



Wirebird  
*Chardrius sanctaehelena*

## SAINT HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

The Saint Helena National Trust is dedicated to the conservation of St Helena's natural, cultural and built heritage. The Trust is engaged in long term conservation programmes to conserve the St Helena Wirebird and restore natural habitats, promote the protection of the historic buildings and fortifications, and educating and training local people.

The trust is dedicated to increase the population of the Wirebird, which is one of St Helena's endemic species. The Wirebird has been classed as 'critically endangered'. Wirebird numbers in locations that have been under active predator control and pasture management are showing positive responses and in 2016 the highest numbers ever was recorded at 559. The Trust offers the opportunity to adopt a Wirebird at £10.00 per Wirebird. Wirebird tours are also available.

The Community Forest team at National Trust holds monthly volunteer days. An ambitious restoration project to reintroduce Gumwoods into severely degraded and barren land at Horse Point began in 1988 and is now the site of Millennium Forest. Since the year 2000 about 15,000 trees have been planted, many of them by the public. You too can get involved by sponsoring or planting a tree. Trees can be dedicated to the memory of loved ones or to mark a special event. To sponsor a tree costs £10.00. Personalised plaques and benches can be arranged by the Trust on request.



Small Bellflower  
*Wahlenbergia Angustifolia*



# St Helena Island

Secret of the South Atlantic

## ABOUT ST HELENA

St Helena is a small British Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic Ocean. One of the remotest places on Earth, it is also one of the most extraordinary places to visit. Its unique character and unspoilt beauty lies in contrasting and spectacular scenery, a rich cultural heritage and an environment extremely rich in biodiversity. These are just a few of the reasons why this remote jewel is a perfect location for active exploration and discovery.

## THINGS TO DO

- Birding and wildlife
- Diving and marine activities
- Walking and hiking
- Whalesharks, dolphin and whale tours
- Historic legacy and cultural tours
- Napoleon
- Astronomy and photography

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

 [visit.sthelenatourism.com](https://www.visit.sthelenatourism.com)

 [@sthelenatourism](https://twitter.com/sthelenatourism)

Telephone: +290 22158

Email: [enquiries@tourism.co.sh](mailto:enquiries@tourism.co.sh)

St Helena Tourism, Jamestown

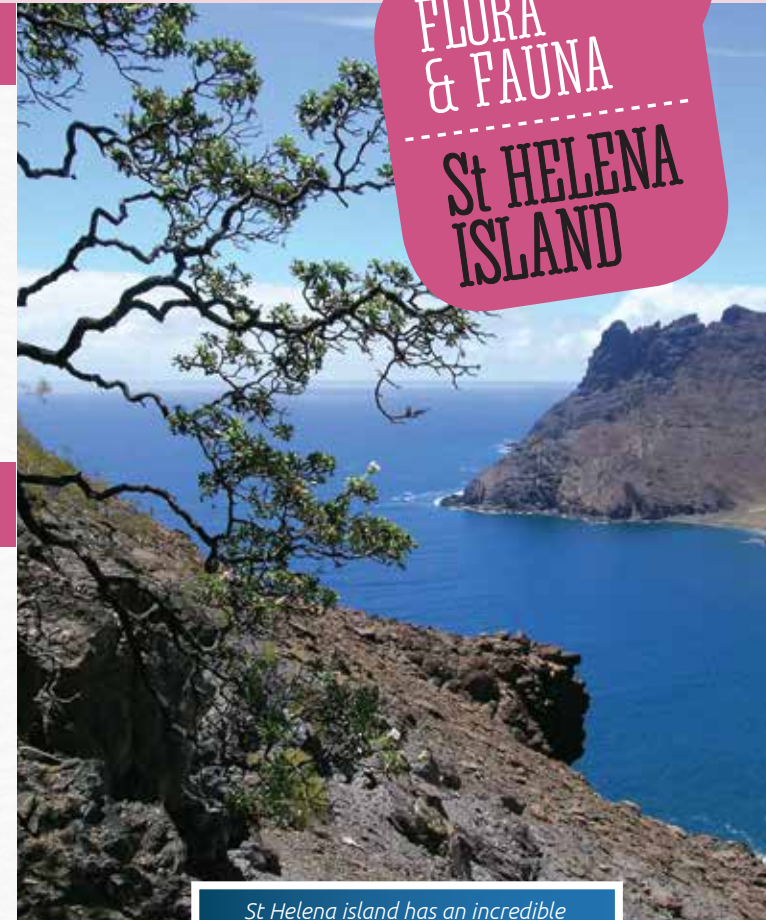
St Helena, STHL 1ZZ, South Atlantic Ocean

[www.sthelenatourism.com](http://www.sthelenatourism.com)



FLORA  
& FAUNA

St HELENA  
ISLAND



*St Helena island has an incredible range of wildlife; its isolation over the 12 to 14 million years since its emergence from the sea has resulted in a unique range of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.*



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[www.sthelenatourism.com](http://www.sthelenatourism.com)



St Helena Tea Plant  
*Frankenia Portulacaefolia*

## UNIQUE TO ST HELENA

St Helena island has an incredible range of wildlife; its isolation over the 12 to 14 million years since its emergence from the sea has resulted in a unique range of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

94% of the British endemic species lie within its Overseas Territories and of the 1,547 species, St Helena holds the most at over 500, and rising. This means that the 47 sq. miles (122km<sup>2</sup>) of St Helena hold roughly 30% of all endemic species to be found in the UK and the British Overseas Territories.

## THE ENDEMIC FLORA AND FAUNA

The vegetation below 1,150 feet (350m) is sparse. Above that level, with higher rainfall and the proximity to water sources, the island is green. This higher part of St Helena consists mainly of pasture, forests with exotic trees and abandoned plantations of New Zealand flax.

The highest point on St Helena is Diana's Peak at 2,700 feet (823m), and it is along parts of the high central ridge, encompassing the island's highest summits, that the endemic cloud forest vegetation can be found.

To fully appreciate the wonder of the island's flora and fauna, they are best viewed in their natural habitat. The cloud forest can be viewed at Diana's Peak where you can go on a Post Box Walk or request a guided walk with the National Trust. Or visit the ginger patch at High Peak or George Benjamin's Arboretum. Dryland species can be viewed at Millennium Forest and also on many of the Post Box Walks.



He Cabbage Tree  
*Pladaroxylon leucadendron*



Diana's Peak

## DIANA'S PEAK

Diana's Peak lies within the Peaks National Park, which is part of the Central Ridge National Conservation Area. The park contains some of the best remaining habitat on St Helena. Being the highest point on the island, Diana's Peak has a unique community of flora and fauna.

Amongst the endemics that grow at Diana's Peak are the He Cabbage Tree, the Dogwood, Whitewood, St Helena Lobelia, the Jellico, Diana's Peak Grass, Tree Fern and Lays Back Fern. The Tree Ferns are most distinct and can reach 19 feet (6m), but more often grow to between 13 and 16 feet (4-5m) tall. The fronds, often 9 feet (3m) long, grow from the top of the long trunk giving the Tree Fern a palm-like appearance. Current distribution is above the 2,300 feet (700m) altitude where it flourishes at both Diana's Peak and High Peak.

There are also endemics named dryland species which include Scrubwood, the St Helena Tea Plant, Small Bellflower, Gumwood, St Helena Ebony, Boxwood, St Helena Salad Plant and the St Helena Rosemary.



St Helena Salad Plant  
*Hypertelis acida*

St Helena Ebony  
*Trochetiopsis ebenus*

## THE ST HELENA EBONY

The St Helena Ebony was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery on precipitous cliffs in 1980. Just two plants were spotted clinging to a remote rock-face which could only be accessed by someone being lowered down on a rope approximately 50 metres to obtain cuttings. These cuttings were propagated both on St Helena and in the UK at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Today, several thousand plants exist throughout the island, however the Saint Helena Ebony is still classified as Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List.



Jonathan the Tortoise

## JONATHAN

Jonathan the Tortoise is probably the oldest living animal on the planet. Jonathan was brought to the island from the Seychelles in 1882, at about 50 years of age. He was named in the 1930s by Governor Sir Spencer Davis.

The famous reptile can be seen happily plodding the grounds of Plantation House, the home of the governor of St Helena. Jonathan belongs to the St Helena Government. He has fans all over the world and he is a regular user of social media. You can connect with him on Facebook at [JonathantheTortoise](https://www.facebook.com/JonathantheTortoise).

## DONKEYS

Donkeys have formed an important part of St Helena's history. During the flax industry the donkey population peaked at 1,650. Today, about 50 donkeys reside on the island. As the motor engine replaces the donkey there is a legacy of retired donkeys, some reaching the stately age of 40.

The St Helena Donkey Sanctuary was established to promote the welfare and wellbeing of all donkeys on the island by providing them with a safe habitat, shelter and regular care. Apart from serving as a tourist attraction, the donkeys provide therapy for children and transport endemic plants through difficult terrain.

The St Helena Donkey Sanctuary is always looking for support, as caring for the donkeys is a full time job. Walking with the donkeys or occasionally mucking out, grooming or assisting with hoof maintenance is a great support to the team. Alternatively it is possible to adopt a donkey for £20 for 1 year.



Donkeys at St Helena Donkey Sanctuary