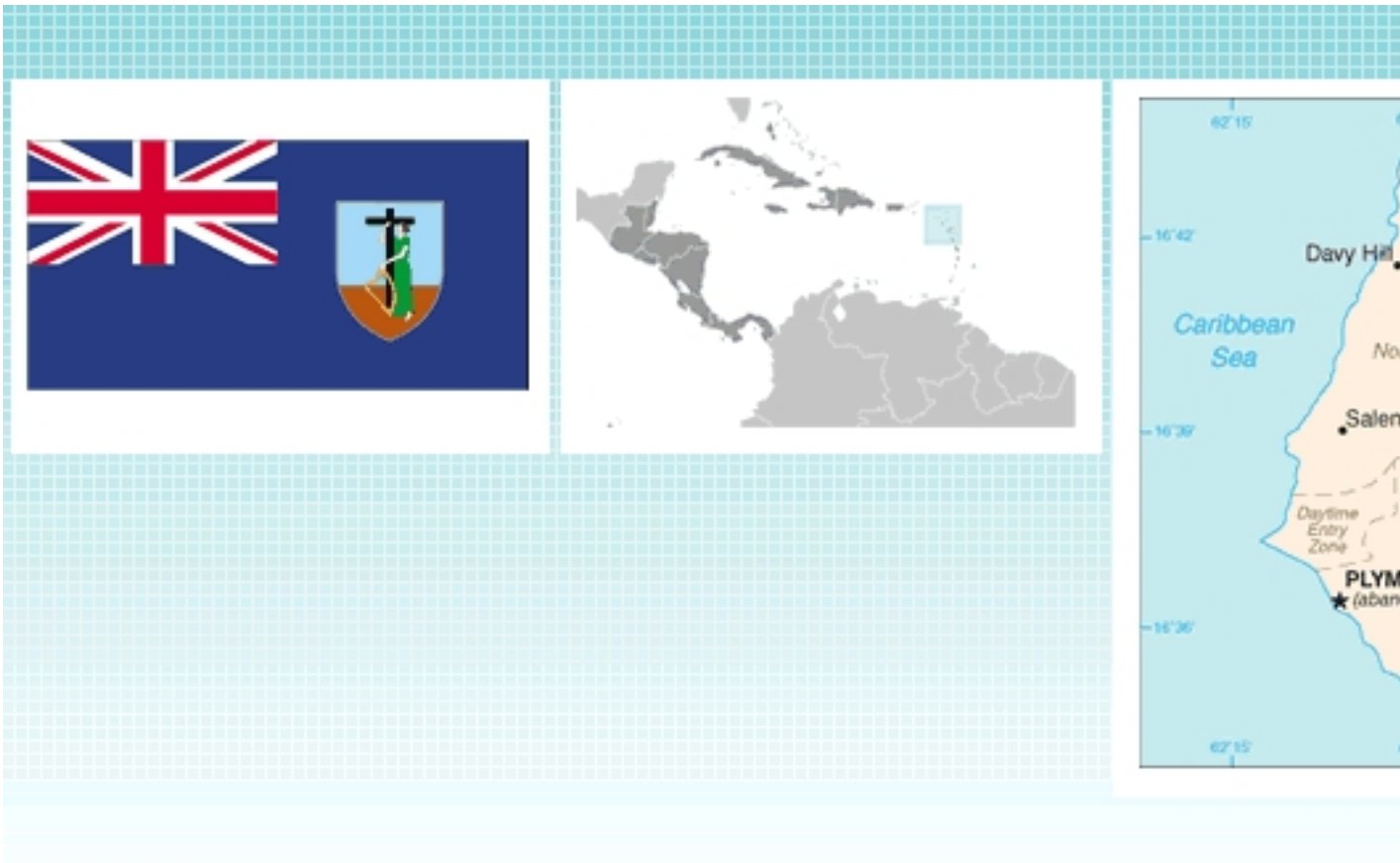


Montserrat

Written by Media

Thursday, 09 July 2009 15:36 - Last Updated Tuesday, 10 August 2010 13:52



Motto

Each Endeavouring, All Achieving

Brief History

Montserrat was inhabited by Caribs and Arawaks at the time of Christopher Columbus's discovery in 1492.

Africans were brought as slaves to work on sugar, rum, arrowroot and sea-island cotton plantations and

The island first came under English control in 1632, was briefly captured by the French in 1782 and ret

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In 1869, Joseph Sturge, a philanthropist from Birmingham (UK) established the Montserrat Company, p

In 1979, George Martin, the producer of the Beatles opened the AIR Recording studios in Montserrat, a

The island was devastated by two major disasters in the 20th Century: the Category 5 Hurricane Hugo

General Information

Geographic Coordinates

16 45 N, 62 12 W

Area

102 sq km / 39 sq miles

Population

5,097 [0-14 years: 27.6%; 15-64 years 65.5%; 65 years and over : 6.9%]

Language

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English

Religions

Roman Catholic, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, other Christian

Capital

Plymouth (Brades : de facto since eruption)

Government Type

N/A British Dependency. Queen is Head of State, represented by Governor

Last Elections

September 2009. Next in 2014.

Opposition

Victor James - Independent

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Independence

N/A – British Dependency

Constitution

19 December 1989

Legal System

Based on English common law.

Governor

Mr. Peter A. Waterworth

Airport(s)

Gerald's Airport (MNI)

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Currency

Eastern Caribbean dollar. Exchange rate of XCD 2.70 = US\$1.00

Literacy

97% of population

Suffrage

18 years of age

National Flower

Heliconia

National Bird

Oriole

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National Dish

Goat Water

National Holidays

New Year's Day – 1/01

Good Friday

Easter Monday

St. Patrick's Day – March 17

Labour Day – 1st Mon. May

Whit Monday

Queen's Official Birthday – 2nd Sat. June

Emancipation Day – 1st Mon. August

Christmas Day – 25/12

Boxing Day – 26/12

Festival Day – 31/12

National Anthem

God Save Our Queen

Working Hours

Commercial : Mon-Fri : 0800 – 1700 hours

Government : Mon-Fri : 0800 – 1400 hours

Economy

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GDP (2009) [\[1\]](#)

XCD 75.33 M

GDP per capita (2009)

XCD 15,274

Agriculture

Vegetables such as cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers; livestock

Industry

Rum, textiles, electronic appliances

Services

Tourism

External Debt (Dec.2008)

XCD 9.143 M

Government

Ministry / Office

Name of Officer

Contact Details

Chief Minister, Finance, Local Government, Immigration, Information, Communications, Regional and I

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Permanent Secretary, Economic

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rector of Tourism

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Hon. Colin Riley

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