Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo, as promised, renewed calls for joint Spanish/British control of the peninsula. He labelled the British people's decision to leave the EU as "a complete change of outlook that opens up new possibilities on Gibraltar not seen for a very long time" speculating "the Spanish flag on the Rock is much closer than before".[[21]](#cite_note-21)

## Governance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Main Street entrance to the Governor's Residence,](/wiki/File:The_convent_in_Gibraltar_7.jpg) [The Convent](/wiki/The_Convent_(Gibraltar)) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_Parliament_at_dusk.jpg)[John Mackintosh Square](/wiki/John_Mackintosh_Square) entrance to the [Gibraltar Parliament](/wiki/Gibraltar_Parliament).

Gibraltar is a [British overseas territory](/wiki/British_overseas_territories). The [British Nationality Act 1981](/wiki/British_Nationality_Act_1981) granted Gibraltarians full British citizenship.

Under its current [constitution](/wiki/Gibraltar_Constitution_Order_2006), Gibraltar has almost complete internal democratic [self-government](/wiki/Self-governance) through an [elected parliament](/wiki/Gibraltar_Parliament),[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) elected for a term of up to four years. The [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameralism) parliament presently consists of 17 elected members, and the [Speaker](/wiki/List_of_Speakers_of_the_Gibraltar_Parliament) who is not elected, but appointed by a resolution of the parliament.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The [government](/wiki/Government_of_Gibraltar) consists of 10 elected members. The head of state is [Queen Elizabeth II](/wiki/Elizabeth_II), who is represented by the [Governor of Gibraltar](/wiki/Governor_of_Gibraltar). The governor enacts day-to-day matters on the advice of the Gibraltar Parliament, but is responsible to the British government in respect of defence, foreign policy, internal security and general good governance. Judicial and other appointments are made on behalf of the Queen in consultation with the [head of the elected government](/wiki/Chief_Minister_of_Gibraltar).[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31][31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) The [2011 election](/wiki/Gibraltar_general_election,_2011) was contested by the [Gibraltar Social Democrats](/wiki/Gibraltar_Social_Democrats) (GSD), [Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party](/wiki/Gibraltar_Socialist_Labour_Party) (GSLP)-[Gibraltar Liberal Party](/wiki/Gibraltar_Liberal_Party) (GLP) Alliance and the [Progressive Democratic Party](/wiki/Progressive_Democratic_Party_(Gibraltar)) (PDP). The PDP is a new party, formed in 2006 and fielded candidates in the 2007 election, but none was elected. The head of government is the [Chief Minister](/wiki/Chief_Minister_of_Gibraltar) (as of December 2011, [Fabian Picardo](/wiki/Fabian_Picardo)). All local political parties oppose any transfer of sovereignty to Spain, instead supporting [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination). The main UK opposition parties also support this policy and it is UK government policy not to engage in talks about the sovereignty of Gibraltar without the consent of the people of Gibraltar.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Gibraltar is part of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), having joined through the [European Communities Act 1972 (UK)](/wiki/European_Communities_Act_1972_(UK)), which gave effect to the [Treaty of Accession 1972](/wiki/Treaty_of_Accession_1972), as a dependent territory of the United Kingdom under what was then article 227(4) of the [Treaty Establishing the European Community](/wiki/Treaty_Establishing_the_European_Community) covering [special member state territories](/wiki/Special_member_state_territories_and_the_European_Union#Gibraltar), with exemption from some areas such as the [Customs union](/wiki/Customs_union) and [Common Agricultural Policy](/wiki/Common_Agricultural_Policy). After a 10-year campaign for the right to vote in [European elections](/wiki/Elections_in_the_European_Union), since 2004 the people of Gibraltar have participated in elections for the [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament) as part of the [South West England constituency](/wiki/South_West_England_(European_Parliament_constituency)).[[34]](#cite_note-34) On 23 June 2016 Gibraltar voted along with the United Kingdom in the [EU referendum](/wiki/United_Kingdom_European_Union_membership_referendum,_2016); 96% of its population voted to remain, but the overall United Kingdom result gave a 51.9% majority to leaving the EU.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The [United Nations Committee on Decolonization](/wiki/United_Nations_Committee_on_Decolonization) includes Gibraltar on the [United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories](/wiki/United_Nations_list_of_Non-Self-Governing_Territories).[[36]](#cite_note-36) Gibraltar has been on the list since December 1946.[[37]](#cite_note-37)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [right|thumb|Gibraltar from the air, looking north-west.](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_aerial_view_looking_northwest.jpg)

Gibraltar's territory covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and shares a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) land border with Spain. The town of [La Línea de la Concepción](/wiki/La_Línea_de_la_Concepción), a [municipality](/wiki/List_of_municipalities_in_Cádiz) of the [province of Cádiz](/wiki/Province_of_Cádiz), lies on the Spanish side of the border. The Spanish hinterland forms the [comarca](/wiki/Comarca) of [Campo de Gibraltar](/wiki/Campo_de_Gibraltar) (literally "Countryside of Gibraltar"). The shoreline measures [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in length. There are two coasts ("Sides") of Gibraltar: the East Side, which contains the settlements of [Sandy Bay](/wiki/Sandy_Bay,_Gibraltar) and [Catalan Bay](/wiki/Catalan_Bay); and the [Westside](/wiki/Westside_(Gibraltar)), where the vast majority of the population lives. Gibraltar has no administrative divisions but is divided into seven [Major Residential Areas](/wiki/Gibraltar_Major_Residential_Areas).

Having negligible [natural resources](/wiki/Natural_resource) and few natural [freshwater](/wiki/Freshwater) resources, limited to natural wells in the north, until recently Gibraltar used large concrete and/or natural rock [water catchments](/wiki/Drainage_basin) to collect rainwater. Fresh water from the boreholes is supplemented by two [desalination](/wiki/Desalination) plants: a [reverse osmosis](/wiki/Reverse_osmosis) plant, constructed in a tunnel within the rock, and a [multi-stage flash distillation](/wiki/Multi-stage_flash_distillation) plant at North Mole.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Gibraltar's terrain consists of the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Rock of Gibraltar](/wiki/Rock_of_Gibraltar)[[39]](#cite_note-39) made of [Jurassic](/wiki/Jurassic) [limestone](/wiki/Limestone), and the narrow coastal lowland surrounding it. It contains many tunnelled roads, most of which are still operated by the military and closed to the general public.

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### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Gibraltar has a [subtropical](/wiki/Subtropical) [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Csa*),[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) with mild winters and warm summers. Rain occurs mainly in winter, with summer being generally dry. Its average annual temperature is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night. In the coldest month, January, the temperature ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night, the average sea temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). In the warmest month, August, the typical temperature ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day, above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night, the average sea temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Iberis_gibraltarica.JPG)[Gibraltar candytuft](/wiki/Iberis_gibraltarica) growing at the [Gibraltar Botanic Gardens](/wiki/Gibraltar_Botanic_Gardens) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Common_dolphin_taken_by_Graham_Hesketh_of_Dolphin_Safari.png) [common dolphin](/wiki/Common_dolphin) in the [Bay of Gibraltar](/wiki/Bay_of_Gibraltar) Over 500 different species of [flowering plants](/wiki/Flowering_plant) grow on the Rock. Gibraltar is the only place in Europe where the *Gibraltar candytuft* ([*Iberis gibraltarica*](/wiki/Iberis_gibraltarica)) is found growing in the wild; the plant is otherwise native to North Africa. It is the symbol of the [Upper Rock nature reserve](/wiki/Rock_of_Gibraltar#Upper_Rock_Nature_Reserve). [Olive](/wiki/Olive) and [pine](/wiki/Pine) trees are among the most common of those growing around the Rock.

Most of the Rock's upper area is covered by a [nature reserve](/wiki/Nature_reserve) which is home to around 230 [Barbary macaques](/wiki/Gibraltar_Barbary_macaques), the famous apes of Gibraltar, albeit that biologists insist that technically the apes are wild [monkeys](/wiki/Monkey). These are the only wild apes or monkeys found in Europe.[[43]](#cite_note-43) This species, known scientifically as [*Macaca sylvanus*](/wiki/Macaca_sylvanus), is listed as endangered by the [IUCN Red List](/wiki/IUCN_Red_List) and is declining. Three-quarters of the world population live in the [Middle Atlas](/wiki/Middle_Atlas) mountains of [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco). Recent genetic studies and historical documents point to their presence on the Rock before its [capture by the British](/wiki/Capture_of_Gibraltar). A superstition analogous to that of the [ravens](/wiki/Raven) at the [Tower of London](/wiki/Tower_of_London) states that if the apes ever leave, so will the British. In 1944, [British Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom) [Winston Churchill](/wiki/Winston_Churchill), was so concerned about the dwindling population of apes that he sent a message to the [Colonial Secretary](/wiki/Chief_Secretary) requesting that something be done about the situation.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Other mammals found in Gibraltar include rabbits, foxes and bats. Dolphins and whales are frequently seen in the [Bay of Gibraltar](/wiki/Bay_of_Gibraltar). Migrating birds are very common and Gibraltar is home to the only [Barbary partridges](/wiki/Barbary_partridge) found on the European continent.

In 1991, Graham Watson, Gibraltar's [MEP](/wiki/Member_of_the_European_Parliament), highlighted [conservationists'](/wiki/Conservationism) fears that [urban development](/wiki/Urban_development), tourism and [invasive plant species](/wiki/Invasive_plant_species) were threatening Gibraltar's own plants as well as birds and [bat species](/wiki/Bat_species).[[45]](#cite_note-45)

### Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

In May 2016 a report by the [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) showed that Gibraltar had the worst air quality in any British territory. The report concentrated on [PM10](/wiki/PM10) and [PM2.5](/wiki/PM2.5) pollutants in the air.[[46]](#cite_note-46)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|The semi-wild](/wiki/File:Barbary_macaque_and_tourists.jpg) [Barbary macaques](/wiki/Gibraltar_Barbary_macaques) are an integral feature in [Gibraltar's tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Gibraltar).

The [British military](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(United_Kingdom)) traditionally dominated [Gibraltar's economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Gibraltar), with the [naval dockyard](/wiki/Naval_dockyard) providing the bulk of economic activity. This however, has diminished over the last 20 years, and is estimated to account for only 7 percent of the local economy, compared to over 60 percent in 1984. Today, Gibraltar's economy is dominated by four main sectors: [financial services](/wiki/Financial_services), [online gambling](/wiki/Online_gambling), shipping and tourism, which includes retail sales to visitors.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In the early 2000s, many [bookmakers](/wiki/Bookmaker) and online gaming operators moved to Gibraltar to benefit from operating in a regulated jurisdiction with a favourable [corporate tax](/wiki/Corporate_tax) regime. However, this corporate tax regime for non-resident controlled companies was phased out by January 2011 and replaced by a fixed corporate tax rate of 10 percent.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Tourism is also a significant industry. Gibraltar is a popular port for cruise ships and attracts day visitors from resorts in Spain. The Rock is a popular tourist attraction, particularly among British tourists and residents in the southern coast of Spain. It is also a popular shopping destination, and all goods and services are [VAT](/wiki/Value_added_tax) free, but may be subject to Gibraltar taxes. Many of the large British high street chains have branches or franchises in Gibraltar including [Morrisons](/wiki/Morrisons), [Marks & Spencer](/wiki/Marks_&_Spencer) and [Mothercare](/wiki/Mothercare). Branches and franchises of international retailers such as [Tommy Hilfiger](/wiki/Tommy_Hilfiger) and [Sunglass Hut](/wiki/Sunglass_Hut_International) are also present in Gibraltar, as is the Spanish clothing company [Mango](/wiki/Mango_(clothing)).

[thumb|left|Queensway Quay Marina, along with](/wiki/File:Queensway_Quay.jpg) [Ocean Village](/wiki/Ocean_Village,_Gibraltar), are two exclusive residential districts A number of [British and international banks](/wiki/List_of_banks_in_Gibraltar) have operations based in Gibraltar. [Jyske Bank](/wiki/Jyske_Bank) claims to be the oldest bank in the country, based on Jyske's acquisition in 1987 of [Banco Galliano](/wiki/Banco_Galliano), which began operations in Gibraltar in 1855. An ancestor of [Barclays](/wiki/Barclays), the [Anglo-Egyptian Bank](/wiki/Anglo-Egyptian_Bank), entered in 1888, and Credit Foncier (now [Crédit Agricole](/wiki/Crédit_Agricole)) entered in 1920.

In 1967, Gibraltar enacted the Companies (Taxation and Concessions) Ordinance (now an Act), which provided for special tax treatment for international business.[[49]](#cite_note-49) This was one of the factors leading to the growth of professional services such as [private banking](/wiki/Private_banking) and captive insurance management. Gibraltar has several positive attributes as a [financial centre](/wiki/Financial_centre), including a [common law](/wiki/Common_law) [legal system](/wiki/Law_of_Gibraltar) and access to the EU single market in financial services. The Financial Services Commission (FSC),[[50]](#cite_note-50) which was established by an ordinance in 1989 (now an Act) that took effect in 1991, regulates the finance sector.[[51]](#cite_note-51) In 1997, the Department of Trade and Industry established its Gibraltar Finance Centre (GFC) Division to facilitate the development the [financial sector development](/wiki/Financial_sector_development). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Gibraltar has 0.103 [Big Four](/wiki/Big_Four_(audit_firms)) accounting firm offices per 1,000 population, the second highest in the world after the [British Virgin Islands](/wiki/British_Virgin_Islands), and 0.6 banks per 1,000 people, the fifth most banks per capita in the world.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The currency of Gibraltar is the [Gibraltar pound](/wiki/Gibraltar_pound), issued by the [Government of Gibraltar](/wiki/Government_of_Gibraltar) under the terms of the 1934 *Currency Notes Act*. These banknotes are [legal tender](/wiki/Legal_tender) in Gibraltar alongside Bank of England banknotes.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) In a [currency board](/wiki/Currency_board) arrangement, these notes are issued against reserves of [sterling](/wiki/Pound_sterling).[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) Clearing and settlement of funds is conducted in sterling.[[57]](#cite_note-57) [Coins](/wiki/Coins_of_the_Gibraltar_pound) in circulation follow British denominations but have separate designs. Unofficially, most retail outlets in Gibraltar accept the [Euro](/wiki/Euro), though some payphones and the [Royal Gibraltar Post Office](/wiki/Royal_Gibraltar_Post_Office), along with all other Government Offices, do not.[[58]](#cite_note-58)

## Demography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The Roman Catholic](/wiki/File:Cathedral_of_St._Mary_the_Crowned_west.jpg) [Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned](/wiki/Cathedral_of_St._Mary_the_Crowned) was built in 1462 and is the territory's oldest Catholic church. [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_Hindu_Temple_altar.JPG) [Gibraltar Hindu Temple](/wiki/Gibraltar_Hindu_Temple), opened in 2000 [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Mosque_of_Gibraltar.jpg) [Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim Mosque](/wiki/Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim_Mosque) was a gift from [King Fahd](/wiki/Fahd_of_Saudi_Arabia) of [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia)

Gibraltar is one of the most densely populated territories in the world, with a usually-resident population in 2012 of 32,194 [[59]](#cite_note-59) equivalent to approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The growing demand for space is being increasingly met by [land reclamation](/wiki/Land_reclamation); reclaimed land currently comprises approximately one tenth of the territory's total area.

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The demographics of Gibraltar reflect the many [European](/wiki/European_ethnic_groups) and other [economic migrants](/wiki/Economic_migrant) who came to the Rock over three hundred years, after almost all of the Spanish population left in 1704.

Regarding the origin of names in the electoral roll there are: British (27%), Spanish (24%, mostly [Andalusians](/wiki/Andalusians) but also some 2% of [Minorcans](/wiki/Minorca)), [Genoese](/wiki/Genoa) and other [Italians](/wiki/Italians) (15%), [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) (15%), [Maltese](/wiki/Maltese_people) (8%). There are also small (less than 1%) peoples of other groups such as [Moroccans](/wiki/Moroccan_people), French, [Austrians](/wiki/Austrians), Chinese, Japanese, [Polish](/wiki/Polish_people) and [Danish](/wiki/Danish_people).[[60]](#cite_note-60)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Usually-Resident Population and Persons Present in Gibraltar** | |
| **Racial composition** | **1981**[**[61]**](#cite_note-61) |
| Gibraltarian | 74.87% | 74.98% | 83.22% | 79.03% |
| UK and other British | 14.00% | 14.27% | 9.55% | 13.20% |
| Moroccan | 8.08% | 6.73% | 3.50% | 1.62% |
| Other Nationalities (\*) | 3.05% | 4.01% | 3.73% | 6.15% |
| Spanish | - | - | 1.19%<ref name=CEN>[Gibraltar Census History](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/statistics/census/gibraltar-census-history) [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> </small> | 2.10% |
| Other EU | - | - | 1.00%[[62]](#cite_note-62) </small> | 1.61% |
|  |  |  |  |  |

(\*) Includes all nationalities different from Gibraltarian, UK and other British and Maroccan.

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [official language](/wiki/Official_language) of Gibraltar is English, and is used by the government and in schools. Most locals are [bilingual](/wiki/Multilingualism), also speaking Spanish, due to Gibraltar's proximity to Spain. However, because of the varied mix of ethnic groups which reside there, other languages are also spoken on the Rock. [Berber](/wiki/Berber_languages) and [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) are spoken by the [Moroccan](/wiki/Morocco) community, as are [Hindi](/wiki/Hindi) and [Sindhi](/wiki/Sindhi_language) by the Indian and the Pakistani communities of Gibraltar respectively. [Maltese language](/wiki/Maltese_language) is spoken by some families of [Maltese descent](/wiki/History_of_the_Maltese_in_Gibraltar). Portuguese is also widely spoken.

Gibraltarians often converse in [*Llanito*](/wiki/Llanito) ([Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)),[[63]](#cite_note-63) a [vernacular](/wiki/Wikt:vernacular) unique to Gibraltar. It is based on [Andalusian Spanish](/wiki/Andalusian_Spanish) with a strong mixture of [British English](/wiki/British_English) and elements from languages such as Maltese, [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language), [Genoese Italian](/wiki/Genoese_dialect) and [Haketia](/wiki/Haketia) (a Judeo-Spanish dialect). Over 500 Llanito words, for example, are of Genoese.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Llanito also often involves [code-switching](/wiki/Code-switching) to English, with technical terms and complex ideas mostly expressed in English.

Gibraltarians often call themselves *Llanitos*.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) According to the 2012 census, approximately 72.1% of Gibraltarians are Roman Catholics.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Their first match was a 0-0 draw against Slovakia. Subsequently Gibraltar applied for FIFA membership but this bid was also turned down.

On 2 May 2016 the CAS upheld the appeal filed by the Gibraltar Football Association regarding its request to become a full-time member of FIFA. CAS ordered FIFA to stop blocking Gibraltar's application for membership and allow it "without delay"[[80]](#cite_note-80) [Cricket](/wiki/Gibraltar_Cricket_Association) enjoys massive popularity in Gibraltar. The [Gibraltar national cricket team](/wiki/Gibraltar_national_cricket_team) won the [European Cricket Championship](/wiki/European_Cricket_Championship) Division Two in 2000 and 2002. [Rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union_in_Gibraltar) is fairly popular and one of the fastest growing team sports, [Gibraltar Rugby Union Football Union](/wiki/Gibraltar_Rugby_Union_Football_Union) applied for membership of Europe's governing body for rugby. Gibraltar is believed to be the birthplace of the rugby variant [Tag Rugby](/wiki/Tag_Rugby).[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[nb 1]](#cite_note-82) The [Gibraltar Rifle Association](/wiki/Gibraltar_Rifle_Association) (GRA) was Gibraltar's most successful team at the 2009 Island Games, earning four gold medals.

Darts is also a popular sport, with the Gibraltar Darts Association (a full member of World Darts Federation since 1977) running leagues and other regular tournaments. In 2010, Gibraltar hosted and won the Mediterranean Cup, competing against France, Italy, Turkey, Malta and Cyprus.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## Communications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|left|A plaque in City Mill Lane marking the site of Gibraltar's first telephone exchange.](/wiki/File:Telex1.jpg) [thumb|upright|A Victorian post box of standard 1887 UK design in use in Gibraltar's Main Street (2008).](/wiki/File:Victorian_Post_Box_of_1887_in_use_at_Gibraltar_in_2008.jpg) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Gibraltar has a digital [telephone exchange](/wiki/Telephone_exchange) supported by a [fibre optic](/wiki/Optical_fibre) and copper infrastructure; the telephone operator [Gibtelecom](/wiki/Gibtelecom) also operates a [GSM](/wiki/GSM) network. Internet connectivity is available across the fixed network. Gibraltar's top-level domain code is [.gi](/wiki/.gi).

[International Direct Dialling](/wiki/International_Direct_Dialling) (IDD) is provided, and Gibraltar was allocated the access code [+350](/wiki/+350) by the [International Telecommunication Union](/wiki/International_Telecommunication_Union). This has been universally valid since 10 February 2007, when the [telecom dispute](/wiki/Telecom_dispute_between_Gibraltar_and_Spain) was resolved.

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|upright|The](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_Cable_Car_2.jpg) [Gibraltar Cable Car](/wiki/Gibraltar_Cable_Car) runs from outside the [Gibraltar Botanic Gardens](/wiki/Gibraltar_Botanic_Gardens) to the top of the Rock.

Within Gibraltar, the main form of transport is the car. [Motorcycles](/wiki/Motorcycle) are also very popular and there is a good modern bus service. Unlike in the UK and other British territories, traffic [drives on the right](/wiki/Right-_and_left-hand_traffic), as the territory shares a land border with Spain.

There is a [Gibraltar Cable Car](/wiki/Gibraltar_Cable_Car) which runs from ground level to the top of the Rock, with an intermediate station at [Apes’ Den](/wiki/Apes’_Den).

Restrictions on transport introduced by Spanish dictator [Francisco Franco](/wiki/Francisco_Franco) closed the land frontier in 1969 and also prohibited any air or ferry connections. In 1982, the land border was reopened. As the result of an agreement signed in [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba,_Spain) on 18 September 2006 between Gibraltar, the United Kingdom and Spain,[[82]](#cite_note-83) the Spanish government agreed to relax [border controls](/wiki/Border_control) at the frontier that have plagued locals for decades; in return, Britain paid increased pensions to Spanish workers who lost their jobs when Franco closed the border.[[83]](#cite_note-84) Telecommunication restrictions were lifted in February 2007 and air links with Spain were restored in December 2006.[[84]](#cite_note-85)[[85]](#cite_note-86) Gibraltar maintains regular flight connections to London, Birmingham and [Manchester](/wiki/Manchester). Scheduled flights to [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) and [Madrid](/wiki/Madrid) proved unsustainable due to insufficient demand. [Bmibaby](/wiki/Bmibaby) started flights from [East Midlands Airport](/wiki/East_Midlands_Airport) to the Rock in March 2012, but the airline closed in September 2012.

[GB Airways](/wiki/GB_Airways) operated a service between Gibraltar and London and other cities for many years. The airline initially flew under the name "Gibraltar Airways". In 1989, and in anticipation of service to cities outside the UK, Gibraltar Airways changed its name to GB Airways with the belief that a new name would incur fewer political problems. As a franchise, the airline operated flights in full [British Airways](/wiki/British_Airways) livery. In 2007, GB Airways was purchased by [easyJet](/wiki/EasyJet),[[86]](#cite_note-87) which began operating flights under their name in April 2008 when British Airways re-introduced flights to Gibraltar under their name. [Monarch Airlines](/wiki/Monarch_Airlines) operates a daily scheduled service between Gibraltar and [Luton](/wiki/London_Luton_Airport), London Gatwick Airport, Birmingham and [Manchester](/wiki/Manchester_Airport). It has the largest number of flights between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar. The Spanish [national airline](/wiki/National_airline), [Iberia](/wiki/Iberia_Airlines), operated a daily service to [Madrid](/wiki/Barajas_Airport) which ceased due to lack of demand. In May 2009, [Ándalus Líneas Aéreas](/wiki/Ándalus_Líneas_Aéreas) opened a Spanish service,[[87]](#cite_note-88) which also ceased operations in March 2010.[[88]](#cite_note-89) An annual return [charter flight](/wiki/Charter_flight) to [Malta](/wiki/Malta_International_Airport) is operated by [Maltese](/wiki/Malta) national airline, [Air Malta](/wiki/Air_Malta).

[thumb|right|The main road that crosses Gibraltar Airport.](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_Airport_Main_Highway.jpg) [thumb|right|The new terminal at Gibraltar Airport.](/wiki/File:Gibraltar_Airport_New_Terminal.jpg) [Gibraltar Airport](/wiki/Gibraltar_Airport) is consistently listed as one of the world's scariest for air passengers. It is exposed to strong cross winds around the rock and across the Bay of Algeciras, making landings in winter particularly uncomfortable. Its location is unusual not only because of its proximity to the city centre resulting in the airport terminal being within walking distance of much of Gibraltar but also because the runway intersects [Winston Churchill Avenue](/wiki/Winston_Churchill_Avenue), the main north-south street, requiring movable barricades to close when aircraft land or depart. New roads and a tunnel, which will end the need to stop road traffic when aircraft use the runway, were planned to coincide with the building of a new [airport terminal building](/wiki/Gibraltar_Airport#New_terminal) with an originally estimated completion date of 2009,[[89]](#cite_note-90)[[90]](#cite_note-91) although due to delays, it has not been completed.

Motorists and pedestrians crossing the border with Spain are occasionally subjected to very long delays, an issue the Gibraltar government has failed to solve.[[91]](#cite_note-92) Spain has occasionally closed the border during disputes or incidents involving the Gibraltar authorities, such as the [*Aurora* cruise ship incident](/wiki/MV_Aurora_(2000)#Norovirus_breakout)[[92]](#cite_note-93) and when fishermen from the Spanish fishing vessel *Piraña* were arrested for illegal fishing in Gibraltar waters.[[93]](#cite_note-94) The most popular alternative airport for Gibraltar is [Málaga Airport](/wiki/Málaga_Airport) in Spain, some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to the east, which offers a wide range of destinations, second to [Jerez Airport](/wiki/Jerez_Airport) which is closer to Gibraltar. In addition, the [Algeciras Heliport](/wiki/Algeciras_Heliport) across the bay offers scheduled services to [Ceuta](/wiki/Ceuta).

[Gibraltar Cruise Terminal](/wiki/Gibraltar_Cruise_Terminal) receives a large number of visits from [cruise ships](/wiki/Cruise_ship). The [Strait of Gibraltar](/wiki/Strait_of_Gibraltar) is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Passenger and cargo ships anchor in the [Gibraltar Harbour](/wiki/Gibraltar_Harbour). Also, a ferry links Gibraltar with [Tangier](/wiki/Tangier) in Morocco. The ferry between Gibraltar and [Algeciras](/wiki/Algeciras), which had been halted in 1969 when Franco severed communications with Gibraltar, was finally reopened on 16 December 2009, served by the Spanish company [Transcoma](/wiki/Transcoma).[[94]](#cite_note-95) While railway track extends to the outskirts of [La Linea](/wiki/La_Linea_de_la_Concepcion) from an aborted rail expansion project in the 1970s,[[95]](#cite_note-96)[[96]](#cite_note-97) the closest railway station in Spain is [San Roque station](/wiki/San_Roque_station), accessible via buses from [La Línea](/wiki/La_Línea_de_la_Concepción).

Ferries by *FRS* running twice a week from Gibraltar to [Tanger-Med](/wiki/Tanger-Med) port provide access to the [Moroccan railway](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Morocco) system.[[97]](#cite_note-98)[[98]](#cite_note-99)

## Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Water supply](/wiki/Water_supply) and [sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation) in Gibraltar have been major concerns for its inhabitants throughout its history. There are no rivers, streams, or large bodies of water on the peninsula. Gibraltar's water supply was formerly provided by a combination of an aqueduct, wells, and the use of cisterns, barrels and earthenware pots to capture rainwater. This became increasingly inadequate as Gibraltar's population grew in the 18th and 19th centuries and lethal diseases such as [cholera](/wiki/Cholera) and [yellow fever](/wiki/Yellow_fever) began to spread. In the late 19th century, a Sanitary Commission instigated major improvements which saw the introduction of large-scale desalination and the use of giant water catchments covering over 2.5 million square feet (nearly 250,000 m2). Today Gibraltar's supply of drinking water comes entirely from [desalination](/wiki/Desalination), with a separate supply of saltwater for sanitary purposes – both supplies are delivered from huge underground reservoirs excavated under the [Rock of Gibraltar](/wiki/Rock_of_Gibraltar).

## Police[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|left|Royal Gibraltar Police car, 2012](/wiki/File:RGP_Patrol_Car.JPG) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:K20P1600.JPG)[Royal Gibraltar Police](/wiki/Royal_Gibraltar_Police), Marine Section

The [Royal Gibraltar Police](/wiki/Royal_Gibraltar_Police) (RGP) and Gibraltar Customs are Gibraltar's principal civilian [law enforcement agencies](/wiki/Law_enforcement_agency). Outside the United Kingdom, the RGP is the oldest police force of the former British Empire, formed shortly after the creation of London's [Metropolitan Police](/wiki/Metropolitan_Police) in 1829 when Gibraltar was declared a [crown colony](/wiki/Crown_colony) on 25 June 1830.[[99]](#cite_note-100)