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Sun-drenched and palm-fringed, the island of Saint Martin is one of the most beautiful in the eastern Caribbean. It also has a dual personality: the northern Saint-Martin is a little outpost of France, and the southern Sint Maarten oozes the warmth of the Dutch. The border between them is basically non-existent, and visitors are free to enjoy everything from water sports and cultural festivals to shopping.

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A true oasis of fauna and flora, the triangle-shaped Reserve covers over 300...



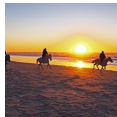
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Bernard's Tours has an outstanding reputation. Take part in outstanding indi...



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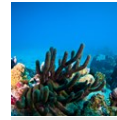
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## THE ISLAND



*Steve Heap/Shutterstock.com*

Hundreds of islands form the Caribbean, but none are quite so enigmatic as St Martin. The island is one of the smallest to ever be divided, with residents of both the French and Dutch sides working together in mutual friendship and respect.

Of course, the island had human inhabitants long before the European colonisers arrived in 1493. Ancient relics date the island's first settlers, probably Ciboney Indians (Arawaks), back to 3,500 years ago. The locals were joined by migrants from South America's Orinoco basin around 800 A.D. Because of St Martin's salt pans, they called the island "Soualiga," or "Land of Salt". Mainly a farming and fishing society, the locals lived in villages of straw-roofed buildings which were strong enough to resist hurricanes. They were a tranquil people, who valued artistic and spiritual pursuits.

Their lives were turned upside-down, however, with the arrival of the Carib Indians. A warrior nation, the Caribs killed the Arawak men and enslaved the women. When Europeans began to explore the Caribbean, Carib society had almost completely displaced the Arawaks.

In the era of the European colonisation, St Martin was a coveted piece of land. The French

wanted to have an island between Trinidad and Bermuda, while the Dutch found San Martín a convenient halfway point between their colonies in New Amsterdam (present day New York) and Brazil. The Spanish captured the island during the Eighty Years' War only to abandon it in 1648, allowing its former colonial masters to reestablish their control.

Today, the island is divided roughly 60:40 between the French Republic and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the Dutch part being more populated than the French part. The division dates to 1648.

Culturally, Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten are quite different. Saint-Martin has some of the most chic fashion shops and restaurants in the Caribbean and beaches elegant enough to rival those in Cannes and Saint-Tropez, while Sint Maarten shares the serious pragmatism of its fellow continental countrymen.

For the visitor, this means there's lots to do. Dine out on French à la carte cuisine and wines one day and sample fresh pastries inspired by the finest Dutch chefs the next. Enjoy activities like horseback riding and water sports and exploring breathtaking beaches and scenery are other options to fill your day.

## DO & SEE



Earthscape/Shutterstock.com

St Martin has a rich and interesting history, which can be seen today in its unique cultural heritage. Visit the Sint Maarten Museum and some of the many historical sites to learn more about the island's history and its impact on modern life. However, do not forget to take some time to relax while you enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the island's many beaches.

### Fort St Louis



Fort St Louis is the largest historical monument in Saint-Martin. It is named after King Louis XVI of France, who built a

settlement to protect Marigot during his reign. Take a pleasant hike up the hill and catch the view of the town at sunset or sunrise.

Photo: ATJA/Shutterstock.com

Address: Marigot Bay, Saint-Martin

### Saint Martin Carnival



Saint Martin Carnival is one of the island's cultural highlights, where locals and tourists get together in the streets to sing, dance, make music,

throw confetti and have a good time watching the lively parade. Both Marigot and Philipsburg are decorated in colourful feathers and glitter for the whole carnival month.

On the French side, the carnival takes place in February and until early March. On the Dutch side, the carnival is celebrated from mid-April until early May.

Photo: Aquarimage/Shutterstock.com

Internet: [www.sxm-carnival.com](http://www.sxm-carnival.com)

Email: [sxmcarnival@hotmail.com](mailto:sxmcarnival@hotmail.com)

### Diving & Snorkeling



Swim with turtles, lionfish, lizardfish and other colourful sea creatures. You will be provided with top notch diving equipment; professional underwater cameras can be rented in order to capture this unique experience.

Photo: bcampbell65/Shutterstock.com

Address: Dive Sint Maarten Bobby's Marina Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 8am-1:30pm

Phone: +1 721 587 3483

Internet: [www.divesintmaarten.com](http://www.divesintmaarten.com)

Email: [info@divesintmaarten.com](mailto:info@divesintmaarten.com)

### Philipsburg



The capital of Sint Maarten is the central point for shopping and the local cultural scene. Tucked in the southeastern part of the island between Great Bay and Great Salt Pond, the city has been a major commercial hub for the island since the 17th century.

Photo: Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com

Address: Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

### Marigot



The capital of Saint-Martin has rows of patisseries and smart bistros that sit side by side with luxury fashion houses and colonial

architecture. Take a stroll on Rue de la République with its 19th-century traditional facades and visit one of the many historical buildings like Marigot Church, the Old Prison or Durat Bridge.

Photo: Darryl Brooks/Shutterstock.com

Address: Marigot, Saint-Martin

### Quartier-d'Orleans



Quartier-d'Orleans is a little piece of 17th-century France. Also known as the French Quarter, this fishing village is located on the

east coast and is believed to be the first French settlement on the island.

Photo: Gino Santa Maria/Shutterstock.com

Address: Quartier-d'Orléans, Saint-Martin

### Soualiga Destinations Boat Tours



Boat tour starting at Bobby's Marina will take you on a captivating journey around Sint Maarten, with our knowledgeable crew

regaling you with intriguing tales about the island. The day includes snorkelling in the crystal-blue sea, followed by a satisfying lunch at

a beachside restaurant — the perfect finale to an unforgettable day.

Photo: bcampbell65/Shutterstock.com

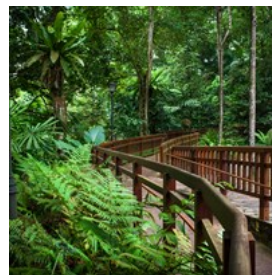
Address: Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Phone: +1 721 553 6550

Internet: [www.soualigadestinations.com](http://www.soualigadestinations.com)

Email: [bcass1111@gmail.com](mailto:bcass1111@gmail.com)

### Loterie Farm



Loterie Farm is a private nature reserve and the perfect spot for an ecological adventure and a gourmet experience.

Dine and drink some wine or participate in one of the numerous outdoor activities like climbing, hiking or gliding over the treetop canopy.

Photo: N8Allen/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue du Pic Paradis, Rambaud, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Mon & Tue 9am-5pm, Wed-Sat 9am-10pm, Sun 9am-6pm

Phone: +590 690 28 84 66

Internet: [loteriefarm.com](http://loteriefarm.com)

Email: [info@loteriefarm.com](mailto:info@loteriefarm.com)

### Bernard's Tours



Bernard's Tours has an outstanding reputation. Take part in outstanding individual or group tours. On the half-day trip led by competent guides you

will discover all the major sites of the island and learn its long and rich history.

Photo: Naeblys/Shutterstock.com

Address: Guana Bay Road 5C, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Phone: +1 954 376 6582

Internet: [bernardstours.com](http://bernardstours.com)

Email: [info@bernardstours.com](mailto:info@bernardstours.com)

### Grand Case



The town of Grand Case has gained the status of St Martin's gourmet capital. A number of world-class restaurants are located in traditional huts and the village is home to the last remaining wattle houses. In January, a Caribbean jazz festival with bands and orchestras takes place.

Photo: Paul Sableman/cc by 2.0/wikimedia(image cropped)  
Address: Grand-Case, Saint-Martin  
Internet: [www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/the-village-of-grand-case](http://www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/the-village-of-grand-case)

### Border Obelisk



The only place in the world where you can directly cross the border between Holland and France! Back in 1648, the French and Dutch signed a contract dividing the island into two parts. Since then, the two sides have lived in peace and harmony. Apart from the language, the only indicator of the border is a border obelisk marking 300 years of peaceful coexistence by the two nations.

Photo: fotofactory/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Quarter of Orleans, St Martin

### National Nature Reserve of St Martin



A true oasis of fauna and flora, the triangle-shaped Reserve covers over 3000 hectares of sea and land including the islands off the east coast: Pinel Island, Petite Clef, Green Cay and Tintamarre. With its rocky coasts, cliffs and beaches, the

reserve is home to a host of different species like seabirds, iguanas, sea turtles, and dolphins.

Photo: Irina Markova/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Réserve naturelle de Saint-Martin, Anse Marcel, Saint-Martin  
Phone: +590 690 34 77 10  
Internet: [www.reservenaturelle-saint-martin.com](http://www.reservenaturelle-saint-martin.com)

### Fort Amsterdam

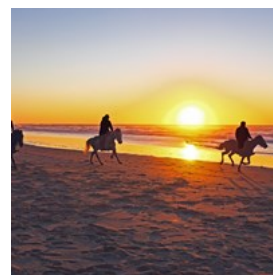


Located between Great Bay and Little Bay in the southern part of the island, Fort Amsterdam dates back nearly four centuries. It was constructed by Dutch settlers who claimed the island in 1631 and utilized shortly thereafter in battle with Spanish occupiers.

There isn't much left of the fort itself, but the surrounding nature is spectacular. Wear comfortable shoes and look out for iguanas.

Photo: Nenad Basic/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Little Bay Road, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

### Seaside Nature Park



At Seaside Nature Park, there is something for everyone to enjoy whether you love the water or you're more of a landlubber. Some of their more popular activities include guided horseback riding tours across the beach, snorkelling in the waters of Cay Bay and hiking tours through the park.

Photo: Steve Photography/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 64 Cay Bay Road, Koolbaai, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-4pm  
Phone: +1 721 544 5255

Internet: [seasidenaturepark.com](http://seasidenaturepark.com)  
Email: [info@seasidenaturepark.com](mailto:info@seasidenaturepark.com)

### Sint Maarten Museum

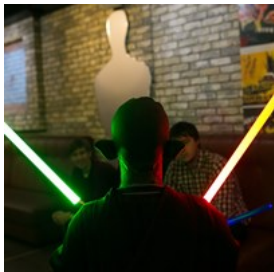


The exhibits at the Sint Maarten Museum provide insight into the cultural heritage and the natural history of the island.

Learn about the people who helped shape Sint Maarten into the place it is today and about its industry, geography, plants and wildlife.

Photo: [Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com](http://Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com)  
Address: 7 Front Street, Philipsburg  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat & Sun closed  
Phone: +1 721 542 4917  
Internet: [www.sintmaartenmuseum.org](http://www.sintmaartenmuseum.org)  
Email: [st.maartenmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:st.maartenmuseum@gmail.com)

### Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit



Film buffs will really get a kick out visiting the Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit, which houses a number of pieces of movie memorabilia. Some

pieces are works created or co-created by the artist and owner Nick Maley, who has worked on films like "Star Wars", "Superman", "Men in Black", "The Terminator", "Alien" and "Highlander".

Photo: [pipicato/Shutterstock.com](http://pipicato/Shutterstock.com)  
Address: 19A Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm, Sun closed  
Phone: +1 721 542 4009  
Email: [ygme@netdwellers.com](mailto:ygme@netdwellers.com)

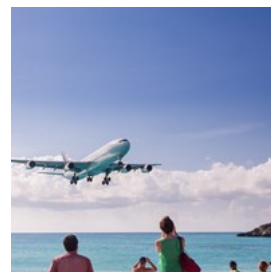
## BEACH LIFE



[jessicakirsh/Shutterstock.com](http://jessicakirsh/Shutterstock.com)

From lengthy spans of sand hugged by palm trees to secluded coves and sunbather-attracting dunes, St Martin's 37 beaches are a haven of white sands and inviting shores. The grandest of these beaches can be found on the French side, with many embracing a naturist ethos. In contrast, Sint Maarten boasts a multitude of picturesque coves, each more charming than the last.

### Maho Beach



Along the coast from Fort Amsterdam in Sint Maarten, Maho Beach is surrounded by rocks, which makes it a fun location for exploring, hiking, and snorkelling. The beach is very close to the Princess Juliana International Airport and a popular site for plane spotters, so come here and be dazzled by the KLM Boeing 747 landing right overhead.

Photo: [Steve Heap/Shutterstock.com](http://Steve Heap/Shutterstock.com)  
Address: Maho Beach, Sint Maarten

### Simpson Bay



Those who love secluded beaches will certainly adore Simpson Bay.

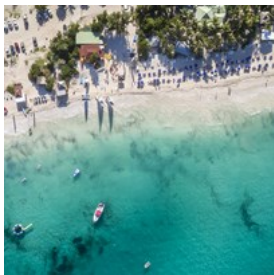
Shaped like a half moon and covered with the finest white sand, the

beach is part of a protected lagoon, one of the largest in the Caribbean.

Photo: Earthscape/Shutterstock.com

Address: Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

### Orient Beach



Orient Beach is known as the Saint-Tropez of the Caribbean. The stretch of sandy beach with rows of colourful deck chairs is the perfect location to

relax and unwind; furthermore, the tree-lined promenade boasts a lot of nice bars, restaurants and beach activities.

Photo: thierry dehove/Shutterstock.com

Address: Orient Bay Beach, Saint-Martin

### Mullet Bay Beach



Mullet Bay's calm, clear waters make it one of the most popular beaches on the island. Chairs and umbrellas are available for rent, and a small BBQ

stand will spoil you with ribs, chicken and drinks right on the beach.

Photo: Photostravellers/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mullet Bay Beach, Sint Maarten

### Pinel Island



Located in Orient Bay, just a short boat ride from the Cul de Sac in the Marine Park of St. Martin, Pinel Island is a popular choice for

families and snorkellers. There are several kid-friendly activities, and even three restaurants if you get hungry while you're here.

Photo: Colin D. Young/Shutterstock.com

Address: Îlet de Pinel, Saint-Martin

### Happy Bay Beach



Happy Bay Beach is one of Saint-Martin's best-kept secrets. Avoid the crowds on this quiet, secluded, clothing-optional beach,

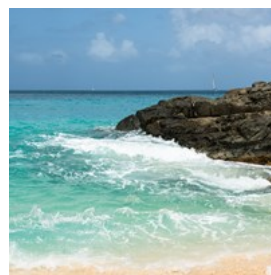
accessible by a short walk along the bluff.

Photo: Steve Heap/Shutterstock.com

Address: Plage de Happy Bay, Saint-Martin

More Info: Close to Grand Case

### Baie Rouge



Located in a residential area away from the commercial hotels, Baie Rouge, or "Red Bay", owes its name to the slightly reddish colour of

its sand. This beach features some stunning multicoloured rocks and cliffs, and the crystal-clear water makes it a favourite among snorkellers.

Photo: Zina Seletskaya/Shutterstock.com

Address: Baie Rouge, Saint-Martin

### Cupecoy Bay



The shaded caves and the low, scenic sandstone cliffs that rise up behind the beach have charmed tourists and visitors since forever. This secluded spot hardly gets crowded, so don't miss the chance to relax and unwind in solitude.

Photo: BlueOrange Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cupecoy Bay, Sint Maarten

### Guana Bay Beach



Located on the Atlantic side of the island, with huge waves lapping onto the shore, Guana Bay is a favourite spot for surfers. Although close to

Philipsburg, this expansive, sunny beach is usually relatively quiet.

Photo: Darryl Brooks/Shutterstock.com

Address: Guana Bay, Sint Maarten

## DINING



Igor Dutina/Shutterstock.com

Visitors to Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten will be spoiled with all of their choices when it comes to dining out. For lovers of French cuisine, there is probably nowhere else in the Caribbean where you can dine on à la carte and French-inspired

gourmet food at such reasonably inexpensive prices. The food is usually al fresco or located on the beach, with fine wine lists to accompany the meal.

Seek out the wonderfully aromatic Creole and Caribbean cuisine, or taste some other popular cooking styles, such as Mexican, Indonesian, and Italian. Most restaurants have a varied menu of meat, fresh fish, and shellfish dishes, while beach bars with non-stop barbecues offer spicy chicken and fish dishes cooked with traditional Caribbean recipes.

### Izi Restaurant



Decorated in a style reminiscent of Italian architecture and decor, this restaurant serves fine Italian cuisine, including authentic pasta dishes with sauces. All dishes are prepared and cooked using ingredients imported from Italy.

Photo: Timolina/Shutterstock.com

Address: 67 Welfare Road, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 4pm-10:30pm, Mon closed

Phone: +1 721 544 3079

Internet: [www.izisxm.com](http://www.izisxm.com)

### Coco Beach



Located near the Esmeralda Resort, this beachfront cafe-restaurant provides its clientele with fresh snack food and beverages

at reasonable prices from sunrise to sunset. The homemade flavoured rum is the perfect touch to make your day.

Photo: Vitaly Titov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Orient Beach, Orient Bay, Saint-Martin  
Opening hours: Mon, Thu, Sat & Sun 9:30am-5pm; Fri  
9:30am-10:30pm; Tue & Wed closed  
Phone: +590 690 64 14 94  
Internet: [www.cocobeach.restaurant](http://www.cocobeach.restaurant)

### Bamboo House



If you are a sushi lover, then you can't absolutely miss this popular Tiki garden. At Bamboo House, you will be served generous portions of

sushi and a wide selection of exotic cocktails. Steak, chicken and shrimp dishes are also available.

Photo: [funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/funkyfrogstock)  
Address: 150 Union Road, Cole Bay, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 5pm-10pm, Tue closed  
Phone: +1 721 523 1508  
Internet: [www.bamboohouse-sxm.com](http://www.bamboohouse-sxm.com)  
Email: [info@bamboo-sxm.com](mailto:info@bamboo-sxm.com)

### L'Effet Mer

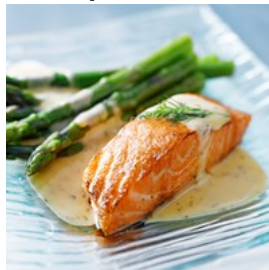


L'Effet Mer serves fabulous French cuisine overlooking the beach. Enjoy casual but elegant dining with inventive dishes and a wonderful

wine selection.

Photo: [CCat82/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/CCat82)  
Address: 48 Boulevard Grand Case, Saint-Martin  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat noon-2pm / 6pm-10pm; Sun closed  
Phone: +590 590 870 565

### Le Tropicana



This waterfront bistro has been a mainstay of Saint Martin's culinary scene for many years and its French cuisine has definitely become a

must-try for many tourists heading there. They also offer a full selection of continental dishes, from appetizers to dessert. Table reservation is recommended, since the restaurant usually gets very crowded.

Photo: [Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/JoshuaResnick)  
Address: Marina la Port Royale, rue de Sandy Ground, Marigot, Saint-Martin  
Opening hours: Tue-Sat noon-2:30pm / 6pm-9:30pm; Sun & Mon closed  
Phone: +590 590 87 79 07

### Bistrot Caraïbes



With its impeccable professional service as well as local cuisine at its finest, Bistrot Caraïbes will not fail to impress you. They boast a wide

selection of lobster dishes, such as lobster Thermidor, lobster soup and grilled lobster, so make sure you don't miss any of their specialties. Their ginger-flavoured rum will be the pleasant final touch to your experience.

Photo: [Somkiat Insawa/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/SomkiatInsawa)  
Address: 81 Boulevard de Grand Case, Saint-Martin  
Opening hours: Sun-Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat closed  
Phone: +590 590 290 829  
Internet: [www.bistrot-caraibes.com](http://www.bistrot-caraibes.com)

### L'Auberge Gourmande



Wonderful flavours, authentic service, comfortable atmosphere and attentive and charming staff, that is what L'Auberge

Gourmande is all about. They serve excellent French fare like escargot, lobster bisque and frog legs.

Photo: Moomusician/Shutterstock.com

Address: 89 Boulevard de Grand Case, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 6pm-midnight, Mon closed

Phone: +590 590 87 73 37

Internet: [www.laubergegourmande.com](http://www.laubergegourmande.com)

Email: [reservations@laubergegourmande.com](mailto:reservations@laubergegourmande.com)

### La Villa Restaurant



If you are searching for a magical place to have an intimate dinner, then there is no need to look any further: La Villa has everything you would

expect from a classy restaurant. Caribbean specialities meet here with traditional French cuisine, creating a unique combination of flavours.

Photo: creativesunday/Shutterstock.com

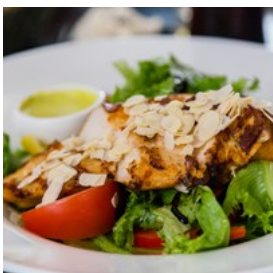
Address: 93 Boulevard de Grand Case, Grand Case

Opening hours: Thu-Tue 5pm-10pm, Wed closed

Phone: +590 690 50 12 04

Internet: [www.lavillasxm.com](http://www.lavillasxm.com)

### Vesna Taverna



Your taste buds will want to savour whatever delectable treat finds its way to your table at Vesna Taverna. Once a humble bagel house, this

place has now become a St Martin institution serving up full, hearty breakfasts as well as lunch and dinner. Vesna Taverna's rich and varied menu includes Greek food as well as Caribbean and American dishes.

Photo: Ekaterina Barochkina/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 Airport Road, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun 8am-4pm, Mon closed

Phone: +1 721 524 5283

### Mario Bistrot at The Cliff



Many who come to Mario are instantly hooked thanks to the unpretentious atmosphere and creative contemporary cuisine

infused with both Asian and Caribbean flavours. It is a favourite dining option for both locals and tourists alike.

Photo: YANG YIDONG/Shutterstock.com

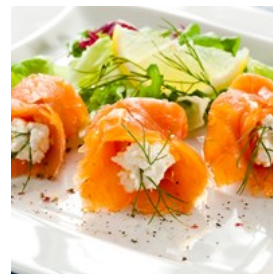
Address: 56 Rhine Road, Cupecoy Beach, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Tue- Sun noon-2:30pm / 6pm-10pm; Mon closed

Phone: +1 721 523 2760

Internet: [www.mariobistrot.sx](http://www.mariobistrot.sx)

### Le Piment



Word of mouth has brought fame to this bustling eatery in Orient Bay, and tourists return time and again to savor some classics of Italian

and French cuisine at great prices. The laid-back atmosphere and the attentive staff will make your experience truly memorable.

Photo: Jacek Chabraszewski/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place du Village, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6pm-10pm, Sun closed

Phone: +590 690 77 31 32

Internet: [www.st-martin.org/restaurant/le-piment](http://www.st-martin.org/restaurant/le-piment)

## CAFES



*merzzie/Shutterstock.com*

St Martin is dotted with cafes and informal restaurants where you can enjoy snacks and beverages while gazing at the stunning panorama. Most of the popular beaches have their own cafes, usually serving local fresh products, while some other great spots offer several hidden treasures just waiting to be discovered.

### Bikini Beach



There is no better place to experience the real Caribbean atmosphere while sipping on a cocktail at sunset. At Bikini Beach cafe you can either choose to relax and have lunch on the terrace or savour some fresh snacks and beverages right by the beach.

Photo: *Makhh/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Orient Beach, Orient Bay, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Daily 9am-8pm

Phone: +590 590 77 3990

Internet: [www.bikinibeach.restaurant](http://www.bikinibeach.restaurant)

### Top Carrot



Enjoy your meal at Top Carrot on a terrace complete with palms and shrubs. The menu here is varied and includes many vegetarian dishes and drinks. Their juices and smoothies are among the best you will find on the island. This venue also features a small ethnic shop with souvenirs, jewellery and books.

Photo: *Leelakajonkij/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Simpson Bay Yacht Club, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun & Mon closed

Phone: +1 721 544 3381

Internet: [www.instagram.com/topcarrot\\_sxm](http://www.instagram.com/topcarrot_sxm)

### Cafe Atlantico



Freshly baked bread, French baguette, café au lait or crêpes are just some French delights offered at this cheerful little spot, perfect to start the day in the right way.

Photo: *Olena Mykhaylova/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 51 Airport Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6:30am-2pm, Sat 7am-2pm, Sun 6:30am-1pm

Phone: +1 721 545 2663

Internet: [cafeatlantico.restaurantwebexperts.com](http://cafeatlantico.restaurantwebexperts.com)

### Zee Best



The island's best almond croissants, traditional french pastries, breakfast sandwiches, fresh juices, coffees, and bread can be enjoyed at Zee Best.

Photo: *Yuliia Mazurkevych/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-2pm  
Phone: +1 721 544 2477  
Internet: [www.zeebestrestaurant.com](http://www.zeebestrestaurant.com)  
Email: [info@zeebestrestaurant.com](mailto:info@zeebestrestaurant.com)  
More Info: Zee Best also has a bakery at 100 Airport Road, next to Thrifty's in Sint Maarten

### La Sucrière



If you are looking for a casual coffee with authentic French pastries, search no further: La Sucrière is a great place to have breakfast with baguettes, croissants and quiches while sitting on a terrace overlooking the lagoon.

Photo: [pixino/Shutterstock.com](https://www.pixino.com)  
Address: 130 Welfare Road, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6am-7pm, Sun 6am-6pm  
Phone: +1 721 544 3549  
Internet: [www.la-sucriere.com](http://www.la-sucriere.com)  
Email: [contact@la-sucriere.com](mailto:contact@la-sucriere.com)

### Karakter



Karakter, located a short walk from the pristine waters of the Caribbean Sea, opens for breakfast, lunch and dinner, offering guests predominately western cuisine with dishes cooked to-order by the chef. Some attractive menu items include grilled lobsters, crabs, burgers, ribs and multiples seafood specialities, as well as vegetarian options such as ratatouille. Live music plays mostly on weekends.

Photo: [binik/Shutterstock.com](https://www.binik.com)  
Address: 121 Simpson Bay Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-11pm, Sun 9am-midnight  
Phone: +1 721 523 9983  
Internet: [karakterstmaarten.com](http://karakterstmaarten.com)

### Sunset Bar & Grill



This modest bar on Moho Beach is a mecca for those looking to spot some spectacular landings. Alongside the stunning view, it offers a wide selection of sandwiches, salads, and the best burger on the island. Sipping on a beer on the breezy terrace while looking at planes soaring overhead is just the perfect way to wrap up the day.

Photo: [Solarisys/Shutterstock.com](https://www.solarisys.com)  
Address: 2 Beacon Hill Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 8am-7pm, Fri-Sun 8am-8pm  
Phone: +1 721 545 2084  
Internet: [www.instagram.com/sunsetbeachbarsxm](https://www.instagram.com/sunsetbeachbarsxm)

### Freedom Fighter's Ital Shack



The friendly staff of Ital Shack will serve you homemade vegan and vegetarian food; everything here is home-cooked and prepared with local products. Whether you're coming for breakfast or lunch, healthy tidbits and a laid-back atmosphere will always welcome you.

Photo: [adrenalinerushdiaries/Shutterstock.com](https://www.adrenalinerushdiaries.com)  
Address: 7 Bush Road, Sint Maarten  
Phone: +1 721 542 0055  
Internet: [sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant)  
Email: [theitalshack@gmail.com](mailto:theitalshack@gmail.com)

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife on St Martin is synonymous with long, refreshing cocktails on the terrace before dinner, followed by relaxing meals of French and Caribbean-inspired cuisine. Although, visitors often head for the casinos and beach bars to enjoy livelier evenings of music and savour local drinks. The island has 12 casinos, all on the Dutch side.

### Diamond Casino



This casino in the heart of Philipsburg welcomes every gambling man with more than a hundred ultramodern slot machines and seven table games, including roulette, blackjack, Caribbean poker and three card poker.

Photo: 18percentgrey/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Daily 11am-3am

Phone: +1 721 543 2565

Email: gmcloney@diamondcasinosxm.com

### Lazy Lizard Restaurant & Craft Bar



At this family-owned open-air bar and grill, you can enjoy great views while eating fabulous food and sipping specialty cocktails. Located right on the beach, the Lazy Lizard earned its reputation over the years and is now a favourite of both locals and tourists.

Photo: verca/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Front Street (Unit 19 Boardwalk (Behind Diamond Casino), Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Sat, Mon & Tue 11am-4:30pm; Wed & Thu 11am-8:30pm; Fri 11am-10pm; Mon closed

Phone: +1 721 520 4653

### Dinghy Dock Sailors Bar



This fun and casual place will delight your taste buds with a huge selection of BBQ food and craft beers, including their own IPA. The friendly staff and the relaxed atmosphere of the Dinghy Dock Bar will make you feel at home.

Photo: lunopark/Shutterstock.com

Address: 46 Airport Road B, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Daily 11am-midnight

Phone: +1 721 524 4792

Internet: [www.instagram.com/dinghydockbar](http://www.instagram.com/dinghydockbar)

### Karakter



Located just in the middle of Simpson Bay littoral zone, this little gem combines great seafood and drinks with live music sessions. The staff even provides its clientele with chairs and umbrellas to enjoy the turquoise waters and the

fine sand, thus enhancing the whole experience.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: 121 Simpson Bay Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +1 721 523 9983

Internet: karakterstmaarten.com

Email: info@karakterstmaarten.com

### Grand Case Tuesdays – Harmony Nights



Every Tuesday night from January to April, Grand Case — a small town on the French side of the island — hosts Les Mardis de Grand-Case. Also

known as Harmony Nights, it is a street fair with local music, arts and crafts exhibitions as well as traditional dance shows. Street food, beach-facing restaurants, drum beats, and booths selling trinkets will surely make your day.

Photo: Jakez/Shutterstock.com

Address: Grand Case, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Daily 6pm-10:30pm

Internet: [www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/the-spirit-of-celebration-at-grand-case-tuesdays](http://www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/the-spirit-of-celebration-at-grand-case-tuesdays)

### The Red Piano



This waterfront lounge packed with quality music, spirits and cocktails of any kind offers one of the best places to have fun in Sint

Maarten. Check out their upcoming events and have a whale of a good time.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: Billy Folly Road, Koolbaai, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Daily 8pm-3am

Phone: +1 721 527 4266

Internet: [www.theredpianosxm.com](http://www.theredpianosxm.com)

### The Palms



Here at The Palms, size doesn't really matter; this little restaurant offers many options in a range of culinary styles, including some old family

recipes to die for. Come here and savour their renowned specialties, like the drunken ribs and the jerk chicken wrap, or just join the karaoke contest and showcase your talent.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: 25 Airport Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5pm-10pm

Phone: +1 721 554 2375

Internet: [www.thepalmssxm.com](http://www.thepalmssxm.com)

Email: [ThePalmsInSXM@gmail.com](mailto:ThePalmsInSXM@gmail.com)

### Dirty Sanchez Crew Bar



Take a break from exploring the busy town of Philipsburg at Dirty Sanchez Crew Bar. They are located right on the beach at the Waterfront

Boardwalk, and the bikini-clad bartenders mix up classic cocktails using a blend of unique ingredients.

Photo: Kar Tr/Shutterstock.com

Address: 43 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Phone: +1 721 556 1437

## SHOPPING



*Evangeline Addison/Shutterstock.com*

The island of St Martin is a shopper's duty-free paradise, especially for high couture fashion from French and Italian houses, jewellery, leather goods, fragrances from the world's top perfume companies, fine porcelain, crystal and handcrafts.

Passengers from ships touring the Caribbean are drawn to the shops around Front Street in Philipsburg. On the other side of the island, Marigot gathers numerous chic shops and boutiques, and the waterfront West Indies shopping mall proves a temptation for shoppers. If you are looking for local handicrafts and produce, then head to the Marigot Market, where you can purchase tropical fruits, spices, freshly caught fish and unique souvenirs to bring home.

### Ma Doudou



The island paradise of St. Martin has become synonymous with the good life. Remember the time you spent soaking in the sun with a drink in

hand with a bottle of rum in a number of flavours. All rums are made by local craftsmen using traditional methods.

Photo: alexpro9500/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue de Terrasse, Cul-de-Sac, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-3pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +33 590 873 043

Internet: [www.instagram.com/madoudoustmartin](http://www.instagram.com/madoudoustmartin)

Email: [info@madoudou.fr](mailto:info@madoudou.fr)

### Tijon Parfumerie



Tijon Parfumerie is famous for their perfumes made on St Martin and inspired by the natural Caribbean islands.

Discover the process of making perfumes and create your own personal fragrance by choosing from over 300 oils and extracts.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue de Petite Plage 1, Grand-Case, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +590 690 22 74 70

Internet: [www.tijon.com](http://www.tijon.com)

Email: [info@tijon.com](mailto:info@tijon.com)

### Marigot's Marina Port Royal



Marigot is a Caribbean hub of elegance, luxury and hi-tech equipment. Due to its tax-free status, it has become a duty-free shopping heaven. The

Marina district boasts a host of little restaurants ready for the lunch crowd, as well as high fashion hot spots where boutiques sell everything from designer clothes to jewellery.

Photo: Uber Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Marina Port Royal, Marigot, Saint-Martin

Phone: +590 590 87 20 43

Email: [info@marinaportlaroyale.com](mailto:info@marinaportlaroyale.com)

### Front Street & Back Street



On the Dutch side of the island, Front Street and Back Street in

Philipsburg are the alternative to Marigot's French boutiques. The

promenade along the waterfront is lined with a vast range of restaurants and bars as well as boutiques, jewellery stores and souvenir stalls selling perfumes and clothing.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com

Address: Front & Back Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

### Marigot Market



For those looking for some hustle and bustle, the lively Marigot Market is the place to go. It can be best described as a melting pot of colours

and smells located in open Creole huts along the waterfront. Locals sell fruit and vegetables, spices, local meats and fresh fish as well as handicrafts. Make sure to sample some flavoured rums.

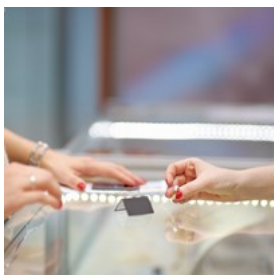
Photo: jeff gynane/Shutterstock.com

Address: Boulevard de France, Marigot, Saint-Martin

Internet:

[www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/marigot-market](http://www.st-martin.org/us/learn-more/must-sees/marigot-market)

### Ballerina Jewelers



Ballerina Jewelers is located right off of where the cruise ships land in Philipsburg. They are known for their attentiveness to detail

and to the customers' needs. Their collection of jewelry is unparalleled on the island and features

several unique pieces.

Photo: Maria Sbytova/Shutterstock.com

Address: 56 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Phone: +1 721 542 4399

Internet: [www.ballerina-jewelers.com](http://www.ballerina-jewelers.com)

Email: [infosxm@ballerina-jewelers.com](mailto:infosxm@ballerina-jewelers.com)

### Joe's Jewelry



Joe's is an international jeweller offering fine pieces in three locations in Sint Maarten. Although Joe's deals in jewellery from around the world,

the shop is locally-owned, and this is apparent in every facet of their business.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: 60 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

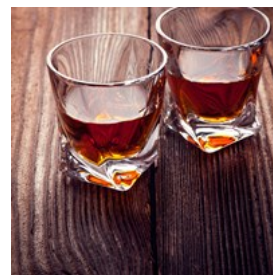
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun closed

Phone: +1 721 543 7020

Internet: [www.joesjewelry.com](http://www.joesjewelry.com)

Email: [online@joesjewelry.com](mailto:online@joesjewelry.com)

### Guavaberry Emporium



Rum-based liquors have been the main business of the island for decades and are part of its tradition. Here at Guavaberry Emporium

you can retrace the evolution of this historic trade by purchasing and sampling quality homemade rums as well as a variety of fruit liqueurs and hot sauces.

Photo: Jozef Sowa/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8-10 Frontstreet, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5:30pm, Sun closed

Phone: +1 721 542 2965

Internet: [guavaberry.com](http://guavaberry.com)

Email: [manager@guavaberry.com](mailto:manager@guavaberry.com)

### BeDazzled Jewelers



BeDazzled is a small boutique jewelry shop whose owner has years of experience in the jewelry industry. Let him and his trustworthy staff guide

you on your search for the perfect piece of jewelry.

Photo: haveseen / Shutterstock.com

Address: 94 Front Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5:30pm, Sun closed

Email: [kenny@bedazzledjewelers.com](mailto:kenny@bedazzledjewelers.com)

### Le West Indies Mall



If you are looking for a shopping experience like no other on the French side of the island, look no farther than Le West Indies Shopping Mall.

Located on the waterfront in Marigot, this shopping centre provides shoppers with the opportunity to explore high-end shops and eat in classy restaurants while taking in the beautiful and fascinating architecture of the building itself.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Boulevard de la République, Marigot, Saint-Martin

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun closed

Phone: +33 5 90 51 04 19

Internet: [lewestindiesmall.blogspot.com](http://lewestindiesmall.blogspot.com)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*bellajay/Shutterstock.com*

### Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM)



Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten are served by the Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM), which is located 15 km west of Philipsburg

and near Simpson Bay, on the Dutch side of the island. The Grand Case Airport, in the north of the island, is used only for regional flights.

Taxi services are provided outside both airports. There are also rental cars available, and some hotels will arrange transfers.

You have undoubtedly seen photos and videos of planes landing right by the beach. Most of those were taken on Maho Beach — arguably one of the most spectacular places in the world for a plane-spotting. The beach is just west of Princess Juliana Airport.

Photo: Brighton Pereira/unsplash

Address: Airport Road, Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten

Phone: +1 721 546 7542

Internet: [www.sxmairport.com](http://www.sxmairport.com)

Email: [info@SXMairport.com](mailto:info@SXMairport.com)

## Passport / Visa



Most travellers enter St Martin on the Dutch side of the island. Upon arrival at Princess Juliana International Airport, all passengers must

present:

- a passport valid at least until the end of your stay;
- a completed and signed Embarkation and Disembarkation card (ED-card);
- a return or onward ticket;
- a reservation for an accommodation in Sint Maarten;
- proof of sufficient financial means.

Visitors and goods can travel freely between the French and Dutch sides of the island.

The maximum stay allowed on St Martin is 30 days uninterrupted for tourists in general. For Dutch and American passport holders, maximum stay is 6 months uninterrupted with the possibility to extend. Nationals of Canada, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand and Japan can stay for 3 months uninterrupted with the possibility to extend.

Photo: mana5280/unsplash

Internet:

[st-maarten.com/index.php/island/visa-and-entry-st-maarten](http://st-maarten.com/index.php/island/visa-and-entry-st-maarten)

## Best Time to Visit



The best time to visit St Martin is between May and June or November and mid December: torrential rains are not frequent in these weeks and airfare and room prices lower consistently.

The weather on the island is generally pleasant throughout the year, but bear in mind that the rainy season starts in June and protracts until the end of October.

Try to avoid the period between winter and spring, which is peak season in St Martin. The island gets very crowded and prices rise dramatically.

Photo: Andy Bellegarde/unsplash

## Public Transport



Hiring a car is the best way to get around.

Motorcycles and mopeds are also available for hire, or you can just hop on a jitney — the usual mode

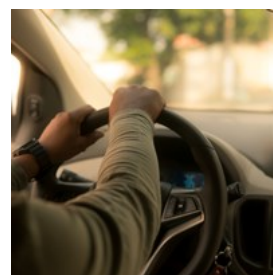
of transport for islanders, which is an inexpensive way to explore the island. Group taxis (minibuses) cover most areas of the island, however, there is no strict schedule.

Photo: prayitnophotography/cc by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)

Internet:

[www.st-martin.org/us/travel-easy/getting-around-st-martin](http://www.st-martin.org/us/travel-easy/getting-around-st-martin)

## Taxi



Taxis can be hired at Princess Juliana International Airport and at all major hotels. They aren't metered, but drivers must follow official rates for travel throughout the island.

Marigot: +590 590 87 56 54

Philipsburg: +1 721 542 2359

Princess Juliana International Airport: +1 721 546 7713

Grand Case Esperance Airport: +590 590 87 53

03

Photo: Jackson David/unsplash

### Pharmacy



Pharmacies are located throughout the island:  
Orange Grove Pharmacy  
Orange Grove Shopping Center, Cole Bay, Sint Maarten +1 721 544

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Simpson Bay Pharmacy  
68 Welfare Road, Sint Maarten  
+1 721 544 3653

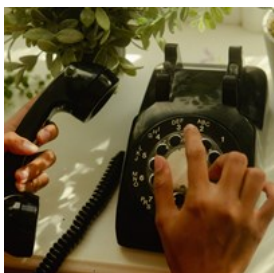
Sun Pharmacie  
2 Rue de la Republique, Marigot, Saint-Martin  
+590 590 875 168

Grand Case Pharmacy  
Grand Case, Saint-Martin  
+590 590 877 746

Photo: chezbeate/pixabay

Address: Maho Pharmacy, Rhine Road, Sint Maarten  
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8am–9pm; Sat & Sun 1am–noon / 6pm–9pm  
Phone: +1 721 545 3200  
Internet: [www.mahopharmacy.com](http://www.mahopharmacy.com)  
Email: [info@mahopharmacy.com](mailto:info@mahopharmacy.com)

### Telephone



Country code for the French Saint-Martin: +590. Country code for the Dutch Sint Maarten: +1 721. Calls between the two countries are

international.

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

### Electricity



Country code for the French Saint-Martin: 220 volts / 50 Hz with US power plugs (flat prongs). Country code for the Dutch Sint Maarten: 110

volts / 60 Hz with French power plugs (round prongs).

Photo: mk. s/unsplash

### Population

Collectivity of Saint Martin (French: Collectivité de Saint-Martin): 32,489

Sint Maarten: 42,938

### Currency

The official currency of the French side of the island, Saint-Martin, is the Euro, while the Dutch side, Sint Maarten, uses the Netherlands Antillean guilder, pegged at 1.79 per US dollar.

The Netherlands Antillean guilder will be replaced by the Caribbean guilder. The switch was initially scheduled for 2021, but has been delayed several times.

The US Dollar is also accepted everywhere on the island. However, make sure you are getting a fair exchange rate.

### Opening hours

Shops are generally open 8:30am–5pm with a lunch break of around two hours. Banks are generally open on the French side from Monday to Friday 8:30am–1:30pm and on the Dutch side from Monday to Friday 8:30am–3:30pm. Some banks are open on Saturday 8:30am–noon.

### Internet

[www.st-martin.org](http://www.st-martin.org)  
[www.visitstmaarten.com](http://www.visitstmaarten.com)  
[www.vacationstmaarten.com](http://www.vacationstmaarten.com)

### Newspapers

The Daily Herald (English) — [www.thedailyherald.sx](http://www.thedailyherald.sx)  
Le Pelican (French) — [www.lepelican-journal.com](http://www.lepelican-journal.com)  
St Martin Week magazine (French) — [www.stmartinweek.fr](http://www.stmartinweek.fr)  
San Martin News Network (English) — [smn-news.com](http://smn-news.com)  
Soualiga News (English & French) — [www.soualigapost.com](http://www.soualigapost.com)  
St Maarten News (English) — [stmaartennews.com](http://stmaartennews.com)

### Emergency numbers

Ambulance: 912  
Sint Maarten Medical Center: 910  
Police: 911  
Fire: 919  
Coast Guard: 913

### Tourist information

Office du Tourisme Saint-Martin/Sint Maarten

## Destination: St Martin

12 rue du Général de Gaulle, Marigot, Saint-Martin  
+590 590 87 57 21

Sint Maarten Tourism Board  
6 Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard, Sint Maarten  
+1 721 549 0200

Information is subject to change. Please contact your Lifestyle Consultant for the most up-to-date recommendations.



Atlantic Ocean

Caribbean Sea

