



Mountain backdrop Port Zante in Basseterre; (below) view of Nevis from St Kitts

Event planner's guide to... St Kitts and Nevis

GETTING THERE

As C&I development sweeps across the Caribbean, accessibility continues to improve opening up lesser known destinations to international visitors. St Kitts is a perfect example. The island is served by a twice-weekly service with British Airways from London Gatwick to Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport, located just two miles from capital city Basseterre. Additional access can be made via neighbouring islands, such as Antigua, with Caribbean airline Liat.

Groups can transfer between St Kitts and Nevis via daily ferry services, as well as regular private water-taxis that can seat up to eight people at a time.

ACCOMMODATION

Found amidst St Kitts' seductive natural beauty are a variety of properties, from internationally renowned brands to independently owned boutiques, that over

Jack Carter explores the wealth of hotels, activities and unspoilt scenery across two of the Caribbean's most luxurious islands



time have developed a sophisticated and tailored product for conference and incentive groups.

The **St Kitts Marriott Resort & The Royal Beach Casino**, which was named the leading resort across both islands by the World Travel Awards in 2015, is long established here. As well as a private beach, a 3,250m² casino and eight restaurants, the 389-room hotel is within easy reach of the **Royal St Kitts Golf Course**, meaning groups are surrounded by activity. For larger incentive groups in need of meeting space, the hotel offers a 700-delegate ballroom and eight additional spaces, suitable for a range of events.

A 40-minute coastal drive from Basseterre is Kittitian Hill where **Belle Mont Farm** overlooks the rugged coastline and neighbouring islands. The easy-going property is strongly focused on sustainability and supporting the conservation of the island's natural resources. As well as 84 guesthouses and a four-bed farmhouse, groups can enjoy farm-to-table cuisine, forest treks and spa

treatments using body scrubs that have been made with seasonal herbs by guests that morning.

A short hop, skip and jump from St Kitts and groups will find themselves traversing the palm-fringed beaches of Nevis. One of the most luxurious properties on the island is undoubtedly the **Four Seasons Resort**, and with 196 rooms, 17 one-, two- and three-bed suites, and 45 opulent villas, it's easy to see why. For the last ten years, the hotel has assisted Nevis in the conservation of sea turtles that travel annually to the island to lay their egg. From July to October, groups can volunteer to help identify and mark sea turtle nests for safekeeping and to learn more about the mysterious migratory paths of the island's favourite temporary residents.

Elsewhere, event planners could be seduced by the boutique **Montpelier Plantation & Beach**, which is part of Relais & Chateaux's global fellowship. With just 19 rooms, the property is suited for small, high-end groups who will be able to make good use of the numerous dining outlets, gourmet cooking courses and rum and chocolate tasting sessions.

ACTIVITIES

Circling 30 miles around the island is the **St Kitts Scenic Railway**, which was built between 1912 and 1926 to transport sugar cane and exists today as the last railway in the West Indies. Groups can embark on a three-hour tour of the unspoiled scenery and cultural heritage of the northeastern coastline, crossing tall steel bridges and running alongside the volcanic Mount Liamuiga. Complimentary drinks, including rum punch, frozen daiquiris and soft drinks, are served on the journey for extra enjoyment.

The zip-line tour adventure **Sky Safari Tours** is the surefire way to get the adrenaline pumping around the group. Thrill seekers can enjoy panoramic views of St Kitts' rainforest while flying at up to 80km/h.

Nevis's plentiful rainforest is ripe for exploration too. **Sunrise Tours** is on hand to offer a variety of hikes for groups uncovering the depths of the



rainforest or the sunny climbs of Nevis Peak alongside an expert local guide.

Sport enthusiasts are also well taken care of here, with the 18-hole **Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course** located beside the Four Seasons Resort. However, cycling (with a 20-mile road bordering the island), kayaking, horse riding and scuba diving are also popular alternatives.

PIPELINE

St Kitts is readying for a significant boost to its hotel stock with the opening of the Caribbean's first-ever Park Hyatt property this year. The 126-room **Park Hyatt St Kitts** is due to launch this summer, with 48 suites, two swimming pools, three restaurants, a spa and more than 650m² of meeting and event space. Next year will see the opening of **Embassy Suites by Hilton**, a 226-suite property with meeting space, an infinity pool and two restaurants. Ramping up St Kitts' luxury offering will be **Koi Resorts & Residences** in 2018. Located on 15 acres of beachfront, the hotel will consist of 90 rooms, a suave beach club venue and a Japanese signature restaurant. In 2019, the **Wyndham Grand Nevis** will open its doors to high-end groups looking for a new slice of luxury in the Caribbean. In addition to 170 villas, the property will consist of five restaurants and 930m² of event space.

Plenty to see and do (below left) St Kitts Scenic Railway; (below) golf at the Four Seasons Resort, Nevis



DIRECTORY

St Kitts Tourism Authority

TEL 020 7376 0881
EMAIL uk@stkittstourism.kn
WEB stkittstourism.kn