



## Europe :: Dhekelia (UK sovereign base area)

### Introduction :: Dhekelia

#### Background:

By terms of the 1960 Treaty of Establishment that created the independent Republic of Cyprus, the UK retained full sovereignty and jurisdiction over two areas of almost 254 square kilometers - Akrotiri and Dhekelia. The larger of these is the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area, which is also referred to as the Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

### Geography :: Dhekelia

#### Location:

Eastern Mediterranean, on the southeast coast of Cyprus near Famagusta

#### Geographic coordinates:

34 59 N, 33 45 E

#### Map references:

Europe

#### Area:

**total:** 130.8 sq km

**country comparison to the world:** 223

**note:** area surrounds three Cypriot enclaves

#### Area - comparative:

about three-quarters the size of Washington, DC

#### Land boundaries:

**total:** 103 km (approximately)

**border countries:** Cyprus 103 km (approximately)

#### Coastline:

27.5 km

#### Climate:

temperate; Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool winters

#### Environment - current issues:

netting and trapping of small migrant songbirds in the spring and autumn

#### Geography - note:

British extraterritorial rights also extended to several small off-post sites scattered across Cyprus; of the Sovereign Base Area land 60% is privately owned and farmed, 20% is owned by the Ministry of Defense, and 20% is SBA Crown land

### People and Society :: Dhekelia

#### Languages:

English, Greek

**Population:**

approximately 15,700 live on the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia including 7,700 Cypriots, 3,600 service and UK based contract personnel, and 4,400 dependents

**country comparison to the world:** 222

**Government :: Dhekelia**

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**Country name:**

**conventional long form:** none

**conventional short form:** Dhekelia

**Dependency status:**

a special form of UK overseas territory; administered by an administrator who is also the Commander, British Forces Cyprus

**Capital:**

**name:** Episkopi Cantonment (base administrative center for Akrotiri and Dhekelia); located in Akrotiri

**geographic coordinates:** 34 40 N, 32 51 E

**time difference:** UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:** +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

**Constitution:**

presented 3 August 1960, effective 16 August 1960; amended 1966 (The Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia Order in Council 1960, serves as a basic legal document) (2013)

**Legal system:**

the Sovereign Base Area Administration has its own court system to deal with civil and criminal matters; laws applicable to the Cypriot population are, as far as possible, the same as the laws of the Republic of Cyprus

**Executive branch:**

**chief of state:** Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952)

**head of government:** Administrator Air Vice Marshall Graham STACEY (since 4 November 2010); note - reports to the British Ministry of Defense

**elections:** none; the monarchy is hereditary; the administrator appointed by the monarch

**Judicial branch:**

**highest court(s):** Senior Judges' Court (consists of several visiting judges from England and Wales)

**judge selection and term of office:** judges appointment and tenure NA

**subordinate courts:** Resident Judges' Court; Courts Martial

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

none (overseas territory of the UK)

**Diplomatic representation from the US:**

none (overseas territory of the UK)

**Flag description:**

the flag of the UK is used

**National anthem:**

**note:** as a United Kingdom area of special sovereignty, "God Save the Queen" is official (see United Kingdom)

**Economy :: Dhekelia**

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**Economy - overview:**

Economic activity is limited to providing services to the military and their families located in Dhekelia. All food and manufactured goods must be imported.

**Industries:**

none

**Exchange rates:**

**note:** uses the euro

**Communications :: Dhekelia**

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**Broadcast media:**

British Forces Broadcast Service (BFBS) provides multi-channel satellite TV service as well as BFBS radio broadcasts to the Dhekelia Sovereign Base (2009)

**Military :: Dhekelia**

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**Military - note:**

defense is the responsibility of the UK; includes Dhekelia Garrison and Ayios Nikolaos Station connected by a roadway