

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
CARIBBEAN AREA
GRENADA**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Grenada

Country Founded in: February 7, 1974

Population: 90,739

Government Type: parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm

Geography/location in the world: Grenada is located in the Caribbean. It lies north of Trinidad and Tobago. The geographic coordinates are 12 07 N, 61 40 W.

Number of people groups: 6

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot:

Major Religion and % of population: Roman Catholic 53%

All religions and % for each: Anglican 13.8%, Other Religions and Protestant 33.2%

Government interaction with religion: People have religious freedom.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gi.html>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Grenada

Demographics:

The estimated population of Grenada is 90,739. Children up to fourteen years of age account for 32% of the population. There are 14,608 male children between the ages of newborn to fourteen years of age. There are 14,410 female children between these same ages. Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 65.2% of the population. There are 31,278 males in this age category and 27,873 females. In the last age category, sixty-five years and above, there are 1,268 males and 1,302 females. This 65 and over group accounts for 2.8% of the population. The median age for males and females is 22.8 years old.

The birth rate is 21.32 births for every 1,000 people. There are an estimated 2.23 children born to every woman. The infant mortality rate is 13.23 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The death rate is 21.32 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 65.95 years. The life expectancy for males is slightly lower at 64.06 years while the life expectancy for females is slightly higher at 67.85 years.

There are approximately six different people groups living in Grenada. About 82% are Afro-Grenadian. About 13% are of mixed descent. Another 5% are either of European or East Indian descent while there are still a few traces of Arawak/Carib Amerindians.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

Language: English is the official language, but French patois (dialects) mixed is used more commonly.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

Society/Culture:

Family is very important to islanders. Extended family households were common in the past. Elders are treated with respect. In fact, many times grandparents will provide childcare for their grandchildren while parents work.

The British influence upon Grenada's culture is seen when families take a moment to drink tea together. The most popular sport, Cricket, became well-known during colonial days. Wherever there is a bit of open land, islanders enjoy playing Cricket.

Calypso music and steel drum music are very popular. Whenever Carnival occurs, there will be performances on the street to celebrate. Another popular form of music is called Big Drum. There is a small cadre of female singers who are led by a single female performer known as a

chantwell. This group sings while another dances. All of this is accompanied by a particular set of three drums made from trees or rum kegs.

The national dish is called *oil down*. It consists of coconut milk which is boiled down until just some oil is left in the bottom. Then, other items such as salted pork or breadfruits are added to the mixture.

Gall, Timothy L. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Cultures and Daily Life: Americas*, Vol 2. Detroit: Gale Research, 1998.

http://www.gov.gd/carriacou_petite_martinique.html

<http://www.grenadaculture.gd/AboutGrenada/tabid/2038/Default.aspx>

Government:

The government is officially a parliamentary democracy and is part of the Commonwealth realm. Suffrage is universal for all people over the age of 18. The capital is Saint George's. Administrative divisions include 6 parishes and 1 dependency.

All laws are based upon the Constitution, which was ratified in December of 1973. Most laws were written from traditions found in English common law. The magistrate courts are the lowest level of the judicial branch. Appeals will ultimately go to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

The executive branch has several representatives. As a member of the Commonwealth, the chief of state is the reigning British monarch. Since 1952, Queen Elizabeth II has held the British throne. Since 2008, she has been represented locally by her appointed representative, Governor General Carlyle Arnold Glean.

The head of the government is the Prime Minister. Whoever leads the majority party in the legislative branch holds this position, although the Queen's representative officially appoints the office holder. Since 2008, Tillman Thomas has served as Prime Minister. There are a series of cabinet members who serve in various capacities. They are appointed by the Queen's representative, but on the advice of the current Prime Minister.

The legislative branch is a bicameral Parliament. The Senate has 13 seats. Ten of the members are appointed by the government and 3 are selected by the leader of the opposition party. The House of Representatives has 15 members. They are selected by popular vote. They hold their position for five years. The last elections were held in 2008. The next elections are scheduled for 2013.

There are three different political parties. The Grenada United Labor Party (GULP) is led by Gloria Payne Banfield. The National Democratic Congress (NDC) is the majority party and is led by Prime Minister Tillman Thomas. The New National Party (NNP) is led by Keith Mitchell.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

Gall, Timothy. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Americas*. 12th edition. Farmington: Thomas Gale, 2007.

Economy:

In 2008, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$1.19 billion. The real growth rate was 2.2%. The GDP per capita was \$13,200. In 2000, about 32% of the population lived below the poverty line.

About 5.4% of the GDP came from agriculture. The most important agricultural products have traditionally been nutmeg, mace, and other spices. Bananas and sugarcane are also profitable. The majority of the GDP (76.6%) was garnered from the services sector. The tourism industry is the best source of income because the agricultural sector was badly damaged by hurricanes that hit the islands in 2004 and 2005. The remaining 18% of the GDP was earned through industrial pursuits. There are some textile plants as well as plants that produce food and beverages.

In 1996, about 42,300 people were part of the labor force. The unemployment rate was 12.5%. Twenty-four percent of them worked in agriculture while 62% worked in the service sector. The remaining 14% worked in industry.

In 2006, exports equaled \$38 million. The most profitable exports were spices such as nutmeg, mace, and cocoa. Bananas and other fruits and vegetables were sold. The government launched a program to grow organic bananas for export. Some clothing was also sold abroad. About 16.5% of the exports went to Saint Lucia while 11.4% went to the U.S. Another 11.3% went to Great Britain.

In 2006, imports equaled \$343 million. Commodities that were imported included food, manufactured goods, machinery, chemicals, and fuel. About 39.6% of the goods came from Trinidad and Tobago. Another 22.5% arrived from the U.S.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

Gall, Timothy. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Americas*. 12th edition. Farmington: Thomas Gale, 2007.

Literacy:

In 2003, about 96% of the population over the age of 15 could read and write. The education system is similar to that of Great Britain. Laws state that all children between the ages of 5 and 16 should be attending school. Many parents enrolled their children in preschool programs, too.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

Land/Geography:

Grenada is located in the Caribbean. It lies north of Trinidad and Tobago. The geographic coordinates are 12 07 N, 61 40 W.

The main island is Grenada. There are two smaller islets known as Petite Martinique and Carriacoa. The land covers about 344 square kilometers. It is about twice the size of Washington DC. The government of Grenada also claims about 200 nautical miles of ocean as an exclusive economic zone.

The climate is generally hot and humid. Trade winds from the northeast temper the hot temperatures. Temperatures are usually between 75°F to 85°F.

Most of the land on the island of Grenada is volcanic in origin. There are narrow strips of coastland extending towards a central range of mountains. The highest elevation is Mount Saint Catherine. About 5.88% of the land is arable. Permanent crops are grown on about 29.41% of the land. The other 64.71% are reserved for other types of endeavors.

The area of Carriacou is about 13 square miles. About 6,000 people live there. Its highest point is High North Peak. Its largest town is Hillsborough. This is where visitors would initially land. Other villages include L'Esterre, Harvey Vale, and Windward.

Petite Martinique is only about 1 mile wide in diameter. Since the island is volcanic, the soil is rich. Less than 1,000 people live there. Most inhabitants live on the western leeward side of the island since the beach is there. The east coast is filled with rocks and not conducive for settlement.

Hurricanes sometimes blow through between June and November. In 2004 and 2005, they caused massive devastation.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>

http://www.gov.gd/carriacou_petite_martinique.html

http://www.gov.gd/about_grenada.html

History

The earliest inhabitants of Grenada were the Arawak Indians; however, a stronger group known as the Caribs drove these more peaceful Indians from the area. Europeans first entered the area when Columbus explored it in 1498. He named it Concepcion, but the name of Grenada became more commonly used. The Carib population was able to withstand settlement attempts by the Spanish and British, but the French conquered them.

The French began to settle the island and plant sugar cane. They imported African slaves to work the land. The British took temporary control of the island in 1762 during the Seven Years War, but later in 1779, the French took control again. In the Treaty of Versailles, Great Britain received permanent ownership of the island.

The arrival of the British was not greeted with great happiness by the French planters. They attempted to rebel, but British forces overcame this revolt. The British introduced nutmeg to the area in 1782 when sugar production was waning. Cocoa was also grown.

The rise of the spice industry, which did not require such large numbers of workers, and the outlawing of slavery in 1834 brought changes to agricultural proceedings. Land was subdivided into smaller plots, and a farming class arose. About this time, political power over Grenada was placed in the hands of the governor of the Windward Islands.

The British governor of the Windward Islands would hold control until 1958 when the Administration was disbanded. At that time, Grenada became part of the Federation of the West Indies. This Federation was unsuccessful so in 1967, as part of the Associated Statehood Act, the British government gave Grenada internal autonomy. In 1974, full independence was granted.

The post-independence government designed a parliamentary system, and Sir Eric Gairy became the first Prime Minister. However, in 1979, the New Jewel Movement (NJM) seized the government in a coup. The NJM had strong ties to Soviet Russia and Cuba. They held power until 1983 when the members began to argue and deposed Maurice Bishop, who had been serving as the leader. At that time, a U.S. force joined with military groups from other Caribbean nations and entered Grenada to restore order. An advisory council led by the Governor General held power until general elections could be held in 1984.

In 1984, the original form of government returned. In the elections, the New National Party won the majority of the seats in the legislature so their leader Herbert Blaize became Prime Minister. The New National Party remained strong until the National Democratic Congress (NDC) formed and began to gain popularity. In the 1990 elections, the NDC became more powerful. In 1995, the NNP regained some power; yet, the NDC continued to be strong. In 2008, Tillman Thomas of the NDC won the office of Prime Minister.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1128.html

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2335.htm>

http://www.gov.gd/historical_facts.html

Christian History

Catholic priests were the first to come to the island. They began to visit the area around 1650. Under French control, Catholicism was touted as the primary religion. Africans who were brought to the islands as slaves were often forced to convert to Catholicism. Yet, many still kept some of their traditional ethnic religious practices. Spiritism, which combines elements of African religions with Catholicism, is a problem faced by the church today.

Protestants began to arrive when the British assumed control of the area. Anglican representatives came in 1784. In 1878, they formed the Diocese of the Windward Islands. Anglican influence has declined somewhat in recent years. Methodist missionaries came in 1789. In 1903, Seventh Day Adventists came to start churches. Pentecostals began to arrive in the 1950's. They were led by missionaries from nearby Trinidad. Today, there are many different Protestant groups which operate on the islands.

World Christian Encyclopedia Volume I

Religion

All information unless otherwise noted is gleaned from *World Christian Encyclopedia Volume I* and *Operation World*.

Non Christian

Baha'i—About 0.2% of the people belong to this faith.

Catholic/Orthodox—Between 53% and 56% of the population are nominally Catholic.

Hinduism—About 0.7% belong to this religion.

Islam—About 0.3% of the population is Muslim.

Jehovah's Witness—There are 8 congregations and 631 members.

Non-religious—About 0.5% of the population are non-religious.

Rastafarian/Spiritist—About 1.3% of the population has converted to this religion.

Spiritual Baptist Churches—This group is sometimes known as shouters or shakers. They often wear white robes. In 2001 there were 5 congregations and 300 members.

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican Church—This group arrived in 1784. In 2005 there were 25 congregations and 3,846 members.

Assembly Hall Churches—This group, which is associated with the Chinese Little Flock churches, began work in 1980. In 2001 there was 1 congregation with 50 members.

Baptist Convention—This group was once a mission of the Southern Baptist Convention. They started in 1975. In 2005 there were 5 congregations and 344 congregants.

Berean Bible Church—This group started work in 1957. In 2001 there were 18 churches and 530 members.

Christian Brethren—This denomination started work around 1960. In 2005 there were 8 churches and 200 members.

Church of the Nazarene—This group formed in 1977. In 2001 there was 1 church with 34 members.

Evangelical Church of the West Indies—Missionaries started this group in 1957. In 2005 there were 9 churches and 350 people attending.

International Church of the Foursquare Gospel—These churches were started around 1975. In 2005 there were 4 congregations and 700 members.

Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas—Missionaries started work in 1789. In 2005 there were 10 churches and 962 members.

New Apostolic Church—This denomination started around 1980. In 2001 there were 3 churches and 100 members.

New Testament Church of God—This group started in 1958. It was a mission of the Church of God of Cleveland. In 2005 there were 13 churches and 900 members.

Open Bible Standard Church—This church formed in 1980. In 2005 there were 4 congregations and 400 members.

Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies—Pentecostals began to operate in the area around 1960. In 2005 there were 22 churches and 1,600 members.

Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Grenada—This church began around 1800. In 2005 there were 9 congregations and 620 members.

Salvation Army—Representatives started church planting around 1960. In 2001 there were 10 churches and 300 members.

Seventh Day Adventists—Missionaries came to the area in 1903. In 2005 there were 29 congregations and 8,627 members.

People Groups

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Americans (900)

The Americans living in Grenada may have migrated there for business purposes. They speak English and thus have easy access to the *Jesus* film and the complete Bible. About 87% are part of some type of religious organization. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

16345

British (2,500)

The British once colonized the island. Those living there today are either descendants of earlier settlers or more recent immigrants. They speak English and thus have easy access to the *Jesus* film and the complete Bible. About 70% have religious beliefs. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

16346

Afro-Grenadian (89,000)

Afro-Grenadians comprise the largest ethnic group. Most are descendants of African slaves who were brought in during colonial times. They speak Creole which contains a mixture of English, French, and African words. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have not been made available in this Creole, but are accessible in English. The people are predominantly Roman Catholic. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

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French (100)

The French living in the area have migrated there because of business pursuits or for pleasure. They speak French and thus have easy access to the complete Bible and the *Jesus* film. About 76% have some type of religious belief system. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

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Indo-Pakistani (3,800)

These people were brought in as indentured laborers during British colonialism. They speak Hindi. The complete Bible has been translated into their language and the *Jesus* film is available in English. About 75% of the population is part of a religious organization. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

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Saint Lucian (2,400)

The Saint Lucians migrated from the island of St. Lucia. They speak Creole French. Portions of the Bible have been translated into their language, and the *Jesus* film is accessible in standard French. About 97% of the people have some type of religious affiliation with many belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. Approximately 9.7% of the people are evangelical Christians.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to help local believers who are Roman Catholics to find salvation in Christ. The local believers need training in reaching Catholics with the Good News of Jesus.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to help with the economic and health issues that have come in the wake of hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 that damaged the agricultural sector which employed many.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should train believers who visit this area as tourist to use their time in Grenada for Christian influence.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should help teach Christian morality to the people in these islands.

Pictures:



Links:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gj.html>
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>
<http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=Grenada>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127391.htm>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/wha/119160.htm>
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1128.html
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2335.htm>
<http://www.gov.gd/>