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General

Wallis and Futuna, an overseas territory of France, consists of two small groups of volcanic and coral islands. It is located in the South Pacific Ocean, lying between 13°20'S and 14°21'S, and 176°10'W and 178°10'W.

The Wallis group consists of the main island of Uvea and 22 off-lying islets enclosed within a single barrier reef. Uvea is 7 miles long by 4 miles wide and rises to a maximum height of 143m. The islands of Futuna and Alofi make up the Iles de Horne, located about 125 miles W of the Wallis Islands.

The islands are of volcanic origin and surrounded by a fringing reef. Futuna is 7 miles long by 4 miles wide and rises to a height of 760m. Alofi is about 5 miles long by three miles wide and rises 365m above sea level.

The climate is tropical. It is hot and rainy from November to April. It is cool and dry from May to October.

The terrain is of volcanic origin with low hills.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the 1 CFP franc, consisting of 100 centimes.

Government

Wallis and Futuna are overseas territories of France, governed by a French administrator and a territorial assembly.

These are in addition to the traditional king of Wallis, the two kings of Futuna, and the chiefs.

The capital is Mata-Utu on Uvea Island.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; May 1, Labor Day; Ascension (39 days after Easter Sunday); Pentecost (about 10 days after Ascension); July 14, Bastille Day; August 15, Feast of the Assumption; November 1, All Saint's Day; November 11, Armistice Day; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on copra, handicraft, fishing, and lumber.

Languages

The official language of Wallis and Futuna is French. The indigenous language of the group is a Polynesian dialect similar to Tongan.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is MIKE (-12).

U.S. Embassy

There are no U.S. diplomatic offices.