

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Also known as:	Jewels of the Caribbean (Named Hairoun by the Caribs (The Home of the Blessed))
Motto:	Peace and Justice
History:	St. Vincent and the Grenadines was originally settled by Amerindians. Struggle for possession by the French and the British ended with the British in control in 1783 (apart from French occupation from 1778-1783). The island gained independence in 1979.
Status:	Independent – 27 October 1979
Capital:	Kingstown
Head of State:	Sir Frederick Nathaniel Ballantyne, Governor General
Economic Summary:	<p>Economic activity is predominantly in Agriculture, with bananas being the main export crop, and the country is the world's main supplier of arrowroot (now of minor importance). Flowers and foliage plants are among the export commodities. Plantains and sweet potatoes are exported to Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional markets.</p> <p>There is a small manufacturing sector catering primarily for the regional market. A brewery and a rice and flour mill are in full operation along with electronic components assembly ventures. Tourism is concentrated mainly on the Grenadines island chain, where there are high quality beaches featuring luxury villas, hotels and yachts.</p> <p>A small offshore financial sector came on stream from about the mid 1990's.</p>
Airports:	E.T. Joshua (St. Vincent); James Mitchell International
Population:	100,596 (2004)
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)
Date of CARICOM Membership:	1 May 1974
National Anthem:	St. Vincent Land so beautiful With joyful hearts we pledge to thee

Our loyalty and love, and vow
To keep you ever free.

Chorus:

Whate'er the future brings
Our faith will see us through.
May peace reign from shore to shore,
And God bless and keep us true.

Hairoun our fair and blessed isle,
Your mountains high, so clear and green,
Are home to me, though I may stray,
A haven, calm, serene.

Our little sister islands are
Those gems, the lovely Grenadines,
Upon their seas and golden sands,
The sunshine ever beams!

Highest National Awards:

Order of British Empire
Member of British Empire

National Dish:

Fried Jack-fish and Roasted Breadfruit

National Symbols:



Coat of Arms



National Flag