

## Overview of Guadeloupe

The islands of Guadeloupe are radiant gems of the Caribbean, offering travellers a unique combination of Creole culture, incredible beaches and simply fantastic French food. Guadeloupe is shaped rather like a butterfly, with Basse-Terre and Grand Terre as each of its wings.

Better developed Grand Terre enjoys exceptional beach towns and plenty of fun nightlife along its shores. Basse Terre is more wild, home to Parc National de la Guadeloupe and topped by the spectacular La Soufriere volcano.

First discovered by Columbus in 1493, the islands were known to the local Caribs as Karukera: 'the islands of beautiful waters'. In the 20th century, Guadeloupe became an overseas department of France, enjoying French protection and economic support. Guadeloupe is less well known than Antigua, its neighbour to the north and so enjoys a somewhat laid-back atmosphere and less developed infrastructure by comparison.

The beaches are quite magnificent and remain the main draw card for the steady stream of tourists, the majority of whom are French. Unusually for a tropical island, there are many other attractions such as tropical forests, towering waterfalls and a hard-hitting museum of slavery. The diving is also excellent, particularly on the 15 mile (25km) long coral wall of Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin, just off the coast of Grand Terre.

Getting around the islands is a breeze, with a decent public bus network and plenty of bicycle rental spots presenting better options than expensive taxis.

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## Key Facts

**Language:**

French is the official language of Guadeloupe.

**Passport/Visa:**

All foreign passengers to Guadeloupe must hold a return or onward ticket, and the necessary travel documentation for their next destination. Note that a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required to enter Guadeloupe, if arriving in the country within six days of leaving or transiting through an infected area. It is highly recommended that your passport has at least six months validity remaining after your intended date of departure from your travel destination. Immigration officials often apply different rules to those stated by travel agents and official sources.

**Currency:**

As part of France and the European Union, the official currency of Guadeloupe is the Euro (EUR).

**Electricity:**

Electrical current in Guadeloupe is 230 volts, 50Hz. Two-pin plugs are most commonly in use.

# Travel to Guadeloupe

## Climate in Guadeloupe

The weather in Guadeloupe is generally lovely year-round, with average temperatures ranging between 67°F (19°C) and 88°F (31°C) throughout the year. The only possible drawback is the potential for hurricanes and tropical storms: the rainy season runs from June to November, with hurricanes possible between June and September, and most likely in September. The best time to visit is from December to May, when it is warm and dry.

## Health Notes when travelling to Guadeloupe

Guadeloupe has good medical facilities, although not all doctors speak English. A vaccination is recommended for hepatitis A and yellow fever vaccinations are required for those arriving from infected areas. Guadeloupe was a Zika virus high-risk area, though there is currently no evidence of ongoing transmission. Pregnant women should avoid visiting the island, and other travellers should take extra care to protect themselves against mosquitos.

## Customs in Guadeloupe

Guadeloupean society is famously welcoming and friendly, with a high emphasis placed on convivial social interactions between men and women. Social mores and etiquette in Guadeloupe reflect its colonial history, with it still subject to French Law. However, gender roles are perhaps more traditional than in European societies.

## Duty Free in Guadeloupe

Visitors to Guadeloupe over the age of 17 may import up to 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100cigarillos or 250g of tobacco, and one litre of spirits up to 22 percent or four litres of wine.

## Communication in Guadeloupe

The international dialling code for Guadeloupe is +590.

## Passport/Visa Note

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## Entry Requirements

### Entry requirements for Americans:

US citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required for touristic stays of up to 90 days.

### Entry requirements for Canadians:

Canadian citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required for touristic stays of up to 90 days.

### Entry requirements for UK nationals:

British citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required for British passports endorsed British Citizen, and no visa is required for British passports carrying any other endorsement for touristic stays of up to 90 days.

### Entry requirements for Australians:

Australian citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their intended stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required for touristic stays of up to 90 days.

### Entry requirements for Irish nationals:

Irish citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their intended stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required.

### Entry requirements for New Zealanders:

New Zealand citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their intended stay in Guadeloupe. No visa is required for touristic stays of up to 90 days.

**Entry requirements for South Africans:**

South African citizens must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their intended stay in Guadeloupe. A schengen visa is required.

## **Tourist Offices**

Guadeloupe Tourist Office, Pointe-à-Pitre: +59 (590) 82 0930 or [info@lesilesdeguaadeloupe.com](mailto:info@lesilesdeguaadeloupe.com)

## Guadeloupe Embassies

### In the United States:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Washington, United States: +1 202 944 6000

### In Canada:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Ottawa, Canada: +1 613 789 1795

### In the United Kingdom:

Guadeloupe Embassy, London, United Kingdom: +44 207 073 1000

### In Australia:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Canberra, Australia: +61 2 6216 0100

### In Ireland:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Dublin, Ireland: +353 1 277 5000

### In New Zealand:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Wellington, New Zealand: +64 4 384 2555

### In South Africa:

Guadeloupe Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa: +27 12 425 1600

## Foreign Embassies in Guadeloupe

### Canadian Embassy

Canada Mission, Bridgetown, Barbados (also responsible for Guadeloupe): +246 629 3550

### British Embassy

United Kingdom Embassy, Paris, France (also responsible for Guadeloupe): +33 144 513100

### Australian Embassy

Australia Mission, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (also responsible for Guadeloupe): +1 868 822 5450

## Currency

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# Overview of the Attractions in Guadeloupe

## Public Holidays in Guadeloupe

	2020	2021
<b>New Year's Day</b>	Mon. January 1	Mon. January 1
<b>Epiphany</b>	Sat. January 6	Sat. January 6
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Mon. February 26	Sat. February 17
<b>Easter Monday</b>	Sat. April 13	Fri. April 5
<b>Labour Day</b>	Wed. May 1	Wed. May 1
<b>Victory Day</b>	Wed. May 8	Wed. May 8
<b>Abolition Day</b>	Mon. May 27	Mon. May 27
<b>Ascension Day</b>	Tue. May 21	Mon. May 13
<b>Whit Monday</b>	Sat. June 1	Fri. May 24
<b>Bastille Day</b>	Sun. July 14	Sun. July 14
<b>Schoelcher Day</b>	Sun. July 21	Sun. July 21
<b>Assumption</b>	Thu. August 15	Thu. August 15
<b>All Saints' Day</b>	Fri. November 1	Fri. November 1
<b>Armistice Day</b>	Mon. November 11	Mon. November 11
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Wed. December 25	Wed. December 25
<b>Carnival Monday</b>	Sat. February 24	Thu. February 15
<b>Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday)</b>	Sun. February 25	Fri. February 16