

THE NATIONAL WEAR



The National Wear was designed by Dwayne Weekes, Grace Woodley, Vaughan Woodley and Joyette Woodley. It is a combination of African and European influences which have shaped the history of St. Kitts and Nevis is evident in both the male and female outfits.

Men's Wear

A straw hat trimmed with madras offered protection from the hot day's sun. The short sleeved, v-neck jack shirt trimmed with madras is made from off-white cotton. The design is similar to traditional shirts worn by Africans. The beige cotton, ankle length pant is a reflection of the local fabrics that were commonly used during the colonial period.

Women's Wear

It is customary for African women to wrap their heads for protection. The main dress is off-white cotton, with a corset top and an ankle length, wide flare petticoat bottom. The beige cotton sleeves are short and puffed using the drawstring. A short lap skirt made from crocus is worn over the main dress to protect it from dirt "The Cane Soda Wrap", which was used to carry soda while fertilizing sugar cane, is draped around the waist. The crocus drawstring bag was a safe way for women to secure their money.

THE NATIONAL BIRD



The national bird of St. Kitts and Nevis is the brown pelican, whose scientific name is the *Pelecanus Occidentalis*.

In its youth, the brown pelican is brown on the head, neck and upper parts of the body, and mostly white below. As it matures, the majority of the body becomes dark brown while the upper part of the head turns white. During the post-nuptial moult the adult's neck turns white. The neck and head are not extended during flight.

Brown pelicans are sometimes solitary feeders, but may also be found in small flocks as they feed on schools of fish at the surface of the sea. They can be found throughout the West Indies and in sub-tropical regions of the Americas. They nest in colonies along the coast, in low trees, and in bushes.

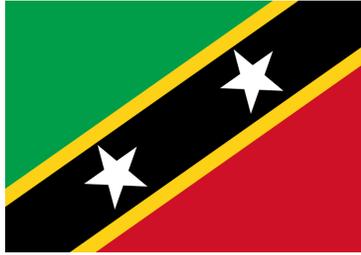


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National Symbols of St. Kitts and Nevis



THE NATIONAL FLAG



The National Flag of St. Kitts and Nevis was designed by Edris Lewis. It features **green** for our fertile lands, **yellow** for our year-round sunshine, **black** for our African heritage and **red** for our struggle from slavery through colonialism to Independence. It also displays two white stars on a black diagonal bar, symbols of hope and liberty.

THE COAT OF ARMS



The Saint Kitts and Nevis Coat of Arms displays the motto "Country Above Self".

The centre of the coat of arms is dominated by a shield at the base of which is a lighter in full sail. The lighter is one of the traditional means of transportation. A red chevron is highlighted by two Poinciana flowers.

At the top of the shield, on the blue background, is the head of a Carib, supported by the fleur de lis and a rose. The Caribs were the early inhabitants of the islands and the fleur de lis and rose signify the French and English influences.

A helmet topped with the battlements of a tower appears with a flaming torch upheld by the hands of an African, European and a person of mix descent. The torch signifies the struggle and quest for freedom by a people of diverse ethnic origins but united in purpose.

The shield is supported on either side by pelicans with wings extended, displaying a sugar cane plant and a coconut palm tree, which are extensively cultivated throughout St. Kitts and Nevis.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM



The National Anthem, "Oh Land of Beauty", was written and composed by Kenrick Georges.

*O Land of Beauty!
Our country where peace abounds,
Thy children stand free
On the strength of will and love.
With God in all our struggles
St Kitts and Nevis be
A nation bound together
With a common destiny.*

*As stalwarts we stand
For justice and liberty
With wisdom and truth
We will serve and honour thee
No sword nor spear can conquer
for God will sure defend.
His blessings shall forever
To posterity extend.*

THE NATIONAL FLOWER



The National Flower of St. Kitts and Nevis is the Poinciana or Flamboyant, named after Monsieur de Poincy, a French Governor of St. Kitts, who is said to have introduced it to the region. Its scientific name is *Delonix Regia*, and is said to have originated in Madagascar. The Flamboyant is one of the most striking trees of the tropics, with its umbrella-shaped crown and its compound deciduous leaves and red and yellow scalloped flowers followed by long, black seedpods. It blooms from May to August, and is generally used along roadsides or by itself. A fast-growing tree, it requires a deep soil but tolerates a dry climate.

THE NATIONAL DISH



The National Dish of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis was created by Jacqueline Ryan. It is normally served as a main entrée. It is a delicious mixture of stewed saltfish served with spicy plantains, coconut dumplings and seasoned breadfruit. It is a tasty blend of locally available vegetables, spices, coconut and salted cod fish, prepared with a distinct St. Kitts and Nevis flavour.