



# St-Barthélemy

## Includes »

Gustavia .....	661
Corossol .....	663
Flamands .....	663
Anse de Colombier.....	664
St-Jean.....	664
Lorient.....	665
Grand Cul-de-Sac ..	666
Anse de Gouverneur.....	666
Anse de Grande Saline.....	666
Understand St-Barthélemy.....	667
Survival Guide .....	668

## Why Go?

The mere mention of St-Barthélemy conjures up fanciful dreams of cocktails with supermodels, caviar with a four-digit price tag, and dropping some serious bling on a Dior bathing suit...for your miniature schnauzer. Does this stuff really happen in St-Barth? It sure does.

But does St-Barth have anything to offer those of us who haven't won an Oscar? You bet. Beyond its world-famous glitz and glam, there's a quiet community of locals who can trace their ancestry back to the church-studded countryside of Normandy, and even the island's rugged coastal terrain feels bizarrely French.

So, whether you're after the jet-setting lifestyle, or a simple village vibe, St-Barth can supply it. Just remember: while the island's two cultures are almost diametrically opposed, they are ultimately united by their love of the Madonna (albeit different ones...).

## When to Go

From late December to mid-January, you'll be sharing the island with a veritable who's who of Oscar winners and oil tycoons. Locals revel in Carnival soon after, and low-season prices start to kick in by April as guests enjoy the end of the *carême* (dry season). July and August signal the beginning of *l'hivernage* (hurricane season) – capitalize on bottomed-out prices before the rains hit.

## Best Beaches

- » Anse de Gouverneur (p666)
- » Anse de Grande Saline (p666)
- » Anse des Flamands (p663)
- » Anse de Colombier (p664)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Guanahani & Spa (p666)
- » Salines Garden (p667)
- » Le P'tit Morne (p664)

## Itineraries

### ONE DAY

Take a puddle jumper or the ferry over from St-Martin/Sint Maarten and spend the day ogling giant yachts in Gustavia. Adventurous types with plenty of energy may consider grabbing a cab to the western lookout point at the end of Colombier and walking back to Gustavia.

### FIVE DAYS

Get a room at the Guanahani in Grand Cul-de-Sac (if you've just won the lottery) or at Salines Garden in Anse de Grande Saline and spend three blissful days by the beach. In the evenings try out some of the internationally acclaimed restaurants that pepper the island. On your last two days, undergo some retail therapy in Gustavia, followed by a couple of hours roaming the quiet west coast, particularly around quaint Corossol.

### TWO WEEKS

Snag one of the many private villas scattered around the island and spend your first week at a different beach each day. Then get your adrenaline pumping with a sailing day trip and a scuba dive, plus some hiking in the east, and round out the week swiping your plastic at the boutiques in Gustavia.

## GETTING TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS

St-Barth has easy links to St-Martin/Sint Maarten next door by regular ferry and air service. From there you can connect to almost any of the other islands in the region. Direct flights are also available to Guadeloupe.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **€29 prix-fixe dinners** Some of St-Barth's finest restaurants offer smaller wallets a chance to play in the big leagues with their three-course set menus.
- » **Creole fusion** Elegant nods to the island's eclectic past take the form of flavorful seafood dishes blending French recipes and local spices.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Euro (€)
- » **Language** French
- » **Money** ATMs aplenty
- » **Visas** Not necessary for most residents of North America, the EU and Australia; see p670 for more

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 21 sq km
- » **Capital** Gustavia
- » **Population** 8900
- » **Telephone area code** 590
- » **Emergency** 116

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** €150
- » **Two-course evening meal** €40
- » **Museum entrance** €3
- » **Beer** €4
- » **Daily car rental** €50

## Resources

- » **Saint-Barthélemy Tourism Association** ([www.saintbarth-tourisme.com](http://www.saintbarth-tourisme.com))
- » **St-Barths Online** ([www.st-barths.com](http://www.st-barths.com))