



Fort-de-France

Photo: Crobard / Shutterstock.com



Tony Moran / Shutterstock.com

With its unique mix of Creole culture and European cosmopolitanism, the French overseas territory of Martinique, and in particular the capital of Fort-de-France, has just the right blend of tradition and sophistication. First-class shopping and dining combine with a fascinating artistic legacy in a quickly developing city, where modern construction projects are reinvigorating urban life. But the main draw remains the surrounding natural beauty of the island, which, with its looming volcanic peak, lush tropical rain forests and picture-perfect beaches, has captivated visitors for centuries.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit ArrivalGuides.com



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Top 5



Bibliothèque Schoelcher
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Fort St. Louis
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La Savane
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Balata Botanical Gardens
The Balata Botanical Gardens, situated slightly inland from Fort-de-France, ...



Route de la Trace
The scenic stretch of highway N3 that runs from Fort-de-France all the way t...



THE CITY



Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com

Fort-de-France is finally living up to its potential and becoming the up-and-coming city many knew it could be. There has always been plenty there to exploit, from the 'One of the World's Most Beautiful Bays' (an honor recently bestowed upon the Fort-de-France Bay) to the historical landmarks dating back to the early days of colonisation, to the eclectic and sophisticated Creole cuisine, to the incomparable natural beauty of the surrounding area. The city has been called 'the Paris of the Caribbean', and though this may be a bit of an exaggeration, there are solid reasons for the comparison.

Recent development projects are finally coming to fruition, renewing the central park of La Savane and the wonderful beachside promenade, and more projects are planned for the future which will surely make Fort-de-France one of the most appealing, walkable, beautiful and cosmopolitan cities in the Caribbean. Also take the chance to explore the surrounding areas, climb Mount Pelée, visit natural reserves and revel at some of the island's dream-like beaches.

DO & SEE



Lisa Strachan / Shutterstock.com

The picturesque seaside city of Fort-de-France offers plenty in the way of sights and attractions, including beautiful historical buildings, an imposing fort and ample walkability, but it is best used as a home-base for exploring the natural surroundings of the island of Martinique. Laze at idyllic beaches from coast to coast, hike up the commanding Mount Pelée, and marvel at the lush, tropical beauty of the island. The more historically-minded can check out the Musée de la Pagerie or contemplate the solemn Anse Cafard Slave Memorial, a sobering reminder of the country's and region's tumultuous past.

Bibliothèque Schoelcher



Named after Victor Schoelcher, a leader in the fight to free slaves in the Caribbean during the 19th century, this beautiful public library is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Fort-de-France. It was first built in Paris for the 1889 World Exposition, then taken apart and shipped to Martinique to be reassembled as it is seen today.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Victor Sévère, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon 1pm-5:30pm, Tue-Thu 8:30am-5:30pm, Fri 8:30am-5pm, Sat 8:30am-12pm

Phone: +596 596 55 68 30

Fort St. Louis



The imposing Fort St. Louis, which towers 200 feet over a steep cliff offers some of the best views of both city and sea. The original construction dates back to 1640, but little of that remains, and what can be seen today is largely composed of later additions. Reopened in 2014, tours are now available in several languages.

Photo: Aristoi / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)
Address: Boulevard Chevalier, Sainte-Marthe, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Tue-Sat 9am-4pm
Phone: +596 596 754 144

La Savane



La Savane is a vast and meticulously landscaped park with lots of trees, benches and fountains, the heart of public life in Fort-de-France with

shopping, dining and entertainment options all around. Locals gather at the many cafes at all hours of the day, and visitors use it as a springboard from which to explore the surrounding sights.

Photo: Caio Vinícius Reis de Carvalho / Flickr (image cropped)
Address: Boulevard Chevalier De Sainte-Martine, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 73 97 72

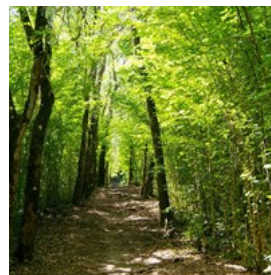
Balata Botanical Gardens



The Balata Botanical Gardens, situated slightly inland from Fort-de-France, are a lush, 3-hectare expanse of green that contain a beguiling range of flora, comprising over 3,000 different species. The grounds are carefully landscaped, tailored and looked after, and the view from the suspended rope bridges is enchanting.

Photo: Mica / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)
Address: Km 10, Route de Balata, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Daily 9am-6pm
Internet: www.jardindebalata.fr
Email: jardin-balata@wanadoo.fr

Route de la Trace



The scenic stretch of highway N3 that runs from Fort-de-France all the way to Mount Pelée, better known as Route de la Trace, follows an old route carved out by the Jesuit missionaries of the 1600's, running through beautiful expanses of thick rain-forest. Stunning hiking trails branch off from the main route should be thoroughly explored to get an idea of the wild natural beauty of Martinique.

Photo: next-step / pixabay.com
Address: Route de la Trace, Highway N3, Martinique

Mount Pelée



The imposing Mount Pelée towers over the island of Martinique with a menacing gaze. The volcano is going through a quiet phase, but it is still active, and as recently as 1902 had a violent eruption that destroyed the city of Saint-Pierre. Visitors today can hike up to the summit and marvel at the views on a clear day.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)
Address: Mount Pelée, Martinique

Sainte-Anne



Sainte-Anne, Martinique's southernmost village, is one of the island's prettiest towns. It is often frequented by visitors for its shops and restaurants, as well as its great crafts market, but the biggest draw to the area are the wonderful beaches, like the idyllic Les Salines, just a short distance away.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com
Address: Sainte-Anne, Martinique

Le Carbet



Located between, Fort-de-France and Saint-Pierre, the village of Le Carbet is a place of special historical importance, as it was the landing site for Christopher Columbus' fourth and final voyage to the Caribbean in 1502. Today this village houses some fantastic gardens, including Latouche's Creek Garden, which boasts over 200 species of tropical plants.

Photo: dpvue studio / Shutterstock.com
Address: Le Carbet, Martinique

Diamond Rock



Lying some 3 kilometres off the southern coast of Martinique, Diamond Rock is an imposing 175-metre high rocky island, once claimed by the British as a ship (the HMS Diamond Rock), before being reclaimed by the French. Today it is known as one of the island's best dive spots.

Photo: T photography / Shutterstock.com
Address: Diamond Rock, Martinique

Caravelle Peninsula



Caravelle Peninsula is a narrow strip of land that shoots out into the Caribbean waters from the east coast of Martinique. It is protected as a nature reserve and thus wonderfully unspoiled, and it is home to a large number of animal and plant species, making it a fascinating place for a hike.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com
Address: Caravelle Peninsula, Martinique

Ajoupa-Bouillon



Ajoupa-Bouillon, located at the foot of Mount Pelée, is an area renowned for its natural beauty, featuring lush tropical landscapes. There are hiking trails leading through the forest, along ravines and past waterfalls. The Ajoupa Gardens also display an abundance of

colourful flowers and plants.

Photo: Greudin / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Ajoupa-Bouillon, Martinique

Les Salines



With one kilometre of soft, warm sand, clear, tranquil water and idyllic coconut palms lining the whole area, Les Salines is one of the most popular

beaches in Martinique. Families tend to crowd it a bit on weekends, but during the week it tends to be less hectic.

Photo: DPiX Center / Shutterstock.com

Address: Les Salines, Martinique

Pointe Du Bout



Directly across the city of Fort-de-France, on the other side of the bay of the same name, lies Pointe Du Bout, Martinique's most

popular resort area. The streets are lined with quaint boutiques, breezy cafes and great restaurants, prompting many to hop on the regular ferries departing from the Fort-de-France Marina in search of entertainment, shopping and fun in the sun.

Photo: Anna Jedynak / Shutterstock.com

Address: Pointe Du Bout, Martinique

Musée de la Pagerie



The magnificently preserved Musée de la Pagerie is a former sugar estate and the birthplace of Marie Joseph Rose Tascher de la Pagerie, better known as Empress Josephine, Napoleon Bonaparte's first wife. A guide will take you through the estate to admire the numerous artifacts and share fascinating stories from Josephine's childhood.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com

Address: Quartier Pagerie, Trois-Ilets, Martinique

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 9am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 9:30am-1pm

Phone: +596 596 68 34 55

Anse Cafard Slave Memorial



The shores of Le Diamant are home to one of the Caribbean's most impressive and sobering memorials to the region's history of slavery. The 20 beautiful statues face out towards the water with their heads bowed down, in honor of the 20 victims of a slave ship sinking that took place in 1835.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com

Address: Le Diamant, Martinique

DINING



Lucy Liu / Shutterstock.com

Martinique owes its eclectic culinary tradition to a mix of cultures and influences, creating Creole specialties that combine French sophistication with African spice and flavour, drawing also on Asian ideas. Seafood features prominently on any menu, including shellfish, smoked fish, crab, stewed conch and curry dishes. Start your meal with a mixed rum drink and finish with a fine vintage, and indulge in the flavours and aromas of the rich Martinican cuisine.

Chez Carole



Chez Carole is a Fort-de-France institution, a favourite among locals and visitors alike. The colourful setting and kitchen, the small but cosy dining area, the internationally famous hospitality of the restaurant's eponymous owner, and most importantly, the top-notch Creole cuisine bring many to dine at the modest place located in the Grand Marche Couvert.

Photo: JoannaTkaczuk / Shutterstock.com
Address: Grand Marche Couvert, Rue Isambert,
Fort-de-France

The Yellow



The Yellow comes highly recommended by many in the tourism industry in Martinique for its fantastic typical cuisine, consisting largely of fish, rice, vegetables and mashed plantains, as well as seafood specialties, like fish chowder, and other options, such as duck or steak.

Photo: Shebeko / Shutterstock.com
Address: 59 Rue Victor Hugo, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 75 03 59

La Cave a Vins



Come to La Cave a Vins, in downtown Fort-de-France, for sublime French cuisine in cosy surroundings. Dishes include duck breast with foie gras and mushroom ravioli. The desserts, most notably the mango pie with vanilla ice cream, will off your meal to perfection.

Photo: Endla / Shutterstock.com
Address: 124, Rue Victor Hugo, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-2pm and 7:30pm-9:30pm
Phone: + 596 596 70 33 02
Email: lacaveavins@wanadoo.fr

Agua Na Boca



This great restaurant serves up traditional Brazilian cuisine with traditional Brazilian flair. Colourful cocktails and samba dancing often accompany Agua Na Boca's evening mealtimes of meat and french fries, rice, beans, shrimp and other delectable specialties.

Photo: diogoppr / Shutterstock.com

Address: 205 Route de Redoute, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon-Tue, Thu-Fri 11am-2pm and 7pm-10pm,
Sat 7pm-10pm

Phone: +596 596 771 452

Email: aguanaboca55@gmail.com

Lili's Beach Bar and Grill



Welcome to the coolest spot in Martinique. Lili's Beach Bar and Grill exudes confidence and style, despite its laid-back approach to life. Great

food and creative, refreshing drinks are served directly on the beach in Lili's private little cove, where a mix of Martiniquais and foreigners revel in the sun.

Photo: iko / Shutterstock.com

Address: Schoelcher, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-12am, Sat-Sun 10am-2am

Phone: +596 596 42 89 02

Internet: www.lilisbeachbar.com

Email: edward@lilisbeachbar.com

Le Bleu Marine



Located in the Bateliere hotel complex in Schoelcher, Le Bleu Marine is a classy restaurant and bar perched on a magnificent

terrace that overlooks the clear waters below. It is the perfect place from which to admire soothing Caribbean sunset over a romantic meal or with a cool drink in hand.

Photo: Antonio Sastre / Shutterstock.com

Address: 20, rue des Alizés, Schoelcher

Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-1:30pm and 7pm-9:30pm

Phone: +596 596 61 49 49

Internet: www.la-bateliere.com

Email: restauration@hotelbateliere.com

Garage Popular



Simple fare and affordable drinks are the norm at Garage Popular, a simple but often crowded car-themed restaurant and pub in

downtown Fort-de-France. They often host special events, like karaoke nights and themed parties, and screen big sporting events, mainly football.

Photo: g-stockstudio / Shutterstock.com

Address: 121 Rue Lamartine, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon 12pm-11pm, Tue-Thu 12pm-11:45pm,

Fri 12pm-2am, Sat 6pm-2am

Phone: +596 596 79 86 76

Maximus Restaurant



Elegant and sleek Maximus, in eastern Fort-de-France, serves modern, creative and daring recipes within French and Creole

cuisine. Located right next to the restaurant is Maximus Club, a popular nightclub and the perfect place to keep the night going after your meal.

Photo: Brent Hofacker / Shutterstock.com

Address: Pont de Californie, Imm Les Coraux, Le Lamentin

Opening hours: Mon 12pm-2:30pm, Tue-Thu 12pm-2:30pm

and 7:30pm-10pm, Fri 12pm-2:30pm and 7:30pm-3am, Sat

7:30pm-3am

Phone: +596 596 50 16 37

Internet: www.maximus.fr/resto/

Email: restaurantdumaximus@gmail.com

Melting Pot



For a quick and simple snack or light meal, try Melting Pot. It is a fast-service pasta bar with a format that allows staff members to prepare and pack your meal in the blink of an eye, so you can take it with you still warm and freshly made, perfect for eating on the go.

Photo: Joe Gough / Shutterstock.com
Address: 106 Rue Victor Sévère, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 736 137

Tomawok



After the success of their restaurant in Ducos, Tomawok has recently opened a second location in Fort-de-France. It is no surprise that they have done well, for their winning formula of speed, transparency in preparation, nutritional balance and tasty results has won them many loyal customers.

Photo: stockcreations / Shutterstock.com
Address: 4 Rue Ledru Rollin, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-3:30pm, Sat 11am-2pm
Phone: +596 596 63 46 67

Paul



Paul's much-loved chain of boulangeries needs no introduction. With locations all over the world and a reputation for fresh pastries, delicious coffee and great snacks, it's no wonder Paul remains one of the top cafes in Fort-de-France.

Photo: mavo / Shutterstock.com
Address: Centre Commercial Perrinon, Rue Perrinon, Fort-de-France
Internet: www.boulangeries-paul.com
Email: paulmartinique@gmail.com

Le Petit Tonneau



An authentic Portuguese restaurant in the middle of Fort-de-France, Le Petit Tonneau offers a great alternative to Caribbean food which includes escargots, frog legs, duck, steak, bacalhau and more.

Photo: Jorge Manso / Shutterstock.com
Address: 32 Avenue Frantz Fanon, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 61 19 17

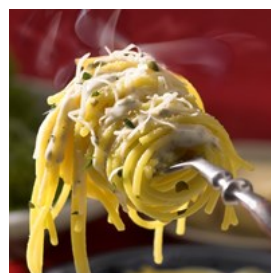
Nuevo Mejico



Nuevo Mejico is a prime exponent of tex-mex cuisine, offering all the staples you would expect, from tacos and burritos to quesadillas, fajitas, chimichangas and enchiladas. The menu even includes other dishes, such as pasta, so there is no shortage of options.

Photo: svariophoto / Shutterstock.com
Address: 108 Rue Ernest Deproge, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 60 60 21
Email: nuevomejico@wanadoo.fr

La Tavola Italiana



La Tavola Italiana may not look like much from the outside, but venture into the bright interior with its checkered-tile floor and colourful walls

and let yourself be impressed by the high-quality Italian cuisine. The best dishes are those that include seafood, and it would be a mistake not to try a dessert.

Photo: fotohavran.eu / Shutterstock.com
Address: 70 Route de Didier, Fort-de-France
Phone: +596 596 64 24 58
Internet: www.la-tavola-italiana.com

Ti Balcon



Located in a modest villa just minutes north of Fort-de-France, Ti Balcon offers fine French and Creole cuisine, and is a temple of traditional

Caribbean music, often featuring live performances and dancing, from calypso to salsa and son cubano.

Photo: Kzenon / Shutterstock.com
Address: 94 Route de la Folie, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Tue-Thu 12pm-3pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-3pm and 8pm-12am, Sun 12pm-5pm
Phone: +596 596 39 21 22
Email: resto.tibalcon@gmail.com

CAFES



Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com

Coffee has been produced on Martinique since the 1700's, when a naval officer stole a seed and brought it to the Caribbean. For about half a century after that, Martinique was the most

important coffee producer in the world, and the inheritance from that time is still palpable today. Exquisite cafes can be found throughout the island striving to brew that perfect cup of coffee. Try some of the boutique cafes or pop into a chain boulangerie in Fort-de-France for a quick snack and caffeine boost.

La Cave a Vins



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breast with foie gras and mushroom ravioli. The desserts, most notably the mango pie with vanilla ice cream, will top off your meal to perfection.

Photo: Endla / Shutterstock.com
Address: 124, Rue Victor Hugo, Fort-de-France
Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-2pm and 7:30pm-9:30pm
Phone: + 596 596 70 33 02
Email: lacaveavins@wanadoo.fr

Paul



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delicious coffee and great snacks, it's no wonder Paul remains one of the top cafes in Fort-de-France.

Photo: mavo / Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.boulangeries-paul.com
Email: paulmartinique@gmail.com

La P'tite Madeleine



As one of the coolest and most modern cafes on the whole island, La P'tite Madeleine has tons of options, many of them creative and

cosmopolitan, from bubble tea to milkshakes and frappes, decadent muffins and pastries, and of course, the eponymous madeleines.

Photo: vm2002 / Shutterstock.com

Address: 7 rue Blénac, Fort-De-France

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 8:30am-6pm, Fri 8:30am-11pm

Phone: +596 596 35 74 94

Email: lpm.antilles@gmail.com

Le Panda Rice Bar



The Panda is an innovative fast food concept dedicated to rice. It may not sound too exciting, but the sheer variety of choices based

on various types of rice, local dishes and fresh produce is really impressive and intriguing. The sweets and desserts are also mostly rice-based, and all gluten-free.

Photo: travellight / Shutterstock.com

Address: 62 Avenue des Caraïbes, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-3:30pm

Phone: +596 596 77 62 28

Email: lepandafortdefrance@gmail.com

Cafe Boheme



Cafe Boheme is a simple but cosy little cafe that serves some simple dishes like quiche, salad and open-faced sandwiches, as well as a

wide array of desserts that includes but is by no

means limited to pastries, cakes and apple pie.

Be sure to also try one of their fruit juices served in glass jars.

Photo: Jacob Lund / Shutterstock.com

Address: 28 Route de Clairière, Fort-De-France

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-6pm

Phone: +596 596 73 94 76

Email: cafeboheme.martinique@gmail.com

Saint-Lys Café



Saint-Lys Café surprises as much for its friendly service as it does for its great selection of meals, snacks and refreshments. Coffee and a muffin?

They've got that. Wrap and a milkshake? They've got that too. A full Caribbean meal with a fresh fruit smoothie? Coming right up!

Photo: Family Business / Shutterstock.com

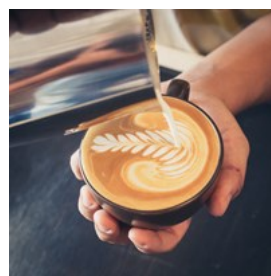
Address: 2 rue du Professeur Raymond Garcin, Fort-De-France

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-3pm

Phone: +596 596 50 46 21

Email: contact@saintlys.com

Coffee And.



Coffee And is a new concept coffee bar that combines a love of coffee with a passion for art and a flair for showmanship. Cool cocktails and coffee

from around the world (Colombia, Ethiopia and Jamaica, among other places) accompany delectable cupcakes, macarons, chocolate mousse and other delicacies, all against the backdrop of steadily changing art exhibits.

Photo: Coffee Lover / Shutterstock.com

Address: Centre Commercial Le Patio, Schœlcher

Opening hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat 8am-2pm, Wed, Fri

8am-6pm

Phone: +596 596 51 80 52

Email: coffee-and@orange.fr

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com

There is plenty to do in Martinique once the sun sets and the cool evening breeze starts to blow. Excellent dining and drinking can be found in and around Fort-de-France, at fancy beachfront locations or grittier downtown joints. The best evening entertainment, however, is to be found in the island's cultural arena, at theatres and performance venues where local troupes put on fantastic performances of Martinique's traditional music and dances.

Lili's Beach Bar and Grill



Photo: iko / Shutterstock.com

Phone: +596 596 42 89 02

Internet: www.lilisbeachbar.com

Email: edward@lilisbeachbar.com

Le Bleu Marine



Located in the Bateliere hotel complex in Schoelcher, Le Bleu Marine is a classy restaurant and bar perched on a magnificent terrace that overlooks the clear waters below. It is the perfect place from which to admire soothing Caribbean sunset over a romantic meal or with a cool drink in hand.

Photo: Antonio Sastre / Shutterstock.com

Address: 20, rue des Alizés, Schoelcher, Fort-de-France

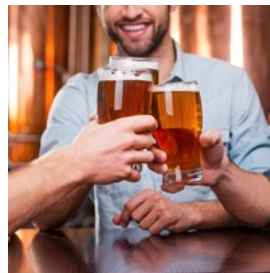
Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-1:30pm and 7pm-9:30pm

Phone: +596 596 61 49 49

Internet: www.la-bateliere.com

Email: restauration@hotelbateliere.com

Garage Popular



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Photo: g-stockstudio / Shutterstock.com

Address: 121 Rue Lamartine, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon 12pm-11pm, Tue-Thu 12pm-11:45pm,

Fri 12pm-2am, Sat 6pm-2am

Phone: +596 596 79 86 76

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Photo: Brent Hofacker / Shutterstock.com

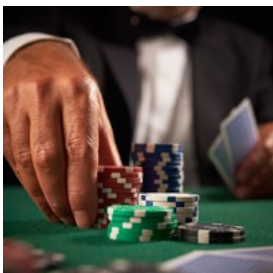
Opening hours: Mon 12pm-2:30pm, Tue-Thu 12pm-2:30pm and 7:30pm-10pm, Fri 12pm-2:30pm and 7:30pm-3am, Sat 7:30pm-3am

Phone: +596 596 50 16 37

Internet: www.maximus.fr/resto/

Email: restaurantdumaximus@gmail.com

Casino Batelière Plaza



If you're feeling lucky, test your skills at poker or the whim of fortune on roulette and try to earn back some of your vacation expenses. Casino

Batelière Plaza is the island's premier casino, which besides the usual games also hosts live musical performances and other events.

Photo: 18percentgrey / Shutterstock.com

Address: Casino Batelière Plaza, Résidence les Alizés de Batelière, Schoelcher

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-3am, Fri-Sat 10am-4am, Sun 10am-12am

Phone: +596 596 61 73 23

Internet: www.casinobateliereplazza.com

Email: bateliere.plazza@groupecogit.com

Tropiques Atrium Scène Nationale de Martinique



Tropiques Atrium Scène Nationale de Martinique is the island's foremost cultural institution, regularly putting on concerts, plays,

workshops, exhibitions and other artistic and cultural events. Check the website to find out what's on the programme during your visit.

Photo: aerogondo2 / Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 rue Jacques Cazotte, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-1am

Phone: +596 596 70 79 29

Internet: www.tropiques-atrimum.fr

Email: info@tropiques-atrimum.fr

Les Grands Ballets Martiniquais



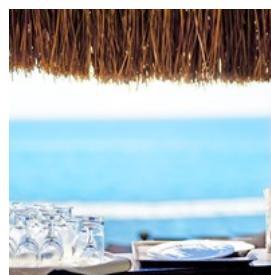
Les Grands Ballets Martiniquais is a troupe of about thirty dancers, musicians, singers and choreographers who put on spectacular displays of

the traditional music and dances of Martinique. They regularly tour the island, hitting theatres, hotels and other venues, so check their website to see where they will be during your visit.

Photo: Frameme / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Internet: www.grandballetdemartinique.fr

Hotel Bakoua



Hotel Bakoua, across the bay from Fort-de-France, offers different form of nighttime entertainment, including occasional live jazz and even swimsuit

fashion shows. The hotel has several dining and nightlife venues, including the Coco Bar, a beach

bungalow on stilts over the water.

Photo: kosmos111 / Shutterstock.com

Address: Pointe du Bout, Les Trois-Îlets

Phone: +596 596 66 02 02

Internet: www.hotel-bakoua.fr/en/

Wahoo Café



Martinique's quintessential beach bar, with a dream location by the sea facing the sunset, Wahoo Bar has swagger, attitude and personality

to spare. It boasts an effortlessly cool and laid-back vibe where crowds gather to drink, dance and groove to the frequent live music.

Photo: Rawpixel.com / Shutterstock.com

Address: Plage de Grande Anse, Le Carbet

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 4pm-9pm, Fri-Sat 4pm-2am, Sun 3pm-10pm

Phone: +596 696 89 96 33

Le Zinc du Nord Caraïbes



Le Zinc du Nord Caraïbes is a charming little bar with a unique and quirky flair and heaps of attitude. Evenings here start off quiet and relaxed

but inevitably turn into raucous affairs full of dancing, karaoke, occasional live performances and uncontrollable smiles.

Photo: bogdanhoda / Shutterstock.com

Address: 145 Rue Bouille, Saint-Pierre

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 11:30am-12am, Fri-Sat 11:30am-2am

Phone: +596 696 89 60 29

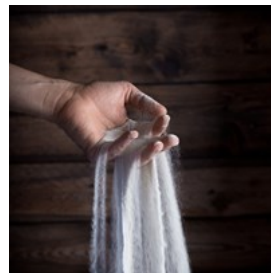
SHOPPING



Ollyy / Shutterstock.com

Martinique is one of the better shopping destinations in the Caribbean, with a wide variety of shops and boutiques showcasing everything from local crafts and jewelry in the best Creole tradition to stunning artwork and the latest in French fashion, fresh off of Parisian catwalks. The numerous markets can also be a fascinating visit, offering the chance to wander through colourful stalls browsing fresh produce, spices and local rum, for a memorable and authentic Martinican experience.

Art et Nature



Art et Nature showcases some of Martinique's most unique artwork. Created using different types of sand and over 300 different colours

from natural soil (all collected on the island), the pieces on sale here depict Martinican scenes and landscapes, making them the perfect souvenir of gift.

Photo: Lukas Gojda / Shutterstock.com

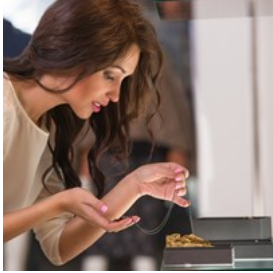
Address: Poterie des Trois-Îlets, Trois-Îlets

Phone: +596 596 62 59 19

Internet: www.artetnaturemartinique.com

Email: gerard@artetnaturemartinique.com

Bijouterie Pascal de Rogatis



Bijouterie Pascal de Rogatis has taken pride in celebrating Creole culture and tradition through the creation of jewelry since 1946.

Rings, earrings, necklaces and more, all reflecting the traditional crafts of the island, are forged into unique and beautiful pieces.

Photo: Milles Studio / Shutterstock.com

Address: 47 rue Isambert, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm, Sat 9am-1pm

Phone: +596 596 71 36 78

Internet: www.bijouterie-pascal-derogatis.fr

Email: pascalderogatis@orange.fr

Grand Marché



The small and manageable Grand Marché, also known as the Marché aux Épices (Spice Market), has been in use since 1885,

operating as the Fort-de-France's main market place, where Martiniquais purchase fresh produce, spices, rum, crafts and souvenirs. The colourful stalls are especially lively in the early mornings, and it is worth getting up to see.

Photo: Pack-Shot / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Antoine Isambert, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 6am-4pm, Sat 6am-3pm

Phone: +596 596 63 58 79

Galerie Sophen



Located in the area of Trois Ilets, Galerie Sophen showcases original watercolor creations by artists Sophie and Henry. Each

work of art is completely unique (they vow not to sell reproductions, but only original pieces) and depicts gentle island scenes ranging from sailboats to wildlife, all full of colour and life, yet understated and beautiful in their simplicity.

Photo: Kuznetcov_Konstantin / Shutterstock.com

Address: 208 Bâtiment Vermeil, Résidence Marina, Trois Ilets

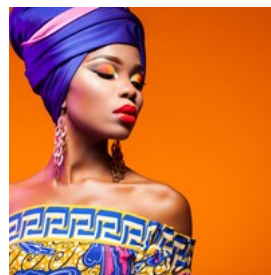
Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-12:30pm and 3:30pm-7pm

Phone: +596 596 66 13 64

Internet: www.galerie-sophen.com

Email: galerie.sophen@gmail.com

Couleur Ebene



Couleur Ebene is as much a clothing shop as it is a celebration of African and Caribbean Creole textile tradition and fashion.

Each and every piece is meticulously crafted and full of life, colour and vibrancy, yet elegant, honest and quite frankly stunning.

Photo: Svetlanamiku / Shutterstock.com

Address: 13 Rue Garnier Pages, Fort-de-France

Opening hours: Mon, Wed-Fri 9am-2pm and 3pm-5pm, Sat 9am-2pm

Phone: +596 596 602 129

Internet: www.couleur-ebene.com

Email: contact@couleur-ebene.com

La Galleria Shopping Centre



For more general shopping needs you can visit the Galleria shopping centre, a large and modern mall with over 125 shops and

services. Clothing and department stores, restaurants, a fitness and health centre, and even a hotel, Galleria really can cater to any need.

Photo: Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com

Address: Acajou, Le Lamentin

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9am-8:30pm, Fri-Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: +596 596 50 66 63

Internet: www.galleria.mq

Rue Victor Hugo



Rue Victor Hugo is Fort-de-France's answer to New York's Fifth Avenue, lined on either side with high-end and refined shopping options.

The island's most fashionable residents and visitors come to find the latest trends from the French fashion world, and to indulge in the fine-dining found all along the avenue.

Photo: Olesia Bilkei / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Victor Hugo, Fort-de-France

Galleries Lafayette Martinique



The colossus of French department stores has a location near Fort-de-France, in the Galleria shopping centre, which offers everything

one might expect. Clothes, accessories, perfumes, bags, toys, shoes, jewelry, suitcases, you name it. Find everything you need in one easy location at Galleries Lafayette.

Photo: Akhenaton Images / Shutterstock.com

Address: C.C. La Galléria, Le Lamentin

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9am-8:30pm, Fri-Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: +596 596 42 72 70

Internet: www.gallerieslafayette.com

Email: galeriesmq@wanadoo.fr

Marche aux Fruits et Legumes



The freshest, most succulent and most affordable fruits and vegetables on the island can be found at the Marché aux Fruits et

Légumes in Fort-de-France. Come and wander among the stalls, marvel at the colours and aromas, and sample some of these tropical delights.

Photo: Avatar_023 / Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue Paul Nardal, Fort-de-France

Parfums des Îles



Parfums des Îles is sleek, elegant and modern, and is at the cutting edge of fragrance design and production. Products include soaps, sprays,

oils, and of course, perfumes that not only have lovely smell, but also evoke images and feelings of the island.

Photo: sarsmis / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Lamartine, Sainte-Luce

Phone: +596 696 80 80 04

Internet: www.parfums-des-iles-martinique.com

Email: contact@parfums-des-iles-martinique.com

Aux Couleurs Locales



Aux Couleurs Locales may be a bit out of the way, located as it is just off the highway in Les Anses-d'Arlet, but is well worth a visit. Housed in a

small blue bungalow, this gallery displays artist Claude Henry's native art paintings depicting picturesque scenes of Martinican life.

Photo: Denis Kuvaev / Shutterstock.com
Address: D7, Les Anses-d'Arlet
Phone: +596 596 68 65 54

Centre des Métiers d'Art



Perhaps the best gallery and souvenir shop on the whole island, the colourful and vibrant Centre des Métiers d'Art offers a wide variety of especially beautiful local handicrafts in the form of quilts, painted fabrics, baskets, shells, pottery, and more. Find gifts or mementos to take home with you and cherish for years to come.

Photo: Maciej Czekajewski / Shutterstock.com
Address: Downtown Fort-de-France
Phone: +33 5 96 70 25 01

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Crobard / Shutterstock.com

Airport



Martinique Aimé Césaire International Airport (FDF) is located in Le Lamentin, a suburb of Fort-de-France. There are regular flights from many destinations in the Caribbean, as well as Miami, Paris, Montreal, and seasonally from Frankfurt,

New York and Boston.

As an overseas territory of France, EU immigration laws apply, so some visitors may need a Schengen Visa in order to visit.

As for transportation, most large hotels offer complimentary shuttle services from the airport. Private shuttles and taxis can also be arranged, and there are numerous car rental companies located on the premises of the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Martinique Aimé Césaire International Airport, Le Lamentin
Phone: +596 596 42 19 95
Internet: www.martinique.aeroport.fr

Public Transport



The main form of public transport on Martinique consists of vans and large Mercedes-Benz cars known as 'Taxis Collectifs' (marked 'TC'). They are an affordable and convenient way to get around the island, but they can often get crowded and don't follow a schedule (rarely running past 6pm).

Many travelers prefer to rent a car during their stay. Rates are often low and the road infrastructure on the island is very good, making it an easy and convenient way to travel around Martinique.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxis can be on the expensive side in Martinique, with a fare from the airport to Fort-de-France costing about €30. A 40%

surcharge is added at night and on Sundays and holidays. A 15% tip is also expected.

24-hour Taxi:

+596 596 63 10 10

Les Taxis Martiniquais:

+596 596 42 16 66

Ferry



There are daily ferry services, called 'vedettes', between Fort-de-France and a few destinations on the island (Pointe du Bout, Anse-Mitan,

Trois-Îlets and Anse-à-l'Ane), each one taking about 20 minutes. They run from 6:20am to 6:30pm, departing about every 30 minutes.

There are also a few international ferry services to nearby islands, like Dominica and St. Lucia a few times per week.

Photo: Pham Thi Dieu Linh / Shutterstock.com

Post Office



Post Office (Office De Redoute)

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Cite de Briand, Fort de France

Phone: +596 596 59 05 00

Pharmacy

Pharmacie du K'Nal



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: 74 Boulevard Allègre, Fort-de-France

Phone: +596 596 30 11 11

Internet: www.pharmacieduknal.com

Telephone

Country code: +596 Area code: 596



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

Voltage: 220 V

Frequency: 50 Hz Power sockets: type C / D / E



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

85,295

Currency

Euro, €1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops tend to open at about 9am and close between 4pm and 5pm, many of them closing for an hour or two at lunchtime. Restaurants usually open closer to noon, taking a break for a few hours in the afternoon, and then staying open until late, often 10pm or even 12pm.

Newspapers

Caribbean News Now
Journal France-Antilles Martinique

Emergency numbers

Fire: 18
Police: 17
Ambulance: 15

Tourist information

Office de Tourisme de Fort-de-France
76 Rue Lazare Carnot, Fort-de-France
+596 596 60 27 73
www.tourismefdf.com
Mon-Tue, Thu 8am-5pm. Wed 8am-4:30pm. Sat
9am-4:30pm