



GUYANA



INTRODUCTION

Originally a Dutch colony in the 17th century, by 1815 Guyana had become a British possession. Guyana achieved independence from the UK in 1966, and since then has been ruled mostly by socialist-oriented governments. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America and shares cultural and historical bonds with the Anglophone Caribbean.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Mohammed Irfaan ALI

Head of Government

President Mohammed Irfaan ALI

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Georgetown

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (70 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Samuel Archibald HINDS

US Ambassador

Ambassador Sarah-Ann LYNCH

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 214,969 sq km

Land: 196,849 sq km

Water: 18,120 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; two rainy seasons (May to August, November to January)

Natural Resources

bauxite, gold, diamonds, hardwood timber, shrimp, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small, hydrocarbon-driven South American export economy; major forest coverage being leveraged in carbon credit offsets to encourage preservation; strengthening financial sector; large bauxite and gold resources

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$17.64 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$21,900 (2021 est.)

Industries - bauxite, sugar, rice milling, timber, textiles, gold mining

Agricultural products - rice, sugarcane, coconuts, pumpkins, squash, gourds, milk, eggplants, green chillies/peppers, poultry

Exports \$4.64 billion (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, gold, rice, aluminum ores, railway shipping containers, rums (2021)

partners: US 40%, Singapore 14%, United Arab Emirates 6%, UK 6%, Barbados 6% (2021)

Imports \$6.61 billion (2021 est.)

floating drilling platforms, refined petroleum, valves, construction vehicles, cars (2021)

partners: Singapore 33%, US 19%, Trinidad and Tobago 12%, China 8%, Brazil 2% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

791,740 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.28% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

East Indian 39.8%, African descent 29.3%, mixed 19.9%, Amerindian 10.5%, other 0.5% (2012 est.)

Language

English (official), Guyanese Creole, Amerindian languages, Indian languages, Chinese (2014 est.)

Religion

Protestant 34.8%, Hindu 24.8%, Roman Catholic 7.1%, Muslim 6.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, Rastafarian 0.5%, other Christian 20.8%, other 0.9%, none 3.1% (2012 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 27.2% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 1.01% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)