

25/25

St Barths

Caribbean

Between Christmas and New Year, the tiny French island of St Barths hosts a phalanx of movie stars, models, and music moguls who enjoy a fast-paced social whirl on fabulous yachts and at windswept villas. Things slow down the rest of the year when the island revels in both the relaxed charm of the Caribbean and the sophistication of France, with miles of unspoiled beaches, clear azure waters, and breathtaking views.

Essentials

- 01 Getting there – don't even think about taking the ferry from St Martin. Take the puddle jumpers (Air Caraïbes, WinAir, St Bart's Commuter).
- 02 St Barths is polyglot, with French as the official language, but English is widely spoken.
- 03 The local currency is the euro but dollars are accepted everywhere.
- 04 Mini Coopers and small electric cars are popular and better for the narrow roads.
- 05 Take a walking tour of Gustavia (named after a Swedish king).

Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

Hotel Christopher
Pointe Milou
+ 590 590 27 63 63
hotelchristopher.com

Dependable chain

Le Guanahani
Grand Cul de Sac
+ 590 590 27 70 70
leguanahani.com

Premium

Le Sereno
Grand Cul de Sac
+ 590 590 29 83 00
lesereno.com

Dining

Fast breakfast

Maya's To Go
St Jean
+ 590 590 29 83 70
st-barths.com/mayas-to-go

Leisurely breakfast

La Plage
Tom Beach Hotel, St Jean
+ 590 590 27 53 13
st-barths.com/tom-beach-hotel

Mid-morning coffee

Bar de l'Oubli
Gustavia
+ 590 590 27 70 06

Lunch with friends

La Langouste
Hotel Baie des Anges, Flamands
+ 590 590 27 63 61
hotelbaiedesanges.fr

Authentic Creole lunch

Au Regal
Sports bar with real Creole food, Corossol
+ 590 590 27 85 26

Dinner on your own

Kiki è Mo
Gourmet Italian food to eat-in or take home, St Jean
+ 590 590 27 70 47
st-barths.com/kiki-e-mo

Sunset cocktail

Head to the beach in Corossol with a cold bottle of bubbly from La Cave du Port Franc in Public

Dinner on your own

The Hideaway
Vaval Center, Baie de St Jean
+ 590 590 27 63 62

Dinner with friends

Victoria's at Carl Gustaf Hotel
Rue des Nomands
+ 590 590 297 900
hotelcarlgustaf.com

Dinner for two

La Route des Bouncaniers
Waterfront, Gustavia
+ 590 590 27 73 00

Big dinner with friends

Maya's
Public
+ 590 590 27 75 73
st-barths.com/mayas-to-go

Drink after dinner

Caviar Island
Gustavia
saint-barths.com/caviariland
+ 590 590 52 46 11

Late drinks

Yacht Club
Gustavia
+ 590 590 27 86 39

Reading

Newsstand

Oasis Presse
International newspapers, books and stationery
Lorient
+ 590 590 29 72 46

Basics

Pharmacie de la Savanne
St Jean (across from the airport)
+ 590 590 27 66 61

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Check out the straw hats and baskets made from palm fronds and sold in the fishing village of Corossol.

Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

The Pelican Shops
Boutiques near the beach, St Jean

Something for the kids

Beach toys from Dimanche a la mer
Vaval Shopping Centre, St Jean
+ 590 590 27 56 13

Something for someone you love

Oil paintings by French artist Alain Lechatelier at Les Artisans, Gustavia
+ 590 590 27 50 40

Something for yourself

Relaxing massage or facial at The Spa at the Guanahani hotel
Grand Cul de Sac
+ 590 590 27 66 60
leguanahani.com

Two-hour tour

Two classic wooden sailboats to charter for sunset cruises
Lone Fox
Owner/skipper Ira Epstein
+ 590 690 33 26 85
lonefoxcharters.com

Limousine/car

Premium iv
concierge service
+ 590 590 29 00 07
premiumiv.com

Transport

Minivans

Grab one at the port in Gustavia for around-the-island tours in an air-conditioned minivan.
+ 590 590 277 059

Fitness

Bikes

For self-propelled tours of the island on a sun velo.
+ 590 690 63 46 09
+ 590 590 87 18 56

Gym

Form Fitness
Everything from workout machines and pilates to yoga and salsa classes.
+ 590 590 27 51 23
formfitness-stbarth.com

