



Guest Information Booklet

Must-See Sites & Activities

Prices are in US Dollars and are subject to change

attractions in **THE SOUTH**

SUGAR BEACH / JALOUSIE PLANTATION



Sugar Beach
Val des Pitons
P.O. Box 251, Soufrière, Saint Lucia
No Entrance Fee
(758) 456-8000

Located in a UNESCO World Heritage Site between Gros and Petit Pitons, this former sugar plantation has a new swagger. It takes a while to reach this area but the pristine site makes it worthwhile. The forest, not to say jungle, surrounds the premises and the majestic towering Pitons watch over you as you float in bluish-green crystal-clear waters.

There is a snorkeling area that is roped off from the rest of the bay. The snorkeling is pretty good as you may spot a variety of fish including cuttlefish. It can be a little rocky getting in, so either bring water shoes or be prepared.

TIP: There is a limited number of free loungers so get there early or bring your own beach chairs.



THE GROS PITON CLIMB



Hours: 7 am to 2 pm Fee: USD \$30 per person (Incl. guide)
Approx. 5-6 hrs – Physical Demand: Challenging
Startup time: your choice (early pickup recommended)
(758) 486-1561 or (758) 717-8604

The rise of Gros Piton is not a simple walk in the mountains. It is a hike that may sometimes require a little climbing. The first half of the trail is moderate. The view is beautiful even if it's halfway yet (you can see the Petit Piton). The third quarter is rather difficult and lastly, the very difficult fourth quarter. The stone steps and roots are high enough, but once at the top, you forget the difficult climb. The view at the top is breathtaking and different than the one at halfway mark.

TIP: Before the hike, buy snacks and about 1.5 L of water per person. Wear comfortable shoes and arm yourself with a walking stick.

The climb takes on average 2 to 2.5 hours and the descent is a little less than 2 hours. It may be long and a bit challenging. Whether via land or sea, it is unthinkable to go to Saint Lucia without seeing the famous peaks representing the emblem of this island. There are many excursions that allow these peaks to be admired from land and sea.



DES CARTIERS RAINFOREST TRAIL



Entrance Fee: USD \$14 per person (approx. 3 hours), Guide included

Hours: 8 am - 3 pm, Monday to Friday

**Located on Ti-Rocher Micoud Road, Desruisseaux
(30-minute car ride from Vieux Fort)**

(758) 454-5589 or (758) 715 0350

A 2 km loop through rarely visited rainforest. If you're lucky, you might spot the Saint Lucia parrot, but even if you don't, you'll witness lush tropical foliage as you traverse the trail into the high-canopied forest. Be sure to come prepared for rain as this area sees a tremendous amount of annual rainfall.

TIP: Call ahead to make reservations. It is not possible to walk the trail on your own so you will want to make sure to have a guide available for you.



HORSEBACK RIDING – ATLANTIC SHORES RIDING STABLES



**P.O.Box 301 New Dock Road, Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia
Contact Melville at (758) 285-1090 or (758) 454-8660
Reservation line is open everyday from 7 am to 9 pm**

Prices vary depending on ride selection.

A popular activity with Villa Pierre guests. Rides are available to all, seasoned and beginners.

DIAMOND FALLS AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



Entrance Fee: Adults: USD \$7 • Children: Half Price
Private Baths: USD \$7 • Public Baths: USD \$6

Hours:

Monday to Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm • Sunday: 10 am – 3 pm • Holidays: 10 am – 3 pm

(758) 459-7155

The Diamond Botanical Gardens offers many different tropical plants, a waterfall and an interesting variety of natural hot springs. There is a souvenir shop and a small restaurant.

TIP: Enquire if there are groups scheduled and try to visit when there are fewer people. Plan a full hour to enjoy this visit.

The trail is well identified with signs and it's easy to find your way. The waterfall is especially nice and it bears rainbow colors when hit by sunlight. There is an option to bathe in mineral water from the waterfall.

A visit to the farmlands can convince you to have a different interpretation of fruits and foods of the region. You will be delighted by its large varieties of exotic plants and ferns that you see here and the guide are happy to share a lot of information.



CHOCOLATE ESTATE TOUR



Chocolate Estate, Soufrière, Saint Lucia

Open Monday to Friday, 9:30 am – 3 pm

1-hour tour: USD \$25 per person

Time of tours may vary and we recommend calling ahead: 1 (800) 757-7132

The Chocolate Plantation

The 140-acre plantation is situated near Soufrière. The estate is divided up into 16 different areas of terroir, with evocative names such as L'Hermitage, Ti Jardin, Marcial, Mathilde and Rameau. The rich and fertile volcanic soil, high altitude and rainforest water combine to create a unique terroir perfectly suited to growing fine and rare strains of cocoa.

Tours

The **Tree to Bean** tour lets you talk with planters, learn the history of chocolate in Saint Lucia, and graft and tag your own tree, while the **Bean to Bag** experience allows you to select cacao pods and make chocolate bars and truffles from beans you roast yourself. Each tour is about 1.5 h., or about 3 hours when combining the two.

The Restaurant

Boucan Restaurant serves "cacao cuisine"—dishes infused or spiced with cocoa and chocolate platters for dessert.

LIGHTHOUSE IN VIEUX FORT



Located at the southernmost tip of Saint Lucia (and literally in Villa Pierre's backyard!), this lighthouse is one of the highest lights above sea level in the world!

Built in 1912, it has been standing now for more than 100 years. Sadly it is no longer in operation but it still offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Anse des Sables coastline and looks out over both the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

TIP: Bring your camera as you'll have fabulous 360 degrees views!

Getting there: From the villa, simply take the main paved road towards the summit. It should take you approximately 5 to 7 minutes to get there.

TETE PAUL NATURE TRAIL/HIKE



Gentle to difficult 40-minute Hike/Nature Trail

Hours: 9 am – 5 pm

Entrance Fee: USD \$10 per person

(758) 723-2930

The guided hike on the Tet Paul Nature Trail takes approximately 40 minutes. The scenery of the coast is unique and because the walk is more of a short walk, it is easily tackled in good walking shoes. It's a very nice ride that is inexpensive and complete enough. While on trail, there are local traditions to see (e.g. local houses that manufacture the native cassava flour pancake called "Kassav"). After seeing a wide variety of biological and medicinal plants, move on to a promontory which offers a splendid view of the two peaks. The view is breathtaking and you can take beautiful photos of Saint Lucia.

ANSE CHASTANET BEACH AND REEF



**Located on Old French Road
Soufrière, Saint Lucia**

Hotel desk: 1 (800) 223-1108

Anse Chastanet is altogether a beach, a reef and a restaurant. One of the top beaches in Saint Lucia for snorkelling and deep diving, it offers a unique stretch of almost-black volcanic sand. Divers must register through the diving center, but snorkel is free and relatively accessible from the beach. There are also shower and bathroom facilities available.

TIP: Walking barefoot can be difficult since the black sand can turn very hot. Some caution should be paid to boat traffic when enjoying water activities.

SULPHUR SPRINGS & BATHS



The only drive-in volcano in the world!
Open year round. Pools: 8 am – 10 pm
(758) 714-8900

The Sulphur Springs is one of the main attractions of Saint Lucia. Be surrounded by natural sulfur springs where the smell is of course very telling. The ticket price includes a guide. They give the history of the place and give interesting talks and travel tips about the surrounding countryside. If desired, you can swim in the springs. If you take the full tour, you can dip in the muddy warm water, get a nice scrub and condition your skin. There are changing rooms and showers.

TIP: We recommend wearing an old bathing suit.

This place is a UNESCO World Heritage site. In addition to the volcano itself, you may watch a short film explaining its creation and an exhibition of how the sulfide mud is used for other purposes.



ZIP LINING (may be combined with DUNE BUGGY SAFARIS)



These adventures are offered by **Island Routes**, an international tour and excursion provider in Saint Lucia.

Toll Free Caribbean **1-877-805-6796**

Zip Lining Experience

Duration: 2-hour zip lining

Rates starting at USD \$89 –if combined with a Dune Buggy Safari, prices will vary. See below for more details.

Trained guides take you zipping high above the rainforest. The course consists of 12 zip lines including the islands' longest, fastest and highest, plus a net bridge. The lines extend up to 800 feet between platforms and reach heights up to 150 feet above the forest floor. Includes complimentary refreshments.

Dune Buggy Safari + Zip Lining

Duration: 5 hours

Rates starting at USD \$175

Jump in a 2 or 4-seater buggy and drive yourself to adventure.

Your first stop is Treetop Adventure Park, the zip lining site. Enjoy a complimentary drink, then suit up and get ready for the lines. The course is designed for maximum thrill and exposure to great views of the rainforest.

After completing the 12 lines, you'll relax with another complimentary drink before hopping back onto your buggy for the return ride.

Drivers **MUST** be 23 years and over, have a valid driver's license to be able to drive manual transmission / stick shift.

PIGEON ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Entrance Fee: approx. USD \$7 for adults and USD \$1 for children (ages 5 to 12)
Hours: every day from 9 am to 5 pm
(758) 452-5005

Pigeon Island is a national park where you can sunbathe or enjoy long walks in the woods. It harbors a small restaurant for a quick bite. The park is flanked by the sea on both sides, one calm and one super choppy. There are many ruins dating back to the first English invasions right at the entrance.

The mountain can be hiked and divided into two sections. The first section is easy enough and good walking sandals are needed for the long walk through the forest. The view along the mountain is fabulous as you get to see the island of Martinique.

We recommend proper hiking footwear if you plan to climb the final overcast leg. The terrain may prove too challenging for small children or if you are physically unfit.

TIP: Ensure to have lots of space on your camera... you will take lots of great photos!

RODNEY BAY



The Rodney Bay area is a busy place with several restaurants, souvenir shops and two large markets.

The bay itself is very nice and still quite natural except for two large resorts. The 10-minute walk to the quaint village of Gros Islet, where time seems to stand still, is quite enjoyable too.

MARIGOT BAY



Located just south of the capital Castries, Marigot Bay was described by American Novelist James A. Michener, as "*the Most Beautiful Bay in the Caribbean*". It is an oasis of sophisticated bars, restaurants and both water and land-based vacation activities. It makes a nice day trip!

Interesting Fact: Marigot Bay was featured in the wonderful film "Dr. Doolittle"!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



Located on Micoud Street, in Castries, Saint Lucia

No Entrance Fee

(758) 452-2416 Or (758) 452-2271

Weekend Mass Times:

Sunday — 6 am / 8 am / 10:30 am

Saturday — 8 am

Like most churches in the Caribbean, the Church of the Immaculate Conception is very charming but desperately in need of restoration. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful haven of calm at the heart of the city center.

Its special interest lies in its beautiful frescoes on the ceiling and the paintings of biblical scenes depicting black characters only. As you exit the church, proceed to the square and explore the surrounding buildings with typical local architecture and brown balconies.



STREET PARTY IN GROS ISLET



No Entrance Fee and everyone is welcomed to join the fun!

Can you imagine a whole village dancing? This is what happens every Friday night at the Gros Islet Street Party. Caribbean beat, BBQ chicken, rum and coke and party await you. Everyone is welcomed and there's no fee to join the fun.

Every Friday night, this part of the road is closed to traffic.