



# GUYANA



## INTRODUCTION

Originally a Dutch colony in the 17th century, by 1815 Guyana had become a British possession. Guyana achieved independence from the UK in 1966, and since then has been ruled mostly by socialist-oriented governments. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America and shares cultural and historical bonds with the Anglophone Caribbean.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Mohammed Irfaan ALI

### Head of Government

President Mohammed Irfaan ALI

### Government Type

parliamentary republic

### Capital

Georgetown

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (65 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 214,969 sq km

Land: 196,849 sq km

Water: 18,120 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; two rainy seasons (May to August, November to January)

### Natural Resources

bauxite, gold, diamonds, hardwood timber, shrimp, fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

small South American export economy; COVID-19 disruptions and commodity price drops; high emigration and remittances; widespread poverty; recently discovered oil and gas reserves; formalizing financial sector; large bauxite and gold resources

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$14.69 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$18,700 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - bauxite, sugar, rice milling, timber, textiles, gold mining

**Agricultural products** - rice, sugarcane, coconuts, pumpkins, squash, gourds, milk, eggplants, green chillies/peppers, poultry

**Exports** \$1.439 billion (2017 est.)

ships, gold, shipping containers, excavation machinery, aluminum ores, rice (2019)

**partners:** Trinidad and Tobago 31%, Canada 11%, Portugal 11%, Ghana 8%, Norway 6%, UAE 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$1.626 billion (2017 est.)

ships, refined petroleum, excavation machinery, shipping containers, aircraft (2019)

**partners:** US 26%, Trinidad and Tobago 16%, Singapore 18%, Liberia 11%, China 5%, Norway 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

787,970 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.19% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

East Indian 39.8%, African descent 29.3%, mixed 19.9%, Amerindian 10.5%, other 0.5% (2012 est.)

### Language

English (official), Guyanese Creole, Amerindian languages, Indian languages, Chinese (2014 est.)

### Religion

Protestant 34.8%, Hindu 24.8%, Roman Catholic 7.1%, Muslim 6.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, Rastafarian 0.5%, other Christian 20.8%, other 0.9%, none 3.1% (2012 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 26.9% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.01% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

