



# St Kitts & Nevis

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## Why Go?

Near-perfect packages – that's how you might think of St Kitts and Nevis. The two-island nation combines beaches with beautiful mountains, activities to engage your body and rich history to engage your mind. The legacies of the sugar industry survive in pleasant plantation inns and the local culture is mellow, friendly and infused with a pulsing soca beat.

But if the pair offer much that's similar, they differ in the details. St Kitts is the larger and feels that way, from bustling Basseterre and mighty Brimstone Hill Fortress to the party strip and resorts of Frigate Bay.

Nevis is a neater package, anchored by a single volcanic mountain buttressed by a handful of beaches and a tiny capital, Charlestown. Nature walks take you into the verdant upper reaches of the peak. History here centers on the big names of Horatio Nelson and Alexander Hamilton.

## Best Beaches

- » South Friar's Bay (p682)
- » Nisbet Beach (p687)
- » Pinney's Beach (p687)
- » Lovers Beach (p687)
- » South Frigate Bay (p680)

## Best Places to Sleep

- » Ottley's Plantation Inn (p684)
- » Nisbet Plantation Beach Club (p688)
- » Banyan Tree (p690)
- » Montpelier Plantation Inn (p689)
- » Timothy Beach Resort (p681)

## When to Go

High-season rates start from around mid-December and go to mid-April. The best time to visit, price- and weather-wise, is November and early December. Winter days average a temperature of 81°F (27°C), while summers shoot up to 86°F (30°C).

Annual rainfall averages 55in and is fairly consistent throughout the year. The driest months are February to June, and the hurricane (and rainy) season is from July to November.

The four-day St Kitts Music Festival in June brings together top-name performers from throughout the Caribbean. For over 30 years between July and August, Nevis' main event has been Culturama. Starting in mid-December, Carnival is the biggest yearly event on St Kitts.

## Itineraries

### TWO DAYS

If you only have two days, limit your stay to one island. On St Kitts spend your first morning exploring historic Basseterre, followed by chilling on Frigate Bay or South Friar's Bay beach and partying on the Frigate Bay 'Strip' at night. The next day, take a drive around the northern part of the island and finish with dinner at the Royal Palm at Ottley's Plantation Inn.

On Nevis, spend the better part of day one circling the island, stopping for lunch at a historic plantation inn before winding down the day on Pinney's Beach with a swim and sunset drinks at Sunshine's. The following day, set up a hike or mountain-bike tour for a more intimate look at Nevis' volcano and abundant natural charms, then wrap up with dinner at Bananas Bistro.

### FOUR DAYS

Do the two-day highlights for both islands.

### ONE WEEK

Split your time between the two islands. Add in a lot more beach time as the extra days let you explore the sandy shores at will, looking for a favorite. Consider overnighting at a romantic plantation inn.

## GETTING TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS

Several passenger ferries and one car ferry link St Kitts and Nevis, but there is no boat service to other islands. Liat has flights to Antigua from both St Kitts and Nevis, while St-Martin/Sint Maarten is served by Liat from St Kitts and Winair from Nevis.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Stewed saltfish** Official national dish; served with spicy plantains, coconut dumplings and seasoned breadfruit.
- » **Pelau** Also known as 'cook-up,' this dish is the Kittitian version of paella: a tasty but messy blend of rice, meat, saltfish, vegetables and pigeon peas.
- » **Conch** Served curried, marinated or soured (boiled).
- » **Cane Spirit Rothschild** More commonly known as CSR, this locally distilled libation is made from pure fermented cane juice and best enjoyed on the rocks mixed with grapefruit-flavored Ting soda.
- » **Brinley Gold Rum** Locally blended rum comes in such flavors as vanilla, coffee, mango, coconut and lime. The shop in Port Zante does tastings.
- » **Carib** Locally brewed lager.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)
- » **Language** English
- » **Money** ATMs are plentiful and dispense only EC dollars
- » **Visas** Not required for citizens of the US, EU and Commonwealth for stays of up to three months

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 68 sq miles (St Kitts), 36 sq miles (Nevis)
- » **Population** 39,000 (St Kitts), 11,500 (Nevis)
- » **Capitals** Basseterre (St Kitts), Charlestown (Nevis)
- » **Telephone country code** 869
- » **Emergency** 911

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** US\$75
- » **Two-course evening meal** US\$50
- » **Brimstone Hill Fortress admission** US\$8
- » **Carib beer** EC\$5
- » **Bus ticket** EC\$1 to EC\$6

## Resources

- » **St Kitts Tourism Authority** ([www.stkittstourism.kn](http://www.stkittstourism.kn))
- » **Nevis Tourist Office** ([www.nevisisland.com](http://www.nevisisland.com))
- » **Nevis 1** ([www.nevis1.com](http://www.nevis1.com))
- » **SKN Vibes** ([www.sknvibes.com](http://www.sknvibes.com))