

St. Christopher (St. Kitts) & Nevis

Written by Media

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According to the Constitution, the two official names are St Kitts and Nevis or St Christopher and Nevis. With coastlines in the shape of a baseball bat and ball, the two volcanic islands are separated by a three-km-wide channel called The Narrows; on the southern tip of long, baseball bat-shaped Saint Kitts lies the Great Salt Pond; Nevis Peak sits in the center of its almost circular namesake island and its ball shape complements that of its sister island.

Carib Indians occupied the islands for hundreds of years before the British began settlement in 1623. The islands became an associated state of the UK with full internal autonomy in 1967. The island of Anguilla rebelled and was allowed to secede in 1971. Saint Kitts and Nevis achieved independence in 1983. In 1998, a vote in Nevis on a referendum to separate from Saint Kitts fell short of the two-thirds majority needed. Nevis continues in its efforts to separate from Saint Kitts.

Flag Description: divided diagonally from the lower hoist side by a broad black band bearing two white, five-pointed stars; the black band is edged in yellow; the upper triangle is green, the lower triangle is red.

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Geography

Geographic coordinates 17 20 N, 62 45 W

Area *total:* 261 sq km

Saint Kitts : 168 sq km

Nevis : 93 sq km

People

Population 40,131 (July 2009 est.)

Languages English

Government

Head of Government

The Right Honourable Dr. Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister

Capital Basseterre

Government type constitutional monarchy with Westminster-style parliament

Independence 19 September 1983 (from UK)

Constitution 19 September 1983

Legal system based on English common law

Date of OECS Membership 18th June 1981

Economy

GDP purchasing power parity - \$784.9 million (2008 est.)

GDP - per capita purchasing power parity - \$19,700 (2008 est.)

Agriculture - products sugarcane, rice, yams, vegetables, bananas; fish

Industries sugar processing, tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear, beverages

Websites

Government

St. Kitts and Nevis Federal Government ;

Prime Minister's Communications Unit ;

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Nevis Island Administration www.nia.gov.kn

Tourism

<http://www.stkittstourism.kn/>

<http://www.nevisisland.com/>

Ref: *The World Factbook 2009*. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2009.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>