

Package ‘islandcodes’

July 6, 2026

Title Reference Data and Helpers for Small Island States and Territories

Version 0.2.0

Description A curated reference list of countries and territories with classifications for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), sub-national island jurisdictions (SNIJ), World Bank region and income group, and political association. Sub-sovereign cases such as Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, the French overseas territories, and Aaland Islands are represented with disambiguating codes that standard country-code packages often collapse or omit. Provides predicate helpers and a tidy joiner intended to extend rather than replace 'countrycode'. Source data is maintained at <https://github.com/University-of-Aruba/island-research-reference-data> and licensed CC BY 4.0.

License CC BY 4.0

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Imports countrycode (>= 1.5.0)

Suggests dplyr, tibble, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

Config/testthat/edition 3

URL <https://github.com/University-of-Aruba/islandcodes>,
<https://university-of-aruba.github.io/islandcodes/>

BugReports <https://github.com/University-of-Aruba/islandcodes/issues>

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

Author Rendell de Kort [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<https://orcid.org/0009-0006-5402-0500>),
University of Aruba [cph, fnd] (Digital Competence Dutch Caribbean
(DCDC) Network)

Maintainer Rendell de Kort <rendell.dekort@ua.aw>
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2026-07-06 14:20:13 UTC

Contents

add_island_cols	2
aruba	3
classify	4
islands	5
island_coords	6
island_distance	7
island_lookup	8
small_islands	9
Index	10

add_island_cols	<i>Add island classification columns to a data frame</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Left-joins selected columns from [islands](#) onto an existing data frame, matching on a column of country names or ISO codes. Designed for tidy pipelines but written in base R, so it works with plain data frames, tibbles, and (read-only) data.tables.

Usage

```
add_island_cols(  
  .data,  
  code_col,  
  cols = c("iso_code", "is_sids", "is_snij", "sids_tier", "political_association",  
           "wb_region", "wb_income_group")  
)
```

Arguments

- .data A data frame.
- code_col String. Name of the column in .data that holds country names or ISO codes.
- cols Character vector of columns from islands to attach. Defaults to the most common classification fields.

Value

.data with the requested columns appended. Rows whose code_col value cannot be resolved get NA in the new columns.

Examples

```
df <- data.frame(
  country = c("Aruba", "Curacao", "Bonaire", "Brazil"),
  gdp = c(3.5, 3.1, 0.5, 1900)
)
add_island_cols(df, "country")
```

aruba

A.R.U.B.A.: Annotated Reference for Under-coded Border Areas

Description

A convenience wrapper around [island_lookup](#) with Aruba as the default. Calling `aruba()` returns Aruba's classification row; passing another country or ISO code returns that one instead.

Usage

```
aruba(x = "Aruba", quiet = getOption("islandcodes.aruba.quiet", FALSE))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A character vector of country names or ISO codes. Defaults to "Aruba".
<code>quiet</code>	Logical. If FALSE (the default in interactive sessions, when called with no arguments) a short homage message is printed once. Set to TRUE, or set <code>options(islandcodes.aruba.quiet = TRUE)</code> globally, to silence.

Details

Named in homage to Edward Cheung, the Aruban engineer at NASA Goddard who designed A.R.U.B.A. (the ASCS/NCS Relay Unit Breaker Assembly) installed on the Hubble Space Telescope during the 2002 servicing mission. Cheung engineered the backronym specifically so children in his home country would have something concrete to point to on the telescope. We borrowed the trick. His ARUBA cuts power to Hubble's instruments when there is a fault; ours returns a row of classification data. Both spell Aruba.

Value

A data frame with one row per element of `x` (the same shape as [island_lookup](#)).

Examples

```
aruba()
aruba("Curacao")
aruba(c("AW", "BQ-BQ", "CW"))
```

classify	<i>Classify countries and territories</i>
----------	---

Description

Predicate helpers that return a logical vector aligned with the input.

Usage

```
is_sids(x)
```

```
is_snij(x)
```

```
is_small_island(x)
```

Arguments

`x` A character vector of ISO codes or country names.

Details

Inputs are resolved in three passes: direct match against the `iso_code` column of `islands`, then a case-insensitive match against name, then a fallback through `countrycode` from `"country.name"` to `"iso2c"`. Unresolved entries return NA.

Hyphenated codes ("BQ-B0" for Bonaire, "BQ-SE" for Sint Eustatius, "BQ-SA" for Saba) are accepted directly. Bare "BQ" is ambiguous within the bundled dataset; pass the specific island code or the country name instead.

Value

A logical vector the same length as `x`.

Examples

```
is_sids(c("Aruba", "Curacao", "Bonaire", "Brazil"))
is_snij(c("Aruba", "Curacao", "Bonaire", "Brazil"))
is_small_island(c("AW", "CW", "BQ-B0", "BR", "AX"))
```

islands	<i>Reference list of countries and territories with small-island classifications</i>
---------	--

Description

A curated dataset of 251 countries and territories, including sub-sovereign island jurisdictions (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, the French overseas collectivities, Aaland Islands, and others) that are typically collapsed or omitted by ISO 3166-1 country-code lists.

Usage

islands

Format

A data frame with 251 rows and 18 columns:

name Short common name (e.g. "Aruba", "Curacao", "Bonaire").

label Display label, used by the upstream XLSForm survey.

iso_code ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code, with hyphenated extensions for the three BES islands (BQ-B0 Bonaire, BQ-SE Sint Eustatius, BQ-SA Saba) so they can be distinguished within the shared BQ prefix.

wb_region World Bank region.

wb_income_group World Bank income group.

political_association Sovereign power for non-independent territories; "Independent" otherwise.

is_sids 1 if a UN-DESA recognised Small Island Developing State (member or associate); 0 otherwise.

sids_tier "Sovereign member", "Associate member", or NA where not applicable.

is_snij 1 if a sub-national island jurisdiction; 0 otherwise.

criterion_small 1 if meets the small-population/small-area criterion; 0 otherwise.

criterion_island 1 if an island or archipelago; 0 otherwise.

criterion_developing 1 if classified as developing; 0 otherwise.

criterion_sovereign 1 if a sovereign state; 0 otherwise.

latitude Representative point on the main landmass, WGS84 decimal degrees. NA for United States Minor Outlying Islands.

longitude Representative point on the main landmass, WGS84 decimal degrees.

capital Capital city name, or NA for uninhabited / capital-less territories.

capital_latitude Capital city, WGS84 decimal degrees.

capital_longitude Capital city, WGS84 decimal degrees.

Source

University of Aruba, Digital Competence Dutch Caribbean (DCDC) Network. *island-research-reference-data*, CC BY 4.0. <https://github.com/University-of-Aruba/island-research-reference-data>

Examples

```
head(islands)

# SIDS by World Bank region
table(islands$wb_region[islands$is_sids == 1])

# Dutch Kingdom territories (an example of the SNIJ axis)
islands[islands$political_association == "Dutch Kingdom",
        c("name", "iso_code", "is_sids", "is_snij")]

# Coordinates: representative landmass point and capital city
islands[islands$iso_code == "AW",
        c("name", "latitude", "longitude", "capital",
          "capital_latitude", "capital_longitude")]
```

island_coords	<i>Get coordinates for islands and territories</i>
---------------	--

Description

Returns the latitude and longitude of a vector of country names or ISO codes, one row per input and in input order (with NA rows for unresolved inputs). Two location semantics are available: a representative point on the territory's main landmass (the default), or the capital city.

Usage

```
island_coords(x, which = c("point", "capital"))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A character vector of ISO codes or country names.
<code>which</code>	Which location to return: "point" (default), a representative point on the main landmass, or "capital", the capital city.

Details

Inputs are resolved the same way as the predicate helpers (see [is_sids](#)): by `iso_code`, then `label`, then the XLSForm name slug, then a fallback through [countrycode](#).

Coordinates are WGS84 decimal degrees. A handful of territories carry no coordinate and return NA: the representative point is missing only for United States Minor Outlying Islands (a scattered, centroid-less collection), while capitals are missing for uninhabited or capital-less territories (Antarctica, Bouvet Island, the British Indian Ocean Territory, Heard Island, South Georgia, Tokelau, US Minor Outlying Islands, and Western Sahara).

Value

A data frame with one row per element of `x`. For which = "point" the columns are label (the readable place name), iso_code, latitude, and longitude. For which = "capital" a capital city-name column is inserted before the coordinates.

See Also

[island_lookup](#) for arbitrary columns, [add_island_cols](#) to attach coordinates to a data frame.

Examples

```
island_coords(c("Aruba", "Curacao", "Bonaire"))

# Capital cities instead of landmass points
island_coords(c("AW", "PF", "GL"), which = "capital")

# The two can differ substantially for dispersed territories
island_coords("French Polynesia")
island_coords("French Polynesia", which = "capital")
```

island_distance	<i>Great-circle distance between islands</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Haversine (great-circle) distance between the coordinates of islands and territories, resolved from country names or ISO codes via the same matching as the rest of the package (see [is_sids](#)). A natural primitive for connectivity and isolation work on small islands.

Usage

```
island_distance(
  x,
  y = NULL,
  which = c("point", "capital"),
  unit = c("km", "mi", "nmi")
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A character vector of ISO codes or country names.
<code>y</code>	Optional second character vector. If NULL (the default) a full symmetric distance matrix among the elements of <code>x</code> is returned. If supplied, distances are computed element-wise between <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> , recycling the shorter of the two, so a single origin against many destinations gives the distance from that origin to each.
<code>which</code>	Coordinate to use: "point" (representative landmass point, the default) or "capital" (capital city).

unit Output unit: "km" (kilometres, the default), "mi" (statute miles), or "nmi" (nautical miles).

Value

When y is NULL, a numeric matrix (length(x) by length(x)) with iso_code dimnames. Otherwise a named numeric vector. Unresolved inputs and territories without the requested coordinate propagate as NA.

See Also

[island_coords](#)

Examples

```
# Spread of the Dutch Caribbean (ABC + SSS), in km
round(island_distance(c("AW", "CW", "BQ-B0", "SX", "BQ-SA", "BQ-SE")))

# One origin to many
island_distance("Aruba", c("Curacao", "Bonaire", "Sint Maarten"))

# Capital-to-capital, in nautical miles
island_distance("AW", "CW", which = "capital", unit = "nmi")
```

island_lookup	<i>Look up rows in the islands reference list</i>
---------------	---

Description

Returns the matching rows of [islands](#) for a vector of country names or ISO codes. Useful when you want more than a single classification and want to keep the original input order, including NA rows for unresolved inputs.

Usage

```
island_lookup(x, fields = NULL)
```

Arguments

x A character vector of ISO codes or country names.

fields Optional character vector of column names to return. If NULL (default) all columns of islands are returned.

Value

A data frame with one row per element of x. Rows that could not be resolved are filled with NA.

Examples

```
island_lookup(c("Aruba", "Bonaire", "Brazil"))
island_lookup(c("AW", "BQ-B0"), fields = c("name", "is_sids", "is_snij"))
```

small_islands

Return a filtered subset of small-island states and territories

Description

Convenience wrapper around [islands](#) that returns the subset matching commonly used small-island filters.

Usage

```
small_islands(sids_only = FALSE, snij_only = FALSE, criteria = NULL)
```

Arguments

sids_only	Logical. If TRUE, return only UN-DESA SIDS.
snij_only	Logical. If TRUE, return only sub-national island jurisdictions.
criteria	Optional named logical vector with elements drawn from <code>c("small", "island", "developing", "sovereign")</code> . Each element constrains the corresponding <code>criterion_*</code> column.

Value

A data frame, the relevant subset of islands.

Examples

```
nrow(small_islands(sids_only = TRUE))
nrow(small_islands(snij_only = TRUE))
small_islands(criteria = c(small = TRUE, island = TRUE))
```

Index

* datasets

islands, [5](#)

add_island_cols, [2](#), [7](#)

aruba, [3](#)

classify, [4](#)

countrycode, [4](#), [6](#)

is_sids, [6](#), [7](#)

is_sids(classify), [4](#)

is_small_island(classify), [4](#)

is_snij(classify), [4](#)

island_coords, [6](#), [8](#)

island_distance, [7](#)

island_lookup, [3](#), [7](#), [8](#)

islands, [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), [8](#), [9](#)

small_islands, [9](#)