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WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

220

1.1 220.guide

Texified version of data for South Georgia and the South
Sandwich Islands. ↔

Texified using wfact from

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South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

1.2 220.guide/South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Header (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)
Geography (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)
People (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)
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Defense Forces (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

1.3 220.guide/Header (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Header (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

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Affiliation:
 (dependent territory of the UK)

1.4 220.guide/Geography (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Geography (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

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Location:
 in the South Atlantic Ocean, off the south Argentine coast, southeast of ↔
 the
 Falkland Islands

Map references:
 Antarctic Region

Area:
 total area:
 4,066 km²
 land area:
 4,066 km²
 comparative area:
 slightly larger than Rhode Island

note:
 includes Shag Rocks, Clerke Rocks, Bird Island

Land boundaries:
 0 km

Coastline:
 NA km

Maritime claims:
 territorial sea: 12 nm

International disputes:
 administered by the UK, claimed by Argentina

Climate:
 variable, with mostly westerly winds throughout the year, interspersed with
 periods of calm; nearly all precipitation falls as snow

Terrain:
 most of the islands, rising steeply from the sea, are rugged and

mountainous; South Georgia is largely barren and has steep, glacier-covered mountains; the South Sandwich Islands are of volcanic origin with some active volcanoes

Natural resources:
fish

Land use:
arable land:
0%
permanent crops:
0%
meadows and pastures:
0%
forest and woodland:
0%
other:
100% (largely covered by permanent ice and snow with some sparse vegetation consisting of grass, moss, and lichen)

Irrigated land:
0 km2

Environment:
reindeer, introduced early in this century, live on South Georgia; weather conditions generally make it difficult to approach the South Sandwich Islands; the South Sandwich Islands are subject to active volcanism

Note:
the north coast of South Georgia has several large bays, which provide good anchorage

1.5 220.guide/People (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

People (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

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Population:
no indigenous population; there is a small military garrison on South Georgia, and the British Antarctic Survey has a biological station on Bird Island; the South Sandwich Islands are uninhabited

1.6 220.guide/Government (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Government (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

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Names:
conventional long form:
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
conventional short form:
none

Digraph:

SX
 Type: dependent territory of the UK
 Capital:
 none; Grytviken on South Georgia is the garrison town
 Administrative divisions:
 none (dependent territory of the UK)
 Independence:
 none (dependent territory of the UK)
 Constitution:
 3 October 1985
 Legal system:
 English common law
 National holiday:
 Liberation Day, 14 June (1982)
 Executive branch:
 British monarch, commissioner
 Legislative branch:
 none
 Judicial branch:
 none
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Commissioner
 David Everard TATHAM (since August 1992; resident at Stanley, Falkland
 Islands)

1.7 220.guide/Economy (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Economy (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)
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Overview:

Some fishing takes place in adjacent waters. There is a potential source of income from harvesting fin fish and krill. The islands receive income from postage stamps produced in the UK.

Budget:

revenues \$291,777; expenditures \$451,011, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY88 est.)

Electricity:

900 kW capacity; 2 million kWh produced, NA kWh per capita (1992)

1.8 220.guide/Communications (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Communications (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)
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Highways:

NA

Ports:

Grytviken on South Georgia

Airports:

total:

5

usable:

5

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

Telecommunications:

coastal radio station at Grytviken; no broadcast stations

1.9 220.guide/Defense Forces (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

Defense Forces (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands)

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Note:

defense is the responsibility of the UK