

Saint Lucia
by
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GENERAL FACTS

1. *The capital of Saint Lucia is called Castries.*
2. *The population of Saint Lucia was 181,899 as of 2018.*
3. *The official language is English though many people speak in St Lucian French Creole.*
4. *The highest peak is Mount Gimie which is around 950m.*
5. *St Lucia is 43 kilometres long and a maximum of 23 kilometres wide.*
6. *St Lucia is located in the Eastern Caribbean.*
7. *The currency used in Saint Lucia is called the Eastern Caribbean Dollar.*

ANIMALS

Saint Lucia is well-known for its vast variety of birdlife. The national bird of St Lucia is the Saint Lucian Parrot, which is one of five native parrot species and 157 bird species that live on the island. As many of 45 of these species can be found in the rainforest including three species of hummingbird. St Lucia is also home to lots of incredible marine life, such as dolphins, whales and sea turtles. In fact three species of sea turtles swim off the coast of this beautiful island.



Parrot.

This is the St Lucian

HISTORY

Saint Lucia has not always been called Saint Lucia. Way back in 200AD the island was called Lyonola, by the Arawak Indians who lived there. Hundreds of years later, in 800AD, another group of Amerindians called the Caribs took control of the land and named it Hewanorra. The island's current name only came into existence with the arrival of the Europeans in the early 16th century. Historians believe Europeans first came to the island around 1500 when European countries were searching for new land to claim. However, faced with hostility from the Caribs and ill health, their first attempt to colonise the island failed. In 1650 the French managed to successfully establish a lasting settlement, and in 1650 they signed a peace treaty with the local Caribs, agreeing to live in harmony.

But just a few years later, from 1663 to 1667 the English took over the island. For years to come, the English and the French fought over the island, each ruled it seven times. In fact St Lucia switched between the French and English so many times it became known as

The Helen of The West Indies after the greek mythology character, Helen of Troy. But in 1814 the British took control of St Lucia making it a long standing colony of the British empire. The Europeans grew valuable crops, like sugar and cotton, in St Lucia and other lands in the Americas. To provide workers for the plantations, they forcibly shipped millions of African people across the Atlantic Ocean to work as enslaved people in inhumane and violent conditions. This became known as the Transatlantic Slave Trade. By the time slavery was ended in St Lucia in 1834, there were more than 13 thousand black slaves, around 2,500 free black people and around 2,500 white people living on the island. Over the course of the twentieth century, British Colonies around the world claimed their independence. St Lucia was one of the last colonies to do so, becoming an independent nation in 1979.

ST LUCIAN PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Whilst it may be a small country, centuries of settlers from all around have made it rich in culture. Today it is home to loads of religions, music, languages and delicious foods.

A large majority of people are descended from black Africans, brought to St Lucia as enslaved people during centuries of European rule. There are also many mixed racial people with African, American and Carib heritage, as well as a smaller group of white people. East Indians form a small minority on the island, these are mostly descendants of people from India, brought to work on the island when St Lucia was part of the British Empire.



Although English is the official language of St Lucia, a larger percent of people speak Creole, a legacy left by early french settlers on the island.

Every October, the island celebrates Creole Heritage Month, a mix of colourful street parties, art exhibitions, music, theatre, talk and delicious food. The celebration marks the end of the St Lucia Summer Festival and is time for St Lucian's to celebrate their heritage.



ST LUCIA'S GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY

St Lucia is a democratic country, run by a prime minister and government, elected by the people of the country.

In 1979, St Lucia became a country of The Commonwealth, an organization headed by Queen Elizabeth II.

St Lucia's economy depends primarily on tourism and agriculture, partly bananas and other exotic foods, such as mangoes. Clothing and electronic goods are also exported but on a smaller scale.



References

- www.natgeokids.com
- www.thefactsite.com