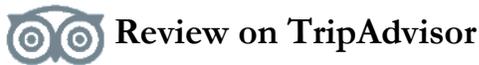


The nearest beaches to us are Anse Chastanet, Anse Mamin and Soufriere Beach. Although it is possible to walk to them, it's about a 25-to-30-minute walk there and a lot longer back up. The roads are steep with loose gravel, so we recommend you be safe and use our driver or drive back and forth to the beach.

All the beaches in St Lucia are public up to a point from the shore (almost 200 feet). If you go to a beach associated with a resort, there are parts that belong to them and they have the right to restrict access. However, if they try to completely restrict you from the beach, tell them you know the beaches are public. If you use our driver to get to the beach, you can ask him to help you get settled on the beach in the public section.

Unless otherwise noted, the snorkeling is accessible from the shore.



Anse Chastanet



Drive time from the villa: A little over 5 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1.

This is the closest beach. The walk from the villa is 25-30 minutes downhill, but back up can take a lot longer (all uphill!). There is ample parking before the entrance of the beach.

Affiliated with the Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain resorts, it has a beach bar, restaurant, scuba shop and boats, snorkel boats and a protected nature preserve for snorkelers. They have loungers, umbrellas and snorkel gear available for rent.

Snorkeling: The area to the left (when facing the ocean) is a protected marine reserve with a nice reef. We love to snorkel there – we see all kinds of fish, often see squid and eels, and particularly love to just float while huge schools of small silver fish circle around us. The snorkeling is easy – walk in from the beach or walk down the jetty and jump in, and the cove is protected. Please stay within the marked-off area – there is a lot of boat traffic, and the current gets strong once you go past the point.

Anse Mamin



Drive time from the villa: A little over 5 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1. Less than a 10-minute walk past Anse Chastanet Beach.

To get there: go to Anse Chastanet beach, turn right, and walk all the way up the beach. Near the end of the beach, to your right, you'll see some steps up and over a small waterway – take those and continue walking north on the trail that runs along the shore for a few minutes.

Anse Mamin is much more isolated, peaceful and shady than Anse Chastanet. Affiliated with the Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain resorts, it has a beach bar and restaurant open during the middle of the day and loungers for rent. There are plantation ruins up the hill – ask at the scuba shop on Anse Chastanet beach if you want to mountain bike or hike through them.

Snorkeling: Snorkeling is around the dock between Anse Chastanet and Anse Mamin, and around the rocks in the water.

Soufriere (Hummingbird) Beach



Drive time from the villa: A little over 5 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1. This is almost as close as Anse Chastanet beach. It's at the near edge of Soufriere - you pass it on the way up to the villa.

Although it's sometimes called the “Hummingbird beach” due to the proximity of the Hummingbird resort, the beach is not affiliated with the resort. There are new shops, restaurants and facilities here, as well as Action Adventure Divers (“Chester’s”) Dive Shop. The use of the washrooms is \$1 EC (under 50 cents US).

Snorkeling: Go to the north end of the beach and swim around the coastline.

Paradise (was known as Malgretoute) Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 20 minutes

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1.

Located about 20 minutes from the villa on the road to Sugar Beach and just north of Petit Piton. Park just down the slight turnoff dirt road about 50 yards down from the bridge just before Martha's Table. Walk down toward the ocean/beach for about 5 minutes.

This beach wasn't used much until COVID happened and then it became the beach for guests that were not staying at beachside resorts. It's gotten more care, and the restaurant on the beach has really stepped up and become somewhere worth going.

Malgretoute has a rock face of petroglyphs north of the beach entrance, facing the rainforest.

Snorkeling: Malgretoute reportedly has very good snorkeling just off the shore. We went there in 2021 but didn't see much, but the ocean was a bit rough that day and we might not have been at the right spot.

Sugar Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 25 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1. Located to the south of Soufriere, between the Pitons. Look for the Sugar Beach signs on the main highway, turn off as indicated, and travel 5-10 minutes further and you'll dead-end into the resort.

Affiliated with the Sugar Beach resort, it has a beach bar and restaurant, facilities, a scuba shop and a protected nature preserve for snorkelers. The beach sand has been imported, and is a white sand, unlike the rest of the beaches in St Lucia which are tan or black.

Unfortunately, we don't know the current situation on accessing the beach. We do know you can take a water taxi from Soufriere to the beach. You might be able to park at the entrance and pay a \$50US per person "resort fee" to park and use the shuttles. The fee could then be used at their restaurants.. Reportedly, loungers are also available for rent, at an additional fee.

Snorkeling: The area to the right (when facing the water) is a protected marine reserve with a nice reef. The snorkeling is usually good here, too – we can't decide whether Anse Chastanet or Sugar Beach has better snorkeling. And the view from the water – looking up at a Piton from its base – will make you want to just float and look at that and appreciate its majesty.

Devil's Hole – snorkeling only



Drive time from the villa: from none if you walk to about 10 minutes if you take a water taxi from Soufriere.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 1 (unless you walk, of course).

Devil's Hole is basically straight down from the villa and off to the north a little. The easiest way to get there is to have Junior or Doxie arrange a water taxi from Soufriere.

You can also walk there, but it's a bit of a hike. John can help with the details. You walk down almost to the Anse Chastanet resort, but you cut off to the left of the road and down the hill shortly before you get to the resort. There is a little trail marked with rocks that takes you down the side of the hill to the small beach.

Anse L'Ivrogne



Drive time from the villa: Around 30 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 2. South of Gros Piton in a protected cove. You can't drive all the way to the beach – park near “The View” restaurant in La pointe and walk the rest of way.

Anse L'Ivrogne is a very natural beach. It's a bit of a hike to get here, and the beach is pebbly. There are a couple of palapas and picnic tables on the beach, and a bar there that is not usually open. The beach is often used by some local fisherman for spear fishing and traditional fishing with nets and pots.

You can start the Gros Piton hike here if you want a real challenge. There is also a day-long experience here – the “Castaway Tour” offered by Zion Lion Farms where you experience life from a simpler time. Or you can explore the ruins of an 18th-century sugar plantation. There are reports you can also horseback ride here – contact us if you are interested and we'll investigate this for you.

Snorkeling: The snorkeling is reportedly good here. The area has earned the nickname “Black Hole” due to the rapid drop-off to a depth of nearly 2000 ft, and this is a good spot for diving.

Sabwisha

Drive time from the villa: Around 30 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 2. Just north of the fishing village of Choiseul.

The only facilities are a few picnic tables near the beach. There is a light surf here, and you'll probably be the only people there unless it's a weekend when the locals gather an event.

Anse Cochon Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 35 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 2. At the Ti Kaye resort, just south of Anse La Raye.

Affiliated with the Ti Kaye resort, there are facilities available, although you may have to climb a number of stairs to reach most of them.

Snorkeling: The snorkeling is the draw for this beach and is often declared the best in St Lucia. The visibility is usually quite good. But you'll get a lot of boats with tourists from the cruise ships (usually arriving in mid-late morning and staying for an hour or two), so you may have to go very early or late, compete with them, or simply wait for them to leave if you prefer to snorkel without bumping into other people.

Rudy John (Laborie) Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 40 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 2. About three-quarters of the way back to the Vieux Fort airport, in the small fishing village of Laborie.

The sand here is lighter than most of the other beaches on St Lucia, the water is very turquoise, and the beach is very sandy and not too rocky. There are a few picnic tables on the beach, and trees for shade. There are facilities nearby: a bar, a craft center, and a café. Although the beach is usually quiet during the week, it can get busy with locals on the weekend. There will not be many tourists here.

Snorkeling: The snorkeling is reportedly pretty good just off the beach just in front of the road. Go to the left (when facing the water) and swim around the backside of the coral.

Sandy Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 50 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 3. Near the Vieux Fort airport in the south, Sandy Beach is on the Atlantic side of the island.

There are facilities here, including several restaurants and a facility for kite- and windsurfing. The ocean is rougher here than on the Caribbean side of the island.

Vigie Beach



Drive time from the villa: Around 60-70 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 3. Near the smaller airport in Castries.

This beach is popular with the cruise ship passengers, as it's within a short taxi ride or a long walk from their port. You can watch the small planes land and take off at the adjacent regional airport. Facilities include a walk-up bar and restaurant, chair and umbrella rental, and parking. Vendors are mentioned as being annoying more often than at most other beaches in St Lucia. The surf seems to be a little stronger than at most beaches.

Reduit Beach



Drive time from the villa: About 90 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 3. Rodney Bay, almost all the way to the north of the island.

This is the main tourist beach on the island. There are numerous facilities in the area, including hotels, bars and restaurants, watersports, chair and umbrella rental and a small water park with inflatables.

Snorkeling: We've had some decent snorkeling on the far southern end of the bay. Since we were dropped off and picked up by a speedboat, we do not know if the snorkeling area is accessible from the shore, but you could probably get a water taxi to take you there.

Pigeon Island



Drive time from the villa: About 90 minutes.

Driver Zone and Location: Zone 3. On the north side of Rodney Bay.

It's not worth a special trip just for this beach. But if you are spending the day in the north of the island and plan to spend part of it on Pigeon Island exploring the ruins, you can also spend a little time on a beach while you are on the island.

There are facilities on Pigeon Island, including a bar and restaurant, washrooms, and chair and umbrella rental. You can also SNUBA here.

Snorkeling: There reportedly is decent snorkeling around the rock jetties that surround the beach.

Cost (basis on-line reports): Adults (ages 13 and up) - \$10US. Children 5 years to 12 years old - \$5US. Children under 5 years old are free. Beach Chair rentals are \$3US.