



## Europe :: Akrotiri (UK Sovereign Base Area)

### Introduction :: Akrotiri

#### Background:

By terms of the 1960 Treaty of Establishment that created the independent Republic of Cyprus, the UK retained full sovereignty and jurisdiction over two areas of almost 254 square kilometers - Akrotiri and Dhekelia. The southernmost and smallest of these is the Akrotiri Sovereign Base Area, which is also referred to as the Western Sovereign Base Area.

### Geography :: Akrotiri

#### Location:

Eastern Mediterranean, peninsula on the southwest coast of Cyprus

#### Geographic coordinates:

34 37 N, 32 58 E

#### Map references:

Europe

#### Area:

**total:** 123 sq km

**country comparison to the world:** 224

**note:** includes a salt lake and wetlands

#### Area - comparative:

about 0.7 times the size of Washington, DC

#### Land boundaries:

**total:** 47.4 km

**border countries:** Cyprus 47.4 km

#### Coastline:

56.3 km

#### Climate:

temperate; Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool winters

#### Environment - current issues:

hunting around the salt lake; note - breeding place for loggerhead and green turtles; only remaining colony of griffon vultures is on the base

#### Geography - note:

British extraterritorial rights also extended to several small off-post sites scattered across Cyprus; of the Sovereign Base Area (SBA) land, 60% is privately owned and farmed, 20% is owned by the Ministry of Defense, and 20% is SBA Crown land

### People and Society :: Akrotiri

#### Languages:

English, Greek

## Population:

approximately 15,700 live on the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia including 7,700 Cypriots, 3,600 Service and UK-based contract personnel, and 4,400 dependents

**country comparison to the world:** 223

## Government :: Akrotiri

---

### Country name:

**conventional long form:** none

**conventional short form:** Akrotiri

### Dependency status:

a special form of UK overseas territory; administered by an administrator who is also the Commander, British Forces Cyprus

### Capital:

**name:** Episkopi Cantonment (base administrative center for Akrotiri and Dhekelia)

**geographic coordinates:** 34 40 N, 32 51 E

**time difference:** UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:** +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

### Constitution:

presented 3 August 1960, effective 16 August 1960; amended 1966 (The Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia Order in Council 1960, serves as a basic legal document)

### Legal system:

the Sovereign Base Area Administration has its own court system to deal with civil and criminal matters; laws applicable to the Cypriot population are, as far as possible, the same as the laws of the Republic of Cyprus

### Executive branch:

**chief of state:** Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952)

**head of government:** Administrator Air Vice Marshall Graham STACEY (since 4 November 2010); note - reports to the British Ministry of Defense; the Chief Officer is responsible for the day-to-day running of the civil government of the Sovereign Bases

**elections:** none; the monarchy is hereditary; the administrator appointed by the monarch

### Judicial branch:

**highest court(s):** Senior Judges' Court (consists of several visiting judges from England and Wales)

**judge selection and term of office:** judges appointment and tenure NA

**subordinate courts:** Resident Judges' Court; Courts Martial

### Diplomatic representation in the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

### Diplomatic representation from the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

### Flag description:

the flag of the UK is used

### National anthem:

**note:** as a United Kingdom area of special sovereignty, "God Save the Queen" is official (see United Kingdom)

 PLAY ANTHEM

## Economy :: Akrotiri

---

### Economy - overview:

Economic activity is limited to providing services to the military and their families located in Akrotiri. All food and manufactured goods must be imported.

### Exchange rates:

**note:** uses the euro

## Communications :: Akrotiri

---

### Broadcast media:

British Forces Broadcast Service (BFBS) provides multi-channel satellite TV service as well as BFBS radio broadcasts to the Akrotiri Sovereign Base (2009)

## Military :: Akrotiri

---

### Military - note:

defense is the responsibility of the UK; Akrotiri has a full RAF base, Headquarters for British Forces Cyprus, and Episkopi Support Unit