

The Sights, Sounds and Aromas of Touring Grenada

Grenada is small, small enough to be toured in one day. But, because of the nature of the roads, which are narrow and wind up and down foliage-covered mountains and curve precariously around the contours of the breathtakingly beautiful coast, it is best to mix touring time and beach time. This maximizes your enjoyment of the tropical West Indian culture and minimizes the changes of burning under the constantly shining sun on the tempting white beaches.

This snake-like roadway through the lush mountains will be your introduction to Grenada on the ride from the airport to the hotels. But, no matter how high the road takes you, or how far inland it seems you've travelled, in Grenada you're never more than 6½ miles from one of the 45 sparkling beaches.

Taking off for a tour of the eastern coast in a private taxi (the driver will serve as a guide), rented car, minimoke (an open jeep-like vehicle) or a small guided tour, you will be most likely to follow ancient trucks laden with people and produce through the farming towns, past well-kept brightly painted wooden houses and acres of cocoa, bananas, plantains and spices. Westerhall, the first stop, is a stunning peninsula known for its magnificent homes, gardens and views, which are well worth the drive. Then, down a dirt road to Bacolet Bay, a wild peninsula on the Atlantic where the surf pounds against uninhabited beaches for miles around.

The town of Grenville, the second city of Grenada, is the perfect spot to rest and try the local seafood. A bit of barracuda or conch, at the Seahaven, washed down with mauby to help the digestion will provide the energy to continue the journey. Also in Grenville, you can wander through the vegetable market and tour the spice factory and watch the nutmeg, cocoa and mace being prepared for export in much the same way

the Grenadians have been preparing them for centuries.

Saturday is market day in Grenville—Grenada's "bread basket". This large colorful market offers fish, fruits, vegetables, breads, pastries, spices, and Grenadian delicacies prepared on the spot. While mingling with the Grenadians doing their marketing for the week, you can stop and watch the expert weavers as they ply palm fronds into hats, baskets, bags and placemats.

Then it's on to Sauteurs, past strolling school children in brown, blue or maroon uniforms, who wave to passing tourists, or "guests", as Grenadians prefer to call their island's visitors. Sauteurs, on the northernmost tip of Grenada, is the site of the great cliff where the Caribs leapt to their death rather than be captured by the French. Levera Beach, a short distance away, is the perfect spot to end the day. A seemingly endless expanse of deserted beach, ringed by sea grapes and palm trees, is the meeting place of the Atlantic and the Caribbean and off in the distance, the Grenadians beckon hardy sailors.

The hour long ride home through the Grand Etang district zigs and zags through the lush mountains—bamboo, tree ferns, cocoa, bananas, elephant ears and vistas of the sea make it one of the most beautiful rides on the island. On the way you will pass Annandale Falls and the Grand Etang Forest Reserve and Lake, where you can hike through the tropical forest accompanied by local 4-H guides. Bring pants and a long-sleeved shirt for your visit to the land of orchids, armadillos and monkeys.

The west coast ride takes you past fishing villages set in the mountains where cotton and breadfruit trees abound. Gouyave, a market town on the coastal road, is a centre of the nutmeg industry. Dougalston Estate, at the entrance of the town, is the spice



Called the most picturesque harbor in the Caribbean, St. George's is Grenada's capital city and major port. The harbor is almost landlocked and is ringed by green hills and pink, blue and yellow buildings with red tile roofs.

factory where cloves, cinnamon, mace, nutmeg and cocoa are prepared and sorted by hand by women who will explain how the spices grow, and their uses, and then show you the large trays where the spices are set to dry before being painstakingly separated by hand. The spice station in Gouyave itself stores hundreds of sacks of this fragrant export, some of which can be stored for 25 years. A tour in the company of the station manager takes you over and under sacks of spices, past bin upon bin of mace in its various stages of preparation, wooden nutmeg shelling and cracking machinery and drying racks. You leave with pungent aroma of spices in your nostrils and fresh samples in your hand.

Road maps of the island are available for \$2.00 U.S. at the Tourism Department office, located on the Carenage in St. George's. There are a number of tour operators for

those who do not wish to tackle the Grenadian roads (keep to the left!). Full island tours generally run six hours and hit all the high points as well as a few beaches. Ridge Tours encompasses Morne Jaloux Ridge (above St. George's), various forts, the Botanical Gardens, and the fishing village of Woburn (where part of the film "Island in the Sun" was shot) and run two-and-a-half to three hours. City tours, which include St. George's, Market Square, and the surrounding fots, run approximately two hours. A very special tour for budding or professional photographers is the Photo Safari (eight people are required). A professional photographer/guide leads you on a day trip of forty miles, past villages, ruins, landscapes, flora and fauna. All tour and taxi rates are figured per car. For more information on Grenada contact Roos Travel at 877-0138.

THE SCANDINAVIAN CONNECTION

A.B.C.'s TO COPENHAGEN

Direct charter flights between Toronto and Copenhagen by STERLING AIRWAYS OF DENMARK.

Priced from only \$599.00.

Discounts for senior citizens and full-time students.

Also onward connections at low through fares available to:

Belgrade, Bergen, Brussels, Budapest, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Jonkoping, Kristiansand, Malta, Nice, Oslo, Stockholm, Tel Aviv, Vienna, Warsaw, Zagreb, Zurich.

Inexpensive packages to include airfare from Toronto, to: Canary Islands, Egypt, Israel, Portugal.

RIO DE JANEIRO AT LOW SEASON RATES!

For Further Information Contact

ROOS TRAVEL

GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE

877-0138

Or call 595-0905 in Toronto.

From area codes: 416, 519, 705, 813, call toll free 1-800-268-9049.

FEDERSEN world tours inc.

100 University Avenue, Suite 808,
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1V6

Venezuela

The Best Value Vacation To The Sun This Winter

Package Includes:

Direct Flight

Accommodation In A Five Star Deluxe Hotel.

\$ **499**

1 week
from only

plus taxes

A Sunquest Exclusive.

Available Only Through Your Travel Agent
With Sunquest Vacations.

Sunquest

The Quality Package Holiday People

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

ROOS TRAVEL — GEORGETOWN MARKETPLACE

877-0138