

Travel tips for Grenada.

Getting to Grenada

Fly into Point Salines International Airport code: GND, from Europe, UK, Canada or US direct or via Trinidad, Barbados, Puerto Rico with local airlines such as Caribbean Star and LIAT. For up to date schedule and reservations check following web sites:

Airlines:

American Airlines	www.aa.com
British Airways	www.ba.com
BWIA	www.bwee.com
Caribbean Star	www.flycaribbeanstar.com
Condor	www.condor.de
LIAT	www.liatairline.com
Virgin Atlantic	www.virgin-atlantic.com

Required Documents

Valid passport and return / onward ticket, for British, Canadian and US citizens or two documents proving citizenship, one of which bears a photograph of you are acceptable. (driver license, voter registration card, passport, birth certificate). Visas are not required from citizens of Canada, USA, UK, British Commonwealth, Caribbean countries, European Union, Japan and South Korea.

Money

Grenada's currency is East Caribbean Dollar which is linked to the US\$ at approximately 2.67 EC\$ to 1 US\$. Credit cards (Master, Visa, American Express, Discover) and US\$ Travellerchecks are accepted at Aquanauts dive center and at many stores, hotels, restaurants, car rentals and other businesses. It is advisable to have small cash of local currency. Banks are open from 8.00 – 15.00 hr. There are ATM machines that accept credit cards to receive local EC\$.

Electricity

Voltage is 220, 50 cycles. Plugs are British, appliances rated at 110V will work with transformer and adapter plug. Dual voltage and adapters are provided at most hotels.

Water

Tap water is safe to drink; a wide variety of bottled water is available, with "Glenelg" the local spring water having the best taste.

Transportation

Driving is on the left, public busses can bring you to most places. Taxis and rental cars are easily obtained. You need to get a local driving permit issued by the car rental company or the police. Taxi rates are set by the government; ascertain your rate before you go.

Communication

Area code 473, main provider is Cable & Wireless. Other companies recently moved in are AT&T, Digicel, both offering cellular services. Coin and card phones are throughout the island available for local and overseas calls. Prepaid cards can also be obtained at stores. Internet access is offered by most hotels, several internet cafes are also operating.

Shopping

Several souvenir shops open regularly from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm and can be found around Grand Anse and in St. George's. Most hotels also have boutiques. On Wednesdays and Saturdays morning is local market in St. George's where farmers from the country side sell their fresh produces. These days are a very colorful

experience and a good chance to buy your stock on Spices. Several supermarkets also sell local produce and spices.

Taxes & Tipping

At restaurants and hotels an 8% tax is added, most will also add a 10% service charge. Additionally gratuities are at your discretion (common about 5-10%) and of course will be highly appreciated. If in doubt ask the owner how to handle tips. At Aquanauts we have a tip box which is distributed to all staff by the end of the month. You also can tip single persons for outstanding performance.

Language & People

The language spoken is English, there are about 100,000 nationals living on the main land of Grenada, whereas Carriacou has 6,000 inhabitants and Petite Martinique about 2,000.

Climate

Grenada has a tropical climate, north of the equator it shares the same seasons whereas the winter time is usually 2 degrees cooler and windier as the summer time with highs to 32 C/90F. Dry season is from January until May, the rest of the year being the “rainy” season, although showers are usually short and do not occur every day.

Dress Code

Being in a tropical climate, the dress code is causal. Cool Summertime clothing for the day is recommended, some restaurants require men to wear long pants at night. There are no topless beaches, swimsuits and similar beach clothing should not be worn in the streets. For hiking and other activities long jeans and boots are recommended.

Health

We are close to equator so be aware of strong sun and apply sunscreen often, bring or buy a hat and drink plenty of water. Don't expose yourself to the sun around midday. If you should have a problem, Grenada has numerous good doctors throughout the islands and newly refurbished general hospital and several private clinics. For those taking prescriptions, bring enough it might not be available on the island.

Other health hazards:

plant life – coconuts do fall off a tree, don't sit under ripe ones. The machineel tree growing on beaches and producing an apple like fruit which is poisonous as is the sap, causing blisters on your skin, don't shelter under these trees in the rain.

Insects - centipedes do bite, not lethal but it causes swelling. Antihistamine tablets or cream help and are available in local pharmacies. Sand flies and mosquitoes are most active at sunset, use repellent. There is no malaria on the island, but dengue fever is carried by some mosquitoes. It rarely occurs but can be dangerous. Do not use aspirin for it but see a doctor.

In the water – sea urchin spines are painful and hard to remove, watch where you step in the water. Jelly fish are rare but do occur with currents. If stung use vinegar as first aid, don't pour fresh water on it! There are no dangerous sharks in Grenada waters. Some people might see a snake like creature close to shore while snorkeling or bathing – don't be alarmed that is a harmless eel! There are no sea snakes in the Caribbean. Divers should watch out for fire corals and stinging sponges. Basic rule – don't touch anything!

More information

Visit following web sites for more information on Grenada:

www.grenadagrendines.com

www.grenadahotelsinfo.com

www.grenadaexplorer.com