



# Nauru

*Joined the Commonwealth in 1968 - visited by the Queen in 1982*



**Nauru is a very small island nation in the western Pacific**

Pop:(2013)10,000 Government offices in Yaren District Area: 21.3sq km

Nauru is a small circular island which has suffered from 80% environmental degradation due to the quantities of phosphate mined but on which the island depends. There is a fertile coastal strip up to 300m wide from where coral cliffs rise to the central plateau at 60m where the phosphate is mined. A railway carries the phosphate to a dryer before it is loaded onto ships for export. Almost all basic necessities are imported.

The climate is tropical with sea breezes. Rainfall is erratic and can often be heavy. The island is surrounded by a coral reef where pinnacles of coral are exposed at low tide. Many indigenous birds have disappeared or are rare due to habitat destruction caused by mining.

Phosphate reserves are now severely depleted and the government is using money from investment in the industry to encourage fishing, tourism and financial services but its remote location is a drawback. Nauru remains one of the least visited countries in the world.

*Coral rock pinnacles*

