



# Dominica's History

## A brief timeline of important events in Dominica's history



**c3000 BC** Stone age tribes, the Igneri from the Orinoco, first populate our island.

**c1000 AD** Kalinago (Island Caribs) moving up through the island chain become dominant, and give the island the name of *Wai'tukubuli*, meaning 'Tall is her body'.

**1493** Columbus visits the island and names it Dominica.

**1627** Dominica and other islands were granted by patent to the Earl of Carlisle who was a Proprietor.

**1748** Pressure from France led to the Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle which forced the British to give up claims to the islands of the 1627 Patent including Dominica.

**1763** Dominica was ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris. The Royal Proclamation establishes "Government of Grenada" with jurisdiction over Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Tobago and Dominica – one Governor and one Legislature for the group.

**1768** Separate Legislative Assembly established in Dominica.

**1778** The French repossessed Dominica. The Legislative Assembly continued to function as usual.

**1783** The French returned Dominica to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles.

**1784** Governor Orde convenes Assembly to deal with internal Maroon revolt.

**1831** Full political and social rights granted to free non whites.

**1832** Coffee constituted 32 per cent of the value of Dominica's exports.

**1833** Dominica grouped in the Leeward Islands administrative union under one Governor.

**1834** Slavery abolished.

**1838** Mulatto Ascendancy form a majority in House of Assembly of Dominica, the first in the British West Indies. This was under the leadership of the flamboyant, self-educated newspaperman George Charles Falconer.

**1865** Crown colony government had been instituted by the Dominican Legislature.

**1871** Administrative union of the Leeward Islands converted to a constitutional Federation – with a federal Executive Council nominated by the Governor and a federal Legislative Council consisting of ten (10) nominated members and ten (10) elected members elected by the unofficial members of the legislatures of the member islands. Dominica administered by a President (later titled "Commissioner" and subsequently "Administrator").

**1898** Crown Colony Rule is introduced in Dominica with Sir Hesketh Bell as its first Administrator.

**1922** The Wood Commission visits and makes possible the election of four (4) members to unofficial side of legislature.

**1932** The Closer Union Commission further weakened Crown Colony Rule and set the basis for the West Indies Federation of 1958.

**1938** The Moyne Commission visits and makes possible union and party formation in Dominica.

**1940** Dominica withdrawn from the Leeward Islands constitutional Federation and placed in the Windward Islands Administrative Union.

**1945** First Trade Union formed in Dominica, the Dominica Trade Union.

**1951** Universal Adult Suffrage introduced, replacing property-ownership or payment of taxes as qualifications for voting. Qualification for membership on the Legislative Council reduced.

Legislative Council with a clear elected majority established – consisting of two (2) ex-officio, three (3) nominated and eight (8) elected members, with Administrator having a casting vote.

**1955** Ministerial system introduced. The Legislative Council remained unchanged, but a fourth elected member was included in the Executive Council – three of whom were appointed Ministers on a majority vote of elected nominated members of Legislative Council and removable on majority vote of whole Legislative Council. One (1) ex-officio member was added but the official member was to be appointed only if requested by Executive Council. The First Representative Party was formed – The Labour Party of Dominica.

**1956** The British Caribbean Federation Act 1956 was passed enabling Her Majesty in Council to provide for the Federation of the West Indian Colonies of which Dominica was one.

**1957** Dominica had its first Chief Minister. The Second Representative Party was formed – The Dominica United Peoples Party. The West Indies Federation was constituted under the West Indies (Federation) Order in Council 1957 which was brought into operation in Dominica on the 3rd day of January, 1958 by

the West Indies (Federation) (Commencement) Order in Council 1957.

**1962** With the dissolution of the Federation by the West Indies Act 1962, Dominica was restored to its original status.

**1967** Dominica granted Associated Statehood – virtual independence, with Defence and External Affairs in the hands of the U. K. Government.

Dominica had its first Premier.

New Constitution sets up legislature consisting of eleven (11) elected, three (3) nominated and an ex-officio member (the Attorney General if a public officer) and the Speaker of the House of Assembly (if not a member of the House).



**1978** Full independence attained under a republican Constitution. Unicameral legislature consisting of twenty-one (21) elected and nine (9) nominated members – with a Prime Minister (**Patrick John**) and Cabinet based on the Westminster model.

**1979** Hurricane David devastates the island.

**1980 Eugenia Charles** replaces Patrick John as Prime Minister, becoming first female prime minister in the Caribbean.

**1981** Two coup attempts; Patrick John tried and acquitted.

**1985** Patrick John retried and found guilty – sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

**1993** Eugenia Charles resigns as DFP leader but continues as prime minister.

**1995** United Workers Party (led by **Edison James**) win general election with 11 seats. Freedom and Labour parties both take 5 seats. Eugenia Charles retires from politics after 27 years.

**2000** Close general election. Labour and Freedom parties form coalition.

October: **Rosie Douglas**, Labour Party leader, dies. **Pierre Charles** becomes new party leader.

**2001** International Monetary Fund (IMF) called in.

**2002** Govt. implements 4% 'Stabilization Levy' tax to tackle the financial crisis.

**2003** May: Caribs celebrate 100th anniversary of the founding of the Carib Reserve.

June: austerity Budget sees public sector job cuts.

October: **Nicholas Liverpool** becomes next President.

November: Dominica celebrates 25th anniversary of Independence.

**2004** January: PM Pierre Charles passes away suddenly at 7:45pm on the 6th following health concerns. **Roosevelt Skerrit** named new Prime Minister.

March: Dominica establishes diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, prompting Taiwan to end ties with Dominica.

June: PM Skerrit presents his first budget as PM, and declaring that the economy has turned the corner, announces the end of the Stabilisation Levy.

**2005:** Election fever grips the island. The filming of Pirates of the Caribbean 2 & 3 is a major boost to the economy in the early part of the year.

May 5th: PM Skerrit leads the Dominica Labour Party to a General Election victory.

September 6th: Dame Eugenia Charles, former PM, passes away.

**2006:** Value Added Tax is introduced.

IMF commends Government on implementation of its economic programme.

NDC launches new website ([www.discoverdominica.com](http://www.discoverdominica.com)) as part of major rebranding of tourism product.

**2007:** February: President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela pays visit to Dominica as part of deepening ties between the two countries.

The CBS reality TV show 'Pirate Master' is filmed in Dominica in early 2007 and aired in summer.

October 24th: new national sports stadium officially opened.

**2008:** July: 2008 Budget responds to world food price crisis by reducing taxes on some foods. Income tax reduced by 2 %.

[www.avirtualdominica.com/historytimeline.cfm](http://www.avirtualdominica.com/historytimeline.cfm)

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## Medlemsmöte Stora Saxaren sommaren 2008



Glada SWEDOM-medlemmar hos Bosse på Stora Saxaren. Som vanligt snackade vi mycket om Dominica och i år det kommande jubiléet. Flera medlemmar firar jubiléet i Dominica. Men innan dess inbjuder SWEDOM till en jubileumsfest för Dominica lördagen den 18 oktober.

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## Dominica's Independence Celebrations 2008

### *Celebrating the Journey Together*

#### **National Folk Song Festival – 15 October**

Arawak House of Culture Tickets available at Frontline Bookstore, Roseau.

#### **Market Day with a Difference – 25 October**

The Roseau Market is at its best with fruits & vegetables. Stalls are decorated in madras and the market hucksters are dressed in traditional Creole wear.

#### **Heritage Day – 26 October**

Heritage Day.

#### **Creole in the Park – 27 October**

Week of Creole events, music, food and culture, held in the Botanical Gardens. October 27nd to 30th, 2008.

#### **Traditional Culture Night – 29 October**

Creole Fun on the Bayfront, Roseau.

#### **National Wob Dwiyet Pageant – 30 October**

National Wob Dwiyet Pageant – Old Mill Cultural Center, Canefield, 8 pm. Tickets available at Frontline Bookstore, Roseau.

#### **National Youth Rally – 30 October**

National Youth Rally Windsor Park Stadium at 8.00 am.

#### **Creole Day – 31 October**

The day to wear, speak and celebrate Creole culture.

#### **World Creole Music Festival – 31 October**

Three-Day Creole & Caribbean Music Festival. The 12th Annual World Creole Music Festival is in Dominica from October 31st to November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **National Day of Independence Parade – 3 November**

One of the highlights of the Independence Celebrations. The National Day Parade is held in the Windsor Park Sports Stadium, Roseau.

#### **National Day of Community Service – 4 November**

Public Holiday – Community Service Day, Islandwide.

## Jorden Runts Resmässa

**Lördagen den 4 oktober** ska du bege till Parken Konferens – Rosenlundsgatan 34-36, Södermalm, Stockholm. Öppet 11.00-18.00. Där träffar du vår ordförande Ruthine och andra medlemmar i SWEDOM som inspirerar besökarna att komma till Dominica.

Vill du veta mer, kontakta Lars Berg, 08-560 324 35.

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## Fest för Dominica

Kom och fira Dominica! Vi har abonnerat den västindiska restaurangen Back A Yard. Du bjöds på en välkomstdrink när du kommer. Du deltar i en utlottning, där högsta vinsten är kvällens måltid. Det vill säga SWEDOM bjuder vinnaren på maten.

Vi lovar god mat och dryck. Vi lovar gungande musik. Vi lovar härlig dominikansk stämning med glada vänner. Och vi ska fira Dominica ordentligt!!!!

Vi behöver förhandsboka maten. Du kan välja mellan

### **Förrätter**

**Pattie.** En kryddstark grönsaksblandning eller kötttröra i en spröd deg. 60 kr.

**Saltfish Fritters.** Saltfish (torsk) blandas med en mjölbaserad deg och formas till runda ”plättar” och friteras tills dess de är gyllenbruna. 70 kr.

**Ackee and saltfish.** Jamaicas nationalrätt, ackee är en frukt som serveras med fisk som har varit torkad. Ackee ser lite ut som äggröra men smaken är unik. 95 kr.

### **Huvudrätter**

**Jerk Chicken.** Inspirerad av Maroonernas sätt att laga mat. För att få den speciella smaken används ”the original jerk seasoning”. Kycklingen marineras och tillagas i ugnen. 155 kr.

**Curry Goat.** En gryta med getkött, curry, timjan, scotch bonnet pepper, kokas länge för att alla smakerna ska tränga in ordentligt i köttet. 180 kr.

**Fried Red Snapper.** Stekt Red Snapper smakar som Karibien ”when you put it in your mouth you never want it to finish”. Serveras med en timjandoftande grönsakssås. 190 kr.

**Ital Stew.** ”The Rastamans food”. En vegetarisk gryta gjord på säsongens grönsaker med en bas av kokosmjölk och kryddad med timjan, kryddpeppar, salladslök, vitlök, scotch bonnet pepper. 130 kr.

**Datum och tid:** Lördagen den 18 oktober kl. 18.30.

**Plats:** Back A Yard, Folkungagatan 126, Södermalm, Stockholm. Tel. 08-644 94 94.

**Hemsida:** [www.backayard.gastrogate.se](http://www.backayard.gastrogate.se)

**Anmäl till Berith Granath, tel. 08-643 26 80.  
E-post [berith.granath@telia.com](mailto:berith.granath@telia.com) senast den 13 oktober.**