

# Saba

*Dutch Caribbean*



*facts & figures*



# Saba



## *Welcome to Saba - The Island of Your Dreams*

An emerald island in an aquamarine sea. Far from the cares of the modern world. Seductive. Unforgettable. This is Saba. Once you've visited our island, you'll understand that there's nothing else like it in the world. A paradise for divers and hikers, and for those who seek only rest. An island where time stands still. Hike to Saba's highest point, Mount Scenery, nearly nine hundred metres (3,000 feet) above the Caribbean Sea, its slopes clothed in lush, verdant woods. A veil of cloudmist often drapes the summit. Unlock Saba's treasures. Its stunningly beautiful natural habitat and fabulous underwater world have long been cherished by its islanders, as they will be cherished by you. So if you're looking for luxury hotels, shopping districts, discos, casinos and amusement parks, please pass us by. On Saba, only nature, unspoiled, awaits you.

### *'The unspoiled queen'*

Saba has a population of only 1,400, so the island's surface of 13 square kilometres (5 square miles) is scarcely inhabited. The people of Saba proudly refer to their island as "The Unspoiled Queen." Imagine an island largely untouched by the 21st century, with the year-round climate of your dreams. Imagine landscapes that resemble those encountered by the earliest explorers. Lush, pristine, mysterious, alluring. English is the principal language spoken on Saba and our islanders will make you feel at home every minute of the day.



# Saba

## *Getting around on Saba*

No matter how you arrive on Saba, on the island there's only one road to travel. Travelling by taxi along "the road that couldn't be built" brings you to your destination within twenty minutes. The road begins at Fort Bay harbour and ends at the airport's spectacular landing strip. On your way you'll find out what it means to travel back in time. No one's in a hurry. The taxi driver is busy greeting friends and making small talk with everyone who passes by. The houses are pleasingly uniform, their architecture harmonious.

You'll stay in one of the four small and charming villages. Saba is a magical place for scuba diving, hiking, eco-touring and (not surprisingly) honeymooning. The people of Saba are happy to recommend the best ways to experience the island. And everyone seems to have a different idea, so you'll have no shortage of things to do. Ask for a map at the tourist office in Windwardside. Check the events calendar to be sure that your "things to do" list is complete. And don't forget that fewer than 25,000 tourists visit Saba each year. Those who do, treat the island with respect. Even though Saba has modern facilities and technology, the focus of the island is nature and conservation. So add Saba to your list of eco-tour destinations.



# *Climbing Mount Scenery*



Follow the trail and be sure not to miss any of the 1,064 steps that form Saba's "stairway to heaven." Start your trip early in the morning in Windwardside. Climbing Mount Scenery is one of the principal attractions of Saba, an adventure you'll never forget. Visitors are advised, however, that because of the altitude and the demands of the climb, only those in peak physical condition should attempt the trek. Good hiking boots are recommended as well as sunblock/sunscreen, and a raincoat. Last but not least: be sure to take plenty of water with you.



Mount Scenery 877 metres (2,877 feet) is not only the highest mountain on the island, it is the highest point in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The trail is well defined and has stone steps conveniently placed every few metres. Hikers are advised to travel together and to pay attention to all signage. When you reach the summit, indulge yourself in the breathtaking view. The volcano crater contains a rainforest jungle of ferns, tropical flowers and mahogany trees. You'll feel that you're in heaven as you gaze over the island. Observe the unique transition from cloud forest to secondary rainforest, and in the distance the isles of Saint Kitts and Saint Eustatius.



A tour guide (optional) will be happy to answer your questions about Saba's abundant flora and fauna. There's much to see so be sure to pack a camera! The Mount Scenery forest is an example of the evergreen mountain forests characteristic of tropical areas, where local climatic conditions include cloud and mist formation, especially around mountain peaks such as that of Mount Scenery. The island supports ecosystems of distinctive floristic and structural form and contains a disproportionately large number of the world's endemic and threatened species.



# Saba

## Nature trails & Walks



Hikers from all over the world are attracted to Saba. The island features a network of trails, carefully marked and maintained. Some are designed for easy trekking, others require a guide, enriching the experience through a greater appreciation of Saba's botany and history. Everyone can hike to the trailhead then into Saba's rainforest, tide pools, historic ruins and rich nature wonderland. Even a walk along Saba's winding road will lead you through many breathtaking and memorable views.

- The Ladder

Difficulty: Strenuous.

Hiking time: 40 minutes one way.

The stairway begins near The Bottom, a short distance past the hospital. Overlooking the Saba Marine Park.

Highlights: Views of coastal bluffs, old Customs House, and ocean vistas.

Hiking time: 90 minutes one way.

The stairway to the top of Mount Scenery begins just west of the Trail Shop in Windwardside.

Highlights: Secondary rainforest, fascinating changes in vegetation along the way, abundant birdlife and spectacular views of the neighbouring islands.



- Crispeen Track

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 30 minutes to Crispeen, one hour to Ecodge Rendez-Vous from The Bottom.

The Crispeen Track begins a short distance past the dormitory in the Bottom and is well marked.

Highlights: Views of The Bottom and secondary rainforest.

- Sandy Cruz Trail

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 2 hours one way. The trail extends from Upper Hell's Gate to Troy Hill.

Highlights: Secondary rainforest, abundant birdlife and spectacular views.



- Mas' Cahone's Hill also known as Maskehorne Hill

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 20 minutes one way. Look for the trailhead signboard on your left as you ascend Mount Scenery from Windwardside.

Highlights: Views of Windwardside.

- North Coast Trail

Difficulty: Strenuous (must be accompanied by a guide)

Hiking time: 3 hours one way.

Access the North Coast Trail from the main trailhead in Lower Hell's Gate.

Highlights: Spectacular views of the ocean, ruins of Mary's Point.

- Mount Scenery Stairway

Difficulty: Moderate-Strenuous.

- All Too Far Trail

Difficulty: Moderate-Strenuous.

Hiking time: 90 minutes one way.

Can be started Upper Hell's Gate or Lower Hell's Gate



(Zion's Hill). Starting Point in Upper Hell's Gate; the Sandy Cruz Trailhead, connects North Coast Trail. Starting Point in Lower Hell's Gate; the Sulphur Mine trail head, connects North Coast Trail.

Highlights: Transition from dry forest to rainforest.

- Buds Mountain Trail, Mount Scenery

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 90 minutes.

From Windwardside; Begin the Mount Scenery stairwell, at the junction in Rendez-Vous, the first trail on your left is Mas' Cahone's Hill.

The second trail on your left is the Crispeen track, continue past the Ecolodge, eventually you will pass a cottage. On your left is a sign to Bud's Mountain, make a right turn on this trail and it will take you to Mount Scenery.

Highlights: Views of Windwardside, St. John's and secondary rainforest.

- Sulphur Mine Track

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 40 minutes one way.

From Windwardside, as you pass the church at Hell's Gate, make a sharp left turn at the second road to your left (which leads to the Gate House Hotel). The trail begins at the end of the road.

Highlights: Views of Green Island, the Pirate Cliffs above the airport, and the steeply eroded North Coast. Seabird watching is exceptionally rewarding in this area.

- The Tide Pools at Flat Point

Difficulty: Easy.

Hiking time: 15 minutes one way.

A road, just before the airport building, goes down to Cove Bay and to Flat Point. At the bottom of the road, walk out to the bluff overlooking the ocean.

Highlights: Tidepools and views of the remains of the sugarcane-boiling house.

- Spring Bay Trail - Kelbey's Ridge

Difficulty: Strenuous.

Hiking time: 3 hours one way.

From English Quarter, walk down the road to the right of the Agricultural Station. At the end of this road, the trail starts on your left.

Highlights: Spectacular views of the ocean, the airport and the island.

- Bottom Mountain Trail

Difficulty: Moderate.

Hiking time: 90 minutes.

From the Windwardside: begin on the Mount Scenery Trail, then follow Crispeen Track to Ecolodge Rendez-Vous. At the junction take a right turn and follow the path to Troy Hill.

Highlights: Secondary rainforest and The Bottom.

# Saba

## Diving

Saba is a volcanic island that rises steeply from the ocean. Lava tunnels and hot springs remind divers of the island's dramatic origins. Depths of 300 metres (1,000 feet) and more are found within almost a kilometre/half a mile of the shore. The nearshore environs offer very interesting and extremely varied diving, while the offshore dives will leave you absolutely speechless. A busy population of colourful tropical fish as well as large groupers and jacks inhabit the waters around Saba. Along the edge of Saba's sheer wall dives, divers can sight turtles and rays of all shapes and sizes. The small leeward side hosts gentle, medium-depth, spur- and-groove formations.

### Saba Marine Park

The marine park was founded in 1987, to assure the continuing health of Saba's undersea environment. With the mandate to manage and maintain its infrastructure, the Saba Conservation Foundation was formed, which established regulations for the sustainable use of its resources and permanent moorings, to avoid anchoring on the delicate bottom substrate.

All dive operations abide by the rules of the park and benefit from its ongoing research and education programs. Weekly slide shows entertain and inform divers of Saba's special marine life. Saba's Marine Park has received several honours and remains the only park of its kind in the world to be completely self sufficient in its operation.

The marine park surrounds the entire island and includes the waters and seabed from the highwater mark down to a depth of 60 metres (200 feet) as well as offshore seamounts. A zoning system has been applied to achieve the best possible compromise between different uses of the marine environment. Since the island is small, dive boats can reach all sites within minutes. Saba's beauty extends below the waterline into an exciting marine environment rich in corals and active with fish life.

Saba Conservation Foundation • The Bottom • Tel.: +599 416 3295 • E-mail: [info@sabapark.org](mailto:info@sabapark.org) • [www.sabapark.org](http://www.sabapark.org)



# *Dive Shops*



## Saba Deep Dive Center

Established in 1981 as the island's first dive shop. Many years of experience and great diving later, its tradition of personalized service and of sharing the natural beauty of Saba, both above and below the surface, continues.

Fort Bay

Tel.: +599 416 3347

E-mail: [diving@sabadeep.com](mailto:diving@sabadeep.com)

[www.sabadeep.com](http://www.sabadeep.com)

## Saba Divers & Scout's Place Dive/Hotel

This award-winning dive center runs two custom-designed dive boats, on daily trips into the Saba Marine Park.

The staff of well-trained instructors is very friendly & professional. Nitrox is available with no extra charge.

Together with their own hotel Scout's Place, Saba Divers offers very attractive dive & stay packages.

Windwardside

Tel.: +599 416 2740/2205

E-mail: [info@scoutspplace.com](mailto:info@scoutspplace.com)

[www.sabadivers.com](http://www.sabadivers.com)

## Sea Saba Dive Center

Since 1985, the Sea Saba name has been synonymous with the very best in diving. Whether you're a newly certified diver or a seasoned underwater photographer, the enthusiastic, all-instructor crew assures a safe, professional and fun diving experience.

Windwardside

Tel.: +599 416 2246

E-mail: [info@seasaba.com](mailto:info@seasaba.com)

[www.seasaba.com](http://www.seasaba.com)



# Saba

## Hotels



The Cottage Club  
www.cottage-club.com  
info@cottage-club.com  
Tel.: +599 416 2386/2486  
Fax: + 599 416 2476



Shearwater Resort  
Tel.: +599 416 2498  
Fax: + 599 416 2482



Ecolodge Rendez-Vous  
www.ecolodge-saba.com  
info@ecolodge-saba.com  
Tel.: +599 416 3888



El Momo  
www.elmomo.com  
info@elmomo.com  
Tel.: +599 416 2265  
Fax: +599 416 2265



Scout's Place  
www.scoutsplace.com  
info@scoutsplace.com  
Tel.: +599 416 2205/2740  
Fax: + 599 416 2741



Juliana's Hotel  
www.julianas-hotel.com  
info@julianas-hotel.com  
Tel: + 599 416 2269  
Fax: + 599 416 2389



Queen's Gardens Resort  
www.queensaba.com  
info@queensaba.com  
Tel.: +599 416 3494  
Fax: + 599 416 3495



The Gate House  
www.sabagatehouse.com  
info@sabagatehouse.com  
Tel.: +599 416 2416  
Fax: + 599 416 2550

# Cottages & Villas

## Cottages

### Althea Cottage

www.saba-cottage.com

### Anole House

seasaba@aol.com

Tel.: +599 416 2246

### Cat's Eye Cottage

seasaba@aol.com

Tel.: +599 416 2246

### Daphne's Cottage

info@sabadaphnecottage.com

Tel.: 603 782 4569

### Dushi Cottage

kdusi@slonet.org

Tel.: 805 489 7542

### Effie's Cottage

deezerm@aol.com

Tel.: +599 416 2254

### Eve Marie's Cottage

www.julianas-hotel.com/evemaries

info@julianas-hotel.com

Tel.: + 599 416 2269

Fax: + 599 416 2389

### Flamboyant Cottage

FlamboyantCottage@gmail.com

Tel.: 239 560 1330

### Flossie's Cottage

www.julianas-hotel.com

info@julianas-hotel.com

Tel.: + 599 416 2269

Fax: + 599 416 2389

### Hibiscus Cottage

info@sabahibiscus.com

Tel.: + 599 544 3056

or 1 800 786 2784

### House on the Path

info@houseonthepath.com

### Hummingbird Villa

hummingbirdvilla@cox.net

Tel.: (U.S.) +01 (619) 567 6965

### Iris House

Tel.: +599 416 2246

SeaSaba@aol.com

### The Look Out

Tel.: +599 416 2254

or in the U.S. 416 966 0497

### Orchid Cottage

www.julianas-hotel.com

info@julianas-hotel.com

Tel.: + 599 416 2269

### The Pirate Cottage

info@scoutspplace.com

Tel.: +599 416 2740

Fax: +599 416 2741

## Villas

### Carolina Cottage

www.carolinacottage-saba.com

bbatchelor@embarqmail.com

Tel.: 252 237 3668

### Haiku House

www.sabavillas.com

info@queensaba.com

Tel.: +599 416 3494

### Island View Villa

norgate3@verizon.net

### The Pilot House

www.pilothousesaba.com

jbobel@alltel.net

Tel.: + 599 416 5040

### Villa Fairview

www.villasaba.nl

For more information on  
vacation rentals:

Saba Tourist Bureau

Tel.: + 599 416 2231



# Saba

## Restaurants

### Windwardside

Brigadoon

Tel.: +599 416 2380

Copa Sabana

Tel.: +599 580 2398

Guido's Place

Tel.: +599 416 2679

Restaurant Eden

Tel.: +599 416 2539

Rainforest Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 3888

Red Rock Cafe

Tel.: +599 416 5674

Saba Chinese Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 2353

Saba Snack

Tel.: +599 416 6421

Saba's Treasure

Tel.: +599 416 2819

Scout's Place

Tel.: +599 416 2205

Swinging Doors

Tel.: +599 416 2506

Tropics Cafe

Tel.: +599 416 2469

### Booby Hill

Willard's of Saba

Tel.: +599 416 2498

### The Bottom

Queen's Gardens Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 3494

Lime Time Chinese Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 3351

Campus Corner Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 2388

### Hell's Gate

The Gate House Cafe

Tel.: +599 416 2416

### Flat Point

Flight Deck

Tel.: +599 416 160

### Fort Bay

In Two Deep

Tel.: +599 416 3438

Pop's Place

Tel.: +599 416 3640

### St. John's

Midway Bar & Restaurant

Tel.: +599 416 3438



## Shopping

### Saba Lace

Saba Lace a.k.a. Spanish work is one of the island's most popular purchases and can be found at various giftshops around the island. The largest selection is to be found at the Saba Lace Boutique situated behind the Roman Catholic Church in Hell's Gate, usually only open in the morning. A large selection is also available along with the island's famous liqueur "Saba Spice" at the Saba Artisan Boutique in The Bottom tel: 416 3260. In Windwardside Helen's Fabric & Notions also carries a nice selection of the famous lacework.

### Windwardside

#### De La Rosa Boutique

Tel.: +599 522 8898

#### The Home Center

Tel.: +599 416 2536

#### Pamela's Boutique

Tel.: +599 554 0834

#### El Momo Folk Art

Tel.: +599 416 3375 or 2518  
elmomofolkart@hotmail.com

#### Sea Saba Gift Shop

Tel.: +599 416 2246

#### The Trail Shop

Tel.: +599 416 2630

#### Scout's Place Gift shop

Tel.: +599 416 2740

#### The Peanut Galery

Tel.: +599 416 2509

#### E&H Home Center

##### The Bottom

Tel.: +599 416 3350

#### Jobean's Hot Glass Studio

##### Booby Hill

Tel.: +599 416 2490

E-mail [info@jobeanglass.com](mailto:info@jobeanglass.com)

#### Sandra Johnson

Tel.: +599 424 2726

#### Stacie Simmons

Tel.: +599 416 2319

#### Judy Stewart

Tel.: +599 416 2509

#### Angelita Peterson

Tel.: +599 580 8492

#### Aaron Soares

Tel.: +599 416 5763

[www.soaresart.com](http://www.soaresart.com)

#### Susan Tenholt

Tel.: +599 416 6640

#### Mary Thielman

Tel.: +599 416 5593

## Artists

#### Heleen Cornet

Tel.: +599 4 63348

#### Patricia Johnson

Tel.: +599 416 2212



# Saba

## Calendar

Good Friday	March
Easter	March
Coronation Day & Queen's Birthday	April
Labour Day	May
Ascension Thursday	May
Saba Summer "Carnival" Festival	Last week in July
Sea & Learn	Month of October
Saba Day & Weekend	December



## Saba Sea & Learn

From the sky to the ocean floor and all that is between, Sea & Learn on Saba invites you to explore nature and enhance your environmental awareness. Every October a variety of naturalists, scientists and academics in fields ranging from the study of sharks and dolphins to bats and orchids provide casual but informative multi-media presentations.

You are also invited to join field/research projects and assist in nature surveys conducted throughout the event. Sea & Learn on Saba is a non-profit foundation that brings together the local community, diverse nature experts and visitors to better appreciate the value of nature.

[www.seaandlearn.org](http://www.seaandlearn.org)





# Saba

## Getting to and around Saba

Several major airlines from North America, Europe and South America carry daily flights to the neighbouring island of St. Maarten (SXM). From there, flights connect to Saba. Special charter flights are also available from major cities during the winter season.

### By Air from St. Maarten



#### Winair

Windward Islands Airways makes five or more flights each day to Saba to Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport. Inter-island flights can be arranged, some are scheduled weekly. The airport departure tax is US\$ 5.00 to Windward Islands, US\$ 20.00 per person elsewhere.

Passengers and travel agents can now make their Winair booking for any destination online and will receive an e-ticket for their travel. Go to [www.fly-winair.com](http://www.fly-winair.com) for online reservations and ticketing.

Reservations can also be made at:

Winair Reservations/Ticketing

Windward Islands Airways

c/o Reservations

Tel.: 1 866 466 0410

or local telephone reservations: +599 545 4237

Fax: +599 545 2002

#### Taxi

You can easily take a taxi if you want to see all that Saba has to offer. Please contact the Tourist Bureau at +599 416 2231.

*Come to the island of your dreams. Come to Saba.*

### By boat from St. Maarten (Ferry service is available via Dawn II and The Edge)



#### Dawn II (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays)

Dawn II is based in Fort Bay, Saba, traveling three times a week to the heart of Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

Departing Fort Bay, Saba at 7:00 am.

Departing Dock Maarten at 5:00 pm.

Tel.: +599-416-2299 Office

Fax: +599-416-3671

Cellular: +599-416-6051

[reservations@sabactransport.com](mailto:reservations@sabactransport.com)

[sabactransport@gmail.com](mailto:sabactransport@gmail.com)

[www.sabactransport.com](http://www.sabactransport.com)

Reservations Recommended.

DAWN II - The Saba Ferry

Saba C-Transport, N.V.

P.O. Box 46

The Bottom

Saba, Netherlands Antilles

#### The Edge (Wednesday through Sunday)

Travels to Saba from St. Maarten. Departs St. Maarten (from Pelican Marina in Simpson Bay) at 9:00 a.m. sharp for the 80-minute trip and returns from Saba, departing Fort Bay harbour at 3:30 p.m., arriving back on St. Maarten at 5:00 p.m.

This means of transportation is good for travellers who overnight on St. Maarten. Charters are also available for private groups. Capacity is 62 passengers.

Bookings online at [www.stmaarten-activities.com](http://www.stmaarten-activities.com) and at Saba Deep Dive Shop.

[aquamania@sintmaarten.net](mailto:aquamania@sintmaarten.net)

Tel.: +599 544 2640 / 544 2631

Fax: +599 544 2476