

IOTA ISLAND GROUP LISTINGS

NOTE ON USE

The following notes relate to the columns in the order in which they appear in the island listings:

Col 1 **The letters 'A', 'B' and 'W'** signify that the IOTA group concerned counts for either the Arctic Islands, the British Isles or the West Indies awards or would count if it had a confirmed IOTA group reference number.

The letter 'D' signifies that the IOTA group has been deleted from the list and no credits will be allowed.

Col 2 **Reference number:** numbers in the format EU-001 indicate IOTA groups activated since 15 November 1945. Claim one credit for each reference number for which you can submit a valid QSL (see Section C.4).

Provisional reference number: numbers in the format OC-288P indicate groups with known qualifying islands that had not, at the time that the Directory went to print, been activated. A number is confirmed as soon as a valid operation is judged to have taken place. You may not count a QSL for credit until the provisional status is removed. If you have such a card, it is probably in respect of a very recent operation (since the issue of your Directory) in which case it is just a matter of waiting for the reference number to be issued.

No reference number: numbers in the format AF- indicate groups for which we currently lack information on qualifying islands. These groups, most of which are in Antarctica, will in due course be issued reference numbers or, if no qualifying islands can be found, will be withdrawn.

Col 3 **The prefixes** listed are the current ones. 'Special' or old prefixes are not given. It is necessary therefore to check your records to see if you have a qualifying card with one of these.

Col 4 **The IOTA groups** are listed by continent and then by country, that is 'country' in the political sense (shown in bold type). Overseas island territories, departments, dependencies or possessions of a country are listed in the appropriate continent under the parent country. This secondary heading may also be used to indicate a region / administrative area or a DXCC entity belonging to that country.

Islands subject to territorial dispute are listed according to The Times Atlas of the World reference. This is not to be read as indicating the IOTA Committee's view as to the legal position on sovereignty. Where the atlas is unclear, the island is allocated to the country that is perceived to exercise main administrative control. One exception is the Spratly Islands that, in the absence of a central unitary control, is listed separately. Antarctica, where all territorial claims are in abeyance, is also treated as a special case. Islands that are shared between countries are listed under a joint sovereignty heading.

Most IOTA groups listed specify in brackets the islands that are currently being accepted as meeting the qualification criteria detailed in the rules. In each case the word 'Island', 'Atoll', 'Cay', etc or its local language equivalent¹ has been omitted to save space. A rare

exception is where it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that there is a town of the same name, usually on the mainland, with which it could be confused. On the other hand 'Islands' (plural) are specified, abbreviated to 'Isls' within the brackets.

Other abbreviations used:

- '=' means that only the islands named in the list qualify for that group.
- 'aka' means 'also known as'.
- 'x2' (or 'x3') means that two (or three) islands of the same name qualify in the group – if there are more, assume only the largest / clearly qualifying ones count. If in doubt, check with the IOTA Manager.
- 'plus' signifies that the following named island / islands are separated at some distance from the immediately preceding ones.

The spelling of island names as they appear on QSL cards and in different atlases will vary a lot. It has not been possible to list all alternatives here – it is usually fairly obvious if the island on the card is the one referred to in the Directory.

Col 5 **The latitude and longitude co-ordinates** indicate the area covered by the named group. Accurate to the nearest degree and minute, they should, generally, be taken as defining the 'rectangular box' within which islands will count. In many cases, particularly with groups along sectors of coastline, the co-ordinates have been adjusted to line up with a country's administrative boundaries. If an error has been made, the IOTA Committee will feel free to correct it. Maps of a suitable scale were not always available at the time that the work was done and, of course, in a listing of this sort, some mistakes may be inevitable. Generally, commonsense should indicate what the list compilers had in mind. If you know of an error, please send a map-scan to the IOTA Manager (e-mail: g3kma@dsl.pipex.com). Notification of any cases where a qualifying island is bisected by a group's border would be appreciated, so that a correction can be made or a note added to the island listing; similarly, if an island or islands are found to fall outside the rectangular box to which they belong.

In case of conflict between the various indicators, the deciding factors will, in order of importance, be the country, the prefix, the administrative area covered by the group name, the co-ordinates but, above all, commonsense! The IOTA Committee's decision will be final.

NOTE ON ISLAND REVALIDATION

While the IOTA Committee has taken every care in compiling the list, island activators and chasers should be aware that, even with an island specified in brackets, they may still be asked to provide a large scale map showing that it is separated from the mainland by 200 metres of sea at low tide. This will be exceptional and should only occur when doubts have been raised about the island in question meeting the qualification criteria. In such cases the other main requirement that the island be shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map can be taken as met.

IOTA enthusiasts will notice that a number of previously activated islands have now been omitted from the listing or are, otherwise, mentioned in a note as not counting. These are cases where maps available to the Committee show clearly that the islands do not qualify.

¹ Adasi (*Tu*), Ile (*Fr*), Ilha & Ilheu (*Por*), Inish (*Ir*), Insel (*Ger*), Isla (*Sp*), Isola (*It*), Jazirat (*Ar*), Ostrov (*Rus*), Pulau (*Mal/Indon*) with others mentioned in a 'general note' at the foot of individual country listings.