

English in Barbados Factsheet



The Place

- Area:** 166 sq. miles (430 sq. km)
- Geography:** The easternmost island in the Caribbean, Barbados is 21 miles (34km) long and 14 miles (22km) wide. The island is quite flat with the highest point being Mount Hillaby at 1,15ft (340 metres). On the windward eastern side, magnificent cliffs rise above the Atlantic waves; the leeward west coast is washed by the calm Caribbean Sea, lapping against miles of powdery beaches.
- Capital:** Bridgetown
- Population:** 290,000
- Language:** English, Barbadian dialect
- Religion:** Anglican (33%) Pentecostal (25%)
- Time Zone:** Four hours behind GMT
- Currency:** Barbados Dollar (BDS\$)
BDS\$1.98 = US\$1, fixed rate
- Weights & Measures:** Metric
- Electricity:** 110 volts AC and 50 cycles, two-pronged US-style plug
- National Flower:** Pride of Barbados
- International Dialling Code:** 246



The People

The population is about 70 percent black, 20 percent mixed and 7 percent white, another 3 percent are recent immigrants from around the world.

Barbadians (or Bajans) will surprise you with their warmth, casual charm and sophistication. They are by nature open, thoughtful and generous. They love a party but will have time for anyone, they like people, no matter what background, race, and disposition.

The Climate

It is warm and sunny all year round with an average daytime high of 75°F -80°F (30°C). The nights are slightly cooler. The prevailing northeast trade

winds blow steadily so that although it is bright and sunny, it is not unbearably hot. The rain usually comes in quick showers. The dry season lasts from January to June.

Money

It is best to get Barbados Dollars but US dollars at a fixed rate of BDS\$1.98 to US\$1 are accepted at most major stores and hotels, and by many taxi drivers. Major credit cards and international travellers' cheques (not Eurocheques) are accepted at most hotels, restaurants and shops.

Average Prices

- Souvenir t-shirt:** BDS\$16.00
Postcard sent to Europe: BDS\$1.40
Bus Ticket: BDS\$1.50
Litre of Rum: BDS\$18.00

Average Meal Prices

- Low:** BDS\$10-30
Mid: BDS\$30-50
High: BDS\$60+

Business Hours

Hours for most banks are 8am-3pm Monday to Thursday, Friday 8am-5pm. A number of banks may be open 9am-noon on Saturday.

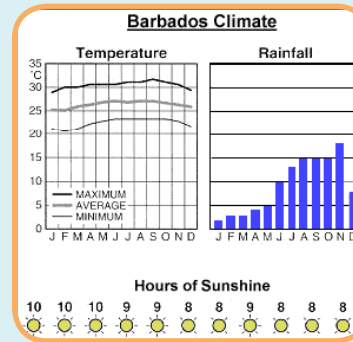
In general, shops open between 8 and 9am Monday to Saturday and close between 5 and 6pm Monday to Friday and between 2 and 4pm on Saturday. Some shops are open on Sunday but for limited supplies only.

Public Holidays

- New Year's Day** 1 January
Error Barrow Day 21 January
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Easter Monday
National Heroes Day 28 April
Labour Day 1 May
Whit Monday 8th Monday after Easter
Emancipation Day 1 August
Kadooment Day 1st Monday in August
Independence Day 30 November
Christmas Day 25 December
Boxing Day 26 December

On Arrival in Barbados

Just prior to landing in Barbados you will be asked to fill in an immigration form. You will need to complete both arrival and departure details. The purpose of your visit is a holiday. At the airport there are baggage handlers



to assist you. They charge BDS\$1 per item.

On Departure from Barbados

If you are leaving by plane, be at the airport at least 2 hours before your flight time. On leaving Barbados, everyone will be required to pay a BDS\$25 departure tax.

Security and Crime

Use common sense in Barbados as you would in any other cosmopolitan area. Place valuables in the hotel safe; do not leave them unattended in your room or at the beach. Lock

your hotel room at all times. Avoid walking alone after dark on deserted streets and beaches.

Taxis

In Barbados Taxis do not have meters, but charge pre-determined fares, based on location and mileage.



Public Transport

You can travel to any part of Barbados by bus – either the larger Transport Board Buses, smaller privately operated minibuses, or ZR vans. All cost BDS\$1.50 for any journey. You can get a bus at numerous bus stops on most major thoroughfares. Bus stops will be marked "In to City" or "Out of City".

Car Rental

You must present a driver's licence from your home country along with a fee of BDS\$10. Driving licences for visitors are available at police stations and from car rental companies. Driving is on the left in Barbados. Barbadians blow their horns either as a warning of their presence, or as a greeting. Wearing seatbelts is mandatory.



What to Bring

Light, casual wear made of cotton, linen or other natural fabrics. Evenings can be slightly more formal. Swim wear is unacceptable except at the beach. Don't forget books and sunscreens.

Have you visited our website?

www.englishinbarbados.com