

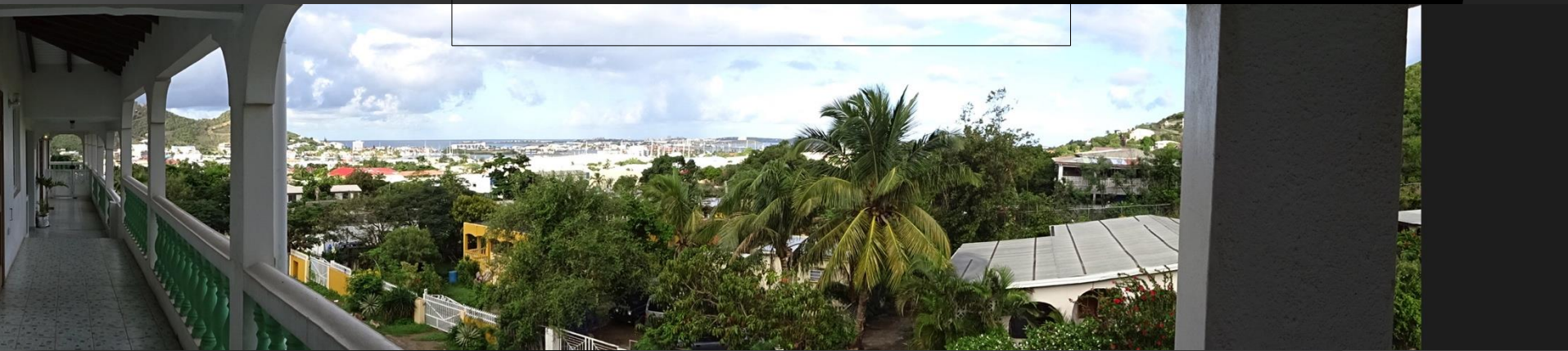
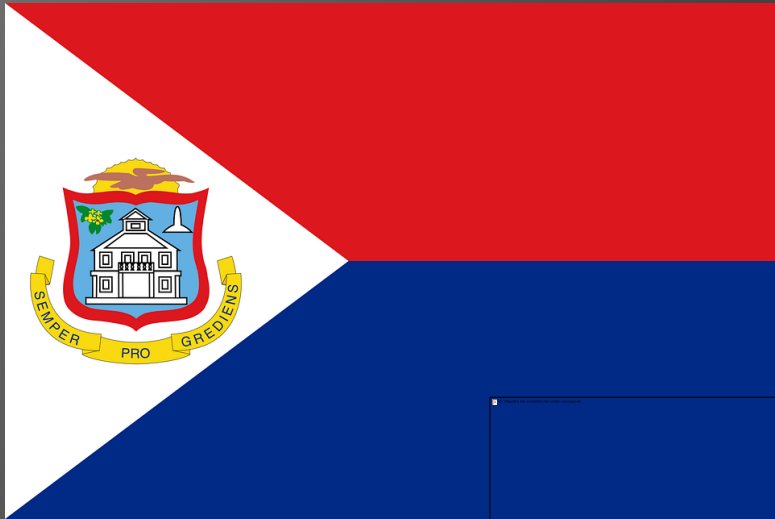
'Friendly Island'

Sint-Maarten/Saint-Martin

Design and development:
Delphine Clement & Frank Nolf

Speaker: Frank Nolf

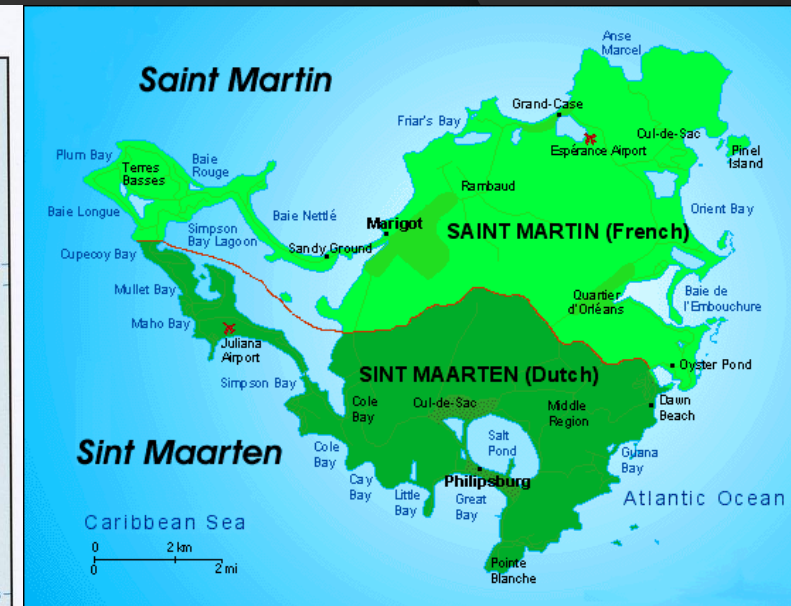




Geography

- Caribbean Sea / Atlantic Ocean
- Windward Islands
- total surface: 86 km²
- two parts:
 - * in the South: Sint-Maarten with ca. 35,000 inhabitants, capital: Philipsburg
 - * In the North: the 'Collectivité de Saint-Martin' with 32,000 inhabitants, capital: Marigot

THE CARIBBEAN



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- very hilly

- Pic Paradis: highest hill with 424 m



- indented coastline with numerous bays, rocky shores and white beaches

- large lagoons

- danger of floodings

- hurricanes





History

- inhabited since 4,000 before Christ
- Arawak-Indians since 800 before Chr.: salt production
'*Soualiga*' or 'Island of Salt'
- Carib-Indians from South America: '*Oualichi*' or 'Island of Women'
- 11 November 1493: feast day of Saint Martin
- discovery by Columbus
- invasion by Spanish conquerors and the introduction of African slaves





- development of sugar plantations
- pirates, privateers and smugglers from Spain, Portugal, England, France and The Netherlands



- between 1640 and 1648:
Dutch conquerors invade
Saint Martin, Saba, St
Eustatius en Curaçao

- 1631: salination and
tobacco plantations

-1633: Spanish invasion

- 1635: French
participation by the
'Compagnie des Isles
d'Amérique'



- 1644: Spain waives its rights
- 1648: Treaty of Concordia: the territory becomes divided between France and The Netherlands
- between 1631 and 1816: alternating Dutch, English and French dominations
- 1816: Treaty of London: final division of the island
- 2010: SXM becomes a separate country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands



Population

- legal and illegal immigrants since the middle of the last century
- Creole-Caribbean folk culture
- fast development of tourism
- result: about 60,000 inhabitants in 2015
- 20% really natives
- 120 different nationalities
- languages: Dutch, English, French
- dialects including Patois = Papiamentu, slang

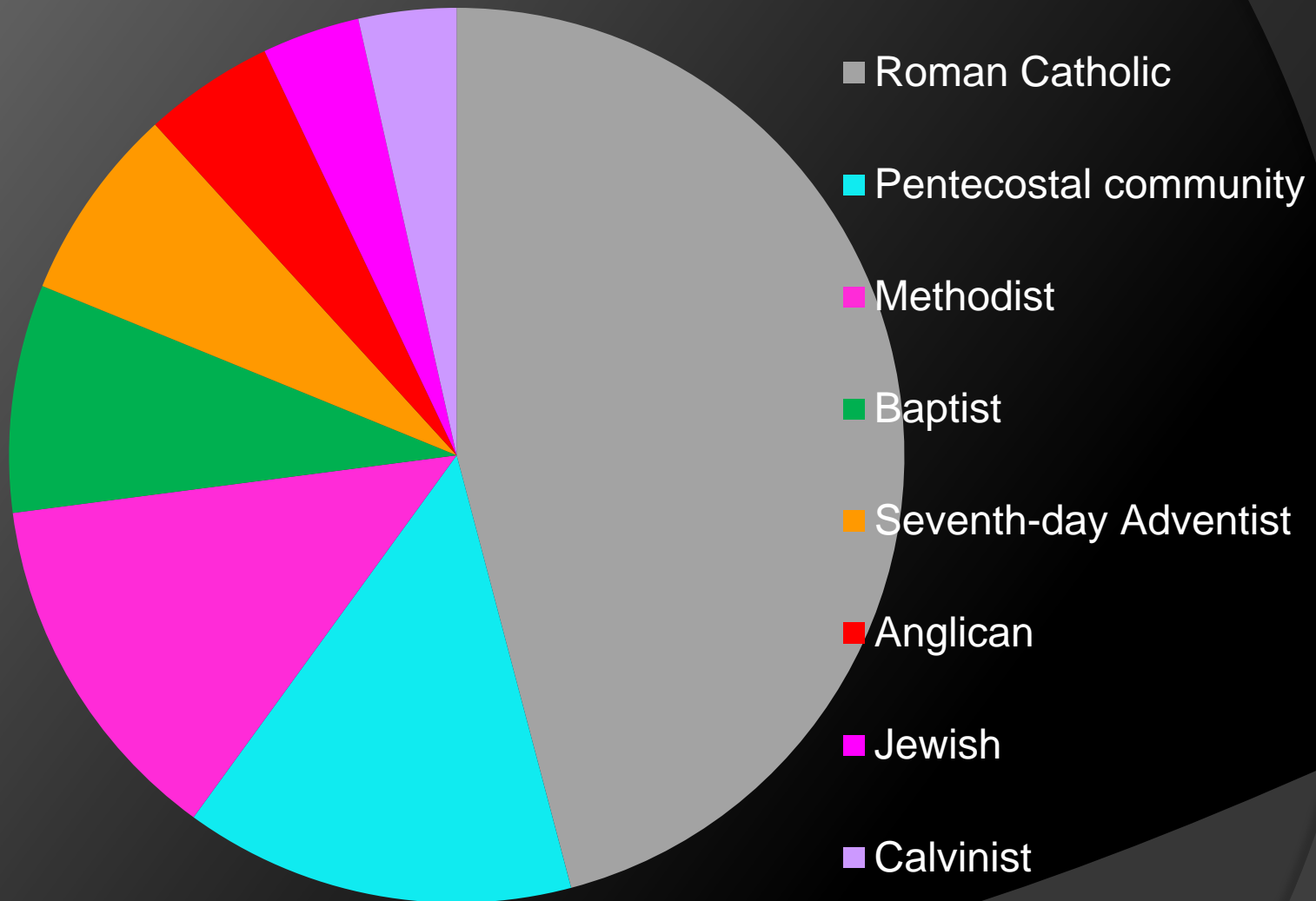
Politics (Dutch Sint-Maarten)

- one Governor
- Cabinet and Parliament: States of Sint-Maarten
- fifteen seats, six Ministers and one Prime Minister
- administrative and financial problems
- corruption



Religious communities (2004)

- 39% Roman Catholic
- 12% Pentecostal community
- 11% Methodist
- 7% Baptist
- 6% Seventh-day Adventist
- 4% Anglican
- 3% Jewish
- 3% Calvinist



Culture

- European and Caribbean influences
- architecture: modern offices, brightly coloured hotels and old residential houses with '*shingles*' and '*gingerbread*' decorations
- sports: baseball, softball, boxing, athletics, football, basketball
- cockfighting
- Carnival
- Calypso dance music





Economy and traffic

- originally: salination, cotton, tobacco and sugar cane plantations (introduction of black slaves)
- 19th century: many wars -> poverty
- since 1939: free trade area without tax provisions
- since mid 20th century: strong development of tourism
- most important employers: construction industry, catering, administration and security sector

Tourism and infrastructure

- heavy car and air traffic with two airports:
Princess Juliana International Airport,
Aérogare de l'Espérance



- many touristic attractions: beaches, resorts, restaurants, casinos ...
- other side of the coin: criminality, environmental problems, ...
- cruise ships: especially American tourists
- roads in bad repair



Philipsburg

- capital of Sint-Maarten since 1763
- founder: John Philips
- chaos of cultures and building styles
- Court House: late 18th century
- large esplanades, including Front Street with tax-free shops
- important constructions: Methodist Church, Fort Amsterdam
- 'University' of Sint-Maarten
- cruise ships











The environment of Salt Pond

- Amsterdam Shopping
- Zoological and Botanical Garden



The east coast of Saint Martin

- a chain of small bays: Pointe Blanche Bay, Back Bay, Geneve Bay, Guana Bay, Gibb's Bay, Red Pond Bay, Oyster Bay, Dawn Beach
- ruins of sugar factory, slave graves and foundations of a windmill



The south coast of Saint Martin

- Cay Bay, Cole Bay, Lay Bay, Simpson Bay, Simpson Bay Lagoon



- Maho Bay, Maho Beach: aircraft spotting from Sunset-bar ('*Air Fence*')



- Mullet Beach and Cupecoy Beach
- border monument (obelisk) with inscription of '1648 and 1948'-dates



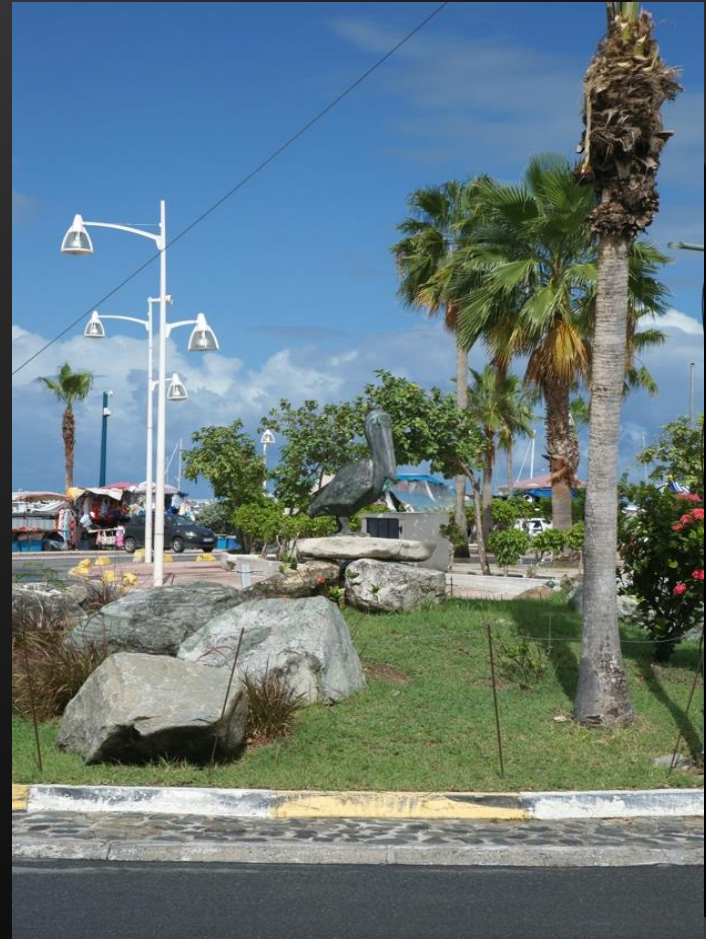
Saint-Martin

- '*Terres Basses*': Baie Longue, Baie aux Prunes, Baie Rouge, Bay Nettlé
- subprefecture of '*Département de la Guadeloupe*' (French overseas territory)



-Marigot: yacht-basin, markets, museum, Fort Saint-Louis, many restaurants





- Grand Case: '*dining capital*'
- Pic Paradis: the highest hill (424 metres)







Saint-Martin

- Pinel and Tintamarre: national park well-known by its iguanas



- beach bars: Yellow Beach, lobsters!



- Baie Orientale (Orient Bay) + Le Galion



- Bay Lucas and Coralita Bay + Shell Island + small nature reserve (specific cactus species)



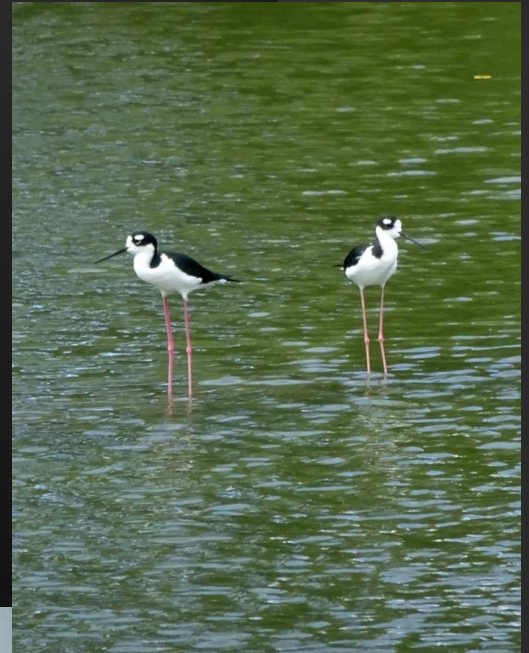
Climate

- tropic monsoon climate
- an average of 27 degrees Celsius
- dry season: first quarter of the year
- wet season: last quarter of the year



Fauna

- limited number of species
- most common are:
pelicans, white herons,
cormorants, kestrels,
bats, hummingbirds,
butterflies, ...



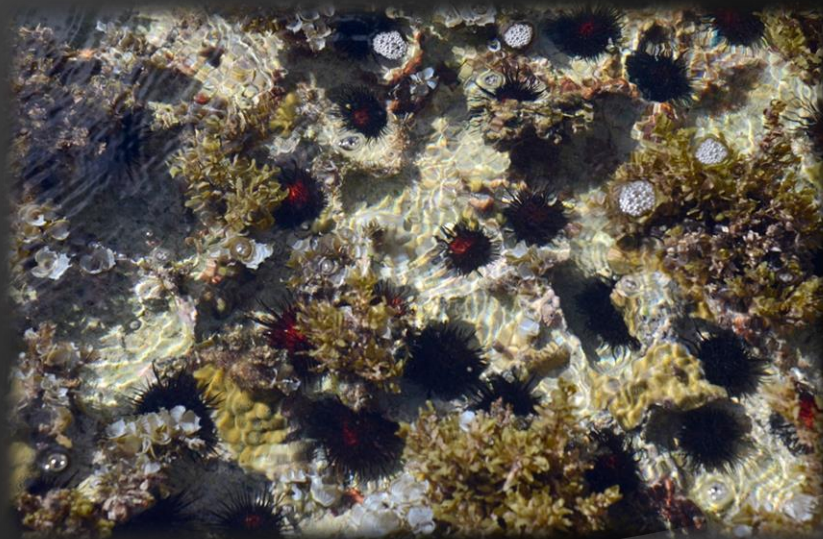


- the Green Iguana or
Iguana nudicollis:

- up to one metre
- young animals: light green
- adult animals: dark green to brown
- pattern with stripes on the tail
- large, round scales beneath the ears + dewlap
- row of prickles on dorsum
- large scale on the cheek











Nature landscapes

- very diversified habitats: salt ponds, lagoons, mangroves, marshes, sandy shores, seagrass beds, coral reefs



Flora: many different cactus species, Acacia, cotton plants, rubber trees, bromeliads, orchids, succulents, palm-trees, Hibiscus, ...







... and finally 'Friendly Island' is also the place where we finally retraced our lost son Hendrik ...

