

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Which One's Best? | 3 |
| The Land & Sea | 3 |
| Geography, Topography & Ecology | 3 |
| Weather | 5 |
| Plant Life | 7 |
| Wildlife | 13 |
| Birds | 15 |
| Marine Life | 17 |
| The People | 20 |
| Language | 20 |
| Cuisine | 20 |
| Music | 23 |
| A Shared History | 25 |
| Early Times | 25 |
| After Columbus | 26 |
| European Colonization – the Short Version | 26 |
| Sugar & Slavery | 29 |
| The 20th Century | 31 |
| Travel Information | 33 |
| When to Go | 33 |
| Celebrations, Events & Holidays | 33 |
| Carnival | 38 |
| Travel Documents | 40 |
| Arrival | 42 |
| Returning Home | 43 |
| Departure Tax | 44 |
| Health & Safety | 44 |
| Crime | 46 |
| Money Matters | 48 |
| Currency | 48 |
| ATMs & Banks | 49 |
| Going Metric | 50 |
| Electricity | 51 |
| Time | 52 |
| Telephones | 52 |
| On-Island Phone Cards | 53 |
| To Call the Islands | 53 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Planning Your Trip | 54 |
| Tourism Offices | 54 |
| Making Reservations | 55 |
| Finding & Evaluating a Travel Agent | 56 |
| Insure Your Trip | 56 |
| Travelers With Special Needs | 59 |
| Getting There | 60 |
| By Air | 60 |
| By Cruise Ship | 62 |
| Package Vacations | 63 |
| Getting Around | 64 |
| St. Martin | 69 |
| The French-Dutch Split | 72 |
| Official Business | 74 |
| Getting There | 75 |
| By Air | 75 |
| Getting Around | 76 |
| Getting Married | 81 |
| Exploring the Island | 83 |
| Taxi Tours | 83 |
| Group Sightseeing Tours | 83 |
| Independent Touring | 85 |
| Adventures on Water | 104 |
| Best Beaches | 104 |
| Boardsurfing, Windsurfing & Kiteboarding | 121 |
| Sailing | 123 |
| Motorboat Trips & Rentals | 128 |
| Water Toys | 129 |
| Deep-Sea Fishing | 131 |
| Adventures Underwater | 132 |
| Popular Dive Sites | 133 |
| Adventures on Land | 138 |
| Horseback Riding | 138 |
| Hiking | 139 |
| Mountain & Off-Road Biking | 141 |
| Tennis | 142 |
| Golf | 143 |
| Shopping | 143 |
| Top Shops in Philipsburg | 145 |
| Best Boutiques in Marigot | 152 |
| Where to Stay | 156 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Private Villas | 156 |
| Resorts & Hotels | 158 |
| Accommodations Directory | 160 |
| On the Dutch Side | 161 |
| On the French Side | 172 |
| Where to Eat | 187 |
| Restaurant Directory | 189 |
| In Grand Case | 189 |
| Restaurant Directory | 195 |
| In Marigot | 195 |
| Restaurant Directory | 199 |
| In Philipsburg | 199 |
| In Simpson Bay | 201 |
| Nightlife | 206 |
| Popular Clubs & Bars | 207 |
| Casinos | 208 |
| Island Facts & Numbers | 209 |
| St. Barts | 217 |
| A Small Island Long Ignored | 219 |
| Official Business | 221 |
| Getting There | 221 |
| By Air | 221 |
| By Inter-Island Ferry | 224 |
| Water Taxi | 224 |
| Getting Around | 224 |
| Getting Married | 227 |
| Exploring St. Barts | 228 |
| Organized Tours | 228 |
| Taxi Tours | 228 |
| Independent Touring | 229 |
| Adventures on Water | 243 |
| Best Beaches | 243 |
| Jet Skiing & Water-Skiing | 246 |
| Surfing & Kiteboarding | 247 |
| Boating | 248 |
| Deep-Sea Fishing | 248 |
| Adventures Underwater | 249 |
| Adventures on Land | 251 |
| Horseback Riding | 251 |
| Hiking | 251 |
| Tennis | 252 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Exercise Facilities & Spa Services | 252 |
| Shopping | 253 |
| Top Shops | 253 |
| Where to Stay | 261 |
| Private Villas | 261 |
| Resorts & Hotels | 263 |
| The French Star System | 264 |
| Accommodations Directory | 266 |
| Where to Eat | 281 |
| Restaurant Directory | 283 |
| In Gustavia | 284 |
| St. Jean | 290 |
| Lorient | 292 |
| Pointe Milou | 293 |
| Anse des Cayes | 293 |
| Anse des Flamands | 294 |
| Grande Saline Beach | 294 |
| Grand Cul-de-Sac | 295 |
| Nightlife | 295 |
| Island Facts & Numbers | 297 |
| Index | 303 |

Maps

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Lesser Antilles | 2 |
| St. Maarten/St. Martin | 70 |
| Philipsburg | 87 |
| Marigot | 92 |
| St. Barts | 218 |
| Gustavia | 231 |