MARTINIQUE, MARIE-GALANTE, SAINTES ARCHIPELAGO CRUISE



MARTINIQUE, MARIE-GALANTE, SAINTES CRUISE

Alone, as a couple, with family or friends, one cabin or the whole boat.

There's more to Guadeloupe than its large island, however beautiful it may be. It has one major asset: its small neighboring islands, real tropical pearls. Marie-Galante and the Saintes archipelago are dreamy, timeless ports of call, accessible only by boat. You'll love their superb beaches, their diversity, their picturesque villages, their protected nature and their island atmosphere.

Martinique, nicknamed the Island of Flowers, or Madinina, offers a marvellous coastline bathed by the Caribbean Sea, from Saint Pierre, at the foot of Mont Pelée, to the island's emblematic Rocher du Diamant. The long beaches of the south coast will allow you to end your catamaran cruise in the heart of the Antilles perfectly relaxed and golden, with the tunes of zouk and biguine filling your head.

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YOUR CRUISE DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 Le Marin, Martinique

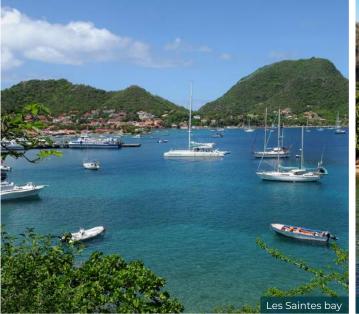
Meet us at the Le Marin pier in the south of Martinique, to board your catamaran from 6pm. You'll meet the crew and your fellow passengers over a welcome drink. The Captain will tell you about the cruise program and safety instructions. After dinner, you'll weigh anchor for a night sail in the Caribbean Sea: take the opportunity to relax and enjoy these moments, and contemplate the beauty of the sea and the starry sky before you fall asleep. You'll sail along the coasts of Martinique and Dominica overnight.

DAY 2 Marie-Galante

You'll reach Marie-Galante in the morning. Nicknamed « la grande galette », in reference to its low relief, or « the island of a hundred windmills », Marie-Galante charms visitors with its authenticity, its gentle way of life and the friendliness of its inhabitants. It's said to resemble the Guadeloupe of fifty years ago.

In addition to its villages and picturesque countryside, Marie-Galante offers magnificent white sandy beaches lined with coconut palms, including Anse Canot to the northwest.

Enjoy your first stopover on the wind-protected, tree-shaded beach. The warm waters are home to lobsters, sea urchins and starfish. A pleasant little path with superb views leads to the nearby beach of Moustique, in the heavenly cove of Mays. Dinner and overnight at anchor.







DAY 3 Marie-Galante - Saintes Archipelago

In the morning, your Captain will set course for Les Saintes, which you will reach after two hours' sailing. Les Saintes is a truly unique archipelago off the south coast of Guadeloupe, famous throughout the West Indies for its bay, often compared to that of Rio de Janeiro. The beauty of the setting and the originality of its people, with their distant Breton origins, distill an incomparable atmosphere so seductive that many sailors have settled here. Lunch at anchor opposite the Sugar Loaf, ideal for a swim among the fish and coral.

In the late afternoon, head to the village of Terre de Haut for a stroll through its charming alleyways: enjoy an aperitif on the terrace, while sampling a Tourment d'amour, a delicious little local pastry, or do a little shopping, or take an interest in the artisanal manufacture of Saintoises, typical little fishermen's boats. Dinner and overnight at anchor in Terre de Haut.

DAY 4 Saintes Archipelago

This day will be devoted to discovering the archipelago. Its nine islands and islets, only two of which are inhabited, offer boaters a host of anchorages on the shores of different beaches and coves: Pompierre, the best known, with its small restaurants at the entrance, Anse du Figuier, Anse Crawen... Islet Cabri, totally wild, shelters the ruins of a penitentiary overgrown with flora. Les Saintes is a destination in itself, and you'll discover its secrets from one anchorage to the next. In the morning, before the day visitors arrive, take a walk

to Fort Napoléon. Its museum on the history of the archipelago, its model ships and its botanical garden of succulent plants, populated by iguanas, are of great interest. The panorama of the bay is splendid. Dinner and overnight at anchor.





DAY 5 Archipel des Saintes – Saint Pierre, Martinique

Before sunrise, you'll set sail for a long journey north of Martinique, towards Saint Pierre. You'll pass just off the coast of Dominica. Admire the spectacle offered by this natural Caribbean island.

It is one of the most unspoilt islands in the Caribbean archipelago. Its untamed coastline is covered in luxuriant tropical vegetation that climbs to the top of high, jagged peaks, hollowed out by waterfalls and a volcano with a constantly boiling lake.

This virtually untouched setting is home to the last descendants of the Caribbean Indians and the fishing communities who still set out to sea on their traditional gum trees.

Dominica is the only place in the world where sperm whales live year-round. The best time to see them is from November to March, when the females give birth to their young. Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to spot some on the way. You'll reach Martinique in the afternoon, at the Saint Pierre anchorage. Depending on the weather, a swim stop is planned a few miles beforehand at Anse Couleuvre, offering a wild black sand beach bordered by tropical forest: a feeling of the end of the world or a voyage back in time to the pirates. Founded in 1635, Saint-Pierre was the economic capital of Martinique until 1902, when the Montagne Pelée volcano erupted and razed the town to the ground.

Its history is closely linked to colonization and the development of the sugar industry. A visit to this small town, the ruins of the theater and the Maison de Santé Coloniale is particularly interesting. Dinner and overnight at anchor.

DAY 6 Saint Pierre – Les Anses d'Arlet

Depending on your arrival time at the Saint Pierre anchorage the day before, you'll sail south to Anses d'Arlet in the morning or afternoon, downwind of Martinique. This commune covers four coves: Grande Anse, Anse Dufour, Anse d'Arlet and Petite Anse. You're sure to appreciate the very West Indian ambience of the fishing village: a charming church and Creole houses sitting along the beach and a wooden pontoon exactly aligned with the bell tower offer a picturesque postcard landscape. Along with the Rocher du Diamant, this is the most photographed spot in Martinique. On the seaside, Anses d'Arlet is renowned for its beauty and diversity of the seabed, populated by a multitude of tropical fish and sea turtles. Dinner and overnight at anchor.





DAY 7 Les Anses d'Arlet – Sainte Anne

This last beautiful day of sailing along the south coast of the Isle of Flowers begins with the highlight of the show: the famous Rocher du Diamant, the island's emblem. This rock rises out of the sea, and owes its name to its shape and the brilliant reflections that adorn its slopes depending on the time of day.

At the time of the Franco-English wars of the First Empire, it was annexed by the English to control the Saint Lucia Channel. She was a veritable fortress, complete with gun batteries, and was awarded the title of « Her Majesty's Naval Warship » under the patronymic of HMS Diamond Rock. Today, this jewel is a protected natural area, home to a myriad of bird species. and one of the 80 most beautiful scuba-diving spots in the world. Sailing continues to Anse Moustique, a magnificent beach much less crowded. It's not as popular as Les Salines, as it's difficult to reach by road. After lunch, enjoy the clear waters and fine sand. In the late afternoon, your catamaran will anchor opposite Sainte-Anne, a pretty seaside resort with lively nightlife. Dinner and overnight at anchor

DAY 8 Sainte Anne – Le Marin

After an early breakfast, your catamaran will lift anchor one last time to head for the port of Le Marin. You will leave your boat and your captain at 9:00 am.



Grande Anse village

















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