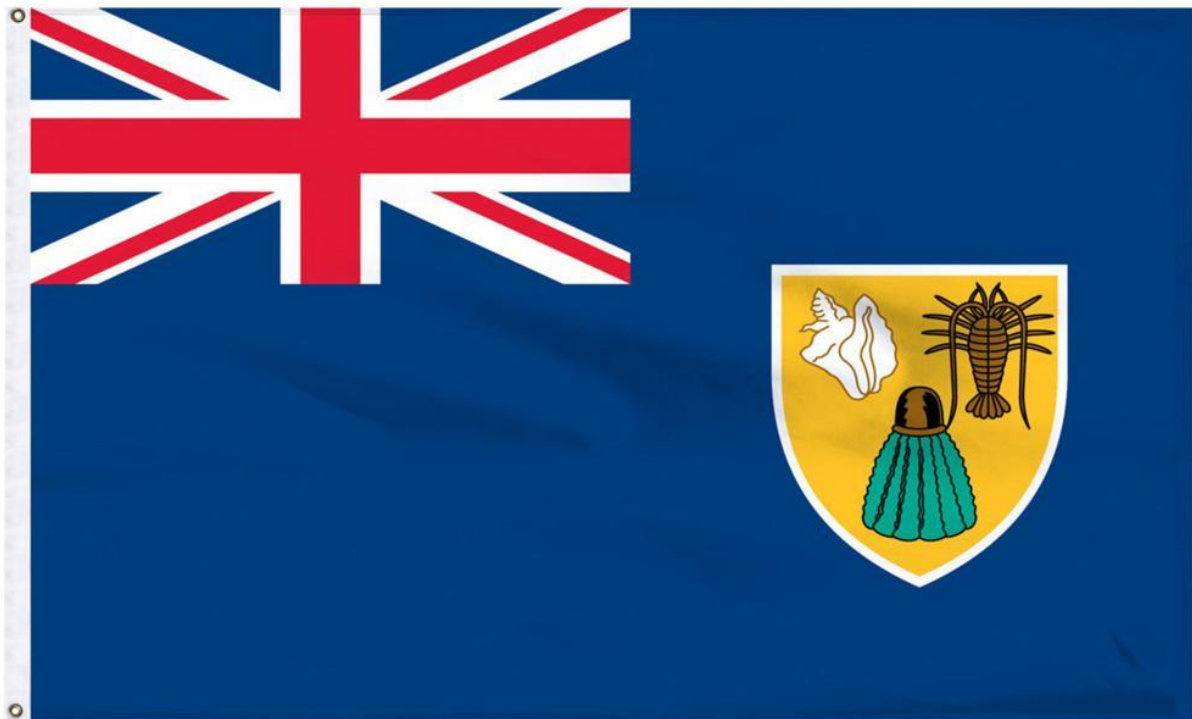
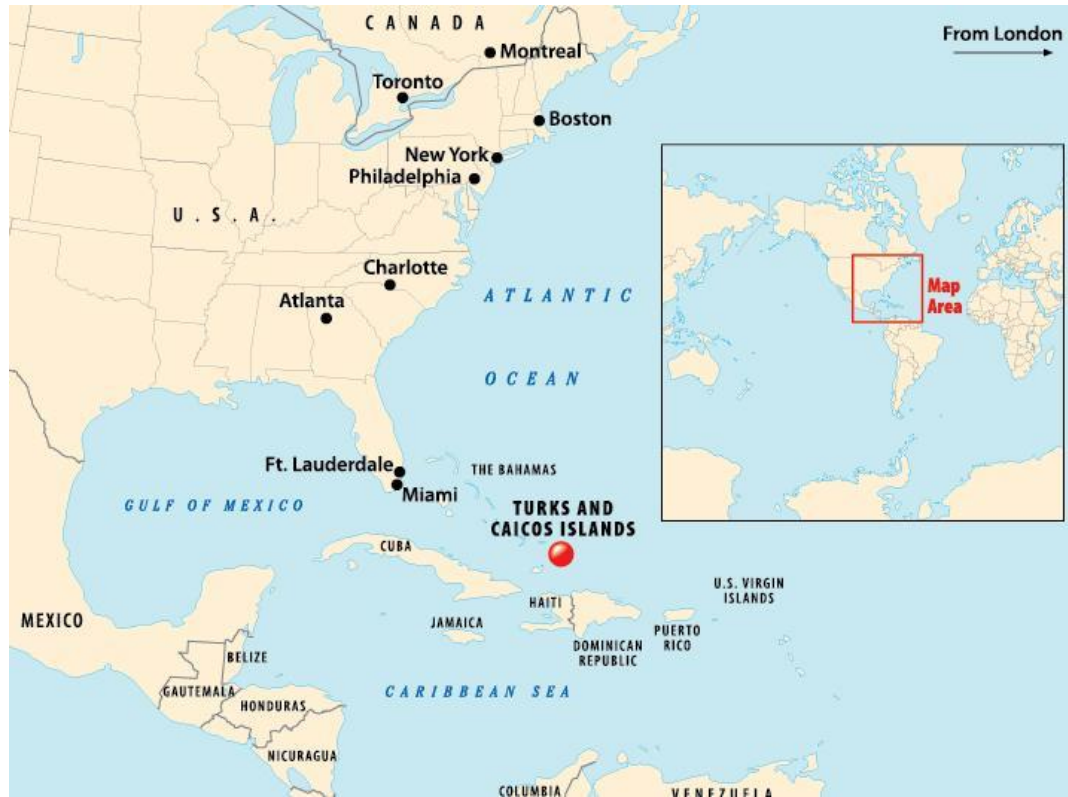


CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Turks and Caicos Islands (United Kingdom Overseas Territory)





TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Conventional Long Name: Turks and Caicos Islands

Territory Status: British Overseas Territory

Capital: Cockburn Town

Largest Settlement: Providenciales

Total Area: Approximately **948 sq km (366 sq mi)**

Population (2026 est.): Approximately **49,000**

Time Zone: UTC -5 (Eastern Standard Time year-round)

Internet Country Code: .tc

Calling Code: +1-649

Flag

Description:

Blue British Ensign featuring the Union Jack in the canton and the territorial coat of arms showing:

- A queen conch shell
- A spiny lobster
- Turk's head cactus

The design reflects the islands' marine environment and natural heritage.

Map & Geographic Setting

The Turks and Caicos Islands comprise **40 islands and cays**, of which **eight are permanently inhabited**, located southeast of the Bahamas and north of Hispaniola.

Major islands include:

- Providenciales
- Grand Turk
- North Caicos

- Middle Caicos
- South Caicos
- Salt Cay

The territory possesses one of the Caribbean's largest barrier reef systems.

Highest elevation is only about **49 meters (161 ft)** on Blue Hills, Providenciales.

Geography

Terrain

- Low limestone islands
- Coral reefs
- White-sand beaches
- Extensive shallow banks
- Salt flats
- Mangroves

Climate

- Tropical marine
 - Warm throughout the year
 - Dry season (December–April)
 - Hurricane season (June–November)
-

Natural Resources

- Tourism assets
- Fisheries
- Marine biodiversity
- Salt (historically important)
- Offshore financial services

Environmental Issues

Major concerns include:

- Coral reef degradation
- Coastal erosion
- Hurricane damage
- Climate change
- Rising sea levels
- Marine pollution
- Pressure from rapid tourism development

Large portions of the reefs and wetlands enjoy protected status.

Population

Ethnic Composition

Predominantly:

- African descent
- Mixed heritage
- European
- Haitian immigrant community
- Other Caribbean populations

Languages

- English (official)
- Haitian Creole widely spoken

Religion

Predominantly Christian:

- Baptist

- Anglican
 - Methodist
 - Pentecostal
 - Roman Catholic
-

Government

Government Type

Parliamentary constitutional territory under the British Crown.

Head of State

His Majesty King Charles III.

Representative

Governor appointed by the Crown.

Head of Government

Premier.

Legislature

House of Assembly.

The United Kingdom retains responsibility for:

- Defense
 - External affairs
 - Internal security in certain circumstances
 - Constitutional matters
-

Administrative Divisions

Principal islands include:

- Grand Turk
- Providenciales

- North Caicos
 - Middle Caicos
 - South Caicos
 - Salt Cay
-

Economy

GDP (2025 est.)

Approximately **US\$1.8–2.0 billion**

Currency

US Dollar (USD)

Economic Structure

Tourism dominates the economy.

Major sectors:

- Luxury tourism
- Real estate
- Construction
- Financial services
- Fisheries
- Hospitality

Grace Bay Beach is consistently ranked among the world's premier beaches.

Trade

Primary Exports

- Seafood
- Lobster

- Conch
- Financial services

Primary Imports

- Food
- Fuel
- Machinery
- Construction materials
- Consumer goods

Main trading partners include:

- United States
 - United Kingdom
 - Caribbean nations
-

Infrastructure

Airports

Primary international gateway:

- Providenciales International Airport

Secondary airport:

- JAGS McCartney International Airport (Grand Turk)
-

Transportation

Road transportation predominates.

No railways.

Inter-island movement depends upon:

- Ferries
- Small aircraft

- Cargo vessels
-

Communications

High internet penetration.

Modern telecommunications support:

- Tourism
 - Offshore finance
 - Government services
-

Energy

Electricity is primarily generated using imported diesel fuel.

Renewable energy development is expanding through:

- Solar power
 - Battery storage initiatives
-

Defense & Security

The Turks and Caicos Islands have **no standing military**.

Defense responsibilities rest with the United Kingdom.

Internal security is provided by the **Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force**, supported when necessary by British military or law-enforcement resources.

Maritime Significance

The territory occupies an important location along:

- Caribbean shipping routes
- Regional aviation corridors
- Migration pathways

- Maritime law-enforcement zones

Its large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) supports fisheries management and anti-smuggling operations.

International Relations

The territory participates regionally through:

- Caribbean organizations
- UK Overseas Territories cooperation
- Disaster preparedness initiatives
- Environmental conservation programs

The United Kingdom conducts foreign affairs on its behalf.

Intelligence Assessment

Political Stability: Very High

Stable democratic institutions operate under British constitutional governance.

Economic Outlook: High

Tourism continues to drive growth, though the economy remains highly dependent on international travel and foreign investment.

Security Risk: Low

Crime is concentrated primarily in localized urban areas and does not generally affect the territory's overall stability. Maritime trafficking remains an ongoing regional concern.

Natural Hazard Risk: Moderate to High

Hurricanes remain the principal strategic natural hazard capable of causing widespread infrastructure and economic disruption.

Key Facts at a Glance

Category	Information
Sovereign Power	United Kingdom
Capital	Cockburn Town
Largest Settlement	Providenciales
Population	~49,000
Area	948 sq km
Currency	US Dollar
Official Language	English
Government	Parliamentary constitutional territory
Defense	United Kingdom
Main Industry	Tourism
Major Airport	Providenciales International Airport
Highest Point	Blue Hills (49 m)
Strategic Assessment	Stable, prosperous tourism economy with high hurricane exposure