

*St. Kitts & Nevis*

# National WEAR

## *St. Kitts and Nevis National Wear*

*St. Kitts and Nevis' Official National Wear reflects the true "Caribbeaness" of its people. A combination of African and European influences which have shaped the history of St. Kitts and Nevis is evident in both the male and female outfits.*

## *★ Women's Wear*

*It is customary for African women to wrap their heads for protection. The main dress is off-white cotton, with a corset top and an ankle length, wide flare petticoat bottom. The beige cotton sleeves are short and puffed by using the drawstring. A short lap skirt made from crocus is worn over the main dress to protect it from dirt. The madras "Cane Soda Wrap", which was used to carry soda while fertilizing sugar cane, is draped around the waist. The crocus drawstring bag was a safe way for women to secure their money.*

## *★ Men's Wear*

*A straw hat trimmed with madras offered protection from the hot day's sun. The short sleeved, v-neck jack shirt trimmed with madras is made from off-white cotton. The design is similar to traditional shirts worn by Africans. The beige cotton, ankle length pant is a reflection of the local fabrics that were commonly used during the colonial period.*