


Exploring the French Caribbean

Twin center  independent walking and sightseeing

- Unique blend of Créole *joie de vivre* and French chic
- Gentle independent island discovery; freedom to explore at your own pace
- Small, intimate hotels: fabulous cuisine, superb pools, stylish rooms
- Over 2000 floral species; a bird watcher's paradise
- White sand beaches, azure seas, rain forest



Your discovery begins on butterfly-shaped Guadeloupe. The two wings of the island offer a myriad of opportunity for easy exploration by car, on foot and by sea. Take time to discover thundering waterfalls, coastal mangrove trails or golden sands lapped by warm azure waters – and each day you can do as little or as much as you want. Nestling in the hills above Trois-Rivières, your base here is the fabulous 9-room Jardin Malanga. As well as affording unrivalled balcony views across the sparkling Atlantic, as far as Dominica on a clear day, it offers a panoramic swimming pool and luxuriant tropical gardens.

Moving onto Martinique, the Island of Flowers, exploration here is even more relaxed, in tune with the island's atmosphere. Savour the amazing diversity of natural beauty that makes the island so alluring; beaches with sand ranging from volcanic black to the purest white or the cathedral-like canopy of virgin rainforest in the Forêt d'Absalon. Your base here is the discreetly charming Hôtel Plein Soleil, a gorgeous Créole villa style accommodation just outside Le François looking out over Thelmont Bay. With just 16 individually crafted rooms, it exudes a feel of understated luxury - upgrade to a suite and you'll even get your own private plunge pool!

Cuisine on both islands is a mouthwatering mélange of Créole and French flavours, like succulent swordfish served with grilled banana or sea bream on a bed of creamy coconut rice.



Book now on **1-800-567-6286** or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

EXPLORING THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN | DAY BY DAY

Day 1 Arrive on Guadeloupe

Arrive at Pointe-à-Pitre airport, where you collect rental hire car. Then an easy 75min drive to your hotel.

Day 2 Three Cabret Waterfalls 10km/6mi

A relaxing day exploring Basse Terre's cascading Cabret waterfalls. A stairway of three thundering falls descend from their source on La Soufrière volcano, which forms a jagged backdrop to the day. Yellow warblers swoop overhead, as the Cabret River gushes through rainforest thick with ferns, ruby heliconia and tree vines on its journey to the tranquil Caribbean waters at Capesterre-Belle-Eau.

Day 3 Les Saintes 5km/3mi or 7km/4mi

You arrive at Terre de Haut's harbour where colorful fishing boats sway gently in the sheltered bay. A coastal cacti-fringed path winds towards Pompierre Bay and to the Napoleonic Fort where iguanas bask in the sunshine. Time to relax on the palm-fringed sands or take a dip in the sea before heading back to Jardin Malanga.

Day 4 North Basse Terre 10km/6mi

Today you explore Guadeloupe's agricultural heartland where fields of sugar cane blanket the rolling landscape and pure white egrets speckle the panorama. Nearby Plage des Amandiers provides a tempting spot for a refreshing dip in the sparkling Caribbean waters.

Day 5 Marie Galante

For a relaxing day take the early morning ferry (small cost, pay locally) to Marie Galante, an island paradise of turquoise waters, swaying coconuts and sun kissed sands. Walking through mango, almond and guava trees, you descend to beautiful Plage de Moustique, the air fragrant with white frangipani for lunch. Alternatively, we provide walking notes for the more energetic to hike La Soufrière.

Day 6 Grande Terre's Coastal Paths 4km/2mi or 7km/4mi

First to Pointe de la Grande Vigie viewpoint, spectacular views of Antigua and Montserrat on the horizon. An inland path bright with pink oleander and trumpet trees leads to Pointe du Souffleur, where Atlantic breakers crash against the jagged volcanic cliffs. Then along the coast to Porte d'Enfer lagoon, for a late afternoon swim then back to your hotel for your final delicious dinner at Jardin Malanga.

Day 7 Transfer to Martinique

After a tropical breakfast, take the coastal road back to the airport for your 40min flight to Martinique. It's an easy 25min drive to your beautifully located Plein Soleil just outside Le François.

Day 8 The Sleepy Southern Coast 5km/3mi

Driving south past sugarcane and banana plantations you reach the southeast Atlantic coast. Frigate birds swoop overhead as you explore the Domaine de Grand Macabou, a lonely chapel guards the headland. A sheltered palm fringed bay, scattered with conch shells, appears magically through the mahogany forest. Continue to Piton Crève Coeur, where an easy ascent rewards you with incredible views across sleepy St Anne, its turquoise harbour dotted with colorful fishing boats.

Day 9 Exploring Northern Martinique 4km/2mi

After a visit to the Volcano Museum in St Pierre, you head to the northern Caribbean coastline. Here a path contours the craggy headland past spectacular Kapok trees strung with lianas, before descending to stunning Anse à Voile - the perfect setting for an al fresco lunch.

Day 10 Free day

Perhaps take time to relax today by the hotel's sparkling pool. Or follow the incredibly scenic Route de la Trace, which weaves inland across the island's spine through the Absalon rainforest, studded with scarlet heliconia, returning perhaps via Le François.

Day 11 La Caravelle Peninsula 7km/4mi

Descending through dry tropical forest you reach the salt rich coastal mangroves. After a picnic overlooking the ocean, explore the ruins of Château Dubuc - a fascinating reminder of plantation days. Time for a paddle at Tartane's sandy bay before returning to the hotel for your final Caribbean dinner.

Day 12 Leave Martinique

After a relaxing morning by the pool, or perhaps some last minute shopping in Fort de France, you drive to the airport in time for your flight home.

EXPLORING THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN | WALKING DETAILS

This holiday is a mix of gentle walking and sightseeing - no major ascents or descents are compulsory, and a head for heights isn't necessary. Walks mainly follow gentle, well maintained paths, but on some days the rainforest terrain can be uneven, wet and slippery, so walking boots that dry quickly are recommended.



Average daytime temperature (°C):
24 25 24 25 26 24 22
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY NOV DEC



Average monthly rainfall (mm):
69 51 49 51 109 82 61
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY NOV DEC

WHERE YOU STAY



Jardin Malanga
Trois Rivières, Guadeloupe

★★★
Days 1-6



Hotel Plein Soleil
Le François, Martinique

★★★
Days 7-11

For extra nights we recommend both of the above hotels.

Dates and Prices

Departs selected Tuesdays	Tour Only
2012 departures	
May 8, Nov 13, 27	\$4,147
Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 6, 20	\$4,528
Feb 7, Apr 10, 24, Dec 11	\$4,632

Singles: Add \$160 per night.

Child: This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$28 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking and sightseeing, twin center, no minimum group size, however car hire is subject to a minimum of 2 people per booking.

Departs: Selected Tuesdays from Jan 17 to Dec 11.

Duration: 12 days (11 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: Please allow approx \$130 per person for inter-island ferries. For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Guadeloupe Pointe a Pitre Airport

Nearest Departure Airport: Martinique Fort de France Airport

Note: Different arrival and departure airport on this holiday.

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, prices on request.

The above prices include a car rental: Pick up car from Guadeloupe Pointe a Pitre Airport (Europcar Group B air-conditioned hire car).

Return: Martinique Fort de France airport to drop off rental car.

Tour only: The above tour-only prices exclude flights but include a Europcar Group B air-conditioned rental car which you collect from/return to the airport on Guadeloupe and Martinique.

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