

Bequia, Grenada and Island-hopping in the Grenadines

<http://www.kudutravel.com/tours/grenadines-walking-tour>

23 January - 5 February 2019

The island of Grenada is synonymous with spices – cloves, ginger, lemongrass and especially nutmeg. We walk through spice plantations and enjoy rum punches Grenada-style, dusted with freshly grated nutmeg. Based in an excellent hotel on a private bay, we visit the Fort, market and museum of the picturesque capital, St. George's, and have guided tours of several superb private gardens. We island-hop to the neighbouring island of Carriacou and on to Union island in the Grenadines for two nights before a privately chartered yacht takes us north to Bequia via the stunningly beautiful Tobago Cays.

Sleepy, laid-back, little Bequia exudes a quiet Caribbean charm that never fails to enchant visitors. Situated at the top end of the Grenadines, the island has a centuries-old tradition of shipbuilding and sailing. During our five night stay at an elegant four star hotel on the beach, we will take a day sailing trip on an historic Grenadine schooner to visit Mustique island.

HIGHLIGHTS of the tour include:

- Exploring sleepy Bequia, known for its beaches and boat-building
- Private visits to Grenada's delightful tropical gardens
- First class hotel stays and delicious seafood restaurants
- Boat trips including a dolphin watching and snorkelling trip along Grenada's West Coast, inter-island fast ferry, water taxi from Carriacou to Union Island, a day trip by yacht to Tobago Cays and sailing on a traditional schooner to the island of Mustique

Guests' comments on this trip:

'You gave us an in-depth view of Grenada and we loved meeting all the gardeners in their gardens - it was a really well-balanced holiday.'

'Thank you very much for organising such a wonderful holiday - a very interesting itinerary and excellent accommodation - it was all very special.'

'A great holiday, with varied activities and visits, as well as ample 'leisure' time. The mix of walking, water activities, gardens, history/cultural activities was well chosen.'

'Very enjoyable; a good opportunity to see and learn about the history, geography, agriculture & economy of a part of the Caribbean that I had not visited before, balanced with interesting walks and gardens.'

Itinerary

DAY 1

D included

After meeting in the afternoon at Grenada's small airport, we have a short drive along the south coast to our Swiss-run four star hotel featuring very comfortable and well-equipped mahogany built villas, set in tropical gardens with air-conditioning plus fans, as preferred, and individual wooden verandahs facing the sea. We have a Grenadian rum punch at the poolside bar before dinner overlooking the yachts in the private bay.

DAY 2

B, L, D included

We have a leisurely start to the day before beginning our explorations with a guided walking tour of a spice farmer's co-operative, gaining an excellent introduction to the island's plants, including learning about the medicinal uses of many of the trees and spices. We are shown around a delightful private garden, with a particularly engaging owner, before an *al fresco* lunch by the sea, then return to our hotel for an afternoon relaxing on the private beach, in the gardens or by the pool.

DAY 3

B, L, D included

The day begins with a visit to a private garden famed for its orchid, cycad and palm collections, then we explore the 18th century Fort which protects St. George's harbour and the Pre-Columbian collections of the National Museum. Lunch overlooking the Carenage is a gastronomic delight with dishes such as crabback baked with brandy and nutmeg and flying fish in a saffron and coconut sauce. A large, stable catamaran takes us on a dolphin watching trip along the coast looking for spotted and spinner dolphins, with the option of snorkelling or swimming in a marine reserve.

DAY 4

B, L, D included

This morning we are welcomed to the home of one of the island's best known families and shown round their private garden, closely associated with Grenada's many Gold Medals at the Chelsea flower show. Set at an airy 1,000 ft. with fruit trees, an award-winning orchid collection, ferns and bromeliads, the garden is always alive with the sound of Antillean crested hummingbirds and the ubiquitous bananaquits. We descend to sea level for lunch, admiring the super yachts in the marina at Port Louis and an afternoon relaxing on Grenada's famous Grande Anse Beach.

DAY 5

B, L, D included

This morning we have an invitation to sail out in the Caribbean with the hotel owner, on board his large and comfortable racing yacht. After an informal 'Mediterranean picnic' we travel by fast speedboat to an offshore island for some 'liming'; time for a cold Caribbean beer, a swim and relaxing with a book in the shade on a lazy afternoon. We dine this evening on board a restored Swedish lightship, an unusual and very picturesque setting for a renowned gourmet restaurant.

DAY 6

B, L, D included

Today, we drive to the north of the island to walk along the magnificent beach and look for herons, stilts and waders by the mangrove lake of the Levera National Park. We visit the River Antoine Rum Distillery, still powered by its 1785 waterwheel, and may

taste their startling rums before a traditional West Indian buffet lunch. On a tour of the 18th century Belmont Estate, originally planted for sugar cane but now devoted to cocoa and nutmeg, we follow the old-fashioned processing of the cocoa beans and can purchase the organic chocolate bars of the Grenada Chocolate Company.

DAY 7

B, L, D included

We island-hop by ferry to Grenada's small sister island of Carriacou, looking out for flying fish, brown pelicans and rare red-footed boobies en route. Landing at the picturesque jetty in Hillsborough, we drive up into the hills for superb views of Petite Martinique, Union island and the Grenadines stretching north. After a grilled fish lunch, we relax on the aptly named Paradise Beach before a private water taxi takes us across to Union island where our comfortable hotel for 2 nights is right on the white sand beach and the yacht marina.

DAY 8

B, L, D included

A day to play 'island castaways' on a superb beach on Union island's north shore – with excellent swimming, shady sun loungers under the coconut palms, Royal terns and frigate birds patrolling the bay and a French restaurant for lunch ... then the chance to explore the village on foot before returning to our hotel.

DAY 9

B, L, D included

After a relaxed breakfast, we board a sailing yacht for a day on the water. At the Tobago Cays, a group of 5 uninhabited islands, we enjoy exceptional snorkelling over coral reefs and have the opportunity to swim with green turtles. We have lunch on board, then continue north to Bequia. We are met at the dock and a 10 minute drive along the coast brings us to our elegant 4 star beachfront hotel, featuring two freshwater pools in the tropical gardens, a spa and a first-class restaurant overlooking the sea. Time for a rum punch ...

DAY 10

B, L, D included

Following a leisurely breakfast, we have a short drive (the whole island is only 7 sq. miles) to the capital, Port Elizabeth. We take our bearings from the 18th century Hamilton Battery, located high above the harbour on Admiralty Bay, then walk down to visit one of the model boat-builder's workshops for which the island is famous. We stroll through the lanes with their colourful wooden cottages and visit the delightful blue-painted St Mary's Anglican church, then walk around the bay to lunch at a sophisticated beach bar. The afternoon is free for swimming, snorkelling and relaxing on the beach.

DAY 11

B, L, D included

This morning we have a leisurely local walk to Lower Bay, learning about pirates such as Henry Morgan and Sir Francis Drake, who regarded it as the best hiding place in the West Indies. After lunch and a swim from a lovely hidden away small beach we return to our hotel and this evening enjoy grilled lobster and the local steel pan band.

DAY 12

B, L, D included

We visit a turtle sanctuary run by a retired fisherman to improve the survival rate of endangered hawksbill turtles, then walk on the wild Atlantic coast to 'Firefly', a 250 year old working plantation producing pineapples and coconuts. We have a guided walking tour and see their historic sugar mill before lunch on the estate. Back at our hotel, we have a free afternoon to enjoy the beach (water sports available), swimming pools and extensive gardens.

DAY 13

B, L, D included

We are up in good time to board the 'Friendship Rose', a 100 ft. Bequia schooner which served as the main island transport for decades. Once clear of the harbour, the sails are unfurled to catch the Trade winds; refreshments are served and we settle back on comfortable cushions to enjoy the scenic 2 hour sail across to the island of Mustique. We go ashore for a guided jeep tour to see the villas of the rich and famous, then have lunch on board. After a snooze, we snorkel (or swim) in an area with large shoals of tropical fish before sailing back to Bequia, hoping to see dolphins surfing on our bow wave.

DAY 14

B included

After a final morning relaxing on the hotel beach we depart from Bequia's little airport. A scenic 40 minute flight brings us to Barbados to connect with international flights home.

Activity Level

Relaxed

7 walking days (1 – 3 hours daily), swimming (and optional snorkelling) most days. Lightweight walking boots which give good ankle support are best for the longer walks.

Temperatures

Bequia, Grenada and the Grenadines enjoy a mild subtropical climate which varies little year-round. January is one of the driest months, when the Trade winds blow, and the average daily high temperature is 27°C, with cooler evenings. The sea temperature is 24°C year round.

Accommodation

- 6 nights on Grenada, in very comfortable and well-equipped mahogany-built villas set in tropical gardens on a private bay
- 2 nights on Union Island, in a first class hotel is right on the white sand beach
- 5 nights on Bequia, in an elegant 4 star beachfront hotel that features 2 freshwater pools in the tropical gardens, a spa and a first-class restaurant overlooking the sea

Trip Price, per person sharing

£6,188.25 until 22nd April 2018

£6,355.50 until 22nd July 2018

£6,522.75 until 22nd October 2018

£6,690 after 22nd October 2018

<https://www.kudutravel.com/faq#discounts>

£ 1,290 double for single supplement

£ 1,000 deposit per person

Please note that the double room for single use supplement is imposed by the hotel and not by Kudu Travel. If you are willing to share but no other suitable guest books on the trip, we regret that the supplement will be payable.

Price Includes

all accommodation for Days 1 through 14, on a twin shared basis
all meals with Caribbean beer or fresh fruit juices at lunches and wine at dinners, as listed in the daily notation
all land and water transportation as described, except during free periods
all garden tours as described
all entrance and sightseeing fees, except during free periods
gratuities for drivers, hotel and restaurant staff (appreciation for tour leaders is discretionary)

Price does not Include

flights to Grenada and from Bequia
trip cancellation, medical or other insurance
immunisations, prescriptions or other medical requirements
passport, visa and health documentation
personal expenses (laundry, alcohol other than wine/beer with group lunches and dinners, free time activities, etc.)
meals noted as excepted in the daily notation
transport and transfer of excess baggage
Bequia, Grenada and Barbados departure taxes, if any

Insurance

It is essential and a condition of booking that you protect yourself with a suitable travel insurance policy as soon as you book a trip. We can help arrange comprehensive cover for UK residents. For further details, please see the brochure, or ask our office.

Visa and Health Requirements

Visitors from EU countries, USA and Canada currently require a valid passport, but not a visa, for entry to Grenada, Bequia, Union island (both part of St Vincent and the Grenadines) and Barbados. If you are a national of any other country, you will probably be granted a short stay visa on arrival - please check visa regulations with your nearest High Commissions of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados and the Embassy of Grenada.

At present there are no specific and compulsory health requirements for entry to Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines (Bequia, Union) and Barbados. You may also wish to check the advice given to travellers by the Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk/travellers) and the FCO (<http://fco.gov.uk/travel>).

Size of Party

This trip will run with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 14 guests.