

STATIA LOOKBOOK | SEA FEATHER ESTATE VILLAS



THE  
HIDDEN  
GEM  
OF THE  
CARIBBEAN

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*St. Eustatius*

*Unspoiled  
nature and  
magnificent  
marine life*



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INTRODUCTION

# THE ISLAND GRIPPED ME AND NEVER LET GO



*I take great pleasure in presenting this photo book to you about the beautiful island of Sint Eustatius, also known as Statia. My name is Peter Barnhoorn and I have the privilege of developing the Golden Rock Resort on this special piece of paradise.*

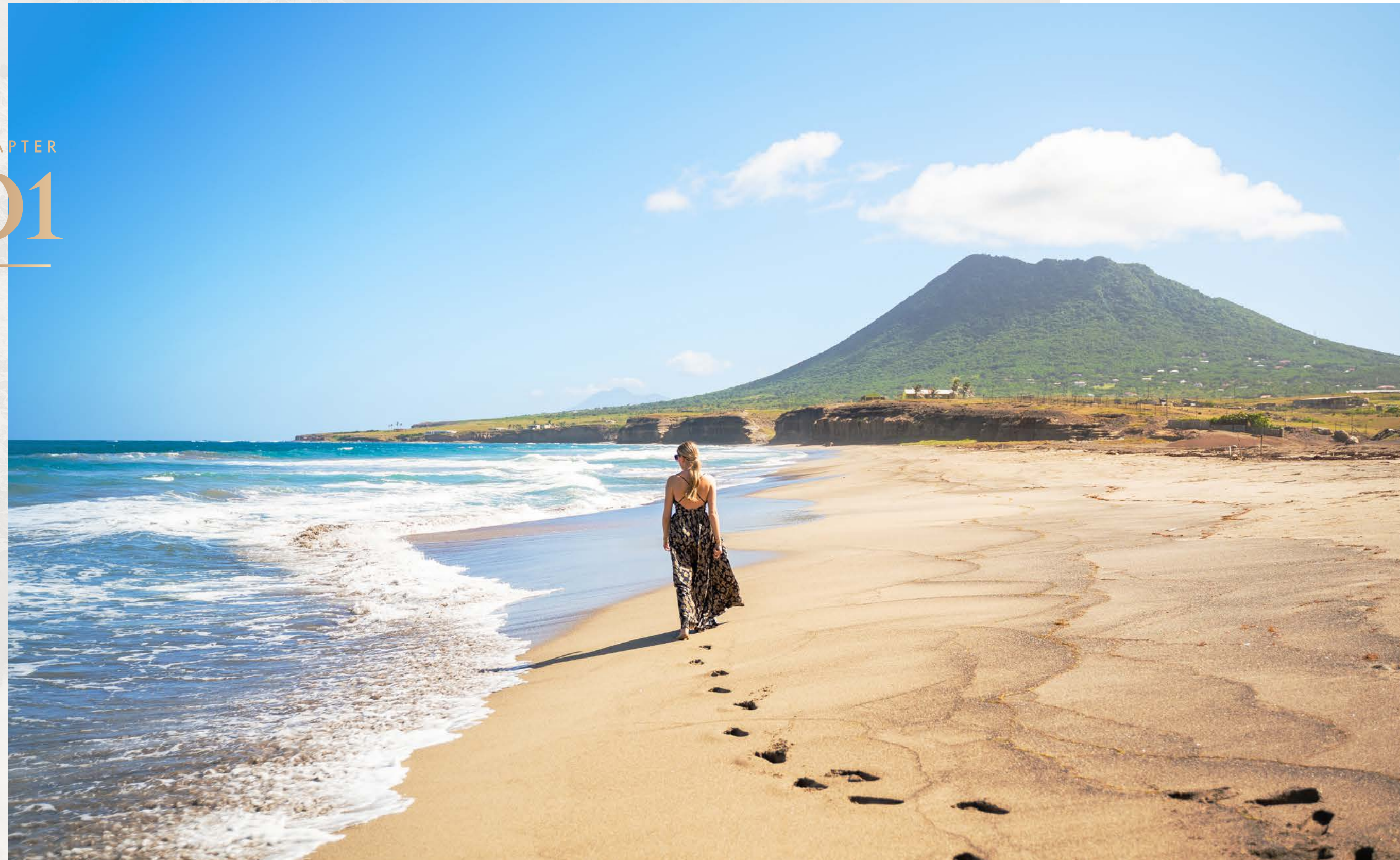
*Every image tells its own story*

When I first set foot on Statia in 2018, I was immediately captivated by the breathtaking nature, rich history, and warmth of the local community. The island, with its pristine landscapes and the majestic Quill volcano, captivated me and never let go. This book is a reflection of those first impressions and the love I've had for this island ever since.

As you move through the pages, you'll take a visual journey through Statia, from serene beaches to historic monuments and vibrant flora and fauna. Each image tells a story, and I hope they inspire you to come and experience the beauty and magic of this island for yourself. And perhaps, you might even decide to own one of eighteen luxury villas in true paradise yourself – each one the epitome of luxury living, spacious elegance and daily comfort.

I invite you to explore Statia and fall in love with it as much as I have. Let yourself be carried away by the island's charm and discover why this place is so special to me and many others.

CHAPTER  
**01**



WELCOME TO ST. EUSTATIUS

# THE HIDDEN GEM OF THE CARIBBEAN

*Nestled in the Caribbean Sea, Sint Eustatius, or Statia, is a small island in the Dutch Caribbean that often flies under the radar of many travelers.*

This hidden gem is a paradise for those seeking an authentic and unique Caribbean experience. With its stunning natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant culture, Sint Eustatius is the perfect destination for anyone looking to escape the crowded tourist spots and enjoy a truly relaxing and enriching holiday.



*Stunning  
natural beauty,  
rich history, and  
vibrant culture*



CHAPTER  
**02**



*Stranger than fiction  
and larger than life*

A NOTEWORTHY HISTORY

## WEALTH, WARS, SMUGGLING AND PRIVATEERS

*St. Eustatius has a rich  
and turbulent past.  
If its roads and paths  
could speak, they  
would tell stories  
stranger than fiction  
and larger than life.*

St. Eustatius, has been inhabited since around 1,350 B.C., as evidenced by findings near Corre Corre Bay. Corre Corre Bay is the oldest known inhabited site on Statia, which was an Amerindian settlement.

Modern history began when Christopher Columbus sailed close to St. Eustatius in 1493 during his second voyage. The first recorded sighting was by Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins on November 5th, 1595. People began arriving on the island over the next century including the French, who then built a small fort in 1629. The Dutch then later fortified and expanded the fort which is now known as Fort Oranje.



Fort Oranje is a fort with a courtyard and three bastions, built on the cliff face of Oranjestad. It is the most important and best preserved of the sixteen remaining defense works on the island.



**Slave Path**  
Also known as the bay Path (baaipad), is the oldest paved road on the island. It was constructed as the bay Path in 1636 and paved in 1787.

### A dark chapter

In 1678, St. Eustatius became a Dutch colony under the West India Trading Company. By 1650, the population had grown to 1,000 but this was insufficient for the labor-intensive tasks required. This then led to the importation of slaves, making the island a centre for the Dutch slave trade in the Northern Caribbean. Despite the Dutch shipping fewer slaves compared to the British, this period remains a dark chapter in Dutch history. Many current islanders are descendants of these original laborers.



*The island changed hands  
twenty-two times between the  
Dutch, English, and French*

### **The Golden Rock**

In the late 18th century, St. Eustatius became known as the 'Golden Rock' due to its prosperity. The island was a massive trading centre and a free port, where no duties or taxes were levied. Up to 3,500 ships per year traded various goods, including furniture, spices, and weapons. The island changed hands twenty-two times between the Dutch, English, and French. The island was often used as a bargaining chip in European conflicts.

During the American War of Independence (1776-1781), St. Eustatius was crucial for supplying the Americans with guns and gunpowder. However, the British captured the island on February 3rd, 1781. They encountered little to no resistance due to a recent hurricane. The British occupation lasted three months before the French took control from the British. The island returned to Dutch control in 1784 and prosperity resumed until 1795, when it became French again, ending free trade. The population plummeted from 8,124 in 1790 to 2,668 by 1816.



St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum

Fort Oranje



Look at the story of Mischa as she tells about the rich history of St. Eustatius and the personal story of her ancestors who came here back in the 17th century.

STATIA DAY

# A FIRST SALUTE FOR THE STARS AND STRIPES

*On 16 November 1776, St. Eustatius became the first foreign government to officially recognize the fledgling United States of America.*

Johannes de Graaff, Governor of St. Eustatius, ordered the cannon at Fort Oranje to fire a salute to the Brig Andrew Doria, under Captain Isaiah Robinson of the Continental Navy, which was flying the new Stars and Stripes flag. Here, the sovereignty of the United States of America was for the first time in history, formally acknowledged by a foreign official. This symbolic act in history is known as 'The First Salute'.



CHAPTER  
**03**



*Celebrating cultural heritage  
and a shared history  
with the United States*



### Statia Day

Every year on 16 November Statia celebrates 'Statia Day'. This day is an annual public holiday which commemorates the island's historical significance. Statia Day is a time for the people of St. Eustatius to reflect on their island's history, celebrating their cultural heritage, and honoring the relationship between St. Eustatius and the United States. It is marked by various festivities, including parades, cultural performances, exhibitions, and traditional food and drink.

CHAPTER  
**04**



*A true paradise  
for nature lovers*

A PLEASANT AND INVITING CLIMATE

## GENTLE TRADEWINDS AND ABUNDANT SUNSHINE

*St. Eustatius, affectionately known as Statia, basks in a warm tropical climate characterized by abundant sunshine. With about 300 sunny days a year, the island enjoys on average 8 to 9 hours of sunlight every day.*

This consistent sunshine supports its lush landscapes and vibrant marine life, making it a paradise for nature enthusiasts and divers. Gentle trade winds moderate the heat, providing a pleasant and inviting atmosphere year-round.



**There is so much to discover**

Statia's reliable weather enhances the experience of exploring its historical landmarks, hiking the majestic sleeping Quill volcano, and enjoying the tranquility of its pristine beaches. Whether you are a history buff, an adventure seeker, or simply looking for a peaceful retreat, Statia offers an unforgettable Caribbean escape.

*The island has a  
spirit of unity  
and mutual respect*

CHAPTER  
**05**

A VIBRANT CULTURE

# A RICH TAPESTRY OF CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

*The island's population reflects a blend of African, European, and Caribbean heritage, which is evident in its diverse cultural practices, traditions, and festivals.*

Religion plays a significant role in the daily lives of Statia's residents. The island hosts seven main religions: Catholicism, Protestantism, Adventism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism. This religious diversity is a testament to the island's inclusive nature and historical significance as a melting pot of various cultures. Each faith community practices its traditions while coexisting harmoniously, contributing to a vibrant and respectful societal fabric. Religious festivals and events are celebrated with enthusiasm, and it is common to see cross-community participation, highlighting the island's spirit of unity and mutual respect.





### Multitasking as a cultural norm

Economically, Statia is unique due to its small population and limited job market, leading many residents to hold multiple jobs. The economy relies on government employment, tourism, agriculture, and small businesses. Due to the local economy's size, one job often isn't enough to support a family, so residents juggle multiple roles. For instance, someone might work as a teacher by day and run a small shop in the evening or serve as a tour guide on weekends.





*Relying on each other's  
skills and services  
creates a strong bond*

#### **Harmonious community**

This multitasking is both a necessity and a cultural norm. The community's interdependence fosters versatility and resilience, strengthening community bonds as people rely on each other's skills and services.

St. Eustatius's cultural vibrancy, religious diversity, and economic adaptability showcase a resilient and harmonious community, maintaining its rich heritage while facing modern economic challenges.



CHAPTER  
06

*The lower part of town borders on the waterfront and the safest beach*

ORANJESTAD

## THE CAPITAL AND ONLY TOWN OF THE ISLAND

*Oranjestad is a historic harbour town which is divided into two main sections. Lower Town is a strip of buildings just above sea level along the waterfront, which borders on the island's safest beach. It includes dive shops, numerous colonial-era ruins, hotels, restaurants, and the harbour. Upper Town has a restored historic core and is also the island's main commercial and residential centre.*

The main historical site in Oranjestad is Fort Oranje. This is a well-maintained 17th-century fort in the heart of town which overlooks the waterfront. This cliff-side fort has cannons, intact bastions and a courtyard. Nearby there is a museum, the ruins of one of the oldest synagogues in the Western Hemisphere, and a Jewish cemetery.



Typical colonial house of which many are still present and preserved in Oranjestad

#### Historical architecture above and below the sea

The town's historical features also include a Dutch Reformed church built in 1755, which is partly in ruins but still accessible (its tower can be climbed for long-distance views), various restored 18th-century merchants' residences – including the oldest one, the Gezaghebber House (former Lieutenant Governor's residence) on Kerkstraat – and restored wooden Caribbean-style houses. Snorkeling in Oranje Bay is also interesting because of the parts of 18th century buildings on the bay side that were swept into the sea.



*True tranquility is found where safety and respect go hand in hand*

#### **A Safe and Respectful Environment**

Statia is a tranquil island where respect, hospitality, and safety are deeply ingrained in the local culture. Visitors are welcomed with warmth and friendliness, and incidents of harassment or theft are extremely rare. The island's small population fosters a close-knit community where people look out for one another, contributing to Statia's exceptionally low crime rates. The local police force is active and engaged, ensuring a secure environment where serious crime is rare, allowing both residents and visitors to explore freely, even at night.

In addition to its safety, Statia is well-equipped with essential healthcare and emergency services. The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation provides medical care, and in the event of a serious emergency, patients can be airlifted to nearby islands with larger hospitals. Fire and rescue services operate efficiently, ensuring a well-prepared response to various situations. With its combination of security, respect, and reliable services, Statia offers a peaceful and welcoming environment for all.

*The once fiery  
mountain now harbors  
a tropical rainforest*

DORMANT VOLCANO "THE QUILL"

# BORN OF FIRE TEMPERED BY THE OCEAN

*The Quill is a dormant stratovolcano that is a prominent feature of the island's silhouette. It rises to about 601 meters (1,972 feet), making it the highest point on the island.*

*Its name is derived from the Dutch word "kuil" meaning "pit." This reflects its crater, which is 760 meters (2,500 feet) in diameter and 273 meters (896 feet) deep. The volcano, which last erupted around 1,600 years ago, is now covered with diverse ecosystems.*



CHAPTER  
**07**



On Statia, the vibrant flora and diverse fauna weave a tapestry of life, where every leaf and creature tells a story of resilience and beauty.



*The sleeping volcano  
is now covered with  
diverse ecosystems*

#### **Flora and fauna**

The Quill's outer slopes feature a dry forest, while the crater harbors a tropical rainforest. This lush environment nurtured by rich volcanic soil, supports diverse flora like silk cotton trees, bromeliads, orchids, and ferns. It is also a haven for bird species such as the bridled quail-dove, red-billed tropicbird, and Antillean crested hummingbird.





*These trails cater to all levels and all offer panoramic views from the crater rim*



### Hiking

Hiking is a major attraction on the island with the trails maintained by the St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA). These trails cater to all levels and all offer panoramic views from the crater rim. There is a more challenging descent into the crater's dense rainforest for the more adventurous hiker.

Conservation is a priority, which is led by STENAPA who help to protect The Quill's unique ecosystem. This includes controlling invasive species, maintaining trails, and educating visitors on the importance of preservation. The Quill also holds cultural and historical significance, influencing local folklore and traditions. This natural marvel, with its biodiversity and hiking opportunities, is a must-visit on Sint Eustatius, reflecting the island's commitment to conservation and its rich natural heritage.

BENEATH SEA LEVEL

# SIMPLY THE BEST DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN

*As you descend into the clear, warm waters, a vibrant underwater world unfolds. The marine reserve around Statia is renowned for its extensive and healthy coral reefs that are teeming with life.*

Divers can explore intricate coral formations, where colorful fish like parrotfish, angelfish, and butterflyfish flit through the nooks and crannies. The reefs are also home to larger species, such as barracudas, reef sharks, rays and turtles, adding an element of excitement to each dive.



CHAPTER  
**08**



### Highlights of diving on Statia

One of the highlights of diving on Statia is the array of historical shipwrecks. The waters around the island are dotted with remnants of vessels from different eras, offering a fascinating glimpse into the past. These wrecks are now encrusted with coral which are inhabited by a variety of marine creatures, providing both a historical context and a unique diving experience. The Charles L. Brown is a sunken cable-laying ship which is one of the most popular wreck dives, attracting divers with its impressive structure and the marine life it supports.

There are no large tourist boats here – instead, everything is run in a small-scale way with small boats – the sort of exclusivity that attracts divers from around the world.

Moreover, the volcanic origins of Statia have created interesting underwater landscapes. The lava flows and formations add a dramatic backdrop to the dives, with caves and overhangs aplenty which are perfect for exploration. Whether you are a seasoned diver or a novice, Statia offers a rich, immersive experience that combines natural beauty, historical intrigue, and a commitment to conservation. It is the diving destination which promises adventure and discovery in every dive.

*A diving destination  
that promises adventure and  
discovery in every dive*



CHAPTER  
**09**



*Explore the rich  
and diverse culinary  
landscape of Statia*

WINING AND DINING

## DISCOVER THE UNIQUE FLAVORS OF STATIA

*Statia offers a unique culinary experience rooted in the island's rich cultural history. Statia's cuisine is a melting pot of Caribbean, Dutch, and African influences, resulting in a diverse palette of flavors and dishes.*

Many of the ingredients used in the local cuisine are fresh and sourced from the island itself or the surrounding waters. Vegetables and fruits such as papaya, mango and okra play an important role in daily meals.



### A journey of flavor and culture

Though the island is small in size, it offers a surprisingly diverse culinary scene. The island boasts a charming mix of local bars and restaurants that give visitors an authentic taste of Caribbean life. These local eateries, each with their own unique charm and specialties, contribute to Statia's rich culinary experience, making every meal on the island a true journey of flavor and culture.

### Celebrating culinary diversity

As a testament to the inclusiveness of the island, you'll discover the Taste of Cultures community event that happens on the last Thursday of every month. This cross-cultural experience gives you the opportunity to take a break from your schedule and enjoy the tastiest cuisine from multiple cultures and nationalities. All dishes are served in small portions and are just \$5 each so you can try lots of delicious dishes.



**Luxury dining**

For those seeking a more refined dining experience, luxury restaurants such as Breeze Restaurant at Golden Rock Resort offer an exquisite blend of local and international flavors in an elegant setting.

The Old Gin House and Barrel House also provide upscale dining options with stunning views and menus that highlight the freshest ingredients, ensuring a memorable and sophisticated culinary experience.



*Fine dining at a  
historic location*



The Barrel House, constructed in the first half of the eighteenth century, stands out among the ruins along Sint Eustatius' bay. During this period, the coastal strip of Sint Eustatius was a bustling mercantile hub. It is believed that part of the building served as the headquarters of the Dutch West India Company, while another part functioned as a warehouse. The building is thought to have been constructed with high-quality bricks from the Vecht area in the Netherlands, brought to Statia as ballast in ships.

Nowadays it houses a fine dining restaurant known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere. This local favorite serves up a range of delicious dishes that reflect the rich cultural tapestry of the Caribbean.



Watch an interview  
with the owner of  
Barrel House restaurant



## ANGUILLA

Anguilla is known for its stunning white-sand beaches and clear turquoise waters. This British Overseas Territory offers a more relaxed and laid-back atmosphere compared to its busier neighbors. Anguilla is perfect for those seeking tranquility, luxury resorts, and excellent dining. The island's waters are ideal for snorkeling, diving, and sailing.

## THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS

# DIVERSE EXPERIENCES JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY

Statia is surrounded by several beautiful islands, each with its unique charm and attractions. These islands offer their own experiences and are easily accessible by boat or plane, making them perfect for day trips or short excursions.

## SAINT MARTIN/ST MAARTEN

The island is unique as it is divided between two countries: the French Republic (Saint Martin) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Sint Maarten). This dual-nation island is a hub of cultural diversity and offers a dynamic blend of French and Dutch influences. Visitors can enjoy beautiful beaches, a variety of water sports, bustling markets, and vibrant nightlife. Popular attractions include Maha Beach, known for its close-up views of landing aircraft, and the lively town of Marigot on the French side.

Several European and American airports offer direct flights to Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) in Sint Maarten.

## SABA

Known as the "Unspoiled Queen," Saba is a small, volcanic island located just southwest of Statia. Its rugged terrain is dominated by Mount Scenery, the highest point in the Netherlands.

Saba is renowned for its pristine natural environment, making it a paradise for hikers and nature enthusiasts. The island's marine park is a top diving destination, famous for its underwater pinnacles, vibrant coral reefs, and rich marine life.

## SAINT BARTHÉLEMY

Saint Barthélemy, commonly known as St. Barts, is famous for its luxurious ambiance, upscale resorts and pristine beaches. The island attracts celebrities and discerning travelers with its high-end shopping, fine dining, and vibrant nightlife. Despite its glamorous reputation, St. Barts also offers natural beauty, with stunning beaches like Anse de Grande Saline and Colombier, as well as excellent snorkeling and sailing opportunities.

## ST EUSTATIUS

(EUX)

Oranjestad

## SAINT KITTS & NEVIS

To the southeast of Statia lie the twin islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis. These islands are steeped in history and offer a mix of cultural and natural attractions.

Saint Kitts, the larger of the two, boasts the impressive Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visitors can explore lush rainforests, beautiful beaches, and not forgetting the lively capital city of Basseterre.

Nevis is known for its tranquility and natural beauty. It is home to the historic Nevis Peak and the charming town of Charlestown. Both islands offer excellent opportunities for hiking, diving, and exploring historical sites.

Several airlines provide direct flights on a daily basis between many major American and European cities and St. Kitts (SKB).

*The ferries and charter boats provide a scenic sea route*



## CHAPTER

# 10

to Antigua and Barbuda



Winair flying over Maho beach, St. Maarten.

**Connecting to Statia from St. Maarten and St Kitts:**

Planes from America, Canada and Europe land on St. Maarten. From here travelers can take a short regional flight to Statia's F.D. Roosevelt Airport (EUX) with Winair, the primary airline offering this connection. The flight duration is approximately 20 minutes and goes four times a day. St. Kitts also has a large airport and welcomes travelers from London, Miami, New York and many others – you then easily take a short connecting flight to Statia.

Alternatively, there are ferry services and private boat and jet charters available that connect both islands to Statia. From St. Kitts it's just 45 minutes ferry to Statia, with several leaving every day. The inter-island connections provide an opportunity to experience more of the Caribbean's beauty and culture.

CHAPTER

# 11



WHERE TO STAY ON STATIA

## WARM AND WELCOMING SPIRIT OF STATIA

*Statia offers a charming selection of local hotels and guest houses that cater to various tastes and budgets.*

The island's accommodations range from a five star luxury resort to cozy guest houses, all reflecting the warm and welcoming spirit of Statia. These establishments often provide a personalized service, allowing guests to feel right at home while experiencing the island's unique culture and hospitality.



*The most colourful, green and  
luscious resort in the Caribbean*

*Enjoy walking around the resorts 40 acres of radiant gardens featuring  
marble paths and sweeping ocean views feeling the island breeze.*



### Golden Rock Resort

Combining luxury, adventure, relaxation and fun, Golden Rock Resort offers an authentic island experience. Where the Quill Volcano meets the Atlantic Ocean, Golden Rock Dive & Nature Resort sits. Choose from the contemporary designed rooms, suites and cottages all completed with high end finishes and featuring spacious balconies and gardens with colourful views of the gardens, pool and ocean.

Our dream is to be the most colourful, green and luscious resort in the Caribbean. After planting over 130,000 plants, flowers and trees we have created an eco-system attracting colourful species of birds, including the graceful hummingbird and butterflies that now have become our welcomed guests.



Many local hotels and pensions are family-run, offering a friendly atmosphere and insider tips on the best places to visit. Whether nestled in the heart of Oranjestad or overlooking the serene beaches, these accommodations often boast stunning views and easy access to the island's unspoiled nature. Guests can enjoy amenities such as comfortable rooms, local cuisine, and guided tours or diving excursions.

*enjoy your stay*



LUXURY VILLAS DUTCH CARIBBEAN

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