

St.Kitts and Nevis

Geography

The country consists of two main islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis. The highest peak, at 1,156 metres, is Mount Liamuiga on St. Kitts.

The islands are of volcanic origin, with large central peaks covered in tropical rainforest; the steeper slopes leading to these peaks are mostly uninhabited. The majority of the population on both islands lives closer to the sea where the terrain flattens out. There are numerous rivers descending from the mountains of both islands, which provide fresh water to the local population. St. Kitts also has one small lake, a salt pond. St. Kitts, the larger of the two islands, is roughly oval in shape except for a long, narrow peninsula to the southeast. Its highest point is Mount Liamuiga (3,792 ft [1,156 m]). The Narrows, a 2-mile- (3-km-) wide channel, separates the two islands. The circularly shaped Nevis is surrounded by coral reefs and the island is almost entirely a single mountain, Nevis Peak (3,232 ft [985 m]). A volcanic mountain chain dominates the center of both islands.

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis (St. Kitts & Nevis), located in the Leeward Islands, is a federal two-island state in the Caribbean region. The federation is the smallest sovereign state in the Americas, both in surface area and population. St. Kitts & Nevis is an ideal place for conducting business because of the high literacy rate (98%), the high levels of broadband access, the use of English as an official language, and the low taxes.

Economy

Saint Kitts and Nevis is a twin-island federation whose economy is characterized by its dominant tourism, agriculture and light manufacturing industries. Sugar was the primary export from the 1940s on, but rising production costs, low world market prices, and the government's efforts to reduce dependence on it have led to a growing diversification of the agricultural sector. In 2005, the government decided to close down the state-owned sugar company, which had experienced losses and was a significant contributor to the fiscal deficit.

St Kitts and Nevis has a good road network of approximately 320 km, 43% of which are paved. Basseterre, the capital, has a large deep-water port which offers berthing facilities for cruise ships and cargo vessels, whilst smaller ports are also present at Sandy Point and Newcastle. The Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw International Airport is located at Golden Rock, in close proximity to Basseterre, and receives direct flights from the USA and Canada.

St. Kitts generally has a good standard of education for all ages and the system is similar to that of the UK.