CARIBBEAN Antigua to St Maarten

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7 DAY ITINERARY

CARIBBEAN

A vibrant culture, flavoursome cuisine and crystal-clear sea

The Caribbean comprises thousands of islands and over 28 countries, stretching across an area of 1,000 miles between the eastern coasts of North and South America. There are five main regions: beginning with The Bahamas, which are closest to Florida, and then extending south towards the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands and finally the Greater and Lesser Antilles.

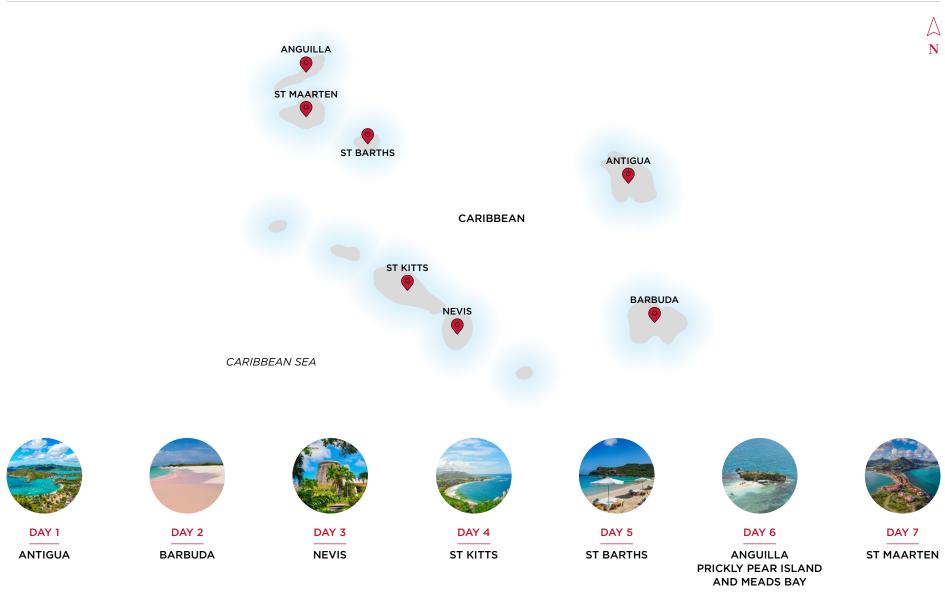
Each island has its own distinct personality and with a varying mix of French, English, Dutch, African and Creole influence, the region is a verifiable melting pot of cultures - resulting in an intriguing and vibrant burst of flavours, architecture and history.

The world truly seems to turn a little slowly in the Caribbean, and the gentle, relaxed pace of life is the perfect backdrop to a charter itinerary. While visiting the Caribbean, you'll have plenty of opportunity to make use of the yacht's water toys, go snorkelling or scuba diving, and to step ashore to explore colourful towns, historical sites, trek through tropical jungle or simply sip a cocktail on a white-sand beach.



Voyage times in this itinerary are calculated at 13 knots.

ROUTE MAP





ANTIGUA

Welcome to the Caribbean - time to take your shoes off

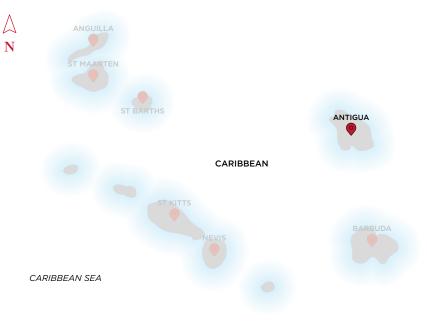
Antigua boasts 95 miles of coastline and is as impressive a Caribbean island paradise as anyone can imagine. The island is integral to the winter Caribbean cruising season and many superyachts start or end their charter itineraries here.

Falmouth Harbour is arguably the most modern marina in Antigua but just the other side of the headland is the historically charming English Harbour, where you'll find Nelson's Dockyard - base of Admiral Horatio Nelson during the 1780's - and a more attractive marina as well as the dockyard museum.

From English Harbour, follow the trails that lead to Shirley Heights. Formerly a military lookout, this panoramic viewpoint is well worth the hike. When it comes to onshore dining, you're spoiled for choice in Antigua. The island offers everything from world-class gourmet dining to local beach bar barbecue. Ask your Captain or the Chef for their recommendations.







BARBUDA

Antigua - Barbuda: 33.3 nm, 2 hrs 34 mins

Naturally refined

With the Atlantic Ocean to one side and the Caribbean Sea on the other, the pink sand beaches of Barbuda are known throughout the world. Head to the reef-lined beach at Spanish Point or rest against a palm tree at North Beach for the best that Barbuda has to offer.

The island is formed of limestone and has many caves and sinkholes as a result. Two Foot Bay is the most accessible, with the caves here running along the sea cliffs. A closer inspection will reveal crabs, iguanas, tropical birds and the evidence of bats. Always a fashionable retreat, Barbuda's beauty is its naturistic focus. At the Codrington Lagoon is the Frigate Bird Sanctuary and here a heavenly habitat is provided for the huge frigate birds and over 150 other species. There's just one main village on the island, Codrington, and it remains virtually untouched by mass tourism.







NEVIS St Kitts - Nevis: 15.2 nm, 1 hr 10 mins

Easy-going eco-tourism

Nevis is the smaller of the two islands comprising the nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, but what the island lacks in size it makes up for in amenities with a spectacular Four Seasons golf course and spa to its name.

The island is known for its sandy, sheltered beaches and scuba divers will want to visit Booby High Shoals - a 40-foot deep, circular reef that's dense with lobster, French grunts, southern stingrays, nurse sharks and Hawksbill turtles.

Charlestown is the island's capital and the Georgian-style buildings and British colonial relics hint at the island's sugar-plantation past. Another point of interest is the Museum of Nevis history, which occupies the house where American Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton, was born.







ST KITTS Barbuda - St Kitts: 59 nm, 4 hrs 32 mins

Five-star facilities

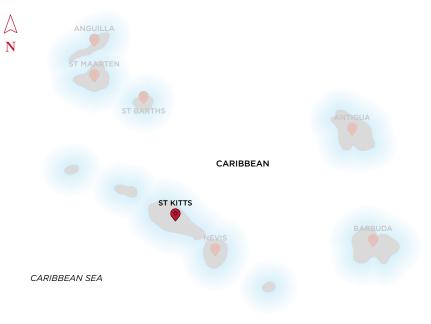
St Kitts' landscape is dominated by the dormant Mount Liamuiga volcano, which now has a lake in its crater. The mountainside is shrouded in rainforest that's home to wide-eyed vervet monkeys, and this can be toured with the help of a local guide.

The most popular anchorage is off the Frigate Bay Resort, which rewards those who step ashore with an 18-hole golf course. Another onshore highlight for superyacht charterers is Christophe Harbour, a luxury marina resort with a world-class spa and highly acclaimed restaurants. For a spectacular view of Saba and Nevis, pay a visit to the well-preserved Fort Brimstone, which sits on the hilltop at Brimstone National Park (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Those with an interest in local heritage may wish to visit one of the plantation museums, and a sugar factory can also be toured.







ST BARTHS Nevis - St Barths: 46.9 nm, 3 hrs 36 mins

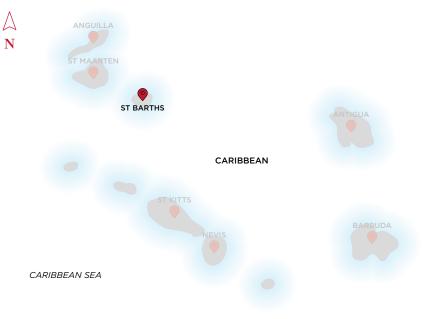
From designer boutiques to beach clubs

Lining the streets of Gustavia are all the luxury brand names that one would expect to see in the most glamorous cities in the world. Alongside the glistening storefronts of Hermes, Prada and Dior are an array of smaller, independent designers selling the beachwear essentials that will take you from the sea or the sunlounger straight to Eden Rock's exclusive restaurant.

And when you reach the restaurant, the shopping needn't stop - most of StBarth's beach clubs like Shellona, Gypsy Beach and Pearl Beach have their own adjacent outlets with carefully selected St Barths-style silken dresses and colourful accessories. When the sun goes down, the atmosphere of St Barths' many bars and restaurants spills over into the streets. If you're overnighting in Gustavia, we recommend dining at Bagatelle for a party feel or Bonito's for a more romantic ambience.







ANGUILLA, PRICKLY PEAR ISLAND AND MEADS BAY

St - Barths-Anguilla: 23.9 nm, 1 hr 50 nm

There are islands and then, there is Anguilla

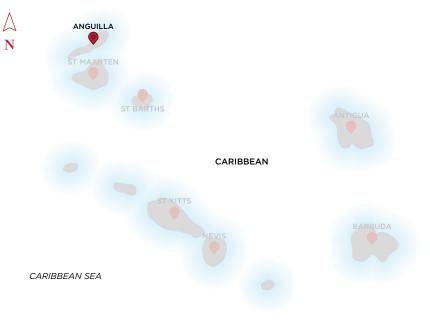
Anguilla is known for its white-sand beaches and swaying palm trees but it has so much more to offer - it's the ideal island stop for adventurers, families and romantics alike.

Young imaginations will be sparked by the prehistoric petroglyphs to be found at Big Spring Cave, those with an eye for nature will appreciate the wildlife conservation site at East End Pond or a trip to Meads Bay Pond (adjacent to the beach at Meads Bay), and golfers will want to spend an afternoon at the Greg Norman-designed, championship course at the CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa.

At Prickly Pear Cays, it's impossible to resist a swim in the turquoise waters and you'll find yourself snorkelling alongside rays, turtles and tropical fish - the north side of the eastern cay is best. Watch the sunset from the aft deck with a cocktail in hand or stay ashore for dinner and enjoy barbecued lobster on the beach.







ST MAARTEN Anguilla - St Maarten: 10.7 nm, 49 mins

France meets Holland meets Caribbean

The island of St Martin/Saint Maarten is one with a split personality. Marrying Dutch, French, Caribbean and Creole culture, the vibrant island is one the most visited in the Caribbean. On the island's northern side is St Maarten and the capital of Marigot - this part of the island is French owned and captures the essence of French Caribbean style with open markets, boulangeries and cafes.

The southern part of the island, St Maarten, is Dutch and the capital here is Philipsburg. More commercialised than its northern neighbour, St Maarten is a shipping capital of the Leeward Islands and here you'll find duty-free boutiques and tourist attractions that serve the cruise ship crowd. When visiting St Maarten, we suggest spending the day at anchor in Grande Case. The bay is ideal for watersports and there are an array of open-air bars and beachfront restaurants within easy reach of the shore.









