

# facts & figures

## history



Culver Picture

- Discovered in 1796 by Capt. Joseph Pierpont of Boston when his American brig "Sally" ran aground



- Johnston Island—one of four islands in the atoll—named for Capt. James Johnston who claimed official discovery on Dec. 10, 1807

- Annexed by both the Kingdom of Hawaii and United States in 1858

- U.S. mined guano deposits until depletion in 1890

- Officially annexed by the United States in 1898



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- On July 29, 1926, President Coolidge establishes Johnston Atoll as a federal bird refuge

- Shelled by Japan shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor

- Used as submarine supply point during WW II

- Supported airlift operations during Korean War

- Used for high altitude nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s

- Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System or JACADS, the United States' first full-scale chemical weapons disposal facility, built in 1985 on Johnston Island

- JACADS disposed of approximately seven percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile—more than 2,000 tons of chemical nerve and blister agents in more than 410,000 munitions



# Johnston Island

## geography



- Atoll consists of a nine-mile reef, two highly modified natural islands, Johnston and Sand, and two completely man-made islands, North (Akau) and East (Hikina)
- Total area of 1.7 square miles—about 4.7 times the size of The Mall in Washington, DC
- Coastline: 21.1 miles
- Highest elevation: Summit Peak, 16 feet
- No natural fresh water resources
- No indigenous inhabitants
- 34 species of coral exist in the atoll waters
- More than 300 fish species exist around the atoll
- Fifteen species of seabirds are known to breed on Johnston Island, with over 500,000 seabirds using the atoll for roosting and nesting
- The only known introduced mammal is the house mouse
- Several threatened and endangered species frequent the island, including the Green Sea Turtle and Hawaiian Monk Seal



## weather

- Highest temperature ever recorded: 94 F
- Lowest temperature ever recorded: 62 F
- Average temperature: 79 F
- Mean annual precipitation: 26 inches (this is variable because rain is usually associated with sporadic, monsoon-like storms)
- Driest year: 1953 – 13 inches of rain
- Wettest years: 1968, 2002 – 42 inches of rain

