

NOTES

Lined area for notes.

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Gibraltar

GENERAL INFORMATION Gibraltar is a peninsula of mainland Spain. A small strip of land, approximately 3 miles long and a mile wide, dominated by "the Rock" which reaches a height of 1,400 ft.

Gibraltar, known in ancient times as one of the two 'Pillars of Hercules', juts out into the Mediterranean, separated from Morocco by the Strait of Gibraltar which is just 14 miles across.

The population of this small British colony is approximately 30,000, made up largely of Iberians, North Africans and British.

The climate is typical of the region, summers tend to be warm and dry although there is often a breeze blowing, in winter temperatures average about 53 degrees fahrenheit and there are frequent rain showers. Easterly winds can give rise to a dense cloud that hangs over the Rock, known as the 'Levanter'.

In Spring a profusion of wild flowers can be seen on the upper slopes of the rock, which is now secured as a nature reserve.

HISTORY In 711 A.D. Gibraltar was captured by a Moorish Chief known as Tarik Ibn Zeyad and it became known as Gibel Tarik (Tarik's Mountain), from which the name Gibraltar was derived. The Moors brought with them the Islamic faith and, with the exception of a few brief interludes when the Spanish won control of the region, Gibraltar remained Islamic for almost 700 years.

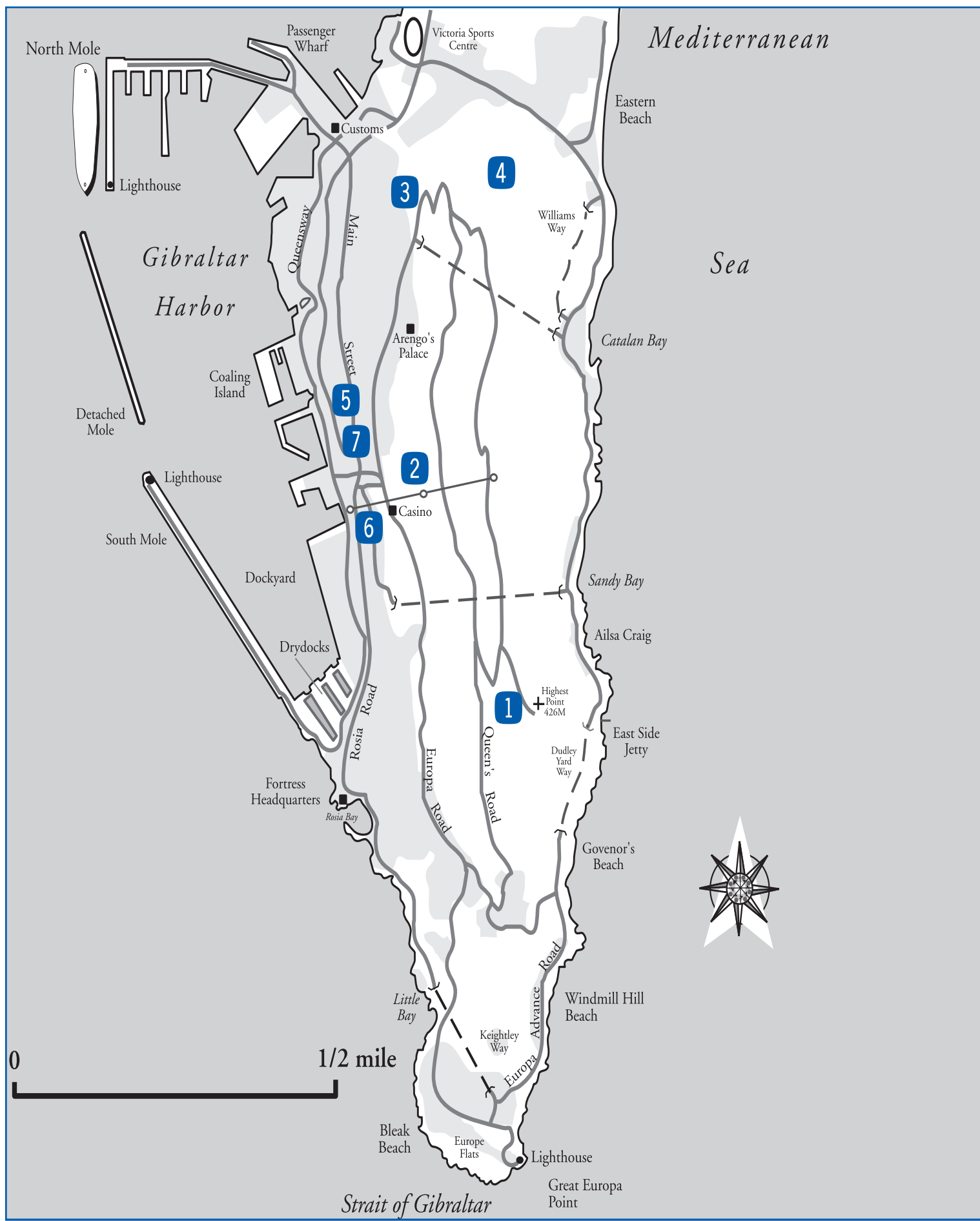
In 1462 the Moors were conquered and this began a period of Spanish rule which lasted for 242 years, during which time the Spanish fortified the Rock and used it as a naval base.

During the Wars of the Spanish Succession, the British and the Dutch were in support of the Austrians, and in 1704 they landed on Gibraltar, seizing control. In 1713, nine years later, under the Treaty of Utrecht, Gibraltar became a British colony, and has remained so ever-since.

Gibraltar played an important part in both World Wars but, its location made it an important, strategic naval base for the Allied Forces during WWII.

In the 1960's Spain, once again, laid claim to Gibraltar and the United Nations made a ruling for decolonization. However, the British Government refused to comply, unless it be the wish of the people of Gibraltar. A referendum was held and the people voted over-whelmingly to remain under British control. Initially Spain placed Gibraltar under siege, but more recently sanctions against the colony have been eased.





PLACES OF INTEREST

1 St. Michael's Cave situated at approximately 900 ft. above sea level, in the upper reaches of the Rock, incorporates several limestone caverns, the largest of which is used for concerts due to its natural acoustic qualities.

2 Ape's Den on Old Queens Road, on the side of the Rock, is the home of the Barbary Apes. The Apes are really a breed of tail-less monkeys, originally from Morocco, and Gibraltar is the only place in Europe where such animals may be found living wild. Winston Churchill is supposed to have said that 'as long as the Apes remain, so will the British', it is therefore, the responsibility of the British Army stationed here, to feed the Apes. Visitors are requested not to feed the Apes as they bite, and are advised to hold on to possessions such as handbags, cameras etc.

Europa Point is the most southern tip of the peninsula and provides views across the Strait to Morocco. It is said to be the point at which the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean and a Light House is positioned here.

3 Moorish Castle, situated on Willis Road, was built by the successors of Tarik, a relic of the Moorish occupation which dates primarily from the 13th century. The actual castle is closed to the public, although it is possible to walk around the walls over-looking the battlements.

4 The Great Siege Tunnels face the north of the peninsula and the Spanish border. They were blasted out of the rock as part of a defense strategy during the 1779 – 1783 Siege.

5 Gibraltar Museum on Bomb House Lane, provides an insight to the Rock's history and development. Built over an ancient Moorish Bath House that has been excavated and is on display, it also contains various memorabilia associated with the Great Siege of 1779 – 1783 when France and Spain attempted to gain control of the Rock, and the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

6 Alameda Gardens located next to the Parade Ground, contain a variety of tropical and sub-tropical species. From here a cable car operates to the Ape's Den and to the top of the Rock and offers fantastic views.

7 Governor's Residence on Main Street, was once a convent of the Franciscan Order. The King's Chapel, next to the Governor's Residence, contains the colors of the British regiments.

- Admission Charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Gibraltar we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: MBargaining: In some stores, such as the electronic stores on Main Street, it might be possible to bargain.

Tippling: A service charge may be included in a restaurant bill, if not, 10% is a good guideline.

Local Cuisine: The flavor here is international, but following the British tradition, try Steak and Kidney Pie or Shepherd's Pie, a dish of minced lamb, topped with mashed potato. Yorkshire Pudding is another favorite, a batter mixture, cooked and served as an accompaniment to Roast Beef.

Drink Specialties: Visit a local pub and try a pint of Ale, British style, alternatively there are plenty of quaint tea shops.

Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Main Street is the center for shopping, lined with shops of many kinds selling everything from glassware and porcelain to jewelry, leather goods and cashmere. Liquor and tobacco are also competitively priced compared to other western European countries, with little or no taxes added.

Shops are generally opened from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, daily except Saturday when they close in the early afternoon and on Sunday when they open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm U.S. Dollars are widely accepted, as are most major credit cards.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Gibraltar is the Pound, and Gibraltar and British currencies coexist. Notes are available in the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, and 50. It is advisable to dispose of as much change as possible before leaving, as banks and exchange bureaus outside Great Britain will not exchange coin.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Post Office is located on Main Street.

There are limited telephone facilities in the pier terminal. Prepaid phone cards can be purchased in the café. You can also place calls with your personal calling card using the following access codes (coins may be required):

AT&T: 8800 / MCI: No Access / SPRINT: No Access

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Information Office is located at Duke of Kent House, Cathedral Square. There is also a tourist information kiosk within the cruise ship terminal.

TRANSPORTATION A limited number of taxis are usually available on the Pier. Fares are generally metered but for hourly rentals or Island tours, fares should be negotiated before departing. Most taxi drivers will accept U.S. Dollars. There is also a local taxi shuttle that will transport visitors to town for a nominal fee.

The Cable Car to the top of the Rock and the Ape's Den is located at Alameda Gardens. It takes approximately 30 minutes for a return trip.

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