



# CURACAO



## INTRODUCTION

The original Arawak Indian settlers who arrived on the island from South America in about 1000, were largely enslaved by the Spanish early in the 16th century. Curacao was seized by the Dutch from the Spanish in 1634. Curacao and several other Dutch Caribbean possessions were reorganized as the Netherlands Antilles in 1954. In referenda in 2005 and 2009, the citizens of Curacao voted to become a self-governing country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

King WILLEM-ALEXANDER of the Netherlands  
represented by Governor Lucille A. GEORGE-WOUT

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Gilmar PISAS

### Government Type

parliamentary democracy

### Capital

Willemstad

### Legislature

unicameral Parliament of Curacao (21 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 444 sq km  
Land: 444 sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical marine climate, ameliorated by northeast trade winds; semiarid in interior

### Natural Resources

calcium phosphates, protected harbors, hot springs

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

high-income island economy; developed infrastructure; tourism and financial services-based economy; investing in information technology incentives; oil refineries service Venezuela and China; unique COVID-19 stimulus support applied to government debts rather than household support

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$3.856 billion (2019 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$24,480 (2019 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, petroleum refining, petroleum transshipment, light manufacturing, financial and business services

**Agricultural products** - aloe, sorghum, peanuts, vegetables, tropical fruit

**Exports** \$839.7 million (2017 est.)

gold, precious metal scraps, petroleum coke, frozen fish, coal tar oil (2019)

**partners:** Switzerland 27%, US 17%, Spain 14%, Ecuador 7%, India 7%, Antigua and Barbuda 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$540.3 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, crude petroleum, packaged medicines, perfumes (2019)

**partners:** US 35%, Netherlands 24%, China 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

151,890 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.33% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Curacaoan 75.4%, Dutch 6%, Dominican 3.6%, Colombian 3%, other 11.1%, unspecified 0.9% (2011 est.)

### Language

Papiamentu (official), 80%, Dutch (official) 8.8%, Spanish 5.6%, English (official) 3.1%, other 2.3%, unspecified 0.3% (2011 est.)

### Religion

Roman Catholic 72.8%, Pentecostal 6.6%, Protestant 3.2%, Adventist 3%, Jehovah's Witness 2%, Evangelical 1.9%, other 3.8%, none 6%, unspecified 0.6% (2011 est.)

