




# The Cultures of Guyana and Trínidad

By George, A. 



# Guyana

Guyana is located in South America, but it is considered a part of the Caribbean to many. Guyana is known for its beautiful scenery and natural wonders such as Kaieteur Falls (shown on right), fresh fruits and vegetables, and much more. In Guyana, food, culture, traditions, and sports are a big part of what makes Guyana so special. Though Guyana gained their independence from Britain on February 23rd, 1970, many influences are still present such as the way some natives speak as well as the architecture of buildings. Like New York, Guyana was and still is a melting pot that combines Portuguese, African, Indian, British, Chinese, Dutch, and Latin American culture.







# Trinidad



Trinidad, though located close to South America, is in the Caribbean. Trinidad and its smaller island, Tobago, are islands full of bright, festive, and cultural influences. Trinidad, like Guyana, is known for their foods, culture, traditions, language, and sports. Trinidad has beaches such as Maracas beach that is known by many, however, Trinidad is mainly known for their celebration of Carnival.



# The Economy of Guyana

Unlike most countries, though Guyana is rich in all aspects of their culture, the economy is seen as one of the worst in South America.

Guyana is one of the poorest countries in South America; annually an individual is said to make as little as \$4,000 USD.

With recently found oil, it is said that Guyana's economy will skyrocket and there will be an increase in tourism. (Bryan, 2017)



# The Economy of Trinidad

"The economy of Trinidad and Tobago is the wealthiest in the Caribbean and the third-richest by GDP per capita in the Americas. Trinidad and Tobago is recognized as a high-income economy by the World Bank." (Wikipedia, n.d.)



# The Languages of Guyana and Trinidad

Being that both countries were once ruled by Britain, the English language was adapted as their main language. Broken English such as Patois is spoken







## Music

- Trinidad is most known for their steelpan (shown above) as well as calypso, soca, parang, chutney, and chutney soca.
- Guyana has pretty much the same genres of music, however, they also have dancehall and reggae as well as bollywood (indian american fusion) music.



# Native Dishes of Guyana

Guyana has a wide array of dishes and variations of curries, stews, rice, roti, and much more. The dishes shown are pepper pot, metemgee (metem), and rice accompanied by seven different curries.






*Doubles*



## Native Dishes of Trinidad

Shown on the left is a popular vegetarian street food called doubles which contains curried chickpeas, tamarind sauce, and pepper sauce. On the right is a staple known as bake and shark. This dish contains a piece of fried shark sandwiched between two pieces of fried bread called bake accompanied by pineapple, cucumbers, pepper sauce, mayonnaise, tamarind sauce, spicy mango slaw, cilantro, tomato, and lettuce.



*Bake & Shark*





## Fresh Foods and Markets



Unlike America, Guyana and Trinidad tend to have fresher foods. For some, they grow their own produce such as mangoes in their backyard. Markets always carry fresh fishes, poultry, and meat. Throughout the day especially in tourist areas, carts ride around selling snacks such as pholourie (fried split pea fritter), fried chickpeas, and some even sell fresh eggs.



## Methods of Cooking



In both Guyana and Trinidad they would cook on a fireside (chulha) which is an outside stove made of clay or bricks; this is shown in the first picture. The second picture shows what is called a fireside or "bushcook" which solely consists of wood.





# Transportation in Guyana



Typically, cars and buses are used to get around as well as horsecarts and donkeycarts. Some individuals also ride bicycles and motorcycles.







# Transportation in Trinidad

The main modes of transportation are by car and maxi taxis which are just small vans. When traveling to Tobago, the boats are used.







# Religion in Guyana



The predominant religion is Christianity; around 63% of the population is Christian. 24.8% of the population is Hindu making it the highest percentage of Hindus in the Western Hemisphere.





# Religion in Trinidad



Majority of the population of Trinidad identifies themselves as Christian/Protestant/Catholic, however, 18.2% are Hindu, 5% are Muslim, and 1.5% are Jehovah's Witnesses.





# Religious Practices

Though majority of the population of both Guyana and Trinidad are Christian, some partake in Hindu celebrations such as Diwali. During this holiday candles called diyas are lit as a symbol of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.





## Weddings in Guyana and Trinidad

Weddings are a big deal in both Guyana and Trinidad especially those who have Hindu weddings. Most weddings span over the course of 3-4 days, each day following its own tradition. Communities come together and create processions or barriats that consist of music and decorated cars.





# Sports



The most popular sport that is played and watched by many in both Trinidad and Guyana is cricket. Each country has their own team; Guyana has the Amazon Warriors and Trinidad has the Trinidad Knight Riders. Many games are played at Queens Park Oval in Trinidad or Providence Stadium in Guyana.





# References

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- ❖ • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_Trinidad\\_and\\_Tobago#:~:text=%246.93%20billion%20\(October%202019%20est.\)&text=All%20values%2C%20unless%20otherwise%20stated,economy%20by%20the%20World%20Bank.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Trinidad_and_Tobago#:~:text=%246.93%20billion%20(October%202019%20est.)&text=All%20values%2C%20unless%20otherwise%20stated,economy%20by%20the%20World%20Bank.)
- ❖ Photos taken by myself or provided by family members





*Thank You*

*Questions? Feel free to  
ask them*