Nauru

Location

This is a small island republic on the South Pacific Ocean. It was formally known as Pleasant Island and is located at the South of the Marshall Islands; with a geographic coordinate of 0 32 S, 166 55 E.

Geography

This is a very small island with a total area of 21.5 sq.kms Most of the population lives on the coastal belt of this island and by comparison, this island is less that one tenth the size of Washington D.C. Most of the island is made of phosphate so phosphate mining is common on this island.

Climate

This island is rather muggy owing to its proximity to the equator (53 kms south of the equator).

History

Primarily this Island was inhabited by Melanesians and Polynesians. In 1798, Captain John Fearn came to this island but was not conquered and was ruled by a King Auweyida. In 1888 though, the Germans annexed it to German New Guinea. Phosphate mining began in the 20th Century. After the World War I, this Island was a British territory but was administered by the Australians. It gained its independence from Australia in 1968.
Population

According to the CIA estimate (2004), the population is 12,809, with 60% of the population in the reproductive age and approximately 38% in the pre-reproductive stage.

Language

The official language is Nauruan-a Polynesian language. English is used in the official circles and is widely understood and spoken by the population.

Religion

The predominant religion is Christianity with 2/3\textsuperscript{rd} of the population being Protestants and 1/3\textsuperscript{rd} Catholics.

Economics

Most of the food products are imported into this island and agriculture is not practiced. The main business on this island, is phosphate mining and the GDP is dependent on this.