Capital of the Danish West Indies when Sugar Was King

Demarara was a haven in the race for colonies in the New World. Located close to the Caribbean, sugar was renouned in the region for over a century. But after the English planters moved to the Lesser Antilles in 1628, the Dutch, Danish, and eventually Danes decided in the scramble for empire. Saving a

For their first settlement in the Danes chose a good harbor on the northeast coast, the site of an earlier French village named Brussels. Their leader, Frederick V, was a man of vision. He planned a new town—Christiansand in honor of the king Christian VI—and he had the initial survey into plantations of 150 acres, prior to actual settlement. The first land card, under cultivation and dozens of sugar factories began operating. Population approached 10,000, nearly 2000 of them slaves imported from West Africa to work in the fields.

Even with this growth, St. Croix's economy did not flourish. The planters staffers in the Danskq Company's management and backsiders. This monopoly, as burdened planters with regulations that they persuaded the king to take over in 1758. Cron's administration was not well in the beginning, but by the end of the 18th century, the islands were already a major producer of sugar.

Regulators and Rivalry

Though Danish colonial policy was inevitably geared to the sugar industry, the society was also a society of traders and landowners. In St. Croix, the slave trade was often as important as the sugar trade. The free black and mulatto population was large and influential. Under Danish policies, the islands were divided into estates, each with its own slave owner. Under Danish law, the military was under the control of the sea captain, and enslaved blacks and the free population had little power to influence the government. The islands were also divided into estates, each with its own plantation and its own black and free population.

Nestled between the hills that overlooked the harbor, the city of Frederiksdal was a bustling center of commerce. The town was a hub for trade, with ships from all over the world bringing their goods and goods. The town was a center for the production of sugar, with factories that processed the raw sugar into refined sugar. The town was also a center for the production of rum, with small distilleries producing their own.

In the West Indian Style

The West Indian style evolved over time with new influences and other styles. It was a mix of British and French influences, with a bit of African and Native American styles as well. The use of wood and other materials reflects the available resources. The style was also influenced by the merchants who came from Europe and the colonies.

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Visiting the Park

Take a walking tour of the historic buildings in the town to learn about Danish past. Begin your tour at:

1. Fort Christiansværk. Completed in 1640, this fort is one of the oldest forts in the West Indies. It was built to protect the town from pirates and other threats. The fort features impressive stone masonry and a large gun platform.

2. The Danish West India Company Warehouse. This warehouse was built in 1646 to store the goods brought to the island by the company. It is now a museum that features exhibits about the history of the island.

3. The Lutheran Church. Built in 1636, this church is one of the oldest structures in the West Indies. The church features a large bell tower and a beautiful interior.

4. Art at the Customs House. Local artists have created beautiful works that are on display in the building.

5. The Lumber House. This building, which was built in 1638, features a large warehouse that was used to store goods. It is now a museum that features exhibits about the history of the island.

For your safety, remember that the weather in the area can change quickly. Be prepared for rain and bring an umbrella.

The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. The telephone number is 111-1111.
The Sugar Plantation

For a time, St. Croix was one of the wealthiest sugar islands in the West Indies. The good years coincided with war between colonial powers in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, when sugar production was high, and the price of sugar on the world market was volatile. By this time, plantations had already grown to 30,000-40,000 acres, including planted, unplanted, and processed cane on 200 plantations. More than 100 windmills and almost as many animal mills ran night and day in converting sugar into wealth.

Growing sugar was hard work. The tasks of the indentured planter was arduous work. At plantation and his manager had to know how to plant a crop and bring it in how to make sugar, molasses, and rum and get them to market, how to build, how to manage estate operations, and how to deal with island merchants, ship captains, and brokers. Work went on year round. For the sugar plantations, it was an almost year-long activity. For the most planters it was almost leisurely.

Planters continued with sugar, barter, and exchanging market prices, and the burdens of shipping. Considerable investments, much of it borrowed at high rates, were needed for buildings and machinery as well as land and slaves—because a planter was as much a manufacturer as a farmer. Sugar production was a highly integrated process from field to market that, in fact, formed the core of the plantation economy.

Most plantations were small communities of 250 to 300 acres, but not self-sufficient. Much food, clothing, and equipment was imported. Two-thirds of the land grew cane; the rest contained dwellings, gardens planned for provisions, pasture, and the large 17-kilogram factory building. In 400 to 500 years, transformed into raw sugar called molasses. The factory was part of an industrial complex a great stone windmill for squeezing juice from cane, a charcoal house for reducing the stone to charcoal, brewing houses for making rum, and a distillery for making rum. The planter’s house and slave village stood nearby. The four slave dwellings were of wattle-and-daub construction. Later ones were of masonry, usually built by the slaves themselves as single cottages in orderly rows.

The Greathouse

The plantation’s sugar-house and land was usually built in the early 18th century. The Greathouse, as the large house was known, was usually a large, three-story stone building. The best example of this type is found at St. Croix. From the 1790s on, the accumulated wealth enabled planters to build soft houses, many of which survive today. In the early 1800s, many of the planters and their families were able to travel to Europe and perhaps an office or factory. The enslaved laborers with high culture.

Distilling Rum

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Drying Rum

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