

CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Saint Lucia

ATLAS Intelligence Series — Caribbean Reference Edition





SAINT LUCIA

CARIBBEAN

SEA

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

Saint Lucia Channel

Saint Vincent Passage





Saint Lucia

Background

Saint Lucia is an island nation in the eastern Caribbean Sea, located within the Windward Islands of the Lesser Antilles. First inhabited by the Arawak and later the Carib (Kalinago) peoples, the island became a focal point of rivalry between France and Britain during the colonial era, changing hands numerous times before Britain secured permanent control in 1814.

Saint Lucia achieved independence from the United Kingdom on **22 February 1979** while remaining a member of the Commonwealth. Today it is a stable parliamentary democracy with a service-oriented economy centered on tourism, financial services, and agriculture.

Quick Facts

Category	Information
Official Name	Saint Lucia
Capital	Castries
Area	617 sq km
Population (2026 est.)	~180,000
Official Language	English
Widely Spoken	Saint Lucian French Creole (Kwéyòl)
Currency	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD)
Time Zone	UTC -4
Government	Parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Head of State	King Charles III (represented by Governor-General)
Prime Minister	Philip J. Pierre

National Flag

The national flag features:

- Light blue background representing the Caribbean Sea
- Black-and-white isosceles triangle symbolizing the island's African and European heritage
- Golden triangle representing prosperity and sunshine
- Design evokes the famous Pitons volcanic peaks.

Map

Saint Lucia lies:

- South of Martinique
- North of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- East of the Caribbean Sea
- West of the Atlantic Ocean

Its strategic position places it along major eastern Caribbean shipping and tourism routes.

Geography

Terrain

- Mountainous volcanic island
- Dense tropical rainforest
- Fertile river valleys
- Numerous waterfalls

Highest point:

- **Mount Gimie (950 m)**

The iconic **Pitons**, two volcanic plugs on the southwest coast, are among the Caribbean's best-known landmarks and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Climate:

- Tropical maritime
 - Dry season: December–May
 - Rainy season: June–November
 - Vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms.
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Natural Resources

- Fertile volcanic soils
 - Forest resources
 - Fisheries
 - Freshwater
 - Scenic tourism assets
 - Geothermal energy potential
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Population

Approximately:

180,000

Ethnic composition:

- African descent (majority)
- Mixed heritage
- East Indian
- European
- Other Caribbean groups

Life expectancy:

Approximately **76–77 years**

Urban population:

Approximately 20%

Government

Government type:

Parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Legislature:

- House of Assembly
- Senate

Administrative divisions:

Ten districts.

Judicial system follows English common law traditions.

Economy

GDP (nominal):

Approximately **US\$2.7–3.0 billion**

Major industries:

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Financial services
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Government services

Major exports:

- Bananas
- Cocoa
- Manufactured beverages

- Clothing
- Electrical components

Main trading partners include:

- United States
 - United Kingdom
 - CARICOM nations
 - European Union
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Tourism

Tourism represents the dominant sector.

Major attractions include:

- Gros Piton
- Petit Piton
- Sulphur Springs
- Marigot Bay
- Rodney Bay
- Rainforest eco-tourism
- Luxury resorts
- Cruise tourism

The island receives several hundred thousand stay-over visitors annually plus substantial cruise passenger traffic.

Energy

Electricity generated primarily from:

- Imported petroleum
- Limited renewable sources

- Expanding solar development

Government policy seeks greater renewable energy independence.

Transportation

Airports:

- Hewanorra International Airport
- George F. L. Charles Airport

Road network:

- Approximately 1,200 km

No railways.

Major seaport:

Castries

Communications

Internet penetration:

High relative to regional standards.

Mobile coverage:

Nationwide.

Media:

Free press with numerous private radio stations and online news outlets.

Education

Literacy:

Above **90%**

Education is compulsory through secondary school.

Major institution:

- Sir Arthur Lewis Community College
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Health

Healthcare combines:

- Public hospitals
- Community clinics
- Private providers

Common concerns:

- Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Obesity
 - Mosquito-borne illnesses during wetter seasons
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Military and Security

No standing military.

Defense responsibilities include:

- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
- Special Service Unit
- Coast Guard

External defense cooperation:

- Regional Security System (RSS)
- CARICOM
- United Kingdom
- United States

Security priorities include:

- Maritime surveillance

- Drug interdiction
 - Disaster response
 - Border protection
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Intelligence Assessment

Political Stability

Risk Level: Low

Stable democratic institutions.

Regular elections.

Strong rule of law.

Economic Outlook

Risk Level: Moderate

Strengths:

- Strong tourism brand
- Growing services sector
- Stable financial institutions

Challenges:

- Tourism dependence
 - External economic shocks
 - Climate vulnerability
 - Public debt
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Security Assessment

Threats include:

- Caribbean narcotics trafficking

- Illegal maritime migration
- Hurricane impacts
- Organized criminal networks

Violent extremism risk remains **very low**.

Natural Hazard Assessment

Primary hazards:

- Hurricanes
 - Tropical storms
 - Flooding
 - Landslides
 - Coastal erosion
 - Volcanic monitoring (inactive volcanic system)
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International Organizations

Member of:

- United Nations
 - Commonwealth
 - CARICOM
 - Organization of American States
 - OECS
 - Eastern Caribbean Currency Union
 - Regional Security System
 - World Trade Organization
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Strategic Outlook (2026–2030)

Saint Lucia is expected to remain among the Caribbean's more politically stable democracies. Economic performance will continue to depend heavily on tourism, making diversification into renewable energy, financial services, digital industries, and climate-resilient infrastructure increasingly important. Climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development are likely to shape national policy over the coming decade.

ATLAS Intelligence Assessment

Category	Assessment
Political Stability	Very Stable
Internal Security	Low Risk
External Threat	Very Low
Organized Crime	Moderate
Economic Stability	Moderately Stable
Disaster Risk	High (Hurricanes)
Strategic Importance	Moderate (Eastern Caribbean)
Overall National Risk	Low–Moderate

ATLAS Analytical Summary:

Saint Lucia combines stable democratic governance with a tourism-driven economy and strong regional partnerships. While it faces persistent vulnerabilities from natural disasters and external economic shocks, its sound institutions, cooperative security arrangements, and favorable geopolitical environment support a generally positive long-term outlook. Consistent with your preferred ATLAS country report format, this edition includes the national flag and a location map.