



Philipsburg



Saba
St. Barthélemy

MARELLA CRUISES Explore Ashore

Philipsburg, St Maarten

Port information

Currency	The Antilles Guilder on the Dutch side, also US Dollars are accepted in nearly all establishments. Euros can be used on the French side of the island. To exchange currency, please see Reception on Deck 5.	Language	Dutch and French are the official languages spoken. English is mostly used and understood on both sides of the Island.
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Getting around

Distance to town centre	The town of Philipsburg is approximately a 15-20 minute walk.	Main highlights	The island is the smallest land mass to be shared by two separate governments. Philipsburg on Great Bay is the capital of Dutch St. Maarten, while Marigot is the capital of French Saint Martin. Although sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and claimed for Spain, it was the Dutch who occupied the island in 1631 and set about exploiting its salt deposits. The island is 9.3 miles in length and 8 miles at its widest with its highest point on the island is Pic Paradis (Paradise Peak) on the French Side at 1,392 ft. The official languages are Dutch, French and English but there are over 100 nationalities on the island so you can hear anything from French Creole to Spanish to Cantonese to Hindi. No place in the world can people get so close to planes that they can almost touch the fuselage as the planes fly over the beach and come in for a landing at the Princess Juliana International Airport — a thin, two-lane highway separates the beach from the runway. 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.
Getting About	You can grab a bus to Marigot from the town, which follows the main road and only costs \$2 US each way. Some of the bus services can be unreliable and inconsistent. Most islanders and visitors take taxis.		
Taxis	Taxis are available from the port and are monitored with prices displayed. Make sure you confirm a price before commencing your journey. A taxi into the town should cost approximately \$7.00 US one way. The costs to the beaches are approximately \$20 US each way. Prices are generally set per person.		
Important info	Due to the recent hurricanes which effected St Maarten quite badly, some roads throughout the island are not in a pristine condition and will not be accessible. Additionally, the Butterfly Farm, Maho Beach, Pinel Island, Scuba Diving centres and St Maarten Zoo are currently not accessible due to damage caused by the hurricanes. Please take extra care when going ashore independently.		

Essential information

Tourist information	Tourist Information is located opposite the port gates in a yellow building.	Shopping	Philipsburg is fantastic for shopping and it's generally accepted that things are cheaper on the Dutch side of the island because of the duty free price. Shoppers will be very welcome to the many shops that are now up and running. Front Street is the main shopping area on the Dutch side. Located in the heart of Philipsburg, it features over a 1.6 km (1 mile) of shopping, mainly jewelry stores. In addition, in Philipsburg there is Old Street with attractive gift stores and art galleries, and Back Street with a colorful local market, souvenir shoppes, and inexpensive clothing. The Dutch Capital of Philipsburg has worked diligently to be ready for the ships to return; however you may still find some facilities closed.
Internet access	Internet Paradise is on the corner of Front Street and Yrausquin Boulevard in town and you'll also find wireless connections in many of the cafes in the town.	IMPORTANT: As with all tourist destinations, please keep a close eye on personal valuables.	
Nearest beaches	Great Bay is a popular beach in the Philipsburg town area and is the longest and widest on the island. It can be accessed from the downtown pier. Mullet Bay Beach, Kim Sha Beach and Simpson Bay Beach are beautiful beaches situated on the South West of the Island. Maho Beach (Airport Beach) is open however it is missing most of its sand and there aren't many flights coming into the island. We Recommend staying on the Dutch side of the island as the beaches on the French side still aren't ready after Hurricane Irma.		

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

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