



Peros Banhos



Salomon



Map of the two atolls where anchoring is permitted (with prior permission). Co-ordinates (degrees, decimal minutes) are correct in 2008. The website noted in the text should be consulted to see whether any updates or changes have been made. Anchoring may occur immediately landward of the red lines shown.

Yachts and Chagos

Yachts planning to visit Chagos waters should see the document **Laws and Guidance for Visitors** which is on the Government website www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf16/fco_biot_lawsguidance_english

This five page document is available in html and pdf formats. It specifies in detail the regulations for visiting, and displays a table of both fixed penalties and penalties upon conviction for infringements. Important key points are noted here, but this does not substitute for the official and more detailed document referred to.

- A permit is required **before** entry into British Indian Ocean Territory waters.
- There are no marina type services.
- All Chagos islands are **Nature Reserves**, many are **Strict Nature Reserves**. It is an offence to approach the latter within 200 metres, to anchor or land on them.
- No unauthorised vessel may approach within 12 nautical miles of Diego Garcia.

The anchorages where yachts may stay after receiving permission are shown above. When there, visitors may not remain on islands overnight, nor set up any structures. Old buildings must be respected, and there is a list of prohibitions regarding collection or disturbance to terrestrial and marine animals and plants. Essentially, the intention is to minimise disturbance to one of the last remaining uninhabited places and reef systems on the planet. Fishing with rod or line (only) for own consumption is permitted. Scuba diving is prohibited.

Many yachts do seek permission and visit the northern atolls, enjoying their stay there. Visits to them are made by personnel from Diego Garcia, who are always helpful.

The **Chagos Conservation Trust** is a charity (Registered in the UK No. 1031561), whose aims are to promote conservation, scientific and historical research, and to advance education concerning the archipelago. The Trust is a non political association.

If you would like more information on their publications or membership, please contact the Secretary (simonhughes@hughes-mccormack.co.uk),

or visit www.chagos-trust.org