



## Fact sheet: Being a Saint

A typical saint is friendly, fun loving...

St Helena has always been a crossroads on the sea. During the East India Company era, English settlers lived alongside workers and slaves from Madagascar, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, west Africa and China. After their liberations from slave ships in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century many more free Africans stayed on St Helena. Fewer settlers came from France, South Africa and elsewhere to make their homes here.

Historically, these groups were kept separate by their different backgrounds and social standing, but sometimes the boundaries blurred. Saints are the product of hundred of years of this cross-cultural mixing.

The fusion of peoples has created a distinctive culture. Saints eat Saint food, speak a distinctive language, built their houses to face the sea and wave at passing cars. A typical Saint is friendly, fun loving, unhurried, resourceful, has a strong sense of family and a deep connection to their island.

What do think makes a Saint - a Saint?