

# St Barts Travel Guide



## WHAT TO DO IN *st. barts* THE SWANKIEST CARIBBEAN ISLAND



**St Barts Travel Guide:** Nestled in the Caribbean Sea, St Barts, officially known as Saint Barthélemy, is a tropical paradise that boasts stunning beaches, luxurious accommodations, and a rich cultural heritage. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a family vacation, or an adventurous trip with friends, this travel guide will provide you with all the essential information and tips to make the most of your journey to this idyllic island.

# Getting to St Barts

Before diving into the beauty and attractions of St Barts, it's important to understand how to reach this captivating destination. The island does not have its own international airport, which adds to its exclusivity and charm.

## Air Travel

- The nearest airport is Gustaf III Airport (SBH), located in St Jean. This small airport offers flights primarily from Saint Martin (SXM).
- You can also fly into larger international airports in neighboring islands, such as Sint Maarten, and take a short regional flight or ferry to St Barts.

## Sea Travel

- For those who prefer a more scenic route, ferries operate between St Martin and St Barts several times a day. This can be a delightful way to begin your vacation, offering stunning views of the Caribbean.
- Private yachts and charters are also popular among travelers who wish to explore the waters around St Barts.

# Where to Stay in St Barts

St Barts is known for its luxurious accommodations, which cater to a variety of tastes and budgets. Here are some of the best options to consider:

## Luxury Resorts

- Eden Rock: A legendary hotel located on St Jean Beach, Eden Rock features lavish villas and suites with breathtaking views and top-notch amenities.
- Cheval Blanc: This ultra-luxurious resort offers personalized service and stunning beachfront views, perfect for those seeking a tranquil and opulent experience.

## Charming Villas and Rentals

- Renting a villa can provide a more private and intimate experience. Many villas come with private pools, stunning sea views, and easy access to beaches.
- Popular areas for villa rentals include Gustavia, St Jean, and Flamands.

## Budget-Friendly Options

- Hotel Le Village: This quaint hotel offers comfortable accommodations without breaking the bank, and is conveniently located near popular beaches.

- Les Terrasses de Saint Barth: A charming guesthouse that provides a cozy atmosphere and easy access to local attractions.

## Top Attractions in St Barts

While the beaches are undoubtedly one of the main draws of St Barts, the island also has a plethora of attractions worth exploring.

### Beaches

1. Saline Beach: A pristine stretch of white sand, Saline Beach is perfect for sunbathing and swimming in calm waters.
2. Flamands Beach: Known for its stunning beauty, Flamands is one of the largest beaches on the island, offering plenty of space for relaxation.
3. St Jean Beach: This lively beach is popular for its vibrant atmosphere, water sports, and nearby restaurants.

### Cultural Sites

- Gustavia: The capital city is rich in history, featuring charming streets lined with colorful buildings, shops, and restaurants. Don't miss the Wall House Museum, which showcases the island's heritage.
- Fort Karl: Located near Gustavia, this historic fort offers panoramic views of the harbor and is a great spot for history enthusiasts.

### Outdoor Activities

- Snorkeling and Diving: Explore the vibrant underwater world at places like Colombier Beach or Toiny. St Barts is known for its clear waters and diverse marine life.
- Hiking: The island offers several hiking trails that lead to breathtaking viewpoints, including the scenic path to Colombier Beach.

## Dining and Nightlife in St Barts

St Barts is a culinary paradise, featuring a range of dining options from casual beachside eateries to high-end gourmet restaurants.

### Restaurants to Try

1. Nikki Beach: A trendy beach club that serves delicious cuisine alongside a vibrant atmosphere, perfect for daytime lounging.
2. La Guérite: This waterfront restaurant offers a delightful menu of Mediterranean-inspired dishes in a picturesque setting.
3. L'Isola: Renowned for its Italian cuisine, L'Isola is a favorite among locals and visitors alike.

4. Le Tamarin: Set in a lush garden, this restaurant serves a mix of Caribbean flavors and international dishes, providing a unique dining experience.

## **Nightlife**

- Bar de l'Oubli: A lively bar in Gustavia where you can enjoy cocktails and live music.
- Le Ti St Barth: A popular nightclub that attracts both locals and tourists for its vibrant atmosphere and themed parties.

## **Shopping in St Barts**

Shopping in St Barts is a unique experience, with a range of boutiques and shops offering everything from high-end designer goods to local crafts.

## **What to Buy**

- Designer Fashion: The island is home to luxury boutiques featuring high-end brands such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci, and more.
- Local Art: Explore galleries showcasing the work of local artists, perfect for finding unique souvenirs.
- Caribbean Crafts: Look for handmade jewelry, pottery, and other crafts that reflect the island's culture.

## **Travel Tips for Visiting St Barts**

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable trip, here are some practical tips to keep in mind:

## **Best Time to Visit**

- The peak tourist season runs from December to April when the weather is pleasant and dry. However, visiting during the shoulder months (May and November) can offer fewer crowds and lower prices.

## **Transportation on the Island**

- Renting a car is the most convenient way to explore St Barts, as public transportation is limited. Several rental agencies are available at the airport and within Gustavia.
- Taxis are also available, but they can be pricey, so it's advisable to confirm rates before the ride.

## **Local Etiquette**

- French is the official language, so learning a few basic phrases can be helpful and appreciated by the locals.

- Tipping is customary in restaurants and is typically around 10-15% of the bill.

## Conclusion

With its breathtaking beaches, luxurious accommodations, and vibrant culture, St Barts is a dream destination for travelers seeking both relaxation and adventure. This **St Barts travel guide** aims to provide you with all the information needed to plan your perfect getaway. Whether lounging on the beach, indulging in gourmet dining, or exploring the island's natural beauty, St Barts promises an unforgettable experience. So pack your bags and get ready to discover the magic of this Caribbean paradise!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the best time to visit St. Barts?

The best time to visit St. Barts is from mid-December to April, during the dry season when the weather is warm and sunny.

### What are the must-visit beaches in St. Barts?

Some must-visit beaches in St. Barts include St. Jean Beach, Saline Beach, and Gouverneur Beach, each offering stunning views and a unique atmosphere.

### How do I get to St. Barts?

You can get to St. Barts by flying into Princess Juliana International Airport in St. Maarten, then taking a short ferry ride or a small plane to St. Barts.

### What are the top activities to do in St. Barts?

Top activities include snorkeling, sailing, dining at gourmet restaurants, shopping in Gustavia, and exploring the island's hiking trails.

### Is St. Barts suitable for families?

Yes, St. Barts is suitable for families, offering family-friendly beaches, activities, and accommodations, although some areas might cater more to couples and luxury travelers.

### What is the local cuisine like in St. Barts?

The local cuisine in St. Barts features a blend of French and Caribbean flavors, with fresh seafood, tropical fruits, and dishes like conch fritters and bouillabaisse.

### Are there any cultural events or festivals in St. Barts?

Yes, St. Barts hosts several cultural events and festivals throughout the year, including the St. Barts Music Festival in January and the Carnival celebrations leading up to Lent.

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