

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Continent: Australia

Languages Spoken: English, Cocos Malay

Population: 596

Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)

Area: 14

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Home Island', 'writeup': 'One of the two inhabited islands, known for its traditional Cocos Malay community and cultural heritage.'}

- {'name': 'Direction Island', 'writeup': 'Famous for its natural beauty, coral reefs, and as a popular spot for snorkeling and diving.'}

- {'name': 'West Island', 'writeup': 'The administrative center of the territory, hosting government offices and the airport.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Charles III (represented by an Administrator)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Hari Raya Aidilfitri', 'writeup': 'A significant Muslim festival celebrated by the Cocos Malay community marking the end of Ramadan.'}

- {'name': 'Cocos Islands Day', 'writeup': 'An annual event celebrating the unique heritage and history of the islands.'}

Food & Cuisine:

The cuisine of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands reflects a blend of Malay and Australian influences, featuring seafood, coconut-based dishes, and traditional Malay spices.

Brief History:

Discovered in 1609, the islands were settled by the Clunies-Ross family in the 19th century who established a coconut plantation economy. The territory became an Australian external territory in 1955.

Important People:

- John Clunies-Ross - Early settler and founder of the Clunies-Ross dynasty on the islands.

- Atoll Chief - Traditional leader of the Cocos Malay community.

Current Conflicts:

No significant current conflicts reported.

Youtube Links:

- Exploring the Remote Cocos (Keeling) Islands

- Life on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands - Australian External Territory

- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Travel Guide
- The Unique Culture of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Wildlife and Nature of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands