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## The Cruise Port Of Sint Maarten

On this 37 square mile island, you will find breathtaking landscapes, blue turquoise waters, magnificent white sand beaches, international food, great Duty Free and Tax Free shopping, and of course Caribbean sunshine. St. Maarten/St. Martin is actually two countries with the island divided into two parts, Sint Maarten is the Dutch side while Saint Martin is the French side.

It is a favorite cruise destination because the cruise port on Sint Maarten can handle several large cruise ships at one time. We've been there when five were tied up.

**Where You're Docked** - The cruise ships dock on the Dutch side near to the town of Philipsburg. The cruise ship docking area includes a large shopping village with several

food and drink outlets. The Dutch town of Philipsburg is less than half a mile away walking. The town on the

**Transportation** – From the cruise dock there is a boat shuttle service that goes directly to Philipsburg for about US\$5

### THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- X Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

*Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult*

5 Shuttle Service 4 Taxis 2 Public Transport  
3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 0.5

Average Taxi To Airport \$8 To CBD \$5 (US\$)

French side is Marigot and is decidedly French in character with a number of good bistros and restaurants.

one way or US\$8 for a day pass. To visit the French side of the island will require a taxi or a minibus to reach Marigot. You should be cautioned that when

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several large ships are in port traffic can back up badly late in the day returning to the cruise ships, and we have been stuck in traffic more than once taking one to two hours to get back to the ship. Allow plenty of time for the trip back to the port. Taxi service is reasonably priced with a trip to the other side of Philipsburg costing less than US\$5. A minibus to Marigot should be about US\$5 and a taxi \$15 to \$20.

**Money** – While the two halves of the island each have their own currency the U.S. dollar is welcome on the Dutch side. Euros are usually required if you visit the French side. Giving a 15% gratuity is common practice on the island.

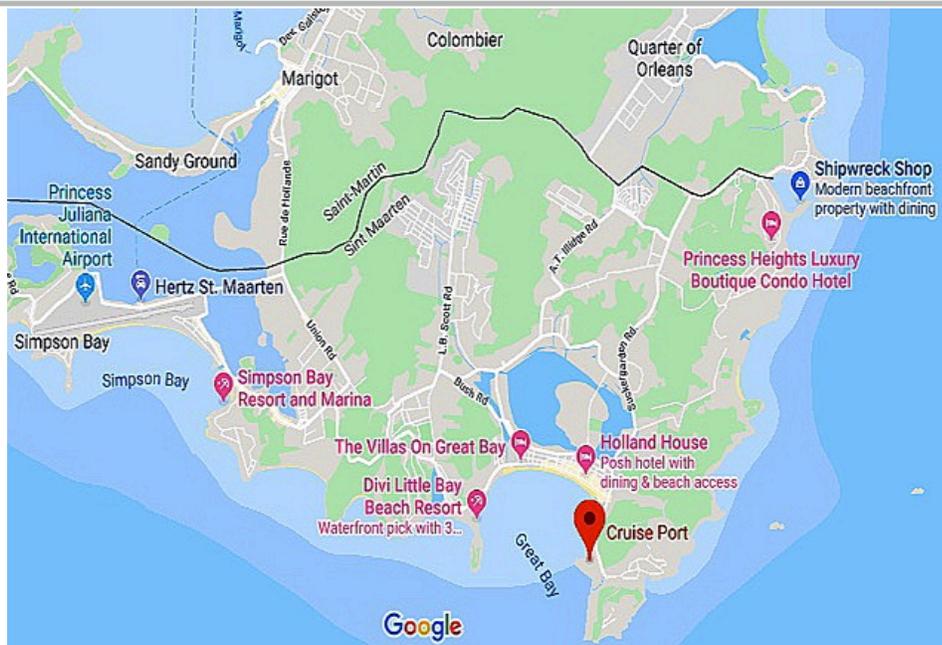
**Attractions** - Activities include horseback riding, snorkeling, scuba diving, parasailing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, sailing and deep sea fishing.

If you find yourself here in the evenings, enjoy the vibrant nightlife with tropical cocktails, casinos, steel bands, dance clubs, discotheques, open air cafes and delicious fine dining.

*Sint Maarten with the Caribbean to the left and Salt Pond on the right.*



*The zip line at Rainforest Adventure*



**Nearby Trips:**

**Philipsburg** - The main town on the Dutch side with large beach, great restaurants and cafes, a casino and good shopping. Easy to reach walking or by shuttle boat.

**Maho Bay Beach** - Located at the end of the main airport runway is a popular attraction. People seem to like to stand in the jet blast as planes land and takeoff. There is also a bar on the beach.

**Marigot** – A sleepy town on the French side noted for good French food.

**Orient Beach** - A beautiful beach near Marigot on the French side. Topless and nude bathing is common.



The crystal clear waters surrounding St. Maarten/St. Martin allow for visibility up to 100 feet. Coral reefs are teeming with marine life, providing more than 40 excellent dive sites off St Maarten's coast. Some of the reefs are located close to shore making them accessible to snorkelers as well. Certified scuba divers can rent tanks and equipment at water sport shops around the island.



**Rainforest Adventure** is St. Maarten's newest attraction! Open since November 2017, The Rainforest Adventure offers the world's steepest zipline. The Flying Dutchman – for thrill seekers! Getting to the top the chairlift takes you on a breathtaking ride which spans up to 2630 ft. as the spectacular landscape unfolds below. There is more to explore.