

GLOBAL HORIZONS

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Country of the Month Profile

Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua, largest of the Leeward Islands, is located 1324 miles southeast of Miami. Barbuda, its smaller sister island, lies just 27 miles northeast of Antigua. These two, together with several smaller islands, including Redonda, Great Bird, Long, and York, make up the nation of **Antigua and Barbuda**. Approximately 97% of its citizens live in Antigua island. The capital, largest city and most important port is St. John's, while Codrington, is the largest town on Barbuda.

The first inhabitants were the Siboney. Then came the peaceful Arawaks who maintained themselves with agriculture. Their crops included pineapple, sweet potatoes, tobacco and cotton. They were followed by the warlike Caribs. Due to severe shortage of fresh water, most Caribs left by the 16th century.

On his second voyage in 1493, Christopher Columbus sighted the island and named it "*Antigua*" in honor of the Sevillian Cathedral "Santa Maria La Antigua." In 1632, Sir Edward Warner and the first English settlers came from St. Kitts. The French briefly occupied Antigua in 1666, but the Treaty of Breda returned it to the British. When Christopher Codrington brought the latest sugar technology from Barbados in 1674, sugar became the main crop. This in turn led to an increase in the demand for slaves due to the labor intensive nature of its cultivation. Sugar remained the main crop until the industry declined in the 1850's. Because Antigua was the only British possession with a good harbor, the Royal Navy called it home from 1725 until 1854. In 1834, the slaves were emancipated. Barbuda was annexed in 1860, and under the West Indies Act of 1967, Antigua and Barbuda became an associated state with internal self-government. On November 1, 1981 the nation achieved full independence.

In 1966, a local artist Reginald Samuel won the national contest to design the new flag. The symbolism of the flag: **7 point golden sun**, the dawn of a new era; **red**, the life blood of the slaves and the dynamic force of the people; **blue**, hope; **black**, the African heritage and the soil; the **combination of gold, blue and white**, the sun, sea and sand; the "**V**" formed by the red borders proclaims: "Victory at last."

The islands consists of 365 Beaches: You can visit a different beach every day of the year, including a 17 mile stretch of pink sand on Barbuda.

The Dockyard: Home of the Royal Navy from 1725 to 1854, Since 2016 a UNESCO World Heritage site. Horatio Nelson was Senior Naval Officer of the Leeward Islands from 1784 to 1787.

Barbuda: In 1628, Charles II granted the island to the Codrington family. They held the island until 1860, when it was annexed to Antigua. Yearly rent: 1 fat sheep

Antigua Sailing Week: From 25 April – 1 May, 2020, the islands will celebrate the 53rd Antigua Sailing Week, one of the premier sailing events in the Caribbean.

Frigate Birds: Barbuda is home to the largest Frigate bird sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere. It is located at the Codrington Lagoon, and is only accessible by boat.

Source: <https://visitantiguabarbuda.com>

Consular Post in Miami, Florida: Ambassador Gilbert A. Boustany, Consul General, Consulate General of Antigua & Barbuda in Miami and Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami.

Division Director's Message



U. Desmond Alufohai, CMP, CGBP
Division Director
Protocol & International Affairs

Happy New Year!

As we usher in the year 2020, a leap year and a nascent decade, we once again welcome a new beginning and the dawning of a brand new chapter in our lives. The new year also brings the opportunity to reinvigorate ourselves.

We are excited about the opportunity to foster new relationships with top-notch organizations like the Protocol Diplomacy International-Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA) and the Protocol School of Washington® (PSOW). We shall expatiate more on our partnerships with both organizations in the next edition.

Let's make this an awesome year and a decade with tremendous successes.

We appreciate your support, and collaboration, always.

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Save-The-Dates

Mar. 2, 2020

Protocol Training Workshop

Organized by PDI - POA in Miami, FL.
Contact: The Office of Protocol @ MIA

Mar. 6, 2020

International Women's Day Luncheon

Organized by World Trade Center, Miami.
www.worldtrade.org

Mar. 15, 2020

Calle Ocho Music Festival

<https://carnavalmiami.com/events/calle-ocho/>

Mar. 20, 2020

Ultra Music Festival

Bayfront Park, 301 Biscayne Blvd,
Miami, FL.
www.ultramusicfestival.com

Moving On

We are proud to announce that Ms. Magaly Vasquez was recently appointed as the Executive Secretary to Mr. Ken Pyatt, Aviation Deputy Director. Ms. Vasquez has been an integral part of the Protocol team since 2008. We wish her well in her new career endeavor.



Magaly Vasquez

ABOUT US

The core mission of MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -
"To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives."

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Please send your comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out via email.



BRIEFS & NOTES

The Commonwealth of Nations Turns 70

The Commonwealth, as it is known today, evolved from the British Empire and the subsequent British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1926, the Balfour Declaration determined that all members were "equal in status to one another, and in no way subordinate to one another". This became law when the Statute of Westminster was adopted in 1931. Finally, on April 26, 1949, the London Declaration was signed, creating the modern Commonwealth. The Crown would continue to be its symbol, but the legacy of the Empire was replaced by a partnership of nations. To address evolving needs, the Commonwealth Secretariat and post of Secretary-General were established in 1965. The continued relevance of the Commonwealth is shown by its membership: 8 countries in 1949; 53 in 2019, including Mozambique and Rwanda that have no historical ties to Great Britain. Today, close to a third of the world's population, 2.4 billion people, belong to the Commonwealth.

As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II signed the newly adopted Commonwealth Charter in 2013. Since April 1, 2016, the Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC is the Commonwealth Secretary-General. She is the sixth Secretary-General, the second from the Caribbean (Dominica), and the first woman to hold this office. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Biennial Meeting (CHOGM) and the Commonwealth Games, held every four years, are two major and important events organized by the Commonwealth.

Source: <https://thecommonwealth.org>

The Consular Lounge at Miami International Airport (MIA): The Consular Lounge provides MIA the unique distinction of being the first and only U.S. airport that provides courtesies of port (protocol) services for foreign officials and diplomats in the nation. The Lounge was inaugurated on December 4, 1994, for the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami from December 9-11, 1994. More than 33 foreign delegations from the Americas, headed by their respective heads of States and heads of Governments used the lounge upon arrival in Miami. Due to the popularity and increasing demands of the facility, the Lounge was moved to its present location at Concourse F, 2nd level (Door #14) on December 11, 2009. The lounge also serves as the venue for exhibitions, book signings, press conferences and special events. On December 4, 2019, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the airport re-branded the Lounge to create a more Miami centric theme. Contact the Protocol Office at MIA to inquire about how to reserve the lounge for your next event.

National Flags and Colors

Flag colors are not chosen for aesthetic reasons, instead they are used symbolically to represent a nation's history and its people. Red is the most commonly used color, being present on 77% of national flags. It represents toughness, courage, and strength. White is the second most popular, symbolizing peace, equality, and good deeds. Blue, found on 53% of flags, signifies vigilance, truth, loyalty, endurance, and justice. Yellow indicates generosity; Black personifies determination and struggle. Green expresses hope, joy and love, and in many countries it also has a religious meaning.

Source: <https://colormatters.com/color-symbolism/color-and-culture-matters>

An Experts' Guide to International Protocol by Gilbert Monod de Froideville & Mark Verheul, 2016, p 95.

Intercultural Etiquette

"In most countries the signal to start eating is given by the host or hostess. In France, For example, it is *bon appetit*, in Germany, *guten Appetit*, in Italy *buon appetito*, and so on. Anglo-Saxons have no equivalent for this formula and often mutter 'right' or say nothing. The Japanese formula is *itadakimasu* (I am receiving), although they will probably have preceded this by saying something nice about the appearance of the food. Because the Japanese attach as much importance to the aesthetic arrangement or layout of the food as to its actual taste, you should not attack a dish without complimenting your host on the artistry."

Source: *When Cultures Collide: Leading Across Cultures*