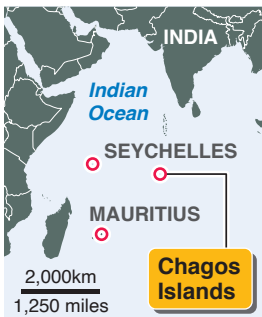


UK hands Chagos Islands to Mauritius

Under a \$4.6bn deal, Britain hands over sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, while retaining control of a UK-U.S. military base on Diego Garcia – the largest of the islands



Chagos Islands

CHAGOS ISLANDS
(British Indian Ocean Territory)



Diego Garcia: Naval/air base

■ Land □ Shallow reef ■ Submerged reef

CHAGOS HISTORY

■ **1814:** Britain takes possession of islands after capturing French colony of Mauritius

■ **1965:** Mauritius sells islands to Britain three years before it gains independence. Islands become **British Indian Ocean Territory**



■ **1966:** Largest island, Diego Garcia, leased to U.S. for military base

■ **1967-73:** Britain moves around 2,000 islanders to Mauritius and Seychelles to make way for base

■ **1982:** Britain pays small amount of compensation to some Chagos Islanders in Mauritius

■ **2017:** UN asks **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** to examine legal status of islands

■ **2019:** ICJ says UK should end rule over islands as soon as possible

■ **May 22, 2025:** Britain hands sovereignty to Mauritius, but will lease use of Diego Garcia for 99 years – at cost of \$136m per year



B-52 bombers at Diego Garcia – base has played key strategic role in U.S. operations in Indian Ocean