PITCAIRN ISLANDS









INTRODUCTION

Polynesians were the first inhabitants of the Pitcairn Islands. In 1789, Fletcher CHRISTIAN led a mutiny on the HMS Bounty and landed with eight other mutineers and their Tahitian companions. The islands became an official British colony in 1838.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II; represented by UK High Commissioner to New Zealand and Governor (nonresident) of the Pitcairn Islands Laura CLARK

Head of Government

Mayor and Chairman of the Island Council Charlene WARREN-PEU

Government Type

parliamentary democracy

Capital

Adamstown

Legislature

unicameral Island Council (10 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 47 sq km Land: 47 sq km Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot and humid; modified by southeast trade winds; rainy season (November to March)

Natural Resources

miro trees (used for handicrafts), fish; note - manganese, iron, copper, gold, silver, and zinc have been discovered offshore

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small South Pacific British island territorial economy; exports primarily postage stamps, handcraft goods, honey, and tinctures; extremely limited infrastructure; dependent upon UK and EU aid; recent border reopening post-COVID-19

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) NA

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) NA

Industries – postage stamps, handicrafts, beekeeping, honey
Agricultural products – honey; wide variety of fruits and vegetables; goats, chickens; fish

Exports NA

NA

partners: NA Imports NA

crude petroleum, refined petroleum, food preparation products, plastics, iron fasteners (2019)

partners: Ecuador 43%, New Zealand 29% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

50 (2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.0% (2014 est.)

Ethnicity

descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian wives

Language

English (official), Pitkern (mixture of an 18th century English dialect and a Tahitian dialect)

Religion

Seventh Day Adventist 100%

Urbanization

urban population: 47.6% of total population (2022)

rate of urbanization: 1.43% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)