

Grenada



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,
CONTACT THE PORT AGENT AT:

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SHORE-SIDE SAVVY*

Capital: St. George's

Location: 60 miles SW of St. Vincent & 90 miles north of Trinidad.

Taxi: Taxis are available

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar. 2.67 ECD = 1 USD.

Language: English, African-French patois.

Population: 95,000

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PORT PARTICULARS

Grenada was sighted by Christopher Columbus on his third voyage in 1498, but the first permanent European settlement on the island was established in 1650 by the French. During the 18th century dynastic wars, the island was held alternately by France and England until 1783, when the Treaty of Paris ceded Grenada to the British. It wasn't until 1974 that the three-island nation, comprised of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, achieved independence, becoming one of the smallest independent countries in the Western Hemisphere. Although political instability halted tourism in the early 1980s, intervention by the United States and several Caribbean countries in October 1983 restored order. Near the end of the following year, Grenadians chose their new prime minister in the first free elections since the unrest. The government consists of a prime minister supported by a cabinet of six ministers, a governor-general appointed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the advice of the prime minister, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Grenada is known as the Isle of Spice, because it is the largest spice-producing island in the Western Hemisphere. The nutmeg tree was introduced here in 1843, and the production of the aromatic seed and mace, the seed's fibrous covering, has since grown into one of the country's biggest industries. This enterprise also includes the cultivation and export of ginger, cloves, cocoa, cinnamon and several other spices.

Today, Grenada is expanding its economic base in the tourism and light manufacturing sectors. Tourists will find many new attractions, including a national parks system and a first-rate facility for diving excursions, as well as a growing list of restaurants and resorts.