

Barbados

Joined the Commonwealth 1966 – visited by the Queen in 1989



Barbados is a small island nation between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean

Pop: (2012) 283,000

Capital: Bridgetown

Area: 431 sq km

Barbados enjoys a mild sub-tropical climate where even the wet season is still pleasant due to the breezes coming off the sea. There is a rich diversity of tropical flowers and flowering trees and, with its sandy beaches, water sports and lively night life and musical scene, Barbados is a very popular tourist destination. The busy deep water harbour at Bridgetown is a terminal for cruise ships and yachts.

The island is mainly farmland though the Barbados Wildlife Reserve is home to indigenous species such as the Barbados green monkey and the red footed tortoise along with stands of mature mahogany trees. Sugar cane, historically an important crop, has today been overtaken by a more mixed economy. Off-shore financial services are an important source of income and recently some light industry has been developed.

The Morgan Lewis sugar plantation mill, established in the early 1700's and in use until 1945

