

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



INTRODUCTION

The Siboney were the first people to inhabit the islands in 2400 B.C., but Arawak Indians populated the islands when COLUMBUS landed on his second voyage in 1493. The islands became an independent state within the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1981.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King Charles III represented by Governor General Rodney WILLIAMS

Head of Government

Prime Minister Gaston BROWNE

Government Type

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Saint John's

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (17 seats) and the House of Representatives (17 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Sir Ronald SANDERS

US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Antigua and Barbuda, US Ambassador to Barbados Linda S. TAGLIALATELA is accredited to Antigua and Barbuda

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 443 sq km
Land: 443 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation

Natural Resources

negligible; pleasant climate fosters tourism

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

dual island-tourism and construction-driven economy; emerging "blue economy"; limited water supply and susceptibility to hurricanes limit activity; improving road infrastructure; friendly to foreign direct investment; looking at financial innovation in cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.78 billion (2021)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$19,100 (2021)

Industries - tourism, construction, light manufacturing (clothing, alcohol, household appliances)

Agricultural products - tropical fruit, milk, mangoes/guavas, melons, tomatoes, pineapples, lemons, limes, eggplants, onions

Exports \$749.5 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, ships, gas turbines, aircraft parts, lobster, durum wheat (2021)

partners: Suriname 20%, Barbados 17%, Poland 12%, UK 10%, France 7% (2021)

Imports \$868.8 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, ships, recreational boats, cars, poultry (2021)

partners: US 42%, Poland 25%, China 10%, Brazil 3%, Trinidad and Tobago 2% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

101,490 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.13% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

African descent 87.3%, mixed 4.7%, Hispanic 2.7%, White 1.6%, other 2.7%, unspecified 0.9% (2011 est.)

Language

English (official), Antiguan creole

Religion

Protestant 68.3%, Roman Catholic 8.2%, other 12.2%, unspecified 5.5%, none 5.9% (2011 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 24.3% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.87% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)