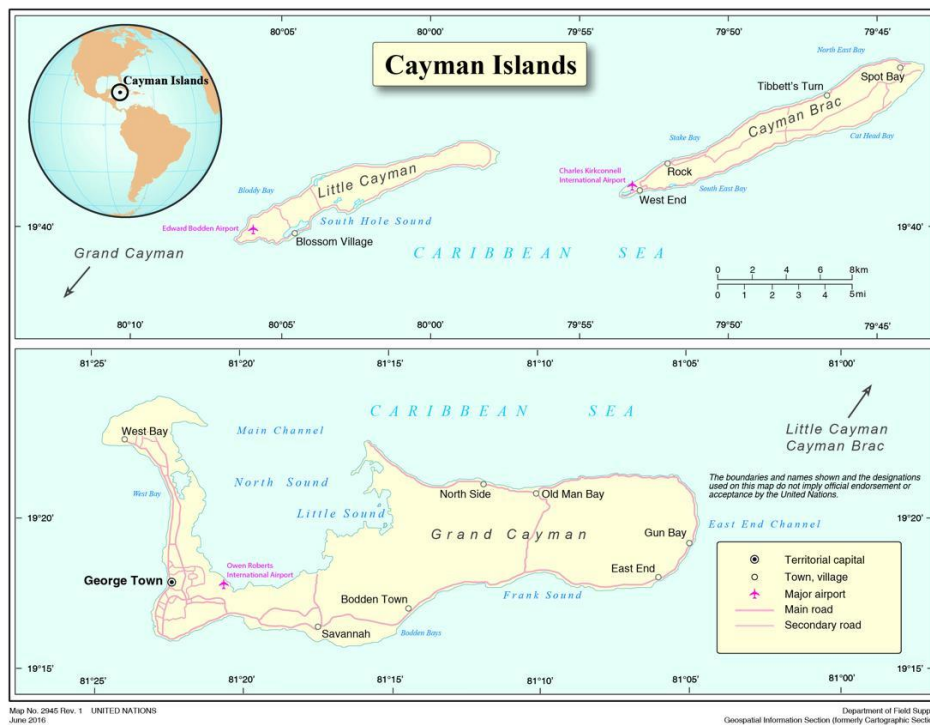
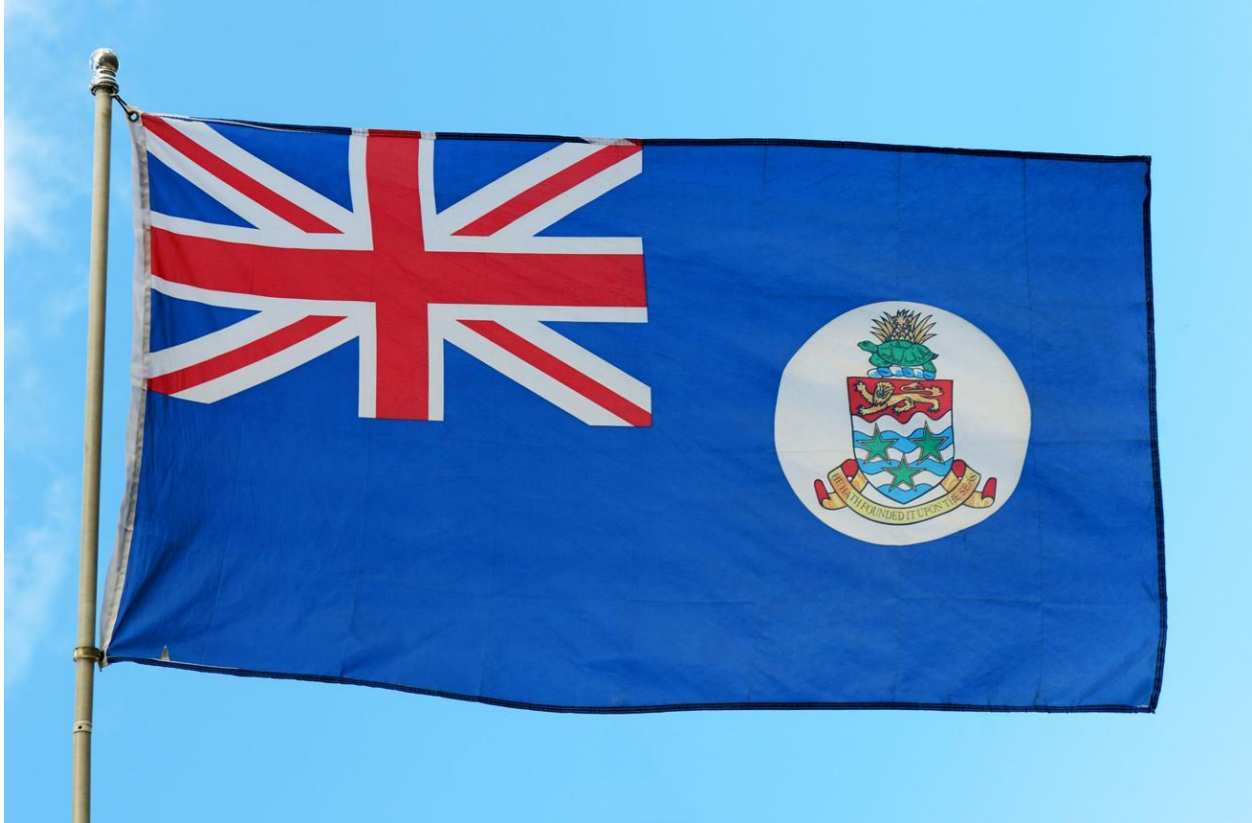


CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Territory of the Cayman Islands





Cayman Islands

British Overseas Territory

Flag

National Flag: Blue Ensign featuring the Union Jack in the canton and the Cayman Islands coat of arms on the fly.

Map

Location: Western Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica.

Background

The Cayman Islands are a British Overseas Territory consisting of three islands: **Grand Cayman**, **Cayman Brac**, and **Little Cayman**. First sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1503, the islands became a British possession in the 17th century and have remained under British sovereignty since.

Today, the Cayman Islands are one of the world's leading offshore financial centers and an internationally recognized tourism destination. Political stability, a strong legal system based on English common law, and modern financial regulation have contributed to sustained economic prosperity.

Geography

Location: Caribbean

Coordinates: Approximately 19°30'N, 80°30'W

Area

- Total: 264 sq km
- Land: 264 sq km
- Water: Negligible inland water

Comparative Area

Approximately 1.5 times the size of Washington, D.C.

Islands

- Grand Cayman
- Cayman Brac
- Little Cayman

Coastline

160 km

Maritime Claims

- Territorial Sea: 12 nautical miles
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): 200 nautical miles

Climate

- Tropical marine
- Warm year-round
- Dry season: November–April

- Wet season: May–October
- Occasionally affected by tropical storms and hurricanes

Terrain

- Low-lying limestone islands
- Highest point: The Bluff (Cayman Brac), 43 meters

Natural Resources

- Marine fisheries
- Coral reefs
- Tourism resources

Environmental Issues

- Coral reef degradation
- Coastal development pressures
- Hurricane vulnerability
- Climate change and sea-level rise

People and Society

Population

Approximately 91,000

Ethnic Groups

- Mixed
- White
- Black
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other expatriate communities

Languages

- English (official)

Religions

Predominantly Christian:

- Anglican
- Catholic
- Baptist
- Presbyterian
- Pentecostal
- Other Protestant denominations

Urbanization

Over 95% urban

Largest City

George Town (capital)

Life Expectancy

Approximately 83 years

Literacy

Approximately 99%

Government

Country Name

Conventional Long Form:

Territory of the Cayman Islands

Short Form:

Cayman Islands

Status

British Overseas Territory

Capital

George Town

Administrative Divisions

Eight districts:

- George Town
- West Bay
- Bodden Town
- North Side
- East End
- Cayman Brac West & Little Cayman
- Cayman Brac East
- Sister Islands districts

Legal System

English common law

Executive Branch

Head of State

His Majesty King Charles III, represented by a Governor.

Head of Government

Premier

Legislature

Parliament (unicameral)

Judiciary

Independent court system headed by the Grand Court and Court of Appeal.

Economy

Overview

The Cayman Islands possess one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean. The economy is dominated by financial services and tourism.

GDP (Nominal)

Approximately **US\$7–8 billion**

GDP per Capita

Approximately **US\$85,000–95,000**

Economic Sectors

Services: ~90%

Primary industries include:

- International banking
- Investment funds
- Insurance
- Tourism
- Legal services
- Corporate services

Agriculture

Very limited:

- Vegetables
- Livestock
- Small-scale farming

Industry

- Construction
- Food processing
- Boat repair
- Utilities

Currency

Cayman Islands Dollar (KYD)

Fixed exchange rate:

1 KYD = 1.20 USD

Energy

Electricity

Generated primarily using imported petroleum products.

Renewable Energy

Growing investment in:

- Solar power
 - Energy efficiency
 - Grid modernization
-

Communications

Modern telecommunications infrastructure featuring:

- Fiber broadband
- Extensive mobile coverage
- International submarine cable connections

Internet penetration exceeds 90%.

Transportation

Airports

Major airport:

- Owen Roberts International Airport (Grand Cayman)

Additional airports:

- Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (Cayman Brac)

- Edward Bodden Airfield (Little Cayman)

Roads

Modern paved road network centered on Grand Cayman.

Ports

George Town serves as:

- Major cruise destination
 - Commercial cargo port
-

Military and Security

The Cayman Islands have **no standing military**.

Defense responsibilities are provided by the United Kingdom.

Local security organizations include:

- Royal Cayman Islands Police Service
 - Cayman Islands Coast Guard
 - Customs and Border Control
-

International Organization Participation

The Cayman Islands participate in numerous regional organizations through the United Kingdom, including:

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (associate relationships)
 - Caribbean Development Bank
 - Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
 - Interpol
-

Transnational Issues

Financial Regulation

As one of the world's largest offshore financial centers, the Cayman Islands continue strengthening transparency, anti-money laundering controls, and international regulatory compliance while maintaining competitiveness.

Climate Risk

Increasing hurricane intensity and rising sea levels present long-term infrastructure and environmental challenges.

Strategic Assessment

The Cayman Islands occupy a unique position within the Caribbean. Despite their small geographic size, they exercise global financial influence through one of the world's largest offshore banking and investment fund sectors. Their strategic importance stems from financial services, maritime location, and stable British governance rather than military capability. Continued prosperity depends upon maintaining international regulatory credibility, protecting critical financial infrastructure, preserving tourism assets, and enhancing resilience against increasingly severe tropical weather and climate-related risks.

Country Profile Series: North America & Caribbean

Classification: British Overseas Territory

Intelligence Confidence Assessment: High