

Nevis Facts:

Population:	Approx. 12,000
Capital:	Charlestown
People:	Predominantly African descent
Language:	English
Religion:	Many denominations but the majority are Anglican and Methodist
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar USD \$1.00 = EC 2.65
Time:	GMT – 5 in the summer, GMT –4 winter
Electricity:	All hotels have 110V but some guesthouses might have 220V
Int'l Dialing Code:	1 + 869 + the 7 digit number usually starting with 469
Driving:	Left hand side
Departure Tax:	\$20.50 USD or EC\$54.00

Appropriate Attire:

Beach attire is appropriate for the beach but not in town, shops or restaurants. Please refrain from short shorts, bikinis and bare chests in these places.

Informal, but conservative clothing is the standard during the day. In the evening, elegant/casual attire is appropriate. Some hotels request men to wear trousers and shirts with collars.

Nudity or topless bathing is not permitted on any beach.

It is illegal to dress in camouflaged clothing.

Social and Political History:

The written history of Nevis begins with the account recorded by Columbus when he sailed by Nevis in 1493. The name Nevis is derived from "Nuestra Senora de Las Nieves" which means "Our Lady of the Snows," because of the cloud capped mountain reminding Columbus of snow.

Prior to the Columbus saga, Nevis was named Dulcina "Sweet Island" by the Arawaks and later Oualie "land of beautiful waters" by the Caribs. Later in the 18th century Nevis became known as "Queen of the Caribbees." Evidence of pre-ceramic people abounds with finely crafted stone tools and intricately colored pottery found.

Over the years Nevis has made a number of significant contributions to the Caribbean and the World. Two men who played part in international history were Alexander Hamilton and Lord Horatio Nelson. Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of America and its first Secretary of the Treasury was born on Nevis on January 11, 1757. Nelson, Britain's most famous admiral, used Nevis as a base of operations in the mid 1780's and married a Nevisian, Frances Nisbet in 1787.

Nevis continued to be part of the British colonial holdings until 1967 when it achieved Associated Statehood with St. Kitts. On September 19, 1983, Nevis became part of an independent nation and formed part of the sovereign democratic state of St. Christopher and Nevis. It has the unique constitutional arrangement of being part of the Federal Parliament while having a separate parliament and its own Nevis Island Administration headed by a Premier.