**Cayman Islands Facts**

Cayman Islands stats

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital | George Town |
| Government Type | parliamentary democracy |
| Currency | KYD |
| Population | 53,737 |
| Total Area | 102 Square Miles 264 Square Kilometers |
| Location | Caribbean, three-island group (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, Little Cayman) in Caribbean Sea, 240 km south of Cuba and 268 km northwest of Jamaica |
| Language | English |

**Cayman Islands Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Geographic Location | The Caribbean |
| Total Area | 102 Square Miles 264 Square Kilometers |
| Land Area | 102 Square Miles 264 Square Kilometers |
| Coastline | 99 Miles 160 Kilometers |
| Geographic Coordinates | 19 30 N, 80 30 W |
| Terrain | low-lying limestone base surrounded by coral reefs |
| Highest Point | 43 Meters |
| Highest Point Location | The Bluff 43 m |
| Lowest Point Location | Caribbean Sea 0 m |
| Natural Resources | fish, climate and beaches that foster tourism |

**Cayman Islands Weather and Climate**

**Climate and Weather**

tropical marine; warm, rainy summers (May to October) and cool, relatively dry winters (November to April)

**Cayman Islands Environmental Issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Climate | tropical marine; warm, rainy summers (May to October) and cool, relatively dry winters (November to April) |
| Terrain | low-lying limestone base surrounded by coral reefs |
| Natural Resources | fish, climate and beaches that foster tourism |
| Natural Hazards | hurricanes (July to November) |
| Environmental Issues | no natural fresh water resources; drinking water supplies must be met by rainwater catchments |

**Cayman Islands Population Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Population | 53,737 |
| Population Growth Rate | 2.19% |
| Urban Population | 100% |
| Population in Major Urban Areas | GEORGE TOWN (capital) 28,000 |
| Nationality Noun | Caymanian(s) |
| Nationality Adjective | Caymanian |
| Ethnic Groups | mixed 40%, white 20%, black 20%, expatriates of various ethnic groups 20% |
| Languages | English |
| Rate of Urbanization- annual rate of change | 0.82% |

**Cayman Islands Medical Information**

The quality of medical care in the Cayman Islands is generally comparable to that available in the United States; however, some procedures and cases requiring critical care may require medical evacuation to the United States. Several American citizens each year drown or suffer cardiac arrest while snorkeling or SCUBA diving in the Cayman Islands. These deaths may be attributed in part to tourists attempting to do more than they are trained to do or to poor physical conditioning or preexisting medical conditions that are exacerbated when snorkeling or diving. A hyperbaric chamber is available for treatment of decompression illness. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate payment for health services.  
  
Emergency response services in the Cayman Islands are on par with those generally available in the United States.

**Cayman Islands Health Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Death Rate/1,000 population | 5.3 |
| Infant Mortality Rate/1,000 population | 6.35 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Female/1,000 population | 5.42 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Male/1,000 population | 7.26 |
| Total Fertility Rate | 1.86 |
| Drinking Water Source: unimproved | 4.4% |
| Drinking Water Source - percent of urban population improved | 95.6% |
| Sanitation Facility Access: unimproved | 3.8% |
| Sanitation Facility Access - percent of urban population improved | 96.2% |

**Cayman Islands Crime**

**Crime Information**

The crime threat in Cayman Islands is generally considered low, although travelers should always take normal precautions when in unfamiliar surroundings. Petty theft, pick-pocketing and purse snatchings occur. A few cases involving sexual assault have been reported to the Embassy. Police in the Cayman Islands rigorously enforce laws against illegal drugs. U.S. citizens should avoid buying, selling, holding or taking illegal drugs under any circumstances.  
  
Don’t buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the United States, if you purchase them you may also be breaking local law.

**Cayman Islands Penalties for Crime**

**Criminal Penalties**

While you are traveling in the Cayman Islands, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different than our own. In some places you may be taken in for questioning if you don’t have your passport with you. In some places, driving under the influence could land you immediately in jail for the night. In most cases, the passport is confiscated until you appear before a Magistrate Judge and a fine is imposed. These criminal penalties will vary from country to country. There are also some things that might be legal in the country you visit, but still illegal in the United States, and you can be prosecuted under U.S. law if you buy pirated goods. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime prosecutable in the United States. If you break local laws in the Cayman Islands, your U.S. passport won’t help you avoid arrest or prosecution. It’s very important to know what’s legal and what’s not wherever you go.   
  
Persons violating Caymanian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the Cayman Islands are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.  
  
While some countries will automatically notify the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate if a U.S. citizen is detained or arrested in a foreign country, that might not always be the case. To ensure that the United States is aware of your circumstances, request that the police and prison officials notify the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate as soon as you are arrested or detained overseas.

**Cayman Islands Life Expectancy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life Expectancy At Birth | 80 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Female | 83 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Male | 78 Years |
| Median Age (female) | 39 Years |
| Median Age (male) | 38 Years |
| Median Age | 39 Years |

**Cayman Islands Literacy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Predominant Language | English |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over has ever attended school |
| Literacy Female | 98% |
| Literacy Male | 98% |
| Literacy Total | 98% |

**Cayman Islands Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Literacy - female | 98% |
| Literacy - male | 98% |
| Literacy - total population | 98% |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over has ever attended school |

**Cayman Islands Government and Politics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government Executive Branch | chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor Helen KILPATRICK (since 6 September 2013)   head of government: Premier Alden MCLAUGHLIN (since 29 May 2013)   cabinet: The Cabinet (six members are appointed by the governor on the advice of the premier, selected from among the elected members of the Legislative Assembly)   elections: the monarchy is hereditary; the governor appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition appointed by the governor as premier |
| Legislative Branch | unicameral Legislative Assembly (20 seats; 18 members elected by popular vote and 2 ex officio members from The Cabinet; to serve four-year terms) - elections: last held on 20 May 2009 (next to be held not later than May 2013) - election results: percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - UDP 9, PPM 5, independent 1 |
| Judicial Branch | Grand Court; Cayman Islands Court of Appeal; Summary Court |
| Regions or States | 8 districts; Creek, Eastern, Midland, South Town, Spot Bay, Stake Bay, West End, Western |
| Political Parties and Leaders | People's Progressive Movement or PPM [Kurt TIBBETTS]; United Democratic Party or UDP [McKeeva BUSH] |
| International Organization Participation | Caricom (associate), CDB, Interpol (subbureau), IOC, UNESCO (associate), UPU |
| Politicial Pressure Groups and Leaders | National Trust other: environmentalists |
| Diplomatic Representation in the US | none (overseas territory of the UK) |
| Diplomatic Representation from US | none (overseas territory of the UK); consular services provided through the US Embassy in Jamaica |

**Cayman Islands Economy Data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GDP - Gross Domestic Product | $2,250,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - official exchange rate | $2,250,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - real growth rate | 1.1% |
| GDP Per Capita | $43,800.00 (USD) |
| GDP by Sector- agriculture | 0.3% |
| GDP by Sector- Industry | 27.4% |
| GDP by Sector- services | 72.3% |
| Inflation Rate | 4.1% |
| Labor Force | 39,000 |
| Labor Force By Occupation- agriculture | 1.9% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- industry | 19.1% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- services | 79% |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.4% |
| Fiscal Year | 1 April - 31 March |
| Annual Budget | $423,800,000 (USD) |
| Budget Surplus or Deficit - percent of GDP | -2.5% |
| Taxes and other revenues - percent of GDP | 31.1% |
| Major Industries | tourism, banking, insurance and finance, construction, construction materials, furniture |
| Agriculture Products | vegetables, fruit; livestock, turtle farming |
| Currency Code | Caymanian dollar (KYD) |

**Cayman Islands Economy**

**Economic Overview**

With no direct taxation, the islands are a thriving offshore financial center. More than 40,000 companies were registered in the Cayman Islands as of 1998, including almost 600 banks and trust companies; banking assets exceed $500 billion. A stock exchange was opened in 1997. Tourism is also a mainstay, accounting for about 70% of GDP and 75% of foreign currency earnings. The tourist industry is aimed at the luxury market and caters mainly to visitors from North America. Total tourist arrivals exceeded 1.2 million in 1997, with 600,000 from the US. About 90% of the islands' food and consumer goods must be imported. The Caymanians enjoy one of the highest outputs per capita and one of the highest standards of living in the world.

**Cayman Islands Exports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exports | $13,800,000 (USD) |
| Major Exports | turtle products, manufactured consumer goods |
| Top Export Partners | mostly US |

**Cayman Islands Imports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Imports | $876,500,000 (USD) |
| Major Imports | foodstuffs, manufactured goods |
| Top Import Partners | US, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Netherlands Antilles, Japan |

**Cayman Islands Flag Description**

blue, with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Caymanian coat of arms centered on the outer half of the flag; the coat of arms includes a pineapple and turtle above a shield with three stars (representing the three islands) and a scroll at the bottom bearing the motto HE HATH FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS



**Cayman Islands National Anthem Lyrics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anthem Lyrics English | - O land of soft, fresh breezes And verdant trees so fair, With the Creator's glory Reflected ev'rywhere, O sea of palest em'rald,  Merging to darkest blue, Whene'er my thoughts fly Godward, I always think of you.  Dear, verdant island, set in blue Caribbean Sea, I'm coming, coming very soon, O beautious isle, to thee. Although I wandered far, My heart enshrines thee yet. Homeland, fair Cayman Isle, I cannot thee forget.  - Away from noise of cities, Their fret and carking care, With moonbeams' soft caresses, Unchecked by garish glare, Thy fruit with rarest juices, Abundant, rich and free,  When sweet church bells are chiming,  My fond heart yearns for thee.   - When tired of all excitement And glam'rous worldly care, How sweet thy shores to reach And find a welcome there, And when comes on the season Of peace, goodwill to man, 'Tis then I love thee best of all, Beloved Isle Cayman. |

**Cayman Islands Interesting Facts**

* The name 'Cayman' derives from the Carib word for crocodile and appeared in the log of Sir Francis Duke , the first English visitor to the islands, in 1586. Prior to that, they were called 'Las Tortugas' ('turtles', in Spanish) by Columbus, who discovered the islands in 1503. 'Brac' ('craggy bluff', in Gaelic), was named for the limestone bluff running down the middle of the island

**History of Cayman Islands**

The Cayman Islands remained largely uninhabited until the 17th century. A variety of people settled on the islands, including pirates, refugees from the Spanish Inquisition, shipwrecked sailors, deserters from Oliver Cromwell’s army in Jamaica, and slaves. The majority of Caymanians are of African and British descent, with considerable interracial mixing.

Great Britain took formal control of the Caymans, along with Jamaica, under the Treaty of Madrid in 1670. Following several unsuccessful attempts, permanent settlement of the islands began in the 1730s. The Cayman Islands historically have been popular as a tax haven. Legend has it that Caymanians in 1788 rescued the crews of a Jamaican merchant ship convoy which had struck a reef at Gun Bay and that the Caymanians were rewarded with King George III’s promise to never again impose any tax.

The Cayman Islands, initially administered as a dependency of Jamaica, became an independent colony in 1959; they now are a self-governing British Overseas Territory.

**Cayman Islands History Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cayman Islands Year in History | Cayman Islands Timeline |
| 1503 | **Christopher Columbus sights the islands.** |
| 1670 | **The Treaty of Madrid.** Spain cedes the islands, along with Jamaica, to the English. |
| 1700 | **First permanent settlers arrive.** |
| 1794 | **Legendary 'Wreck of the Ten Sails.'** The HMS Convert hits a reef off Grand Cayman, closely followed by its convoy of nine merchant vessels. |
| 1863 | **Caymans become a Jamaican dependency.** They are administered by an appointed commissioner. |
| 1962 | **Federation of the West Indies dissolves.** Jamaica declares independence. Caymans stay under British rule; a separate administrator is appointed. |
| 2002 | **British Overseas Territories Act is passed.** It grants British citizenship to all Caymanians. |
| 2004 | **Hurricane Ivan hits the Caymans.** One of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record, it causes widespread destruction on Grand Cayman. |

**Cayman Islands Facts**

Cayman Islands stats

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital | George Town |
| Government Type | parliamentary democracy |
| Currency | KYD |
| Population | 53,737 |
| Total Area | 102 Square Miles 264 Square Kilometers |
| Location | Caribbean, three-island group (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, Little Cayman) in Caribbean Sea, 240 km south of Cuba and 268 km northwest of Jamaica |
| Language | English |

**Cayman Islands Sport and Recreation**

Residents of the Cayman Islands keep active! Some of the most popular competition sports are soccer, cricket, basketball, sailing, rugby, tennis, floor hockey and squash. With an 18-hole championship and an executive course at their disposal, residents also enjoy a round of golf.  
A number of sporting organizations, including the Cayman Rugby Football Union, the Cayman Islands Football Association, the Cayman Islands Tennis Club, the Cayman Islands Squash/Racquets Association and the Cayman Islands Sailing Club are all open to all.  
There are several sporting complexes that host a number of events; Truman Bodden Sports Complex, Ed Bush Sports Complex, Kings Sports Complex and the Lions Center.   
Throughout the year, several fun and competitive sporting events are held including walk/runs, the annual Pirates Week Triathlon and the Flowers sea swim which is held in July each year and attracts over 500 local and international participants.   
The water and beaches provide unparalleled opportunities for all water sports especially diving, snorkeling, swimming, sailing and fishing. Dive certification courses are available all year round. Half and full day game fishing charters are also readily available.  
The island has various commercial gyms that are available with a membership.

**Cayman Islands Recreation Photos**

[](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/cj/rugby.jpg)