



SHORE EXCURSIONS

7
nights

STAR FLYER
Treasure Islands



Sat	Philipsburg, St. Maarten
Sun	Road Bay, Anguilla
Mon	White Bay, Jost van Dyke, BVI Sopers Hole, Tortola, BVI
Tue	Sailing Sir Francis Drake Channel (am) The Bight, Norman Island, BVI
Wed	Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, BVI Beach, Captain's Best, BVI
Thu	Basseterre, St. Kitts (am) South Friar's Bay (beach), St. Kitts (pm)
Fri	Gustavia, St. Barts
Sat	Philipsburg, St. Maarten

What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our tours are offered with English speaking guides.
- The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating, or similar activities.

How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the library.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100 % cancellation fees will be charged.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions. Last updated tour descriptions are available in a file at the library.

Date of last update : 20th of June 2023

ANGUILLA (Road Bay)

Anguilla, the most northerly of the Leeward Islands, is located at latitude 18°N and longitude 63°. It is bound by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and is 16 miles long and three miles across at its widest point. The island enjoys low humidity, refreshing trade winds and an average monthly temperature of 80°F. The island is low-lying and ringed with 12 miles of spectacular, white sand and coral formations, which make up 33 beaches and coves. Surrounding the island is a reef system and seven islets and cays, excellent for diving and snorkeling. The waters are clear and range in colour from blue to aquamarine. The island has been inhabited since 1300BC. The first Europeans arrived around 1564 and were part of a French expedition. That's when the island was given its name, meaning "eel", because of its elongated form. The British first occupied Anguilla in 1650. The present population of approximately 8500 is of West African and European descent. Many of the family names on the island are of English, Welsh and Irish origin. The dry climate does not lend itself to farming and eventually the islanders turned to the sea, becoming shipbuilders, sailors and fishermen. Today, water sports are one of the main attractions of the island. Diving, snorkeling and sailboat racing are enjoyed by islanders and visitors alike. The local government, concerned with retaining the island's natural resources and inherent beauty, has kept growth to a slow pace and therefore has not allowed casinos. You will find the surroundings peaceful, the service superb and the people friendly. The island is known as a retreat for celebrities, and it is sometimes called the "South Beach" of the Caribbean.

Time at leisure at the beach (no excursions organized)

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Made up of some 40 islands, the British Virgin Islands were once referred to as the least important place in the British Empire. Apparently, little thought was given to the matter before this statement was made. The BVI's, with their astounding and varied beauty, are nothing short of a picturesque paradise. Although the Spanish used the islands briefly, notoriety came from famous pirates such as Blackbeard, Norman and Jost Van Dyke. These legendary marauders used the islands as a base from which to launch attacks and as their own safe haven. The BVI's were not actually settled by Europeans until the 1600's when the Dutch arrived. They were soon joined by the English and in 1672, England formally annexed the islands.

The BVI's have a growing reputation, particularly with the yachting crowd, for being among the most beautiful and scenic islands in the Caribbean. The beaches, with crystal-clear waters and powdery white sand, have been noted as some of the most exquisite in the world. The islands also have lush mountains and rain forests as well as arid locations. The combination of both makes the BVI's a Caribbean paradise.

JOST VAN DYKE (White Bay)

This four-mile-long island, named after a Dutch pirate, is truly a "barefoot" paradise, known by travelers the world over for its casual lifestyle, protected anchorages, fine beaches and beachfront restaurants and bars. A favorite destination for Yachties, Jost Van Dyke adjoins the tropical isles of Green Cay and Sandy Spit.

Time at leisure at the beach (no excursions organized)

TORTOLA (Soper's Hole)

Soper's Hole is a kind of tropical urban "gunk hotel", a nautical term for a delightful spot to anchor. The locality manages to retain its quaint charm while at the same time being a hub of activity. Surrounded by small mountains like Frenchman's Cay, Soper's Hole imparts a feeling of peace and serenity and yet at the same time there is a beguiling hint of anticipation for it is the "gateway" to a sea of islands (such as St. John) and holds the promise of upcoming adventure.

Time at leisure at the beach (no excursions organized)



NORMAN ISLAND (The Bight)

This island is reputed to be the Treasure Island of Robert Louis Stevenson fame. The floating bar/restaurant, William Thornton II, is anchored in the Bight of Norman to the north of the island. The William Thornton I, a converted 1910 Baltic trader, sank in 1995. You will also find the Billy Bones beach bar, open for lunch and dinner; but otherwise, the island is uninhabited. On its rocky west coast there are caves where treasure is said to have been discovered many years ago. There is excellent snorkeling around the caves and the facing reef slopes downward to a depth of 40 feet.

Be careful if you encounter some of the wild cattle grazing on the island, as their tempers are unpredictable. Off the northwest of Norman Island there are sharp pinnacles of rock sticking out of the sea in contrast to their near neighbor, the gently curved Pelican Island. Together they offer the diver and snorkeler a thrilling labyrinth of underwater reefs and caves.

Time at leisure at the beach (no excursions organized)**VIRGIN GORDA (Spanish Town)**

This half-mountainous, half-flat "Fat Virgin" with a scrawny neck lies a few miles northeast of Tortola. Though it's home to just 1500 people, it has some of the Caribbean's most amazing sights. The Baths are a surreal collection of gigantic granite boulders strewn across blindingly white palm-lined beaches at the southwest end of the island. Tide and wave action turns caves into baths and back again, eroding a snorkeling playground of crevices and pools. The island is seven miles long and the northernmost half is mountains with a peak of 1370 feet high, while the southern half is relatively flat. There are some 20 secluded beaches. On the southeast tip is Copper Mine Point, where the Spaniards mined copper, gold and silver until about 400 years ago. The remains of a mine built by Cornish miners in 1838 are being restored as funds permit. The rocky facade here is reminiscent of the Cornish coast of England. The amateur geologist will find stones such as malachite and crystals embedded in quartz. All land on Virgin Gorda over 1000 feet is now a National Park where trails have been blazed for walking.

VIRGIN GORDA - The Baths

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: open-air safari bus

Price: 55 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 100 participants

The Baths are a series of small sea pools lying beneath a canopy of giant granite boulders. These sheltered light-filled grottoes create a unique setting in which to swim and explore. Open-air safari buses will bring you to the entrance of the Baths. A path winds down to a beautiful sandy beach where you will have plenty of time to swim or snorkel in emerald clear waters or just relax in the warm Caribbean sun. A trail leads through the boulders to another equally beautiful beach at Devil's Bay. Swim and bask in the sun at your leisure. Upon your return to the car park, you will be served a complimentary refreshing fruit or rum punch at the restaurant "Top of the Baths". On the way back to the port, some photo stops will be made as the tour bus travels the twisting road to the crest of Gorda Peak.

Please note: We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes, as the footpath to the Baths is uneven. The footpath is approximately 250 meters up and down. Persons participating in this tour should be energetic and physically able.

Please wear a swimsuit under your clothes and to bring a towel from the ship, sunscreen, a bottle of water and water shoes.

Drivers act as guides during this tour. Cold refreshments, snacks and souvenirs are available [for purchase](#) at the Baths.

At the beach there is a flag warning system. In case of red flag (rough sea), access into the sea is not allowed.



BASSETERRE (ST KITTS)

Originally called the “fertile isle” by the Carib Indians, St. Kitts (officially named St. Christopher) still fits the description. A mountainous island of volcanic origin its slopes rise to almost 4000 feet, providing an ideal climate for abundant vegetation and one of the Caribbean’s largest rain forests. St. Kitts also has the distinction of being one of the only islands the French and British ever shared. This lasted only long enough to ward off the Caribs and the Spanish before they turned on each other. Possession of the island changed several times between the two before the British took final sovereignty with the Treaty of Versailles. The British also used St. Kitts as a mother colony of sorts, sending parties out to other nearby islands to begin colonization. In many ways, St. Kitts has changed little since those days. The sugar industry was closed in July 2005 with Tourism now our primary industry. St. Kitts gained independence in 1983 with its sister island of Nevis, just 2 miles off the southern coast; and has since been striving for controlled development in an effort to maintain its original attributes. Today the island still remains quiet in comparison to other Caribbean nations, but St. Kitts and Nevis are beginning to gain recognition for exactly that reason. They are very much alive with their own unique characteristics, serene atmosphere, beautiful unspoiled scenery and some palm-lined beaches.

All tours leave from Basseterre port and return at South Friars Bay**ST KITTS - St Kitts Scenic Rail Tour**

Duration: 03:30 approx.

Price: 80 €

Min 15 / Max 60 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus, train

Activity level: easy

This national rail tour runs a complete circle around the island allowing visitors the opportunity to see the entire country by rail and by road. No trip to this two-island federation is complete without the experience of traveling on the new St. Kitts Scenic Railway, one of the most beautiful train rides in the world. This one-of-a-kind narrow-gauge railroad was built almost a century ago to deliver sugar cane from the fields to the sugar mills in the capital city of Basseterre. This still operational railway now provides a fascinating way to see the entire island from the comfort of double-deck railcars built specifically for touring the island of St. Kitts. The upper level features a spacious open-air observation deck with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The lower level provides air-conditioned comfort with expansive vaulted windows. Island ambiance is evoked with comfortable rattan furniture, complimentary specialty drinks, island music and a colourful narrative history of the Caribbean.

The railway hugs the northeastern coastline with rippling fields of sugarcane stretching from the shoreline up to the mountains. The high volcanic mountain ranges, coated with lush green rainforests, rise nearly 4000 feet above sea level. The train rolls across tall steel bridges spanning deep “ghuts” or canyons, and winds through small villages and farms. Your railway conductor will point out old sugar estates, abandoned sugar mills and windmills while giving insight into the island’s unique history. Your experience is complimented by a scenic bus drive on the Southern coast. Enjoy the excellent vistas of Brimstone fortress, the British “Gibraltar of the Caribbean” and Middle Island where Thomas Jefferson’s great-grandfather is buried; and the neighbouring island of Nevis where American statesman and first Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, was born. A truly unique experience! All aboard the St. Kitts Scenic Railway! The actual ride by train is approx. 2 hours and the train is very slow. The island tour is completed by a bus drive back to the ship. Please note: Very leisurely tour. Complimentary drinks are served on the lower level of the railcar. Restrooms are available on the train.

Please note: the order of the visits may change. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunscreen, and water.



ST KITTS - The essential St Kitts Tour

Duration: 03:45 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 10 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Activity level: moderate

This could very well be the Caribbean's most memorable island tour. It includes Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, Romney Gardens, Caribelle Batik Studio and an interesting drive through Basseterre.

Brimstone Hill Fortress, also known as The Gibraltar of the West Indies, is perched on a 40-acre hilltop, 780 ft above sea level. For three hundred years it has borne witness to innumerable sea battles between the British and the French, more than at any other place in the two nation's naval history. The first cannons were mounted on Brimstone Hill in 1690 as the English and French fought for control of the island. Its spectacular panoramic views over coastline, countryside and neighboring islands.

No visit to St. Kitts is complete without a visit to Romney Gardens and Caribelle Batik Studios. This 10-acre garden setting is quite simply stunning. It is at this glorious location that local artists produce the fabric and apparel for which Caribelle Batik has become widely acclaimed. The garden setting and picturesque experience is a photographer's dream and will be remembered by visitors for years to come.

You will also get to drive through beautiful Basseterre. This historic Capital City is a perfect example of an original Caribbean town. Observe the traditional French architecture and Victorian structures. Old churches, West Indian cottages and a former slave market are also included in this interesting driving tour of Basseterre. Your next visit is to the Palm court gardens where his inspiring property will command you to either take pictures of the harbour or the beautiful palms on the property.

Please note: The tour is operated in air-conditioned minibus and driver-guides. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. The order of the visits may change. The driver is also the guide and gives live commentary (in English) along the way.

SAINT BARTHELEMY (Gustavia)

The Island of St Barthélemy, commonly known as St. Barts, is located at 18° N 63°W, in the northeastern corner of the Caribbean Sea. Steep hills divide the island into several valleys, usually open to the sea on one side. Each valley is distinctive with unique variations of topography, flora, density of settlement and character of architecture. This diversity creates the illusion of being on a much larger island. The shoreline includes 14 beaches of various sizes, all covered with gleaming white sand. Many are protected from ocean swells by a fringing reef all by law, are public and free. Several offshore areas are included in a marine reserve.

The capital Gustavia, surrounds a harbor of picture book beauty, lined with boutiques and cafés. St Barts with its mountainous landscape leading down to picturesque azure water coves and beaches is undoubtedly one of the jewels of the Caribbean.

ST BARTHELEMY - Sailing the Leeward Coast of St. Barts

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Price: 119 €

Min 12 / Max 16 participants

Transportation: boat (catamaran)

Activity level: moderate

All aboard for a relaxing tour sailing round the island, to give you the chance to admire the beautiful scenery. Then the captain will drop anchor in the bay of his choice so you can enjoy some leisure time. Sunbathe, swim from the boat into the warm sheltered waters of the bay, snorkel, lounge on the trampoline net, or just read a good book in the shade of the bimini. The crew will serve refreshments before you set sail back to Gustavia. After the tour, you will still have time to stroll around Gustavia.

Please note: Minimal age is 12 years (accompanied by an adult). This tour is not suitable for guests with reduced mobility, back or neck issues and pregnant women.

Snorkeling is optional, Guests participating to the snorkeling must know how to swim. Snorkeling equipment is not provided, please bring your equipment from the ship.

The itinerary and the tour sequence may be changed at Captain's discretion depending on weather conditions and tide.

Guests are advised to wear your swimsuit under the clothes and to bring a hat, sunscreen, a towel from the ship and water.



ST MAARTEN (Philipsburg)**Star Clippers offers the following services (optional, upon reservation):**

- **Shared transfer to “Princess Juliana” International Airport (SXM)**

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their pickup time. There will be one fixed departure from the port at about 09:00am. This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 12:00.

