Montserrat B.W.I.

British West Indies
Montserrat

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MONTSERRAT FAST FACTS

OFFICIAL NAME: Montserrat

LOCATION: Montserrat is located in the Eastern Caribbean approximately 27 miles southwest of Antigua

GEOGRAPHY: Montserrat, 13 miles long and 7 miles wide, is about 40 square miles (105 square km)

CLIMATE: Winter and summer temperatures average between 76°and 88° (F) with constant breezes from the sea and mountains

WEBSITE: www.visitmontserrat.com

POPULATION: Approximately 5,000

GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary Democracy/British Overseas Territory

CURRENCY: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC)/United States Dollar (USD) accepted island-wide
Exchange rate: $1 USD = $2.68 XCD

GETTING HERE: Daily flights to/from Antigua on SVG Air and Fly-Montserrat connect Montserrat with the rest of the Caribbean, North America and Europe.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: United States and Canadian travelers require a valid passport and airline ticket

AIRPORT: John A. Osborne Airport

INVESTMENT CONTACT: Email op@gov.ms or Tel: 1 664 491 3378

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MONTSERRAT FUN FACTS

Did you know…

- Montserrat is the only island in the Caribbean that is of noticeable Irish Heritage and celebrates St. Patrick's Day, a national holiday on island, with week-long events.

- Montserrat's Sea Island cotton in its heyday was shipped to the UK for manufacturing in classic colonial fashion. It was famous for its strength and softness. Luv's Cotton is currently the sole producer of Sea Island cotton products.

- There are no stoplights, traffic jams or crowded beaches on the entire island! No hassle, no worries!

- Montserrat is the only part of the British Empire that is still growing (the island is a British territory). Pyroclastic and other flows in the Exclusion Zone areas as a result of volcanic activity continue to increase the physical size of the island!

- Runway Ghaut is a ravine on the south side of the road, north of Salem. According to legend, those who drink from it are destined to return to Montserrat time and again.

- Goatwater stew is the national dish, a delicious stew made with chunks of goat or mutton, often served with bread or rice similar to the Irish stew in Ireland. No visit to the island would be complete without trying it.

- The popular calypso song "Hot, Hot, Hot" was first written and performed by Montserratian musician **Arrow** (born **Alphonsus Celestine Edmund Cassell)**

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Montserrat Offers Upscale Villa Vacations at Budget Prices *Villa Rentals on this Secluded Island Offer the Comforts of Home and Wonderful Vistas of the Caribbean*

For travelers looking for a cozy family setting or room for privacy and quiet-time when vacationing in a group, Montserrat's villas offer prime accommodations for couples, families, friends and even colleagues who long for an affordable upmarket Caribbean getaway with all the amenities of home. This secluded destination provides visitors with the ideal opportunity to experience a traditional Caribbean vacation in tranquil surroundings away from large chain resorts, crowded beaches and traffic-jammed streets.

Surrounded by verdant mountains, blue sea vistas, curvy slopes and deep valleys, Montserrat's villas provide guests with all the features, conveniences and comforts of a vacation home including spacious bedrooms, fully-appointed kitchens, pools with panoramic views that include glimpses of the Soufriere Hills Volcano, wireless internet and, if needed, private chef and baby-sitting services.

Affordable villa-vacations on Montserrat start at USD $1399 per week during high season (mid-November through mid-April) and USD $1000 per week during low season (mid-April through mid-November) for a three-bedroom, three-bathroom villa with a housekeeper, swimming pool, wet bar, wireless internet, washer and dryer. For a more information and a complete list of rental agents, visit www.visitmontserrat.com.

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Celebrate the "Luck of the Irish" in Montserrat this St. Patrick's Day

On the Caribbean Island of Montserrat, St. Patrick's Day celebrations (March 17th) go beyond the "ordinary" custom of wearing the color green and drinking beer at the neighborhood pub. With the distinction of being the only nation in the world, outside of Ireland, to commemorate St. Patrick's Day as a national holiday, this unique island has different festivities in mind as Montserratians shake up St. Patty's Day, *Caribbean-style*, by infusing their African and Irish heritage into the yearly celebrations.

Of all the Caribbean islands, Montserrat is the only one to boast a noticeable Irish heritage and islanders take pride in showcasing this unique aspect of our culture. During the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Montserrat comes alive with "green" fanfare and visitors are welcomed from far and wide to come and experience what "The Other Emerald Isle" has to offer.

Residents and visitors alike take part in the week of feasts, costumed parades, concerts, cultural exhibitions to commemorate the planned slave uprising that occurred on the island during St. Patrick's Day in 1768. Key activities include national exhibitions showcasing the island's history, art and literature; Open air concerts, Parade, Junior Calypso Monarch Competition; pub crawl; Freedom Run and Walk; Coastal Tours, a Heritage Day Feast, offering samples of local traditional foods, such as bush tea, goat water, stewed yard fowl and the "not-to-be-missed" event, Leprechaun's Revenge. Local bars and restaurants also celebrate in the more traditional Irish way by serving Guinness and decorating with shamrocks and *plenty* of green.

The harp and female figure on the flag and official seal of Montserrat are derived from the Irish heraldry and in the southern region of the island, there is even a village named St. Patrick's (located in the exclusion zone). Goat water, the national dish made of young goat or mutton and spiced with cloves and rum, is believed to hail from the original Emerald Isle. The Irish legacy is present in the folklore, surnames and even the local speech, which is laced with an Irish brogue. For more information and a complete list of St. Patrick's Week events, visit www.visitmontserrat.com.

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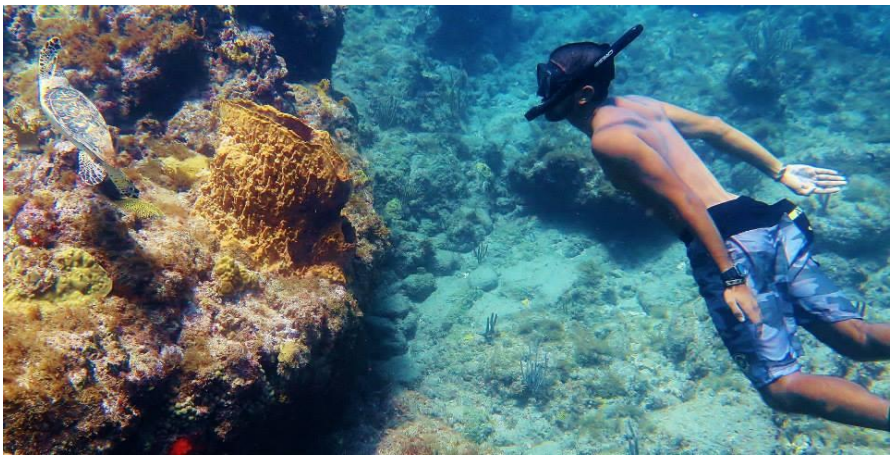
An Underwater Paradise Flourishes Beyond Montserrat's Coastline

Montserrat's beauty extends beyond its scenic shoreline and beneath the clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Montserrat's volcanic eruption has had an unexpected effect on the underwater landscape of the island with the growth and development of an accidental nature park created as a result of sea life having the chance to recover from the stresses of human interference. Visitors to this unique Caribbean island can spend an afternoon discovering the destination's underwater paradise.

With more than 13 miles of coastline, divers can interact with everything from colorful reef fish and sea plumes, to stony ledges, spiny lobsters and copper sweepers. In addition, the waters surrounding Montserrat are home to playful dolphins, pipefish, eagle rays, green turtles and nurse sharks.

The tiny island of Montserrat is perfect for extraordinary dive experiences, as it is surrounded by a shelf that softly slopes from the coast to about 60 feet, then following the sea floor, drops into the gulf of the sea. The shelf is covered with sand and volcanic rocks, providing habitats for deep-water reef communities. To truly experience what the island has to offer, visitors can book an unforgettable aquatic adventure with the island's two watersports operators:



Fish 'N Fins Inc

Founded by Veta Wade, Fish 'N Fins is a locally-owned watersports operation that offers ocean and conservation themed aquatic activities, as well as provide guests with an opportunity to observe, learn and actively participate in the preservation of the island's coral reefs, turtles and local culture. For more information on Fish 'N Fins, visit https://www.aquafishnfins.com/or email veta@vetawade.com

Scuba Montserrat

Located in Marine Village, Little Bay, and run by Andrew Myers and Emmy Aston who together bring to the island over 18 years of diving experience. Scuba Montserrat offers courses to include discover scuba,

open water certification, open water referral, advanced open water, dive master, digital photography and night dives. Snorkel trips, boat tours and private beach parties are also available. For pricing and more information on Scuba Montserrat, visit shop www.scubamontserrat.com or email scubamontserrat@gmail.com.

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Festivals Galore on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat

Winter and Summer vacationers are invited to take part in cultural events on this unique and quirky Caribbean island

A classic example of what the Caribbean used to be, the volcanic island of Montserrat welcomes travelers with its warm hospitality and laidback atmosphere. In celebration of the island's rich heritage and cultural diversity, the destination comes alive in traditional fanfare during a unique schedule of events that invite visitors to join in on the festivities. Below is a list of the key festivals taking place throughout the winter and summer travel seasons:

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Montserrat has the distinction of being the only island outside of Ireland to celebrate St. Patrick's Day as a national holiday. Showcasing the unique mix of Irish and African heritage, the 'the other emerald isle' celebrates with week-long events that will take place around March 17 at various locations throughout the island. Residents and visitors alike have the chance to participate in feasts, parades, concerts, and cultural exhibitions to commemorate the planned slave uprising that occurred on the island during St. Patrick's Day in 1768. Activities include national exhibitions showcasing history, art and literature, Junior Calypso Monarch Competition, Freedom Walk and Run, Heritage Day & Feast and the annual St. Patrick's Day church service and dinner. For more information and calendar of events, visit www.visitmontserrat.com

Calabash Festival

In a celebration of culture, creativity and music, the island hosts an annual Calabash Festival for one week commencing Mid-July. The week-long event offers a wide selection of festivities that highlight the hidden talents of local artisans and designers. Named after the calabash fruit that was traditionally used to produce eating utensils, musical instruments and decorative items, the festival seeks to promote Montserrat through a range of events such as a family fun day, hike, island tour, boat excursion to the former capital city Plymouth and a food fair.

Cudjoe Head Celebrations

During the annual celebration of Cudjoe Head Festival, held annually, the weekend before Emancipation Monday, residents and visitors are invited to join in the festivities that celebrate the island's strong African heritage. Organized as a way to unify the residents of Cudjoe Head and the remaining cultures that share the small island, the festival is also an avenue for Montserratians to highlight their African roots and the impact it has on the destination's culture. The village of Cudjoe Head was named after the 18th century slave, Cudjoe, who ran away from his master and was caught and beheaded. The silk cotton tree where this gruesome act allegedly took place still stands tall in the village. Legend has it that it stood as a reminder to other slaves who were considering the valiant run to freedom.

Cudjoe's courage and bravery is still celebrated and festivities have grown to include a steel band performance, J'ouvert, and an exhibition of goods produced in the village. For further information on Cudjoe Head festival.

Carnival

Running from mid-December to New Year's Day, Montserrat erupts with an explosion of colour, music, revelry, and creativity during the year-end festival. Visitors to Montserrat get a real insight into the culture of the island and understand the excitement and revelry Montserratians express at this time of year. Visitors and locals are treated to cultural activities such as calypso competitions, masquerade street performances, the festival Queen Competition, and a parade of costumed troupes on New Year's Day. There are J'ouvert's where locals and visitors jump up and dance behind a truck borne sound system which sometimes involves locals spraying water and/or powder over the crowd in the spirit of revelry. For additional details on the Montserrat Carnival 2024, contact info@artscouncil.ms. For more details on Montserrat's upcoming festivals, go to www.visitmontserrat.com.

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