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Everything you Need to Know as St Barths Reopens for Business

St Barths welcomes tourists from June 22, but travelers will have to follow a new protocols in order to gain entry.

BY ALEX MARTIN | JUNE 22 2020



Eden Rock St Barth Beach has reopened along with the rest of the island

St Barths is ready to welcome tourists once again. The Caribbean island has reacted rapidly to the new challenges faced by novel coronavirus Covid-19 and has put new protocols in place to keep residents and visitors safe.

While the island has been more or less unaffected by the virus itself (it has reported just six cases and no deaths at the time of writing), the economy faced turmoil if its tourism trade could not restart. Over 200,000 people visit the island in a normal year, many of them high-spending individuals arriving by boat.

Having recently lost three years of tourism due to the devastating destruction of Hurricane Irma in 2017, the pandemic could not have come at a worse time.

After banding together to rebuild the infrastructure destroyed by the storm, it is no surprise to see the battle-hardened community once again rise to a new and significant challenge. Working with the island's luxury resorts and partner airlines, St Barths has opened its doors well ahead of its high season in November. From June 22, all beaches, restaurants, boutiques and nautical activities will be open without restriction.

“St Barths has been free of Covid-19 for more than two months, and we have worked diligently with the French government to develop effective and efficient health and safety protocols to protect our locals, partners and visitors,” says Nils DuFau, president of the Tourism Committee of St Barts. “We are excited to reopen the island and welcome travelers back to our tropical paradise. We have

a great deal to look forward to here on the island, including the upcoming St Barts Gourmet Festival in November.”



Protocols for entry

While St Barths has done exceptionally well to this point, reopening its borders represents a significant risk to its population. Many of the tourists will arrive from the USA where rates of transmission are high and even rising in some quarters. In order to stop the importation of the virus, the island has put strict protocols in place, which are as follow:1

- Visitors will be asked to provide documentation of a negative Covid-19 test performed within three days prior to their arrival.

- If visitors are unable to produce such documentation, they will be required to test for Covid-19 within 24 hours upon arrival to St. Barts. Until their test results are revealed, visitors will be required to observe strict quarantine at their host accommodations. Test results will be released in under 24 hours.
- If a visitor stay exceeds seven days, they will be subjected to a second Covid-19 test on the seventh day following their arrival.
- Children below age 10 are not subject to testing.

The Guide

Last year, we brought you the ultimate guide to St Barths. From the best restaurants to the finest hotels, it covered absolutely everything you need for a luxurious stay on the island. You can see the full story by [Emma Reynolds](#) by clicking here, but below we detail the island's top accommodations including both hotels and private residences.

Getting there

After landing in St Maarten or Puerto Rico, take a puddle jumper to St Barths' Gustaf III Airport (no large passenger planes, private planes included, can land on its 2,170-ft runway — one of the shortest runways possible).

It's touted as one of the most hair-raising landings on the planet: As the pilot turns off the engine as you coast through two peaks, the propellers guiding you down to safety just feet from St Jean Beach.

tradewind.com, stbarthscommuter.com, winair.com



Where to stay

(...)

Villa Aqua and Villa Bleu, Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa

Le Barthélemy calls the nearly uninhabited nature reserve of Grand Cul du Sac home, trading splashy crowds for beachside seclusion. The hotel is one of the newer on the island, and after the hurricane, it revealed refreshed interiors, a new spa and Villas Aqua and Bleu. You can rent the villas separately, or combine them to create a dreamy compound.

Each villa has two master suites on the top level (each with its own staircase) and four bedrooms on the main floor. An entertainment area, kitchen and living room face out to each villa's terrace and 55-ft lap pool.

From \$121,000 per week for exclusive use. +590 590 774

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Beachside living at Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa

(...)

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