



Information Sheet 1c

Location Overview

Last Updated: Dec 07

Gibraltar

This information sheet is designed to give you a general picture of Gibraltar. If you would like further, more detailed information on specific subjects please contact the HIVE.

The Rock of Gibraltar sits at the southernmost tip of Europe with a land frontier to Spain on its northern front. It covers a land area of about six square kilometres, overlooking the Straits to North Africa. The sub-tropical climate is warm and welcoming throughout the year. The size of the population is around 30,000 from differing cultural backgrounds including Spanish, Genoese, Maltese, Moroccan, Jewish and Portuguese. The official language is English although a mixture of English and Spanish is spoken in casual conversation – this local dialect is referred to as “Llanito”.

Gibraltar is VAT exempt which means its shopping experience for items such as tobacco, cosmetics, perfumery, spirits, jewellery and electrical goods, is one of the cheapest in Europe. Spain on your doorstep, and Morocco are good options once you have exhausted all the sightseeing in Gibraltar itself. They offer an extraordinary array of interesting places, waiting to be discovered. Our neighbouring town, La Linea is 2 minutes walk across the border. You will have the opportunity to visit Marbella, Malaga, Seville and Granada just to name a few, all within easy reach of Gibraltar.

Unit Facilities

The Unit has most type of indoors and outdoor sports, which comprise the Gym, 4 Dock Adventurous Training and Water-sports Centre, Europa Pool and Fitness Training Rooms. Other activities include the United Services Sailing Club, Trafalgar Theatre Group and the NAAFI UltraBowl / Lion Bar. The Command has an Education & Training Unit, library and internet computer suite, along with two HIVE's; one on Rooke, the other at DTC.

Gibraltar Amenities Fund (GAF)

The GAF offers a wide range of facilities:

- Britannia House, Gibraltar – consists of 12 fully equipped two-bedroom apartments that are available for hire to entitled personnel. Each apartment sleeps up to 6 people.
- Holiday Accommodation includes Estepona, Calahonda on the Costa del Sol, Alicante, Moncarapacho, Portugal and Ski-Accommodation in Pradollano, Sierra Nevada, Spain.
- UK Telephone Calls – in conjunction with Servi-Tel a telephone call back system with calls to the UK from 5.5p per minute 24/7. In addition the Command has a contract with a VOIP company with international calls 1.6p per minute.
- Television/Golf Club & trolley Hire and Travel Cot – a limited number of televisions available for hire on a short-term basis at very reasonable rates, however, should you require the hire of these items you would need to collect the items yourself from the GAF office. Golf club hire can also be arranged.
- Insurance – Trinity Insurance Services – deals in travel insurance, personal accident, kit and household cover.

Service Families Accommodation.

Accommodation is in 6 main areas:

- **The Europa Estate**, including Tangier View and Trafalgar Heights is located at the southern end of the Rock, comprising houses and flats for all ranks, WO and below. The estate is traffic free and close to St Christopher's School.
- **Buena Vista** is an estate of houses and flats accommodating Officers, WO's and Civil Servants working within the MOD.
- **Naval Hospital Hill** is located just outside of Buena Vista and is a row of 10 four-bedroom town houses, with rooms over four floors.
- **Chilton Court**. Two blocks of flats on the outskirts of town, accommodating Sgt's and Junior ranks. This is also the location of Chilton Court Community Centre.

- **Devils Tower Camp** is a guarded access camp at the northern end of the Rock, close to the border and airfield. The camp is also home to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, the HIVE, main forces Post Office, main gym, NAAFI, Junior Ranks Bar, Hairdresser/Barber, and the PRMC (Princess Royal Medical Centre), which includes hospital facility, medical and dental units.
- **Four Corners** is an estate housing officers, WO's and senior ranks. Being close to the border and airport, the estate is very safe with guarded access. This is also the location of the Sgt Mess and the United Services Sailing Club (USSC).

Personnel wishing to occupy a FQ are to complete application form MOD 1132 (or Army form A10, Navy form MOV04 or RAF form 3981C) (form can be downloaded via the internet at www.mod.uk/dhe). This should be forwarded to Families Housing Section (FHS), Joint Support Unit, Rooke, BFPO 52 at least 2 months prior to arrival. Tel: 00350 20055572

Single Living Accommodation

Single Living Accommodation is booked through the Accommodation Booking Cells. Officers Tel:00350 20055698. Junior & Senior Ranks Tel: 00350 20053239 / 3601.

Schools

St. Christopher's Primary School (SCE). The education of **primary** school children in Gibraltar is administered by the Service Children's Education and follows the National Curriculum up to and including year 7. Gibraltar has 2 local Government run, single sex, secondary schools. Bayside (boys) and Westside (girls). Although these 2 schools are not subject to full OFSTED inspections they do follow a curriculum similar to the English National Curriculum.

Transport

A very good bus and taxi service operate in Gibraltar. From just across the border you have access to the Spanish bus and taxi service. British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch Airlines operate daily flights to Gatwick and Luton. Iberia Airlines operate regular flights from UK to Madrid & Madrid to Gibraltar. All other major & budget airlines fly to Malaga and Jerez.

If you intend to import your car, speak to your admin office before arrival and they will advise you of the procedure. Second hand vehicles are in short supply and tend to be rather expensive.

Shopping

Gibraltar has one main supermarket – Morrisons. On Main Street you will find Mothercare, Topshop, Next, Marks & Spencers, Wallis, Monsoon, Dorothy Perkins and BHS along with a variety of smaller local shops. Many of the shops are aimed at the tourist market. There is a daily fish, meat and vegetable market.

Eating Out

Gibraltar has an abundance of eating-places. The restaurants are located around the marinas, town and back streets. Casemates Square, with its outside seating areas, is a glorious place to sit for a meal and take in the scenery and atmosphere at any time of the day or night. There are a few takeaways – McDonalds and Pizza Hut, plus Indian takeaway and Kebabs, fish and chips etc.

Healthcare

All MOD / UKBC and dependants' health care is provided by the Medical and Dental Units within the PRMC (Princess Royal Medical Centre). All prescriptions are free although dental treatment is chargeable. Regular visits from consultants are supported by the PRMC. The PRMC has a very good patient staff ratio with minimum waiting time.

Gibraltar HIVE, Rooke, Queensway, BFPO 52

Tel: 00350 20055004

Email: gibraltar@hivegb.co.uk

Website: www.hive.mod.uk

OPENING HOURS:

Mon + Fri 1000 – 1300

Tues – Thurs 0900 - 1300

DTC HIVE (Gibraltar), DTC, BFPO 52

Tel: 00350 20053433

Email: hive0065@gibtelecom.net

Website: www.hive.mod.uk

OPENING HOURS:

Mon – Thurs 1300 – 1500 Summer hrs

Mon – Thurs 1600 – 1800 Winter hrs

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