

Haiti

Haiti is a Caribbean nation that occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, the second largest island in the Greater Antilles. Spread over an area of approximately 27,750 square kilometres, the nation has a mountainous landscape, dotted with small coastal plains and river valleys, and enjoys a tropical climate. Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean, behind Cuba and the Dominican Republic. It also boasts of having the second longest coastline of all countries in the Antilles, with Cuba having the longest. If you are interested in knowing more fun and interesting facts about Haiti, read on.

Fun & Interesting Facts about Haiti

<http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/facts-about-haiti-3488.html>

- The official name of Haiti is the 'Republic of Haiti'
- The capital of Haiti is Port-au-Prince.
- The official languages of Haiti include French and Haitian Creole.
- Majority of the people in Haiti are Roman Catholics, followed by Protestants and Voodoo followers.
- The currency of Haiti is Gourde.
- Around 95 percent of the population of Haiti comprises of Blacks, while Multiracial, Arabs and Europeans make up the rest 5 percent.
- Port-au-Prince is the largest city in Haiti, in terms of population.
- Haiti follows the system of 'Presidential Republic'.
- Haiti was the first post-colonial independent black-led nation in the world.
- Haiti is the only nation in the world whose independence was gained as part of a successful slave rebellion.
- Haiti was the first nation in Latin America to gain its sovereignty
- Haiti is the only independent Francophone nation in Latin America. All the other French-speaking Latin American nations are overseas departments of France.
- Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.
- Hispaniola, along with Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, is a part of an island chain known as the Greater Antilles.
- Hispaniola was visited Christopher Columbus, in the service of Spain, in 1494.
- The term 'Haiti' is derived from 'Ayiti', a Taino word that means 'mountainous land'.
- French rule was established in Haiti in 1790s, when the uprising by slaves brought an end to slavery.
- Haiti gained independence from France on 1st January 1804, when it was declared a Republic.
- Haiti annexed Santo Domingo between 1822 and 1844.
- US troops occupied the Republic of Haiti between 1915 and 1934.
- Haiti was under the dictatorship of Francois Duvalier, known as Papa Doc, between 1956 and 1971.
- Jean-Bertrand Aristide became the first democratically elected president of Haiti, in 1990.
- USA and United Nations imposed sanctions on Haiti in 1991 and 1993, respectively.
- Haiti is divided into 10 departments - Artibonite, Centre, Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Oues, Sud-Est and Sud.
- The 10 departments of Haiti are further divided into 41 arrondissements, and 133 communes.
- The main industries of Haiti are sugar refining, flour milling, textiles and cement.
- Decades of violence and instability in Haiti has made it the poorest country in the Americas.
- The highest point in Haiti is formed by Pic la Selle, at 2,680 meters.

The history of Haiti before and after the Revolution

www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/index-a.html

More about Toussaint L'ouverture

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toussaint_Louverture

http://thelouvertureproject.org/index.php?title=Toussaint_Louverture

Famous Haitians

http://www.haitisupport.gn.apc.org/10_fam_index.html