



Not up for climbing a mountain? Would you rather take less strenuous hike or just meander through gardens?

Prices quoted were gathered in May 2022 from websites or our best estimate basis what we've paid in the past or heard or read and may not be accurate for your visit. Drive times are approximate. Italics designate descriptions from websites or other reviewers' comments.



Website



Email



Review on Tripadvisor



Facebook

Maranatha Prayer Garden



Drive time from the villa: About 10 minutes.

Location: About a mile north of Soufriere along the main highway. Park at the Beacon Restaurant and walk back down the hill.

Have lunch at the Beacon then walk a little of it off by strolling through the Maranatha Prayer gardens. Lot of plants and birds to delight your eyes. Hike up to the top to see a different view of the Pitons compared to the ones from the villa. Relaxing. Loretta took the picture of the flower on this page at here.

Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens



(758) 459-7155

Drive time from the villa: 15-20 minutes.

Location: Just outside the south-east edge of Soufriere (past Cool Breeze).

In existence since 1983, when Mrs Joan Devaux (nee Du Boulay) took over management of the Soufriere Estate from her father, the late Mr. André du Boulay. Mrs Joan Devaux planted the gardens that are enjoyed today by thousands of visitors. Flowering bushes and shrubs of every type and colour were planted around and beneath the existing trees.

Hibiscus, Ixora, Heliconia, Anthurium and the magnificent Balisier with their exotic blossoms and equally exotic names, now brighten the gardens. Due to the tropical climate, there is no “best” season to see the gardens and they can be enjoyed all year round.

From a recent review: “The gardens are lovely, filled with tropical plants from all over the world, with signs explaining the traits and uses of both common ones (like cocoa) and rarer items (like datura). At the back of the garden are the mineral baths (only one basin was full while we were there, the others were being cleaned) and, beyond them, the waterfall. While not very tall, it was lovely, with the volcanic water leaving behind minerals that colored the rock walls. We enjoyed our visit, and it was nice to find a cool, peaceful spot to spend an hour or two.”

Hours: Monday – Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Sundays and public holidays: 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Prices (covers gardens and waterfall): Adults: US\$7 / EC\$17.50. Children: Half Price (St Lucians usually define children as ages 12 and under)

Tet Paul Nature Trail

(758) 457-1122

Drive time from the villa: About 20 minutes.

Location: A little south of Soufriere off the main highway headed back to the airport. Watch for the signs just south of Ladera/Dasheene, turn off, then follow the road and signs for about 5 minutes and you'll dead-end into their parking area.

Walk around a mountain on the Tet Paul Nature Trail.

The Tet Paul Nature Trail hike (not a strenuous hike, mostly a walk) can take about 45 minutes to complete. This St Lucian attraction is guided by friendly and knowledgeable locals who can answer your questions and provide insights about the points of interest you will see along your way. It consists of a fairly easy hike but is not recommended for those with disabilities because it does consist of a “wee bit” of a climb. You will get to see some of the best views of the Pitons on the island. The guide will also give a very informative tour of the local plants.

The hike is great for families and groups and presents many great photo-ops. Don't forget to take your camera – and be sure to get a “selfie” with a Piton in the background!

There's something for everyone on the Tet Paul hike! Culture, history, exotic horticulture, and spectacular landscapes can be found on this St Lucia tour. You'll see amazing scenery – the views from the Tet Paul Nature Trail have been described as absolutely heavenly. From the majestic Pitons to the far away islands of Martinique and St Vincent, you can see it all from the points along the trail.

Tet Paul Nature Trail does not have a website of their own, but there is one out there that looks like it belongs to them. It's owned by a local tour company and will give you the impression you need to hire their services. Rest assured, you don't have to hire them.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Cost: \$10 US per person

Pigeon Island



(758) 425-5005

Drive time from the villa: About 90 minutes, but traffic near Castries and Rodney Bay can really impact this.

Location: Just north of Rodney Bay, almost all the way to the north of the island.

Visit historic ruins at Pigeon Island National Park.

Pigeon Island National Landmark is heralded as one of the most important monuments of Saint Lucia's history. It is a vivid representation of the cultural and historical monuments of international, civil, military and marine cross currents, characteristic of West Indian historical change. A living museum within a natural setting, Pigeon Island is being nurtured through careful protection and intelligent development to serve the intellectual, cultural and recreational needs of all who visit this historic site. The picturesque, 44-acre island reserve, off the North West, was originally surrounded by water but was joined to the mainland by a man-made causeway in 1972. Recognizing the need to secure this site where the balance of late eighteenth-century naval power was decided, the Government of Saint Lucia designated Pigeon Island as a National Park in 1979 and as a National Landmark in 1992. It is open to visitation 365 days a year.

Pigeon Island National Landmark has a number of heritage attractions and amenities which include:

- *Ruins of military buildings used during the battles between the French and the British for the island of Saint Lucia.*
- *An Interpretation Centre describing the rich history of the island.*
- *Two beautiful beaches.*
- *A restaurant featuring local cuisine.*
- *A pub and restaurant with a historical theme.*
- *A lookout point at the top of the Fort which gives a panoramic view of the Northwest coastline.*

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.