



Saba

Includes »

Flat Point.....	635
Hell's Gate.....	636
Windwardside.....	636
Mt Scenery.....	640
St John's.....	641
The Bottom.....	641
Well's Bay.....	641
Ladder Bay.....	642
Fort Bay.....	642
Understand Saba....	642
Survival Guide.....	643
Getting There & Away.....	645
Getting Around....	645

Why Go?

There once was a man and a woman who lived in a perfect garden. They were welcome in this idyllic thicket so long as they didn't eat the fruit of one particular tree. You probably know the rest of the story, but what you didn't know is that although Adam and Eve ruined it for the rest of us, you can still have the chance to find your way back to Eden.

Paradise takes the form of a spiky volcanic peak called Saba (pronounced 'say-bah'), whose winning combination of ocean vistas and white-green-brown architecture sits but a mere 15-minute flight from the garish casinos and condominiums on nearby St-Martin/Sint Maarten. And just when you thought that nothing could be more beautiful than the island's jagged landscape, dive down below to find a colorful kingdom of neon coral that teems with fat reef sharks, sea turtles and slippery fish.

When to Go

From February to April, there are cool Caribbean breezes, and colorful fish spawn below the ocean's surface. From July to September there is surprisingly pleasant weather when compared to the neighboring islands. In October, come for the the islandwide 'Sea & Learn' project. In November, bask in the pre-season rush after the hurricanes clear out.

Best Places to Eat

- » Eden (p640)
- » Swinging Doors (p640)
- » Rainforest Restaurant (p640)
- » Saba Coffee House (p641)

Best Places to Stay

- » El Momo Cottages (p638)
- » Cottage Club (p639)
- » Shearwater Resort (p639)

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** US dollar (US\$)
- » **Language** English and Dutch
- » **Money** ATMs in Windwardside and the Bottom dispense US dollars
- » **Visas** Not necessary for residents of North America, Australia and most nations in the EU; see p645 for more

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 13 sq km
- » **Population** 1500
- » **Capital** The Bottom
- » **Telephone country code** 599
- » **Emergency** 111

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** US\$65
- » **Two-course evening meal** US\$45
- » **Two-tank dive** US\$104
- » **Beer** US\$4
- » **Taxi from airport to Windwardside** US\$12

Resources

- » **Saba GIS** (www.sabagis.org)
- » **Saba Park** (www.sabapark.org)
- » **Saba Tourism** (www.sabatourism.com)
- » **Sea Saba** (www.seasaba.com)

Itineraries

ONE DAY

First, shed a tear that you only have a day to explore this incredible island. Then meet up with one of the dive boats for a two-tank half-day trip out to some of the finest reefs and submerged pinnacles in the Caribbean. Break for a leisurely lunch amid chatty locals in Windwardside and – if you have enough energy – take a stab at the Sandy Cruz Trail in the late afternoon.

THREE DAYS

Pick a hotel in Windwardside and spend your first day walking around the small town (be sure to stop by Jo Bean's glass studio to say hello), then head out into the bush for a rugged hike up to the top of Mt Scenery. Spend the mornings of the following two days scuba diving with numerous reef sharks around sunken pinnacles; afternoons are best spent curled up with a good novel under the warm Caribbean sun.

ONE WEEK

Spend the greater part of the week blowing bubbles with sharks, rays, barracuda and sea turtles. Take a day off and organize a guided hike through Saba's rugged forests. In the evenings hit up Windwardside's restaurants, then retreat to your cliffside cottage or colonial-style inn and click through your camera's postcard-worthy scenery shots, taken earlier in the day.

GETTING TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS

Daily flights and regular ferry services connect Saba and St-Martin/Sint Maarten, from where you can take boats or planes to reach the other island destinations in the vicinity.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Homemade rum** Be sure to try one of the many home-made rums, which are often flavored with locally grown banana, mango, vanilla or 'Saba spice.' Most restaurants and hotels have their own special brew.
- » **Soursop & Saba lemon** You'll find a mix of interesting fruits growing on the island, including soursop and Saba lemon. Don't miss homemade soursop ice cream. Grab a Saba lemon off a drooping tree, scratch the peel, and take a deep, satisfying whiff of the zest.
- » **Themed dinners** The restaurants in Windwardside take turns cooking up themed meals – there's burger night at Tropics Cafe, BBQ night at Swinging Doors and sushi Saturdays at Brigadoon among several other choices.