

Sail Me to Martinique

News from Martinique

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Martinique Awarded *best ecological destination in the Caribbean*

New passenger experiences ashore



Exciting new tours are now offered in Martinique by our Ground tour operators for the pleasure of cruise guests. Among them: horse back riding and mountain biking, kayaking in the mangrove of Trois-Ilets, quad biking and canopy tour also in Trois Ilets, and fun beach challenge day.



27 Reasons

to sail to Martinique in 2007

1. *Island of many Flowers and French touch of the Caribbean*
2. *Island of elegance and excellence*
3. *Hearty welcome ashore*
4. *A large choice of tours and leisure opportunities*
5. *A wide array of excellent shopping opportunities*
6. *A refined & exquisite Creole cuisine*
7. *A great range of events & festivals*
8. *Total freedom on transportation, no quota requirements*
9. *Significant improvement of the taxis drivers' service quality*
10. *Safe and secure environment*
11. *Political stability*
12. *Excellent port facilities*
13. *Strict respect of ISPS code unlike most destinations on the South Caribbean.*
14. *Low port dues frozen since 1999*
15. *No head tax applied unlike most destinations*
16. *Inexpensive high-quality drinkable water*
17. *Capital city accessible to wheel chair passengers*
18. *Optimum sanitary conditions and high quality medical services*
19. *State of the art hospital facilities*
20. *An ambitious array of major development projects*
21. *Ongoing Hotel renovation program*
22. *Superb road network*
23. *Increased airlift from the States to Martinique*
24. *A destination dedicated to protect its environment*
25. *Robert Trent Jones Sr. golf*
26. *Saint-Pierre, city of art and history considered the little Pompeii of the Caribbean*
27. *A bounty of historical sites and museums*

The capital, Fort-de-France, sprucing itself up for its visitors



Freshly painted facades in downtown Fort-de-France



View of the new waterfront promenade downtown



The future B usiness & Tourist Center, featuring a 200-room Marriott Hotel and 20-storey business building located close to Pointe Simon cruise terminal.



Our team of tourist guides always available to assist our valued cruise guests during ships' calls

Fort-de-France

The achievements of the capital city

The city council has made tremendous improvements to Fort-de-France infrastructures for the added benefit of passengers. Now those choosing to walk into the town center can do so along level sidewalks where there are highly visible blue markings, improved signage and wheelchair ramps.

The capital is undergoing a very ambitious development program with the aim of becoming one of the most attractive cities in the Caribbean.

Among the current works are:

- The renovation of the Savannah Park,
- The construction of a spectacular waterfront promenade,
- The building of the Pointe Simon Business & Tourist Center, featuring a 200-room Marriott Hotel and a 20 storey-business building
- The construction of a tramway road
- The construction of a 215,000 square-foot shopping-mall in the heart of the city, which will spearhead the development of downtown business and leisure activities.

A compulsory facelift program on all downtown buildings. 500 buildings have been painted since 2003.

Construction of a 900 moorings Yachting Port in Fort-de-France at l'Etang-Zabricots, slated for 2008.

The United States

Increased Air Lift Between & Martinique

After Delta recently started offering a weekly non-stop service to Martinique between its largest hub in Atlanta and Fort de France, on December 16th 2006, American Eagle flights have been daily since February 2007 thus increasing airlift between the USA and Martinique.

Continued investments have helped raise our profile and increased interest from the North American market.

After the reopening of the Club Med Buccaneers' Creek Resort last year; the hotels renovation program continues with the current construction of a Radisson Hotel at Pointe du Bout, Trois-Ilets and of a Marriott hotel downtown Fort-de-France.

Events *in Martinique* & Happenings

In Martinique there is always an event worth the detour !

- **May 7-9, 2007:** “Second gathering of old rigs” in the bay of Saint-Pierre, the Little Pompeii of the Caribbean within the frame of the celebration of Mount Pelée eruption on may 8th 1902. Many collateral events to this old rig show, traditional sailing regattas, street parades, marine exposition, musical entertainments, fireworks etc. Momentous and very popular event!
- **May 17-19, 2007:** Hulls fighting (*Combat de coques*). A popular sailing regatta in the south of Martinique.
- **May 12-13, 2007:** “Tchimbé raid”, a 65Km international trekking race between Fort de France and Grand-Rivière through rivers, rain forest, mountains, plains, valleys with about 200 competitors. 4600 meters of difference in height.
- **November 25th, 2007:** International *Semi-marathon* of Fort de France, involving more than 3000 participants.
- **December 14-16, 2007:** The “Grand Raid Manikou”, a 127 km trekking race with 6000 meters of difference in level crossing the whole island from north to south. 1000 competitors expected from all over the world.
- **October 10-13, 2007:** 17th International Big Game fishing Tournament at Marin Village. Three days of fishing, 200 participants, 50 fishing boats, 18 participating countries.
- **July 29th to August 5th:** the *Tour de Martinique* of “*Yoles rondes*” (curved-bottomed craft) thus called as opposed to flat-bottomed boats. It is a week-long regatta of traditional racing sailing boats run around the island of Martinique in seven stages. The *Tour des Yoles Rondes* of Martinique is probably the most popular event on the island as it is followed by the whole population and by an increasing number of visitors and journalists from abroad.
- **First half of December 2007:** Arrival of the “*Transat des Passionnés*” a very popular transatlantic sailing race between France and Martinique specifically targeting passionate *amateur* sailors.

Useful Contacts

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