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# **St Kitts & Nevis**

POP 56,900 / 🗾 869

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#### Best Places to Eat

- Bananas Restaurant (p678)
- Gin Trap Bar & Restaurant (p676)
- Golden Rock Inn (p677)
- Sprat Net Bar & Grill (p673)

### Best Places to Sleep

- Ottley's Plantation Inn (p672)
- Golden Rock Inn (p677)
- Belle Mont Farm (p672)
- Hermitage Plantation Inn (p678)

## Why Go?

Near-perfect packages – that's how you might think of St Kitts and Nevis. The two-island nation combines beaches with beauteous mountains, activities to engage your body and rich history to engage your mind. 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 larger and feels that way, from bustling Basseterre and mighty Brimstone Hill Fortress to the party strip and resorts of Frigate Bay. New roads and tourist development have generated additional verve and excitement.

Across the Narrows, tranquil Nevis is a neater package, anchored by a single volcanic mountain buttressed by a handful of beaches and a tiny colonial capital, Charlestown. Nature walks take you to verdant upper reaches of the peak. History here centers on the big names of British admiral Horatio Nelson and US founding father Alexander Hamilton.

## When to Go

**Late Nov–early Dec** The best time to visit, price- and weatherwise, when hurricane season should have stopped. The hurricane (and rainy) season is from July to November.

Mid-Dec-mid-Apr High-season rates start.

Feb-Jun The driest months are February to June, and

Winter days average a temperature of  $81^{\circ}F$  (27°C), while summers shoot up to  $86^{\circ}F$  (30°C).



# St Kitts & Nevis Highlights

Brimstone Hill Fortress (p671) Marveling at British colonial might at this superbly preserved hilltop citadel with dreamy views out to sea.

(2) Ottley's Plantation Inn (p672) Taking a break from island explorations with a lazy lunch at this grand old estate.

3 Basseterre (p664)

Soaking up the verve and history of St Kitts' vibrant capital.

**4 Mt Liamuiga** (p672) Staring into the crater of a volcano after a thighburning trek.

**5 Pinney's Beach** (p675) Giving in to slothdom during a long day at this wide and long beach on Nevis' west coast.

#### White House Bay

(p669) Enjoying a swim and a snorkel followed by sunset drinks at urbanstylish Salt Plage beach bar.

**7** Botanical Gardens of Nevis (p677) Calming down amid a symphony of flowers, trees, exotic statues and water-lily ponds.

ST KITTS

St Kitts definitely has a beat, and it's not just the one blasting from the many minibuses hauling folks hither and yon. Its capital, Basseterre, is a bustling place to explore, while the Unesco-recognized Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park ranks among the Caribbean's prime historic sights. Hedonistic pleasures, meanwhile, rule the island's glorious beaches, whose funky to chic bars invite rum-fueled tanning sessions.

Sugar drove the local economy for centuries but since the last plant closed in 2005, St Kitts has put most of its eggs into the