

# Afro Costa Rican Factoids

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## Limon

Black population was 1/3 of population in 1990s; largely a separate population.

These English speaking blacks came to Costa Rica as laborers from the West Indies. They built the railroad to haul coffee to the port of Limon. They worked plantations and banana fields. There was a United Fruit Company (a US company) there.

Some blacks moved into cities and assimilated into Costa Rican culture. West Indians who remained in the countryside established farms.

Jose Figueres fought for full citizenship for blacks, which resulted in more assimilation by blacks into traditional Costa Rican culture.

Universal Negro Improvement Association - Marcus Garvey

Black Star Line Building (headquarters for UNIA) is being rebuilt

Puerto Limon – capital of Limon

Center of banana trade

Port for coffee shipments

Beautiful beaches at Cahuita and Puerto Viejo are about a 45 minute drive from Limon.

Main terminal of new port in Limon opened in February, 2019.

National Learning Institute scheduled to train 2000 people in English within 18 months to ensure better career opportunities.

Local black organizations in Limon are working toward better opportunities for the people.

Renowned Afro Costa Rican author, Quince Duncan, was named Commissioner, Ministry of Afro Costa Rican Affairs, but has since resigned.

Ate at Taylor's Restaurant (traditional).

Visited with Sandra Sherrier, Owner, Sherrier Fashion African Boutique.

Visited with George Grant Ebanks, Director General, G&E Chocolate Adventure Company.