



St Kitts and Nevis

Joined the Commonwealth 1983 - visited by the Queen in 1985



St Kitts and Nevis is an island nation in the Leeward Islands of the eastern Caribbean

Pop: (2013) 54,000

Capital: Basseterre

Area: 262 sq km

St Kitts and Nevis are two volcanic islands rising to 1,156m. St Kitts is the larger island with its central mountain range broken by ravines and green fertile valleys. The beaches on this island are black volcanic sand except in the south-east peninsula where the sand is golden. Nevis has silver sand. The tropical climate is cooled by the north-east trade winds and is pleasant all year round. The islands can be susceptible to hurricanes.

Tropical forest covers the mountains though grassy pasture is found on the higher slopes. Unusually, the acreage of forest is increasing. Exotic fruits grow lower down and there is a large coconut forest on the west side of Nevis. Sugar cane, once important, is no longer produced.

Basseterre has a deep water port for cruise and cargo ships. Investment in tourist resorts has included several golf courses and, due to its beaches and water sports, tourism has become the largest source of revenue though off-shore financial services and the registry of ships and yachts is also important.

A view of St Kitts – a jewel of the Caribbean

