

With a distinctly French flavour, St Barts is untypically stylish by Caribbean standards - and even more so when enjoyed from the decks of a superyacht. SEA+I suggests a handful of the finest attractions for your next visit

St Barts

Do

St Barts is the Caribbean's take on the Côte d'Azur – a unique island where you need do nothing other than eat, drink and look fabulous. The beaches are stunning and are the island's main attraction. Cosmopolitan St Jean is the place for people watching, whilst Gouverneur and Saline are perfect for chilled relaxation. The latter is one of the island's best, but be prepared for shameless nudity. Anchor off Anse de Colombier for escapism par excellence. At the bottom of a steep craggy hill, the perfect beach is backed by a smattering of palms and behind them the village of Colombier peeks down. Access is by yacht or a mile-long trek over the hills. Jump into the calm waters and snorkel with the turtles swimming around your yacht. Step ashore and follow the trail along the coast to Anse des Flamandes or hike the shady trail up the hill to the village for panoramic views over the bay. For more spectacular views take a horseback ride along the cliffs. Anse Toiny is the

Left

St Barts is known to be the best Caribbean Island to find sailing yacht racing regattas, the largest private luxury superyachts in the world and the place for the most fun

—
By Miriam Cain

Sample St Barts during a charter through the Leeward Islands. Contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons charter broker for more information. See page 10.

island's wildest beach and has good surf breaks, whilst Anse de l'Orient has a good point break offshore.

Sleep

The top address on the island is the colonial style Hotel Saint Barth Isle de France. Located on the photogenic Flamands Bay, its beachfront bistro is the place to be seen. The Hotel Christopher in Pointe Milou is on a rocky and romantic stretch of coastline. It doesn't have a beach in front but has one of the island's coolest pools and a Sisley spa. The Eden Rock Hotel is the island's first, and most exclusive hotel. Built on the craggy Eden Rock overlooking the stylish Baie de Saint Jean, the use of the word 'no' is banned by the staff who outnumber guests two-fold. Les Ilets de

la Plage, also on Saint Jean, has beach villas and garden villas with covered terraces and lawns that lead down to the sandy beach. On the other side of the island, Hotel Guanahani & Spa is a spa retreat located away from the bustle of Saint Jean.

Eat + drink

St Barts is known for having the best chefs in the Caribbean who adapt traditional French cuisine to suit the warmer climate. Among a few dozen good places to eat in St Barts, a few places stand out. For French flavours, try Le Sapotillier, Le Gaiac at Hotel Le Toiny, or On the Rocks at the Eden Rock Hotel. With an intimate garden setting in Saline, L'Espirit is one of the best restaurants on the island and has ingredients flown in from France. The nightly changing French, Asian and Caribbean fusion menu is consistently delicious. For French Creole head to the elegant and comfortable Maya, and for fresh lobster try La Langouste. The fashionable Bonito in Gustavia serves fabulous ceviche. Get there early and enjoy St Barts' spectacular

sunset from its west-facing terrace. St Barts has a number of chic beach bars including Nikki Beach on St Jean and Do Brazil on Gustavia's Shell Beach.

Nightlife on St Barts is a casual affair with dinner smoothly slipping into an evening of cocktails. La Plage at Tom's Beach is where a quiet dinner can turn into a lively night of dancing on the tables. However, there are a couple of spots where you can let your hair down. The hilltop nightspot of Le Ti St Barth captures the essence of the island, whilst no trip to the island would be complete without a Mojito at the chic Le Yacht Club in Gustavia.

Shop

The charming harbour of Gustavia is duty-free and the waterfront is lined with boutiques. Human-Steps is the place to head for designer wear from Prada to Gucci. For more eclectic stores head to St Jean. Calypso is a treasure trove of colourful, stylish beachwear, whilst Lolita Jaca is known for runway-style kimono wraps and luxe satins for daytime and nighttime glamour.



