

NORTH AMERICA · BEACHES · ISLANDS · HISTORY · HIKING

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Two volcanic islands separated by a two-mile channel: St Kitts, with the UNESCO-listed Brimstone Hill Fortress and rainforest hikes up Mount Liamuiga, and smaller Nevis, wrapped around a cloud-capped peak and dotted with plantation inns. Both are quieter and less developed than the Caribbean's big names, with beaches that rarely feel crowded.



Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Saint Kitts and Nevis and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 5 January 2026.

 CAPITAL Basseterre	 CURRENCY East Caribbean dollar (XCD) £1 ≈ EC\$3.61	 LANGUAGE English, Kittitian Creole	 BEST TIME Dec–Apr
 DAILY BUDGET £80–£400 £££ Expensive	 PLUGS Type A, B, D, G 230V · UK plugs fit	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 10h 30m via Antigua ~£650–£1,200 return	 TIME ZONE UTC-4 standard time

St Kitts is the larger and busier island, its old sugar-cane fields reverting to green hills since the state sugar industry closed in 2005, while Nevis feels like a village-scale retreat. Most visitors stay on St Kitts around Frigate Bay or the South East Peninsula, drive the round-island road to Brimstone Hill, Romney Manor and the old estates, then hop across by ferry for a day or two on Nevis. Charlestown, Alexander Hamilton's birthplace, is a compact Georgian town, and Pinney's Beach runs north from it.

Accommodation leans upmarket, from resort hotels to converted plantation great houses, and eating out is priced for visitors, though roadside barbecues and rum shops keep costs down. Cruise ships bring crowds to Basseterre on some days, but beyond Port Zante the islands are peaceful. It suits hikers, history fans and couples; nightlife is limited outside the beach bars of the Strip at Frigate Bay. Visitors are often surprised by the green vervet monkeys, brought over in the colonial era, which roam the hillsides and raid gardens.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

HISTORY

Brimstone Hill Fortress

Built by enslaved Africans over roughly a century from the 1690s, this UNESCO-listed fortress crowns a volcanic hill about 240 metres above the sea. The citadel's ramparts look out to St Eustatius, Saba and, on clear days, St Barts.
- 2

ADVENTURE

Mount Liamuiga

The 1,156-metre volcano is St Kitts' highest point; a steep, muddy guided hike through rainforest leads to the crater rim in around three hours. Start early, before cloud settles on the summit.

3

BEACH

Pinney's Beach, Nevis

Three miles of golden sand north of Charlestown, backed by palms and beach bars, with Nevis Peak rising behind. The water is usually calm, and Sunshine's bar is famous for its potent Killer Bee rum punch.

4

HISTORY

Romney Manor

A restored 17th-century estate above Old Road, set in botanical gardens with a vast saman tree said to be over 350 years old. Caribelle Batik's workshop operates here, and Kalinago petroglyphs are a short drive away.

5

BEACH

South East Peninsula beaches

A fast highway crosses salt ponds and empty hills to Cockleshell Bay and South Friar's Bay, where beach bars face Nevis across the Narrows. Look out for vervet monkeys on the way.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Basseterre

≈ 14,000 people

The capital's centre is a small grid around the Circus, with its Victorian clock tower, and Independence Square; worth a morning, especially for the Saturday market.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Sandy Point Town

≈ 2,600 people

St Kitts' second town sits just north of Brimstone Hill on the north-west coast; there is little to see, but it makes a useful stop on a round-island drive.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Charlestown

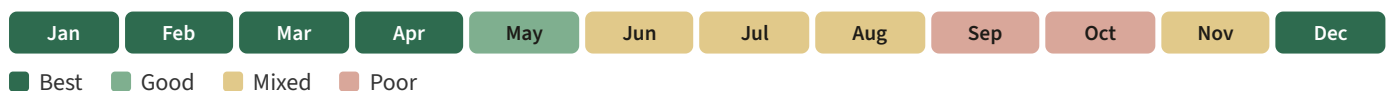
≈ 1,800 people

Nevis's small capital of stone Georgian buildings has the Museum of Nevis History in Alexander Hamilton's birthplace and the ferry pier for St Kitts.

Outside Basseterre the federation is made up of small towns and villages; Cayon, on St Kitts' east coast, is of similar size to Sandy Point Town. Figures are approximate, based on the 2011 census.

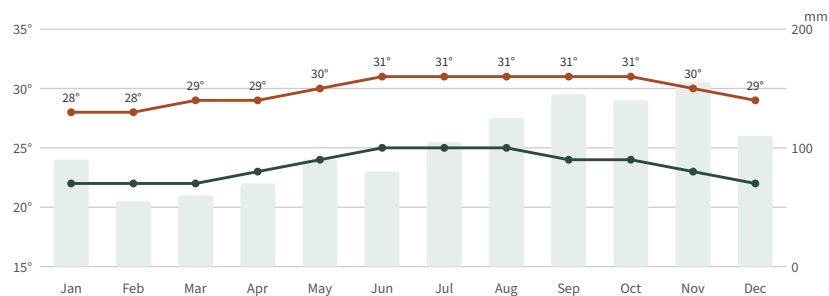
When to go to Saint Kitts and Nevis

Best time: **Dec–Apr**.



Average climate in Basseterre

— High °C — Low °C — Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Jan, Dec	Sugar Mas St Kitts' national carnival runs from late November into early January, with calypso and soca shows, J'ouvert jump-ups and grand parades around Christmas and New Year.
Jun	St Kitts Music Festival Three nights in late June at Warner Park in Basseterre, mixing soca, reggae, R&B and international headline acts.
Jul-Aug	Culturama Nevis's emancipation festival runs from late July to early August, with calypso contests, folk performances, food fairs and a costumed parade through Charlestown.

How much does Saint Kitts and Nevis cost?

SHOESTRING £80 per person / day ≈ EC\$289 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £175 per person / day ≈ EC\$631 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £400 per person / day ≈ EC\$1,443 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
--	---	---

Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Stewed saltfish with spicy plantains The national dish: salt cod stewed with tomato and peppers, served with spicy plantain, coconut dumplings and seasoned breadfruit.	Goat water A thick, peppery goat stew flavoured with cloves and herbs, served at weekends, festivals and roadside stalls, often with fresh bread.	Johnny cakes Fried dough cakes, crisp outside and soft within, eaten at breakfast with saltfish or cheese, or as a snack from bakeries.
---	---	---

Getting around

Privately run minibuses follow the main coastal road around St Kitts from Basseterre and are cheap, but they keep no fixed timetable and thin out in the evenings and on Sundays. Taxis charge fixed, posted rates. Car hire needs a local driving permit, and driving is on the left. Passenger ferries link Basseterre and Charlestown in around 45 minutes, and a car ferry crosses the Narrows.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE  A B D G 230V — UK plugs fit	EMERGENCY NUMBERS Ambulance: 911 Fire: 333 Police: 911 Coastguard: 465 8484 or 466 9280 Source: FCDO “Getting help”
--	---

DIALLING CODE

+1-869

TIME ZONE

UTC-4 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the left

TIPPING

Restaurants and hotels usually add a 10% service charge; tip a little extra for great service, and give taxi drivers and guides around 10%.

ETIQUETTE

Greet people before asking for directions or service. Swimwear belongs on the beach, not in Basseterre's shops or streets, and Sundays are quiet family and church days.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport (SKB), Basseterre; Vance W. Amory International Airport (NEV), Newcastle, Nevis

Visas & entry for Saint Kitts and Nevis

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can visit St Kitts and Nevis without a visa for up to 6 months.

All visitors to St Kitts and Nevis must obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) before travel. The eTA can be applied for online or via the official mobile app. For full details, see the St Kitts and Nevis Electronic Border Management System website.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Dengue

Bat Lyssavirus

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

A yellow fever certificate is only required if you arrive from (or transit through) a country with yellow fever risk — not if you fly direct from the UK.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Saint Kitts and Nevis

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Sat 26 Dec 2026	Boxing Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	Carnival Day
Sat 2 Jan 2027	Carnival Day - Last Lap
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Easter Monday
Mon 3 May 2027	Labour Day
Mon 17 May 2027	Whit Monday
Mon 2 Aug 2027	Emancipation Day
Tue 3 Aug 2027	Culturama Day - Last Lap
Thu 16 Sep 2027	National Heroes Day
Sun 19 Sep 2027	Independence Day
Mon 20 Sep 2027	Independence Day (observed)

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

- Hurricane season runs June to November; outside the peak months many hotels cut their rates, but some close entirely in September and October.
- US dollars are widely accepted alongside East Caribbean dollars, at a fixed rate of EC\$2.70 to US\$1, but change usually comes in EC dollars.
- Hire a guide for Mount Liamuiga or Nevis Peak: the trails are steep, slippery and poorly marked, and cloud can roll in quickly.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.