

St. Lucia afternoon day trips departing from The Balenbouche Estate

Anse Chastanet

Suggested amount of time: 2 ½ – 4 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$ 25 per person for any additional

With a sharp dropoff, coral reef and sea walls, this beach affords snorkelers and divers many opportunities for viewing the vivid ocean life without ferrying out to deeper waters by boat. The natural sand reflects the volcanic origins of the island. Snorkeling gear is available for rent in the town of Soufriere for \$15 per set.

Choiseul Arts and Crafts Centre

Suggested amount of time: 1 ½ hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$40, \$10 per person for any additional

North of Balenbouche and just south of Gros Piton sits Choiseul, a teeny fishing village of painted wooden houses, with a church on the beach. On the outskirts is a craft village where locals are taught bamboo, pottery, basketry, wood carving, and joinery. The Choiseul Arts and Crafts Centre is a sales outlet for these St. Lucian artisans.

Diamond Botanical Gardens

Suggested amount of time: 3 – 4 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

As soon as you enter the front gates of the Diamond Botanical Gardens you are met with the feeling of being in a very special place. You have just stepped into a world where waterfalls gush from the mouth of a volcano, hot mineral springs fill the baths with age old medicinal waters and flora and fauna abounds. The natural beauty of this historical site gives one a true nature heritage experience. The entrance fee is \$10US per person or \$15US if you want to soak in the mineral baths.

Jalousie Beach

Suggested amount of time: 3 – 4 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

The white sand, clarity of the water, and stunning setting between the twin Gros and Petit Piton volcanic peaks make this beach south of Soufrière a favorite spot for sunning. Chairs and snorkeling equipment are available for hire (\$12US).

New Jerusalem Hot Springs

Suggested amount of time: 2 ½ hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

From the road, follow a path leading down to a footbridge over a river, then climbing up a small hill to the gardens and the hot springs. People come here to soak in the warm spring waters, in the middle of the lush tropical forest. The area is privately owned and an entry fee is \$5.00ec or \$2.00US per person.

Piton Waterfall

Suggested amount of time: 2 ½ hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

The waterfall is located on the road to the Jalousie hotel, at the base of Petit Piton. The water is always warm and refreshing no matter what time of the day you go there. The water comes from about 30 feet in the air and falls into a cemented pool. The entrance fee is of \$5.00ec or \$2.00US per person.

Saltibus Waterfall Hike

Suggested amount of time: 3 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

Located just 20 minutes from Balenbouche Estate, this scenic 1 ½ hour rainforest trail leads to several cascading waterfalls along the River Doree, where you can enjoy a refreshing bath in one of the natural pools. The fee for the guide is \$25.00ec or \$10US per person.

Sandy Beach, Vieux Fort

Suggested amount of time: 1 ½ - 4 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$80, \$20 per person for any additional

This is an easy to reach, beautiful but windy, white sandy beach looking out over the Maria Islands. This is one of the most popular places for wind surfing, as there are constant on shore trade winds. Close to the 'The Reef' bar and restaurant you can hire wind surf boards. This beach is recommended for sun-worshippers. Chairs are available for hire.

Soufriere Beach

Suggested amount of time: 3 – 4 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

This black volcanic sand beach, mostly enjoyed by locals, at the edge of the town of Soufriere, provides a great view of the towering Piton mountains. Drinks and refreshments are available at the near by Hummingbird Hotel and a small snackette.

Soufriere Sulphur Springs

Suggested amount of time: 2 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$25 per person for any additional

Two miles south of Soufriere, you explore the "drive-in" volcano. Also known as the Sulphur Springs, the area is the remnant of a volcanic crater, now protected by the St. Lucia National Trust. The road goes to the edge of the volcanic activity from where you can walk with a park guide to see pools of boiling mud and clouds of steam that shoot 50 feet in the air. Small streams of water flow over the rocks streaking them with colors that indicate the presence of sulphur, iron, copper, magnesium, and zinc. Fresh rain water collects in the boiling crater where it is heated, saturated with minerals, and runs down the mountainside in six waterfalls - the lowest being Diamond Falls, east of Soufriere. The entrance fee is \$5.00ec or \$2.00US per person.

Sunset at Ladera Resort

Suggested amount of time: 2 hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$ 25 per person for any additional

Ladera Hotel is perched on a ridge 1,100 feet above sea level. It is two miles from the sleepy town of Soufriere and it looks as if it is built into the hilltop. Its height and position are responsible for some of the most breathtaking views from any hotel in the world. It is the place to see the famous Piton of St Lucia, especially at sunset.

Toraille Waterfall

Suggested amount of time: 2 ½ hours

Taxi fare 1-4 people: \$100, \$ 25 per person for any additional

Cascading from an approximate height of 50 feet, the Toraille falls is indeed wonderful. It has in fact, been accepted as one of St Lucia's nature heritage sites. Many tourist go there on a daily basis. You can also find locals who escape and come to this water fall to clear their mind for the up coming week of work. It is found in Soufriere, easily accessed from the main road, on your way to the Fond St Jacques rain forest. The entrance fee is of \$5.00ec or \$2.00US per person.

NOTE:

Entry fees are listed in the descriptions and not included in the taxi rates provided. The suggested amount of time includes the drive. You can combine two or three of the above trips into one outing. The price for trips involving more then one activity will be determined by the number of people going but will be less then paying for the activities separately. The time required will also be less then simply adding the "suggested amount of time" per trip together as the drive from Balenbouche to the Soufriere area, where most of the activities take place, is about 45 minutes each way.