

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



INTRODUCTION

Carib Indians occupied the islands of the West Indies for hundreds of years before the British and French began settlement in 1623. At one time united with Anguilla, the islands achieved independence in 1983 as Saint Kitts and Nevis but remain a UK Commonwealth realm.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Kiing CHARLES III represented by Governor General Marcella LIBURD

Head of Government

Prime Minister Dr. Terrance DREW

Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Basseterre

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (14 or 15 seats, depending on inclusion of attorney general)

Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires Shanelle Natasha SIMMONDS

US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Saint Kitts and Nevis, US Ambassador to Barbados Linda S. TAGLIALATELA is accredited to Saint Kitts and Nevis

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 261 sq km
Land: 261 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical, tempered by constant sea breezes; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Natural Resources

arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income, tourism-based Caribbean OECS economy; better debt balancing; CARICOM and ECCU member; growing offshore financial and telecommunications hub; environmentally fragile; unique citizenship-driven growth model

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.26 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$26,500 (2021 est.)

Industries - tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear, beverages

Agricultural products - coconuts, tropical fruit, roots/tubers, vegetables, sweet potatoes, pulses, watermelons, carrots/turnips, eggs, tomatoes

Exports \$408.5 million (2021 est.)

broadcasting equipment, recreational boats, electrical plugs and sockets, measuring instruments, electrical transformers (2021)

partners: US 56%, Italy 19%, Canada 4%, Germany 3%, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 3% (2021)

Imports \$441.2 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, ships, cars, poultry, valves, jewelry (2021)

partners: US 50%, Trinidad and Tobago 10%, China 5%, Jamaica 4%, Germany 4% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

54,820 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.59% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

African descent 92.5%, mixed 3%, White 2.1%, East Indian 1.5%, other 0.6%, unspecified 0.3% (2001 est.)

Language

English (official)

Religion

Protestant 75.6%, Roman Catholic 5.9%, Hindu 1.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.4%, Rastafarian 1.3%, other 5%, none 8.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)