

GRENADA CUSTOMS

Greetings:

Friends sometimes nod upwards or tap clenched fists instead (called a *bounce*).

In a formal setting or among strangers, *Good morning*, *Good afternoon*, and *Good night* are typical greetings.

Grenadians exchange verbal greetings before conducting business, beginning a conversation, or asking a question. Failing to do so is considered rude.

Rural acquaintances and friends casually greet each other with such patois phrases as *Whappen dey?* (What's happening?) or *Hows tings?* (How are things?). Typical responses include *Ah dey* (I'm all right) or *Just cool* (Everything is fine).

When parting, friends often say *Later!* or *We go see* (See you later). Formally, people might say *Until we meet again*.

Gestures:

Waving the hand at waist level, palm down, means “no.” The “thumbs up” sign means “good.”

To beckon, people wave the fingers with the palm facing down.

Men and women hiss to get a friend's attention, but when a man hisses at a passing woman, she considers it suggestive and ignores it.

Holidays:

Grenadians celebrate Christmas, Boxing Day (26 Dec.), Good Friday, Easter (Saturday–Monday), Whitmonday, and Corpus Christi. Secular holidays include New Year's Day, Independence Day (7 Feb.), Labor Day (1 May), Thanksgiving (25 Oct.), Emancipation Day (first Monday in August), and Carnival. Thanksgiving, related to the 1983 U.S. intervention, typically is marked only by official ceremonies.

In August, Carnival celebrations (Sunday–Tuesday) involve street dancing, concerts, and colorful parades. Carriacou celebrates Carnival three days before Catholic Lent. Carnival is a time for Grenadians living outside of Grenada to return home for a visit. Each region, or *parish* (Saint George's, John's, Mark's, Andrew's, Patrick's, and David's), has a festival to honor the saint for which it was named. Villages and towns also hold local festivals, including Fisherman's Birthday (St. Peter's Day) in Gouyave and Windward, Grenville's August Rainbow Festival, and Carriacou's August Regatta and December Parang Festival (a competitive folk-music event).