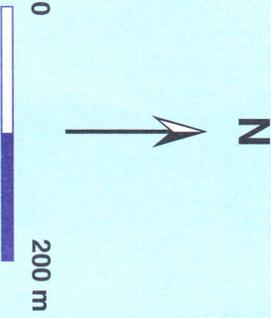




# Basseterre



Basseterre Bay

## Basseterre, St Kitts

## Port information

<b>Currency</b>	The official currency is <b>Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD)</b> , however, US Dollars are widely accepted.	<b>Language</b>	The official language is English, but a form of patois (Jamaican Creole) is commonly spoken.
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## Getting around

<b>Distance to town centre</b>	From Port Zante - It is just a short walk from the port into the town centre. From Port Deep Water - it's around a 40 minute stroll from the port into the town centre. There'll be complimentary buses for anyone with any walking difficulties to the town, please see the Cruise News for more details. However, if you are heading to the beaches it is easier to jump in a taxi as they are in the opposite direction to the town and closer.	<b>Main highlights</b>	As one of the earliest of Britain's colonies, St Kitts was so highly prized that the vast <b>Brimstone Hill Fortress</b> was built to defend it. Standing 240m above sea level, it is a breathtaking complex, constructed in about 1690 by African slave labour. It now houses a museum that gives a good insight into what life would have been like for the soldiers living in the dramatic surroundings. Once called the Gibraltar of the West Indies for its domination of 18th-century battles, Brimstone is now a Unesco world heritage site. About a mile west of Basseterre on Old Road, you find <b>Bloody Point</b> , a spot that represents a grim moment in Kittitian history. This was where, in 1626, about 2,000 Carib Indians were massacred by joint French and British forces, pre-empting a plan by the Caribs to drive the foreigners from the island and take back their native land. Legend has it that the blood from the slaughter ran for three days. There's not much here these days apart from a plaque, but the road from this point sweeps up to a headland from where you can clearly see the islands of Saba and St Eustatius – so it's a good stop for photographs. <b>Old Road</b> was the first British town in the entire Caribbean. Sir Thomas Warner landed at Old Road Bay on 28 January 1623 with 15 settlers. Just above Old Road Town is the 17th-century Romney Manor sugar estate, now home to Caribelle Batik. Artisans at the workshop provide live demonstrations of the batik process, and sell their products here as well. Best of all are the beautifully restored gardens surrounding the manor and featuring a magnificent saman tree said to be 350 years old. The lovely pedimented colonial building on the Basseterre waterfront is the <b>Old Treasury Building</b> , dating from 1894. It now houses the National Museum, run by the St Christopher National Trust, and offering an overview of the culture and heritage of St Kitts and Nevis. <b>For any more going ashore information pass by the Destination Services Centre located on Deck 5. We're always happy to help make the most of your time ashore.</b>
<b>Getting About</b>	Public buses have a green license plate starting with the letter H. There are 5 main bus routes on St Kitts. No public buses travel southwards to the main resort areas in Frigate Bay and the South East Peninsula.		
<b>Taxis</b>	Taxis are available on the quayside. Price lists are posted, but it's always wise to confirm the price before setting off. The taxis have yellow license plates starting with the letter T or TA. Always confirm the price and the currency you would like to pay in before setting off with a local taxi.		
<b>Main highlights</b>	Basseterre is a very small town, which is laid out in a grid pattern. It has four main streets running west to east and they are listed here in sequence from south to north: Bay Road, Liverpool Row, Central Street and Cayon Street. The main street running north to south is Fort Street/Bank Street, which is home to the bulk of the island's main shops and banks. The city has 2 centres - The Circus, which is geared towards tourism purposes and Independence Square, which contains the Cathedral, courthouse and most of the older buildings. Another highlight is the St. Georges Anglican Church - a lovely place where you'll find peace and tranquility. One of the top 10 things to do on the island is <b>St Kitts Scenic Railway</b> – this cannot be done independently and is only available by our organised excursion. To book, see the team at Destination Services or the self-service kiosks located on decks 5 & 6.		

## Essential information

<b>Tourist information</b>	An information booth is located on the quayside.	<b>Shopping</b>	Most of the shopping areas are located at the Pelican Shopping Mall on Bay Road, in Basseterre or on Liverpool Row and Fort Street.
<b>Internet access</b>	Within the port area or some cafe bars in town have Wi-Fi access.	<b>IMPORTANT:</b> As with all tourist destinations, please keep a close eye on personal valuables.	Souvenirs and local handicrafts, such as, island baskets and leather (goatskin) goods are the best buys. Another popular item is batik (cloth dyed using wax) found at Caribelle Batik at the Romney Manor.
<b>Nearest beaches</b>	North Frigate Bay is the nearest with umbrellas and chairs for hire. It's a 10 minute taxi ride and it costs approximately \$10.00 US Dollars per taxi, one way. Or perhaps Friar's Bay, which is the next bay along. Best snorkelling is by Shitten Bay but only accessible by boat.		

Your Destination Services team would like to wish you an enjoyable day in St Kitts

There can be last minute changes. Please check *Cruise News* for the latest information before you go ashore.