



Bienvenue! Welcome!

MARTINIQUE... Just Cruising

Newsletter March 2004 Edition



ABOUT MARTINIQUE

Blessed with lovely beaches, incredible lush vegetation, idyllic climate and a wealth of cultural, artistic and scenic attractions, Martinique is ready to embrace you and your clients with her many charms.

"Surrounded by such vibrant culture and inspiring beauty, the best way to really experience Martinique is to stop smell the flowers"

Caribbean Travel & Life, October 2003

"This land is the best, the most fertile, the most gentle and the most charming in the world"

Christopher Columbus, 1502

"...I've often dreamed of returning to Martinique, especially on gray, blustery, bone-chilling winter days on this island of Manhattan, where souvenir place mats with picture-perfect splashes of Martinique grace our metal dining table"

John Wideman, The island Martinique, 2003

MARTINIQUE CRUISE TRAFFIC: AN UPTURN IN 2003

Martinique welcomed 280,801 passengers and 218 ships calls, which respectively represents a 34.56% and 5.83% increase on 2002.

In 2003, 34 ships representing 20 cruise Lines called in Martinique in 2003.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Creation of a Land and Sea Transportation Terminal by the water front

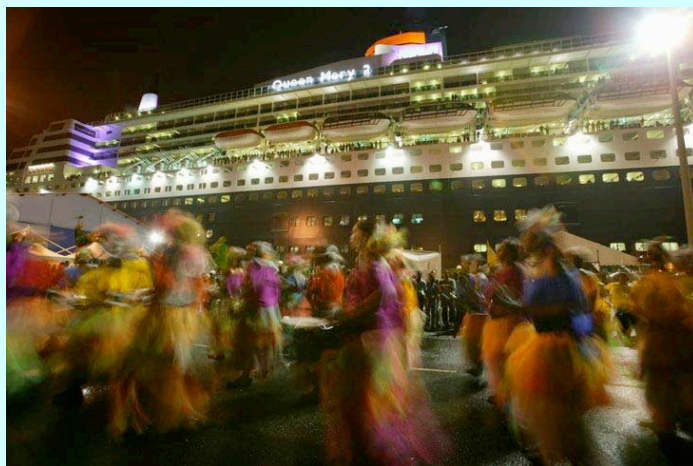
The General Council has carried out the first stage of the construction of a land and sea transportation terminal on the downtown waterfront, next to Pointe Simon Cruise Terminal, allowing water taxis and public transporters to depart from and arrive at the same area. That new infrastructure greatly contributes to ease going around the city. Its completion is slated for late 2004.

A SAFE PLACE TO VISIT

Since September 2002, about 20 civilian patrols have been walking and riding on bicycles throughout the capital city of Fort-de-France everyday except on Sundays. Easily recognizable with their blue and orange-colored uniforms, they play a role of prevention, mediation, and information.

HIGHLIGHT !!!

QUEEN MARY 2'S CALL IN MARTINIQUE: a tremendous success!



© Phillip Plisson/ the QM2 in the Fort-de-France Bay

Queen Mary 2's first call in Martinique on February 4th, 2004 was a tremendous popular success and can be considered as a milestone in the history of cruising in Martinique.

Queen Mary 2 is scheduled to call in Martinique 8 more times in 2004.

This will be an another occasion for the Martinique population to show its warm welcome and hospitality!!

"The Call was very successful, you should have seen and heard pax as they applauded and "countered" what took place on the pier (pax whistled, sang hollered-as at the end of a super performance...)"

Ormulf Johannessen, Cunard Consultant

"...to date we have had nothing but good comments about Martinique, and the laser/fire work show was very popular"

Jan, QM2 Chief Purser

Martinique Clay Men @ the pier



Much more than just an island...



NEW & INTERESTING

In 2004, Martinique is ready to embrace you and encourage your sense of adventure with new fun ways to indulge yourself and discover the island's tropical nature!

✦ **Aqualand Martinique**

Opened its door on February 25 with a new kind of recreation offered in the West Indies: A wide choice of fun water games for the whole family!

In a 10 acres tropical garden, facing the bay of the city of Carbet on the North Caribbean coast, this park is ideally located on the road to Saint Pierre. It features a choice of 8 attractions. From super slaloms, water slides, water beds to a mini park for the children to experience the adults' attractions on a smaller scale!

Email: parcaquatique.martinique@wanadoo.fr

✦ **Mangofil and Domaine de Sigy Adventure Park.**

The concept is simple: right in the middle of the forest, areas are set up for different kinds of games, workshops and exciting activities that allow visitors to experience a different way of discovering the country, jumping from rope to rope, from tree to tree, Tarzan way!

Mangofil Adventure Park, located in Trois-Ilets, is only minutes from the resort area Pointe du Bout.

Email: mangofil@wanadoo.fr

Domaine de Sigy Adventure Park, located in Vauclin on the south Atlantic coast of the island.

Email: Mohawk.aventure@wanadoo.fr

APRIL - AUGUST 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April** «Les Voies de la Tradition», Traditional fair (FDF)
Young Francophone Theater Companies Meeting, Fort-de-France Theater
- May** May of Saint-Pierre
Songs of the world, Atrium Cultural Center, Fort-de-France
- May 22** Abolition of slavery commemoration day
- June** Fête de la Musique, Live music all over the island
Grand Sokan, culinary celebrations, crab festival in Case Pilote
Sugar Cane Crop Over, in Sainte Marie (rum museum)
- July** Festival of Fort-de-France, theater, dance, music in the capital and its suburbs.
Tour de la Martinique, weeklong bicycle
International race teams in mini version of "Tour de France".
- August** Tour des Yoles Rondes, spectacular yawl boat Race, unique to Martinique

Please contact the Martinique Promotion Bureau for a complete calendar.

STAY IN TOUCH

✦ **MARTINIQUE TOURIST OFFICE**

(Comité Martiniquais du Tourisme)

President: Mrs Madeleine de Grandmaison

General Director: Mr. Monlouis Elmin

Cruise Manager: Mr. Jacques Bajal

Email: j.bajal.odtm@cgit.com

Immeuble Beaupré- Pointe de Jaham

97233 Schoelcher Martinique

☎ 011 (596) 596 61 61 77 📠 011(596) 596 61 22 72

✦ **MARTINIQUE PROMOTION BUREAU**

444 Madison Avenue, 16th floor,

New-York NY 10022 – USA

☎ (212) 838 7800 ext.228 📠 (212) 838 7855

Web site: www.martinique.org

E-mail: info@martinique.org

✦ **SHIPPING AGENTS IN MARTINIQUE**

Donald Monplaisir, CAMA Shipping

Email: cama@sasi.fr

Claude de Jaham, Marship

Email : claudedejaham@marship.fr

Web site : www.marship.fr

Alain Vauzanges, Plissonneau Shipping

Email : shipping@plissonneau.com

Laurent Poyen, The Caribbean Supplier

Email: lpoyen@caribsup.com

✦ **GROUND OPERATORS**

Philippe Bon, Roger Albert Voyages

Email : phb@rogeralbertvoyages.com

Pierre Martin, Aventures Tropicales

Email : aventures-tropicales@wanadoo.fr

THE ESSENTIALS

Capital	Fort-de-France
Population	381,500
Currency	Euro (US dollar is accepted almost everywhere)
Language	French, Creole (English is spoken in most hotels, restaurants and tourist areas)
Political Status	Region and Department of France

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