

# THE IRCA COUNTRIES LIST

Compiled by Bruce Portzer

Here is the latest version of the IRCA Countries List. This list was originally developed in the 1960's as a guide for club members in their quest for foreign medium wave targets. It has been updated periodically since then. The last time was about three years ago, so I figured we were about due for a new one.

The list is organized into three sections: active, inactive, and deleted. For each country, I've listed its continent in brackets, and noted any former or alternative names. Any date restrictions are also noted (such as when the country was formed or ceased to exist). There are also a few instances where I've provided clarifying comments on some of the more obscure countries. Changes since the previous list are in italics.

What constitutes a medium wave DX country? Basically it needs to fall into one of the following categories: 1) an independent country, such as Canada, 2) a portion of a country separated from the rest of the country by at least 225 miles, such as Alaska, 3) a colony, protectorate, territory, etc, such as Gibraltar or Guam, 4) a region, such as Antarctica, which is under international or other special administration. The criteria is similar to that used by the ARRL for hams, but includes some areas such as international waters which the ARRL does not recognize. In addition, the IRCA list only includes countries which either have the population (permanent or temporary) to justify a broadcasting station (AM FM or SW), or which have current or past MW activity. As a result, it doesn't include many of the small islands etc that appear on the ARRL list.

During the last few years, there has been a trend for some countries to cut back MW activity. Austria, dropped all MW activity for over a year but returned the 1476 outlet to the air a few months ago. Some other major European now only have one or two MW stations, which may some day be deactivated.

Any comments or questions on the list should be addressed to Bruce Portzer, 6546 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or [bportzer@brigadoon.com](mailto:bportzer@brigadoon.com).

## ACTIVE COUNTRIES

The following countries currently have active medium wave broadcast stations:

Afghanistan [AS]

Alaska [NA]

Albania [EU]

Algeria [AF]

Andaman & Nicobar Isl (part of India) [AS]

Angola [AF]

Anguilla [NA]  
Antigua & Barbuda [NA]  
Argentina [SA]  
Armenia [AS]  
Aruba [SA] - receptions before 1-1-86 count as Neth Antilles  
Ascension Island [AF]  
Australia [OC]  
Austria [EU]  
Azerbaijan [AS]  
Azores [EU]  
Bahamas [NA]  
Bahrain [AS]  
Balearic Islands (part of Spain) [EU] -includes Majorca  
Bangladesh (formerly E Pakistan) [AS]  
Barbados [NA]  
Belarus (formerly Byelorussia) [EU]  
Belau (aka Palau, formerly W. Caroline Islands) [OC]  
Belgium [EU]  
Belize (formerly Br Honduras) [NA]  
Benin (formerly Dahomey) [AF] - after 8-1-60  
Bermuda [NA]  
Bolivia [SA]  
Bosnia-Herzegovina [EU] - receptions before 10-15-91 count as Yugoslavia  
Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland) [AF]  
Brazil [SA]  
British Virgin Islands [NA]  
Brunei Darussalam[AS]

Bulgaria [EU]

Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) [AF] - after 8-5-60

Cambodia (formerly Kampuchea) [AS]

Cameroon [AF]

Canada [NA]

Canary Islands [AF]

Cayman Islands [NA]

Central African Republic [AF] - after 8-13-60

Ceuta (part of Spain, located in Morocco) [AF]

Chad [AF]

Chagos Islands (includes Diego Garcia, aka British Indian Ocean Territory) [AF]

Chile [SA]

China [AS]

Christmas Island (located in Indian Ocean) [OC]

Cocos-Keeling Islands [OC]

Colombia [SA]

Comoros [AF]

Congo [AF] - after 8-15-60

Cook Islands [OC] - The North Cook islands are far enough from South Cooks to qualify as a separate country, but there are no known stations there

Corsica [EU]

Costa Rica [NA]

Crete (part of Greece) [EU]

Croatia [EU] - after 6-26-91

Cuba [NA]

Cyprus [AS]

Cyprus, Turkish Federated State [AS] - the portion of northern Cyprus occupied by Turkey

Czech Republic [EU] - *after 1-1-93, earlier loggings count as Czechoslovakia*

Denmark [EU]

Djibouti (formerly French Somalialand, Afar & Issas) [AF]

Dodecanese Isl (part of Greece, includes Rhodes) [EU]

Dominica [NA]

Dominican Republic [NA]

Easter Island [OC]

Ecuador [SA]

Egypt [AF]

El Salvador [NA]

England [EU]

Eritrea [AF] - *became part of Ethiopia 11-14-62, then gained independence 9-15-93*

Estonia [EU]

Ethiopia [AF]

Falkland Islands (*aka Islas Malvinas*) [SA]

Faroe Islands [EU]

Fiji [OC]

Finland [EU]

France [EU]

French Guiana [SA]

French Polynesia (*aka Society Islands, includes Tahiti*) [OC]

Gabon [AF] - *after 8-17-60*

Galapagos Islands (part of Ecuador) [SA]

Gambia, The [AF]

Georgia [AS]

Germany [EU]

Gibraltar [EU]

Greece [EU]

Greenland (*aka Kalaalit Nunaata*) [NA]

Grenada [NA]

Guadeloupe [NA]

Guam [OC]

Guantanamo Bay Naval Base [NA]

Guatemala [NA]

Guernsey (part of UK) [EU]

Guinea [AF]

Guinea-Bissau (ex- Portuguese Guinea) [AF]

Guyana (formerly Br Guiana) [SA]

Haiti [NA]

Hawaii [OC]

Honduras [NA]

Hungary [EU]

Iceland [EU]

India [AS]

Indonesia [AS]

International Waters [OC] - *mainly stations on board ships; the only known current operation is off the coast of Israel. Prominent stations in the past have operated near Western Europe (many), New Zealand (Radio Hauraki, late 1960's) and NE US (Radio Newyork International, late 1980's)*

Iran [AS]

Iraq [AS]

Ireland [EU]

Isle of Man (part of UK) [EU]

Israel [AS]

Italy [EU]

Ivory Coast (*Côte d'Ivoire*) [AF] - after 8-7-60

Jamaica [NA]

Japan [AS]

Jersey (Part of UK) [EU]

Jordan [AS]

Kaliningrad(noncontiguous part of Russia) [EU]

Kazakhstan [AS]

Kenya [AF]

Kiribati (formerly Gilbert Isl) [OC]

Korea, North (DPRK) [AS] - *loggings from before the Korean War in the early 1950s probably count as S Korea.*

Korea, South (ROK) [AS]

Kuwait [AS]

Kyrgyzstan (formerly Kirghiz SSR, Kirgizia) [AS]

Laos [AS]

Latvia [EU]

Lebanon [AS]

Lesotho (formerly Basutoland) [AF]

Libya [AF]

Lithuania [EU]

Luxembourg [EU]

Macedonia [EU] - after 9-8-91

Madagascar (aka Malagasy Rep) [AF]

Madeira Islands [AF]

Malawi (formerly Nyassaland) [AF]

Malaysia, East [AS] - after 9-16-63, consists of Sabah & Sarawak

Malaysia, West [AS] - after 9-16-63, consists of peninsular Malaysia

Maldives [AS]

Mali [AF] - after 6-20-60

Malta [EU]

Mariana Islands (aka N Mariana Is) [OC]

Marshall Islands [OC]

Martinique [NA]

Mauritania [AF] - after 6-20-60

Mauritius [AF]

Mayotte (aka Mahore) [AF]

Melilla (part of Spain, located in Morocco) [AF] - See Morocco listing in WRTH

Mexico [NA]

Micronesia (aka E. Caroline Is) [OC]

Moldova (formerly Moldavia) [EU]

Monaco [EU]

Mongolia [AS]

Montserrat [NA] - *Most of the island's population has been evacuated due to a volcanic eruption, status of its radio stns is unknown*

Morocco [AF]

Mozambique [AF]

Myanmar (formerly Burma) [AS]

Namibia (formerly SW Africa) [AF]

Nauru [OC]

Nepal [AS]

Neth. Antilles [SA] - includes Bonaire & Curacao

Netherlands [EU]

New Caledonia [OC]

New Zealand [OC]

Nicaragua [NA]

Niger [AF] - after 8-3-60

Nigeria [AF]  
Niue [OC]  
Norfolk Island [OC]  
Northern Ireland (part of UK) [EU]  
Norway [EU]  
Oman [AS] - includes Masirah Is  
Pakistan (formerly W Pakistan) [AS]  
Panama [NA]  
Papua New Guinea [OC]  
Paraguay [SA]  
Peru [SA]  
Philippines [AS]  
Poland [EU]  
Portugal [EU]  
Puerto Rico [NA]  
Qatar [AS]  
Reunion [AF]  
Romania [EU]  
Russia, Asiatic [AS]  
Russia, European [EU]  
Saharan Arab Republic (aka Western Sahara) (formerly Spanish Sahara, Rio de Oro) [AF]  
Samoa, American [OC]  
Samoa, Western [OC]  
San Andres & Providencia (part of Colombia) [NA]  
Sao Tome & Principe [AF]  
Sardinia (part of Italy) [EU]  
Saudi Arabia [AS]



Scotland [EU]

Senegal [AF] - after 6-20-60

Seychelles [AF]

Sierra Leone [AF]

Slovakia (aka Slovak Republic) [EU] - *after 1-1-93, earlier loggings count as Czechoslovakia*

Slovenia [EU] - after 6-26-91, *earlier loggings count as Yugoslavia*

Solomon Islands [OC]

South Africa [AF] - including the homeland republics

Spain [EU]

Shri Lanka (formerly Sri Lanka, Ceylon) [AS]

St. Helena [AF]

St. Kitts & Nevis [NA]

St. Lucia [NA]

St. Pierre & Miquelon [NA]

St. Vincent & the Grenadines [NA]

Sint Maarten, Saba, & St Eustasius [NA]

Sudan [AF]

Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana) [SA]

Svalbard (Spitzbergen) [EU]

Swaziland [AF]

Sweden [EU]

Switzerland [EU]

Syria [AS]

Taiwan (Republic of China) [AS] - includes Quemoy & Matsu

Tajikistan [AS]

Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika) [AF]

Thailand (aka Siam) [AS]

Togo [AF]  
Tonga [OC]  
Trinidad & Tobago [SA]  
Tunisia [AF]  
Turkey [AS]  
Turkmenistan (formerly Turkmen SSR) [AS]  
Turks & Caicos Islands [NA]  
Tuvalu (formerly Ellice Is) [OC] - after 1-1-76  
Uganda [AF]  
Ukraine [EU]  
United Arab Emirates [AS]  
United States of America [NA]  
Uruguay [SA]  
Uzbekistan (formerly Uzbek SSR) [AS]  
Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) [OC]  
Vatican [EU]  
Venezuela [SA]  
Vietnam [AS] - *includes pre-unification receptions of North Vietnam*  
Virgin Islands (US) [NA]  
Wake Island [OC]  
Wales [EU]  
Wallis & Futuna Islands [OC]  
Yemen [AS] - after 6-22-90, formed when Yemen Arab Rep merged with People's Dem  
Rep of Yemen  
Yugoslavia [EU] - *includes Serbia & Montenegro, plus pre-1993 loggings of other Slavic  
states*  
Zaire (formerly Belgian Congo) [AF]  
Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) [AF]

## **INACTIVE COUNTRIES**

The following countries are not known to have medium wave stations at this time. Most have had MW stations which are no longer on the air. A few have never, to the best of my knowledge, had a MW station but are listed either because they might have had one or could have one in the future. Andorra [EU] - Two high powered MW stns operated here until early 1980s

Antarctica [OC] - SW/FM only

Bhutan [AS] - currently SW/FM only

Burundi [AF] - inactive on MW, now FM/SW only

Cape Verde [AF] - now FM only

Chatham Islands [OC] - FM only

Christmas Island (Part of Kiribati) [OC]

Cyprus, British Sovereign Bases on [EU] - now FM only

Equatorial Guinea (Rio Muni)[AF] - SW/FM only

Ghana (formerly Gold Coast)[AF] - SW/FM only

Johnston Island [OC] - inactive after 1977

Laccadive Islands (part of India) [AS] - no known MW stations, but has a large enough population to justify a radio outlet

Liberia [AF] - SW/FM only

Lord Howe Island [OC] - formerly on 1494, now FM only

Liechtenstein [EU] - *FM only*

Macao [AS] - All MW stations off in mid-1997 but one is scheduled to return

Midway Island [OC] - now FM only

Ogasawara (aka Bonin & Volcano Is, includes Iwo Jima) [AS] - no known MW outlets

Phoenix Islands (part of Kiribati) [OC] - WXLE operated on Canton Island in 1970s

Rwanda [AF] - SW/FM only

Saint Martin (French, next to Neth Antilles) [NA] - FM only

San Marino [EU] - FM only

Singapore [AS] - eliminated all MW services in mid-1990s

Somalia [AF] - SW only

Tristan da Cunha [AF] - *FM only*

United Nations HQ [NA] - universally recognized as "neutral" territory, but has no MW activity

Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) [AF] - *FM/SW only*

### **DELETED COUNTRIES**

The following countries no longer exist, but were known to have had medium wave stations. Dates shown are the date after which the country ceased to be a separate DX country. Two dates indicate the the country did not "exist" before and after those dates. British North Borneo [OC] - 9-15-63 (now part of Malaysia)

Canal Zone [NA] - 9-30-79 (now part of Panama)

Czechoslovakia [EU] - 12-31-92 (now Czech & Slovak Republics)

Danzig [EU] - 9-1-39

French Equatorial Africa [AF] - 8-16-60 (now Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo)

French Indo-China [AS] - 12-20-50 (now Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia)

French W Africa [AF] - 8-6-60 (now Niger, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Guinea)

German Dem. Rep. [EU] - 10-3-90 (now part of Germany)

Goa (Portuguese India) [AS] - 12-19-61 (now part of India)

Guangdong Peninsula [AS] - 8-14-45

Hong Kong [AS] - became part of China 7-1-97

*Jammu and Kashmir [AS] - northern provinces of India which were subject to a border dispute with Pakistan*

Karelo-Finnish SSR [EU] - 7-15-56 (now part of Russia)

Leeward Islands [NA] - 2-27-67 (now various island nations)

Malaya [AS] - 9-15-63 (now part of Malaysia)

Manchuria (Manchuguo) [AS] - 9-16-63 (now part of China)

Newfoundland & Labrador [NA] - 3-31-49 (now part of Canada)

Okinawa (Ryukyu Islands) [AS] - 5-14-72 (now part of Japan)

Peoples Dem Rep of Yemen (Aden) [AS] - 5-21-90 (now part of Yemen)  
Portuguese Timor [OC] - 12-31-61 (now part of Indonesia)  
Ruanda-Urundi [AF] - 7-60 to 6-30-62  
Saar [EU] - 1-3-48 to 12-31-56 (now part of Germany)  
Sarawak [OC] - 9-15-63 (now part of Malaysia)  
South Vietnam (Rep of Vietnam) [AS] - 7-1-76 (now part of Vietnam)  
Swan Island [NA] - 8-31-72 (now part of Honduras, home of Radio Americas in mid-1960s)  
Tangier [AF] - 6-30-60 (now part of Morocco)  
Tibet [AS] - 5-30-74 (now part of China)  
Trieste [EU] - 2-10-47 to 5-19-54 (now part of Slovenia)  
Walvis Bay [AF] - 9-1-94 (former part of S Africa, now part of Namibia)  
West Berlin [EU] - 10-3-90 (now part of Germany)  
Windward Islands [NA] - 6-1-67 (now various island nations)  
Yemen Arab Rep. [AS] - 5-21-90 (now part of Yemen)  
Zanzibar [AF] - 6-30-64 (now part of Tanzania)

---

copyright 2000 - I.R.C.A.

2/29/04 [LEE J FRESHWATER](#)

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)