

The Kitts are alright

The sister isles of St Kitts and Nevis offer adventure and luxury in equal measure, writes **Vivienne Dovi**



Frigate Bay Beach, Basseterre

PICTURE: Shutterstock/Robert Harding Video

1

This twin-island destination appeals to those who want to balance exploration with relaxation, indulgent escapes with a refreshingly easygoing atmosphere, whether hiking through the verdant rainforest or spending afternoons by the water.

Within an hour, clients can go from touristy Basseterre to the quiet south of Christophe Harbour, or take the short hop by boat to Nevis in less than 10 minutes. Like many Caribbean destinations, St Kitts is compact and easy to explore, but generally less noisy and less crowded. More than a quarter of the island is covered in lush greenery and its mountains are just as breathtaking as its white-sand beaches. At certain viewpoints, the eagle-eyed can even watch as the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean meet.

It's a destination that leans into nature, celebrates culture and has a growing portfolio of high-end hotels and experiences.

NATURAL HIGH-END

Luxury here is less about glitz and more about privacy, impeccable service and a genuine connection to the natural surroundings. Park Hyatt St Kitts Christophe Harbour is the flagship luxury property, on a quiet stretch of beach in the south. Along with villas that come with private terraces, plunge pools or even rooftop infinity pools, the resort offers panoramic views across to sister island Nevis. The spa delivers treatments inspired by local ingredients, and even the arrival feels considered: guests walk past koi ponds before reaching an open-air 'Living Room' check-in area that overlooks the sea.

With a Ritz-Carlton resort also breaking ground ahead of a 2028 opening, St Kitts has ambitions to cement its place on the luxury map.

Across the water, beachfront Four Seasons Resort Nevis has long been the benchmark for luxury in the country, offering ➤

3 OF THE BEST

ST KITTS ACTIVITIES

Rail: Ride the St Kitts Scenic Railway, a double-decker train that offers a beautiful backdrop on the three-hour round-island journey. The narrow-gauge train travels 18 miles along a route first used in 1912 to transport sugar cane from plantations to Basseterre.

History: Brimstone Hill Fortress, a Unesco World Heritage Site, is one of the Caribbean's largest and best-preserved fortifications. It was built between the 1690s and 1790s by enslaved Africans, and became a key site of battles between the French and British as European powers fought for control over the islands.

Beach: For a lively beach scene, Frigate Bay is popular with locals and visitors alike, with calm Caribbean waters on one side and Atlantic waves for surfers on the other. Expect beach bars and volleyball by day, then DJ beats and bonfires by night.



FROM LEFT:
Presidential Suite at Park Hyatt St Kitts; St Kitts Music Festival; the island's lush interior

PICTURES: Michael Stavaridis; St Kitts Tourism/Daryl Grant

everything from spacious ocean-view rooms for couples to lavish two-level estates such as Mahogany Hill, which can host groups of up to 12. The service is attentive, the restaurants consistently deliver exceptional dining and the grounds are immaculately maintained.

GOING FURTHER

What sets St Kitts and Nevis apart is how well the high-end resorts combine with island experiences. For those who prefer to sightsee by sea, a sunset catamaran cruise with Blue Water Safaris is popular (from \$62). Over two

hours, guests sip cocktails and enjoy light bites while the crew point out landmarks along the coast and views of neighbouring Nevis.

For music lovers, the three-day St Kitts Music Festival is one of the island's most immersive and lively experiences. Running for nearly 30 years, past performers have included Jamaican DJ Vybz Kartel and American singer Jennifer Hudson, with a line-up that blends reggae, soca, hip-hop and R&B into a celebration of Caribbean culture and international talent.

The culinary scene is similarly diverse. Marshall's offers fine dining, while Spice Mill

The Beachfront BY THE FIVES HOTELS

The Beachfront by the Fives Hotels, is an intimate boutique hotel, operating on an all-inclusive basis and features a private pool, relaxing sunbeds, and spectacular ocean views with direct beach access.

Guests can take advantage of accessing all the amenities, facilities, and restaurants at the adjacent Essence at The Fives Beach. Beachfront guests can simply stroll across the beach or jump on the golf cart shuttle between hotels.

The luxurious accommodations offer a serene and elegant atmosphere with stunning ocean views.

The exclusive restaurant & bar, Santa Sirena at Beachfront by the Fives is a true gem, offering direct views across the beach, with a rustic chic ambience and Mexican fusion cuisine. Skilled mixologist will craft exquisite cocktails, adding the perfect touch to an unforgettable dining experience.



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Essence At The Fives



The Fives Oceanfront



The Fives Downtown

- 15 speciality restaurants
- 5 pool bars and 4 signature bars
- Daily and nightly entertainment
- Luxurious accommodations
- The Spa spans over 15,000 sq.ft.
- 11 treatment rooms which cater for the most relaxing treatments.

- 2 infinity pools
- 3 gourmet restaurants
- Prime beachfront location
- Furnished terraces and balconies
- Exclusive beach club by Bob Marley's son, The Ro Marley Beach Club.

- Rooftop with 2 infinity pools
- 3 bars
- 2 on-site restaurants
- Prime location with local restaurants, nightlife and shops
- Spa by The Fives & fitness centre.

BOOK IT

Inspiring Travel offers a seven-night Explore St Kitts & Nevis experience from £2,979 per person, based on two people sharing, for travel in June 2026. The price includes British Airways flights from Gatwick, private transfers and three nights at Four Seasons Resort Nevis then four nights at Park Hyatt St Kitts. inspiringtravel.co.uk



serves Caribbean fusion cuisine in a relaxed beachside setting near the Park Hyatt. At Drop Anchor Grill, part of the Sunset Reef boutique luxury resort, day passes allow visitors to enjoy the infinity pool and an ever-changing menu.

Those guests who would like to delve deeper into the island's food story can visit Liamuiga Natural Farm, where tours provide a hands-on introduction to sustainable farming practices and include

tastings of local produce, which the island has in abundance.

St Kitts' mountainous interior provides plenty of adventure. O'Neil's Rainforest Tours take visitors deep into the rainforest, with guide O'Neil Mulraine sharing stories about native plants and wildlife during the leisurely hike.

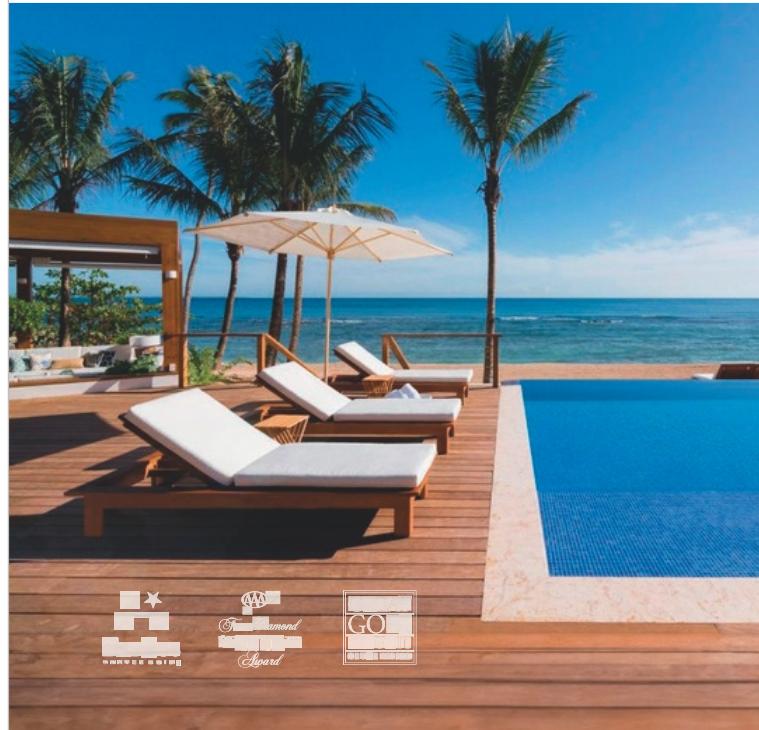
Or, for an adrenaline rush, the two-hour Sky Safari Zipline sends guests gliding across five different lines, three of which soar more than

75 metres above the forest floor, for panoramic valley views.

These islands are not simply about high-end hotels, but rather the variety of experiences that feel authentic, memorable and rooted in nature. Days can be spent exploring land and water, dining at a variety of restaurants or tackling island adventures that range from easy to extreme, before retreating to the comfort of a luxury resort that still feels connected to its surroundings. **TW**

Kuoni has added St Kitts to its Caribbean portfolio this month. Seven nights in a Studio room at Royal St Kitts Hotel costs from £1,649 per person, based on two sharing, including breakfast and BA flights from Gatwick departing in June. A twin-centre combining three nights at Park Hyatt St Kitts and four nights at Blue Waters Resort & Spa in Antigua, with flights and breakfast, starts from £2,449 in June. kuoni.co.uk

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