



MARELLA CRUISES

Explore Ashore

Kingstown, St Vincent

Port information

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| Currency | The official currency is Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) although US Dollars are also widely accepted. | Language | The official language is English. |
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Getting around

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| Distance to town centre | A short 10-15 minutes walk from the port will take you into the small town of Kingstown. The town has a simple layout with 3 streets running parallel to the waterfront. | Main highlights | Fort Charlotte , Just north of the city and standing proudly atop a 660ft-high ridge, Fort Charlotte (1806) offers commanding views of both town and the Grenadines to the south. It was once a fearsome military post with dozens of cannons, a few of which remain. There are usually a couple of local guides hanging around who will show you around for EC\$10 each. It's well worth contracting their services. A favorite hangout among Union Island locals and a popular anchorage for yachties in the know, Chatham Bay is a lovely thin crescent of white sand backed by steep, forest-covered hills on the western side of the island. The calm turquoise waters are perfect for snorkeling. On the edge you'll find a couple of simple bars and a restaurant. Belmont Lookout , On the road to Mesopotamia there is an excellent lookout where you peer down into the impossibly green valley: known as the breadbasket of San Vincent. It's a lush landscape dotted with small farms and palm trees. On the other side of the road the view is equally impressive across to Bequia, Mustique and Garifuna Rock, which was the first prison of the Black Caribs before they were expelled to Honduras. Brooding St Mary's is the most eye-catching of Kingstown's churches and stands in dramatic contrast to the prim, whitewashed Anglican cathedral across the way. The castle-like complex blends Gothic elements with a variety of other architectural styles best represented by the tower above the monks' quarters, which is balanced on sinuous thin pillars and appears to be ready to topple at any moment. For any more going ashore information pass by the Destination Services Centre located on Deck 5. We're always happy to help make the most of your time ashore. |
| Taxis | Taxis are available from just outside the terminal building. It's strongly recommended to agree on a fee and the currency before starting your journey. | | |
| Main highlights | Nature lovers, scuba divers and hikers will all love St Vincent. From the comfort of a bus tour to the challenge of hiking to the top of La Soufriere volcano, there are fabulous activities for everyone to enjoy at this world class island destination. Visit tropical gardens, go bird watching, take in a cricket match or replay scenes from Pirates of The Caribbean. The possibilities are endless. Fort Duvernette , Perched atop a large volcanic rock offshore from Villa, this eerie fort was constructed to defend the town of Calliaqua and affords fantastic 360-degree views of the southern shoreline. There are 225 steps in the spiral staircase that has been carved into the rock; take care as it can be slippery, with small stones often covering the walkway – bring footwear. At the top, 200ft above sea level, you'll find two batteries of cannons and a picnic area. Montreal Gardens , Tucked away at the end of a rough road at the top of the valley above Mesopotamia – the SVG version – St Vincent's other botanical gardens are in many ways superior to their more famous Kingstown counterparts. Surrounded by craggy mountains and rolling hills, the setting is spectacular and the gardens themselves are a deliciously lush and colourful affair awash with birdsong. Fig Tree , A 300m stroll along the waterfront west of the docks, this open-air restaurant has views to match both the great food and hospitality of the owner, Cheryl Johnson. Creole touches abound; book ahead for the Friday night fish fry. | | |

Essential information

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| Tourist information | The St Vincent Department of Tourism is located in the Cruise Terminal. | Shopping | At the corner of Bay and Bedford street, there's a lively and colourful market. |
| Internet access | In the courtyard area of the cruise terminal. There's free Wi-Fi available from the Time Out Bar if you purchase a drink. | IMPORTANT: As with all tourist destinations, please keep a close eye on personal valuables. | The cruise ship terminal building also has small shops, which are great for souvenirs although the craft stalls set up in town along with local shops and market. There are some permanent stalls in the market building, but the real action is on the streets outside. Bananas in shapes and sizes that will never get slapped with a multi-national-brand label are found in profusion. It's liveliest on Saturday mornings. Once you're done, head across Bay St to the fish market, where cleavers and machetes bang away in unison at the fresh catch. |
| Nearest beaches | The nearest beach is Villa Beach . This is easily accessible by taking a water taxi from outside the terminal. It takes 10 minutes, costing around \$15 US for a return trip. The beach is fairly narrow but has sunbeds and chairs for hire and a café where you can buy refreshments. There are many pristine diving spots all over the coast as well as small secluded beaches. | | |

Your Destination Services team would like to wish you an enjoyable day in St Vincent

There can be last minute changes. Please check *Cruise News* for the latest information before you go ashore.