

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS

ARRIVE: SUNDAY 04 JANUARY 0800
DEPART: SUNDAY 04 JANUARY 2000
ON-SHIPTIME: SUNDAY 04 JANUARY 1900

BAS01 ECO-SAFARI/BIRD WATCHING TOUR (0830-1200 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 16 (PRICE: \$60.00)

Enjoy a beautiful scenic drive along the Caribbean Coastline, travelling through many small villages including the first English town on the island, Old Road, a 16th-century town. Ascend into the interior of the island and visit the botanical gardens of Romney Manor, a 17th-century plantation, after which we will drive deeper into the interior to experience the local flora and fauna of St. Kitts. As we drive 1,440 feet above sea level to Wingfield Mountain National Park, you will experience spectacular panoramic views. These views include Brimstone Hill Fortress which stands on an 800-foot mountain with the Caribbean Sea in its background and two giant volcanoes: Mount Liamuiga (3,792 feet) and Dos Dáne Pond (3,011 feet), the two tallest mountains on the island.



At this point, we are now over two miles into the interior of the island, which is only 6.5 miles wide. From here, a fifteen-minute stroll will take you into the blanket of the tropical rainforest where you can revel in the local flora and fauna and exercise your photography skills.

Following is a list of some of the flora and fauna commonly seen on this excursion:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Halyconias (Red and Yellow) | Grey Kingbirds | Zebra butterflies |
| Tree Ferns | Thrush Birds (3 species) | Redrim Butterflies |
| Giant Boston Ferns | Hummingbirds (3 species) | Sulphur Butterflies |
| Mountain Cabbage Palms | Zenaida Doves | Monarch Butterflies |
| Wild Ginger | Red necked Pigeons | Vervet Monkeys |
| Fichus trees | Bullfinches | |

BAS02 GOLDEN ROOTS (0830-1230 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 40 (PRICE: \$50.00)



Your tour commences with a drive on the city’s Bay Road with your first stop at the **War Memorial**, a cenotaph built to recognize those who fought in the World Wars. Continue to **Old Road**, the first British town in the entire Caribbean, where Sir Thomas Warner landed on January 28, 1623 with 15 settlers. The only inhabitants at the time were Carib Indians, who had their villages and ritual grounds in that area. Chieftain Tegreman was the first to greet Thomas Warner and his party. Unfortunately, the only remaining indications of the Indians’ existence in that area are the stone petroglyphs that can be seen on the left hand side just before you approach the historic ground of Romney Manor.

Romney Manor and its splendid gardens are not only rich in beauty, but have an awesome and fascinating history. Many years ago, these gardens were home of the Carib Indians and were later owned by Sam Jefferson, the great-great-grandfather of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United

States. Artisans at the batik factory provide live demonstrations of the complicated process of turning soft Sea Island cotton into a colourful batik.

Your next stop is at **Clay Villa**, a colonial plantation house dating back to 1763, situated on former Carib lands. The buildings have been lovingly restored to a very high standard. Clay Villa, with its individual style, distinct characteristics and abundant of treasures and artifacts from the Aztec and Inca era, is a preferred choice for visitors to visit and enjoy. Then it's off to **Frigate Bay Beach** for pure relaxation and swimming. Be sure to bring along your swimsuits and towels for a swim and/or soaking up the sun. Beach volley ball is also available for those who feel a bit more energetic. Return to the ship knowing that you have had a taste of historic and beautiful St. Kitts.



BAS03 TALK OF THE TOWN (0830-1200 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 35 (PRICE: \$56.00)

Your excursion begins as you climb on board an open safari vehicle, with local music playing in the background, for a short driving tour around historical Basseterre. The city, founded in 1625, later became the capital of St. Kitts in 1727. Basseterre was ruled by the French from the mid-1600s to the early 1700s when the English took over. Efforts have been made to maintain the Caribbean architecture that was inspired by both European and African influences. On your driving tour, you will pass by and learn about the following sites: **Berkeley Memorial**, **Independence Square** and the **Court House**.



Your first stop is at the **Roman Catholic Co-Cathedral**, which was built in or around 1856 and was called the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In 1927, it was demolished and replaced by a modern edifice on the same site. Father Claeys was the architect who designed the church and it was officially dedicated on December 6, 1928. You will also view **St. George's Anglican Church**, which has been rebuilt four times due to destruction from floods, fires and hurricanes. In addition to its massive bell tower and steeple, St. George's also houses one of the finest wooden pipe organs in the Caribbean. Located at the western end of the city of Basseterre is the **War Memorial**, a Cenotaph built to recognize those who fought in the World Wars.

Your tour proceeds with a stop at **Fisherman's Wharf Cultural Village**. Here you can enjoy a taste of local culture, observing local crafts and models wearing our national dress. Also performing for your entertainment will be Moko Jumbies (stilt walkers). After enjoying the local culture, it is time to view St. Kitts from the sea. Transfer to **Frigate Bay Beach** via a boat where you can swim and soak up the sun. If you bring along your snorkelling equipment, you can see a wide array of tropical fish and coral in their natural habitat. Beach volleyball is available for those who feel a bit more energetic. After having fun on the beach, return to the ship.



BAS04 SCENIC RAILWAY TOUR – GROUP A (0830-1130 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 20/Maximum 140 (PRICE: \$69.00)

This unique island tour runs in a complete circle around St. Kitts, allowing visitors the opportunity to see the entire country by rail and highway in only three hours. No trip to the island is complete without the experience of travelling on the St. Kitts Scenic Railway, one of the most beautiful train rides in the world. This one-of-a-kind narrow gauge railroad was built almost a century ago to deliver sugar cane from the fields to the sugar mill in the capital city of Basseterre. The railway now provides a fascinating way to see the island from the comfort of double-deck railcars built specifically for touring the island of St. Kitts. All guests have a seat on both levels of the railcar. The upper level features a spacious open-air observation deck with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The lower level provides air-conditioned comfort with expansive six-foot vaulted windows. Island ambiance is evoked with comfortable rattan furniture, complimentary specialty drinks, island music sung by the Scenic Railway Choir, and a colorful narrative history of the Caribbean.



On this memorable journey, the railway hugs the Northeastern coastline, where rippling fields of sugarcane stretch from the shoreline up to the mountains. The high volcanic peaks rise nearly 4,000 feet above sea level, coated with lush green rainforests. The train rolls across tall steel bridges spanning deep “ghuts,” or canyons, and winds through small villages and farms. Your railway narrator will point out abandoned sugar estates with overgrown chimneys and windmills, and provide insight into the island’s unique history.

Your experience is complimented by a scenic drive on board the Scenic Railway’s sightseeing buses along the Southwestern coast. Enjoy excellent vistas of Brimstone Hill Fortress, the British “Gibraltar of the West Indies;” Middle Island, where Thomas Jefferson’s great-grandfather is buried, and the neighboring island of Nevis, birthplace of American statesman Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

BAS05 OFF-THE-BEATEN TRACK JEEP SAFARI: ST. KITTS’ SUGAR LEGACY (0830-1230 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 6/Maximum 50 (PRICE: \$75.00)

This 4x4, off-road driving tour with specially modified land rovers, features four private properties to highlight the legacy of sugar cultivation on St. Kitts over the last 300 years. The cultivation of sugar in the Caribbean by both the early English and French colonizers, and the ensuing wealth it created, was said to have become the catalyst of the Industrial Revolution as these vast fortunes were invested in the respective mother countries’ heavy industries and so “kick-started” the Industrial Revolution. A fascinating story surrounding this legacy will be told: where the plant originally came from, how it grows and was cultivated, how sugar and rum were made from it, the land use patterns associated with its cultivation, the architectural heritage of this island home with the grand old Plantation Great Houses we visit, as well as the simple field workers homes seen in the villages we drive through, the politics of its Nationalization in 1974, and much more.

Drive up into the mountains from the placid Caribbean coast stopping initially to visit a private sugar plantation home at Shadwell Estate, built in the mid 1700s. Following a walk around the grounds and a tour inside the Great House itself, the Jeep Safari continues off the beaten track to a second plantation Great House at Whyte's Estate, about a mile away. At this beautiful plantation home you can enjoy another walkabout of stunningly landscaped gardens and an old sugar plantation Great House. Next we travel through sugar cane fields, quaint rural villages and eventually the cool mountain rainforest arriving at another private property with panoramic mountain-top views, 1,200 feet above the sea. Here experience a not-to-be-forgotten "birds eye" view of the island, as well as a delicious island picnic of exotic Caribbean fruits, island sweets, local rum and homemade juices.



The 4x4 Jeep Safari then travels down from this mountain-top view through a lushly forested valley to re-emerge at the rainforest edge, in swaying fields of sugar cane from where there are spectacular views down over the windswept Atlantic coastline. After driving a short distance from the rainforest edge, we stop to visit the fascinating ruins of an old "Muscavardo" Sugar Factory. Tour the ancient sugar factory ruins on foot, exploring its picturesque old windmill and boiling house while hearing fascinating stories about sugar cane cultivation on St. Kitts and how brown sugar, molasses and rum were produced here in colonial times. Continue down from the mountains towards the Atlantic coast, eventually stopping at St. Mary's Anglican Church, built in the mid-1700s and perched on a high ridge above Cayon village. This fascinating cut-stone church once served as the sugar planters' church, but today is a much loved community church, with an Afro-eccentric feel. We then return to our starting point by travelling along the windswept Atlantic coast road, never repeating the route used on the way out.

BAS06 ST. KITTS BY SEA AND BY LAND (0830-1230 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 20/ Maximum 80 (PRICE: \$63.00)



Climb aboard a 65-foot catamaran for a scenic coastal tour of this beautiful island. Enjoy the panoramic view of St. Kitts that can only be seen from being on the water; these areas are not accessible by roads and can only be seen from a boat or an aircraft. While on board the catamaran, an open bar will be available.

After touring the coastal area, the catamaran will dock at the pier in Frigate Bay where you board taxis to continue your exploration of St. Kitts. Journey to the Fish Farm while your knowledgeable taxi driver/guide points out many places of interest. Upon arrival to the Fish Farm you

will be met by Dr. Barrington Browne, Jamacian by birth and the brains behind this exciting, educational snapper project.

After learning about this aquaculture project, continue with your driver/guide for a tour of historical Basseterre. View many places of interest including St. George's Anglican Church, the War Memorial, Treasury Building, Berkeley Memorial, Independence Square, Court House and the Roman Catholic Co-Cathedral.

BAS07 NEVIS HIGHLIGHTS (0830-1230 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 40 (PRICE: \$88.00)

Tour the highlights of St. Kitts' "sister island," Nevis. Board the local ferry for a 45-minute cruise along the southern peninsula of St. Kitts bound for the port of Charlestown. Once on Nevis, your local guide will provide you with an overview of this charming island paradise in air-conditioned comfort. You'll pass through the sleepy West Indian town of Charlestown featuring several restored buildings dating back more than 300 years, en route to Alexander Hamilton Museum, a museum featuring the history and culture of Nevis and the life of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the United States Treasury.



Then visit the Nelson Museum, where the curator will provide an historical perspective of Admiral Nelson's role in the Caribbean. Feel free to take time to enjoy the largest collection of Nelson memorabilia in the Caribbean. Heading out of town you'll pass 18th century sugar mills, plantation estates, roaming donkeys and goats, all remnants of the days of plantocracy. Drive by the impressive Old Manor Estate, once a sugar plantation, now an elegant island style inn. Your tour continues with a stop at Nevis' premier attraction, the Botanical Gardens of Montpelier Estate. Here you'll have ample time to stroll the rain-forest conservatory, a screened tropical garden overgrown with colorful orchids, exotic vines and flowering plants and waterways. The outdoor garden includes flowering trees, cacti, heliconias, bamboo and a wide array of tropical palms and fruits. Return to the ferry terminal for your ferry ride back to the ship.



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BAS08 BEST OF ST. KITTS (0900-1200 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 300 (PRICE: \$38.00)

Your excursion begins with a driving tour of Basseterre. Basseterre, founded in 1625, later became the capital of St. Kitts in 1727. Historical Basseterre was first ruled by the French from the mid 1600s to the early 1700s when the English took over the reins of ownership. Efforts have been made to maintain the Caribbean architecture that was inspired by both European and African heritage. On your driving tour, you will pass by and learn about the following sites: **Treasury Building, Berkeley Memorial, Independence Square** and the **Court House**.

Your first stop is at the **Roman Catholic Co-Cathedral**, which was built in or around 1856 and was called the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In 1927, it was demolished and replaced by a modern edifice on the same site. You will also view **St. George's Anglican Church**, which has been rebuilt four times due to destruction from floods, fires and hurricanes. Most impressive is its massive bell tower and steeple. Continue along the coastal road through remnants of sugar cane plantations to visit **Brimstone Hill Fortress** (photo at right). This magnificent fortress, sitting impressively atop 38 acres of limestone and sulphur composites, is the result of 100 years of slave labour and has survived many wars fought between English, French and Spanish troops, for its control. A video presentation on the fortress is shown for approximately seven



minutes. The next stop is at **Romney Manor**, home of the world famous **Caribelle Batik**. Visit the demonstration room, where the acclaimed artists illustrate the wax and dye process of batik making. The Romney Manor Estate encompasses eight acres of historical ruins, ancient Carib Indian Rock drawings and a beautiful botanical garden. From Romney Manor, the tour returns to Basseterre where passengers have the option of being dropped off in the city or returning to the ship.

BAS09 PANORAMIC ST. KITTS (0900-1100 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 4/Maximum 150 (PRICE: \$35.00)

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← St. George's Anglican Church

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Romney Manor

BAS10 SCENIC RAILWAY TOUR – GROUP B (1000-1300 Sunday, 04 January) Minimum 20/Maximum 140 (PRICE: \$69.00)

For a description of this tour, please refer to BAS04 Scenic Railway Tour – Group A above. Your group may complete the bus portion of the tour first and then board the train for the rail portion.