

PORTS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL



Located 30 miles north of Miami, Fort Lauderdale is home to 165 miles of navigable waterways, lending credence to its description on the official city seal: "Venice of America." Among these waterways is the New River, whose banks feature a popular linear park known as Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. More aquatic recreation awaits along the area's nearly two dozen miles of beaches. Fort Lauderdale Beach's palm tree-lined brick promenade attracts strollers, joggers, and cyclists. Las Olas Boulevard, the downtown thoroughfare, brims with boutiques, restaurants, and art galleries. The Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum, Bonnet House Museum and Gardens, African-American Research Library and Cultural Center and many more delight history buffs and culture seekers. Shore excursions include daytrips south to Key West and west to the Everglades, where airboat rides reward keen observers with glimpses of alligators and other wildlife.

Language: English

Currency: U.S. Dollar (US\$)

ST. MAARTEN



Christopher Columbus' sighting first brought European attention to this island in 1493. Today, St. Maarten flies two flags, making the island part-French and part-Dutch. Cruise ships more commonly call on the Dutch side of St. Maarten, known for its year-round sunshine, slew of shopping centers and buzzing nightlife. Visitors can voyage the Caribbean aboard a catamaran, kayak, or Jet Ski. Island outings include all-terrain vehicle adventures, culinary tours and snorkeling or scuba diving trips. Walking and biking tours explore the historic capital, Philipsburg, and luxury yachts and sailboats offer private charters for enhanced relaxation.

Language: Dutch

Currency: Euro (EUR), U.S. Dollar (US\$)

ANTIGUA



Part of the eastern Caribbean's Leeward Islands, Antigua was discovered and named by Christopher Columbus in 1493. The sun-soaked isle is small at just 108 square miles, but it boasts 365 beaches and crystal-clear water. History buffs will want to tour Nelson's Dockyard National Park, where one of the great admirals of the 18th century kept his fleet. The UNESCO World Heritage Site has been continuously in operation since 1745 and displays a telescope once used by Nelson himself. Other visitors might opt to lounge on one of the white-sand beaches, partake in water sports or go for a horseback ride along the shore. Hike up to Shirley Heights, a restored military outlook and gun battery, for a bird's-eye view of the harbors, or take a culinary tour to sample Caribbean classics like rum punch, jerk chicken, and West Indian curry. The island draws a huge yachting crowd and is perfect for windsurfing, water skiing, sailing, snorkeling, and diving.

Language: English

Currency: East Caribbean Dollar (XCD), U.S. Dollar (US\$)

ST. LUCIA



St. Lucia is home to the majestic Piton Mountains, the twin volcanic peaks rising thousands of feet above the island. Sightseeing tours offer a look of the island's rugged beauty, including the tropical rain forests. Most also visit Le Soufriere, the world's only drive-in volcano. Water lovers will find a variety of water sports at Marigot Bay.

Language: English

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD), U.S. Dollar (US\$)

BARBADOS

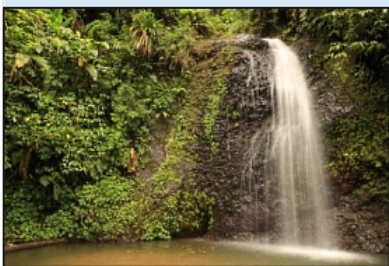


Language: English

Currency: Barbados Dollar,
U.S Dollar (US\$)

With white-sand beaches, natural caverns and floral forests, Barbados draws visitors to its slice of the eastern Caribbean. City tours of bustling capital Bridgetown are popular, as are island tours that show off the estates and plantation homes of the countryside. Foodies can feast on Bajan favorites or take a cooking class to recreate the cuisine at home. During a beach day, visitors lounge with rum-based drinks to the tune of calypso or head to the water to swim with turtles or snorkel above a shipwreck. Other excursion options include a rum party cruise, horseback rides on the beach or a fishing excursion for blue marlin, barracuda and more.

ROSEAU, DOMINICA



Roseau is a small town with a mix of modern and historic buildings typical of the colonial period. Dominica's real beauty lies in its unspoiled natural landscape -- the dense rain forests, lush foliage, natural springs and rivers and tall, smoldering peaks.

Language: English

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD), U.S. Dollar (US\$)

ST. KITTS



St. Kitts is home to some of the best examples of West Indian architecture, all of which is set amid a dramatically beautiful landscape. The best shore excursion is a well-organized island tour, featuring a visit to the 17th-century British fortress at Brimstone Hill and the sites of the capital. The beaches here are magnificent, including Friar's Bay, which opens to the Atlantic and the Caribbean.

Language: English

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD), U.S. Dollar (US\$)