Can you spot them?



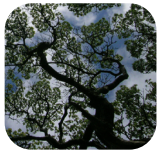
He cabbage tree
Pladaroxylon leucadendron



Golden sail spider
Argyrodes mellissi



She cabbage tree
Lachanodes arborea



Gumwood
Commidendrum robustum



Black cabbage tree
Melanodendron integrifolium



Bastard Gumwood
Commidendrum rotundifolium



St Helena tree fern
Dicksonia arborescens



Dwarf ebony
Trochetiopsis ebenus



Diana's Peak Grass
Carex Dianae



Hair Grass
Eragrostis saxatilis



Jellico
Berula bracteata



Spiky yellow woodlouse
Pseudolaureola atlantica



St Helena Tea Plant
Frankenia portulacifolia



Blushing snail
Succinea sanctaehelenae



Scrubwood
Commidendrum rugosum



Wirebird
Chardrius sanctaehelenae

One of the remotest islands on Earth; an extraordinary place to visit.

Nearly halfway between southern Africa and Brazil, the subtropical St Helena Island rises dramatically from the midst of the South Atlantic Ocean.

The 47 sq. mile island is home to a globally important natural environment, both land and sea, with spectacularly contrasting scenery and astounding biodiversity – all available within a few minutes' drive.

The island's unique culture and cuisine reflect the melting pot of peoples and nationalities that have transited St Helena since its 1502 discovery. The community of around 4,400 'Saints' is renowned for being safe (serious crime is a rarity), welcoming (the driver of each car waves to the other as they pass) and more deeply connected to 'people and planet' than to modern technology (mobile phones were introduced in late 2015).

An off-the-beaten-track, bucket-list location, St Helena is a breath of fresh air in today's busy modern world.

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st.helena.tourism
@sthelenatourism

+290 22158
sthelenatourism.com
visit@sainthelena.gov.sh

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air





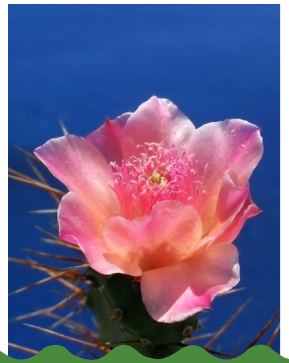




Flora and fauna









A world of landscapes and climates

A world's **diversity of landscapes and climates** exists within this tiny island.

Deep-green **central forests** shift into **rolling pasturelands** that cascade into barren cliff tops and **rocky shorelines**. The vegetation below 1,150 feet (350m) is sparse. Above that level, with higher rainfall and the proximity to water sources, the island is greener. Although St Helena enjoys **subtropical weather year-round**, the climate is astoundingly varied location to location. The island's stunningly diverse landscapes can all be glimpsed in around a 40-minute drive.

St Helena was formed by two volcanic eruptions (the oldest around 12 million years – both **volcanoes are now extinct**) and remained uninhabited until its 1502 discovery. This isolation crafted St Helena into a **globally unique environment** with astounding levels of **biodiversity** and internationally important geology and natural assets.

Today, views of the natural environment remain tranquil and stunning due to St Helena's small population, limited large-scale developments and a focus on conservation.



Globally significant biodiversity

St Helena protects a **unique range of plants and animals** found nowhere else in the world. Astoundingly, although the island is only 1/3 the size of the Isle of Wight it is home to more than 1/3 of all the endemic biodiversity in the UK and all its territories.

Specifically, more than **500 species are found only in St Helena.** Nearly all of these species are rare and/or threatened, some bordering on extinction. Conservation efforts have played a significant role in rediscovering, protecting and restoring these globally unique species – with local conservationists leading efforts to save many of these species from the brink of extinction.

While much of St Helena's biodiversity can be spotted in public areas like **nature trails, conservation areas** like the Peaks National Park and the Millennium Forest Nature Reserve offers a great way to understand the species and even get involved with restoration efforts. (About 15,000 endemic Gumwoods have been planted at Millennium Forest since restoration efforts began in 2000. You can help by planting a Gumwood and receive name recognition at the forest).

Britain's last cloud forest

At the **heart of the island** sits St Helena's highest point: at 2,690ft (820m), Diana's Peak is more than twice the height of the Eiffel Tower above sea level and presents **breathtaking 360° views**.

The surrounding area is **densely vegetated** and contains a few other peaks – together forming the Peaks National Park conservation area. This area holds the **last** remaining **natural cloud forest** on British soil and provides the majority of the island's fresh water.

Once formed entirely of endemic vegetation, and still home to around half of St Helena's endemic **invertebrates**, invasive species and habitat fragmentation have put the area at risk. The St Helena Cloud Forest Project and others over recent years have been working to restore the ecosystem and its social, environmental and economic benefits.

National treasures

Locally referred to as the **national flower**, the St Helena Ebony was believed extinct until its 1980 rediscovery. Today, several thousand plants exist on the island, although the ebony is still critically endangered.

Jonathan the Tortoise: Jonathan holds **two Guinness World Records**, the oldest living land animal on Earth and the oldest chelonian to have ever lived. He is also one of few Seychelles Giant Tortoises surviving in the world today. Jonathan arrived to St Helena in 1882 and today can be seen happily plodding the grounds of Plantation House, the home of the governor of St Helena.

Wirebird: St Helena's national bird, the Wirebird is the island's **last remaining endemic land bird**. The Saint Helena National Trust operates a project dedicated to protecting and restoring the Wirebird population, and gives Wirebird tours that are best enjoyed during nesting season (December to January).

Donkeys: Working donkeys formed an important part of St Helena's history, with the donkey population peaking during the **flax industry** at 1,650. Today, about 50 remain; some wild, some working, some 'retired' and some living within the St Helena Donkey Sanctuary. Donkey walking and other activities are available via the sanctuary.