

St Kitts and Nevis

THE MOST EXCLUSIVE ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

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The tropical paradise of St Kitts and Nevis is a dream getaway for the rich, famous and exclusivity-minded. With tourism the key industry of this two-island country, you'd better believe that your every whim will be catered for when visiting this remote paradise.

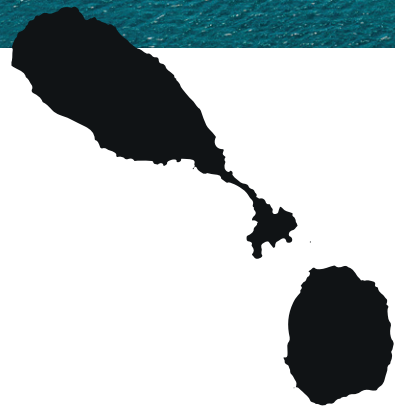
A NATURE-LOVERS DREAM

Split over two islands made up of volcanic ash and rock, these Caribbean delights offer something a little different to your traditional idyllic getaway. There are two dormant volcanoes, one on Nevis and one on St Kitts, making the islands great for hikers to visit. However, despite some minor seismic activity, Mount Liamuiga has not had a major eruption for over 1,600 years.

Where there are volcanoes, you can be sure there are fertile soils, which explains the incredible untouched rainforests, lush green spaces and the fact that there are 44 different varieties of mango! Hiking through the incredible rainforests is highly recommended, allowing you to see parts of the island inaccessible by car or bus. And there's even a zipline where you can fly above the canopies of the rainforest.

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ST KITTS & NEVIS



A MECCA FOR LUXURY

Walk along St Kitts' marina and you might spot one or two super yachts throwing down their anchors. The huge marina can accommodate yachts up to 300 feet long, making it a prime spot for the lovers of luxury to keep their water vessels.

You don't have to own a yacht to enjoy the sea though. You can hire luxury catamarans that take you out to view the sunsets - there is no better way to enjoy the glorious retirement of the sun after basking in it all day!

And if you'd rather spend your evening indoors, the casino at Marriott Frigate Bay is the place to splash the cash - will St Kitts be lucky for you?!

MILES OF GOLD AND BLACK

St Kitts and Nevis have some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and one or two of them showcase black sand, courtesy of their volcanoes. However, it's Cockleshell Beach, with its soft golden sand that is considered the most attractive. The beach clubs are worth a visit too, especially Carambola Beach Club on Friars Bay. Take a dip in the crystal clear waters and swim with green turtles or marvel at the pristine coral that surrounds the islands, and then head back to Carambola to shower off and enjoy a luxurious lunch.

FUN AROUND EVERY CORNER

When you finally make it to your destination, there are plenty of typical tourist activities to enjoy. If ever a place was geared up for tourism, it was this one! We've already mentioned the scenic railway, which is a great way to explore, or check out the Sky Safaris, which are a complicated network of ziplines that allow you to see the country from above! Grab a dune buggy and race around the island, jump on a horse or head out on one of the Sea Safaris to take a tour of the outside of the islands - you might even see dolphins. Water sports enthusiasts can spend all day out at sea, enjoying activities like flyboarding, kiteboarding, surfing, jet skiing, paddleboarding, kayaking, sailing, wakeboarding, water skiing, tubing, paragliding and so much more!

If you make the pilgrimage at the end of June, you could even get tickets to the St Kitts Music Festival, the island's biggest event of the year. It is on at the same time as Glastonbury in the UK, but it still attracts some huge names like Mary J Blige and Aswad, with a very different, laid-back vibe.

WHERE TO STAY

There are a few hotels to choose from on the tiny islands and almost all of them will give you the luxury treatment you desire. There are a few that stand out from the rest.

The Belle Mont Sanctuary Resort is ideal for those who crave comfort and relaxation but in an eco-friendly way. With morning yoga sessions and in-room massages, you are sure to feel fresh and rejuvenated after your stay. Farm-fresh meals are served outside and the view from the crystal-clear pool is idyllic.

At the southern end of St Kitts is the Park Hyatt hotel. This venue offers private pools on the balconies, fine dining and breathtaking views. The food here is so good that you might want to book a meal in one of the restaurants even if you're not

planning on staying the night. There's a gym and a spa offering yoga and meditation, as well as treatments, and some fun kids clubs, making it perfect for families.

In Nevis, The Four Seasons is unbeatable. Sat right on the beachfront, the hotel organises fitness and wellness activities and even has its own championship golf course. Play a little tennis, relax in the spa and enjoy one of the many food experiences. This is luxury at its best.

And then there's Montpelier Plantation and Beach. This 30-acre Montpelier estate offers a secluded hillside sanctuary with the original windmill, plantation house and fragrant gardens restored to their magnificent former glory. All 16 spacious rooms are dressed in an elegant and contemporary style and their private verandas boast breathtaking views of the lush hillside and the sea. The restaurant offers contemporary Caribbean cuisine with an emphasis on fresh, innovative food. The unique Mill Privée is a 300-year-old sugar mill, converted into a stunning and atmospheric dining venue, offering gourmet five-course tasting menus. If it was good enough for Princess Diana when she visited the islands in 1993, we think it has got to be worth a try!

THINGS TO NOTE

St Kitts and Nevis is the smallest sovereign nation in the Americas and the first Caribbean island that the British colonised. Unsurprisingly, English is the primary language spoken across the islands, so you'll feel right at home. The currency is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD), although American Dollars are also widely accepted, and the time zone is four hours behind the UK.

Despite the laid-back attitude in this tiny West Indies country, there are some rules and regulations to note when visiting.

If you plan to hire a car in St Kitts and Nevis, you'll also have to apply for a temporary driving license. Your UK license won't be valid, but you can get your permit online before you leave. What is reassuring for us Brits is that they drive on the left side of the road.

Of course, there are plenty of other ways to get around if you decide not to drive. There are taxis, minibuses and bikes for hire, which are incredibly convenient. To get between the islands, you can take a 45-minute ferry or water taxi, which is a lovely way to travel.

Another thing to do before you head to the islands is to fill out an online Immigration and Customs ED form. You will be asked for this on arrival but if you haven't completed this before you arrive, you won't be turned away, you will be asked to complete it online ahead of clearing customs.

What's not to love about St Kitts and Nevis?

If you want a little bit more information about this glorious destination, head to www.visitstkitts.com

