

Ascension Island

This tiny outpost in the mid Atlantic Ocean does not have berthing for any large ships, so the Van Gogh laid its anchor offshore, and tendered us all to the island. Due to its strategic location, it has been used for many years as a communications link for both the US and UK military, and civilian purposes, as a link between the US and UK with South Africa and South America.

With a population of just 1,000 people, life is at a leisurely pace indeed. Its inhabitants greet us warmly, as since gaining self government in 2002, the tourist industry is a growing one.

We spent our time here exploring Georgetown, a small community built out of the obvious former military buildings. Being Sunday all was extra quiet, with a couple of shops and bars open.

The two beaches we saw were spectacularly wild and rugged - beautiful clean sand, falling steeply into the sea which held strong undercurrents and powerful waves. OK, fine to look at and photograph, but unsafe to swim in! On these beaches can be seen Green Turtles who come ashore at night to lay their eggs in the sand.



Georgetown, Ascension island



Breeding ground for green turtles

The ground is made up of volcanic clinker, and it is strange to note that no grass has grown over this, although some trees manage to grow - again, good photo time!