

VISIT GIBRALTAR

A breath of fresh air

Action-packed holidays

City of contrasts

Exciting mixture of old and new

Mediterranean flavours

Taste Gibraltar



Big skies, open seas

Breathtaking scenery

Dream weddings

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VISIT GIBRALTAR



Welcome

Gibraltar's appeal as a travel destination continues to grow, drawing an international audience from all corners of the globe. Arriving by land, sea and air, visitors are drawn to a unique location that sits at the crossroads of Europe and Africa.

The Rock's activities are as diverse as they are plentiful, ranging from dolphin watching, to award winning fishing and exploring historical trails.

Gibraltar's temperate climate makes it an attractive all year round choice, which is enhanced by local events and customs that offer a flavour of the Gibraltarian warmth, that is reassuringly familiar. We look forward to welcoming you to our corner of the Mediterranean.

The Hon. Neil F. Costa M.P.
Minister for Tourism, Public Transport & the Port

To arrive into Gibraltar is to be awestruck by the sheer majesty of the Jurassic limestone Rock that dominates the horizon. The Rock has attracted visitors, some friend, some foe, throughout its colourful history, all drawn to its unique charm and character, which still thrive today in the Gibraltarian people.

Strategically situated on the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, the British Overseas Territory is almost entirely surrounded by water other than the narrow isthmus which links it to mainland Spain. Gibraltar is less than seven square kilometres on the outside, but inside lies a myriad of caves and tunnels that stretch for almost fifty kilometres. Herein lie some of Gibraltar's biggest mysteries and secrets.

Discover the Rock's beauty and natural heritage, its architecture and wildlife. Historical trails will help you wile away the days and shopping in Main Street, perhaps one of the most famous streets in Europe, will tempt you with some of the best bargains around, thanks to the Rock's Pound Sterling currency and VAT free status.

Gibraltar's unique position, at the crossroads of Europe and Africa, make it an ideal location to explore neighbouring terrain. Just a 90-minute ferry ride takes you to Morocco with its exotic souks, and the neighbouring coastline of Spain offers access to some of the world's finest golf courses.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.



'... the very image of an enormous lion, crouched between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean'.


William Makepeace Thackeray

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Winston Churchill instructed that Gibraltar's complex tunnel system be once again expanded to create a fortress within a fortress.



A Legacy Evolves

Gibraltar's legendary tale is filled with battles and sieges that weave civilisations and cultures through the ages. This historical legacy lives on today and can be enjoyed in its numerous attractions.



At 426 metres high, the iconic Rock of Gibraltar is honeycombed with over 30 miles of tunnelling, created by man at different chapters in its story.

Its pre-historic caves were home to the birth of modern man, and many people believe the female skull discovered in Gorham's Cave in 1848 should have been claimed as an historic find, making today's Neanderthal man, Gibraltar woman.

Arriving visitors are greeted by the awe-inspiring spectacle of the Tower of Homage and Gate House, looming up from within the Rock. This spectacular Medieval fortification dates from the second Moorish occupation in the early 14th century.

Gibraltar's survival story is never more poignant than during the Great Siege of 1779-83, which is retold in Mozart's composition 'Bardengesang auf Gibraltar, O Calpe'. The Great Siege Tunnels remain a must see for any visitor to the Rock.

Gibraltar has been at the heart of Britain's history for centuries. Success at the Battle of Trafalgar was first reported to the world in Gibraltar's daily newspaper the Gibraltar Chronicle. Tragically, the battle cost the life of Lord Nelson. He was brought ashore at Rosia Bay, preserved in a casket of brandy, before his body was returned to England.

During the 19th century Gibraltar flourished as a strategic trading port on the route to India. Main Street shoppers will note family businesses, many of which date back to this time.

With the onset of WWII, Winston Churchill instructed that Gibraltar's complex tunnel system be once again expanded to create a fortress within a fortress. It is from here that Eisenhower masterminded the North African landings.

The Rock's testament to time is reflected in its people, the Gibraltarians. Warm and friendly by nature Gibraltar's hospitality is renown and keeps visitors returning year after year.

Gibraltar Naturally

Gibraltar offers visitors views of unparalleled beauty both on land and at sea. Wildlife flourishes on the Rock's porous limestone and its flora and fauna are world renowned and of conservational importance.



Take a walk on our wild side.



Gibraltar candytuft grows nowhere else in Europe and is recognisable by its pink clusters of flowers. For nature lovers they are abundant during April on the eastside of the Rock. Most of the westside is covered with light woodland where wild olive and honeysuckle can be found in abundance.

Gibraltar's Upper Rock brings together walkers from all over the world, with the most famous of the myriad of the paths being the Mediterranean Steps. Located on the eastern face of the Rock, it starts at an altitude of 180 metres and finishes at 426 metres at O'Hara's Battery, the highest point on the Rock.

Over 270 species of birds have been recorded on the Rock over the past few years, and famous residents include the Barbary Partridge, and the Peregrine Falcon. Gibraltar lies on the migratory route between Europe and Africa and every Spring and Winter the skies play host to everything from eagles and vultures to storks and songbirds.

Gibraltar's most famous residents, the Barbary Macaques are a species of tailless monkey. Originally from North Africa their presence dates back to the days of the British garrison. Imported from Morocco by Winston Churchill in 1944 when their numbers had dwindled they have become part of Gibraltar's legend.

The Alameda Gardens, designed in 1816, is an ideal spot to sit and relax. Its pretty amphitheatre stages a number of productions each year.

St Michael's Cave has fascinated visitors since Roman times. Its cathedral cave has long believed to be bottomless, giving way to a legend that Gibraltar is linked to Africa by a subterranean tunnel.

Gibraltar's waters are teeming with sea life and living in the Bay of Gibraltar there are no fewer than three species of dolphin: common, bottlenose and striped.

At Sea

Known as the mythical Pillars of Hercules, and bathed almost entirely by the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, the Rock has been a haven for seafarers for over 1000 years. The Bay of Gibraltar is intrinsic to life on the Rock.



A fisherman's paradise.

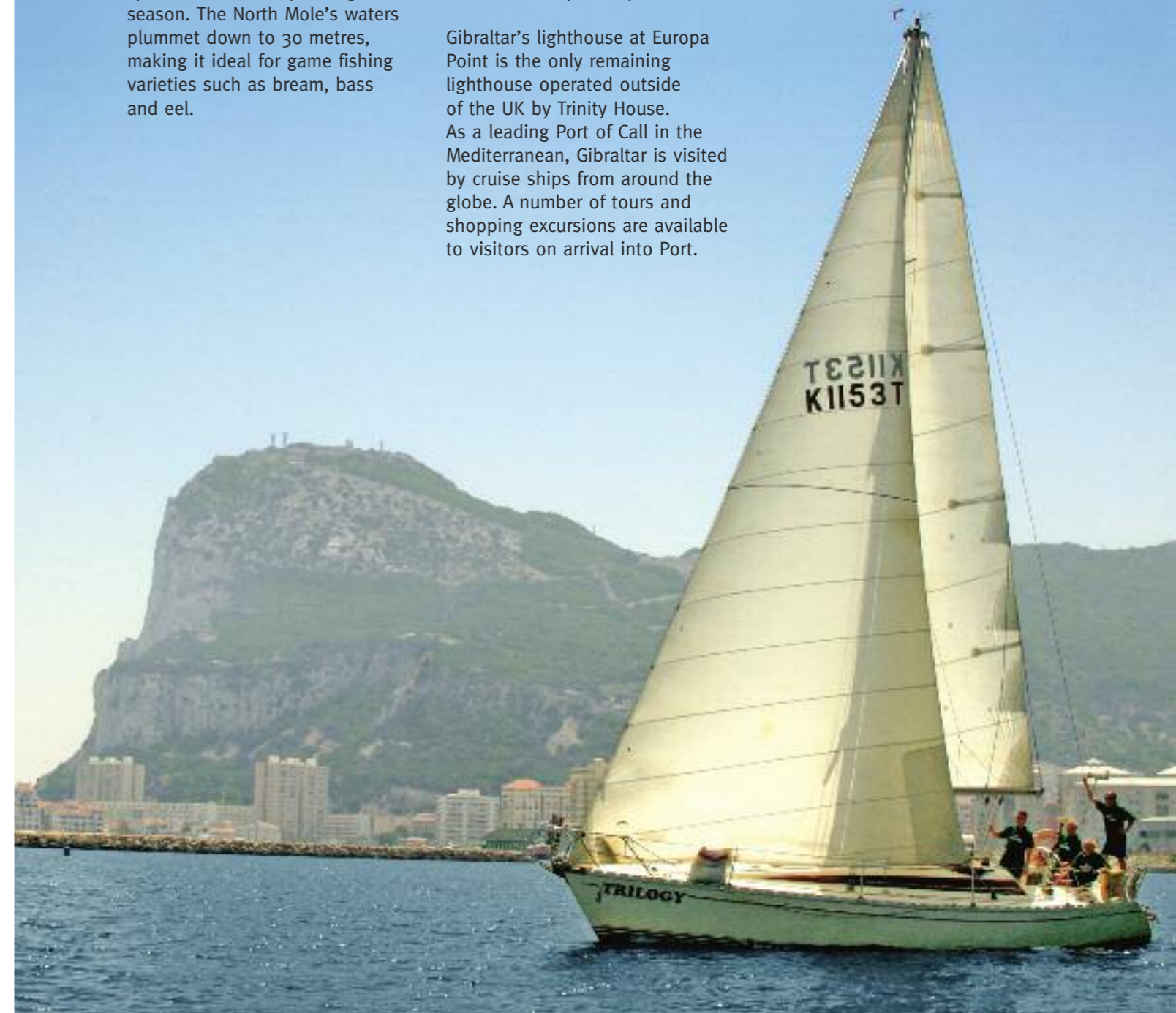
Beneath its waters, Gibraltar's historical legacy continues with a spectacular underwater world of more than 30 wrecks and reefs. Dive opportunities include the remains of ships from Napoleonic times and WWII.

With a warm climate, a sheltered bay and open seas, Gibraltar is a fisherman's paradise. Its deep sea fishing provides a thrill difficult to match and well-equipped boats offer an opportunity for big game catches such as bluefin tuna, broadbill swordfish and various species of shark depending on the season. The North Mole's waters plummet down to 30 metres, making it ideal for game fishing varieties such as bream, bass and eel.

Gibraltar's two marinas, Ocean Village and Queensway Quay offer great ambiance and dining out facilities. For those who enjoy their sport on, rather than under, the water there is an abundance of activity such as windsurfing, sailing, jet skiing, and the popular dolphin tours.

A wide selection of sailing courses are on offer, from competent crew to the most advanced RYA qualifications. It is possible to arrive into Gibraltar as a sailing novice and leave a confident seafarer in only a couple of weeks.

Gibraltar's lighthouse at Europa Point is the only remaining lighthouse operated outside of the UK by Trinity House. As a leading Port of Call in the Mediterranean, Gibraltar is visited by cruise ships from around the globe. A number of tours and shopping excursions are available to visitors on arrival into Port.





*Culture and heritage
come together.*



Live Gibraltar

Gibraltar is a vibrant city with a range of leisure pursuits to suit all tastes and budgets. The busy bustling café society of Casemates Square transforms into lively nightlife with live entertainment and music from young resident bands.

The town centre is best enjoyed on foot. Its typical Georgian and Victorian architecture is interspersed with Portuguese, Genoese and Moorish influences, a reminder of Gibraltar's colourful and chequered past, giving it some of the most interesting architecture in the Mediterranean area.

Modern Gibraltar is reflected in the financial district of Europort and the new Ocean Village Marina with its luxury yachts and apartment buildings. The King's Bastion Leisure Centre, refurbished from an old battlement, is an ideal location for all the family to enjoy. Within its historic walls it houses a full size ice rink, bowling alley, restaurant, nightclub and multiplex cinema.

Culture and heritage come together on National Day when the Rock celebrates its past. On that day Gibraltarians dress in red and white, the national colours, and there are street parties and celebrations in abundance. The day's festivities are dramatically rounded off with a firework display and open air concert.

For art lovers, local art is on display at the Fine Arts Society Gallery in Casemates Square, close to the Gibraltar Crystal Factory. The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society runs a season of concerts featuring international artists. Concerts are held around Gibraltar at venues such as St Michael's Cave and the Open Air Theatre in the Alameda Gardens.

Pageantry is always on show in Gibraltar. The official daily changing of the guard takes place outside the Governor's home at the Convent in the centre of Main Street. During the summer months, History Alive, Gibraltar's Re-enactment Society parade the streets dressed in period uniforms from the 1700s reminiscent of Gibraltar's past as a garrison town.

For those who want to live the high life, the International Gala Casino in Ocean Village is open until the early hours and neighbouring Savannah's lounge bar and restaurant hosts international DJs throughout the summer months.



Love Me Do

Gibraltar's warm climate and natural dramatic settings have led to a significant rise in couples choosing to wed and honeymoon on the Rock. Gibraltar earned its status in the romantic stakes in the 1950s and 60s following a string of high profile weddings.

Sean Connery, who as James Bond not only lived twice, chose to marry twice in Gibraltar, firstly to Diane Cilento and in later years to his current wife Micheline Boglio Roquebrune. But it was the legendary marriage of John Lennon to Yoko Ono that set the Rock buzzing. He later wrote about it in the Beatles number one hit The Ballad of John and Yoko.

Under local law, visitors to Gibraltar can marry without statutory residential requirements and couples are able to complete necessary paper work in advance of their trip. The law also permits the ceremony to be conducted at a number of approved locations outside of the Registry office.

Couples can choose from the comfort of several of Gibraltar's larger hotels, to the spectacular setting of the 'Dell', an Italianate hidden garden, constructed in the

19th Century within the Alameda Gardens. What could be more spectacular than arriving at the summit of the Rock itself by cable car to exchange vows surrounded by breathtaking scenery? Your wedding album will be a living fairytale with treasured memories for years to come.

With a history of integrated cultures, there are a number of ancient churches and cathedrals, four synagogues dating back to the 1800s, Hindu temples and mosques that couples can also select for their religious vows.

Wedding planners and specialist service providers from limousine hire, to photography, hair specialists and dressmakers are at hand to help make your special day truly memorable. Further information can be found on our website, www.visitgibraltar.gi



It was the legendary marriage of John Lennon to Yoko Ono that set the Rock buzzing.



A World of Flavour

Visitors to Gibraltar will be struck by the vibrancy and colour of local life. The Rock's lush green vegetation is set against the cobalt blue of the Bay of Gibraltar and the pastel shades of the colonial and medieval architecture of the town centre. It is against this backdrop that so many cultures live harmoniously, and a wide range of internationally inspired dishes can be found.



*With the sea
a strong part of its
legacy, fish is a popular
staple of Gibraltarian cuisine.*



Local specialist dishes include Calentita, a local delicacy made from chickpea flour; Pinchitos, kebabs made of spiced lamb or chicken cooked over hot coals; Torta de Acelgas, a spinach tart; and Pan Dulce, a specialist bread traditionally eaten at Christmas.

Gibraltar's true flavour comes together once a year at the 'Calentita' food festival which takes place each Spring in Casemates Square. The festival is a display of the destination's diversity and local customs. As well as local dishes, stalls include a range of Indian foods, German sausages, Sicilian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan and Moroccan cuisine.

Gibraltar's Main Street and Casemates Square are at the centre of its Mediterranean café society with traditional coffee houses such as the House of Sacarello dating back to the 1800s. At night, Casemates Square transforms into a vibrant night scene with lively bars and restaurants filled until the early hours.

With the sea a strong part of its legacy, fish is a popular staple of Gibraltarian cuisine. There are many specialist Mediterranean and fish restaurants, such as La Mamela set on Catalan Bay. A further variety of international cuisines can be found along Gibraltar's stylish marinas. For a more formal setting, two of Gibraltar's hotels in-house restaurants have been awarded rosette dining awards.





For souvenirs and a taste of local life, head to Casemates Square.



A True Pound's Worth

Gibraltar welcomes millions of tourists every year and whether they are arriving to sample the fine cuisine, its natural beauty or its sporting pursuits many of them will head to Main Street, the centre of Gibraltar's commercial district and the scene of some of the best value shopping on the Mediterranean.



Gibraltar has a history of shopkeepers and traders that dates back to the 1800s when the Rock flourished as a trading port boosted by its strategic, geographic location. During this period the modern identity of the Gibraltarian people evolved through a mixed population of Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Jewish and Moorish communities.

Gibraltar remains home to many descendant families who established their businesses during this period. Names such as Stagnetto, Gache, Seruya, Cohen and Massias are traditional family businesses and their shops are still visible in Gibraltar's busy shopping centre.

Gibraltar is a VAT free jurisdiction so goods sold in Gibraltar offer the best value and the currency is the Gibraltar Pound, equivalent to Sterling, so there is no costly currency conversion for visitors from the United Kingdom.

Along with the more traditional shops, visitors to Main Street will recognise international high street brands and chains. These sit alongside handcraft and souvenir shops.

Best buys include cosmetics and perfumery, jewellery, tobacco and spirits, designer glass frames, specialist linens and electronics.

For souvenirs and a taste of local life, head to Casemates Square where you'll find local artisan shops and the Gibraltar Crystal Factory, where you can watch the glass blowers at work.

Inaugurated in 1929, the Gibraltar Public Market just outside Casemates Square, is a traditional indoor market with a range of fish, fruit, vegetables and local delicacies. It's a great place to people watch and get into the local spirit.

Your Home From Home

There is a welcoming familiarity for visitors to Gibraltar. Its compact size means transfer times to the town centre are never more than 15 minutes and its British heritage gives it a feeling of 'home from home' but with an exotic twist.

Hotels



Bristol Hotel ***

This hotel, with its attractive walled garden and swimming pool, is centrally situated close to the Museum. Many of the bedrooms enjoy a splendid view of the Bay of Gibraltar.
8/10 Cathedral Square, Gibraltar
Tel: **+350 20076800**
Fax: **+350 20077613**
Email: reservations@bristolhotel.gi
www.bristolhotel.gi



The Caleta Hotel AA****

The four star Caleta Hotel, Health, Beauty & Conference Centres, in a spectacular location on the eastern side of the Rock, awarded two AA rosettes for fine dining. Italian food at its best.
Catalan Bay, Gibraltar
Tel: **+350 20076501**
Fax: **+350 20042143**
Email: reservations@caletahotel.gi
www.caletahotel.com



The Cannon Hotel *

Situated near the city centre, and ideal for leisure breaks. The main shopping area and most of Gibraltar's historic sites and places of interest are within easy walking distance.
9 Cannon Lane, Gibraltar
Tel: **+350 20051711**
Fax: **+350 20051789**
Email: cannon@sapphire.net.gi
www.cannonhotel.gi



The O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel AA****

Tucked away in the heart of the city centre, only minutes walk from bustling Main Street, the stylish and newly rejuvenated O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel offers every comfort and facility for the perfect holiday.
2 Governor's Parade, Gibraltar
Tel: **+350 20070500**
Fax: **+350 20070243**
Email: elliott@ocallaghanhotels.com
www.elliotthotel.com



Queen's Hotel ***

The Queen's Hotel is situated just outside the historic city walls of Gibraltar, and commands views of unparalleled beauty of the Rock itself.
1 Boyd Street, Gibraltar
Tel: **+ 350 20074000**
Fax: **+350 20040030**
Email: queenshotel@gibtelecom.net
www.queenshotel.gi



The Rock Hotel AA****

The world famous Rock Hotel is perched majestically above the city, and enjoys splendid views of the Bay of Gibraltar. The attractive sea water pool is set in secluded gardens where light meals are available throughout the day.
3 Europa Road, Gibraltar
Tel: **+350 20073000**
Fax: **+350 20073513**
Email: reservations@rockhotel.gi
www.rockhotelgibraltar.com



Hostel

Emile Youth Hostel

On Gibraltar's historic city walls, a one-minute walk from the popular Casemates Square and Main Street. Easy access to all places of interest. Montagu Bastion, Line Wall Road, Gibraltar
Tel **+350 20051106**
Fax: **+350 20051106**
Mobile: **+350 57686000**
Email: emilehostel@yahoo.co.uk

We have a range of self-catering accommodation options available on our website at www.visitgibraltar.gi. For further information call us on 020 7836 0777 or e-mail info@gibraltar.gov.uk.

How to book

Tour Operators

Classic Collection

Tel: **0800 008 7288** Fax: **01903 214 945**
sales@classic-collection.co.uk
www.classic-collection.co.uk

Cresta Holidays

Tel: **0844 879 8036**
www.crestaholidays.co.uk

My Gibraltar

Tel: **020 8518 4181** Fax: **020 8554 0202**
info@mygibraltar.co.uk
www.mygibraltar.co.uk

Superbreak

Tel: **0871 221 3344**
www.superbreak.com
sales@superbreak.com

Airlines

bmbaby

Tel: **0905 828 2828** www.bmbaby.com

British Airways

Tel: **0844 493 0787** www.ba.com

easyJet

Tel: **08431045000** www.easyjet.com

Monarch

Tel: **08719 40 50 40** www.monarch.co.uk

Practical Information

Hotel Grading

The Gibraltar Tourist Board's Official Hotel Grading Scheme is managed in partnership with the Automobile Association (AA) of the UK.

The Scheme uses a star classification system for hotels, ranging from One to Five stars. In addition the AA awards Rosettes, from One to Five, to those hotels where the restaurants serve food of an excellent and outstanding quality. More information is available on the AA's website at www.theaa.com or in the AA's annual Hotel Guide.

The properties taking part in the Scheme in Gibraltar are inspected annually by the AA and are distinguished in the listings by the AA logo and gold stars next to the property name.

The Scheme is a voluntary one and those properties not participating have volunteered their own classification, which is distinguished by black stars next to the property name.

Language

The official language is English although Spanish is widely spoken.

Health

No specific vaccinations are required for Gibraltar. Those needing emergency medical attention in Gibraltar are entitled to free NHS treatment on production of a UK Passport or a European Health Insurance Card.

Getting There

Regular flights from the UK to Gibraltar are operated by bmbaby, British Airways, Monarch Airlines and easyJet. Flight time is approximately two hours and 45 minutes. Gibraltar is also easily accessed by those wishing to fly to Malaga and Jerez airports and both can be reached by road in approximately one hour and 30 minutes. The land frontier between Gibraltar and Spain is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week both for vehicles and pedestrians. There is no limit on the number of frontier crossings you can make.

Entry Requirements

A full valid passport or EU identity card in the case of EU nationals. Other passport holders may need a visa to enter Gibraltar. Further information available from
Tel: **+350 20051726**
Fax: **+350 20042706**
Email: csro@gibraltar.gov.gi
Or Tel: **+350 20073026**
Email: info@gibraltar-airport.com

Telephones

Gibraltar's international dialling code is + 350.

Getting Around

Local bus services and taxis operate throughout Gibraltar.

Currency

The legal tender in Gibraltar is Gibraltar Government notes and coinage, although United Kingdom

Sterling is equally welcome. There is a full range of international and UK banks. Credit cards, travellers' cheques and Euros are widely accepted. Gibraltar notes cannot be used in the UK.

Voltage

240v – the same as in the UK (3 pin plugs).

Weather

Gibraltar has an average of 320 days of sunshine a year with temperatures rising well above 30c in the summer and going down to approximately 12c in the winter.

The climate of Gibraltar is Mediterranean. A warm, dry summer alternating with a mild, wet winter.

For further information, please contact

Gibraltar Tourist Board

Gibraltar House
150 Strand
London
WC2R 1JA
Tel: **020 7836 0777**
Fax: **020 7240 6612**
Email: info@gibraltar.gov.uk
www.visitgibraltar.gi

Gibraltar Tourist Board

Information Office
Casemates Square
Gibraltar, GX11 1AA
Tel: **+350 20045000**
Fax: **+350 20045865**
Email: information@tourism.gov.gi
www.visitgibraltar.gi



Everything
you need to know
before you come!



Gibraltar

Tourist Board Information Office
Casemates Square, Gibraltar, GX11 1AA
Tel: **+350 20045000**
Fax: **+350 20045865**
Email: information@tourism.gov.gi
www.visitgibraltar.gi

London

Gibraltar House, 150 Strand,
London, WC2R 1JA
Tel: **+44 (0)20 7836 0777**
Fax: **+44 (0)20 7240 6612**
Email: info@gibraltar.gov.uk
www.visitgibraltar.gi

visitgibraltar.gi



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Disclaimer: The Gibraltar Tourist Board does not accept responsibility for any changes in or unavailability of the services listed.