

Saba

Overview:
The Netherlands Antilles consists of two island groups in the Caribbean Sea. Saba is part of the Netherlands Antilles Leeward Islands (northern) group which also includes Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten.

Territory:
Land Area 5 sq miles (13 sq km) Highest Point Mt Scenery, (871 m.)

Location:
It is the smallest island of the Netherlands Antilles. It consists largely of the dormant volcano, Mount Scenery, the highest point of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 2,855 ft.(877 m).

Latitude and Longitude:
Latitude/Longitude 17°38'N, 63°14'W.

Time Zone:
GMT -4

Total Land Area:
13

EEZ:
12

Climate:
Tropical;subject to hurricanes from July to October.

Natural Resources:
An orchid Research Center is being constructed on the island. There is a woodland reserve named "Elfin Forest Reserve" located in the high altitude forest.

ECONOMY:

Total GDP:

Per Capita GDP:

% of GDP per Sector:		
Primary	Secondary	Tertiary

% of Population Employed by Sector		
Primary	Secondary	Tertiary

External Aid/Remittances:
Curacao is a department of the Netherlands Antilles and receives a portion of the monies relegated to the whole jurisdiction.

Growth:

Labour Force:

Unemployment	
Year:	Unemployment Rate (% of pop.)

Industry:
Petroleum: Petroleum activities are administered by Saba Bank Resources NV a company jointly owned by the government of the Netherlands Antilles and the island governments of Saba, Saint Martin, and Saint Eustatius. Ecotourism, scuba diving, climbing, and hiking.Seafaring

Niche Industry:
Saba lace, or "Spanish work", is a cottage industry on the island.Scuba diving, rock climbing.

Tourism:
In 1972 a pier was completed in Fort Bay to access the island and has made it easier for visitors to come there. Travel is provided by the Saba ferry Dawn II, as well as another ferry dubbed "The Edge". Approx. 25,000 visitors each year.

Imports and Exports:



Tot. Value of Imports	0.00 ()
From Eu:	
Import Partners (EU:)	
Partners Outside EU:	
Import Partners:	
Tot. Value of Exports	()
To Eu:	
Export Partners:	
Partners Outside EU::	
Export Partners:	
Main Imports:	
Main Exports:	

TRANSPORTATION/ACCESS

External:

Number of Airports: 1

Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport (code SAB). paved 1300 ft. runway. non-commercial.

Number of Main Ports:

Internal:

Air

Road:

Sea:

Other Forms of Transportation:

Economic Zones:

Energy Policy:

Year	Total Energy Production (Mwh)	Type			Total Energy Consumption (Mwh)	Sector				
		Thermic (Mwh)	Geothermic (Mwh)	Other (Mwh)		Domestic (Mwh)	Commercial (Mwh)	Public Service (Mwh)	Industry (Mwh)	Public Lighting (Mwh)

Official Currency:

Netherlands Antillean Guilder

Banking and Insurance:

Number of Banks and Credit Unions: 3

Number of Agricultural Credit Unions:

Number of Insurance Companies:

RBTT Bank (Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago) First Caribbean International Bank, and Windward Bank

Financial Services:

Communications/E-Commerce:

Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport a 400 metre landing strip for easier trips to the island by flight: . It is one of the shortest commercial runway in the world, and as such, only three models of airplane are approved for landing. Saba lace cottage industry.

Public Ownership:

Land Use:

Freehold – private land, ownership transferable.

Agriculture/Forestry:

Saba is mainly composed of woodland forest with ferns and damp soil, and many mango trees. Many of the Mahogany tree stands were destroyed in the 1960s due to a hurricane. These trees are now considered at risk of extinction. Poor soils and inadequate water supplies hamper the development of agriculture.

Marine Activity:

Fishing:

Marine Life:

4.3 km southwest of Saba is the Saba Bank, a large submerged atoll of rich biodiversity, and a prime fishing ground, particularly for lobster. Saba Bank



is a backarc basin on the west side of the northern Lesser Antilles, a slowly moving active margin island arc on the eastern edge of the Caribbean plate under which Atlantic oceanic crust is being subducted.

Critical Issues:

The waters around the island were designated as the Saba National Marine Park in 1987, subject to government regulation to preserve its coral reefs and other marine life. Thus, Saba is known as the "Unspoiled Queen" of the Caribbean.

JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

Capital:

The Bottom

Political System:

Type: Parliamentary. Independence: Part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Constitution: December 1954, Statute of the Realm of the Netherlands, as amended. Branches: Executive--monarch represented by a governor-general (chief of state), prime minister (head of government), Cabinet. Legislative--unicameral parliament. Judicial--Joint High Court of Justice appointed by the monarch. Subdivisions are by island: Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Curaçao. Suffrage: Universal at 18.

Political Parties:

Saba Labor Party (SLP); Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM).

Important Legislation:

Principal Taxes:

Associated Power:

Netherland Antilles,

Citizenship:

Dutch Antillean. EU passport

Paradiplomacy:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Population: 1,471. Males: 727; Females: 744. Area: 13 sq. km. Population density per sq. km. Dec. 2004: 115.

2006			
Island	Area (km sq.)	Population	% of Total Population

On Saba and Bonaire, the 20% of households with the highest income levels had an income six times higher than that found among the poorest 20% of households.

Population:	
Year	Resident Population

Age of Population:	0-14	15-24	25-49	50-64	65 and up
2006	294	213	596	219	149

Migration:

Census Data 2004: Immigration: 273; Emigration: 242

Crude Birth Rate:

Life Expedtancy:

Males: 70.6 yrs. Females: 79 yrs.

Crude Death Rate:

Ethnicity:

Class Division:

Languages:

Dutch is the official language;

Religion:

Sabans are mostly Roman Catholic by faith; however, there is also a Wesleyan Holiness community on the island. Other religions practiced on the island include Anglican, Seventh-day Adventist, Muslim, and Jewish faiths.

Literacy:

96.3% m/f adult literacy rate

Education System:

Dutch educational system;

Total Pre-schools:(2007)	1
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Total Primary Schools	
First Level:	1
Second Level:	1
Third Level:	1
Total Secondary Schools:	
Total Professional Schools	
Universities:	1

Number of Schools per Island:										
	Pre-school		Elementary			High-school		Prof.	University	
	Pub	Priv	1	2	3	Pub	Priv		Pub	Priv
Saba	1		2		1					

Students Enrolled:					
Year:	Pre-School	Elementary	High-school	Prof.	University
2007	170	104	0	0	0

Teachers							
Year	Pre-School	Elementary			High-School	Prof.	University
		1	2	3			

SABA University School of Medicine. The Living Water Community has a private Catholic elementary school. CBSNA only collects data for public schools.

Medical Services:

A.M. Edwards Medical Center is the major provider of healthcare for local residents. Saba Clinic: 14 bed first aid clinic. Surgery cases are sent to St. Maarten. Saba marine Park has two Hyperbaric chambers in case of diving emergencies

HISTORY AND CULTURE

History:

Columbus was the first to sight Saba, but it was the Dutch who colonized the island in 1640 with a party from Sint Eustatius. Because of its difficult terrain, the island's growth progressed slowly, and it remains the least populated island in the Dutch Kingdom.

Referenda:

Voters in the Netherlands Antilles have opted to dismantle the Netherlands Antilles and create new structures between the various islands and the Kingdom. St. Maarten and Curacao have opted for an autonomous country status within the Kingdom similar to Aruba's status. Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Bonaire have opted for closer ties to the Kingdom. The target date for implementing these changes is December 15, 2008, but it is unclear if this target will be met.

Recent Significant Events:

Music, Dance, Handicraft and Patrimony:

Carnival & Saba Summer Festival is held the 3rd week of July. Saba Day, December 7, 2007 is the 32nd anniversary.

Sources:

Buchan, K., R. Framhein and L. Fernandes. 1997. An economic and social study of the Saba Marine Park, Saba, Netherlands Antilles. CANARI Technical Report NÅ° 262:37pp.PDF Document (660 kb)Saba Community News <http://www.sabatourism.com/communitynews269.html> News: PanAmHO.<http://www.paho.org/HIA/archivosvol2/paisesing/Netherlands%20Antilles%20English.pdf> US Dept of State:<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/22528.htm>. Central Bureau of Statistics Netherlands Antilles:<http://www.cbs.an/>

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