Chronology of Napoleon's exile

1815	7 August	Napoleon is transferred to HMS Northumberland in Plymouth, England, which sets sail for St Helena
	17 October	Napoleon lands on St Helena. After one night in Jamestown, he moves into the Briars
	10 December	Napoleon moves into Longwood House
1820	November	Napoleon falls ill
1821	5 May	Napoleon dies at Longwood House
	9 May	Napoleon is buried in the Sane Valley
1840	15 October	A French Mission exhumes Napoleon's remains in order to transfer them to Paris
	15 December	Napoleon's ashes are returned to Paris; over a million people accompany the cortege to Les Invalides

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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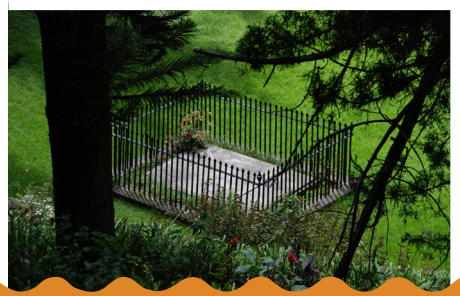
St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

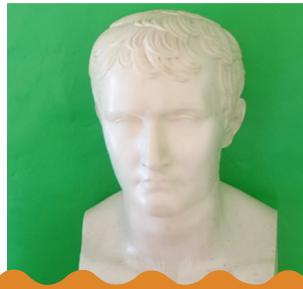




Napoleon







Napoleon on St Helena

In June 1815, at the **Battle of Waterloo**, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated for the final time.

As Napoleon had already escaped one exile, the British Government needed somewhere essentially **inescapable** to send the defeated Emperor; the remote Overseas Territory of St Helena Island was the perfect place.

Napoleon and his entourage were boarded onto *HMS Northumberland* on 7 August 1815 and sent on a two-month voyage from Plymouth, England to St Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean. Shortly after dusk on **17 October 1815**, Napoleon landed at Jamestown, the capital of St Helena.

St Helena is 1,950km (1,200 miles) from the west coast of Africa, 2,900km (1,800 miles) from Brazil and 7,219km (4,486 miles) from Paris.

Measuring just 121km^2 (47sq. miles), the tiny and remote landmass was now Napoleon's **final place of exile.**


Longwood House

Napoleon spent his first two months of exile at **The Briars** and his last five-and-a-half years in **Longwood**. He was also allowed to travel around the island, if accompanied by a British officer. The Emperor spent much of his time on St Helena writing and dictating his **memoirs**, most notably through *Le Mémorial de Sainte Hélêne (The Memorial of Saint Helena)*, one of the best sellers of the 19th Century. Today, visitors can experience St Helena for themselves and see how Napoleon spent his time here.

Of course, Napoleon didn't just get exiled to St Helena, he also **died while on-island**. At his own suggestion Napoleon was buried in the picturesque Sane Valley, now the **Valley of the Tomb**, after his death at Longwood House on 5 May **1821 aged 51**. In October 1840, at the request of the French Government, his body was exhumed and **returned with full honours to France**.

The Napoleonic Sites

Many sites on St Helena have strong links to Napoleon and his entourage, but most notable are **Longwood House**, **the tomb**, and the **Briars Pavilion**. Though all of St Helena was British soil when Napoleon was exiled here, now the French flag is flown at all three of these locations. The British Government in 1858 sold Longwood House and Napoleon's tomb to the French Government. In 1959, the great niece of Betsy Balcombe gifted the Briars Pavilion to the French Estates; and in 2008, the land surrounding the pavilion was also **gifted to France**.

The main collection of **Napoleonic artefacts**, including the furniture displayed in 2016 at the Musée de l'Armée in Paris, is found at Napoleon's main residence, Longwood House. The Curator of French Estates, who is resident in St Helena, is in charge of the French properties – all are available for the public to visit and enjoy, although opening hours and booking arrangements may vary. **Tours** can be arranged via the Tourist Office.

Napoleonic sites outside of the French properties include **Bertrand's Cottage**, Hutt's Gate, New Porteous House, Montchenu's Lodgings, Jamestown Barracks, Gumwood Forest, Masons' Stock House, Rose Cottage, **Plantation House** and numerous fortifications and batteries such as the **Longwood Boundary Wall**.


Briars Pavillion

Did you know?

Throughout much of its human history, St Helena has relied on a dedicated vessel's service between the island and South Africa for carrying passengers and goods. Napoleon's exile resulted in the first such vessel. In 1815, due to Napoleon's exile, the East India Company gave the island a schooner to carry passengers and stores. This was the first ship both dedicated to servicing and named after 'St Helena.' Unfortunately pirates attacked the vessel in 1830, and another dedicated vessel wasn't introduced until 1978.