



BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

LAWS AND GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS

You and your accompanying passengers have applied for a permit to visit the Chagos Islands, excluding Diego Garcia, of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

You are subject to BIOT law when inside its territorial waters. If you break any of these laws, you will become subject, as in any country, to a range of censures and punishments, including fines, imprisonment, deportation, or the impounding of your vessel.

You should be aware that any person who enters BIOT without a permit is liable to imprisonment for 3 years and/or a fine of £3000.

You must moor your vessel at the approved sites only, as indicated on the attached map, to help conserve BIOT's fragile coral environment. If your vessel is not moored at one of the approved sites, you will be issued with an on-the-spot fine of £500. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £3000.

"Marina" services are not provided. There is no mail service. Garbage will be collected from designated disposal areas ashore.

BIOT Customs and Immigration officials visit the approved mooring sites to check permits and passports. The passports of all passengers/crew will be checked against the details provided on the Visit Permit Request form. You will be asked to explain any discrepancies.

NATURE RESERVES

All of the Chagos Islands are nature reserves. The following islands are strict nature reserves. It is an offence to approach within 200 meters, land on or anchor at:

Great Chagos Bank:	The Three Brothers and Resurgent Island Danger Island Cow Island Nelson Island
Peros Banhos Atoll:	All the islands to the east of a line drawn between the easternmost point of land on Moresby Island and the easternmost point of land on Fouquet Island.

Any person who commits such an offence, is liable, to an on-the-spot fine of £500. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and/or to a fine not exceeding £5000, and to detention and forfeiture of any boat and equipment used when committing the offence.

DIEGO GARCIA

Unauthorised vessels or persons are not permitted to access this island and no unauthorised vessel is permitted to approach within 12 nautical miles. Vessels in transit, on “innocent passage” as defined under Maritime Law, should maintain their course away from Diego Garcia.

ENVIRONMENT

Please assist the conservation of BIOT environment by adhering to the following and by ensuring that others visiting the Territory also respect it. Failure to observe BIOT’s regulations may result in the application of the penalties listed below.

- ◆ You are not permitted to remain ashore overnight (between sunset and sunrise), nor set up an encampment nor erect any structure of installation. Any such infringement will be dismantled and disposed of without compensation. Other property left ashore unattended is similarly liable. Any person who commits such an offence is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years and/or to a fine not exceeding £3000.
- ◆ You should respect the old plantation buildings or other structure on the islands. Please do not damage them e.g. with graffiti. Any person who commits such offences is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years.
- ◆ All fauna and flora are protected by law: The following are, for example, prohibited:
 - The collection of live shells, molluscs or coral (dead or alive);
 - The killing of crabs (or the possession of crabs, alive or dead);
 - The killing of animals (or the possession of animals, alive or dead);
 - Intentionally destroying, damaging or taking a wild bird’s nest, wild bird’s egg or turtle’s egg;
 - Intentionally disturbing dependent young of a wild bird;
 - Taking or being in possession of any specified flora
 - Taking any alive or dead wild animal out of the Territory

Any person found guilty, upon conviction, of the above offences is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £500.

All unlicensed fishing (except non-commercial fishing by rod or line for your consumption) is also prohibited. In order to assist the BIOT Fisheries Officers in monitoring fish stocks, you must record numbers of fish taken, the species and size.

Any person who commits such an offence is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding £100,000. If convicted of such an offence, the local Magistrates’ Court may order the forfeiture of equipment and boat.

The use of scuba diving equipment or underwater-swimming equipment is prohibited. Any person who commits such an offence is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £5000. If convicted of such an offence, the Magistrates' Court may order that any vessel, together with any equipment or goods on board in connection with the offence shall be detained until the fine has been paid.

- ◆ Vegetation must not be cut; it protects the shore from erosion and provides habitat for the islands' natural inhabitants. Any person who commits such an offence is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £3000.
- ◆ Fauna and flora from outside the Chagos Archipelago must not be introduced into the Territory. Alien species of vegetation and animals can have a devastating effect on the natural ecology of the Archipelago. In particular, pets are not to be landed. Any person who commits such an offence is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £500. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £3000.
- ◆ All combustible garbage is to be burned or removed. All other material is to be placed in the bins provided or removed. Any person found leaving litter/garbage other than in the bins provided is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £200. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding £3000.

DRUGS

It is illegal to import, export, supply/offer, produce or use a controlled drug in the Territory. It is also illegal to cultivate any plant of the genus *Cannabis*. Any person found in possession of a Class A or B drug is liable, on conviction, to a term not exceeding 14 years and/or an unlimited fine. Any person found in possession of a Class C drug (including *Cannabis*) is liable to an on-the-spot fine of £500. Failure to pay the fine could result, on conviction, to a term not exceeding 12 months and/or a fine not exceeding £1000.

EMERGENCIES

If you have an emergency that you consider life threatening, you should declare it as a maritime emergency in accordance with International Maritime Regulations. In such a situation, BIOT authorities in Diego Garcia can be contacted on 2.182MHz HF SSB or VHF if within range. All reasonable assistance will be considered.

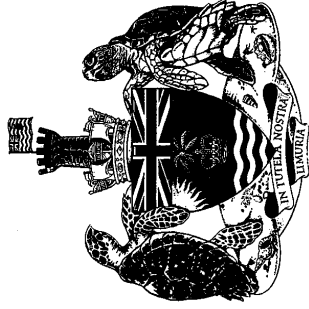
BIOT ADMINISTRATION
December 2006

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

OFFENCE	FIXED PENALTY	PENALTY UPON CONVICTION (Not exceeding)
Entering without a permit	£1000	3 years and/or £3000
Mooring where not permitted	£500	6 months and/or £3000
Failure of produce documents	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Obstructing a Visiting Vessels Control Officer (VVCO)	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Refusing or failing to comply with a VVCO's direction	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Giving false or misleading answers to a VVCO	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Preventing or attempting to prevent another from complying with a direction or question of a VVCO	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Failing to observe a visitor or visiting vessel condition	£500	6 months and/or £3000
Entering the territorial sea of Diego Garcia	N/A	6 months and/or £3000
Overnight camping/erection of structures	£200	3 years and/or £3000
Causing criminal damage (incl graffiti)	£200	10 years
Collection of live shells etc, killing or taking of wildlife etc	£200	6 months and/or £500
Unlicensed fishing (except for personal use)	N/A	£100,000 and possible forfeiture of equipment and boat
Use of diving equipment	£200	6 months and/or £5000
Entering a strict nature reserve	£500	6 months and/or £5000
Cutting vegetation (strict nature reserve)	£500	6 months and/or £5000
Introducing fauna and flora (strict nature reserve)	N/A	6 months and/or £5000
Cutting vegetation (not in a strict nature reserve)	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Introducing fauna and flora (not in a strict nature reserve)	£500	6 months and/or £3000
Leaving garbage/litter etc other than in bins provided	£200	6 months and/or £3000
Possessing a Class A or B drug	N/A	14 years and/or unlimited fine
Possessing a Class C drug (incl Cannabis)	£500	12 months and/or £1000

Mooring Sites: Latitude/Longitude references

Site	Area Km2	Latitude/Longitude (ddmmss)	Latitude/Longitude (ddmmss)	Latitude/Longitude (ddmmss)	Latitude/Longitude (ddmmss)
Salomon, Ile Boddam	0.46	052108 / 721237	052108 / 721302	052124 / 721237	052127 / 721302
Salomon, Ile Anglais	0.32	051948 / 721335	051948 / 721351	052007 / 721333	052007 / 721351
Peros Banhos, Ile Diamante	0.47	051543 / 714548	051522 / 714612	051555 / 714559	051534 / 714622
Peros Banhos, Ile de Coin	0.44	052640 / 714540	052640 / 714607	052651 / 714628	052701 / 714614



THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

VISIT PERMIT REQUEST – YACHTS

(Form to be completed in English)

Name of Yacht	
Registration Number	
Port of Registration	
Sailing Under the Flag of	

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Arriving From	
Date of Arrival	
BIOT Mooring site(s) to be visited	
Departing to	
Date of Departure	

CREW/PASSENGERS

Name of Master (as shown in the passport)	Nationality	Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)	Passport Number	Issue/Expiry Date & Place of Issue

Name(s) of Crew/Passenger(s) (as shown in the passport)	Nationality	Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)	Passport Number	Issue/Expiry Date & Place of Issue

(Please continue on a separate sheet if required and attach)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose of Visit	
Call Sign	
Gross Registered Tonnage	
Net Registered Tonnage	
Length	
Beam	
Draft	
Colourings/Markings	
Cargo	
Animals	
Firearms	

I hereby apply for a visit permit to the British Indian Ocean Territory.

I declare that the information given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature

Date

MOORING FEES

Charges: £100 per month

Mooring fees are payable in advance by bank transfer ☐ or via PayPal ☐ (please tick your payment preference)

Bank Transfer Details:

Account Name: BIOT Revenue Account
Account No: 00717735
Sort Code: 16-00-38
IBAN: GB43RBOS16003800717735
Address: The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, London Drummonds Branch, 49 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DX

Confirmation of the transfer should be sent by fax to the:

Assistant Administrator, British Indian Ocean Territory, Fax Number: + 44 (0) 20 7008 1589 or by e-mail to BIOTadmin@fco.gov.uk

PayPal:

Once this form has been received by the BIOT Administration, an e-mail will be sent with payment details.

Once the mooring fees have been received into the BIOT Revenue Account or PayPal Account, a permit covering the dates indicated will be issued.

OFFICE USE ONLY: