

Saint Lucia

Written by Media

Thursday, 09 July 2009 11:35 - Last Updated Wednesday, 25 January 2012 10:31



Motto

The Land, The People, The Light

Brief History

The Carib name of the island was “Hewanorra” land of the iguana. The island, which was contested between the Caribs and the British, was first settled by the British in 1659.

Saint Lucia has produced two Nobel Laureates: Sir Arthur Lewis (Economics) and Mr. Derek Walcott (Literature).

General Information

Geographic Coordinates

13 53 N, 60 58 W

Area

616 sq km / 240.6 sq miles

Population

159 585 [0-14 years: 25.2%; 15-64 years 65.8%; 65 years and over : 9%]

Language

English (official), French patois

Religions

Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, other Christian and Rastafarian

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Capital

Castries

Government Type

Constitutional monarchy with British Sovereign as Head of State. Bicameral Parliament: Senate and Ho

Last Elections

11 December 2006. Next in 2011.

Opposition

Hon. Stephenson King, United Workers Party.

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Independence

22 February 1979 (from UK)

Constitution

22 February 1979

Legal System

Based on English common law.

Governor General

Dame Pearlette Louisy

Airport(s)

George FL Charles (SLU)

Hewanorra International (UVF)

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Currency

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

Literacy

90.1% of population

Suffrage

18 years of age

National Flowers

Rose and Marguerite

National Bird

St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona Versicolor*)

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National Dish

Green fig and salt fish.

National Holidays

New Year's Day – 1 & 2/01

Independence Day 22/02

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Labour Day – 1/05

Whit Monday

Corpus Christi

Emancipation Day 1/08

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Thanksgiving Day

National Day – 13/12

Christmas Day – 25/12

Boxing Day – 26/12

National Anthem

Sons and Daughters of Saint Lucia

Working Hours

Business : Mon-Fri : 0800 – 1600

Govt. : Mon-Fri : 0830 -1630

Economy

GDP([2009](#))

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XCD 1,683.45 M

GDP per capita (2009)

XCD 9,786.00

Agriculture

Fruit and vegetables including citrus, bananas, cocoa, root crops, coconut, breadfruit, root crops, mango

Industry

Clothing, assembly of electronic components, beverages, corrugated cardboard boxes, coconut oil.

Services

Tourism, Off-shore banking services.

External Debt (Dec.2008)

XCD 1,012.12 M

Government

Ministry / Office

Name of Officer

Contact Details

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs

Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

The Prime Minister's Office – 5th Floor, Graeham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries

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Tel. [758-468-2101](tel:758-468-2101) / [758-468-2101](tel:758-468-2101) Fax : 758 453 7352 Email :

Minister for Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport.

Hon. Philip J Pierre

Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation.

Hon. Alva Baptiste

Minister for Education, Human Resource Development and Labour.

Hon. Dr. Robert Lewis

Minister for Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations.

Hon. Alvina Reynolds

Minister for Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development.

Hon. Moses Jn Baptiste

Minister for Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment.

Hon. Harold Dalson

Minister for Commerce, Business Development, Investment and Consumer Affairs.

Hon. Emma Hippolyte

Minister for Tourism, Heritage and the Creative Industries

Hon. Lorne Theophilus

Minister for Legal Affairs, Home Affairs and National Security.

Sen. Hon. Victor Philip LaCorbiniere

Minister for Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology.

Sen. Hon. Dr. James Fletcher

Minister for Youth Development and Sports.

Hon. Shawn Edward

Minister for Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal.

Sen. Hon. Stanley Felix

GIS (Government Information Service)

Lucius Doxerie

Saint Lucia

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Ambassador to the OECS

H.E. Dr. June Soomer

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[\[1\]](#) Constant Market Prices
XX">