

British Virgin Islands

Written by Media

Thursday, 09 July 2009 15:29 - Last Updated Tuesday, 10 August 2010 13:52



Motto

Vigilate

(Latin : "Be Watchful")

Brief History

The Virgin Islands were first inhabited by Arawaks until about the 1400's when they were displaced by

In 1648 the Dutch privateer, Joost van Dyk established the first settlement on the territory, planting cott

In 1967 the islands were granted autonomy.

General Information

Geographic Coordinates

18 30 N, 63 30 W

Area

153 sq km / 59 sq. miles

Population

24,004 [0-14 years 19.8%; 15-64 years: 74.4%; 65 years and over: 5.8%]

Language

English (official)

Religions

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Anglican, Methodist, other , Protestant, Roman Catholic.

Capital

Road Town

Government Type

Overseas Territory of the UK

Opposition

Hon. Orlando Smith
National Democratic Party

Independence

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N/A. Territory Day : 30/07

Constitution

1 June 1977

Legal System

Based on English common law.

Governor

H.E. David Peary

Airport(s)

Beef Island (EIS)

Virgin Gorda (VIJ)

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Currency

United States Dollar

Literacy

97.8% of population

Suffrage

18 years of age

National Flower

The Yellow Cedar (Tecoma Stans)

National Bird

Mourning Dove (Zenaida Macroura)

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National Dish

Fish and Fungi

National Holidays

New Year’s Day – 1/01

Lavity Stoutt’s Birthday – 7/03

Commonwealth Day – 8/03

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Whit Monday

Sovereign’s Birthday – 2nd Saturday

Territory Day – 1/07

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Festival Days – 1

st

Mon

St. Ursula's Day – 21/10

Christmas Day – 25/12

Boxing Day – 26/12

National Anthem

God Save the Queen

Working Hours

Business : Mon-Fri : 0800 – 1700

Government : Mon-Fri : 0830 - 1630

Economy

GDP (2007)

[\[1\]](#)

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USD 837,001 M

GDP per capita (2007)

USD 41,193

Industry

Arts and Craft

Services

Tourism – upscale destination.

External Debt (Dec.2007)

USD 9.143 M

Government

Ministry / Office

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[\[1\]](#) Constant Market Prices

