

VOL. 07

INSPIRE ME 2 TRAVEL 2

# St. Maarten



*"Live life with no excuses,  
travel with no regret."  
- Oscar Wilde*

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Intro

# Welcome to St Maarten, a beloved travel destination known for its breathtaking beaches, vibrant culture, and diverse experiences.



This captivating island, divided between the Dutch and French territories, offers a unique blend of European charm and Caribbean allure. Visitors are drawn to its stunning coastline, where pristine white sands meet crystal-clear turquoise waters, perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and sunbathing.

Beyond its natural beauty, St. Maarten boasts a rich cultural heritage, reflected in its colorful architecture, lively festivals, and delectable cuisine. From exploring historic sites and indulging in water sports to shopping in bustling markets and enjoying vibrant nightlife, St. Maarten promises unforgettable adventures for every traveler.



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# Unique Attractions & Experiences

- **Maho Beach:** Located adjacent to Princess Juliana International Airport, Maho Beach is famous for its thrilling plane landings and takeoffs, where aircraft fly low over beachgoers. It's a one-of-a-kind experience that you won't find anywhere else.
- **Philipsburg Boardwalk:** Take a leisurely stroll along the picturesque Philipsburg Boardwalk, lined with colorful shops, restaurants, and bars. Enjoy stunning ocean views and immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the island's capital.
- **Loterie Farm:** Nestled in the hills of Pic Paradis, Loterie Farm offers a serene escape into nature. Explore hiking trails through lush tropical forests, embark on exhilarating zip-line adventures, or simply unwind in the tranquil surroundings.
- **Fort Louis:** History enthusiasts will appreciate a visit to Fort Louis, a historic fortress perched high above Marigot. Marvel at panoramic views of the island and learn about St. Maarten's colonial past as you explore the well-preserved ruins.
- **Snorkeling and Diving:** Discover the underwater wonders of St. Maarten's pristine coral reefs and vibrant marine life. Join a guided snorkeling or diving excursion to explore colorful coral gardens, swim alongside tropical fish, and maybe even encounter sea turtles or rays.

# About St. Maarten

St. Maarten, often referred to as the "Friendly Island," is renowned for its vibrant culture, warm hospitality, and diverse culinary scene. The island's unique blend of Dutch and Caribbean influences is evident in its architecture, cuisine, and local customs. Visitors can explore charming villages, such as Philipsburg and Marigot, where colorful buildings line the streets and open-air markets offer a variety of goods and souvenirs.

## Location & Geography

Geographically, St. Maarten features a diverse landscape characterized by rolling hills, lush vegetation, and stunning coastline. The island's interior is dotted with verdant hillsides, offering scenic vistas and opportunities for hiking and exploration. Along the coastline, visitors will find an array of beautiful beaches, ranging from secluded coves to bustling stretches of sand.

St. Maarten, situated in the northeastern Caribbean Sea, is part of the Leeward Islands and forms the southern portion of the island of Saint Martin. It lies approximately 150 miles southeast of Puerto Rico and is nestled between the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Caribbean Sea to the west. The island is known for its dual-nation status, with the northern part governed by France and the southern part, St. Maarten, under Dutch jurisdiction.

For those seeking relaxation, St. Maarten's world-class resorts and luxury spas offer a tranquil escape. Visitors can unwind on pristine beaches, soak up the Caribbean sun, and indulge in rejuvenating spa treatments.



*"Take only memories, leave only footprints."  
— Chief Seattle*

# Weather Throughout the Year

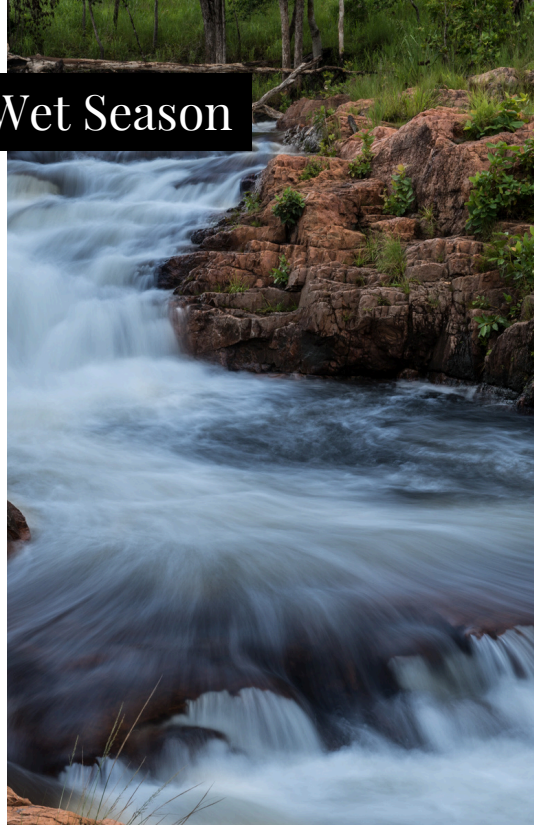
## Dry Season



(December to April): During the dry season, St. Maarten experiences lower humidity levels and minimal rainfall. The temperatures typically range from 75°F to 85°F, making it an ideal time for outdoor activities such as beach outings, snorkeling, and hiking. The skies are often clear, offering ample opportunities for sightseeing and enjoying the island's natural beauty.

(May to November): During the wet season, St. Maarten experiences higher humidity levels and increased rainfall. Often in the form of short, heavy showers or thunderstorms. Despite the rain, temperatures remain warm, ranging from 77°F to 88°F. While there may be occasional interruptions due to the weather, the island's lush vegetation thrives during this time, creating vibrant landscapes and opportunities for eco-tourism activities.

## Wet Season



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# St Maarten

## a Vibrant

# Sun-Kissed Island

*Where Culture Meets Charm!*

- St. Maarten features some of the Caribbean's most stunning beaches, from the world-famous Maho Beach where airplanes land just overhead, to the tranquil shores of Mullet Bay and the vibrant, water sports-rich Orient Bay.
- St. Maarten is also a place of celebration, hosting numerous festivals and events that showcase its cultural richness and community spirit. The island's calendar is packed with activities that celebrate its heritage and attract visitors from around the globe.





*St. Maarten is renowned for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and thrilling water sports activities.*

**Where is St. Maarten located?** St. Maarten is a small island located in the northeastern Caribbean Sea. It is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is situated south of Anguilla and east of Puerto Rico.



**Is St. Maarten safe for tourists?**

Yes, Antigua is generally considered safe for tourists. Like any destination, it's essential to take standard precautions and be aware of your surroundings. Petty crime can occur, so it's advisable to safeguard your belongings and avoid isolated areas at night.

**What is the currency in St Maarten?**

The official currency of St. Maarten is the Netherlands Antillean guilder (ANG), but the US dollar is widely accepted.



**What is the time zone in St. Maarten?**

St. Maarten operates on Atlantic Standard Time (AST), which is UTC-4.

**What language is spoken in St. Maarten?**

The official languages of St. Maarten are Dutch and English. English is widely spoken and understood throughout the island..

# Entry Requirements

*Before you pack your bags and head to St Maarten, it's crucial to understand the entry requirements for travelers. This information will ensure a smooth arrival and entry process:*

## Passport and Visa Information

All travelers to St. Maarten, must have a valid passport. Make sure your passport is in good condition and has at least six months of validity beyond your planned departure date. It's advisable to carry a photocopy of your passport's information page separately as a backup.

## Customs and Immigration Procedures

Arrival in Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM)

- 1. Immigration:** Upon arrival in St Maarten, travelers will go through customs and immigration procedures. This typically involves presenting your passport, completing an immigration form, and declaring any items of value or restricted goods. Visitors may also be subject to baggage inspections by customs officials
- 2. Customs Declaration:** After clearing immigration, you will proceed to the customs area. travelers will need to clear customs and immigration. This process involves presenting your passport and completing any required forms provided by immigration authorities. Visitors may also be asked about the purpose of their visit, their length of stay, and whether they are carrying any restricted items. Once cleared, travelers can proceed to collect their luggage and exit the airport to begin their adventure on this beautiful Caribbean island.
- 3. Luggage Inspection:** In some cases, customs officials may inspect your luggage. Be prepared to open your bags if requested.
- 4. Exiting the Airport:** Once you clear customs, you will exit the airport and can proceed to your transportation or accommodation.

## Departure

When leaving St Maarten, allow ample time for check-in and security procedures at the airport. Additionally, always carry important documents, such as your passport securely during your stay in St Maarten.



# 10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

## **WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT ST. MAARTEN?**

St. Maarten is a small island located in the Caribbean Sea. It is part of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, divided between the French northern side (Saint-Martin) and the Dutch southern side (Sint Maarten).

2

## **ARE THERE ANY TRAVEL ADVISORIES FOR ST. MAARTEN?**

Travel advisories for St. Maarten may vary depending on current events and circumstances. It is recommended to check with your country's foreign office or the official St. Maarten tourism website for the latest travel advisories and safety information before planning your trip.

3

## **WHAT ARE SOME POPULAR TOURIST AREAS IN ST. MAARTEN?**

Popular tourist areas in St. Maarten include Philipsburg, the capital city known for its duty-free shopping; Maho Beach, famous for its proximity to the airport runway; and Orient Bay, a picturesque beach with water sports and dining options.

4

## **WHAT CURRENCY IS USED IN ST. MAARTEN?**

The official currency of St. Maarten is the Netherlands Antillean guilder (ANG), but the US dollar (USD) is widely accepted throughout the island. Most businesses, restaurants, and hotels also accept major credit cards.

5

## **CAN I USE MY CREDIT CARD IN ST. MAARTEN?**

Credit cards are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, and larger shops in St Maarten. However, it's recommended to carry some cash for smaller purchases and establishments that may not accept cards. ATMs are also available in major towns for withdrawing cash.

# 10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6

## **CAN I USE U.S. DOLLARS IN ST. MAARTEN?**

Yes, the US dollar (USD) is widely accepted throughout St. Maarten. Many businesses, restaurants, and hotels also accept major credit cards for convenience.

○

7

## **WHAT ARE THE MUST-TRY LOCAL DISHES IN ST. MAARTEN?**

Some must-try local dishes in St. Maarten include conch fritters, Johnny cakes, and saltfish. These dishes reflect the island's Caribbean and Creole culinary influences and can be found in local restaurants and eateries across the island.

○

8

## **WHAT ARE THE MUST-VISIT ATTRACTIONS?**

Must-visit attractions in St Maarten include Orient Bay Beach, Known for its white sand, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant beach bars and restaurants. The Butterfly Farm, A tranquil sanctuary where visitors can observe and learn about hundreds of exotic butterflies.

○

9

## **ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER SPORTS?**

Yes, St. Maarten offers a wide range of water sports opportunities, including; Snorkeling, Scuba Diving, Jet Skiing, Parasailing, Windsurfing, Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddle boarding (SUP), Deep-Sea Fishing and more.

○

10

## **WHAT IS THE DRINKING AGE IN ANTIGUA?**

The legal drinking age in St. Maarten is 18 years old.

# PACKING CHECKLIST

TRIP DATES: \_\_\_\_\_ DESTINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Travel Documents</b>	✓	<b>Clothing</b>	✓
Passport		Lightweight, breathable clothing	
Travel Insurance Information		Swimwear	
Photo of Important Documents		Comfortable walking shoes	
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	✓	Hat or Sun Hat	
Prescription Medications		Sunglasses	
First Aid Kit		Light Jacket	
Personal Identification		Water Shoes	
Emergency Contact Info		Rain Poncho	
<b>Money &amp; Payment</b>	✓	<b>Toiletries</b>	✓
Cash		Sunscreen	
Debit/Credit Cards (Notify bank of travel plans)		Aloe Vera	
Travel Wallet		Insect Repellent	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	✓	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	✓
Cell Phone		Travel Pillow	
Laptop/Tablet		Eye Mask	
Power Bank		Earplugs	
Yeti Cup		Bathroom Spray	
Waterproof Phone Pouch		Hand Sanitizer	

# Sample Travel Itinerary

## ST. MAARTEN

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL AND BEACH EXPLORATION

MORNING	Arrive at Princess Juliana International Airport and transfer to your accommodation.
AFTERNOON	Head to the nearest beach, such as Orient Bay Beach or Maho Beach, for some relaxation and water activities.
EVENING	Enjoy a beachside dinner at a local restaurant, sampling delicious Caribbean cuisine.

### DAY 2: ISLAND TOUR AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION

MORNING	Take a guided island tour to explore the highlights of St. Maarten, including historical landmarks, scenic viewpoints, and cultural attractions.
AFTERNOON	Visit Philipsburg, the capital city, to explore its charming streets, vibrant markets, and historical sites.
EVENING	Experience the local nightlife with dinner at a waterfront restaurant and drinks at a beachside bar.

### DAY 3: OUTDOOR EXPLORATION

MORNING	Embark on a thrilling adventure excursion, such as zip-lining through the tropical rainforest or snorkeling in the crystal-clear waters.
AFTERNOON	Continue your adventure with activities like ATV tours, jet skiing, or parasailing.
EVENING	Relax and unwind with a sunset cruise along the coast, enjoying stunning views and refreshing drinks.

# Sample Travel Itinerary

## ST. MAARTEN

### DAY 4: RELAXATION AND WELLNESS

MORNING	Indulge in a spa day or wellness retreat, pampering yourself with massages, facials, and holistic treatments.
AFTERNOON	Spend the afternoon at one of St. Maarten's tranquil beaches, soaking up the sun and enjoying the serene surroundings.
EVENING	Enjoy a healthy dinner at a beachfront restaurant, savoring fresh seafood and tropical flavors.

### DAY 5: DEPARTURE AND SOUVENIR SHOPPING

MORNING	Take a leisurely stroll through Philipsburg to do some souvenir shopping, picking up unique gifts and souvenirs to remember your trip.
AFTERNOON	Transfer to the airport for your departure flight, taking one last look at the beautiful island scenery.
EVENING	Depart St. Maarten with unforgettable memories and a desire to return again soon.

### PLACES OF INTEREST

**Top Restaurants in St. Maarten:** Le Pressoir, The Greenhouse, Ocean Lounge, Temptation Restaurant, Taloula Mango's

**Top Bars in St. Maarten:** Sunset Bar & Grill, Sky Beach Rooftop Beach Lounge, Sint Maarten Yacht Club, Dinghy Dock Bar, Toppers Restaurant & Bar

# Inspire



## In Closing...

With its pristine beaches, vibrant culture, and array of exciting activities, St. Maarten is undeniably a must-visit destination. From relaxing on the soft sands of Orient Bay Beach to exploring the charming streets of Philipsburg, there's something for every traveler to enjoy. Whether you're seeking thrilling water sports adventures or simply want to unwind in paradise, St. Maarten offers an unforgettable experience that will leave you longing to return again and again.

So pack your bags and embark on an unforgettable adventure to St. Maarten, where every moment is filled with excitement, beauty, and endless possibilities. Whether you're seeking relaxation, exploration, or a bit of both, this enchanting island destination awaits with open arms, ready to enchant and inspire you at every turn. Come discover the magic of St. Maarten and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Scan QR code to explore...



St. Maarten Travel Guide

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**TRAVEL:**

*"A place where relaxation and adventure converge to create a truly remarkable experience!"*

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+240 416 4800

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