

Key Facts about Guyana

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About Guyana:

- It is a country located in the **northeastern corner of South America**.
- **Borders:**
 - It is bordered by the **Atlantic Ocean** to the north, by **Suriname** (along the Courantyne River) to the east, by **Brazil** to the south and southwest, and by **Venezuela** to the west.
 - It shares its maritime borders with Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Although geographically situated in South America, the country is **culturally and historically connected to the Caribbean** and is a **founding member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**.

- **History:**

- Indigenous peoples inhabited Guyana prior to European settlement, and their name for the land, guiana (“land of water”), gave the country its name.
- Originally a **Dutch colony in the 17th century, by 1815** Guyana had **become a British possession**.
- Guyana **achieved independence** from the UK **in 1966**.
- Present-day Guyana reflects its British and Dutch colonial past and its reactions to that past.
- Guyana is involved in **territorial disputes with** both **Suriname and Venezuela** that are legacies of colonial rule.
- It is the **only English-speaking country of South America**.
- The **capital** and **chief port** of Guyana is **Georgetown**.

- **Population:**

- Guyana’s populace is **mainly of colonial origin**, although **Indians are scattered throughout the forested interior**.
 - The more numerous **coastal peoples** are **chiefly descendants of slaves from Africa** and **indentured workers from India**, who were originally transported to work the coastal sugarcane plantations.
- It has been a **member of the Commonwealth** since 1970.
 - **Form of Government: Unitary multiparty republic** with one legislative house (National Assembly).
 - **Currency: Guyanese dollar** (G\$)
 - **Rivers:** The **Essequibo River** remains the largest in the nation. The Berbice, Courantyne, and Demerara are also important waterways for Guyana.
 - The country is endowed with fertile agricultural lands, **valuable mineral resources** (including bauxite and gold), **extensive tropical forests** that cover **80 percent of the country**, and **recently discovered large offshore oil and gas (O&G) reserves**.
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Q1: What is the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)?

CARICOM, which stands for Caribbean Community, is the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world. It is an organization of Caribbean countries and dependencies originally established as the Caribbean Community and Commons Market in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It has 15 members; Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

News: India’s prime minister meets with Caribbean leaders in Guyana with security in mind

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