

## 5. Barbados Special Report

0. Barbados is the easternmost of the Caribbean islands, lying in the Atlantic, 95 miles east of its nearest neighbour, St Vincent. Just over 22 miles long and 14 miles wide, it has a total area of 166 square miles – similar in size to the Isle of Wight. Bridgetown, the capital, lies on the south west coast. In contrast to its mainly volcanic neighbours, Barbados was formed from coral and sandstone so it is less hilly than most. Its Caribbean west coast is calm, the Atlantic east coast is more rugged with limestone cliffs.
1. Typically tropical, Barbados enjoys relatively constant temperatures all year round. From April to October the maximum temperature is 31 °C while in winter it drops slightly to 29 °C. Humidity rarely exceeds 72 per cent and is often much lower. Barbados receives more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year.
2. Barbados has been unpopulated for much of its existence. Its original inhabitants were Arawak Indians who were then wiped out by invading Caribs. In 1536 the Portuguese discovered the island but left it to the British in the early 1600s. Britain populated Barbados with slaves imported from Africa who were sent to work on sugar plantations. Three hundred and fifty years of relative peace followed – and remains today. Barbados became independent from Britain in 1966.
3. Tourism is considered the most important industry – it represents 15 per cent of GDP and employs about a quarter of the total workforce. But the banking and finance sector is gaining increasing prominence, currently generating around eight per cent of GDP. Manufacturing is also becoming increasingly important. The economy is relatively stable after a period of decline in the early 1990s. Inflation stands at less than one per cent but growth is also low at around four per cent.
4. All visitors must have an onward ticket and must know the address they will be staying at on the island. Visitors from the US and Canada need only bring proof of citizenship and are entitled to stay for six months. All other visitors need passports and are permitted to stay for just 90 days.
5. Barbados does not describe itself as a tax haven. It has strong tax treaties with major nations such as the US and Canada. Owen Arthur's new government is tinkering with the local tax and duty systems to try and encourage manufacturing, tourism and finance.
6. Loosely based on a Westminster-style parliamentary democracy, the official head of state is the British monarch represented by a governor-general. The country is governed by a prime minister, Owen Arthur, an elected house of assembly and an appointed senate. Arthur's Barbados Labour Party has been in office since it won a landslide election victory in September 1994.
7. The best way to get to Barbados is by air. Direct flights are available from Britain and many North American destinations. Visitors must pay a departure tax of B\$25 (approximately £8).
8. Barbados has a fixed exchange rate of US\$1 = B\$1.98. All currency fluctuations are therefore based on the strength of the US dollar. Both currencies can be used freely although, technically, the Barbadian Dollar is the sole legal tender. In most cases, change will only be given in Barbadian dollars, regardless of what currency is used as payment.
9. Telecommunications are advanced although some hotels still have to route international calls through the operator. Local calls are completely free, even from hotel rooms, while international rates are relatively high. Most businesses and hotels have fax facilities.
10. Barbados has an efficient and cheap public bus system and a plentiful supply of taxis. Prices for taxis are generally high, however, and it can be cheaper to hire a car. Drivers are available through local taxi firms or the Tourist Association and can help dramatically in making a trip to Barbados a success.

### Első feladat

Olvassa el a „Barbados Special Report” c. szöveget és párosítsa össze az alcímeket a bekezdésekkel (1-8) a példa (0) alapján. Figyelem, eggyel több alcím szerepel!

Alcímek:

- A. Access
- B. Immigration regulations
- C. Government
- D. Economy
- E. History
- F. Currency
- G. Tax and duty
- H. Geography
- I. Climate
- J. Communications
- K. Transport
- L. Time

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| H |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

### Második feladat

Olvassa el újra a szöveget és döntse el, hogy az állítások igazak vagy hamisak, a megadott példa (0) szerint.

|     | Statements   | True | False |
|-----|--|------|-------|
| 0.  | Barbados is situated in the Atlantic Ocean                           | X    |       |
| 11. | Barbados is called the Caribbean Island                              |      |       |
| 12. | Banking and finance is getting more important in the economy         |      |       |
| 13. | The economic growth is getting higher                                |      |       |
| 14. | Owen Arthurs new government supports local tourism and finance       |      |       |
| 15. | The government makes American and Canadian companies pay heavy taxes |      |       |