Country Profile: Saint Lucia

St. Lucia is an English-speaking, developing Caribbean island nation. Tourist facilities are widely available. Read the Department of State Background Notes on St. Lucia for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Saint Lucia
Continent:	Caribbean
Capital City:	Castries
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	St. Jude Hospital (Vieux Fort).
Main Cities:	Castries, Gros Islet, Soufrière, Dennery, Micoud, Vieux Fort, Cul de Sac.
Country Size:	616 sq km
Population:	170,649

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	English (official), Créole
Currency:	East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 67.5%, Seventh Day Adventist 8.5%, Pentecostal 5.7%, Rastafarian 2.1%, Anglican 2%, Evangelical 2%, other Christian 5.1%, other 1.1%, unspecified 1.5%, none 4.5%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 22 February (1979)
Economic Status:	The island nation has been able to attract foreign business and investment, especially in its offshore banking and tourism industries, with a surge in foreign direct investment in 2006, attributed to the construction of several tourism projects. Tourism is the main source of foreign exchange, with more than 700,000 arrivals in 2005.
Security:	St. Lucia has no regular military forces; Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (includes Special Service Unit, Coast Guard).
US Presence:	There is no US Embassy or Consulate on St. Lucia. The US Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados is responsible for consular issues on St. Lucia, including American citizen services. US citizens are encouraged to carry a copy of their US passports with them at all times, so that, if questioned by local officials, proof of identity and US citizenship is readily available. The US Embassy is located in Barbados in the Wildey Business Park, Wildey, St. Michael, tel 1-246-436-4950, web http://bridgetown.usembassy.gov/. Telephone of the Consular Section is 1-246-431-0225. The Consular Section fax is 1-246-431-0179. The Embassy web address is http://bridgetown.usembassy.gov. Hours of operation are 8:30a to 4:00p Mon-Fri, except Barbados and US holidays.
Major Airports:	Airports: 2, Airports w/paved runways: 2

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