

SAINT KITTS & NEVIS

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++869**

St. Kitts & Nevis Ministry of Tourism, Commerce & Consumer Affairs:
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Capital: Basseterre

Background: First settled by the British in 1623, the islands along with Anguilla, became an associated state with full internal autonomy in 1967. Anguilla rebelled and was allowed to secede in 1971. St. Kitts and Nevis achieved independence in 1983. In 1998, a vote in Nevis on a referendum to separate from St. Kitts fell short of the two-thirds majority needed.

Location: Caribbean, islands in the Caribbean Sea, about one-third of the way from Puerto Rico to Trinidad and Tobago

Map References: Central America and the Caribbean

Area: total: 261 sq km (Saint Kitts 168 sq km; Nevis 93 sq km), land: 261 sq km, water: 0 sq km

Land Boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 135 km

Maritime Claims: continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin territorial sea: 12 nm, contiguous zone: 24 nm, exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate: tropical tempered by constant sea breezes; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Terrain: volcanic with mountainous interiors

Natural Resources: arable land

Nationality: noun: Kittitian(s), Nevisian(s), adjective: Kittitian, Nevisian

Ethnic Groups: predominantly black some British, Portuguese, and Lebanese

Religions: Anglican, other Protestant, Roman Catholic

Languages: English

Economy: The economy has traditionally depended on the growing and processing of sugarcane; decreasing world prices have hurt the industry in recent years. Tourism, export-oriented manufacturing, and offshore banking activity have assumed larger roles. Most food is imported. The government has undertaken a program designed to revitalize the faltering sugar sector. It is also working to improve revenue collection in order to better fund social programs. In 1997 some leaders in Nevis were urging separation from Saint Kitts on the basis that Nevis was paying far more in taxes than it was receiving in government services, but the vote on cessation failed in August 1998. In late September 1998, Hurricane Georges caused approximately \$445 million in damages and limited GDP growth for the year.

Industries: sugar processing, tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear, beverages

Currency: 1 East Caribbean dollar (EC\$) = 100 cents

Railways: total: 58 km, narrow gauge: 58 km 0.762-m gauge on Saint Kitts to serve sugarcane plantations (1995)

Highways: total: 320 km, paved: 136 km, unpaved: 184 km (1996 est.)

Ports and Harbors: Basseterre, Charlestown

Airports: 2 (1999 est.), Airports - with paved runways: total: 2, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1, 914 to 1,523 m: 1 (1999 est.)

NEVIS

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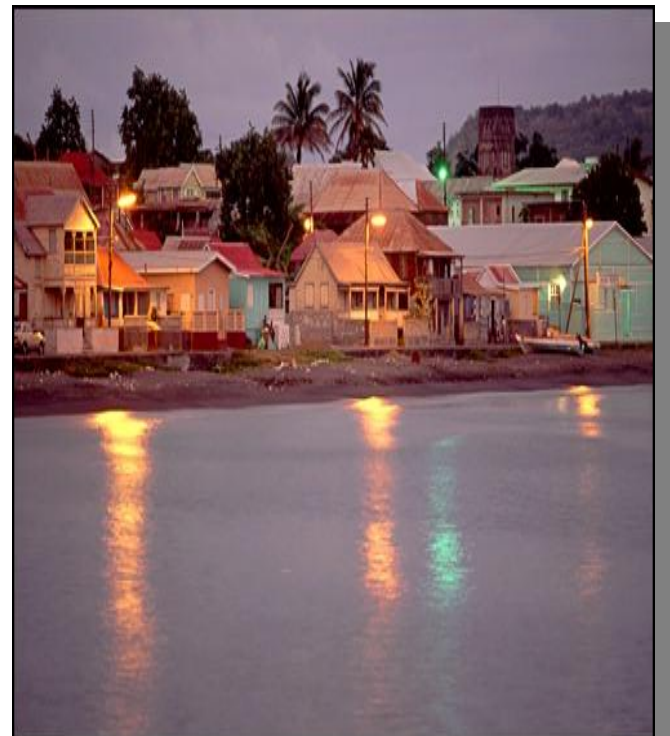
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