

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT  
LATIN AMERICA  
BARBADOS**

**Snapshots Section**

**Country Name:** Barbados

**Country Founded in:** May 14, 1625 by England. November 30, 1966 brought independence to Barbados.

**Population:** 284, 589 (July 2009 est.)

**Government Type: (national, regional and local):** Parliamentary democracy with constitutional monarchy; and independent sovereign state within the Commonwealth of United Kingdom.

**Geography/location in the world:** Barbados is an island country only 21 miles long (34km) and 14 miles wide (32km) and is the easternmost Caribbean island in the North Atlantic Ocean. Barbados is bordered by the Caribbean Sea to the West and the Atlantic Ocean to the East and is approximately 300 miles (483 km) north of Venezuela.

**Number of people groups:** 9

**Picture of Flag**



The flag of Barbados is representative of the land. The left side is ultramarine blue for the sky, the middle is gold for the sand, and the right side is ultramarine blue for the sea. The black trident in the middle is broken from its shaft to symbolize Barbados independence from England. The three points of the tridents symbolize the three codes of democracy in government: of the people, by the people, and for the people. The trident of Neptune is also representative of the Barbadian connection to the sea.

**Religion Snapshot**

Major Religion and percentage of population: Protestant Christianity (72%)

All religions and % for each:

Protestant Christianity (72%)  
Anglican (29.9 %),  
Pentecostal (18.7%),

Methodist (5.1%),  
Seventh-Day Advent (6.4%),  
Independent (6 %),  
Roman Catholic (4.2%)  
Jehovah's Witness (0.8%)  
Islam (1.4%)  
Hindu (0.33%)  
Buddhist (0.04%)  
Baha'i (1.3%)  
Other/Non-religious (19.13%)

**Government interaction with religion:** The constitution and government of Barbados allows for the freedom of religion in reference to its belief and practice. In fact, over 100 hundred known religions are found in Barbados including: Anglican, Apostolic, Evangelical, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, Judaism, Methodist, Moravian, Mormon, Muslim, Pentecostal, Quaker, Rastafarian, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist and Spiritual Baptists amongst others.

[http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country\\_id=164](http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country_id=164)  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108513.htm>  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/caribbean/barbados.html>  
<http://www.vacation-in-barbados.com/barbados-religion.html#Hinduism>  
<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=94>  
<http://www.canadiancontent.net/profiles/Barbados.html>

**Country Profile**  
**Barbados**  
**Basic Facts**

**Official Country Name:** Barbados

**Demographics:**

Barbados' population is estimated to be 284,598 (2009) and the population is expected to grow at a rate of 0.383%. This growth is attributed to a current birth rate which stands at about 12.55/1,000 people. About 1.68 children are born to each woman in Barbados.

Barbados is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and about half of its population lives in the capital of Bridgetown. 40% of the total population lives in urban areas and during any given year about 1.5% of the total population will move to the city from rural areas.

The birth rate is balanced by a death rate which is estimated to be 8.41/1,000 people in addition to those who migrate out of the country at a rate of 0.31/1,000 people. The infant mortality rates show 12.29 deaths / 1,000 live births with males at 13.89 deaths and female at 10.67 per 1000 live births in 2009.

The life expectancy at birth for the total population is 73.21 years with males averaging 71.2 years and females averaging 75.24 years.

The median age is 35.8 years and the majority of people (71.3%) are found within the age group between 15 and 64 years of age. Another 19.2% of the population is under 15 years of age and those over 65 years of age make up about 9.5% of the population of Barbados.

In reference to gender ratios, there is slight to no difference in those who are aged from under the age of 65. However, females outnumber men in the age range which is composed of those who are over 65 years of age by a rate of almost 2 to 1. Overall the gender ratio for Barbados stands at 0.94 male(s)/ female.

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

**Language:**

The island of Barbados was colonized by the British in 1625 and the English remained in power until 1966. As such, the official language of Barbados is English. This means that English is the language that is used in teaching, for government and for business.

Another language commonly spoken in Barbados is a West African slave dialect blended with the Queen's English which produced a creolized version referred to as Bajan. When speaking this dialect one uses the *d* instead of the *t* for words like “*dis*,” and “*dat*” for “this” and “that” in most cases.

<http://www.bajan.org/slang.htm>

<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Afghanistan-to-Bosnia-Herzegovina/Barbadians.html>

## **Society/Culture:**

Before coming to be an independent nation, Barbados was a colony of England for more than 300 years. This has left an invariable mark on the culture of Barbados which is seen in values, entertainment, language, economy, and daily life. Although Barbados is affectionately known as the "Little England," the people who live there have integrated their past with their vision of the future and have made a culture all their own.

The people of Barbados have an easy-going style to life. Living in a tropical Eden-type setting on the eastern-most island of the Caribbean Sea, the tourism industry is crucial to their daily lives. Many Barbadians derive their livelihood from services to foreigners which has been the case since the 1970s.

While tourism is a big part of the economy and the daily lives of the persons living in Barbados, the people still retain European rules in reference to attire. Beachwear is only worn at the beach and in all other places it is seen as inappropriate. In addition, while lightweight clothing is necessary due to the climate, casual wear is used during the day and more formal attire is required for night excursions.

One interesting thing about clothing that is important to note is that it is illegal to wear camouflage attire in Barbados. This applies to all age groups, including children. The only people allowed in camouflage are the military personnel. In some cases, camouflage apparel has been confiscated from tourists as they enter the country. For other information regarding prohibited import items please follow the link below.

<http://barbados-guide.info/travel.basics/clothing.and.attire>

<http://www.barbados.org/people/>

[http://fedex.com/us/international/irc/profiles/irc\\_bb\\_profile.html?gtmcc=us#top](http://fedex.com/us/international/irc/profiles/irc_bb_profile.html?gtmcc=us#top)

Due to the lack of irrigation and insufficient precipitation in Barbados, agriculture is limited to about one-third of the arable land. Food crops are developed for local use that includes an array of beans, cassava, corn, eddoes, sweet potatoes, and yams. Of these, the yam has been found to be the most versatile in many kitchens in Barbados. Local fruits include bananas, guavas, mangos, oranges, papayas, and pineapples.

The national dish in Barbados is flying fish served with Cou-cou which is a mixture of cornmeal and okra that is blended. The fish is breaded and fried for the meal or as a snack. Most Bajan meals include fish, chicken, and pork entrees along with rice, okra, and Scotch bonnet peppers.

"Privilege" is a common meal in rural areas and is made of blended rice, okra, fish, pig tail, or salt beef, spiced with garlic, onions, salt, and hot peppers. Other local favorites are "Pudding & Souse" which consists of pudding blended from the intestines of a pig with sweet potatoes and spices. The souse is boiled pig head or feet accompanied by cucumbers, limes, onions, parsley, and sweet or hot peppers.

A popular carbonated drink brewed for all ages is *Mauby*. It is made from *Colubrina arborescens* tree bark that is mixed with sugar and spices like anise, cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, and cloves. Most would compare this drink with root beer, but it has a bitter aftertaste which is accompanied by laxative effects in some people. Due to these two factors many would say that liking *Mauby* is an acquired taste.

<http://www.tasteslikehome.org/2007/07/cornmeal-cou-cou.html>

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Barbados\\_Food/Top\\_10\\_Barbados\\_Delicacies/](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Barbados_Food/Top_10_Barbados_Delicacies/)

Music and dance is a major part of the culture of Barbados and they have been heavily influenced by the African heritage of the people. Dance, whether it is ballet, free form, or modern, is actually a part of most elementary school programs.

The small island nation has five major recording studios and many smaller ones which include the Blue Wave Recording Studio and Paradise Alley Recordings. Though music like reggae, steel bands, and jazz are found in Barbados, two types of music which are very popular in Barbados are *Calypso* and *Tuk*.

While *Calypso* actually came from Trinidad, those in Barbados have invented a type of *Calypso* called *Soca*. This type of *Calypso* is more upbeat than the one found in Trinidad, but the music still focuses on analyzing and satirizing politics and social life.

At one time, the only drums which were allowed to be used were those made by the English and those who lived on the island used these to make a new type of music called *Tuk*. Indigenous to Barbados, the *Tuk* band is an infusion of British military and African rhythms.

In *Tuk*, a small band of hilariously dressed minstrels play a trio of beats on a kettle drum, a bass drum and a penny whistle (replaced the use of a fiddle). Usually the song starts off as a waltz then turns into a march and ends with African rhythms.

One of the most internationally famous Barbadian music artists is Rihanna. Reggae was introduced into Barbados during the 1990s and artists like David Kirton are renowned for exposing the international music media with music from this region.

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/Entertainment/Dance\\_in\\_Barbados](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/Entertainment/Dance_in_Barbados)

<http://www.barbados.org/music.htm>

<http://www.funbarbados.com/art/IndexMusic.html>

An important agricultural festival, known as the *Crop-Over*, is the traditional festival at the end of the sugar cane harvest. Festivities include singers, bands, dancers, and food for the citizens of Barbados. This begins at the end of June and concludes on the 1st Monday in August with The Grand Kadooment.

This tradition is traced back to colonial Barbados in the late 18th century and includes plantation fairs, parades, and competitions where many *Tuk* bands perform. Usually a king and a queen are chosen from those who participate. The *Crop-Over* Festival is said to rival New Orleans Mardi

Gras and Trinidad Carnival.

Another important festival is the *Oistins Fish Festival* is usually celebrated in the south coastal city of Oistins. The festival is meant to celebrate the harvest from the sea and usually involves competitions in fish boning and boat races. Different foods are sold at specific booths and art is displayed in the area as well.

Other reasons for celebrating in Barbados include public holidays like New Years. Many of the religious holidays that are commemorated in Barbados are Christian holidays such as Christmas, Good Friday, and even Easter Monday.

Holidays also celebrate political events such as Independence Day, which is celebrated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, and Emancipation Day which commemorates the abolition of slavery in Barbados on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Usually, if a holiday falls on a Sunday, the government extends the festivities to the Monday which follows it.

<http://www.funbarbados.com/OurIsland/culture/cropoverhistory.html>

<http://www.barbados.org/cropover.htm>

<http://www.infocarib.com/tuk.html>

[www.barbados.gov.bb/bdospublichol12.htm](http://www.barbados.gov.bb/bdospublichol12.htm)

In reference to literary accomplishment and influence, the top two persons to have affected the landscape of Caribbean literature are George Lamming and Kamau Brathwaite. Born in 1927, Lamming addressed the issue of the imprint of colonialism on the present culture in his novel *In the Castle of My Skin* (1953). His works focus on the impacts of cultures on one another and the implications of those influences on future cultures.

Brathwaite was one of the founders of the Caribbean Artists Movement and continued the work of Lamming. He directed the majority of his own work to the discovery of the African legacy of the region. As a historian, a poet and an essayist, he sought to further capture and define the Barbadian culture in works like *Rights of Passage* (1967) and *Mother Poem* (1977).

<http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Lamming.html>

<http://core.ecu.edu/engl/deenas/caribbean/brathwaite.htm>

The National Cultural Foundation (NCF) has organized a program in which regional artists are free to display their art. The two professional galleries which are organized by the NCF are the Queen's Park Gallery and the Grand Salle at the Central Bank. Other galleries are privately organized and some are even designed alongside dinner entertainment.

One of the most well known and respected artists in Barbados is Fielding Babb. While he originally worked with watercolors in the 1970s, he switched to oil paintings in the 1980s. His paintings focus on the daily life which he sees in Barbados reflecting his use of colors which are found in that daily life.

<http://www.barbados.org/art/babbs.htm>

Barbados' national sport is cricket. The island is proclaimed as one of the international capitals

of the sport and contributes a large delegation to the West Indies team. Kensington Oval is the place to be for Barbadian cricket with their many international level bowlers and batmen. The Barbados location was host to the English touring team in 1895, a tradition carried into its third century.

Another recreational pastime in Barbados is netball. Originated in 1895 by a physical education teacher in New Orleans, it is played in 70 countries and was recognized as an Olympic sport in 1995. For information on other recreation pastimes and sports in Barbados, please follow the links below.

<http://www.barbados.org/crick.htm>

[http://www.barbados.org/kensington\\_oval.htm](http://www.barbados.org/kensington_oval.htm)

<http://www.netball.org/>

<http://www.barbados.org/polo.htm>

<http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/Entertainment/Sports/Polo/>

<http://www.barbados.org/golf.htm>

Education in Barbados is broken up into three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary. All levels of education are funded by the government and include the funding for textbooks. Students start primary school at the age of 4 once they have passed a Common Entrance Exam. Primary education continues until the student is 11 years old. There are 74 public primary schools which the student may attend. There are a number of private schools as well.

The student then moves on to a secondary school which educates students from the ages of 11 to 18. Caribbean Examination Council Exams are given when the student is 16. Those who continue in the secondary school until the age of 18 can take the exams required to obtain a Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate. There are 23 public secondary schools in addition to private schools which educate children of this age group.

The last stage of education in Barbados is the tertiary stage of education which includes the Erdiston Teachers' College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies.

<http://www.barbados.org/educate.htm>

<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu>

Healthcare in Barbados is a well established system and the government works with healthcare agencies to keep the cost of health care down so that it is affordable to all who are in need of it. The government is currently focusing on improving care for the elderly, mentally ill, and disabled. The elderly have been given unrestricted healthcare in Barbados.

The major public hospital is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the major private hospital is the Bay View Hospital. The country is also littered with 20 medical clinics in addition to many medical laboratories which are well established.

One of the things which the Barbados healthcare system is most well known for is its fertility clinic which is world renowned. People come from all over the world specifically for their in-vitro fertilization treatments.

<http://www.healthcarebarbados.com>  
<http://www.paho.org/english/sha/prflbar.htm>  
[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Barbados\\_Health\\_Care/Hospitals\\_and\\_Clinics](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Barbados_Health_Care/Hospitals_and_Clinics)

General:

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761554958\\_2/Barbados.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761554958_2/Barbados.html)  
<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/culture.htm>  
[http://www.barbados.org/discover\\_culture.htm](http://www.barbados.org/discover_culture.htm)

## **Government:**

The role of government in Barbados has been to guard the process of the national economy and prevent governmental impediments. The government manifests itself through the support of business ventures which promotes the economic growth and development of their country which has remained stable since World War II. By using public sector investments, the Barbadian government offers support by means of utilizing their financial and fiscal measures in order to advance them to worldwide recognition.

The governmental system found in Barbados is a representative democratic government which functions through a parliamentary democracy which mirrors the British system of government. In addition Barbados is part of the Commonwealth of Nations as it was once a colony of England. Interestingly, Barbados still uses the Coat of Arms as the official seal of the government.

Like most governments, the Barbados governmental system divides itself into three branches: executive, legislative and judicial.

### *Executive*

As Barbados is part of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Chief of State is Queen Elizabeth II and she has maintained this role since 1952. Her presence is represented by the Governor General who is currently Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands. This position is determined by the will of the Chief of State and the Prime Minister. Sir Clifford Straughn has held this position since 1996.

The prime minister, and head of government, is appointed by the Governor General after general legislative elections. The Prime Minister's office is usually occupied by the leader of the majority party and the office is currently held by David Thompson who has held this position since 2008. He is helped by a cabinet whose members are appointed by him after seeking counsel from the Governor General.

### *Legislative*

The legislative branch of government is composed of a bicameral Parliament which includes the Senate and the House of Assembly. The Senate is composed of 21 seats and all 21 seats available in the Senate are appointed by the Governor General. However, 12 are appointed after the

Governor General seeks counsel from the Prime Minister, and 2 are appointed after conferring with the opposition leader.

The House of Assembly is composed of 30 seats and all its members are chosen by way of direct popular vote. Citizens over 18 years of age are allowed to vote for the purpose of representation in government and those who are elected to the House of Assembly serve a term of 5 years. The last election was held in 2008. The House of Assembly dates back to 1639!

### *Judicial*

The Judicial Branch of Barbadian government is represented by the High Court and the Court of Appeal. These two courts have both civil and criminal jurisdiction. The highest court of appeal is the Caribbean Court of Justice which is based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Judges are assigned by the Service Commissions for the Judicial and Legal Services and this court has unlimited jurisdiction in Barbados. The Judicial branch in Barbados is composed of one Chief Justice and three other judges who are all appointed by the Governor General after consulting with the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition party.

Due to the influence of the Church of England during the colonial period, the government is divided into 1 city (the capital Bridgetown), and 11 other administrative divisions called parishes. These would include the parishes of Saint Andrew, Christ Church, Saint Peter, Saint George, Saint John, Saint Lucy, Saint Michael, Saint Joseph, Saint Phillip, Saint James, and Saint Thomas.

[http://flagspot.net/flags/bb\).html](http://flagspot.net/flags/bb).html)

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Barbados-JUDICIAL-SYSTEM.html>

<http://www.barbados.org/govt.htm>

<http://www.gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=10>

<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/index.htm>

### **Economy:**

While the basis of the economy of Barbados was once tied to the sugar industry, Barbados has redefined its economy so that it is now founded on tourism and services. Tourism now accounts for about 15% of the income of the country.

Barbados uses the Barbadian Dollar (BBD) as their form of currency which is tied to the United States Dollar (USD) by a fixed exchange rate. \$1 BBD is equal to \$1.98 USD (the rest of the dollar amounts will be USD amounts), and each note/bill is of a different color reflecting the vibrancy of the people of Barbados. In addition, each note also features a famous Barbadian.

Barbados has the ability to buy \$5.466 billion in goods per year and their total revenue is increasing at a rate of 1.5% per year. While the budget expects about \$847 million in revenues, \$886 million is spent annually and the country is \$668 million in debt. The inflation rate, as of 2007, was at 5.5%.

Agriculture accounts for about 6% of the total revenue and relies on products like vegetables, cotton and sugarcane. Industry accounts for 16% of the economy which is mainly supported by tourism, sugar, and manufacturing. The service sector of the economy accounts for 78% of the economy's revenue and includes jobs like healthcare and education.

On average, each Barbadian makes about \$19,300 a year. The unemployment rate is up to 10.7% and the labor force is made up of at least 128,500 persons. 10% of these are employed in the agricultural sector, 15% are employed in the industry sector and 75% are employed in an area which supplies services to those who need them.

The government is fighting unemployment by allowing 100% foreign ownership of enterprises in Barbados. This means that the government treats both foreign and domestic firms equally. Projects that the government believes will create more jobs or increase exports are given priority.

About \$385 million in goods is exported from Barbados each year. These goods include sugar, chemicals, and other manufactured products. Trinidad and Tobago is the country's biggest export partner and receives 15.5% of the total exports made from Barbados. Other export partners include Jamaica (13.5%), the United Kingdom (9.4%), and the United States (9.3%).

\$1.586 billion of goods is imported into Barbados annually. These goods would include machinery, food, construction materials, and fuel. Most of the imports coming into Barbados come from the United States from which Barbados receives 30.5% of all its imports. About 27.6% of all imported goods come from Trinidad and Tobago while about 6.5% is imported from the United Kingdom.

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Currency](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Currency)  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>

### **Literacy:**

When literacy is defined as those over the age of 15 who can read and write, Barbados has a literacy rate of 99.7%. As Barbadians are provided free education by their government through the collegiate level, people living in Barbados enjoy a high rate of literacy.

<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/education.htm>

### **Land/Geography:**

Barbados is a coral island which is only 14 by 21 miles wide located in the Caribbean and is northeast of Venezuela. The island is comparatively flat, but gently rises to a higher elevation in the center of the island. Mount Hillaby is its highest point which is 1,102 feet above sea level. In total, the area of this island nation is a little over 267 square miles which is about 2.5 times the size of the capital of the United States.

Trade winds from the Atlantic Ocean blow across the island to furnish a constant breeze and give Barbados a pleasant tropical climate. Temperatures average 80-85° Fahrenheit, 27-29° Celsius with nighttime averages 76°F/23°C. Trade winds also bring with it the hurricane season which is

from June to November. Barbados typically gets hit by a hurricane every 6 years.

With over 60 miles of coastline and surrounding coral reefs, most visitors only see a tropical island with fabulous beaches. West Beach is generally home to the calmest of the waters in Barbados and is safe for swimming. South Beach, on the other hand is better known for its moderate waves which allow for body surfing and more playful water fun. The Crane Beach, is among the top ten beaches in the world and is noted for its pink coral sand and clear turquoise waters.

East and North coasts have huge waves arising from where the Atlantic Ocean meets the steep Continental Shelf. This heightens the swell as it roars across the coral reefs to meet the Barbados shore. These areas are not recommended for swimming except in a few isolated pools and many warnings notify one to never go in these areas alone.

The surfing is fabulous if one is ready to try some big waves! The internationally known Soup Bowl with its daring hollow tubes and long walls is on the East beach along with the Parlors' great walls rising up to 40 feet! The Northwest coast has the Duppys Break that can match Hawaii for some challenging waves while panoramic vistas are found on the Northern coastline.

Another interesting feature of Barbados is the underground lakes that litter the island. Due to the fact that the underground lakes are naturally filtered through the surrounding coral reef, Barbados has some of the purest drinking water in the world!

As one explores the island, underground caves and a hilly terrain descend into deep gullies and ridges with substantial flora and fauna. Unusual plants like the Beefeater Heliconia, the Pride of Barbados, and the Bearded Fig Tree are found here. These are all feature plants in The Andromeda Botanical Gardens which are run by the Barbados National Trust which protects over 6 acres of land.

One of the more dangerous plants on the islands is known as Manchineal Apples, also known as "the fruit of Eve." **Do not** touch the beautiful Manchineal apple tree, (*Hippomane mancinella*) or "Beach Apple." This tree grows best along the beaches and is among the most TOXIC plants in the world! A shrub similar to a pear tree, and some say as large as an oak tree, the Manchineal tree is lovely yet dangerous. Everything about it may cause hazardous biological reactions in humans.

Vicious chemical substances are found in the sap of these trees which can burn human skin, cause conjunctivitis, or blindness if introduced into the eyes. The eaten delicious fruit may cause severe intoxication that can prove lethal. Do not lay under one of these trees to relax or get out of the rain. The rain or dew causes a reaction with the sap that produces the burn equal to hydrochloric acid on the skin of humans.

Reports have been made about the fish eating the "apples" that have fallen into the lakes and rivers. Only later when these fish are consumed by humans, the toxic effects show themselves as food poisoning. Also, do not be fooled if observing goats eating this fruit. They can eat mountains of beach apples and have no reaction. No food poisoning of goat meat has been found from this "fruit of Eve."

The array of animals to see and interact with in Barbados is an interesting one. The Black Belly Sheep are just that: a brown haired sheep with black hair on the belly and inner legs. There are two black facial bars on the face of these sheep. They were originally brought from Africa as hair sheep in the 1600s and they are a current mainstay for recipes on Barbados.

The Bajan Green Monkey is a descendant of monkeys from Gambia, Senegal, and other West African countries. These monkeys were brought as pets and are a fun loving variety found only in Barbados. Having natural thick brownish gray hair, these monkeys spend many hours in the Barbadian sun that affords the blond and olive green highlights to make their coiffure appear green. Currently, 5,000-7,000 of these monkeys exist in Barbados.

At the Barbados Wildlife Reserve, another unusual animal one may see is a red-footed land tortoise. These are a medium sized species that has been used in the Caribbean and South America as a food source for hundreds of years. The Catholic Church considers tortoises a "fish" and therefore, much is consumed during Holy Week and holidays.

While Barbados is a sanctuary for many plants and animals, environmental issues like pollution of coastal waters, soil erosion, and illegal solid waste disposal are of concern to the government of Barbados. As such, the government has taken steps to ensure that the biodiversity found in Barbados stays in tact for future generations to enjoy. For example, Barbados has signed a variety of international agreements which protect and ensure biodiversity which would include the Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol.

<http://www.funbarbados.com/activities/surfcheck.html>

[http://www.surflines.com/video/featured-clips/barbados-tube-feast\\_4561](http://www.surflines.com/video/featured-clips/barbados-tube-feast_4561) -- at the SoupBowl

<http://www.barbados.org/beachimg.htm> -- an interactive map of beach sites

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

<http://www.homeoint.org/books1/lippemmm/hippomane.htm> -- Manchineal apples

[http://www.aluka.org/action/showMetadata?doi=10.5555/AL.AP.UPWTA.2\\_184&pgs=&cookieSet=1](http://www.aluka.org/action/showMetadata?doi=10.5555/AL.AP.UPWTA.2_184&pgs=&cookieSet=1)

<http://www.google.com/search?q=picture+of+poisonous+beach+apple&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7&rlz=1I7GGLG>

[http://andromeda.cavehill.uwi.edu/photo\\_gallery1.htm](http://andromeda.cavehill.uwi.edu/photo_gallery1.htm) -- Heliconia

<http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/HomeHort/F1Column/2006%20Articles/JUNE11.htm> -- Pride of Barbados

[picasaweb.google.com/.../HAM2ckhiX2ITgiRnBThk7w](http://picasaweb.google.com/.../HAM2ckhiX2ITgiRnBThk7w) – Bearded fig

<http://www.funbarbados.com/Trust/andromeda.CFM>

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Animals\\_of\\_Barbados/](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Animals_of_Barbados/)

## History

A Portuguese explorer, Pedro a Campos, is credited with giving the country of Barbados its name in 1536. Although unable to land his ship due to the coral reefs, the island of *Os Barbados* (the bearded ones) was so titled due the Bearded Fig trees that covered the beaches at one time. These trees have hanging-aerial roots that make the trees appear to have luxuriant beards in the style of that day.

Recently, Barbados history has been re-written with the discovery by scientists dating artifacts to inhabitancy as early as 1623 B.C. in the Port St. Charles area, St. James parish. On the western shore, an archaeology site has uncovered tools styled from shells, remnants of utensils, and a

burial site. These Amerindians are the true ancestors of Barbados. One can still hear their influence on the language today. For example, the Amerindian *huracan* translates to hurricane and *guayaba* has evolved into guava.

Native American Arawaks were thought to have been the next inhabitants on the island of Barbados around 300-400 A.D. They arrived in dugout canoes after their departure from strife in Venezuela. These people introduced agriculture into the area and grew crops like cassava, corn, cotton, guavas, papayas, and peanuts. Harpoons, hooks, and nets were used for fishing.

*The History of Barbados* by John Poyer (1808) shows the Arawak as an olive-skinned people of short stature. The foreheads of infants were bound to slope it into a point, which was considered attractive. They also used black and white body paints to enhance their look to match their standard of beauty. The chiefs, called *Caïques*, wore nose rings and/or plugs made of gold alloys and copper.

In early 1200 A.D., the Arawaks were defeated by the Caribs. This Amerindian tribe was taller in stature and stronger than the Arawaks. Using accurate long bows for hunting, they poisoned the tips of the arrows with a powerful substance that paralyzed their prey. They were also known to be savage cannibals.

In 1492, Caribs were used as slaves by the Spanish who inhabited the island for a brief time. However, due to the European enslavement, brutality, and the introduction of small pox and tuberculosis, the Carib people were soon wiped out (History of European Overseas Exploration and Empires). By the 1500s, no sign of Amerindians were found on the island. The Spanish then abandoned Barbados in favor of other larger Caribbean islands.

<http://www.courses.vcu.edu/ENG-snh/Caribbean/Barbados/history.htm>

<http://www.barbados.org/history1.htm#Early>

<http://book.google.com> [enter *The History of Barbados* to read the entire Powell (1808) publication]

The country of Barbados as we know it today was founded as a new country by the British on May 14, 1625, when the British arrived to claim Barbados for James I of England. Captain Henry Powell lead a group to the uninhabited island at the site today called Holetown (formerly Jamestown).

In 1627, Captain Powell returned with 80 settlers and 10 slaves. More settlers arrived to make the population of Barbados about 2,000 by 1628. Amerindians were then brought from Guyana to help the settlers acclimate themselves and learn about agriculture in this new climate. Tobacco, indigo, and cotton were planted and the success of the agriculture in the area thrived to the point where these crops were used in exports. Sugarcane was later introduced by the Dutch in 1640.

By 1650, Barbados was transformed by the plantation system and slavery into the first major mono-cropping sugar producer in the emerging British Empire. Its fortunes were tied to sugar and to England for the next three hundred and ten years. The autonomy Barbados gained from England the following year encouraged wealthy planters to continue living in Barbados as

opposed to returning to their mother country with their fortunes.

Slaves, indentured servants, and transported prisoners were the first workers of the fields in colonial Barbados. Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) "barbadoed" thousands of prisoners by sending them to the island to work the crops including over 7,000 Irish. They were commonly low-class from Ireland, Scotland, and Western England. Due to the tropical sun burning their bare white skin, these men were called "Redlegs".

Unwilling to work next to African slaves, these men were eventually pushed out of the fields into poorer, subsistent living. With the increased importation of African slaves, the landscape of Barbadian workers changed from mainly Celts in the seventeenth century to overwhelmingly African by the nineteenth century. Intermarriage between the two groups still occurs today.

Outside of the emancipation of the slaves in 1834, one of the most important historical events in reference to slavery is known as the Bussa Rebellion. Bussa, who was born in Africa, is a folk hero of the slave revolt of 1816 where he died. Over 300 highly organized freedom fighters were lead by Bussa who was a slave of position on Bayley's plantation. The revolt failed, but the name of Bussa lived on to propel others to carry the cause. In 1985, an Emancipation Statue was erected which many associate with Bussa.

Though the slaves were emancipated in 1834, there was a 4 year apprenticeship period in which slaves worked 45 hour weeks in exchange for housing. The freedom of more than 70,000 slaves from slavery was then celebrated in 1838 with Barbadians singing a traditional folk song which goes like this:

“Lick an Lock-up Done Wid, Hurray fuh Jin-Jin (Queen Victoria).  
De Queen come from England to set we free,  
Now Lick an Lock-up Done Wid, Hurray fuh Jin-Jin.”

[http://accessbarbados.com/barbados\\_history.php](http://accessbarbados.com/barbados_history.php)

<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/bussa.htm>

<http://www.barbados.org/bussa.htm>

Even though the African residents of Barbados had gained their freedom, the land owners of Barbados still held political sway over the island nation for nearly a century. It was not until the 1930s when the economic Depression hit that those of African descent were able to be more equally represented in terms of policy making and enforcement. By giving away political roles to those of African descent, the British Colonial Welfare helped to keep the level of civil unrest to a minimum.

In 1938, the Barbados Labor Party was established and Grantley Adams was elected to be their leader. This group won the majority of the seats in the House of Assembly in 1951 which were the results of the first elections under universal adult suffrage. Meanwhile, England gave Barbados a more autonomous rule and Grantley Adams became the first Prime Minister of Barbados and was knighted by the Queen of England.

Barbados was a part of the West Indies Federation from 1958 to 1962 when the Federation was

disbanded and Barbados returned to its former status as a self-governing colony. During this time, Grantley Adams of the Barbados Labor Party was the only Prime Minister. However, a group had formed in 1955 called the Democratic Labor Party and they were quickly gaining seats in the House of Assembly. By 1961, their leader, Errol W. Barrow, was the Prime Minister.

After several attempts to organize another Federation, Barbados negotiated their freedom from England in 1966. In doing so, Barbados became part of the British Commonwealth of Nations and has retained this status since November of 1966. The first Prime Minister to lead Barbados after Independence was Errol W. Barrow. In 1967 Barbados became a part of the United Nations.

Since then, the history of the island of Barbados has been calm with nothing more than changes in power regarding political leaders and affiliation. For more information regarding the history of Barbados the following links would be of use:

<http://blp.org.bb/>

[http://www.dlpbarbados.org/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=34](http://www.dlpbarbados.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=34)

<http://www.barbados.gov.bb/grantleya.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26507.htm#history>

<http://www.barbados.org/history1.htm>

### **Christian History**

Christianity was one of the founding stones of Barbadian society when England decided to establish a permanent settlement on the uninhabited island. When the settlement of Barbados was established in 1625, the Anglican Church was recognized as the state church and was given the responsibility of co-ruling the land with the governor who was chosen by the King of England. The Anglican Church remained the State Church until 1977.

The second church established on the island of Barbados was the Quaker community. Their leader, George Fox, visited the region in the early 1670s and advocated for the education of the slaves on the island. After some followed his advice, the government then banned strangers from preaching in Barbados and made it illegal for slaves to attend Quaker meetings. This law stayed in effect until 1810.

In 1710 a college for missionaries was funded in part by the enactment of the will of General Codrington. Two plantations on Barbados were given for the purpose of equipping ministers to spread Christianity to the slaves in the region alongside those of Amerindian descent. A mission to the slaves in Barbados then started in 1712.

The Moravians arrived in 1765 and the Methodists in 1788. Together, these four groups endeavored to reach out to the slave populations. However, all churches were still under the authority of the State Church.

William Hart Coleridge became the first Bishop of Barbados of the Anglican Church in 1824. He helped extend the influence of the Anglican Church by making the church more accessible to its members; building 10 new chapels in addition to 11 chapel schools.

When slavery was abolished in 1834 and the apprenticeship period was over in 1838, Bishop Coleridge held a service for the slaves. Most slaves joined the Anglican Church, but there were large numbers of slaves who attended other denominations. In 1839 the Catholic Church was introduced to Barbados.

The 1890s saw a flurry of religious activity as many churches from the United States, mainly Pentecostal, Baptist, and other holiness groups, made their way to Barbados. These groups continued to come to the island until the 1920s which furthered the people's departure from the established Anglican Church.

The Barbados Council of Evangelical Churches was established in 1972 and represented over 15 denominations. The next year, Barbados became the home for the Caribbean Conference of Churches and in 1976 the Barbados Christian Council was formed. Religion still remains a central aspect of daily life in Barbados today.

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Religion\\_in\\_Barbados](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Religion_in_Barbados)  
<http://www.barbados.org/anglican.htm>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=Z20tEliZ\\_3YC&pg=PA395&lpg=PA395&dq=Christian+history+Barbados&source=bl&ots=1eY\\_z0R8zq&sig=m\\_Zjnldzei0W-Xw\\_maJDgawk6rI&hl=en&ei=Ne-fSsH4MJSwMPXVxOoP&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=7#v=onepage&q=Christian%20history%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=Z20tEliZ_3YC&pg=PA395&lpg=PA395&dq=Christian+history+Barbados&source=bl&ots=1eY_z0R8zq&sig=m_Zjnldzei0W-Xw_maJDgawk6rI&hl=en&ei=Ne-fSsH4MJSwMPXVxOoP&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7#v=onepage&q=Christian%20history%20Barbados&f=false)  
<http://jonpat.tripod.com/history.html>  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51626.htm>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/caribbean/barbados/bcc.html>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dggC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55Sjt0f&sig=akNTA8-Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dggC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55Sjt0f&sig=akNTA8-Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false)  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=tCikDMZCTwgC&pg=PA103&lpg=PA103&dq=Quakers+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=Wt1a0D8ddZ&sig=ownE2KXisNPshHiGjburL7zROfl&hl=en&ei=PtenSpWZFdGEnQfNrNirBw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Quakers%20in%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=tCikDMZCTwgC&pg=PA103&lpg=PA103&dq=Quakers+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=Wt1a0D8ddZ&sig=ownE2KXisNPshHiGjburL7zROfl&hl=en&ei=PtenSpWZFdGEnQfNrNirBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Quakers%20in%20Barbados&f=false)

## Religion

### Non Christian

#### *Judaism*

The Jewish tradition has been around in Barbados since 1628 when Spanish and Portuguese Jews arrived from Brazil, Suriname, Germany, and England during a time of persecution. More came in order to retain their British citizenship in 1654 as the English recognized the Jews as full political citizens in Barbados.

The government of Barbados allows its citizens the freedom of religion and practice. This community continues to keep up with the tradition of a Caribbean Jewish Congress and there is a community council. About 40 persons practice Judaism on the island.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/barbados.html>  
<http://www.barbados.org/jewish.htm>  
<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?apage=1&cid=1162378360038&pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull>

## *Islam*

Islam was introduced to Barbados in 1913 with the arrival of a Bengali silk merchant. Soon, others from West Bengali came and these intermarried with the Barbadian population. A Barbados Muslim Association was formed in 1997 in order to represent the Muslim population. Currently there are about 2,000 Muslims living in Barbados which are served by 5 centers of worship.

<http://www.barbados.org/churches/muslim.htm>

<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/198706/muslims.in.the.caribbean.htm>

[http://www.islambarbados.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=18](http://www.islambarbados.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=18)

[http://www.islambarbados.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=34:history-of-muslims-in-barbados&catid=12:articles&Itemid=42](http://www.islambarbados.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34:history-of-muslims-in-barbados&catid=12:articles&Itemid=42)

## *Hinduism*

Hindu tradition was introduced to Barbados in 1945 with Indians that came to the island nation in order to start businesses. The earliest Hindus came from Rajasthan and Bombay and practiced a form of Hinduism called Sindhi.

While other groups of Hindi's came to Barbados, the largest group is still the Sindhi's. Like other religious groups these are allowed to practice their religion. Currently there are about 80 families which practice Hinduism and there is only one temple which is located in Barbados. However, it is common for these families to have shrines in their homes.

[http://www.mandirnet.org/temples\\_list/templedetails.php?country=Barbados&state=&city=&ID=2480](http://www.mandirnet.org/temples_list/templedetails.php?country=Barbados&state=&city=&ID=2480)

<http://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=4522>

## *Buddhism*

It is uncertain when Buddhism made its way to Barbados but it is estimated that about 0.04% of the total population practices Buddhism. This accounts for just fewer than 115 persons which are served by once Buddhist center located in the Christ Church parish of Barbados. This center focuses on the kadampa form of Buddhism.

<http://meditateinbarbados.org>

## *Baha'i*

While it is uncertain as to the exact date when the Baha'i faith was introduced to Barbados, there is evidence of this faith background in the area as early as 1968. About 1.3% of the total population of Barbados participates in this religion which accounts for about 3,700 persons. Those that follow this religion are served by 10 local congregations.

<http://news.bahai.org/story/371>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=L2KVX4mx1xEC&pg=PA61&dq=Barbados+Religion+Baha%27i&as\\_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Religion%20Baha%27i&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=L2KVX4mx1xEC&pg=PA61&dq=Barbados+Religion+Baha%27i&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Religion%20Baha%27i&f=false)

### *Jehovah's Witness*

Like the Buddhism and Baha'i faith backgrounds in Barbados, it is uncertain as to when the first missionary came to Barbados. However, there are currently 30 congregations which serve a little over 2,400 people. This accounts for 0.85% of the total population. In 2008, they baptized over 50 new members.

[http://www.jehovantodistajat.fi/e/statistics/worldwide\\_report.htm](http://www.jehovantodistajat.fi/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm)

### *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons/LDS)*

The presence of the Mormon Church has been felt in Barbados since the 1950s when some leaders of the church made some primary visits to the area. The church had its official start in 1978 with the baptism of their first convert and the Christ Church Branch of the LDS Church was established in 1979.

While the island of Barbados was once the headquarters of the West Indies Mission, it is now in Trinidad. There are currently 4 congregations and 1 family history center on the island. About 696 people in Barbados are members of the LDS church which represents about 0.25% of the total population.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/contact-us/barbados>

### *Rastafarian*

The Rastafarian first came to the island of Barbados in 1975 from Jamaica. Followers of this religion are distinguishable from others in that they wear their hair in dreadlocks and usually wear the colors red, green, gold, and black. While it is unsure how many of those living in Barbados are considered Rastafarian, there are estimates that go as high as a few hundred.

<http://www.vacation-in-barbados.com/barbados-religion.html#Rastafarianism>

<http://www.barbados.org/rasta.htm>

<http://hem.passagen.se/perdavid/rastafar.htm>

### *Spiritual Baptist*

The only indigenous religious group to Barbados was founded in 1957 by Archbishop Granville Williams. The Spiritual Baptist Church attempted to view Christianity through the eyes of their African heritage and this emphasis along with other mystical elements drew many to the church.

They are also known as "tie heads" because of the colored cloths they wrap around their waists and heads during worship. Each color worn symbolizes a virtue of the church. Currently, this church has a following of over 10,000 persons which accounts for at least 4% of the total population.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=pF6MxGrqdUwC&pg=PA42&lpg=PA42&dq=Spiritual+Baptists&source=bl&ots=-K6vK7J3qr&sig=waT5GbcTk-\\_ox7vRf7ecdMeWbw&hl=en&ei=-j03SrCiGs-ntgf5\\_Z3gDA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Spiritual%20Baptists&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=pF6MxGrqdUwC&pg=PA42&lpg=PA42&dq=Spiritual+Baptists&source=bl&ots=-K6vK7J3qr&sig=waT5GbcTk-_ox7vRf7ecdMeWbw&hl=en&ei=-j03SrCiGs-ntgf5_Z3gDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Spiritual%20Baptists&f=false)

<http://barbados.org/churches/spiritual.htm>

### *Non-religious/Other*

Overall, there are over 100 religious groups which are currently functioning in Barbados. All of these groups have their own followings and are allowed to worship at their places of meeting. There are those who do not claim any specific religion for themselves and would be considered non-religious which would account for about 17% of the total population.

### *Catholic/Orthodox*

Unlike other Caribbean islands, the Catholic Church was not the first Church to establish itself on the island of Barbados. The Anglican Church was held as the state church and, as a consequence, the practice of Catholicism was outlawed until after slavery was abolished in 1838.

In 1839 one of the military units which were stationed in Barbados received a Roman Catholic chaplain after requesting it of the legislature. Still, it was only in 1872 when the government showed little financial support for the institution of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic Church finally started to grow significantly in the mid-1900s when immigrants started to arrive from Guyana, St. Lucia, and Dominica. A diocese was formed in 1970 named Bridgetown-Kingstown and this diocese was renamed Bridgetown in 1989.

Those of the Roman Catholic faith are free to believe and practice their religion as the constitution states. Currently, about 4.2% of the total population is Roman Catholic which accounts for about 10,500 persons. These persons attend any of the six Cathedrals found on the island.

<http://www.katolsk.no/utenriks/kronologi/barbados.htm>

[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About Barbados/Local Information/Religion in Barbados](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About%20Barbados/Local%20Information/Religion%20in%20Barbados)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=HEBeNigNwKkC&pg=PA116&lpg=PA116&dq=Catholic+Church+Barbados&source=bl&ots=zdM9SMixAh&sig=\\_vqlbUQXIWchg1jpZoGQan2zAYc&hl=en&ei=2GapSpyVFcWjnQfk942IDw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20Church%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=HEBeNigNwKkC&pg=PA116&lpg=PA116&dq=Catholic+Church+Barbados&source=bl&ots=zdM9SMixAh&sig=_vqlbUQXIWchg1jpZoGQan2zAYc&hl=en&ei=2GapSpyVFcWjnQfk942IDw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20Church%20Barbados&f=false)

## **Christian/Evangelical**

### *Anglican*

The introduction of the Anglican Church occurred with the establishment of the colony of Barbados in the early 1600s. Also known as the Church of England, this became the established state church of the colony and even co-ruled with the governor. The first church building was St. James Parish Church which was built in 1628 and is located in Holetown.

At first, slaves were not allowed into the congregations, but after the abolition of slavery in 1838, many slaves joined the church under the first bishop of Barbados: Bishop William Hart Coleridge. Under his leadership, the church's influence was expanded with the building of many chapels and schools which were funded for by the Church.

The Anglican Church held the religious authority in Barbados from the late-1800s to the mid-1900s when other denominations were allowed to come to the island and establish their churches. In 1977, the church was disestablished and no longer held any established political authority in Barbados.

In keeping with its past, Barbados continues to be a mostly Protestant nation and the primary religion of Barbados is still Anglicanism. More than 74,500 people, almost 30% of the total population, are members of the Anglican Church which is represented by over 15 churches which are scattered all over the island nation.

<http://www.barbados.org/anglican.htm>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dggC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55Sjt0f&sig=akNTA8->

[Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBO&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dggC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55Sjt0f&sig=akNTA8-Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false)

<http://stjames.truepath.com>

### *Methodists*

Dr. Thomas Coke arrived on the island in 1789 to pursue his missionary call to Christianize the slaves. The plantation owners thought the Methodists were anti-slavery and constantly harassed the members of the Methodist Church. An angry mob ended up tearing down the James Street Church in Bridgetown in 1823.

Mrs. Sarah Ann Gill was a free woman of color who opened her home to the Methodist membership for services during this adversarial and threatening time. Mrs. Gill has been honored as a national heroine for her courage, perseverance, and commitment to religious freedom. The Methodist conferred Ann Gill with the name "Sarah" after the strong woman in the Bible.

The tearing down and burning of the James Street Church may have been the turning point for by 1848 their congregation had swelled to over five thousand and with eight chapels and four meeting places. In 1995, the Methodist church showed 15,000 in membership.

Currently, Methodists are allowed to congregate and worship as they please in accordance with their belief system. About 5.1% of the population, accounting for over 12,600 persons, is part of a Methodist Church. These members are served by one of at least three churches in Barbados.

<http://www.barbados.org/churches/methodists.htm>

<http://www.barbados-beaches-plus.com/Sarah-Ann-Gill.html>

### *Baptists*

The first Baptist presence in Barbados arrived in 1834 through the arrival of a Scottish Baptist who started a mission among the freed slaves.

Southern Baptists first became involved in Barbados in 1972 and within the next two years, the Barbados Baptist Convention was formed. Currently, there are four Baptist Churches in Barbados which serve a little over 400 members. This accounts for 0.16% of the total population.

<http://www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org/hst-carb.htm>  
<http://www.bwanet.org/default.aspx?pid=1118>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwicezIC&pg=PA554&dq=Barbados+Baptist+Convention&as\\_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Baptist%20Convention&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwicezIC&pg=PA554&dq=Barbados+Baptist+Convention&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Baptist%20Convention&f=false)

### *Christian Church/Church of Christ*

The Church of Christ was introduced to Barbados in 1953. It is unknown how many people in Barbados are members of this denomination, but there are 4 churches on the island that serve its members.

<http://barbados.org/church-of-christ.htm>  
<http://www.churchofchrist.bb>

### *Moravian*

German Moravians arrived in 1765 with intentions to educate and Christianize the Barbadian slave population. Unlike the Methodists, the Moravian church was not harassed by the plantation owners as they actually appreciated their persistence and passion. This church was the first to allow slaves to worship in the church and join the congregations.

The Sharon Moravian Church was built in 1812 and has grown from 200 members to a total membership in 1995 of 3,600 making a total of 8 congregations in Barbados. Currently, there are 10 congregations on the island of Barbados and the church continues to grow.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=Z20tEliZ\\_3YC&pg=PA395&lpg=PA395&dq=Christian+history+Barbados&source=bl&ots=1eY\\_z0R8zq&sig=m\\_Zjnldzei0W-Xw\\_maJDgewk6rI&hl=en&ei=Ne-fSsH4MJSwMPXVxOoP&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=7#v=onepage&q=Christian%20history%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=Z20tEliZ_3YC&pg=PA395&lpg=PA395&dq=Christian+history+Barbados&source=bl&ots=1eY_z0R8zq&sig=m_Zjnldzei0W-Xw_maJDgewk6rI&hl=en&ei=Ne-fSsH4MJSwMPXVxOoP&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7#v=onepage&q=Christian%20history%20Barbados&f=false)  
[http://moravians.net/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=29](http://moravians.net/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=29)  
[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About\\_Barbados/Local\\_Information/Religion\\_in\\_Barbados](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados/About_Barbados/Local_Information/Religion_in_Barbados)  
<http://www.candw.ag/~moravians/churches.htm>

### *Pentecostals*

Pentecostal Churches made their way to Barbados in the time period between 1890 and 1920 when many new denominations came to the island from the United States. The Church of God from Anderson came in 1912 and the Church of God from Cleveland came in 1917. The latter church later became known as the New Testament Church of God.

Another Pentecostal denomination which came during this time period was the Assemblies of God churches. More than 7,000 are part of the Assemblies of God churches, 3,400 are part of the New Testament Church of God and 1,800 are part of the Church of God which originated in Anderson.

Like other religions in Barbados, members of the Pentecostal Churches are free to believe and practice as their faith-background allows. In all, those who are part of Pentecostal congregations account for about 18.7% of the total population of Barbados. This means that about 46,500

persons in Barbados belong to a Pentecostal faith-based church.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dqqC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55SjT0f&sig=akNTA8-Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=z47zgZ75dqqC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=ZqQ55SjT0f&sig=akNTA8-Ce8HmCVqMOv8bpT4cit8&hl=en&ei=iVGhSrKOJ4aLnQeGtOCPBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false)

### *Seventh Day Adventists*

Adventists missionaries arrived on the island in 1891 and since then have rapidly become the second most popular Protestant denomination in Barbados. After the Church was established in 1933, the church showed rapid growth to the point that there are currently over 16,000 members. This accounts for 6.4% of the total population of Barbados. They are served by at least three churches on the island.

<http://www.vacation-in-barbados.com/barbados-religion.html>  
<http://barbados.org/churches/7day.htm>

General links for the Religions of Barbados:

<http://www.prolades.com/historical/wind-chron.pdf>  
<http://www.trivester.com/content/barbados/churches.html>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=epqeb08qjAEC&pg=PA77&lpg=PA77&dq=Anglican+history+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=4aHx3wplJR&sig=RSFCuFUqbrBEqVlh-n\\_mhFTx0Zo&hl=en&ei=D\\_KfSsXOL47xnQeA0ZzsDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=epqeb08qjAEC&pg=PA77&lpg=PA77&dq=Anglican+history+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=4aHx3wplJR&sig=RSFCuFUqbrBEqVlh-n_mhFTx0Zo&hl=en&ei=D_KfSsXOL47xnQeA0ZzsDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false)  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=o9ODxqsr-dlC&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=KtC0ErHIZV&sig=uCt4li0ueu9NukSDJc4ddsV2obw&hl=en&ei=XVChSs\\_SLJKTnQf7yanxBA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=o9ODxqsr-dlC&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=Barbados+Christianity&source=bl&ots=KtC0ErHIZV&sig=uCt4li0ueu9NukSDJc4ddsV2obw&hl=en&ei=XVChSs_SLJKTnQf7yanxBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Christianity&f=false)  
<http://www.barbados-beaches-plus.com/religion-in-barbados.html>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=tCikDMZCTwgC&pg=PA103&lpg=PA103&dq=Christianity+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=Wt1aXKcd7U&sig=Zb-HxPj06Rgc2irC-ytE-JL7z5w&hl=en&ei=7VahSoHLH5W2NpTVzdIP&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5#v=onepage&q=Christianity%20in%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=tCikDMZCTwgC&pg=PA103&lpg=PA103&dq=Christianity+in+Barbados&source=bl&ots=Wt1aXKcd7U&sig=Zb-HxPj06Rgc2irC-ytE-JL7z5w&hl=en&ei=7VahSoHLH5W2NpTVzdIP&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5#v=onepage&q=Christianity%20in%20Barbados&f=false)  
<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=94>  
<http://www.vacation-in-barbados.com/barbados-religion.html>

## People Groups

### **16194**

#### **Arab (150)**

Those that are considered Arab in Barbados are mainly the descendants of Lebanese and Syrians who came to Barbados in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A number of these were first transported to Trinidad as opposed to coming directly from Lebanon and Syria.

While their primary religion is Islam there is a small community which is Catholic. It is unknown how many people in this group are considered to be evangelical Christian. The Bible and the *Jesus* film, along with other resources like gospel recordings and audio scripture, are available to this people group in their primary language of standard Arabic.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=bQqAbjwYTkkC&pg=PT547&lpg=PT547&dq=Lebanese+Barbados&source=bl&ots=pfy\\_z9Z8Q9&sig=upaS08OzvU8qA5jltvZcfhf7xyE&hl=ru&ei=7Q-xSvjAKIeoNq3YnfnIN&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Lebanese%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=bQqAbjwYTkkC&pg=PT547&lpg=PT547&dq=Lebanese+Barbados&source=bl&ots=pfy_z9Z8Q9&sig=upaS08OzvU8qA5jltvZcfhf7xyE&hl=ru&ei=7Q-xSvjAKIeoNq3YnfnIN&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Lebanese%20Barbados&f=false)  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51626.htm>

## **16195** **Barbadian (223,000)**

About 90% of the total population is considered to be Barbadian and some refer to themselves as "*Bajans*." Those who are Barbadian have a strong African heritage which has been present on the island since England established the colony in 1627.

The majority of people in this group practice a form of Protestant Christianity and most of these are adherent to the Anglican Church which is also known as the Church of England. At least 30% of Barbadians on the island are known to be evangelical Christian.

English is their primary language, but there are at least 15,000 who speak a dialect of Africanized-English called *Bajan*. There are no ministerial tools available in Bajan, but the Scriptures, the *Jesus* film and other radio broadcasts are available in their primary language of English.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4954ce3023.html>  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761554958\\_2/Barbados.html#p3](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761554958_2/Barbados.html#p3)  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=210314&rog3=BB>

## **16196** **Black Carib (100)**

During the time of slavery in the Caribbean, many slaves escaped from Barbados to other islands in the area. One of these islands was St. Vincent which was in the process of being colonized by the French. When the slaves reached this island they intermarried with the Carib Amerindian group that was there. Their descendants are known as Black Caribs.

In 1796 the British occupied St. Vincent and the Black Caribs of a darker skin color were returned to Barbados as slaves in 1798. Most of the Black Caribs living in Barbados today still speak their primary language of Garifuna.

The majority of Black Carib community practices Protestant Christianity and most are members of the Anglican Church. In all, at least 15% of this population is considered to be evangelical Christian. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, and other gospel recordings are available to them in their primary language for the purpose of ministry.

<http://www.native-languages.org/garifuna.htm>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=XNbqUR\\_IoOMC&pg=PA112&lpg=PA112&dq=Barbados+Black+Caribs&source=bl&ots=KCwCwLMP7J&sig=UZI9ESMbsitMdaJW4P8Ixd28-4s&hl=en&ei=BWeySt\\_INYuiMKW3tNQL&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Black%20Caribs&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=XNbqUR_IoOMC&pg=PA112&lpg=PA112&dq=Barbados+Black+Caribs&source=bl&ots=KCwCwLMP7J&sig=UZI9ESMbsitMdaJW4P8Ixd28-4s&hl=en&ei=BWeySt_INYuiMKW3tNQL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6#v=onepage&q=Barbados%20Black%20Caribs&f=false)

**16197**

**British (11,132)**

The British people group has been living on the island nation of Barbados since 1627 when the nation was first conceived. Those who are British are descended from those who arrived from England.

Most practice a form of Protestant Christianity and are more specifically associated with the Anglican Church. Currently, about 6% of this population is considered to be evangelical Christian. Their primary language is English and a wealth of ministerial tools is available for use in this language including the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and other radio broadcasts.

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**Deaf (1,257)**

The deaf community composes about 0.44% of the total population and charities which reach out to this people group have been around since the early 1950s. It is important to note that those who are part of this community are also the members of other people groups. Regardless, there is an organized sign language which is spoken amongst those who are deaf in Barbados. In 2002 there was a push in order to integrate the deaf sign language as one of the official languages of Barbados.

The majority of the deaf community practices a Protestant form of Christianity and at least 28% are known to be evangelical Christians. Currently, there are no ministerial tools available to this people group. However, those taught to read have other resources like the Bible available to them in English. The use of a translator would also be helpful in this case.

<http://www.theinterpretersfriend.org/indj/dcoew/barbados.html>

[http://bps.gov.bb/index.php?ZZZ=1\\_1055\\_10\\_0\\_0\\_&YYY=29\\_111](http://bps.gov.bb/index.php?ZZZ=1_1055_10_0_0_&YYY=29_111)

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**Greek (300)**

Though it is uncertain as to the specific date of when people from Greece came to Barbados, there is evidence that an estate belonged to a person of Greek descent in the late 1600s. The current Greeks of Barbados primarily speak Greek and practice an Orthodox Christianity.

About 0.50% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian and a number of ministry tools are available for this people group in their primary language. These would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and ethnic worship music.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=fUhSFjUBpVoC&pg=PA231&lpg=PA231&dq=greek+community+barbados&source=bl&ots=-Hd-ba5HAB&sig=urMr2A3ty3byDwFdMhUyrPJDDKU&hl=en&ei=QJKySvLaJIyOMYWh8eIL&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2#v=onepage&q=greek%20community%20barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=fUhSFjUBpVoC&pg=PA231&lpg=PA231&dq=greek+community+barbados&source=bl&ots=-Hd-ba5HAB&sig=urMr2A3ty3byDwFdMhUyrPJDDKU&hl=en&ei=QJKySvLaJIyOMYWh8eIL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2#v=onepage&q=greek%20community%20barbados&f=false)

**16198**

**Han Chinese, Mandarin (100)**

The Han Chinese have been present on the island nation of Barbados since the 1840s when Britain contracted labor from many nations in order to work on the plantations after the abolition of slavery. Emigration from China stopped in 1866 and relations between China and Barbados started again in 1977.

The majority of the Han Chinese living in Barbados practice Buddhism and about 2% of this population are considered to be evangelical Christian. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, other gospel recordings, and ethnic worship music are available as ministerial resources in their primary language of Mandarin.

<http://bb.china-embassy.org/eng/xglj/default.htm>

<http://library2.nalis.gov.tt/Default.aspx?tabid=249>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=fMrit6tcO\\_AC&pg=PT1&lpg=PT1&dq=Chinese+immigration+to+Barbados&source=bl&ots=bSEzXsG2jW&sig=4Llg5raeeV0SZBD\\_uh2vHL1uVQw&hl=en&ei=pZaySvqNGoamMPqBqdUL&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Chinese%20immigration%20to%20Barbados&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=fMrit6tcO_AC&pg=PT1&lpg=PT1&dq=Chinese+immigration+to+Barbados&source=bl&ots=bSEzXsG2jW&sig=4Llg5raeeV0SZBD_uh2vHL1uVQw&hl=en&ei=pZaySvqNGoamMPqBqdUL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Chinese%20immigration%20to%20Barbados&f=false)

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### **Indo-Pakistani (2,400)**

Like the Chinese, the British contracted labor from Indo-Pakistani nations in order to work the plantations after the abolition of slavery in 1834. These persons later became small business owners.

Most of the Indo-Pakistani people living in Barbados practice Islam, but there are at least 30% of these which practice Hinduism. About 1.5% of this population is known to be Evangelical Christian and ministerial tools like the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and ethnic worship music are available for use in their primary language of Hindi.

<http://www.caribbeanmuslims.com/categories/Our-Region/Barbados>

## **000000**

### **Jew (30)**

There has been evidence of a Jewish population in Barbados since the country was established in 1625. There is only one synagogue in Barbados which is located in Bridgetown. Built in 1654 and restored in 1982 it is the oldest synagogue in the western hemisphere and is also known as one of the “Seven Wonders of Barbados.”

As in the early years of the country, the Jews that currently live in Barbados continue to practice Judaism. While there are none known to be evangelical Christian, the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and other witnessing tools are available to them in their primary language of English.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/barbados.html>

<http://www.barbados.org/jewish.htm>

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?apage=1&cid=1162378360038&pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull>

General:

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>  
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to work with local Christians to reach the multi-national populations of Barbados. Though Barbados is located in the Caribbean, many nations from around the globe have participated in the making of the current culture. While some of this was facilitated through slavery and indentureship, others came and saw opportunity for business.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize missionary work among the non-religious on Barbados. Around 17% of the population is considered atheist. Please pray that Christians will reach out and minister to those who find no God in a place where God is so naturally present.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid those groups who have strayed from biblical Christianity and added unbiblical aspects to their teachings. Conferences to teach ministers how to teach others how to preach from the Bible and share the gospel in a plain way would be of help. Pray for those who would seek to “dress up” the gospel and pray for the ministers who are preaching God’s Word plainly so that they will be encouraged.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches could provide counseling centers for those the drug dependent. Barbados is a major transshipment point for those who are trafficking narcotics to European and American countries. While there are some clinics which do help the situation, it would be a blessing to have witnesses for Christ in these areas.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should pray for genuine religious revival to arise within the Christian communities of Barbados.

### **Pictures**

<http://www.barbados.org/pictures.htm>  
<http://www.planetware.com/pictures/barbados-bar.htm>  
[http://images.google.com/images?q=Pictures+Barbados&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7&rlz=1I7GGLG\\_en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=pWmpSu20CczZnAfuqPywBA&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ct=title&resnum=4](http://images.google.com/images?q=Pictures+Barbados&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7&rlz=1I7GGLG_en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=pWmpSu20CczZnAfuqPywBA&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=4)  
<http://www.travelpod.com/photos/0/Barbados.html>  
<http://www.vu.union.edu/~raphaela/barbados/country.html>  
[http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados-photos/Landscape\\_Photos](http://www.totallybarbados.com/barbados-photos/Landscape_Photos)  
[http://www.pbase.com/kevincul/misc\\_animals](http://www.pbase.com/kevincul/misc_animals)  
<http://search.pbase.com/search?q=Bridgetown>

### **Links**

<http://www.caribnet.net/barmap.html> -- interactive map  
<http://www.gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9>  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>  
<http://www.totallybarbados.com>

<http://www.barbados.org>

<http://www.who.int/countries/brb/en>

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchAndCommonwealth/TheQueenandBarbados/Overview.aspx>

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/north-central-america/barbados>

<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Afghanistan-to-Bosnia-Herzegovina/Barbadians.html>

<http://www.barbadosdisabled.org.bb>

<http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/3ceda0054317ec4bc125696c005200e1?Opendocument>