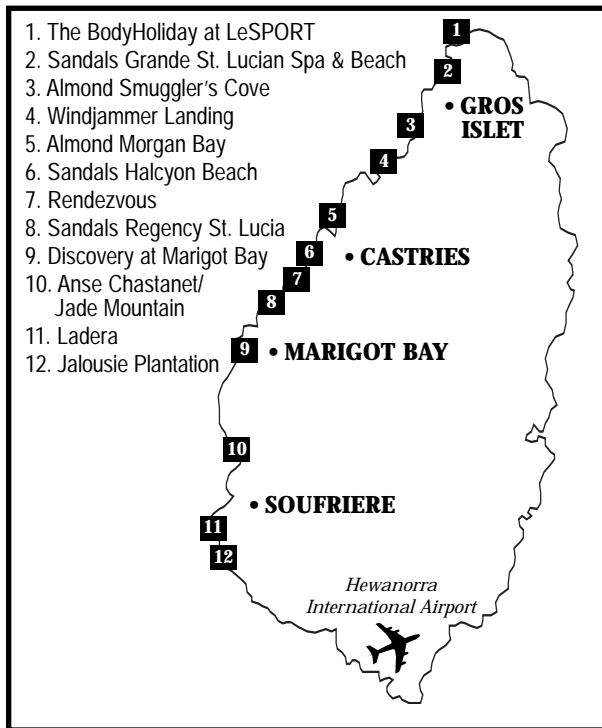


ST. LUCIA



Often classified as a boutique destination geared towards the “high-end” travel consumer, this lush Caribbean island offers world-class hotels, including many popular all-inclusive resorts, and breathtaking scenery. The island’s romantic appeal is reflected in the fact that the Weddings and Honeymoon Market is St. Lucia’s largest and fastest growing niche market. Honeymooners can bask in St. Lucia’s quiet romance, while families can enjoy an abundance of land and water activities. The island is 238 sq. miles, 27 miles long, 14 miles wide with a combination of high mountains, forests, low lying valleys and golden beaches. A central mountain range runs the length of the island, with peaks ranging between 1000 and 3145 feet. Forests dominate the mountains, while jasmine, scarlet chenille and wild orchids provide splashes of color to the lush green slopes. The rainforest is broken only by verdant fields and orchards of banana, coconut, mango and papaya trees. In natural beauty, St. Lucia seems like an island plucked from the South Pacific and set down in the Caribbean.

Everyone will love the traditional French Creole cuisine and the colonial French ambience of this stunning island paradise. No vacation to St. Lucia would be complete without exploring the island. Hike through tropical rainforests or climb the Pitons, the distinctive twin volcanic peaks to the south soaring over 2300 ft., or go biking and birding in one of the many nature preserves. Music lovers can schedule their trip around the International St. Lucia Jazz Festival each May. There is truly something for everyone in St. Lucia including romantic escapes, golf and spa getaways, nature hikes and water sports of all kinds including superb diving and snorkeling. Visitors will enjoy lively cafes, golden sand beaches, amazing natural sites, and, of course, great shopping.

GROS ISLET: (The BodyHoliday at LeSPORT, Sandals Grande St. Lucian Spa & Beach Resort, Almond Smugglers Cove, Windjammer Landing) The town of Gros Islet is popularly known as the night-life capital of St. Lucia. This fishing village just north of Castries, on the northwest tip of the island, transforms itself every Friday night into a colorful carnival scene, featuring Soca and Reggae music and a well-attended "jump up" (dancing in the streets). The Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party is a hot spot for locals and visitors alike. Picturesque Rodney Bay and Smugglers Cove are home to a number of hotels.

CASTRIES: (Almond Morgan Bay, Sandals Halcyon Beach, Sandals Regency Golf Resort & Spa, Rendezvous) Located about 1 1/2 hour drive from Hewanorra International Airport (UVF) in the northwest part of the island, Castries is a port of call for cruise ships and one of the major tourist areas in St. Lucia. The greatest concentration of hotels, resorts, and restaurants can be found in and around Castries, the island’s capital.

MARIGOT BAY: (Discovery at Marigot Bay)

A yachtsman's haven, this picturesque bay has been used for background shots in many Hollywood films such as Dr. Doolittle and Fire Power. Marigot Bay is located 5 miles south of Castries, on the Caribbean west coast of St. Lucia and is surrounded by lively bars and restaurants. Marigot is a special place - a beautiful, tranquil haven ideal for those who want to chill out and have some fun at the same time.

SOUFRIERE: (Ladera, Anse Chastanet/Jade Mountain, The Jalousie Plantation) This charming little fishing port in the southwest region of the island, St. Lucia's second-largest settlement, is dominated by two majestic mountain peaks called Petit Piton and Gros Piton. The Pitons, two volcanic cones rising to 2,283 ft. and 2,421 ft. respectively, have become the very symbol of St. Lucia. Diving and snorkeling are especially popular in and around Soufriere, one of the world's best diving locations.

St. Lucia Hotels & Ratings

★★★★☆ Discovery at Marigot Bay, Ladera, Jade Mountain*

★★★★☆ Almond Morgan Bay, The Jalousie Plantation, Anse Chastanet, The BodyHoliday at LeSPORT, Windjammer Landing Villa Resort

★★★★☆ Almond Smugglers Cove, Rendezvous

Not Rated Sandals Halcyon, Sandals Regency, Sandals Grande St. Lucian

**Currently a new luxury section of Anse Chastanet, in 2008, Jade Mountain will be featured as a separate resort.*

How to Select the Right Hotel for Your Client

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO QUALIFY YOUR ST. LUCIA-BOUND CLIENTS, AS SEVERAL HIGH-END RESORTS ARE QUITE UNIQUE IN DESIGN, AND ARE NOT TYPICAL OF RESORTS FOUND IN OTHER CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS.

UNIQUE RESORTS:

New Jade Mountain Resort, 4.5 star – Adults Only (15+) - *All-inclusive plan available.* Located high above Anse Chastanet overlooking the Pitons with its own exclusive reception area and concierge services, private club, communal pool and restaurant. Each of the spacious suites (called Sanctuaries by the hotel) has been individually designed and all feature 15ft high ceilings, bedroom/living area, an open 4th wall and a private infinity plunge pool and have breakfast included. The “sanctuaries range in size from 1,400 to 2,000 square feet! In 2007, these accommodations are listed as part of Anse Chastanet in the Vacation Express booking engine, but effective 2008, Jade Mountain will be listed as a separate hotel.

Ladera, 4.5 star – Adults Only (15+) - *All-inclusive plan available.* Primarily for couples and adults, this is laid-back luxury in a totally unique setting. Featuring 25 "open-wall" suites and villas perched 1,000 feet above the sea, overlooking the majestic twin Pitons, all with private plunge pools and award-winning Dasheene Restaurant. Conde Nast Traveler readers voted Ladera “Best of the Best” for 2006 (in the world!). No TV, no clocks, no phones (two-radios connect guests to reception/room service). Rooms do not feature a/c, but the always cooling trade winds ensure a comfortable temperature year-round. Breakfast and afternoon Tea are included for all guests. The resort offers a complimentary shuttle to Soufriere and to Jalousie and Anse Chastanet where guests can access the beach. Beach chairs are included for Ladera guests. As part of the all-inclusive plan, International liquors are included, but there is a surcharge for Premium Brand liquors and Lobster entrees. A small SPA and mineral pools are available onsite. A free wedding package is included with stays of 10 nights or more. Ladera is located a convenient 14 miles from UVF Airport and just 4 miles down the mountain to Soufriere.

Discovery at Marigot Bay, 4.5 star – *Breakfast Plan.* Luxurious, hill-side, boutique resort overlooking Marigot Bay, provides an intimate environment for guests with every possible modern amenity. Offering 124 luxurious rooms and suites, this is the perfect romantic getaway for couples or singles. A member of "Small Luxury Hotels of the World". Even though the resort does not feature an on-site beach, a beautiful white sand beach is offered a few hundred yards across the bay and is reached by a small ferry boat all day long. The Marina Village is located next to the resort and offers some small up-scale boutiques, bakery, coffee shop and art gallery. From April 28-November 2, special Family, Adventure, Dive and Celebration packages are available. Yoga, Tai Chi, Meditation and exercise classes are available as well as an elaborate SPA. The resort is located 40 miles from UVF Airport and 7 miles from Castries.

Anse Chastanet, 4 star – *All-inclusive plan available.* A truly remote one-of-a-kind 49 room hillside resort on St. Lucia's unspoiled southwestern coast, boasting spectacular views of the majestic Pitons. No two rooms are alike at Anse Chastanet and quite unique are some of the hillside suites which offer

romantic open-air showers. The resort emphasizes the use of local woods and products, which includes the bathrobes, which are made on-island using the island's national cotton called Madras. The hotel caters primarily to adults; no children under 6; no pool; deliberately techno-free (no telephones, radios or televisions). For discerning guests seeking a unique escape with outstanding water sports, a renowned SSI Platinum Pro/PADI dive facility is offered. The resort offers two beaches, one of which is accessible by the resort's water taxi. Approximately 100 steps separate the beach from the mid-hillside level, thus making the resort less appropriate for those that have difficulty walking. However, a complimentary shuttle is offered on demand to transfer guests back and forth. Some non-motorized water sports are included at no extra charge. The All-Inclusive Plan offers some nice features such as a one-hour massage, a choice of included tours and a resort scuba introductory diving course or two dives for certified divers. International and Premium Brand drinks are included. Located 18 miles from Hewanorra International Airport at Vieux Fort (UVF) and just minutes from the center of Soufriere.

The Jalousie Plantation, 4 star – *All-inclusive plan available*. 112 rooms and cottages nestled in 192 acres of rainforest offering spectacular views of the Pitons in a truly world-class setting. A 24-hour shuttle is offered for transfer throughout the property and to the beach. Features private cottages with plunge pools, a world class spa, fitness center, tennis courts, basketball, water sports, scuba diving, supervised activities for children of all ages and conference facilities. Friday nights are famous for the Caribbean Show with limbo dancers, fire eaters and local live music. Meal plans and all-inclusive options are available by calling the Vacation Express call center. The hotel is located 12 miles from UVF Airport and 6 miles from Soufriere.

FAMILY TRAVEL:

Almond Morgan Bay, 4 star – *All-inclusive*. 238 room hotel with casual, active atmosphere for singles, couples and families along a stunning stretch of black volcanic sand beach. Four inter-connected pools, swim-up bar, four restaurants, four bars, a wonderful supervised children's club (programs for all ages – infants to teens), a spa and fitness center, four lighted tennis courts and complimentary golf (one round per person per day) at St. Lucia Golf & Country Club. Live shows and entertainment are offered nightly as well as several theme nights weekly. International and Premium Brand drinks are included. Room service available during limited hours. Only 3 miles from Castries and a 2-hour drive from UVF Airport.

Windjammer Landing Villa Resort, 4 star – *All-inclusive plan available*. Relaxed village-style hill-side resort with 235 spacious suites and villas with a wide range of resort facilities, activities and amenities for families, couples and friends. Guests will enjoy an excellent sandy beachfront location and many included water sports, two swimming pool complexes with refreshing waterfalls, a full-service spa and a supervised kids club. A 24-hour shuttle runs throughout the property. In addition to the regular rooms that are all ocean view, the resort offers 1,2,3 and 4 bedroom villas, most with private pool, often at very reasonable rates. Located 50 miles from UVF Airport and 5 miles from Castries.

Almond Smugglers Cove, 3.5 star – *All-inclusive*. After a recent \$20 million renovation, this fun and lively 357 room resort, set among 65 tropical acres, offers five pools, four restaurants, four bars and countless activities. Perfect for active couples, singles and families, with supervised children's programs from infant to teen. Three rounds of golf are included at the nearby golf course for guests staying a minimum of 7nts. As an on-going special, couples enjoy a complimentary wedding package or renewal of vows package with the purchase of a 7nt stay in the Deluxe category or higher. A 90-minute drive from UVF Airport and 10 miles from Castries.

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE TRAVELER:

Sandals Halcyon Beach - Couples Only (18+) - All-inclusive – A perfect couples retreat. This 170 room resort showcases exquisite natural beauty and a warm laid-back energy. Unlimited rounds of golf at nearby Sandals Regency St. Lucian golf course with complimentary transportation to & from the course included. Exchange privileges with two nearby Sandals resorts. Free weddings are included with a minimum 7-night stay. Located 45 miles from UVF Airport and 3 miles from Castries.

Sandals Regency Golf & Spa - Couples Only (18+) - All-inclusive – 327 rooms and suites plus exclusive Sunset Bluff villas, a private enclave of villas and suites carved into the edge of a dramatic bluff

directly over the sea. Free golf at onsite 9-hole course and free Scuba diving. Complimentary dining and transfers to and from two neighboring Sandals resorts. Free weddings are included with a minimum 7-night stay. Located 34 miles from UVF Airport and 2 miles from Castries.

Rendezvous, 3.5 star - Couples Only (18+) - All-inclusive - 100 rooms nestled on 7 acres of lush tropical gardens on a 2-mile stretch of beach. Couples will experience intimate and tranquil surroundings; water sports galore (including Scuba diving!) and fine dining. In one of the restaurants a French haute cuisine dinner is served, with a different menu every 3mths, and is set with exquisite silverware, crystal glasses and fine linens, accompanied by a solo guitarist. The main restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet style. International and Premium Brand drinks are included and there is light nightly entertainment. A free wedding package is included with no minimum night stay requirement. The hotel is located 75 miles from UVF Airport and 2 miles from Castries.

THE SPA TRAVELER:

The BodyHoliday at LeSPORT, 4 star – Adults Only (16+) - All-inclusive – The 155 room LeSPORT sits on a beautiful white sand beach and is home to one of the top European-style spas in the world. LeSPORT is for active guests seeking pleasure and well being in a truly unique vacation environment. Everything is included – including many health conscious dining options, 50-minute SPA treatments for every day of your stay except arrival and departure day (select from a list of 7 pre-determined treatments), entertainment, Tai Chi, yoga, waterskiing, scuba, archery, and fitness classes all with personal instruction. And there is even an 18-hole championship golf course, all at no additional cost! Note: The hotel does not offer Room Service and from June 29 till September 28, the minimum age for kids is 12! LeSPORT is located 70 miles from UVF Airport and 2 miles from Rodney Bay in Gros Islet.

Sandals Grande St. Lucian Spa Resort - Couples Only (18+) - All-inclusive - Luxurious 280 room resort extends out into the sea on a peninsula, providing spectacular water views from all rooms. Splurge on one of the amazing swim-up suites! Beautiful sugar-white beach, five pools, four whirlpools, two swim-up bars, five restaurants, twelve bars, a full-service Red Lane Spa and fitness center, day and night tennis and exchange privileges at the two nearby Sandals resorts. Unlimited rounds of golf at nearby Sandals Regency 9-hole golf course with complimentary transportation to & from the course included. Free weddings are included with a minimum 7-night stay. Located 50 miles from UVF Airport and 2 miles from Rodney Bay in Gros Islet.

Rene’s Picks:

- 1) **For that unique Honeymoon experience:** Anse Chastanet/Jade Mountain or Ladera because of its unique settings close to the Pitons and their open wall accommodations.
- 2) **For a great Couples Only vacation or the perfect destination wedding:** Any of the Sandals Resorts
- 3) **For a great Family Vacation:** Almond Morgan Bay
- 4) **For the ultimate in SPA:** LeSPORT – world-class, award-winning Oasis Spa and included treatments.

Hotel Comparisons:

ST. LUCIA HOTELS	COMPARABLE TO:
Almond Smugglers Cove	Royal Solaris Cancun, Sunscape Puerto Aventuras, Sunset Beach Jamaica, Allegro Punta Cana
Rendezvous	Sunset at the Palms Jamaica, Bucuti Beach Resort Aruba, Grand Oasis Riviera Maya
Almond Morgan Bay	Gran Caribe Real Cancun, Riu Playacar, Punta Cana Princess, Breezes Runaway Bay Jamaica
Windjammer Landing Villa Resort	Fiesta Premier Costa Rica, Sun Village Puerto Plata
Jalousie Plantation	Couples Swept Away Jamaica, Caneel Bay St. John
Discovery at Marigot Bay	Couples Swept Away Jamaica, Caneel Bay St. John
LeSPORT	Aventura Spa Palace Mayan Riviera, Grand Velas Puerto Vallarta, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Los Cabos
Anse Chastanet	None
Jade Mountain	None
Ladera	None

Getting Married in St. Lucia:

St. Lucia has become one of the most sought after destinations for weddings and honeymooners. Vacation Express offers several popular resorts with expert wedding planners on staff who will coordinate a worry-free wedding for your clients. As St. Lucia is known for its secluded beaches and radiant sunsets, a sunset wedding in the sand is a great choice. However, hotels will gladly accommodate couples seeking to do something more traditional. Special wedding packages are available at several romantic St. Lucia hotels.

Let Vacation Express assist with your St. Lucia destination wedding, including air and hotel arrangements for all wedding guests.

Marriage Requirements:

- No blood tests are required to get married in St. Lucia.
- There is a four-day residency requirement, which is exactly how long it will take to get the license, provided you present the required documents:
These include birth certificates or passports and change of name documents, if applicable.
- Couples will also need proof of divorce or the death certificate of a deceased spouse, if applicable.
- Finally, an affidavit from one of the parties is required.

Expect to pay about US\$200 for the license.

Tours & Activities:

CULTURE HERITAGE TOURS:

Fond Latisab Creole Park: Babonneau: Experience the truly St Lucian way of life, with a tour that takes you to a community in Babonneau called Fond Assau. There you will experience traditional practices such as preparation of cassava bread, cooking on macambou leaves, catching crayfish in the river, collecting honey from a beehive and the very authentic display of wood-sawing while in Chak Chak band plays traditional music in the background.

Castries Heritage Walk: The historic buildings of Castries come alive as well informed tour guides take you on a walk through the architectural history of an old colonial island city, whilst at the same time enjoying the spirit and life of the modern Caribbean.

Pigeon Island National Landmark: Pigeon Island contains more history than any other part of St Lucia. Once the home of the Amerindians it has been a pirate hideout and military base. Visit Fort Charlotte, now a college but once the site of some of the firecast fighting between the French and the British. Or view the Choiseul Heritage site, a village rich in history, crafts and offering spectacular views.

PLANTATION TOURS:

Fond d'Or Nature Historic Park: Enjoy the tropical island's natural beauty on a tour that combines historical St Lucia with the tranquility of a nature site. The Fond d'Or Nature Historic Park includes symbols of the Amerindian settlement and historical buildings of the sugar age. Follow a hiking trail through an estuarine tropical forest to a wide white sand beach that is frequented by nesting Leatherback Turtles, then visit and relax at the Interpretation Centre. From there, drive to the Latille Waterfall where a twenty-foot waterfall surrounded by lush vegetation and additional pools await you.

Fond Doux Estate: Follow the scenic country road to a tropical Caribbean-style working plantation called where you will heighten your senses by smelling, touching and tasting a variety of tropical fruits and plants. Once you have explored the plantation you can relax in the plantation house sipping local rum punch, local fruit juices and coconut water before being treated to an authentic Creole Lunch.

Morne Coubaril & Marquis Estates: There's the 400-Acre La Sikwi Sugar Mill plantation with a museum, theatre and a 40ft waterwheel. The Morne Coubaril Estate with its worker's village, sugar mill, manioc and cocoa houses is a meticulously preserved museum, restaurant and botanical garden. The Marquis Estate is another nearby plantation where you can tour and see the production of St Lucia's main export crops, bananas and copra.

BOTANICAL GARDENS:

Diamond Botanical Gardens: The Diamond Botanical Gardens in Soufriere features mineral baths and a picturesque waterfall.

Mamiku Gardens: On the Vieux Fort Highway, Mamiku Gardens which encircle the ruins of an 18th Century Micoud Estate.

Bonne Terre Tropica Gardens: Less than 15 minutes from Castries and 5 minutes from Rodney Bay, there are 4 acres of lush gardens and a beautiful plantation house included in the tour.

SOFT ADVENTURE:

Maria Island: The Maria Island experience takes you through the backroads to Vieux Fort and by boat to the home of two species found nowhere else in the world: the Kouwes Snake and the Zandoli Terre lizard.

Fregate Island Tour: Fregate Island Tour, visits the small fishing village of Praslin and the Fregate Island Nature Reserve, a tropical sanctuary for rare birds, Southern Safari takes you to the islands interior from North to South. Heritage Sunday is held weekly during the summer.

Soufrière: View the majestic Pitons as you travel to the Diamond Waterfall located in a beautiful botanical garden surrounded by nature's finest plants and flowers. From the Diamond Waterfall, drive through the quaint town of Soufriere to the world's only drive-in volcano with its bubbling holes of sulphuric waters.

Anse La Raye Adventure: Visit the traditional fishing village of Anse La Raye, where you can explore the waterfront with its quaint wooden houses, colourful fishing boats and perhaps see bread making in a traditional bakery. Head inland to visit a beautiful waterfall set in enchanting tropical tranquility.

Nightlife:

There is definitely always something to do or somewhere to go in St. Lucia. Hotel guests can always be assured of being entertained on property with nightly shows and musical treats from Jazz to Reggae to Soca. Some properties also provide transportation to the nightly hot spots. For those who prefer an evening of fine dining before retiring to a quiet night's rest, it's easy to find a getaway at a number of fine restaurants.

The Town of Gros Islet is popularly known as the nightlife capital of St. Lucia. There is nightly activity in the Rodney Bay area, from quiet fine dining to just chilling at a popular bar or grabbing a pizza at a nearby pizzeria. However, the weekends are for partying and they definitely know how to party!

Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party: The longest running street party in St. Lucia, the Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party is a hot spot for locals and visitors alike. With the islands DJs and the occasional appearance of local artists, one would be hard pressed not to enjoy themselves. You can find a variety of barbecue grills serving mouth-watering local cuisine including chicken, pork and sea food. Gros Islet Friday Night is a must-stop for any visitor who loves to party.

Anse-la-Raye Seafood Friday: The Village of Anse-la-Raye, located on the west coast just south of Castries offers the alternate Friday Party with its Seafood Friday. Traditionally a fishing village, Anse-la-Raye offers the spoils of its labors to all visitors. Whether you crave the catch of the day or desire a delightful delicacy such as squid, octopus, shrimp or lobster, you're seafood craving is sure to be satisfied. Not to be outdone Anse-La-Raye also boasts its ability to get you grooving to a wide variety of Caribbean music. Anse-la-Raye, definitely another hot spot every Friday night...

Shopping:

While store hours vary from establishment to establishment, you will find the majority are open from 8:30AM to 4:30PM Monday to Friday. The Castries Market is particularly vibrant on Saturdays, especially during St. Lucia Jazz and Carnival. Most shops are open Saturdays regularly from 8:30AM to 12:30PM, while the major shopping centers are open in the afternoon as well. With the exception of the marina-based shops, shopping is generally closed on Sundays.

In and around St. Lucia's city capital of Castries - Pointe Seraphine, a harbor-front shopping complex, offers duty-free designer perfumes, crystal, china, jewelry, cigars and clothing as well as wood carvings and other local arts and crafts in more than 20 modern shops. The 100-year old Castries market is a must-see for visitors to the island, where local vendors offer visitors a variety of island memorabilia, spices and foods, and local fishermen offer the catch of the day. Gablewoods shopping center, just north of Castries, offers a full array of shops and services including international books and news, postal services, restaurants and a supermarket. J.Q. Shopping Mall in Rodney Bay boasts 54 shops which offer everything from jam to jewelry. In Castries at Artsibits Gallery you can find St. Lucia's distinctive paintings and carvings. And just 2 miles south of Castries on La Toc Road you will find the studios of Sydney Bagshaw, a skilled local artisan with shops at Pointe Seraphine and La Place Carenage.

St. Lucia is very proud of its heritage in the arts. For a taste, head to the Eudovic studios in Goodlands 10 minutes south of Castries to see beautiful works of art sculpted from wood or combine sightseeing and shopping at the 100 year-old Caribelle hilltop house, where you can watch artisans make batik and screen-prints while you shop in the exotic boutique. On the southern coast of the island you will find the Choiseul Arts & Crafts center, a wonderful source of hand-woven baskets, unique placemats, chairs and woodcarvings.

In Soufriere you will find local and resort-run shops with a variety of gifts, clothing and local art. At the north end of the waterfront on Maurice Mason Street walk, you will find the town market where all sorts of gift items are available.

Gros Islet, on the north end of the island, offers a beautiful setting for shopping whether you are arriving by yacht or staying in one of the district's world-renowned resorts. The Rodney Bay Marina offers a modern shopping arcade with a selection of stores and services including gift items, clothing, banking and restaurants. For golfing needs, the St. Lucia Golf & Country Club offers a full selection of equipment at the Pro Shop.

Dining:

For such a small island, St. Lucia offers a large variety of excellent cuisine, from European and International restaurants offering romantic candlelight dinners and sophisticated ambiance to casual dining that features savory local specialties like callaloo, curry, and peppercorn stew. Whatever the choice, dining is likely to be al fresco, and the island's natural beauty provides sensory delights to complement the palate.