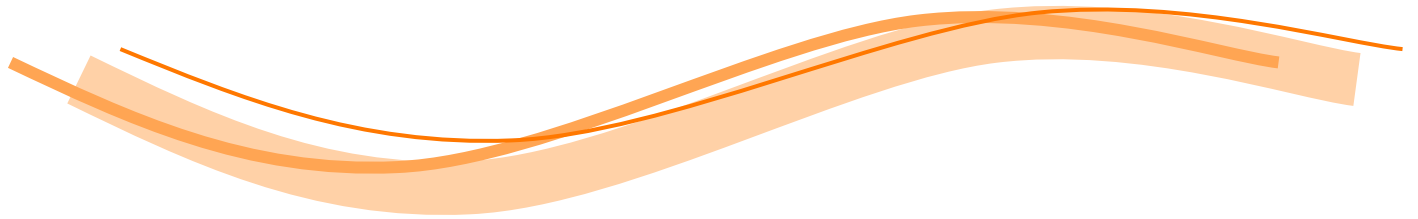




# MARTINIQUE





## MARTINIQUE

Discover the unique Caribbean island of Martinique – 40 kms north of St. Lucia in the heart of the Caribbean archipelago. Martinique has a mild climate and the heat is never excessive. With an average temperature of 26 degrees, Martinique is the island of the “never-ending summer.” The trade winds from the east and northeast provide a steady, refreshing breeze.

Due to its tropical climate, Martinique is lush with vegetation: lavish tropical forests, groves, savannas, countless species of trees, fruits, plants and flowers - not to mention the mangrove forests. The island is an extraordinary garden!

The rugged mountainous landscape to the north includes the island’s highest peak, majestic Mt. Pelée at 4,500 ft - and nearby is “The Pompeii of the Caribbean”, St. Pierre. Destroyed during the 1902 Mt Pelée eruption, today the town is the district capital of the Caribbean North district and has been officially recognized as a city of Art and History.

Throughout the island, Martinique boasts a wide variety of ecotourism activities with well-marked hiking trails, exceptional canyoning sites, backcountry routes for adventure and exploring, horseback riding, and much more. The north is characterized by dense forests, rivers and waterfalls. In the center, the Lamentin Plain transitions to the south’s gentler landscape of rolling hills. The southern coast is dotted with many picturesque bays and coves.

If your idea of a great vacation involves picture perfect beaches, then the island of Martinique is for you. In the south, a plethora of white sand beaches dots the entire southern Caribbean coast. Swimmers will especially appreciate the secluded lagoon feel of the clear waters along the southern Atlantic coast, which is protected by coral reef barriers. In the north, vacationers can enjoy the unique and lush setting of black sand beaches near Le Carbet and Le Prêcheur.

Martinique has a diverse population stemming from the cultural mixing of the island’s successive inhabitants: Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, Indians, Levantines and Asians. Approximately one quarter of the population resides in the capital, Fort de France.

Martinique is a land of tradition and culture, with a rich history of crafts and literature by renowned authors and famous poets, music and dance, lifestyle and gastronomy. The official language is French, although everyone speaks Creole, a language that is a blend of Old French, English, and African languages, as well as surviving

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	<p>Amerindian terms</p> <p>The Caribbean island with French flair, The Isle of Flowers, The Rum Capital of the World, The Isle of the Famed Poet (Aimé Césaire) – by any one of its many names Martinique remains one of the most alluring and enchanting destinations in the world. Named “Best Gourmet Island of the Year” in 2008 and 2009 by Caribbean World Magazine, Martinique is an overseas region of France that stirs the passions with distinctive culinary delights, awe-inspiring natural beauty, a rich cultural history, warm smiles and so much more. Napoleon’s bride, Empress Josephine, was born and raised here</p> <p>And you can discover the finest French products from 18 carat gold, fashion items at Galleries Lafayette, and the many treasures found at the market. Martinique offers chic sophistication and fine resorts and hotels. And it was named “Best Gourmet Island of the Year” two years running. The French influence continues with “La Route des Rhums”, a tour of the world’s finest rum distilleries based on France’s famed Route des Vins.</p> <p>Make it your own and find out more at <a href="http://www.martinique.org">www.martinique.org</a></p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Located in the heart of the Caribbean archipelago, Martinique is one of the Windward islands in the Lesser Antilles group. Its eastern coastline borders the Atlantic Ocean while its western coast is flanked by the Caribbean Sea. The island is 440kms from the closest South American coastline. The closest neighboring islands are to the north: Dominica, 26kms away, Guadeloupe, 120kms away, and to the south: Saint Lucia, 37kms away. Martinique is equidistant from the coasts of Venezuela and Haiti/Dominican Republic – 800kms.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	<p>Martinique has a surface area of 425 square miles. At its greatest length and width it measures 80kms and 40kms, respectively. The rugged mountainous landscape to the north is geologically young. Mount Pelée is the island’s highest peak, culminating at 4,500 feet. The north is characterized by dense forests, rivers and waterfalls. In the centre, the Lamentin Plain transitions to the south’s gentler and geologically older landscape of rolling hills. The southern coast is dotted with many picturesque bays and coves. In the southernmost part of the island, a savanna of petrified trees is an unusual geological sight.</p>
<b>Name</b>	<p>The name Martinique is probably a corruption of the Indian name Madiana (“Island of Flowers”) or Madinina (“Fertile Island with Luxuriant Vegetation”), as reputedly told to Christopher Columbus by the Caribs in 1502 when he became the first European to reach the island.</p>
<b>Population</b>	<p>Martinique has a multiethnic population of around 400,000 people. This diversity stems from the cultural mixing of the island’s successive inhabitants: Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, Indians, Levantines and</p>

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	Asians. Approximately one quarter of the population resides in the administrative capital, Fort de France. Martinique is truly a land of tradition and culture, with a rich history of crafts and literature by renowned authors and famous poets, music and dance, lifestyle and gastronomy. Numerous religious denominations are present in Martinique.
<b>Language</b>	The official language is French, although everyone speaks Creole, a language that is a blend of Old French, English, and African languages, as well as surviving Amerindian terms.
<b>Currency</b>	Martinique uses the same currency as on mainland France: the Euro. US Dollars are also generally accepted, as well as all major credit cards. There are many ATMs available all throughout the island. One Euro = \$1.40 Canadian Dollars as at December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2014
<b>Tipping</b>	Restaurants generally add a 15% service charge to all bills, which you can supplement if you think the service is outstanding. Some hotels also add a 10% service charge to your bill. Tip taxi drivers at least 15% of the fare.
<b>Government</b>	In 1946 Martinique acquired the status of a French overseas department. Today, Martinique is represented by 4 members of parliament and 2 senators
<b>Documentation</b>	A valid Canadian Passport is required but no Visa is needed. You need at least three months validity on your Passport prior to your departure from the island.
<b>Time zone</b>	Martinique is on Atlantic Standard Time year-round, 1 hour earlier than Eastern Standard Time except when daylight saving time is in effect in Canada. Then Martinique time is the same as the EST region.
<b>Health</b>	The water is safe to drink throughout the island, but most residents stick to bottled water anyway.
<b>Safety tips</b>	Crime is hardly rampant on Martinique, yet there are still those who prey on unsuspecting tourists. Follow the usual precautions, especially in Fort-de-France and in the tourist-hotel belt of Pointe du Bout. It's wise to protect your valuables and never leave them unguarded on the beach.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	Martinique has a fairly mild climate and the heat is never excessive. Thanks to the average temperature of 27°, Martinique is the island of the “never-ending summer.” The trade winds from the east and northeast provide a steady breeze that constantly refreshes the air.
<b>Today's weather</b>	A perfect 27C and sunny for December 6 <sup>th</sup> 2014
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Temperatures are almost always in the 25C-27C range and tempered by the trade winds. For Canadians, the natural attraction is to visit during the colder winter months up north. The hurricane season is July to November.

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<b>GETTING THERE</b>	
<b>Flying time</b>	Five hours direct from Montreal. Air Transat provides a weekly non-stop flight between Montréal and Fort-de-France from December through April.
<b>Towns</b>	<p><b>Fort De France:</b> With its iron-grille-work balconies overflowing with flowers, Fort-de-France, the largest town on Martinique, seems like a cross between New Orleans and a town on the French Riviera. It lies at the end of a large bay surrounded by green hills. The proud people of Martinique are even more fascinating than the town of Fort-de-France, although today the Creole women are likely to be seen in jeans instead of their traditional turbans, Empress Joséphine-style gowns, and massive, jouncing earrings. Narrow streets climb up the steep hills, where houses have been built to catch the overflow of the capital's more than 100,000 inhabitants</p> <p><b>Saint-Pierre</b> was the capital of Martinique before its destruction during the 1902 Mount Pelée eruption. Today, the town is the sous-préfecture (district capital) of the Caribbean North district and has been officially recognized as a city of Art and History.</p> <p><b>Les Trois-Ilets:</b> You can get here by car of course, but also on a ferry from Fort-de-France. The Pagerie Museum is in this town, set up on the spot where Empress Josephine was born. A number of musical and cultural events are organized in the Park of the Trois-Ilets close to the island's magnificent golf club. You must not miss the Market or the Sugar Cane Museum. The pottery centre, where the objects are handmade by local craft artists, is also worth a visit</p>
<b>Distances</b>	Nowhere is too far away from where you are on an island that measures a comfortable 80 x 40 kms.
<b>Ferries</b>	<p>One particularly evocative means of travel between Martinique and Guadeloupe involves taking one of the motorized catamarans that are maintained by a local operator, <b>Exprès des Iles</b>. Carrying between 395 and 495 passengers, depending on the boat, they require 3 3/4 hours of waterborne transit, which includes an intermediate stopover on either Dominica or Terre-de-Haut, in the Iles des Saintes. The company usually operates three passages a week and sometimes more, between the two largest islands of the French West Indies.</p> <p>Morning departures from Pointe-à-Pitre for Fort-de-France are usually at 8am (Sat at 11:30am, Sun at 10am), and departures from Fort-de-France for Pointe-à-Pitre are usually at 1pm, although the schedule can vary unexpectedly according to the season and the day of the week. Fares are 83€ round-trip or 67€ one-way (52€ one-way for children 11 and under).</p> <p>For details and reservations, contact Exprès des Iles, Gare Maritime, de Bergevin, 97110 Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe (tel. 590/91-52-15), or</p>

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	<p>Terminal Inter-Iles, Bassin de Radoub, 97200 Fort-de-France, Martinique (tel. 596/63-05-45).</p> <p>The least expensive - and most colorful - way to transfer between Fort-de-France and the hotel and tourist district of Pointe du Bout is via one of the vedettes (ferryboats) that depart from rue de la Liberté in Fort-de-France. Transit costs 4€ one-way or 5.50€ round-trip. Schedules for the ferryboats, at least 20 of which run at regular (usually 30-min.) intervals every day between 6:30am and 9pm, are printed in the free visitor's guide Choubouloute, in French and English, which is distributed by the tourist office. However, because the ferries are so frequent, most visitors dispense with attempting to understand the schedule altogether, and meander down to the waterfront to wait for the next boat.</p> <p>There's a smaller ferryboat that runs between Fort-de-France and the unpretentious resorts of Anse Mitan and Anse-à-l'Ane, both across the bay and home to many two- and three-star hotels and modest Creole restaurants. The boat departs from rue de la Liberté in Fort-de-France at intervals of between 20 and 30 minutes every day from 7:30am to 6pm. The trip takes about 20 minutes. One-way and round-trip passage cost 3.80€ and 6€, respectively. If seas are extremely rough, or if there's a hurricane warning, all ferryboat services may be suspended. For more information, call Vedettes Madinina (tel. 596/63-06-46; <a href="http://www.vedettesmadinina.com">www.vedettesmadinina.com</a> ).</p>
<b>Car Rental</b>	<p>In order to rent a car at most rental agencies, you must be at least 21 years of age with one year of driving experience. A deposit is also required. Prices include basic liability insurance. Additional insurance coverage is also available: collision, comprehensive, personal accident insurance. Rental agencies at the airport remain open non-stop until the last flights arrive in the evening. Driving is on the right hand side of the road, unlike in the English Caribbean!</p>
<b>Buses</b>	<p>Bus transportation is available in Martinique (both urban and inter-city). In Fort-de-France, the majority of the bus stops can be found on Boulevard Général de Gaulle.</p> <p>Shared Taxis can also be found at Pointe Simon. They are in service from the early morning until 6 pm. Commonly known as a "taxico", this quaint, inexpensive means of transport is very popular among the locals. Taxicos provide an excellent opportunity to experience life in the region and interact with the locals. All the towns on the island can be reached by taxico.</p>
<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>Martinique has a wide range of holiday accommodations, ranging from small, comfortable inns to four star hotels of international standing: tourist apartments, rural cottages, country inns, family vacation villages, resort hotels, furnished lodgings or campgrounds. Wherever you stay,</p>

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	you will experience a warm welcome in beautiful surroundings. When you stay in Martinique, you can expect a high quality of service, charm, relaxation and complete peace of mind.
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TARGET GROUPS	
<b>Kids</b>	<p>From sightseeing trains to the Butterfly Gardens and Mangofil, Martinique has much to offer families. The main attraction is Aqualand, a U.S.-style water park featuring water slides, wave pool, and young kids play area complete with its own pirate ship.</p> <p><b>The Butterflies' Garden</b> is located in Carbet on the grounds of Father Jean Baptiste du Tertre, (chronicler from the XVII century) where he build his chapel and its presbytery, a lovely place where you will be able to relax and enjoy the beauty of mother nature. The butterflies' garden tries to restore an ecosystem which underwent mutations. The action is based on the return of plants which constitute the food and support system for the reproduction of species. This garden is a true natural laboratory which makes it possible to observe repairing techniques, such as the cleaning up of waters and soils. It is a sensitive ecotourism product that echoes the benefits of sustainable development. At dawn, this lovely place gives artists the opportunity to showcase their talents. Music, theatre and exquisite choreographies rule! There is a restaurant located right on the estate that offers delicious Creole and French cuisine. Open daily from 9 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm            Anse Latouche - 97221 Le Carbet t: 05 96 78 33 39  <a href="mailto:jardindespapillons@wanadoo.fr">jardindespapillons@wanadoo.fr</a></p>
<b>Teens</b>	Martinique is an excellent choice for active teens. Here they can learn to surf, windsurf, kite-surf, dive and go canyoning in the interior. There's also sailing and deep sea fishing to keep them occupied.
<b>Romance</b>	The best of France in the Caribbean – it doesn't get much more romantic than this! World-class cuisine and impressive scenery complete the picture for those with love in their hearts.
<b>Honeymoons &amp; Weddings</b>	<b>Destination Weddings</b> – Required documents include original birth certificates; certificate of good conduct; residency card (bride or groom must reside on-island min. 1 month); medical certificate issued within 3 months of marriage; French translation of all documents is needed.
<b>Zoomers</b>	This is civilized Caribbean at its best. Accommodations are European quality, the cuisine is sumptuous and the island is very safe. The temperatures are moderated by the cooling trade winds – so all round, a good choice for Zoomers.

<b>UNIQUES</b>	Named " <b>Best Gourmet Island of the Year</b> " by Caribbean World Magazine.
<b>Surprising</b>	The Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon I, was born and grew up in Martinique.

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<b>History</b>	First sighted by Columbus on his initial expedition in 1493, Martinique played host to its first European “tourists” in 1502 when Columbus landed there during his fourth voyage. Dubbed Martinique by Columbus, the island was inhabited by Carib Indians who had driven away the Arawaks who, like themselves, had come to the island from South America. Martinique was claimed by France in 1635 and officially annexed in 1674. France and Britain fought over the island until 1815, when it was restored to France. Slavery was abolished in 1848. In 1946, Martinique became a Department of France and in 1974 a Region of France, its current status.
<b>Books</b>	<b>Frommer’s Caribbean</b> has an excellent chapter on Martinique.
<b>Must Sees</b>	The remains of <b>Saint-Pierre</b> are quite unique in the Western Hemisphere as a result of the volcanic catastrophe of 1902. Mount Pelée is an active volcano at the northern end of the island and French overseas department of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles island arc of the Caribbean. It is among the deadliest stratovolcanoes on Earth. Its volcanic cone is composed of layers of volcanic ash and hardened lava. The volcano is famous for its eruption in 1902 and the destruction that resulted, dubbed the worst volcanic disaster of the 20th century. The eruption killed about 30,000 people. Most deaths were caused by pyroclastic flows and occurred in the city of Saint-Pierre, which was, at that time, the largest city on the island. Pyroclastic flows completely destroyed St. Pierre, a town of 30,000 people, within minutes of the eruption. The eruption left only three survivors in the direct path of the volcano: Louis-Auguste Cyparis survived because he was in a poorly ventilated, dungeon-like jail cell; Léon Compère-Léandre, living on the edge of the city, escaped with severe burns. Havivra Da Ifrile, a young girl, escaped with injuries during the eruption by taking a small boat to a cave down shore, and was later found adrift 3 km from the island, unconscious.

<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	An overview of the multitude of sports that vacationers can enjoy in Martinique includes: golf, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, canyoning, flying, quad and buggy racing, fishing, surfing, water skiing, jet skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, sailing and yachting.
<b>Golf</b>	Robert Trent Jones, Sr., designed the 18-hole <b>Golf de l'Impératrice-Joséphine</b> , at Trois-Ilets (tel. 596/68-32-81), a 5-minute drive from Pointe du Bout and about 30km from Fort-de-France. The only golf course on Martinique has greens that slope from the birthplace of Joséphine across rolling hills down to the sea. Amenities include a pro shop, a bar, and a restaurant. Greens fees are 50€ for 18 holes. There are also three tennis courts, which cost 13€ per hour.
<b>Fishing</b>	Ask around for the ideal spots to catch the precious <b>wahoo, bonito all year round, barracuda and blue marlin</b> , spearfish from March to

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	<p>October, <b>mahi-mahi</b> from November to May, <b>sailfish</b> from June to November, and <b>swordfish</b> if you choose to fish by night. As a general rule, this activity will cost you around 150€/person/day, including complete equipment and often drinks and sandwiches. Certain boats accept fishermen as well as accompanying individuals, who only participate as non-fishers in the activity. A note for novices: big game fishing is by no means a relaxing outing... for a first taste of the activity, try a half-day trip.</p> <p><b>Two Thou</b> Big-Game Fishing Marina – Pointe du bout , 97229 Les Trois Ilets tel: 05 96 67 19 12 <a href="mailto:maugee.max@wanadoo.fr">maugee.max@wanadoo.fr</a></p> <p><b>Ofieldelo</b> Big-Game Fishing L22 Studiotel – Terreville , 97233 Schoelcher tel: 06 96 45 57 20 <a href="http://www.pagesperso-orange.fr/ofieldelo">www.pagesperso-orange.fr/ofieldelo</a></p> <p><b>Le Marin Pêcheur</b> Big-Game Fishing, excursions and fishing equipment 97290 Le Marin tel: 05 96 74 67 54 <a href="mailto:marinpecheur@wanadoo.fr">marinpecheur@wanadoo.fr</a></p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p>Martinique is an excellent choice for equestrian experiences, with nearly a dozen stables to choose from. Here’s a selection:</p> <p><b>Ranch Macabou</b> Horseback Riding 97280 Le Vauclin t: 05 96 74 44 17 <a href="mailto:luclabinsky@voila.fr">luclabinsky@voila.fr</a></p> <p><b>Ranch de Trénelle</b> Horseback Riding Habitation Trénelle , 97215 Rivière Salée t: 05 96 48 07 20</p> <p><b>L’Hippocampe</b> Horseback Riding Habitation Carrère, 97232 Le Lamentin t: 05 96 57 06 71 <a href="mailto:h.ass.equestre@ool.fr">h.ass.equestre@ool.fr</a></p>
<b>Hiking</b>	<p>You can hike just about anywhere, even near resorts. Martinique has <b>31 marked trails</b> that are maintained by the National Forest Service. In addition to the Route de la Trace, other exceptional routes and best-known trails include:</p> <p>Canal de Beauregard known as the Slave Canals La Trace des Jesuites La Trace des Caps La randonnee Grand Riviere/Precheur</p>

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<b>Cycling</b>	<p>Excellent mountain biking opportunities exist on forest trails in the centre of the island, or there are easier on-road routes along the coast for softies like me!</p>
<b>Diving</b>	<p>Martinique waters offer warm temperatures (27 to 30°C), whatever the depth is an array of colors, exceptional visibility and calm conditions. The variety of colors comes from the corals, sponges, gorgona, anemone and the numerous small Caribbean fish. They all twirl all around the diver, giving him/her an explosive show of color. Explore the little Pompeii of the Caribbean, near Saint Pierre, classified city of Art and History. Go for a dive “through time”, and explore the shipwrecks of ships sunk by the volcanic eruption of Mount Pelee in 1902....</p> <p>A medical certificate is required in order to go scuba diving. In general, initiation lessons are provided at hotel pools. Experienced divers only need to present their license. Suggested dive locations: shipwrecks off the coast of Saint-Pierre, or the magical coral reefs off the Caribbean coast. Try:</p> <p><b>Plongez en Martinique</b> (Dive in Martinique)  Professional Diving Center Federation  10 résidence Côté Plage – Le Coin, 97221 Le Carbet  tel: 06 96 24 39 45  <a href="http://www.plongezenmartinique.com">www.plongezenmartinique.com</a></p>
<b>Watersports</b>	<p><b>UCPA (Union des Centres de Plein Air)</b>  Skiing, Surfing, Sailing, catamaran, kayak, windsurfing, kite surfing, bodyboard  Pointe Faula, 97280 Le Vauclin t: 05 96 74 33 68  <a href="http://www.ucpa.com">www.ucpa.com</a></p> <p><b>Vauclin Kite Centre</b>  Skiing, Surfing, Kite surfing, windsurfing, canoes  Club Nautique, 97280 Le Vauclin t: 05 96 74 50 83  <a href="http://www.clubnautiquevauclin.com">www.clubnautiquevauclin.com</a></p> <p><b>Pointe Rouge Evasion</b>  Skiing, Surfing  Pointe Rouge, 97231 Le Robert t: 05 96 52 98 25  <a href="mailto:karine.monthueux@wanadoo.fr">karine.monthueux@wanadoo.fr</a></p>
<b>CULTURE</b>	<p>Martinique has a very rich culture. The island has been marked by multiple influences and cultural mixing; its eventful past is evidenced by its architecture, historic monuments and museums. Throughout the year, there are many events where one can participate in vibrant traditions and experience the warmth, creativity and hospitality of the local people: Christmas and the famed “chanté Noël,” Easter and the traditional “Matoutou de crabes,” Carnival - a colorful, cheerful event,</p>

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	<p>good natured gatherings when the yole and gommier fishing boats return... Experience the unforgettable side of Martinique where there is always a good reason to laugh, sing and enjoy a delicious meal with the traditional "ti-punch".</p>
<b>Arts</b>	<p><b>Les Ballets De La Martinique:</b> Comprised of about thirty musicians and dancers dressed in traditional costumes, Les Ballets De La Martinique perform with the "old school" rhythms of beguine and mazurka. A very entertaining performance to enjoy in the evenings in selected hotels.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Martinique is a temple of traditional drums and Caribbean music. <b>Bèlè</b> encompasses a wide range of dances from the Island of Martinique. A product of West African patterns and European influences, one can say that Bèlè is part of the Creole aesthetic so unique and so typical of the Caribbean. Indeed, slaves used to dance and play drums for all the occasions of their lives. There was a rhythm to work, a rhythm to struggle, a rhythm to worship, a rhythm to celebrate and, of course, a rhythm to seduce. Each step and drum beat has a meaning.</p>
<b>Films</b>	<p>Martinique is the main setting of the 1944 film <b>To Have and Have Not</b> starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.</p> <p>In the gothic soap opera Dark Shadows, the characters of Angelique Bouchard Collins, Josette du Pres, and Josette's family are from Martinique.</p> <p>Martinique was also featured in the 1999 remake of The Thomas Crown Affair.</p>
<b>Museums</b>	<p>Martinique is proud of its museums. There are more than a dozen of them on the island, and though they may not rival the great museums of Paris, each is distinctively different with intriguing stories to tell of Martinique's past, its way of life and art. Since they must vie with the lure of sun, sea and sand, the museums of Martinique are purposely small and easily toured - planned so visitors can "do" them in a rather short time.</p> <p><b>Paul Gauguin Museum</b>            97221 Le Carbet, Anse Turin            t: 05 96 78 22 66 / 05 96 72 52 49            Open every day except Monday, from 9:30 am to 4 pm.</p> <p><b>History and Sea Gallery</b>            97221 Le Carbet, Ancien Marché du Bourg - Place de la Mairie            t: 05 96 78 72 89            Open daily from 8 am to 2 pm.</p> <p><b>The Anse Latouche Habitation</b>            97221 Le Carbet</p>

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t: 05 96 64 48 73

[www.jardindebalata.fr](http://www.jardindebalata.fr)

Open daily from 9:30 am to 5 pm

**Jardin des Papillons (Butterflies' Garden)**

97221 Le Carbet, Anse Latouche

t: 05 96 78 33 39

[jardindespapillons@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jardindespapillons@wanadoo.fr)

Open daily from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

**Regional Volcano Centre**

97260 Le Morne Rouge, Immeuble Magalon - Haut du Bourg

t: 05 96 52 45 45

Open on Mondays from 2 pm to 5 pm Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. from 8:30 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 1 pm

**Earth Science Centre (CDST)**

97250 Saint Pierre, Habitation Perrinelle - Quartier La Galère

t: 05 96 52 82 42

**Saint James Rum Museum**

97230 Sainte Marie

t: 05 96 69 30 02

Open from Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm weekends from 9 am to 1 pm.

**Sugar Cane Tracks**

97230 Sainte Marie

t: 06 96 92 44 70

Open on Tues., Wed., Fri. from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

On Thursdays by appointment

Saturday from 2:30 to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm

Sight-seeing train – duration 40 min.

**Banana Museum**

97230 Sainte Marie, Quartier Fourniol - habitation Limbé

t: 05 96 76 27 09

[www.museedelabanane.fr](http://www.museedelabanane.fr)

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

**Domaine de Fond Saint Jacques**

97230 Sainte Marie

t: 05 96 69 10 12

[www.fondsaintjacques.com](http://www.fondsaintjacques.com)

Open from Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm

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**La Maison du Bèlè**

97230 Sainte Marie, Reculée

t: 05 96 69 50 50

[www.lamaisondubele.com](http://www.lamaisondubele.com)

**Archeology Museum**

97200 Fort De France, Rue de la Liberté

t: 05 96 71 57 05

Open on Mondays 1 pm to 5 pm, Tuesday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon.

**Regional History and Ethnography Museum**

97200 Fort De France, 10 boulevard du Général de Gaulle

t: 05 96 72 81 87

Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 5 pm Tuesdays from 2 pm to 5 pm Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12 noon

**Shell and Sea Museum**

97223 Le Diamant, Hôtel l'Ecrin Bleu – Route des Anses d'Arlet

t: 05 96 76 41 92

Open daily from 9 am to 6 pm.

**Habitation Clément**

97240 Le François, Domaine de l'Acajou

t: 05 96 54 62 07

[www.habitation-clement.fr](http://www.habitation-clement.fr)

Open daily from 9 am to 5:30 pm

Creole estate and former distillery, listed as a historical monument.

**Coffee and Cocoa Museum**

97229 Les Trois Ilets, Domaine de Château Gaillard

t: 05 96 48 24 40

Open daily from 9 am to 6 pm

**The Slave Savannah**

97229 Les Trois Ilets, Quartier la Ferme

t: 05 96 68 33 91

[www.lasavannedesesclaves.fr](http://www.lasavannedesesclaves.fr)

Open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and from 2 pm to 5:30 pm

Experience traditional Martinique at the Antan Lontan Village.

**Regional Eco Museum**

97211 Rivière Pilote, Anse Figuier

t: 05 96 62 79 14

Open from Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm; On weekends

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	<p>from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm</p> <p><b>Popular Art and Traditions Museum</b>            97270 Le Saint-Esprit, Rue Cassien Ste Claire            t: 05 96 56 68 80            Open daily from 9 am to 4 pm Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm.</p>
<p><b>Festivals</b></p>	<p><b>Carnival:</b> During the four-day holiday of Carnival festivities, activity on the island nearly comes to a standstill. Preparations begin as early as Epiphany Sunday with the election of the Carnival Queens, and last until the day before Fat Sunday (dimanche gras). The parades and parties start on Big Sunday and finish on Ash Wednesday when the carnival effigy, the “Vaval” King, is burned.</p> <p><b>The Yoles Race</b> is one of the most exciting and festive events of the year! The Annual Tour de Martinique des Yoles Rondes—along with all the parties, food and fun that go hand in hand with the boat racing—is happening at the beginning of the month of August</p> <p>The regatta is a week-long competition that celebrates the distinctive type of yawls known as yoles-rondes that have been developed and perfected for sailing the waters around Martinique over hundreds of years. These sleek, wind-driven vessels are powered by brightly colored sails and manned by crews who display strength, skill, acrobatic dexterity and incredible teamwork to keep them going at maximum speed. Every summer, for the past quarter century, the Tour de Martinique des Yoles-Rondes has marked the peak of the boating season with a prologue and seven stages of racing that circles the entire island.</p> <p>Besides the racing on the water, every stop along the way plays host to dockside parties that welcome sailors and spectators alike with music, dancing, food, and lots of the local rum that has earned its own coveted AOC designation from the French Institut National des Appellations d’Origine. A trip to the Tour de Martinique des Yoles Rondes offers visitors a chance to see a unique, daring style of boat racing—while enjoying the delicious Creole/French/Caribbean cuisine and unrivaled rum of Martinique in an unforgettable week of music and merriment.</p>

<p><b>ATTRACTIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>Beaches</b></p>	<p>If your idea of a great vacation involves picture perfect beaches, then the island of Martinique is for you. In the south, a plethora of white sand beaches dots the entire southern Caribbean coast. Swimmers will especially appreciate the secluded lagoon feel of the clear waters along the southern Atlantic coast, which is protected by coral reef barriers. In the north, vacationers can enjoy the unique and lush setting of black sand beaches near Le Carbet and Le Prêcheur.</p>

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<p><b>Wildlife</b></p>	<p>Due to the tropical climate conditions in Martinique, the island is lush with vegetation: lavish tropical forests, groves, savannas, and countless species of trees, fruits, plants and flowers, not to mention the mangrove forests. All in all, the island is an extraordinary garden. The wildlife mainly consists of birds, fish and shellfish, as well as small lizards called “mabouyas” and “anolis”, iguanas and trigonocephalus snakes that are only found in Martinique. The “manicou”, a type of opossum, is one of the rare mammals to be found in the Antilles. The mongoose, however, was introduced by humans to control the snake population.</p>
<p><b>Parks</b></p>	<p>Of all the Caribbean islands, Martinique is one of the few with a vast and rapidly emerging potential for green tourism, thanks especially to its volcanic north and a tropical forest that is unique to the region- The <b>Route de la Trace</b> is a genuine botanical circuit through the heart of this tropical forest that winds its way up Mount Pelee, surrounded by stunning landscapes dotted with rivers and waterfalls, and lined with beautiful flowers and tree ferns.</p> <p>Throughout the island, Martinique boasts a wide variety of ecotourism activities with well-marked hiking trails, exceptional canyoning sites, backcountry routes for adventure and exploring, horseback riding, and much more.</p> <p>Martinique’s highest peak at an altitude of 4500 feet, <b>Mount Pelée</b> is a globally renowned volcano. This remarkable site is a National Biological Reserve that spans 2285 hectares. Fantastic views of both the Atlantic ocean and the Caribbean sea can be expected on clear days. There are numerous outdoor recreation possibilities in the park. The summit trail is only for experienced hikers, you will find it on the regional hiking map, the “Plan Départemental des Itinéraires de Promenade et de Randonnée”. It’s the ideal trail to learn about volcanism and many aspects of geology, not to mention the plant-life that can only be found in this higher altitude climate.</p>
<p><b>Gardens</b></p>	<p>The Caribs Indians named the island Madinina or Island of Flowers. A visit to the superb gardens of Martinique will show visitors how appropriate this name really is. Two thirds of the island has the French classification "Regional Nature Park," which means that most of the territory is natural and protected. The northern part of Martinique gives us the most accurate idea of how Madinina was back when the Caribs lived on the island. This region is a gold mine of old trees, untouched rivers and waterfalls, unique tropical flowers, sugar cane, pineapple and banana plantations. The south of Martinique also has special features that are found only in that part of this tropical island. The "Savane des Pétrifications" in Sainte-Anne is the perfect illustration of how time has affected landscapes with its petrified pieces of wood that strangely look and feel hard as stones or rocks. Every corner of Martinique has exceptional gardens that allow visitors to discover the island's most</p>

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	<p>unique vegetation - flowers, trees, and plants - all in the same place.</p> <p><b>Sea Gardens</b>  “Les Jardins de la Mer” is an aquatic park where the island’s main ecosystems are presented. Discover the six water biotopes (main theme of the tour: the water cycle): the river, the swamp, the laguna, the mangrove, the reef and the coral reef laguna. Families will enjoy the park’s eco-tourism approach that combines fun (the mascot is a little drop of water named Gouttelette), learning (the water cycle, interactions between aquatic ecosystems and dependent species, defining and understanding the ecosystem notion), interaction (live native plants and animals that live in freshwater, brackish water, and seawater), and interrogation (arousing interest and questions through observation and touch: touch pool). Picnic area and kayaking.  Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 5:30 pm  Route du Club Med - 97227 Sainte Anne t: 05 96 76 99 27  <a href="mailto:martiniqueaquarium@wanadoo.fr">martiniqueaquarium@wanadoo.fr</a></p> <p><b>Balata Botanical Garden</b>  Discover and admire over a thousand tropical plants and flowers while taking a pleasant stroll through the groves and flowerbeds of this garden. Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm.  Route de Balata - 97200 Fort De France t: 05 96 64 48 73  <a href="http://www.jardindebalata.com">www.jardindebalata.com</a></p>
<p><b>Castles/Forts</b></p>	<p><b>Le Fort Saint-Louis</b>  Listed Monument Military architectural style known as “à la Vauban”. In light of the tensions between the French and the English during colonial times, these fortifications were built in 1640, at the behest of Governor de Baas.</p> <p><b>Depaz Castle</b>  97250 Saint Pierre tel: 05 96 78 13 14  Open from Monday through Friday from 11 am to 4 pm  Saturdays from 10 am to 3:30 pm  The site has been redecorated with period furniture; Horse-drawn carriage tours available.</p>
<p><b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b></p>	
<p><b>Shopping</b></p>	<p>In Martinique you will find not only the French and international brands (perfumes, lingerie, clothing, watches, fine leather goods, etc.), but creations from local designers. Non-local checks are almost never accepted. Duty Free shopping can be found in certain stores, particularly those in bonded areas such as the airport departure hall and the commercial port in Fort-de-France.</p>

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	<p><b>La Galleria Mall</b> is a top shopping spot, open from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, and La Cour Perrinon is a the unique mall in the heart of the Capital,</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p>Original Creole jewelry, bamboo objects, wood sculptures, baskets, pottery and Creole dolls dressed in madras... just to name a few of the handcrafted souvenirs that can be found in the boutiques or at the Savane <b>craftwork market in Fort-de-France</b>. Madras cotton was once used to make traditional Creole costumes and is now used to make all kinds of clothing (dresses, shirts, sarongs...) Beyond the traditional craftwork, the rich character of art in Martinique is evidenced by the many creations that abound in color, shapes and creativity.</p>
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p>Nightlife in Martinique takes on many forms including nightclubs, piano bars, lounges, hotel events/parties and casinos. The island offers a range of party atmospheres for all moods and tastes.</p> <p>The majority of clubs and bars are located in Fort-de-France, but visitors can also enjoy themselves in “hip” venues located in smaller towns where the setting can be a charming hotel bar or a beachfront restaurant with live music and dancing. A variety of music styles can be found including Zouk, Reggae, Jazz, Hip Hop, French Pop and International Techno.</p>
<b>Casinos</b>	<p>Martinique’s two casinos, <b>Casino de la Batelière Plaza</b> located just north of Fort-de-France and <b>Casino des Trois Ilets</b>, offer slots, blackjack, roulette and more. Patrons must be 18; dress is casual.</p>

<b>CUISINE</b>	<p>A Marriage of Two Cuisines, French and Creole</p> <p>Many Caribbean islands are synonymous with “magic,” but the kind of magic found in Martinique is, quite simply, culinary. Cooking here is an art practiced by wizardly chefs who can take something very ordinary, like spiny sea urchins, do secret things to them, and - with just a whisper of “open sesame” to the oven door - bring forth a soufflé that is positively spellbinding. Food sets Martinique apart from the other Caribbean islands. Here, chefs are seasoned sorcerers; elsewhere, they are just apprentices.</p> <p>Magic aside, Martinique also happens to be French and shows its Frenchness very noticeably through its love affair with good food. Many shops close from noon to 2:30 for the sacrosanct tradition of a copious and leisurely lunch and dinner often is a gastronomic adventure lasting all evening. Since local people dine out as a matter of course, visitors to Martinique have one of the widest choices of restaurants in the Caribbean - more than 150.</p> <p>Hotels and better-known spots have menus in English, but many little places do not so it is wise to bring along a French phrase book and pocket dictionary. Many dining rooms offer both French cuisine and Creole dishes, a wondrous mix of African, Indian, European and Caribbean flavors. Others serve recipes that combine the best from both kitchen traditions. To classic French dishes, for example, might be</p>
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	<p>added such exotic local fruits and vegetables as guava, sour sop, cassava, christophine, breadfruit, okra and plantain.</p>
<p><b>Food</b></p>	<p>In Martinique, there is a usually a story or tradition behind every holiday or day off. In the case of the Easter Holidays, people draw the religious week to a close with a sumptuous meal among family and friends at home or at the beach of the famous Matoutou Crabes.</p> <p>After catching the crabs (around 2 for each person), kill them, brush them, cut off the tips of the legs and slice the body into two parts. Remove the shell and keep the rest of the body with the legs and pincers.</p> <p>Ingredients: Vegetable, Oil, Garlic, Parsley, Shallots, Rice, Chives, Hot Pepper, Lemons, Salt, Black Pepper, Curry.</p> <p>Preparation: In a saucepan, fry the garlic and shallots in oil for three minutes. Add the rice and cook for two minutes. Add water, chives, a bay leaf, thyme, salt and pepper. Bring the water to the boil, then cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the crabs, parsley, lemon juice and parsley and it is ready! Serve hot.</p> <p>Recommendations: Eat the crabs with your hands and serve with white wine.</p>
<p><b>Rum</b></p>	<p>As rich as the island's history is Martinique's earth, which nurtures the growth of sugar cane that gives birth to rums considered among the best in the world. These excellent rums have been awarded the prestigious French label "appellation d'origine contrôlée," previously reserved only for French cheeses and wines.</p> <p>There are ten rum distilleries throughout Martinique and all of them welcome visitors for sampling their product. Here's some examples:</p> <p><b>Trois Rivières</b> 97228 Sainte Luce t: 05 96 62 51 78 Open from Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5:30 pm Saturdays from 9 am to noon <a href="http://www.plantationtroisrivieres.com">www.plantationtroisrivieres.com</a></p> <p><b>Depaz</b> Plantation de la montagne Pelée, 97250 Saint Pierre t: 05 96 78 13 14 Open from Monday through Friday from 11 am to 4 pm; Saturdays from 10 am to 3:30 pm <a href="http://www.depaz.fr">www.depaz.fr</a></p> <p><b>La Mauny</b> Domaine La Mauny, 97211 Rivière Pilote t: 05 96 62 62 08 Open from Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5:30 pm; Saturdays</p>

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	<p>from 9 am to 1 pm  <a href="http://www.rhumdemartinique.com">www.rhumdemartinique.com</a></p>
<p><b>Restaurants</b></p>	<p><b>Le Bredas</b>          Creole cuisine is extremely varied. There is no hardand- fast definition. Spices are the basis, and that’s about it... everything is possible. Creole gastronomy draws on some Mediterranean fundamentals in combination with contributions from Africa, India and Asia. Jean-Charles Brédas strives to keep traditions and to offer traditional dishes to visitors: “pâté cochon” for Christmas, fish during Lent, crab at Easter... none of which prevents him from serving foie gras, with great pleasure.          Entrée Presqu’île – Rivière Blanche, 97212 Saint Joseph          tel: 05 96 57 65 52</p> <p><b>Chez Tante Arlette</b>          The restaurant Chez Tante Arlette is in Grand-Rivière, the northernmost town in Martinique. In keeping with the island of flowers’ culinary traditions, each dish that comes out of Tante Arlette’s kitchen is a masterpiece. Your memories of Tante Arlette’s culinary prowess will linger long after your plate is empty. Tante Arlette also has 3 tastefully furnished guest rooms for a cozy experience.          3, rue Lucy de Fossarieu, 97218 Grand Rivière tel: 05 96 55 75 75</p> <p><b>K’Bana</b>          The K’Bana restaurant is located in Vauclin, at pointe Faula on the windward coast, the kite surfing and windsurfing paradise with a beautiful “fond blanc” (white sandbank). French and Creole cuisine, pizza, ice cream, cocktails, coffee menu. Wheelchair accessible. Shower. Wi-Fi internet access.          Pointe Faula, 97280 Le Vauclin tel: 05 96 74 32 08</p> <p><b>La Cave à Vins</b>          Only two rooms, but Clémentine has made the most out of each room’s assets. The first room is rather cozy, with gold tones and lovely multi-colored fish paintings. The second room is very luminous. Seating for 32 total. Luminous and fresh. A stone trail graces the floor and the walls are decked with Southern French landscapes, interspersed with vines. But the best is yet to come, the food on the plates. The result is inventive, a subtle blend of local and French products. This blending is evidenced in dishes such as the fried foie gras, the local fruit chutney or the roasted “lambi” (shellfish) served with rougaille and Espelette pepper sauce or the calves sweetbreads pastry with mushroom sauce...          118 rue Victor Hugo, 97200 Fort De France tel: 05 96 70 33 02</p>

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	<p><b>La Chaudière</b>          In the shadow of Mount Pelée, set in the calm of an enchanting tropical garden, try the Creole cuisine at the family restaurant “La Chaudière”, where the love of food is passed down from mother to son. For over two years now, Gilles has been bringing sophistication and creativity to his culinary creations, food-lovers will be amazed by this exceptional chef whose menus include, just to name a few: braised conch, Caribbean bass in a honey nutmeg sauce, goat meat pie and an exquisite banana tart.          Quartier Propreté, 97260 Le Morne Rouge tel: 05 96 52 34 47</p>
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<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	CMT CANADA 4000 rue Saint Ambroise, bureau 265, Montréal, Québec H4C 2C7 Tel: 514-844-8566 Tel: 1-800-361-9099 Fax: 514-844-8901 Email: information@lamartinique.ca
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.martinique.org">www.martinique.org</a>

<b>CURRENT DEALS</b>	A week’s package tour to Martinique from Montreal with air and hotel included starts at around \$1,800 per person in January with Transat Holidays
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<b>NOLITOURS and TRANSAT</b>	Transat offers direct flights to Martinique and a wide choice of seven accommodations on the island.
<b>Transat Background</b>	<p>For over 25 years, Transat Holidays has been offering a large selection of vacation options in Europe, Florida and the south, as well as cruises sailing all seven seas. In addition to more than 200 south hotels available in the form of all-inclusive packages, Transat also offers a wide range of flights, packages, tours and à la carte products in some 30 European destinations. Their packages are flexible and tailored to stays of varying lengths.</p> <p>Transat Holidays is at the core of the vertical integration process adopted by its parent company, Transat A.T., the leader in Canada’s holiday travel industry. This integration enables Transat to offer vacationers the best possible service, from the airport all the way to their travel destination, where a team of more than 250 destination representatives offer onsite assistance on a 24/7 basis.</p> <p>Transat Holidays also works with Air Transat, a part of Transat A.T. Inc., offering a vast selection of flights to nearly 60 destinations in 25 countries aboard its fleet of Airbus wide-body jets. Families benefit from numerous privileges, such as a dedicated check-in counter and Kids</p>

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	Club advantages. Upgrade to Club Class for a touch of luxury or choose Option Plus and obtain an additional baggage allowance of 10 kg, among other perks.
<b>What Transat is All About</b>	Transat offers quality vacation packages to a wide variety of destinations. Each season, the company presents a wide selection of quality products, in order to meet the diversified needs of Canadian travellers. In keeping with their mission, their employees aim to exceed vacationers' expectations in order to maintain their position as a market leader. They see their role, ultimately, to turn holiday dreams into reality: making the vacation experience one of the most memorable ever.
<b>Products</b>	Packages, Cruises, Hotels, Flights, Tours, Car Rentals & Train Travel. With a choice of over 300 hotels located in more than 50 destinations and a complete line of itineraries offered in partnership with the most prestigious cruise lines, all products offered by Transat are subject to a rigorous standard review.
<b>Transat Collections</b>	<p>Because we all have our own definition of ideal vacation, Transat Holidays has designed exclusive <b>Collections</b> to meet the needs of different travelers, including Luxury, Distinction, Family, R &amp; R, and Sun Savvy.</p> <p><b>Distinction Collection</b>  Transat Holidays' Distinction Collection was especially designed for travellers looking for an enhanced travel experience. Located on stunning beaches, these resorts offer exclusive privileges, added services and superior comfort. You'll notice the difference the minute you arrive. Beautiful surroundings, attentive service, superb facilities and spacious accommodations serve as the backdrop for that special vacation you've always wanted. Here are some of the extras you'll receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-stop transfer from the airport to your resort</li> <li>- Concierge service</li> <li>- Additional guaranteed reservations for à la carte restaurants</li> <li>- Free in-room safe</li> <li>- Free WiFi in the lobby</li> <li>- Beach towels, bathrobe, slippers in room</li> <li>- Unlimited select international brand drinks</li> </ul>
<b>Awards</b>	<p><b>Agent's Choice Awards:</b> Transat Holidays was named Wholesaler of the Year by travel agents.</p> <p>Air Transat was voted -#1 Leisure Airline in North America for three years in a row and 2nd in the World! They were also voted best Family Airline.</p>
<b>Current Brochures</b>	Transat Holidays Sun 2014/15 and Nolitours Sun 2014/15 brochures are available at your local travel agent and cover vacations through to October 2015.

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	Also look out for the new Transat Europe brochure in your favorite Travel Agency featuring their new destination for Europe: Budapest in Hungary.
<b>Air Transat's New Comfort Zone</b>	With so many new comfort features, you're on vacation the minute you take your seat. Air Transat has given their fleet a full makeover. For a glimpse of what it looks like: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBse6WOCd70">www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBse6WOCd70</a>
<b>Air Transat Kids Club</b>	To ensure that your family vacations are fun and unforgettable from beginning to end, Air Transat has created <b>Kids Club</b> so that young passengers can really enjoy themselves whilst onboard an Air Transat flight. It is designed to make air travel a fun experience for young travellers (and for their parents!). Even before the doors of the plane are closed following boarding, every child receives a small bag containing all sorts of surprises and games. The more fun they have, the easier the flight. Furthermore, children who are members of Air Transat Kids Club enjoy certain exclusive privileges. Members of the Air Transat Kids Club will enjoy several benefits that the whole family can share. You can check in at a special "Air Transat Kids Club Members" counter. Thanks to these special counters located in major Canadian airports where Air Transat flies, checking-in is quicker than before. At check-in, special tags will be placed on your baggage; as a result, your baggage gets priority treatment.
<b>Transat Compensation Plan</b>	Transat has introduced a new compensation plan for clients affected by an advanced flight schedule change on all South, Florida and Europe flights, packages and cruises. This new policy applies to all bookings made with Transat Holidays, for Air Transat flights.  Applicable to schedule changes within 45 days of departure.  Schedule change of 3 to 12 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transat will offer a \$50 voucher for future travel.</li> </ul> Schedule change of 12 to 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transat will offer a \$75 voucher for future travel.</li> </ul> Schedule change of 24 hours or more and cancelled flights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients can cancel their flight and are entitled to a full refund in the event of a schedule change of 24 hours or more.</li> <li>• Transat will offer a \$50 voucher for future travel to clients who cancel.</li> <li>• Transat will offer a \$100 voucher for future travel to clients who accept the date change.</li> <li>• Clients who choose a product at a lower fare will be refunded the price difference, whereas clients who select a product at a higher fare will be required to pay the balance.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Schedule change of 3 hours or less</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No compensation will be offered to clients experiencing a schedule change that is delayed or advanced by 3 hours or less.</li> </ul>
<b>Transat Club Class</b>	<p>Enjoy exclusive privileges such as complimentary seat selection, wider, more comfortable leather seats, a choice of gourmet meals and fine wines, priority check-in, baggage service and boarding.</p> <p><b>Club Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated Club attendants</li> <li>• Attentive, personalized service</li> <li>• Exclusive, spacious Club cabin</li> </ul> <p><b>Drinks &amp; Snacks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome cocktails</li> <li>• Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks, snacks and bar service</li> </ul> <p><b>Club Privileges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased baggage allowance</li> <li>• 40 kg checked/15 kg carry-on</li> <li>• Exclusive, rapid check-in counter in most airports</li> <li>• Priority boarding</li> <li>• Practical travel items (on Europe flights)</li> <li>• Free headsets</li> <li>• Canadian newspapers</li> </ul> <p><b>Comfort &amp; Refinement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider, more comfortable leather seats</li> <li>• More leg room</li> <li>• Complimentary Seat Selection: call 1-877-872-6728</li> <li>• Choice of gourmet meals</li> <li>• Choice of wine and more</li> </ul>
<b>Option Plus</b>	<p>This Economy class option includes many priority privileges and services including priority check-in, priority baggage handling, an extra 10kg baggage allowance and even champagne. Here's what you get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance seat selection on roundtrip flights</li> <li>• Priority check-in at a dedicated counter</li> <li>• Priority baggage handling</li> <li>• Priority boarding</li> <li>• Complete Air Transat travel kit on flights to European destinations</li> <li>• Snacks from the On Board Bistro selection</li> <li>• Alcoholic beverages during drinks service 200ml bottle of champagne (Sun and Europe)</li> <li>• Supplementary baggage allowance up to 10 kg per flight segment</li> <li>• Wine or beer with the meal</li> <li>• Headsets</li> </ul> <p>The cost is \$79-\$119 for southbound destinations and \$99-\$209 for European destinations as at December 2014.</p>
<b>Option Flex</b>	<p>Life doesn't always go exactly according to plan. When you book your dream vacation, you want to make sure you enjoy the ultimate level of</p>

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	<p>flexibility should something unexpected happen. Option Flex with Transat gives you just that. Option Flex lets you:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- change your departure date, destination or hotel, up to 3 hours before departure</li> <li>- transfer your vacation package to a friend or family member, up to 7 days before departure</li> <li>- cancel your trip and get a full refund</li> <li>- and you won't be charged any additional fuel or currency surcharges once you've booked.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit from these advantages for only <b>\$49</b> + taxes at time of booking.</p>
<p><b>Transat and Sustainable Tourism</b></p>	<p>Transat recognizes the prime importance of the environment, host communities, cultural diversity, and their relationships with their employees, customers and partners. Tourism has become one of the world's leading industries. Society and communities reap the benefits, and, each year, hundreds of millions of travellers discover new countries and cultures. Transat is firmly committed to the responsible development of the tourism industry, and has adopted the following definition of sustainable tourism:</p> <p><i>“Sustainable tourism entails respect for nature, as well as for host communities and their values; it combines positive socio-economic benefits for local populations with an enriching experience for travellers.”</i></p> <p>The issue of the environment, as far as Transat's own facilities are concerned, is a clear and basic target. Their environment committees have implemented concrete initiatives with regard to recycling, conservation of resources, the disposal of obsolete electronic equipment, and raising employee awareness.</p> <p>Air Transat has begun developing an environmental management system that could lead to an ISO 14001 certification in the future. To find out more, consult the Transat and the Environment sections at their website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&amp;ContentType=voyageur">http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&amp;ContentType=voyageur</a></p> <p><b>Eco-responsible certified hotels</b></p> <p>Transat urges its hotelier partners to excel in social and environmental responsibility, and formally recognizes the efforts of accommodations that commit to certification in this area. Certified establishments must maintain performance levels to continue using such labels. The indicators used vary depending on the certification scheme, but many certification organizations have begun aligning their benchmarks with the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria.</p> <p>To help you make an informed choice when you take your next vacation, Transat list six certifications for hotels and beaches. You can also find certified hotels by searching by destination.</p>

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	<p>Certifications for hotels          Biosphere Responsible Tourism          Green Globe          Green Key          ISO 14001          Travelife          Certification for beaches          Blue Flag</p>
<b>Gift Certificates</b>	<p>Here's your chance to make a loved one's dream come true. With Transat gift certificates you can offer the beauty, excitement, and wonders of the world: the South with its heavenly beaches and endless sunshine, or just a rental car. Transat gift certificates are valid on all Air Transat, Nolitours, or Transat Holidays products in their brochures. They can be redeemed at a travel agent's office at the time of reservation. To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>
<b>Hurricane Policy</b>	<p>Nolitours and Transat Holidays provide you with true peace of mind. Vacationers can travel secure in the knowledge that you will be protected should a hurricane affect your destination city in Florida, Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America. This Nolitours/Transat Holidays policy covers reservations for departures between June 1 and November 30 each year and is likely to be renewed in 2015 – check the website. If the conditions stipulated in the policy are met, you may choose one of these four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Travel at a later date</li> <li>2. Travel to another destination city</li> <li>3. Travel to the booked destination city</li> <li>4. Cancel with a full refund</li> </ol>
<b>Transat Resorts in Martinique 2014/2015</b>	<p>Transat offers direct flights to Martinique and a wide choice of accommodation on the island:          Cap Est Lagoon Resort and Spa;          Hotel Bambou;          Hotel La Pagerie;          Hotel Club des Trois Islets;          Hotel Club Le Marouba;          Marine Hotel Residence Diamant;          Village Pierre et Vacances Sainte-Luce.</p>
<b>Transat Excursions in Martinique</b>	<p>Transat offer a full range of excursions to explore this unspoiled destination offering water based fun, cultural experiences, nightlife and adventure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catamaran</li> <li>- Creole North</li> <li>- The Spices of Fort de France</li> <li>- Northern Trails on a 4X4</li> </ul>
<b>Social Media</b>	<p>Stay in touch with Transat and Nolitours at their two Facebook sites:  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/airtransat">http://www.facebook.com/airtransat</a></p>

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<b>Groups</b>	Group rates are available – as few as 10 adults make up a group. Talk to your travel agent to check the current details of Transat’s group deals.
<b>Special Deals with Transat in Martinique</b>	Transat currently has some special deals to Martinique this year:  Check out <a href="http://www.TransatHolidays.com">www.TransatHolidays.com</a> for latest deals.

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