



Get a little education while you spend your vacation in paradise. Go through plantation ruins nearby at Anse Mamin, or head up to the north to climb Signal Peak on Pigeon Island and learn about the history of St Lucia (and why they speak a local dialect that's a mix of French and English).

Learn how they make chocolate, how life was for St Lucians two

hundred years ago, or hear about the life of Derek Walcott, one of two Nobel laureates that came from St Lucia.

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

Biking through Anse Mamin Plantation Ruins



(758) 459-7755

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

Location: Anse Mamin beach. A 10-minute walk through and past Anse Chastanet beach.

Mountain bike through ruins at Anse Mamin

At Anse Mamin, there are trails back into the forest through an old plantation, and trail bikes to rent. Bike St Lucia rents mostly to Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain resort guests, but they have a few spaces each day for others. They also offer the opportunity to hike the trails. We recommend you contact them before your trip to check for availability if you want to ensure you get to go biking. Stop at the ScubaStLucia hut on Anse Chastanet beach to arrange to rent bikes (or directions for hiking it, if you prefer).

Morne Coubaril Plantation Tour



(758) 712-5808 or (758) 726-5248

Drive time from the villa: About 15 minutes.

Location: A few minutes south of Soufriere on the main highway to/from the airport.

Morne Coubaril Estate tour – history, coconut and cocoa processing

You are guided through a small village of replica stick huts similar to those used two centuries ago by local villagers. The gardens around offer close-up views of the more popular local flora.

You pass the Monplaisir family's grand estate house next and this offers great photo opportunities before you enjoy another live demonstration. You are explained the process of de-husking a coconut and drying the copra in our oven before having a taste of coconut water and jelly.

After enjoying the bay view from the point (do not forget to bring spare batteries for your camera), you have the opportunity to taste a ripe cocoa bean at the cocoa house before witnessing the process of fermentation, bean drying and the cocoa dance used to polish the dried beans. The tour climaxes with our mule-driven sugar cane mill and the more-ish taste of fresh cane juice.

Price: Adults: \$11 US; children 5-12: \$5.50 US

Tree to Bar Experience at Rabot Estate



(758) 459-7966

Drive time from the villa: About 20 minutes.

Location: South of Soufriere, almost right across the road from Ladera/Dasheene.

Rabot Estate's signature Tree-to-Bar Experience (chocolate)

Unique to the Rabot Estate and drawing on our expertise as a chocolatier and as a grower, this is an exclusive opportunity for you to discover cocoa like never before, as well as create your own chocolate. The experience starts with a walk through the estate's cocoa groves selecting ripe cocoa pods to harvest from the tree and ends with crafting your own chocolate

bar. The tour includes all the fascinating stages in-between – from the cocoa seedling nursery, fermenting room and sun-drying station to grinding, mixing and lots of tasting!

Price: The price on Viator shows \$119 US per person for the entire tour (Tree to Bar), although the Bean-to-Bar experience is just \$69 US. Those prices seem high compared to pre-COVID pricing, so we suggest you call for pricing if you are interested.

Grand Eden Estate



(758) 729-4882 (Call/WhatsApp)

Drive time from the villa: 20-25 minutes

Location: Fond St Jacques

Grand Eden Estate offers farm tours and birdwatching/hiking.

From a recent TripAdvisor review:

My husband and I are keen birdwatchers so a visit to the Grand Eden Estate was an absolute must! After a rocky ride to get there, we were greeted by a smiley Sylvanus who took us through the rainforest, up to some amazing viewpoints and down to the estate farm. Within the first 5 minutes we saw nearly all endemic birds, including the St Lucian parrots! Whilst on the tour we had the opportunity to taste some fresh, local fruit and drinks and we were also invited to roast some cashews. We loved seeing the different birds including the amazona versicolor (parrot), broad-winged hawk, bananaquit, st lucia oriole, scaley-breasted thrasher, black finch, scaley-naped pigeon, st lucia warbler, grey trembler, st lucia pewee, grey king bird, grassquit, carib grackle, and all three species of hummingbird (purple-throated, green-throated and antillean crested). The viewpoints looking out onto the rainforest and pitons were stunning and the fruit we tasted (in particular the guavas and mangos) were just the best. Our guide Sylvo was amazing and really made the trip to get there worthwhile. He was so knowledgeable about the local birds and botanicals and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this place.

Another reviewer advised comfortable shoes, and said they were provided with walking sticks as this is a bit more of a hike than a simple walk.

We had recent (June 2022) guests that were avid birdwatchers and they were very happy with Grand Eden.

Price: Contact the owner, Silvanus or ask Junior.

VILLA GRAND PITON

Chocolate Workshops, Sampling, and Classes at Cocoa Sainte

Lucie



(758) 459-4401 or (758) 728-3131 (WhatsApp)

Drive time from the villa: About 25 minutes.

Location: North of Soufriere along the main highway, almost to Canaries

We went here in early 2023 for their chocolate class and had a great time! And their truffles are lovely and delicious.

Founded in 2011, at Cocoa Sainte Lucie we are passionate about creating a truly indigenous artisan chocolate company. We work with Saint Lucia's top-rated organic cocoa, world renowned for complex flavor profiles and maximum levels of health-giving antioxidants and minerals. From our location just outside Saint Lucia's picturesque west coast village of Canaries, our team at Cocoa Sainte Lucie's creates a delicious range of organic gourmet dark chocolates and cocoa nibs, milk chocolate, truffles and chocolate coated nuts. We're so proud of the reputation we've earned for delivering delicious chocolate every time! We invite you to share in the Cocoa Sainte Lucie team's enthusiasm for good chocolate by booking one of our 'unforgettable' Chocolate Experience Tours, or you can purchase our delicious chocolate online.

They also opened a restaurant recently, so you can go for a class and lunch. We have not eaten there yet but hope to do so soon.

Their experiences are (prices per person, \$US):

Bean to Bar Orientation Tour & Chocolate Sampling (\$15)

Introduction to Chocolate | Sensory Tasting (\$20)

Chocolate Heights | Cocoa Workshop (\$45)

French Chocolate | Truffle Making Class (\$50)

Their website is apparently not functioning (as of November 8, 2023), so try calling them or contacting them through Facebook.

Hours: Sun: 10AM to 5 PM; Mon-Thurs 9AM – 5 PM; Fri 9AM – 4 PM. Closed on Saturdays.

CastAway Tour



(758) 717-4663

Drive time from the villa: About 25 minutes.

Location: Anse L'Ivrogne beach south of Gros Piton, South of Soufriere, about 25-30 minutes' drive from the villa.

Note – it's uncertain if they are still offering the tour. There are no recent reviews on TripAdvisor and the last entry on their website was from early 2022.

Zion Lion Farms and Castaway Tour offers a full-day total immersion CastAway Tour, unique in the Caribbean, on St. Lucia's most beautiful unspoiled beach at Anse L'Ivrogne (pronounced Sévoigne in Kwéyòl), located within The Pitons World Heritage Site on the SW slope of the Gros Piton.

Spend the day hanging out with a St. Lucia local at Zion Lion Farm. Owner Paul Clifford leads visitors through his property's organic garden, then follows the tour with a farm-to-beach outdoor clay-pot cooking session at Carib Beach Bar on Anse L'Ivrogne (also known as Sevoigne). This stretch of beach is a secluded part of the Pitons Management Area, accessible only by boat or on foot, so you'll probably see only fisherfolk and locals. Clifford prepares fresh fruits, herbs, and vegetables selected from his garden—sweet potatoes, bell peppers, tomatoes—and grills freshly caught tuna, all the while sharing the history and food culture of the island. Ambitious visitors can combine this experience with a hike up Gros Piton from the trailhead right off the beach.

La Maison Creole



(758) 459-3434

Drive time from the villa: About 25 minutes.

Location: In La Fargue, Choiseul

Officially opened in October 2007, La Maison Creole is the largest and most authentic artifact museum in St. Lucia. Inside you will see tools, pottery, furniture, craft, a miniature traditional house, money, musical instruments, toys, and even a boat. all from generations ago. Owner and tour guide, Theresa Paschal, collected many of the artifacts while traveling through Africa. The St. Lucian items come from all over the island but mostly from Choiseul, her home.

Hours: Daily from 9am - 5pm. We suggest calling ahead of time to confirm they are available for your planned visit time.

Balenbouche Estate Tour



(758) 455-1244

Drive time from the villa: About 30 minutes.

Location: About halfway between the villa and the airport in Vieux Fort.

The historic Balenbouche Estate is one of St. Lucia's most authentic and beautiful landmarks and heritage sites. The 60-acre former sugar plantation, nature park and retreat center includes the 180 year old plantation house lived in by the owners, who have cared for the property for over 35 years. Visit the antique furnished family home and museum, discover the impressive remains of the 18th century sugar mill, and explore our walking trails and secluded beaches. View our collection of Amerindian, African and colonial artifacts. Relax and celebrate under ancient trees and among tropical flora and fauna.

Price: Guided tours \$10US. Self-guided tours: \$5US.

Hours: 7 days a week from 8 am - 6 pm. You can drop by any time for a self-guided tour (US\$ 5). For guided tours, meals, or to book the grounds for an event, please call ahead.

Cape Moule a Chique Lighthouse



Drive time from the villa: About 50 minutes.

Location: Near the airport in Vieux Fort.

The Moule-a-Chique Lighthouse was built in 1912 and is said to be the world's second highest lighthouse. Its actual height is 740 feet above sea level and is located on the southernmost tip of Saint Lucia. Known for its breathtaking views of the island of Saint Lucia, the location is frequented by visitors and locals alike. This lighthouse also served as guidance for sailors during World War I and provided assistance in communication during the Grenada revolution.

There does not seem to be an actual tour. It looks like you can just drive there and walk around. The views are reportedly panoramic – take your camera (bring a telephoto lens if you have one) and binoculars. Walk up from the base for a lot of exercise or drive to the top to make it easier on yourself.

Fort Charlotte (Morne Fortune) and Inniskilling monument



Drive time from the villa: About 75 minutes, but traffic near Castries can really impact this.

Location: Castries.

Morne Fortuné is the summit of a ridge, which rises to a height of 852 ft from the point La Toc - the southern arm of the Castries Harbour. It was later renamed Fort Charlotte 1794 by the father of Queen Victoria of Great Britain after a battle victory.

Hike around the ruins of Morne Fortune ("good luck hill"), a former military outpost overlooking the harbor it was meant to protect. The site was hardly good luck during the 18th century: Several bloody battles between the French and the British took place here. The remains of St. Lucia's oldest structures stand here: guard cells and a powder magazine (a building used to store gunpowder and ammunition) built by the French in the 1760s, as well as French and British burial grounds.

On the summit of Morne Fortune, there is a memorial to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who were among the British troops that captured the hill from the French in 1796. This is a great spot for a panoramic view over Castries and its harbor.

We recommend you combine this with lunch at the Pink Plantation, just a short drive away.

Derek Walcott Square



Drive time from the villa: About 75 minutes, but traffic near Castries can really impact this.

Location: Castries.

St Lucia has two Nobel Prize winners: Sir William Arthur Lewis who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 1979; and Sir Derek Walcott who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992. This square has monuments to them and is a park in the center of Castries, right next to the church. The website provides information about Derek Walcott.

Pigeon Island



(758) 452-5005 or (758) 454-5014

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.