St Barth, *without the waiting list.*

St Barth runs on its own rules: no jet lands there, tables go weeks ahead and New Year is booked a year in advance. This guide covers arrival, hotels and villas, beach clubs, the best tables, the free places locals still go, and two four-day itineraries.

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE

St Barth

GUSTAVIA · ST-JEAN · FLAMANDS

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

OUR PICK · ON REQUEST

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS

Every address is marked: what we arrange, and what you simply walk into.

BEFORE YOU LAND

The island rules.

No jet lands on St Barth

Private jets land in St Martin. The last fifteen minutes are by small plane, helicopter or boat.

Book the car with the villa

The island's fleet is small and automatics go first. Most guests drive a Mini Moke or a small SUV.

New Year is booked a year ahead

Villas and suites for the last week of December sell out about twelve months in advance.

Dinner is the party

Nights start at the table. Few places run after 1am, and the island likes it that way.

Pack soft bags

The inter-island planes have strict weight limits. Hard suitcases are the classic first-day mistake.

Book tables before you land

In high season the best tables go two to four weeks ahead; Christmas and New Year much earlier.

The island runs on euros

Dollars are accepted, at a poor rate.

ARRIVAL

Arrive privately.

OUR PICK · ON REQUEST

Private jet to St Martin

Princess Juliana airport, the gateway for every flight to the island.

Island flight

Small planes to St Barth's short runway, about fifteen minutes. Sit on the left for the view of the landing.

Helicopter

The fastest door-to-door transfer when the timing is tight.

Boat transfer

From St Martin by sea, with the luggage that does not fit the plane.

Chauffeur or Mini Moke

Waiting at the terminal, keys in hand.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> St Barth's airport closes at sunset. Land in St Martin by early afternoon to make the last hop.

WHERE YOU STAY

Your suite, or your villa.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Eden Rock

St-Jean, on its rock above the bay.

Cheval Blanc Isle de France

Flamands, the sunset beach.

Rosewood Le Guanahani

Grand Cul-de-Sac, on the lagoon.

Le Sereno · Le Barthélemy

Grand Cul-de-Sac, quiet and contemporary.

Le Toiny

Anse de Toiny, suites with private pools.

Le Christopher

Pointe Milou, ocean views.

Villas · Gustavia & Lurin

Ten minutes from the harbour, the restaurants and the nights.

Villas · Pointe Milou & Toiny

Privacy, Atlantic views and sunrise over the ocean.

Villas · Flamands & Colombier

The sunset side, near the calmest beaches, with chef and house staff.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Most villas include a private chef or can add one. Send menus and allergies before you land.

BEACH CLUBS

Sand & champagne.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Nikki Beach

St-Jean, the long Sunday lunch.

Nao Beach

St-Jean, lunch with a DJ.

Shellona

Shell Beach, Greek fire cooking.

Pearl Beach

St-Jean, breakfast to sunset.

Gyp Sea

St-Jean, the relaxed end of the bay.

Le Toiny Beach Club

Anse de Toiny, the quiet one.

INSIDER TIP

In high season, book the lunch table and the sunbeds together: both go weeks ahead.

TABLES

Every table.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Sand Bar · Eden Rock

Lunch with your feet in the sand.

La Plage du Christo

Pointe Milou, wood-fire grill.

Bonito

Gustavia, the ceviche bar above the harbour.

Bar des Prés

Cyril Lignac: French technique, Japanese lens.

Mamo · Isola

Gustavia's Italian tables.

Tamarin

Saline, a garden under a century-old tamarind.

Le Ti Saint-Barth

The island's legendary party dinner.

La Guérite · Bagatelle · La Petite Plage

Lunches and dinners that turn into a party.

INSIDER TIP

Festive dinners build late. Book the later seating, and the room becomes the party.

NO BOOKING · NO DRESS CODE

Laid-back St Barth.

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

Le Select · Gustavia

The island's oldest bar: a cheeseburger and a cold beer for a few euros.

Maya's To Go · St-Jean

Across from the airport: the beach picnic everyone takes.

La Petite Colombe · Lorient

The village bakery.

Colombier

No road: a walk or a boat. Turtles swim in the bay.

Gouverneur

The island's most beautiful beach. Arrive before 9am with water.

The landings

Planes dive over the hill onto a very short runway. Watch from St-Jean beach.

Flamands at sunset

The best sunset on the island.

AT SEA

Your yacht, waiting.

OUR PICK · ON REQUEST

Day charter to Colombier

The bay with no road. Turtles, a swim, lunch on board.

New Year at sea

The midnight fireworks over the bay, from the water.

Sunset sail

Out along the coast, back in Gustavia for dinner.

Regatta days

The Bucket and Les Voiles de Saint-Barth, from the best seat on the water.

THE ISLAND YEAR

When to come.

Exact dates change every year: contact us for this year's dates.

November

The season opens: restaurants and beach clubs reopen.

January

The St Barth music festival.

April

Les Voiles de Saint-Barth regatta.

September–October

Many restaurants close for the off-season.

Christmas & New Year

The peak. Superyachts fill Gustavia, fireworks over the bay at midnight.

March

The Bucket: the great sailing superyachts race around the island.

May

The same island, quieter, with beaches almost to yourself.

ITINERARY

Four days for two.

Day 1 · Arrive

The short hop from St Martin, check in at Eden Rock, a drink at the Sand Bar, dinner at Bonito.

Day 2 · The beaches

Gouverneur before anyone else, lunch at Shellona, dinner at Bar des Prés.

Day 3 · At sea

A boat to Colombier, lunch on board, dinner at Tamarin.

Day 4 · Slow

Snorkel Grand Cul-de-Sac, lunch at La Plage du Christo, watch one landing, fly out.

Platinum Agency Group is an independent concierge, not affiliated with the hotels, restaurants, clubs or events named in this guide. “Arranged by Platinum”: access we arrange directly. “Our picks”: recommendations, with reservations on request and subject to availability. Venues, opening periods and event dates change: contact us for current details before you travel.

Questions

How do you get to St Barth?

Fly into St Martin (Princess Juliana), then take a fifteen-minute island flight, a helicopter or a boat. No jet can land on St Barth, and the airport closes at sunset.

When should I book St Barth for New Year?

About twelve months ahead for villas and suites. Tables for the festive weeks also go far earlier than the rest of the season.

What is the best time to visit St Barth?

December to April is high season. May is quieter with emptier beaches. Many restaurants close in September and October.

Do I need a car on St Barth?

Yes, and book it with the villa: the island's fleet is small and automatics go first.