

## Barbados is world's newest Republic



The Caribbean Island of Barbados, became a republic on November 30, 2021. However, it will remain within the [Commonwealth](#) of Nations. Barbados declared its independence from the United Kingdom on November 30, 1966 but retained Elizabeth II as its ceremonial head of state until it became the world's newest republic. Barbadian soldiers fired a 21-gun salute as the country's national anthem played during a crowded ceremony at Heroes Square in the capital of Bridgetown. Her Excellency Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, who previously served as Barbados' royally appointed governor-general, was sworn in as the republic's new president.

Barbados is not the first former British colony in the Caribbean to become a republic. Guyana took that step in 1970, less than four years after gaining independence from Britain. Trinidad and Tobago followed suit in 1976 and Dominica in 1978. Prior to 2021, Mauritius was the last country to remove the Queen as its head of state in 1992.

In addition to the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II currently [serves](#) as the Head of State of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. These Queen-led nations are known as "[Commonwealth Realms](#)," which are distinct from the broader 54-nation [Commonwealth](#) that have some connection to Great Britain, but do not necessarily have the Queen as Head of State. The Queen's role as Head of State is largely ceremonial, and she is represented in each country by a [governor-general](#) who carries out the Queen's day-to-day duties.

### Barbados Fun "Fast Facts"

**Barbados** is where the Grapefruit originated. As legend says, the Grapefruit was a natural cross-pollination between the Shaddock and Sweet Orange, both immigrants from the Asian Sea. Due to the tendency to grow in 'grape-like clusters', the name Grapefruit was born.

**Barbados is the birthplace of rum**, home to the oldest rum brand in the world, Mount Gay, which was founded in 1703. It is often ranked as the best rum in the world!

**Did you know** you can see monkeys in Barbados? Barbados Green Monkeys were first brought to the island from West Africa around 350 years ago. Today, you can see these monkeys at the Barbados Wildlife Reserve or playing in the trees overhead.

**Morgan Lewis Mill** is one of only two intact and restored sugar mills in the Caribbean. The Morgan Lewis Mill includes an exhibit of the equipment used to produce sugar at a time when the industry was run by wind power generated from mills such as this one.

**Harrison's Cave**, a magnificent, crystallized limestone cavern, is said to be one of the wonders of the world. Its pure clear water and flowing streams have helped to create stalactites and stalagmites which promulgate the cave.

**The Nidhe Israel Synagogue and Museum**, built in 1654 was one of the two temples built in the Western Hemisphere.

**St. Nicholas Abbey** is of only three Jacobean Plantation Great Houses still existing in the western hemisphere.

**The first president of the United States**, George Washington visited Barbados in 1751, before he rose to power in 1789.

**Barbados has a pink sand beach!** It's called Crane Beach and it's located below The Crane Resort in St. Philip on the south coast. Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous rated it as "One of the ten best beaches in the world."

**Oistins Fish Fry** is not to be missed. This local gem typifies the casual, relaxed spirit of the rum shop. It is best on Friday evenings!

**The Atlantis**, an air-conditioned submarine allows interested parties to see the wonders that Barbados offers below the sea, even if you don't like to get wet! Passengers are taken by boat to the submarine, which is moored about half a mile off the west coast of the island.

**One of the surviving Concorde supersonic jet planes** is in Barbados. Of the 20 supersonic jet airliners built, 18 are still in existence with one parked in Barbados. There used to be a weekly Concorde flight to Barbados from London.

*Compiled by the Consulate General of Barbados in Miami*

DECEMBER 2021

Division Director's Message



**U. Desmond Alufohai**  
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division  
Miami-Dade Aviation Department

The Republic of Barbados is the world's newest republic! Barbados joins former British colonies in the Caribbean – Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Dominica - to become a republic. We extend our appreciation to the Consulate General of Barbados in Miami for sharing some pertinent fun facts about the new republic in this edition. We also extend a warm welcome the Honorable Mario Fiorentino Coello, the new Consul General of Ecuador to our community.

As a result of numerous enquiries we receive daily regarding COVID-19 international travel regulations and requirements, we are pleased to provide information from IATA's Travel Centre. The website contains up to date information about covid-19 government -imposed travel bans, entry regulations and requirements for each country and an interactive COVID-19 travel regulations map, powered by Timatic.

We salute the nations celebrating their independence/national day in December. Best wishes for a festive holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year, from all of us at the Protocol & International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department.

As always, please be safe!

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# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Ecuador's new Consul General arrives in Miami



**The Honorable Mario Fiorentino Coello**, is the new Consul General of Ecuador in Miami, Florida. Prior to his appointment, he was the Commercial Associate for Contacto SA, a property and personal insurance brokerage company in Peru. He served as General Manager of Italinvest SAC (Peru), an import company of spare parts for motorcycles from 2017 – 2019, and General Manager of International Services Peru, SAC from 2012 – 2017, an outsourcing company providing procurement services, mechanical support, and cranes for insurance companies.

He served as General Manager, Planinvest SA (Peru) from 1997 – 2012, Chief Operations Officer (COO) Centromar SA (Ecuador) from 1996 – 1997, General Manager & Shareholder, Pesquera Centromar SA (Ecuador) from 1996 – 1997, General Manager & Shareholder, Dolabella SA (Ecuador) from 1989 – 1995, General Manager & Shareholder, Inmobiliaria Serengeti SA (Ecuador) from 1987 – 1989, Production Manager, F. Rivadeneira C. Ltda. (Ecuador) from 1987 – 1989.

He was Executive Vice President for Latinandina C. Ltda. (Ecuador): 1977 – 1978, Proxy Manager, Inc. Agrícola Miraflores SPR (Ecuador): 1974 – 1977, Assistant General Manager, Exportadora Bananera Noboa SA (Ecuador): 1969 – 1974, the third largest banana exporting company in the world (at the time).

Mr. Coello served as Political advisor to the Minister of Defense, General Luis Piñeiros, in the Ministry of Defense, (Ecuador) from 1984 - 1986. He studied Economics at the Guayaquil State University, Ecuador and he also attended Cristóbal Colón Salesian College, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Colegio Villa Sora Salesian, Rome, Italy, and Instituto HH.CC. Gonzaga, Milan, Italy. He is proficient in Spanish, Italian, English, and French (basic).

## Hungarian Delegation visit MIA



L-R: Aniko Kubatov, Economic Attaché, Vice-Consulate of Hungary in Miami, Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Member of Parliament & Vice-Chair of the Foreign Committee of the National Assembly, U. Desmond Alufohai, Zsolt Németh, Member of Parliament & Chair of the Foreign Committee of the National Assembly, HE Szabolcs Takács, Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, Emese Gaál, Ambassador Takács partner, and Róbert Fürjes, Secretary of the Foreign Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly.



### Dignitaries visit MIA

Photos of courtesy visits from Hungary, Israel, and the Consulate of Japan in Miami.



L-R: Mike Driquez, Deputy Consul General, Israeli Consulate in Miami, Eli Gil, Consul, Israeli Consulate in Miami, The Honorable Pnima Tamano Shata, Israeli Minister of Aliyah & Immigration, and U. Desmond Alufohai.

L-R: U. Desmond Alufohai, Alicia Riesgo, Division Director, Customer Initiative, MDAD, The Honorable Kazuhiro Nakai, Consul General of Japan in Miami, Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, MDAD, Ernesto Rodriguez, Section Chief, Marketing Division, MDAD.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## History of the [Candy Cane](#)



From its humble beginnings 350 years ago, the candy cane has evolved to become an integral part of Christmas. Today, it is not only a treat, but also a decoration, even a symbol, closely linked to the Christmas holiday. The first candy canes were simple: completely straight, white, and flavored with sugar. According to legend, in [1670](#), the choirmaster of the Cologne Cathedral in Germany began bending the canes into the shape of a shepherd's crook and gave them to children attending Christmas services in the cathedral. This tradition spread throughout Europe and then America. In 1847, the first documented use of candy canes in America, recorded that August Imgard, a German immigrant living in Wooster, Ohio, decorated his Christmas tree with candy canes.

The first red-and-white striped candy canes did not appear until 1900, but no one knows who invented the stripes. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, candy-makers began adding peppermint and wintergreen flavors to their candy canes. By 1919, candymaker Bob McCormack began making candy canes commercially. Initially, the process was labor intensive because the canes had to be bent by hand into the iconic "J" shape. This changed in the 1950's, when McCormack's brother-in-law, Gregory Keller, designed a machine for the automation of candy cane production. Bob's Candies, McCormack's company, was the first to mass-produce and distribute candy canes, and has been doing so for over 80 years. Although candy canes have evolved and new shapes, colors, and flavors are available today, the red-and-white peppermint candy cane is still the most popular and classic favorite.

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## Celebrating [Human Rights Day](#)



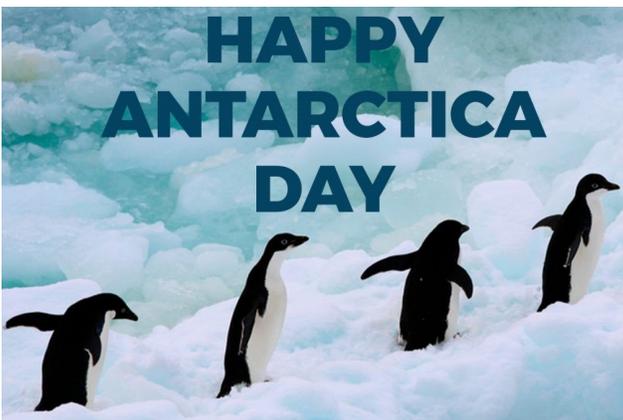
*"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." - Eleanor Roosevelt*

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 and commemorates the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#). This landmark document proclaimed the inalienable rights to which every human is entitled regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. The day has been celebrated since December 1950 when the U.N. Assembly passed [Resolution 423 \(V\)](#)

inviting all States and interested organizations to adopt December 10 as Human Rights Day. This year's theme "Equality", is directly linked to Article 1 of the UDHR: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

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## Antarctica Day



The year 2021 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Antarctic Treaty](#) coming into effect. The Treaty was signed on December 1, 1959, in Washington, D.C., and entered into force on June 23, 1961. The [original signatories](#) were the 12 countries whose scientists had been active in and around Antarctica during the [International Geophysical Year of 1957 – 1958](#): Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, the French Republic, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Union of South Africa, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Today, there are more than 50 Antarctic Treaty nations, representing about two-thirds of the world's population.

The Treaty recognized that it was in the interest of all mankind that Antarctica should forever continue *"to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord"* and preserved the entire region south of the 60 degrees south

latitude for peaceful purposes. Other important provisions included freezing territorial claims, banning nuclear weapons and waste, and directing signatories to freely exchange scientific observations and results. By banning military activities and nuclear weapons on the continent, the Antarctic Treaty was effectively the [first nuclear-arms control agreement](#) in history.

Today, groundbreaking research continues in Antarctica, especially in relation to climate change and the worldwide effects of ice melt, retreating glaciers, and rising sea levels. Without the Antarctic Treaty, most of this vital research would not be possible.

## Know Before you Go



Ensure to visit [IATA's Travel Centre](#) before your next trip. With frequent travel requirements and updates imposed by government officials about the covid pandemic, it is necessary that you have the most updated international travel restrictions and requirements before embarking on your trip. The site also contains [COVID-19 travel regulations map \(powered by Timatic\)](#)

### The IATA Travel Centre: Your passport to peace of mind

Your bags are packed, you're ready to go... but do you have everything you need to board the airplane? Many travelers are not aware of international travel restrictions and requirements, such as visitor's visas, foreign entry and vaccination requirements are just some of the details to ensure successful travel preparation. When searching for passport, visa and health information online, it's important to know that your information source is accurate, reliable and up to date.

### The IATA Travel Centre delivers accurate passport, visa, and health requirement information at-a-glance

You can count on the IATA Travel Centre as your trusted, centralized source for the latest international travel requirements - as it is powered by Timatic. The IATA Travel Centre is the most accurate source available because they draw on a comprehensive database used by virtually every airline, and information gathered from over 1,600 official sources worldwide, such as immigration and police authorities. What's more, their user-friendly system is constantly updated, so when you search for destination-specific details, you can rest assured the information returned is both current and complete.



[The International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) is observed annually on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. [The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) and its Optional Protocol ([A/RES/61/106](#)) was adopted on December 13, 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on March 30, 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention. This was the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day. It was the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the first human rights convention to be opened for signature by regional

integration organizations. The Convention entered into force on May 3, 2008.

The Convention is a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations must be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced.

[The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) also provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations. Through the Strategy, the organizations of the United Nations system reaffirm that the full and complete realization of the human rights of all persons with disabilities is an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

## History of the Arabic Language



According to the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO), Arabic language is a pillar of the cultural diversity of humanity. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, used daily by more than 400 million people. The World Arabic Language Day is celebrated every year on December 18, since 2012. The date coincides with the day in 1973 that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization. It is one of the world's most ancient languages.

Arabic originated in the Proto-Semitic languages of the Middle East in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

The word "Arab" means "nomad," hinting at the language's roots in the nomadic tribes of today's Arabian Peninsula. Most of our knowledge of Classical Arabic comes from the Qur'an, Islam's holy book. The scripture is the first major record of the written Arabic language and provides valuable insight into the structure of the old language. Today, over one billion Muslims study Arabic to read the Qur'an in its original tongue.

Like other Semitic languages, Arabic is written from right to left and contains some sounds that don't exist in English or other languages. Arabic's beautiful "alphabet" isn't an alphabet at all, at least not in the phonetic sense we're used to. In the abjad writing system, each symbol stands for a consonant, with accents providing the vowel sounds. Instead of capital letters, emphasis is created using quotation marks.

Most words are constructed from a basic, thematically related root. All words related to writing, for example, contain the letters "k, t, b," augmented with additional word-parts. In this way, you can understand a word's category in the world by studying its root. Although learning Arabic might challenge the average English speaker, we can thank Arabic for several important and useful English words: algebra, alcohol, coffee, loofah, tariff, cotton, and many more English words come from Arabic roots.

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (DECEMBER)

- December 1, 1640 – Portugal:** The day commemorates the restoration of Portuguese independence after 60 years of Spanish rule.
- December 1, 1918 – Romania:** Great Union Day, marks the unification of Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina with the Romanian Kingdom.
- December 1, 1958 – Central African Republic:** On this date, the French colony of Ubangi-Shari was granted independence within the French Community but remained part of the French Empire in Africa. The country was renamed the Central African Republic when it gained full independence from France on August 13, 1960.
- December 5 - Thailand:** The birthdate of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej is celebrated as Thailand's National Day.
- December 5, 1972 - United Arab Emirates:** On this day, known as Union Day, six of the seven emirates formed a federation, founding the UAE. The 7th joined on December 10, 1972.
- December 6, 1917 – Finland:** Finland gained independence from Russia on December 4, 1917.
- December 9, 1961 – Tanzania:** Tanganyika gained independence from Britain on December 9, 1961. In 1964, it merged with Zanzibar to become Tanzania.
- December 11, 1931 – South Africa:** On this day in 1931, South Africa gained independence from Great Britain, but retained the British monarch as its head of state. On May 31, 1961, the country became a republic, severing all formal ties with Great Britain.
- December 11, 1958 – Burkina Faso:** Republic Day commemorates the day that Upper Volta became an autonomous republic in the French Community. It gained independence from France on August 5, 1960. On August 4, 1984, Upper Volta was renamed Burkina Faso.
- December 12, 1963 – Kenya:** “Jamhuri Day” celebrates Kenya's independence from Britain and the establishment of the Republic of Kenya.
- December 13 – St. Lucia:** Feast Day of St. Lucy, patron saint of St. Lucia, is celebrated as the National Day.
- December 16, 1971 – Bahrain:** After gaining independence from the United Kingdom on August 15, 1971, Bahrain gained independence from British protection on December 16, 1971.
- December 16, 1991 – Kazakhstan:** On this day, Kazakhstan gained independence from the Soviet Union.
- December 17, 1907 – Bhutan:** On this date, Bhutan became a unified kingdom under Ugyen Wangchuck, its first hereditary king. On August 8, 1949, Bhutan signed the Indo-Bhutanese Treaty of Friendship with India, which maintained Bhutanese independence.
- December 18, 1878 – Qatar:** Founder's Day, Qatar's National Day, celebrates the country's unification in 1878. Qatar gained independence from Britain on Sep. 3, 1971.
- December 20, 1999 – Macau:** On this day in 1999, Portugal formally returned Macau to China.
- December 24, 1951 – Libya:** Libya gained independence from Italy on this day.
- December 26, 1990 – Slovenia:** Independence and Unity Day is celebrated on 26 December to commemorate the official proclamation of the Slovenian independence referendum on 26 December 1990.
- December 29, 1911 – Mongolia:** Mongolia declared its independence from the Manchu-led Qing Empire in 1911 but did not achieve full independence from China until July 11, 1921. December 29 has been celebrated annually since 2011.



## ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD'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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