

Philipsburg, St. Maarten • Anguilla • White Bay, Jost Van Dyke - Soper's hole, Tortola - Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda - Long Bay, Beef island - The Bight, Norman island • Basseterre, Friars' bay, St. Kitts • Gustavia, St. Barts • Philipsburg, St. Maarten

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on sites, is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

Please remember that islands in the Caribbean have a subtropical climate. Heavy rainfall may have a negative impact on roads and access to sites such as beaches. If this is the case excursions will be modified accordingly. Hiking paths may become muddy and slippery.



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.

Excursions including snorkelling may have to be modified (change of location) without compensation if the organiser and/or captain of the boat judge that local conditions are not consistent with passenger safety.

The information provided on the tours is designed to help you select the shore excursions most suited to your interests.

However please note that all shore excursions listed on our website may be subject to changes and modifications without prior notice.

The tour descriptions include approximate durations and rates will be advised prior to the departure date.



SAINT MAARTEN

Scenic transfer to the airport

By air-conditioned vehicle

Minimum 15 participants, maximum unlimited

Duration approx 3h30

Price TBA

Saint Maarten is one of the most unique destinations in the Caribbean. Since 1648 the island has been divided between the French and the Dutch with both sides maintaining their very distinct personality and heritage. The French side, Saint Martin is quiet and refined with gorgeous white beaches, French cuisine and sophisticated resorts.

The Dutch side of Sint Maarten has a more obvious Caribbean flavour with its brightly coloured buildings and tropical flair. St Maarten's capital is Philipsburg which bustles with duty free shopping, quality dining and an active nightlife. Practically, the whole island's economy is based on tourism with around 70% of the population working in the tourist sector. The island is also duty-free, which of course enhances its attractiveness for tourists. Both the French and the Dutch sides of the island benefit from the sandy beaches and coves which create an ideal environment for swimming, snorkelling and water sports.

Departing the Harbor at 9am, you will be dropped off in nearby Philipsburg for a one-hour browsing and shopping on famous Front Street (shops open at 9 am) or for a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk to enjoy the turquoise waters of Great Bay. After enjoying the Dutch Capital, you will be driven past the salt ponds, once the main source of revenue for the island to Oyster Pond, where you will cross the border to the French side.

Following the road to the charming village of Oyster Pond you will arrive at Coralita lookout point. Here kite surfers can often be photographed catching the waves, while in the distance the island of St Barth can be seen. After a short stop the journey continues to Orient bay, the Saint Tropez of the Caribbean, well-known for its clothing optional beach.

The drive continues further through the picturesque countryside of French St Martin past the village of Grand Case, the gourmet Capital of the Caribbean with its many restaurants, alive with creole culture and a local community vibe. Entering Marigot, the capital of the French side of St. Martin, the tour will stop for a 1 hour break giving guests the time for some more souvenir hunting, duty free shopping and/or time to enjoy a coffee in a typical French café.

Leaving the charming French capital of Marigot you will be driven through Bellevue on the way to the border where you will cross back the Dutch side of the island. Then you will cross the Simpson Bay causeway, the newest and longest bridge on the island.

Following along airport road and the runway you will arrive at 12h30 at Juliana International airport.



ANGUILLA

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.

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. Sugar plantations and rum manufacturing were soon the primary industries on the islands. After the abolition of slavery, the islands lucrative businesses began to falter and many of the expatriates began returning to England, leaving the land to their former slaves. There was little or no change on the islands until 1950, when a local government was installed by the islanders, but to this day the BVI's remain part of the English Commonwealth.

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.

WHITE BAY, JOST VANDYKE

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 favourite destination for Yachties, Jost Van Dyke adjoins the tropical isles of Green Cay and Sandy Spit.



SOPER'S HOLE, TORTOLA

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.

SPANISH TOWN, VIRGIN GORDA

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.

The Baths

By open-air safari buses

Min 15 participants, maximum limited

Duration 4hrs

Price TBA

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, gazebo and your waiting bus, you will be served a complimentary refreshing fruit or rum punch at the Top of the Baths restaurant. On the way back to the port, several photo stops will be made for photo-taking as the tour bus travels the twisting road to the crest of Gorda Peak.

We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes, as the footpath to the Baths is uneven.

The footpath is approx 250 meters up and down.

Persons participating in this tour should be energetic and physically able.

Bring your swimwear, towels, sunscreen

Drivers act as guides during this tour.

Cold refreshments, snacks and souvenirs are available for purchase at the Baths.



LONG BAY, BEEF ISLAND

Relax and enjoy your time at Long Bay Beach and savor the Caribbean atmosphere. Although Long Bay, Beef Island is not technically a Tortola beach, it is accessible from Tortola by the Beef Island Bridge. This is a lovely curving beach of white sand beach fringed with and very calm crystal clear water.

THE BIGHTS, NORMAN'S ISLAND

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.

SAINT 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 up 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.



The essential St Kitts Tour

Drivers guide

By air-conditioned mini-van

Minimum 8 participants, maximum unlimited

Duration 3h30

Price TBA

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 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. The next 200 years saw the intermittent construction of an amazing work of architectural and engineering genius. This magnificent structure is the second largest of its type in the entire western hemisphere and one of the best preserved. Its spectacular panoramic views include coastline, country side and five neighboring islands. The Brimstone Hill Fortress, also known as The Gibraltar of the West Indies, is of world heritage value and is a recommended must-see for all visitors to St. Kitts.

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. Be sure to see the fine works of art created there at the Shell Works Studio.

Safari Island Drive

Drivers guide

By open safari vehicle

Min 10 participants, maximum limited

Duration 3h30

Price TBA

You will ride in a comfortable open safari vehicle, and enjoy the beauty of this most scenic of the smaller Caribbean islands in a full island tour.

After driving through town you will proceed westward to the renowned Caribelle Batik and Romney Manor Gardens. Here you will have some time to enjoy this spectacular location and see examples of batik work.

Then you will re-board the vehicle and continue your scenic ride around the island, as your entertaining and knowledgeable guide points out places of historical and cultural interest. Information will be presented on historical Old Road Village, where the British first landed, on Middle Island and on the world famous Brimstone Hill Fortress as you drive by. Your next stop will be at Gibbon's Hill, from where visitors can see the Atlantic Waters meeting with the Caribbean Sea in a splash of waves that never ceases to fascinate visitors. The island tour continues to Black Rocks where another stop will be made to enjoy this natural wonder and to stretch your legs. Afterwards you will take the the Kim Collins Highway to Frigate Bay and the scenic look out at Timothy Hill before returning to your ship with a host of memories and, hopefully, some excellent photos.

This tour does not stop at Brimstone Hill Fortress



At Home with the Kittitians

By air-conditioned vehicle
 Duration 3 hours
 Min 6 participants, Maximum limited
 Price TBA

This excursion is totally in line with the new Millennium travel trend mindset which focuses on “experience tourism”, really getting to know a place from the inside out and not just boarding a coach and being whisked from one monument to another.

What’s on offer is a unique opportunity to find out about island life from the islanders themselves; share an authentic moment of hospitality with local people who open up their homes and hearts to welcome you and listen to their own personal “Island story”.

Relax and savour some local flavours during your first home visit in beautiful Frigate Bay. Your new friends will take you up to Timothy Hill where you can enjoy panoramic vistas of Frigate Bay one side and see where the Caribbean sea meets the Atlantic ocean on the other. There will be time for a photo session before you are introduced to your second hosts for the day.

More than a day trip this is a life experience. Get to see how people live on the Island of St Kitts, talk about family life, pastimes, hobbies and how life on the island has changed over the years. You will come away with a much deeper understanding of Caribbean life, and hopefully a bunch of new friends.

St. Kitts Scenic Rail Tour

By rail and road
 Min 10 participants, maximum limited
 Duration 3h30
 Price TBA

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 ambience 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
 Very leisurely tour – no walking included at all
 Complimentary drinks are served on the lower level of the railcar.
 Restrooms are available on the train.



SAINT BARTHELEMY

The Island of St Barthélemy, commonly known as St. Barts, is located at 18° N 63°W, in the north eastern 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.

Discovered by Columbus in 1493, St. Barts is part of the French West Indies. Today it is a small piece of France in the Caribbean, some 4400 miles from Paris. It has long been a Caribbean hideaway for the rich and famous, but the island does have other distinguishing features. It is the only Caribbean island to have a Swedish heritage, if only partially. Louis XVI ceded the island to Sweden in exchange for trading rights elsewhere. St. Barts has been, and remains primarily French, and today is a province of Guadeloupe. Though only eight square miles in size and despite an increasing flow of tourists, some of the island's villages still maintain traditional dress and customs from 17th century France. The capital Gustavia, surrounds a harbour 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.

ATV Adventure St. Barts

Minimum 8 passengers (4 bikes) – maximum limited
 Transfer by boat or taxi to the ATV Base
 Duration of the trip 2 hours
 Price TBA

Take a magical trip of exploration and adventure and discover St. Barts aboard your own personal ATV vehicle. Leave behind the picturesque harbour of Gustavia in the direction of the airport through the "col de la Tourmente". You may even cross the path of an aircraft coming in to land on the minuscule runway – a feat which requires much skill on the part of the pilot as well as a special license.

The drive continues via the valley of "Petites Salines" to arrive in "Grand Fond" overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the dramatic scenery dominated by the island's highest mountain, "Morne Vitet" (286 m), and the lush green valley contrasting with the raging foam flecked waters of the ocean below. The trail continues round the coastline towards Toiny.

Next you will pass the famous flower filled cemetery of Lorient, the little resort of St Jean with its shops and restaurants. Then up to the top of "Lurin" before making your way down to Gustavia. Back at the ATV's parking you will have to walk back to Gustavia (it is a nice 5/10 minutes walk through town and shops along the waterfront)

At the end of the tour you will still have time to explore Gustavia

Helmet and goggles must be worn during the entire ride

The ATVs used for this tour are automatics and can carry one driver and one passenger

The itinerary may be amended without further notice depending on traffic, roads conditions etc...

Participants must wear shoes or tennis shoes, no open-toed footwear

There is storage at the back of the vehicle for your personal belongings

Participants must not be suffering from head, neck, back, leg or knee injuries

Participants must have a valid driving license and a credit card for the deposit (€2000 maximum deductible in case of any damages to the ATV). There is a waiver to sign before departure. Each driver is fully responsible for himself, his passenger and his bike. Any accident or damages to the bike is under his own responsibility.

Minimum age requirement for the driver: 18 years of age

Minimum age for the passenger: 12 years of age

Maximum weight per vehicle: 150kg

The pace of the tour depends on the participant's way of driving



Sailing the Leeward Coast of St. Barts

Min 12 participants, maximum limited

Duration 3 hours

Price TBA

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.

Swimsuits, T-shirts, sun glasses, towels and sun screen are all highly recommended

The itinerary is subject to weather conditions.

After the tour, you will still have time to stroll around Gustavia

St. Bart Yellow Semi-Submarine

Min 10 participants, maximum limited

Duration 1 hour

Price TBA

After boarding the submarine, you will take your seats on deck for the safety briefing and some interesting insights into the marine life you will see during the trip. When the vessel reaches the harbour mouth you can either go down into the tunnel like hull to view marine life through underwater windows or stay outside on the upper deck. Don't forget to keep a watchful eye open for the green turtles which live in the clean blue waters of the harbour.

After about five minutes, the vessel will pass over the wreck of the 50 ft island freighter "Marignan" which was sunk during the infamous hurricane Luis in 1995. Whilst your semi-sub continues on its way the atmosphere in the tunnel will be enhanced by relaxing sea music. The vessel will cross the south eastern edge of the Saint Barth Marine Park and you will be amazed at the succession of underwater marvels that parade before your eyes. The sea is filled with colourful coral reefs which are "patrolled" by schools of Sergeant Major fish.

The return journey ends at the tender pier in downtown Gustavia.

The hull has 11 large windows below water level on each side. Plus one in the front and one at the back, a total of 24 windows

There is a toilet onboard

The Marine Park has been established for some years now and marine life is getting more and more abundant. Guests usually get to see a wide variety of fish as well as turtles and stingrays.

