

Birdwatching, rare and endangered species, dolphins, whales and horses!

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.









### **Mystic Man Dolphin and Whale Watching Tours**







1 (800) 401-9804; Local (758) 459-7783

**Drive time from the villa:** Less than 10 minutes, although leave more time than that if you are driving yourself, as parking can be difficult.

**Location:** Soufriere near the dock.

Soufrière boasts the best areas for Whale and Dolphin Watching. The deep waters are also favorable for deep-sea fishing and Mystic Man Tours offers some of the most competitive Sport Fishing Packages in St. Lucia. For a close-up look at the island's coral reefs and marine life, Mystic Man has Snorkeling Excursions and Glassbottom Boat Tours in the protected Soufrière Marine Management Areas.

The Mystic Man boat captains work closely with other vessels from the north of the island to provide passengers with a 90% chance of Dolphin and an 80% chance of Whale sightings. Please keep in mind that the whales are usually the small species (don't expect a great white or humpback!)



#### **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.

# Maria islands tour (St Lucia Natural Trust)







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

**Drive time from the villa:** 50-60 minutes **Location:** Near the airport in Vieux Fort.

The Maria Islands were declared a Nature Reserve in 1982 by the Government of Saint Lucia in recognition of their special function as a wildlife habitat and their unique flora and fauna.

There are over eighty (80) plant species found on Maria Islands. The island is home to five endemic reptile species such as the world's rarest snake – the Kouwés snake (Saint Lucia Racer), The Saint Lucia whiptail (Zandou), The Worm Snake (nonpoisonous), The Pygmy and Rock geckos as well as several species of cacti and undisturbed tropical plants.

The knowledgeable guide escorts visitors to Maria Major by a local fishing boat, which pulls ashore on one of the most spectacular white sand beaches. The exciting walk showcases the unique and breathtaking views of the town of Vieux Fort the Pitons and the entire Pointe Sable area. The waters around islands are surrounded by coral reefs, making them great for snorkeling.

The islands may be closed in the summer due to nesting of migratory birds. Contact the St Lucia Natural trust for availability on your dates.

Price is reported at \$50US per person with a minimum of \$200 for the group. This includes round-trip transportation from the mainland to the Maria islands and a guided tour.

Tours are done by appointment only. Call 454-5014 for an appointment.

## Nature Tours with St Lucia Birding & Wildlife Ambassadors







(758) 518-8678

Drive time from the villa: ?? Location: ??

We don't know much about this company yet, but we had some guests that went birdwatching with them in June 2022 and said it was good. They appear to offer tours throughout the island. The locations mentioned below are in the southern and south-eastern part of the island.

There's one review of them on Tripadvisor: Our family hired SLBWA for the Hardcore Birding tour as we wanted to see as many areas of the island as possible with the opportunity to see as many endemics and varieties as we could. We had such an enjoyable time with Vision as our guide. He is incredibly knowledgeable about the island, birds, flora, and fauna. He took such an interest in finding us many birds. It was a highlight of our trip. We spotted 5 of 6 endemic to St. Lucia species including the Jaquot (St Lucia parrot), 13 of 14 endemic to the Lesser Antilles, & 43 species total at a dry forest, Des Cartier rainforest, wetlands, Moula Chique lighthouse, & beaches. What memories!! Highly recommend this company!