

National Flag of Saint Lucia



Blue - the sea and sky

Yellow - the sun and sand

Black & White - the European and strong African cultural influences living in unity

The Triangles represent the island's famous twin Pitons, a symbol of the hope and aspirations of the people.

COUNTRY FACTS

Quick Info

Capital: Castries

Population: 178,015 (2016 est.)

Independence: 22 February 1979

Official Language: English

Local Language: Kweyol

Climate: Tropical

Saint Lucia was named after **Saint Lucy of Syracuse** who is the Patron Saint of Light. But before the island got the name Saint Lucia, the indigenous people who lived there called it "**loūanalao**" or "**Hewanorra**" (the land of the iguana) because of the number of iguanas on the island at that time. The indigenous peoples migrated from South America.



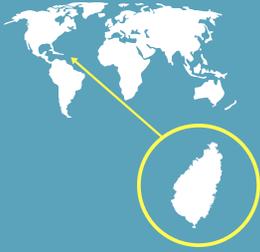
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Get to know
**SAINT
LUCIA**
The Helen of the West Indies

LOCATION

Saint Lucia is one in the chain of islands situated between North and South America, which make up the Caribbean. It is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.



SNAPSHOT



The island is 238sq. miles (616sq. km), with a combination of high mountains, forests, low lying lands and beaches. A central mountain range runs the length of the island, with peaks ranging between 1000 and 3145ft.

Forests dominate the mountain region, while jasmine, scarlet chenille and wild orchids (along with other types of flowers) provide splashes of colour to the lush green slopes. The two towering volcanic cones on the southwest coast, Gros Piton (797m) and Petit Piton (750m) are one of the Caribbean's most famous land-marks.

CULTURE

Saint Lucia is a **multicultural** and **multi-ethnic** nation which primarily draws on **West African and European influences**. **Indigenous Amerindian** and **East Indian** influences can also be reflected in the island's traditions and people.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Coat of Arms

Tudor Rose: England
Fleur de lis: France
Parrot: Amazona Versicolor
Torch: Beacon to light the path
Stool: African cultural influence
Motto: "The Land, The People, The Light"
Designed by: Sydney Bagshaw



National Bird

The Saint Lucia Parrot (Amazona Versicolor)
This beautiful parrot is, and always has been found only in Saint Lucia. The parrot is protected year round and as such, anyone found hunting, keeping or trying to trade them can be fined.



National Dish

Green figs & Salt fish
Early slaves discovered that salted fish was a good source of protein. Green figs are green bananas. This great tasting dish is made with boiled salt fish (salted cod fish) and a variety of seasonings.



National Flowers

"La Rose and La Marguerite"
These are our national flowers. They are also the symbols of the two rival flower societies of Saint Lucia that are associated with the National Flower Festival. Saint Lucia also has a national plant (bamboo) and a national tree (calabash).



National Dress

The Wob Dwiyet
This is a formal dress which appeared in the French West Indies towards the end of the 18th Century. Its design is believed to have originated from Southern France, where women at the time wore a similar outfit. A less formal wear consists of a 'madras' skirt and white blouse.

