Barbados

For other uses, see Barbados (disambiguation).

Baos

**Motto:** "Pride and Industry"

**Anthem:** In Plenty and In Time of Need

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**Capital**

Bridgetown

13°10′N, 59°32′W

**Official languages**

English

Barbadian (Official), Bajan (Slang)

**Demonym**

Barbadian

**Government**

Parliamentary democracy (Constitutional monarchy)

- Monarch Elizabeth II
- Governor-General Clifford Husbands
- Prime Minister Owen Arthur

**Independence**

from United Kingdom

- Date 30 November 1966
- Water (%) negligible

**Population**

July 2006 estimate 279,000 (174th)

**GDP (PPP)**

2006 estimate

- Total $4.9 billion (149th)
- Per capita $17,610 (39th)

**HDI**

(2006) 0.879 (high) (31st)

**Currency**

Barbadian dollar ($) (BBD)

**Time zone**

(UTC-4)

**Internet TLD**

.bb

**Calling code**

+1 246

Barbados (pronounced /ˈbɑːr.bədəs/), situated just east of the Caribbean Sea, is an independent island nation in the western Atlantic Ocean. At roughly 13° North and 59° West, the country lies in the southern Caribbean region, where it is a part of the Lesser Antilles island-chain. Its closest island neighbours are St. Vincent and St. Lucia to the west, Grenada to the south-west, and Trinidad and Tobago to the south, with which Barbados now shares a fixed official maritime boundary.

Barbados's total land area is about 430 square kilometres, (166 square miles), and is primarily low-lying, with some higher regions in the island's interior. The organic composition of Barbados is thought to be of non-volcanic origin and is predominantly composed of limestone-coral. The island's climate is tropical, with constant trade winds off the Atlantic Ocean serving to keep temperatures mild. Some more undeveloped areas of the country contain woodland and scrubland. Other parts of the interior which contribute to the agriculture industry are dotted with large sugarcane estates and wide, gently sloping pastures, with many good views down to the sea coast.

Barbados has one of the highest standards of living and literacy rates worldwide. Despite its small size, Barbados's Human Development Index ranking is consistently among the top 50 in the world. For example, in 2006, it was ranked thirty-first in the world, and third in the Americas, behind Canada and the United States.
The first indigenous people were Amerindians, who arrived here from Venezuela around 350 CE. The Arawak people were the second wave of migrants, arriving from South America around 800 CE. Arawak settlements on the island include Stroud Point, Chandler Bay, Saint Luke's Gully and Mapp's Cave. According to accounts by descendants of the aboriginal Arawak tribes on other local islands, the original name for Barbados was Ichirouganaim. In the thirteenth century, the Caribs arrived from South America in the third wave, displacing both the Arawak and the Salodoid-Barrancoid. For the next few centuries, the Caribs — like the Arawak and the Salodoid-Barrancoid — lived in isolation on the island.

The origin of the name Barbados is controversial. It was the Portuguese that were the first to conquer (discover) and name the island. As early as 1511, the island is referred to as Ilha dos Barbados (island of the bearded ones) in an official Portuguese document. It is a matter of conjecture whether the word "bearded" refers to the long, hanging roots of the bearded fig-tree (Ficus carica), indigenous to the island, to bearded Amerindians occupying the island, or to the foam spraying over the outlying reefs giving the impression of a beard. In 1519, a map produced by the Genoese mapmaker Vesconte de Maggiola showed and named Barbados in its correct position north of Tobago.

Portuguese conquistadores seized many Caribs on Barbados and used them as slave labour on plantations. Other Caribs fled the island. British sailors who landed on Barbados in 1625 at the site of present-day Holetown on the Caribbean coast found the island uninhabited. From the arrival of the first British settlers in 1627–1628 until independence in 1966, Barbados was under uninterrupted British control. Nevertheless, Barbados always enjoyed a large measure of local autonomy. Its House of Assembly began meeting in 1639. Among the initial important British figures was Sir William Courten.

Starting in the 1620s, an increasing number of black slaves were brought to the isle. 5000 locals died of fever in 1647, and hundreds of slaves were executed by Royalist planters during the English Civil War in the 1640s, because they feared that the ideas of the Levellers might spread to the slave population if Parliament took control of Barbados.

Large numbers of Celtic people, mainly from Ireland and Scotland, went to Barbados as indentured servants. Over the next several centuries the Celtic population was used as a buffer between the Anglo-Saxon plantation owners and the larger African population, variously serving as members of the Colonial militia and playing a strong role as allies of the larger African slave population in a long string of colonial rebellions. As well, in 1659, the English shipped many Irishmen and Scots off to Barbados as slaves, and King James II and others of his dynasty also sent Scots and English off to the isle: for example, after the crushing of the Monmouth Rebellion in 1685. The modern descendants of this original slave population are sometimes derisively referred to as Red Legs, or locally 'ecky becky', and are some of the poorest inhabitants of modern Barbados. There has also been large-scale intermarriage between the African and Celtic populations on the islands.

With the increased implementation of slave codes, which created differential treatment between Africans and the white settlers, the island became increasingly unattractive to poor whites. Black or slave codes were implemented in 1661, 1676, 1682, and 1688. In response to these codes, several slave rebellions were attempted or planned during this time, but none succeeded. However, an increasingly repressive legal system caused the gap between the treatment of typically white indentured servants and black slaves to widen. Imported slaves became much more attractive for the rich planters who would increasingly dominate the island not only economically but also politically. Some have speculated that, because the Africans could withstand tropical diseases and the climate much better than the white slave population, the white population decreased. This is inconsistent with the fact that many poor whites simply immigrated to neighbouring islands and remained in tropical climates. Nevertheless, as those poor whites who had or acquired the means to emigrate often did so, and with the increased importation of African slaves,
Barbados turned from mainly Celtic in the seventeenth century to overwhelmingly black by the nineteenth century.

As the sugar industry developed into its main commercial enterprise, Barbados was divided into large plantation estates that replaced the smallholdings of the early British settlers. Some of the displaced farmers moved to British colonies in North America, most notably South Carolina. To work the plantations, West Africans were transported and enslaved on Barbados and other Caribbean islands. The British abolished the slave trade in 1807. In 1816, the continuation of slavery caused the largest major slave rebellion in the island's history. One thousand people died in the revolt for freedom, with 144 slaves executed and 123 deported by the king's army. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire 18 years later in 1834. In Barbados and the rest of the British West Indian colonies, full emancipation from slavery was preceded by an apprenticeship period that lasted four years.

In 1884, the Barbados Agricultural Society sent a letter to Sir Francis Hincks requesting his private and public views on whether the Dominion of Canada would favourably entertain having the then colony of Barbados admitted as a member of the Canadian Confederation. Asked of Canada were the terms of the Canadian side to initiate discussions, and whether or not the island of Barbados could depend on the full influence of Canada in getting the change agreed to by Britain. Then in 1952 the Barbados Advocate newspaper polled several prominent Barbadian politicians, lawyers, businessmen, the Speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly and later as first President of the Senate, Sir Theodore Branker, Q.C. and found them to be in favour of immediate federation of Barbados along with the rest of the British Caribbean with complete Dominion Status within five years from the date of inauguration of the West Indies Federation with Canada.

However, plantation owners and merchants of British descent still dominated local politics, owing to the high income qualification required for voting. More than 70% of the population, many of them disenfranchised women, were excluded from the democratic process. It was not until the 1930s that the descendants of emancipated slaves began a movement for political rights. One of the leaders of this movement, Sir Grantley Adams, founded the Barbados Labour Party, then known as the Barbados Progressive League, in 1938. Though a staunch supporter of the monarchy, Adams and his party demanded rights for the poor and for the people. Progress toward a more democratic government in Barbados was made in 1942, when the exclusive income qualification was lowered and women were given the right to vote. By 1949 governmental control was wrested from the planters and, in 1958, Adams became Premier of Barbados.

From 1958 to 1962, Barbados was one of the ten members of the West Indies Federation, an organisation doomed by nationalistic attitudes and by the fact that its members, as colonies of Britain, held limited legislative power. Adams served as its first and only "Prime Minister", but his leadership failed in attempts to form similar unions, and his continued defence of the monarchy was used by his opponents as evidence that he was no longer in touch with the needs of his country. Errol Walton Barrow, a fervent reformer, became the new people's advocate. Barrow had left the BLP and formed the Democratic Labour Party as a liberal alternative to Adams' conservative government. Barrow instituted many progressive social programmes, such as free education for all Barbadians, and the School Meals system. By 1961, Barrow had replaced Adams as Premier and the DLP controlled the government.

With the Federation dissolved, Barbados had reverted to its former status, that of a self-governing colony. The island negotiated its own independence at a constitutional conference with the United Kingdom in June 1966. After years of peaceful and democratic progress, Barbados finally became an independent state within the Commonwealth of Nations on November 30, 1966, with Errol Barrow its first Prime Minister.

Politics

Barbados has been an independent state in the Commonwealth since November 30, 1966. It functions as a parliamentary democracy modeled on the British Westminster system. Its Parliament comprises thirty seats. The present government is proposing that Barbados become a republic within the Commonwealth, with a ceremonial president replacing the British Sovereign. This issue is still being hotly debated, as the island has been stable and governmmentally autonomous for decades and the Crown's position is strictly nominal.

Barbados is a full and participating member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which currently pertains only to Barbados and Guyana but is expected to replace the UK Privy Council for the entire English-speaking Caribbean eventually, and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

Barbados has a two party system, the two dominant parties being the ruling Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) has been in government for fifteen years, since the year 1993. It is commonly referred to as the Owen Arthur Administration. The current Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Owen S. Arthur has been delegated the responsibility of being the Regional Leader of the CSM (Caribbean Single Market).

Geography

A relatively flat island, rising gently to the central highland region, the highest point being Mount Hillaby, in the Saint Michael district, at 336 metres (1,100 ft) above sea level. The island is located in a slightly eccentric position in the Atlantic Ocean, to the east of the other Caribbean islands. The climate is tropical, with a rainy season from June to October.

Barbados is often spared the worst effects of the region's tropical storms and hurricanes during the rainy season as its far eastern location in the Atlantic Ocean puts it just outside the principal hurricane strike zone, and one only hits about every 26 years.
Beach near Bridgetown, Barbados.

parishes of Barbados. It is sometimes referred to as "The City," but the most common reference is simply "Town". Other towns scattered across the island include Holetown, in the parish of Saint James; Oistins, in the parish of Christ Church.

It is geologically composed of coral (90 m thick). The land falls in a series of "terraces" in the west and goes into an incline in the east. Most of Barbados is circled by coral reefs.

Also the geography serves as a setting for a moderate tropical climate with only two seasons; dry and wet. The dry season (Dec-May) and wet (June-Nov) leaves the precipitation with about 40-90 inches of rain with all the different land types included.

Parishes

Barbados is currently divided into eleven administrative parishes:

1. Christ Church
2. Saint Andrew
3. Saint George
4. Saint James
5. Saint John
6. Saint Joseph
7. Saint Lucy
8. Saint Michael
9. Saint Peter
10. Saint Philip
11. Saint Thomas

Economy

Historically, the economy of Barbados had been dependent on sugarcane cultivation and related activities, but in recent years it has diversified into the manufacturing and tourism sectors. Offshore finance and information services have become increasingly important foreign exchange earners, and there is a healthy light manufacturing sector. In recent years the Government has been seen as business-friendly and economically sound. Since the late 1990s the island has seen a construction boom, with the development and redevelopment of hotels, office complexes, and homes.

The government continues its efforts to reduce unemployment, encourage direct foreign investment, and privatize remaining state-owned enterprises. Unemployment has been reduced from around 14 percent in the past to under 10 percent currently.

The economy contracted in 2001 and 2002 due to slowdowns in tourism, consumer spending and the impact of the September 11, 2001, attacks, but rebounded in 2003 and has shown growth since 2004. Traditional trading partners include Canada, the Caribbean Community (especially Trinidad and Tobago), the United Kingdom and the United States.

Business links and investment flows have become substantial: as of 2003 the island saw from Canada C$25 billion in investment holdings, placing it as one of Canada's top five destinations for Canadian Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Businessman Eugene Melnyk of Toronto, Canada, is said to be Barbados' richest permanent resident.

In 2004, it was announced that Barbados' Kensington Oval would be one of the final venues hosting the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

It is thought that the year 2006 will turn out to have been one of the busiest years for building construction ever in Barbados, as the building-boom on the island has entered a final stage for several multi-million dollar projects across the island. Barbados could also be said to be a market economy based largely on tourism, and like said before, sugar. The use of agriculture is only a very small percentage of the work force.

Transport

Transport on the island is good, with 'route taxis', called "ZR's" (pronounced "Zed-Rs" not "Zee-Rs"), travelling to most points on the island. These small buses can at times be crowded, but will usually take the more scenic routes to destinations. They generally depart from the capital Bridgetown or from Speightstown in the northern part of the island.

The island of Barbados has a single major airport, the Sir Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) (IATA identifier BGI). It receives daily flights by several major airlines from points around the globe, as well as several smaller regional commercial airlines and charters. The airport serves as the main air-transportation hub for the Eastern Caribbean. It is currently undergoing a US$100 million upgrade and expansion.
There are three bus systems running seven days a week (though less frequently on Sundays), and a ride on any of them costs $1.50 BBD. The smaller buses from the two privately-owned systems ("ZRIs" and "minibuses") can give change; the larger blue and yellow buses from the government-operated Barbados Transport Board system cannot. Most routes require a connection in Bridgetown. Some drivers within the competitive privately owned systems are reluctant to advise you to use competing services, even if those would be more suitable.

Competition for patrons extends to the bus terminals (sometimes just a parking lot full of buses) Some hotels also provide visitors with shuttles to points of interest on the island from outside the hotel lobby. The island also has plenty of taxis for hire, though they can be expensive. Visitors also have the option of transport by car, presuming that they have a driver's licence (issued in their native country). There are several locally-owned and -operated vehicle rental agencies in Barbados but there are no multinational car-rental agencies such as Avis, Europcar or Hertz.

There is also a helicopter shuttle service, which offers air taxi services to a number of sites around the island, mainly on the West Coast tourist belt.

Tourist information

Main article: Tourism in Barbados

The island is well developed, and there are internationally-known hotels offering world-class accommodation. Time-shares are available, and many of the smaller local hotels and private villas which dot the island have space available if booked in advance. The southern and western coasts of Barbados are popular, with the calm light blue Atlantic Ocean and their fine white and pinkish sandy beaches. Along the island's east coast the Atlantic Ocean side are tumbling waves which are perfect for light surfing, but a little bit risky due to under-tow currents. The 'Soup Bowl' near to Bathsheba is a very popular spot with surfers all year round.

Shopping districts are popular in Barbados, with ample duty-free shopping. There is also a festive nightlife in mainly tourist areas such as the Saint Lawrence Gap. Other attractions include wildlife reserves, jewellery stores, scuba diving, helicopter rides, golf, festivals (the largest being the annual crop over festival July/Aug), sightseeing, cave exploration, exotic drinks and fine clothes shopping.

Attractions, landmarks and points of interest

Tourism accounts for the for almost one half of the economy. Name / Parish Location:
- Christ Church
  - Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary
  - St. Lawrence Gap
- St. Andrew
  - Cherry Tree Hill
  - Morgan Lewis Windmill
  - Chalky Mount potteries
- St. George
  - Gun Hill Signal Station
  - Francis Great House
  - Orchid World
- St. James
  - Folkstone Marine Park
- St. John
  - Codrington College
  - St. John Parish Church
- St. Joseph
  - Andromeda Gardens
  - Flower Forest
  - Hackleton’s Cliff
- St. Lucy
  - Animal Flower Cave
  - Little Bay
- St. Michael
  - Barbados Historical Museum
  - Bridgetown Synagogue and Cemetery
  - Bussa Emancipation Statue
  - Garrison Savannah
  - Kensington Oval
- St. Peter
  - Barbados Wildlife Reserve
  - Farley Hill National Park
- St. Philip
  - Sunbury Plantation[2]
- St. Thomas
  - Harrison’s Cave
  - Welchman Hall Gully
  - Sharon Moravian Church
  - Clifton Hill Moravian Church

List of Cities, towns and villages in Barbados.
- Bridgetown
- Speightstown
- Holetown
- Oistins

Demographics

Main article: Demographics of Barbados

Barbados has a population of about 279,000 and a population growth rate of 0.33% (Mid-2005 estimates). Close to 90 percent of all Barbadians (also known colloquially as Bajan) are of African descent (“Afro-Bajans”), mostly descendants of the slave labourers on the sugar plantations. The remainder of the population includes groups of Europeans (“Anglo-Bajans” / “Euro-Bajans”) mainly from Britain, Ireland, Chinese locally known as Bajan-Chiney, Bajan Hindus from India and Muslims from Bangladesh and Pakistan, and an influential “Arab-Bajans” group mainly of Syrian and Lebanese descent. On the island are many people of Creole descent, a mixture of Afro-Caribbean and European descent (Primarily British, Portuguese, Irish); many Afro-Bajans are of creole descendence.

Other groups in Barbados include people from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and expatriates from Latin America. Barbadians who return after years of residence in the U.S. are called “Bajan Yankees”; this term is considered derogatory by some.

The country's official language is English, the local dialect of which is referred to as Bajan, spoken by most. In religion, most Barbadians are Protestant Christians (67%), chiefly of the Anglican Church, but there are other Protestants, Roman Catholic, Jehovah’s Witness, Hindu, Muslim and Jewish minorities. Barbados is currently a chief destination for emigrants from the South American nation of Guyana. The biggest communities outside the Afro-Caribbean community are:

1. The Indo-Guyanese, an important part of the economy due to the increase of immigrants from partner country Guyana. There are reports of a growing Indo-Bajan diaspora originating from Guyana and India. They introduced Soca-Chutney, Pot and many Indian dishes to Barbados' culture. Mostly from southern India and Hindu states, these 'Desi' peoples are growing in size but smaller than the equivalent communities in Trinidad & Guyana; Hinduism is one of Barbados' growing religions.
2. Euro-Bajans have settled in Barbados since the 1500s, originating from England, Ireland and Scotland. More commonly they are known as “White Bajans”, although some carry Afro-Caribbean traces and vice-versa. Euro-Bajans introduced folk music, such as Irish music and Highland music, and certain place names, such as “Scotland”, a mountainous region, and “Trafalgar Square” in Bridgetown, now renamed “Heroes Square”.

3. Latinos and Hispanics: a very small minority. They come from countries such as Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic and have been steadily on the increase while Brazilians and Venezuelans have been in Barbados since as far back as the 1800s. Some Colombians have also been relocating to the island to escape poverty as well as Panamanians, Belizeans and Cubans. Some Samba, Merengue and Reggaeton has been introduced by the Latin Americans as a sub-culture.

4. Chinese-Barbadians (or, as they are known on the island, “Bajan-Chineys”) are a small portion of Barbados’ Asian demographics, smaller than the equivalent communities of Jamaica and Trinidad. Most if not all first arrived in the 1940s during the Second World War, originating mainly from the then British territory of Hong Kong. Many Chinese-Bajans have the surnames Chin, Chynn or Lee, although other surnames prevail in certain areas of the island. Chinese food and culture is becoming part of everyday Bajan culture.

5. Lebanese and Syrians are the middle eastern community on the island and make up 89% of the Muslim population. Middle-Eastern Barbadians are often perceived to be the most successful group in business, along with the Chinese Bajans. During the Arab Israeli Wars, many Syrians and Lebanese headed for the West Indies to escape conflict and poverty in the Middle East. Also Jewish people arrived in Barbados around the same time, creating the biggest synagogue in the West Indies.

Culture

Main article: Culture of Barbados
See also: Music of Barbados

The influence of the English on Barbados is more noticeable than on other islands in the West Indies. A good example of this is the island's national sport: cricket. Barbados has brought forth several great cricket players, including Garfield Sobers and Frank Worrell.

Citizens are officially called Barbadians; Barbados’ residents, however, colloquially refer to themselves or the products of the country as "Bajan". The term "Bajan" may have come from a localized pronunciation of the word Barbadian which at times can sound more like “Bar-bajan”.

The largest carnava-like cultural event which takes place on the island is the Crop Over festival, second only in size to the carnival held in Trinidad and Tobago. As in many other Caribbean and Latin American countries, Crop Over is an important event for many people on the island, as well as the thousands of tourists that flock to the island to participate in the annual events.

The Crop Over festival includes various musical competitions and other traditional activities. It gets under way from the beginning of July, and ends with the costumed parade on Kadooment Day, held on the first Monday of August.

Barbados retains a strong British influence and is referred to by its neighbours as "Little England".

Sports in Barbados

Main article: Sports in Barbados

Several sports are played in Barbados. As in other Caribbean countries, cricket is a favourite sport. In addition to several warm-up matches and six “Super Eight” matches, Barbados hosted the final of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

In golf, the Barbados Open is an annual stop on the European Seniors Tour. In December 2006 the WGC-World Cup took place at the country’s European Seniors Tour. In December 2006 the WGC-World Cup took place at the country's Sandy Lane resort on the Country Club course, an eighteen-hole course designed by Tom Fazio.

National symbols

Flower

The national flower is the Pride of Barbados or Caesalpinia pulcherrima (L.) Sw., which grows across the island.

Barbados’ coat of arms. Flag

The trident centered within the flag is a representation of the mythological Neptune, god of the sea. The trident in its original unbroken form was taken from the former colonial seal, which itself was replaced by the current coat of arms. Used within the national flag, the left and right shafts of the trident were then designed as ‘broken’ representing the nation of Barbados breaking away from its historical and constitutional ties as a former colony.

The three points of the trident represent in Barbados the three principles of democracy - “government of, for and by the people.”

The broken trident is set in a centered vertical band of gold representing the sands of Barbados’ beaches. The gold band itself is surrounded on both sides by vertical bands of ultramarine (blue) representing the sea and sky of Barbados.

The design for the flag was created by Grantley W. Prescod and was chosen from an open competition arranged by the Barbados government. Over a thousand entries were received.
Golden Shield
The Golden Shield in the coat of arms carries two "Pride of Barbados" flowers and the "bearded" fig tree (Ficus citrifolia or Ficus barbata), which was common on the island at the time of its settlement by the British and may have contributed to Barbados being so named.

Coat of arms
The coat of arms depicts two animals which are supporting the shield. On the left is a "dolphin", symbolic of the fishing industry and sea-going past of Barbados. On the right is a "pelican", symbolic of a small island named Pelican Island that once existed off the coast of Bridgetown. Above the shield is the helmet of Barbados with an extended arm clutching two "sugar-cane" stalks. The "cross" formation made by the cane stalks represents the cross upon which Saint Andrew was crucified. On the base of the Coat of Arms reads "Pride and Industry" in reference to the country's motto.

National heroes
There are ten Barbadian national heroes[4]:
- Sir Grantley Adams (3rd)
- Sarah Ann Gill
- Samuel Jackman Prescod
- Sir Frank Walcott
- Charles Duncan O'Neal
- Sir Garfield Sobers
- Clement Payne
- Sir Hugh Springer
- Errol Walton Barrow

International rankings
- **GDP** - (PPP) per capita:
  - 2004: ranked 59 of 232 countries & territories -- $ 15,700 59th
  - 2005 ranked 33 out of 111 countries 33rd
  - 2006-2007: ranked 40th out of 122 countries 40th (Barbados' debut to the list)
- **Economist, The**, Worldwide quality-of-life index:
  - 2005 ranked 32 out of 155 countries 32nd
- **Heritage Foundation/The Wall Street Journal, Index of Economic Freedom** countries:
  - 2005 ranked 32 of 155 countries 32nd
  - 2006-2007: ranked 31st out of 125 countries 31st
  - 2006: ranked 31st out of 177 countries 31st (Barbados' debut to the list)
  - 2005 ranked 23rd of 177 countries -- 99.7%
- **Reporters without borders**:
- **Save the Children**, State of the World's Mothers:
- **Transparency International**, Corruption Perceptions Index:
  - 2004: ranked 21 out of 146 countries surveyed 21st
- **UN, Human Development Index (HDI)**:
  - 2006: ranked 31st out of 177 countries 31st (3rd in the Americas, after Canada and the United States).
  - 2005: ranked 30th out of 177 countries 30th
  - 2004: ranked 29th out of 177 countries 29th
  - 2003: ranked 27th out of 175 countries 27th
  - 2002: ranked 31st out of 173 countries 31st
  - 2001: ranked 31st out of 162 countries 31st
  - 2000: ranked 30th out of 174 countries 30th
  - 1999: ranked 29th out of 174 countries 29th
  - 1998: N/A
- **World Economic Forum**, Global Competitiveness Report/Growth Competitiveness Index:
  - 2006-2007: ranked 31st out of 125 countries 31st (Barbados' debut to the list)
  - 2006-2007: ranked 40th out of 122 countries 40th (Barbados' debut to the list)
- **World Bank**:
  - Total GDP per capita
    - 2003 (World Bank): ranked 38 -- $ 15,712
  - Total GDP (nominal)
    - 2003: ranked 138 -- $ 2,628

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See also
- Barbados Boy Scouts Association
- Cities, towns and villages in Barbados
- Communications in Barbados
- Fauna of Barbados
- Foreign relations of Barbados
- List of Barbadians
- Military of Barbados
- Nationality law of Barbados
- Plants and animals of Barbados
- West Indian cricket team

References
1. ^ OED
2. ^ Gallery of Sunbury Plantation pics can be found here
3. ^ [1]

**Bibliography**


**External links**

- Find more information on Barbados by searching Wikipedia's sister projects
- Dictionary definitions from [Wiktionary](https://www.wiktionary.org)
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- CIA World Factbook entry on Barbados
- Maps of Barbados
  - [MapQuest](https://www.mapquest.com)
  - [Multimap](https://www.multimap.com)
  - [MSN World Atlas](https://www.msn.com)
- [Google satellite image](https://www.google.com)
- [Barbados Government - official website](http://www.barbados.gov.bb)
- [Parliament of Barbados official website](http://www.parliament.gov.bb)
- [Central Bank of Barbados website](http://www.centralbank.bb)
- [Barbados Tourism Authority - The Ministry of Tourism](http://www.tourism巴巴多斯.gov.bb)
- [Barbados Investment and Development Corporation](http://www.barbados.gov.bb/di)
- [Barbados Statistical Service (BSS)](http://www.barbados.gov.bb/di/stats)
- [Barbados Cricket Association - The Barbados Cricket Association](http://www.barbados-cricket.com)

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**Geographic locale**
### Countries and territories of the Caribbean

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<td>Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth republics</th>
<th>Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Dominican Republic, Haiti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dependencies and other territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Aruba, Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Barthelemy, St. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### States and dependencies of Middle America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States — Dependencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba (NL), Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands (UK), Cayman Islands (UK), Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe (FR), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique (FR), Mexico, Montserrat (UK), Navassa Island (US), Netherlands Antilles (NL), Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico (US), St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Martin (FR), St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands (UK), U.S. Virgin Islands (US)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### International membership and history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth of Nations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Zambia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia: Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Zealand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands, Niue, Ross Dependency, Tokelau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, St. Helena (including Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aruba, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Netherlands, Antilles, Puerto Rico, Venezuela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Member of the Community but not of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).
2. British overseas territory awaiting entrustment to join the CSME.
Barbados is now one of the most prosperous countries in the western hemisphere outside of the United States and Canada. Barbados hosted the final matches of the Cricket World Cup in 2007, and much of the country’s investment during 2006 and the beginning of 2007 was directed toward accommodating the expected influx of visitors. Barbados has diplomatic missions headed by resident ambassadors or high commissioners in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela, and at the European Union (Brussels) and the UN.