

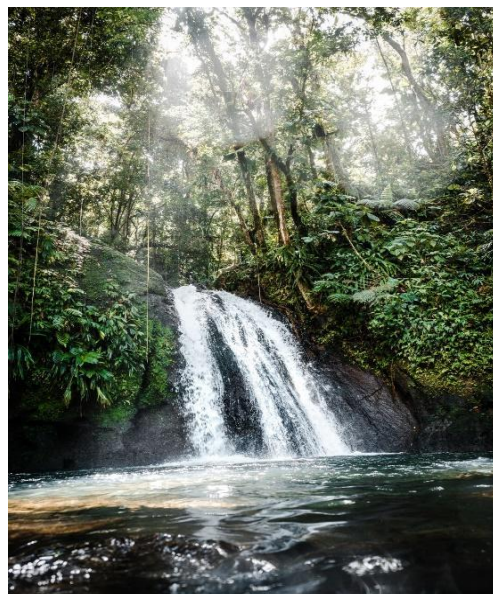
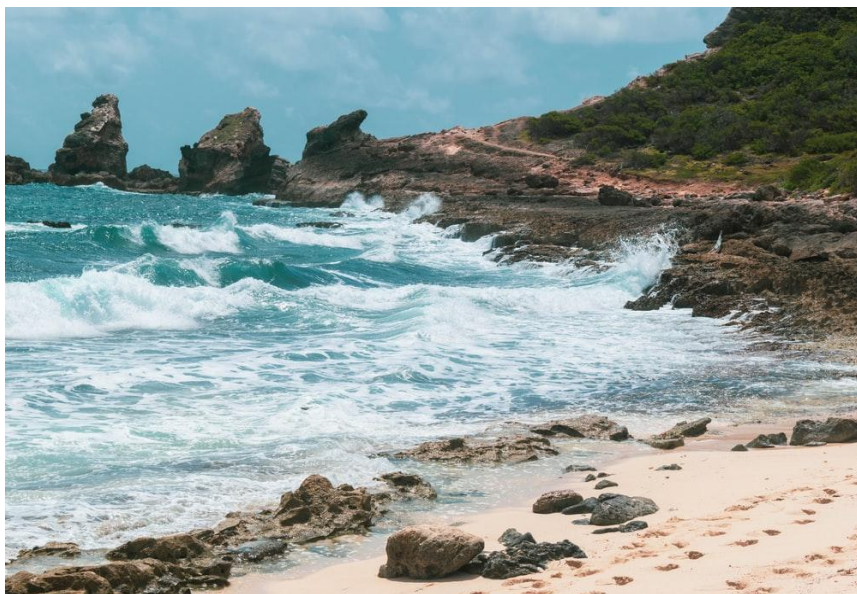


AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Volunteer-Led Excursions Worldwide

Exploring the French Caribbean Island of Guadeloupe

December 26, 2022 –
January 1, 2023



TRIP OVERVIEW

Welcome! Bienvenue!

We are pleased you are interested in learning more about this 7-day, 6-night hiking and cultural trip to Guadeloupe! This prospectus provides information on the destination, itinerary, logistics, and more. After reading it carefully, follow the instructions in the Registration section to submit an application.



La Soufriere volcano. Marc Gramain, Unsplash.com

Trip Summary

Join us in welcoming the New Year on our trip to beautiful, tropical Guadeloupe, where we will experience its rainforest, beaches, history, French-Creole cuisine, and culture. Our itinerary includes hiking to waterfalls and an active volcano in its national park, Parc National de la Guadeloupe; hiking along its coastline; and cultural experiences, such as a visit to its award-winning museum, Mémorial ACTe. For our 7-day, 6-night visit to Guadeloupe, we have arranged chic and comfortable accommodations and group meals that highlight local cuisine.

Participant Profile

Ideal participants have a sense of adventure, a desire to learn about different cultures, a love of the natural environment, an appreciation for group travel, and a desire and ability to hike at a moderate level for several days in a row. On days 2, 5, and 6, we aim to hike 4-8 miles/day over 3 – 5 hours with an elevation gain of ~400 – ~800 ft. Expect a more vigorous day (~6 mi, ~2,300 ft of elevation gain, 5 – 6 hours) when we hike the volcano, La Soufrière.

Regarding hiking, ideal participants understand early starts to the day may be required; we aim to hike in all normal weather conditions, including heat, humidity, and rain; it's likely some hiking trails will be muddy and slick due to rainforest conditions or recent rainfall; and we may have to turn around at a designated time, and thus not reach our intended destination, if the group pace is slower than anticipated.

Ideal participants recognize that they may be in closer quarters or feel less comfortable than they are used to at home or when traveling solo or in a small group. Ideal participants make it a priority to help others on the trip, contribute to the good of the group, and support the other participants in their enjoyment of the trip. If each participant behaves in this manner, each person in the group will benefit.



Waterfalls at Basse-Terre. Tony Coco-Viloin, Unsplash.com

TRIP DETAILS

Our Destination

Guadeloupe is an archipelago of over 12 islands in the Caribbean of which 7 are inhabited. On our trip, we'll visit many areas on the two biggest islands, which form the shape of a butterfly and are connected by land bridges: Grand-Terre, to the East, the right wing of the butterfly and famous for its beaches, and Basse-Terre, to the West, the left wing of the butterfly and known for its Parc National de la Guadeloupe, mountains, volcano, and rainforest. As Guadeloupe is a French overseas region, we'll experience a mix of French and Caribbean cultures, and we'll use the Euro, hear French spoken on the streets, seek out the iconic sandwich (a 'bokit'), and perhaps visit a bakery or two for a pain au chocolat.





Deshaies. Stephane Wegner, Unsplash.com

Trip Itinerary

Upon arrival, we will make our way to Basse-Terre where we will explore the national park and its mountains, rainforest, and volcano for 3 days. From there, we will make our way to Grand-Terre, where we will spend the 3 other nights and visit beautiful white sand beaches and hike coastal trails.

Day 1, Mon., Dec. 26: Arrival day. Participants will make their way to our accommodation on Basse-Terre, chic villas with jacuzzis and a swimming pool, which is where we will stay for 3 nights. The official trip begins with one prescheduled ground group transfer from the airport via rental vehicles, and a Welcome Dinner. Depending on participants arrival time, we may visit the national park visitor center (Dinner included.)

Day 2, Tues., Dec. 27: We plan to hike through the rainforest to several waterfalls, the Chutes du Carbet (~4 miles, 800 ft elevation, 3 hours). We expect to refresh in a swim hole by one of the waterfalls, at the local hot springs, or at a black sand beach. (Breakfast and dinner included.)

Day 3, Wed., Dec. 28: We will hike through the rainforest to the misty summit of an active volcano, the highest peak of the island, La Soufrière (~6 miles, 2300 ft elevation gain, 5-6 hours). Time-permitting, we will visit Pointe du Vieux Fort, a commune, with a lighthouse serving as its emblem, and where the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean meet. (Breakfast and dinner included.)

Day 4, Thurs., Dec. 29: In the morning, we expect to visit the botanical garden in Deshaies before driving through the national park (perhaps stopping at overlooks or for short sightseeing walks to swim holes or waterfalls along the way) to Grande-Terre, which is where we will stay for 3 nights. Passing through the main town, Pointe-à-Pitre, we will visit Mémorial ACTe, a museum of slavery housed on the site of a former sugar factory on the waterfront. Open to the public in 2015 as part of UNESCO's Slave Route Project, it was declared European Museum of the Year by the European Council in 2017. (Breakfast and dinner included.)



Pointe des Châteaux. TroisRivières

Day 5, Fri., Dec. 30: We plan to hike the picturesque coast trail, Pointe des Châteaux trail (~6.8 mi, ~425 ft elevation gain, 4-5 hours). The afternoon and evening will be free for participants to enjoy the beach or explore the area, and visit a local restaurant for dinner. (Breakfast included.)

Day 6, Sat., Dec. 31, New Year's Eve: On a second day of coastal hiking, we'll hike along the cliffs on a section of the Grande-Terre north loop (~7.3 miles, 550 ft elevation gain, 4-5 hours). We will end our day and our time together with a New Year's Eve and Farewell Dinner. (Breakfast and dinner included.)

Day 7, Sun., Jan. 1, 2023, New Year's Day: Departure day. The official trip ends with a hotel breakfast and one ground group transfer to the airport. (Breakfast included.)

All distance and elevation information is approximate based on representative maps. The leaders reserve the right to change the itinerary before and during the trip for any reason, including, but not limited to, weather, trail conditions, safety considerations, transportation or accommodations availability, trailhead parking availability, natural disasters, government agency recommendations, and group preference.



Pointe des Chateaux. Mael Gramain, Unsplash.com

Accommodations, Meals, and Ground Transportation

We have arranged chic and comfortable accommodations (two persons/room with twin beds or a double/queen for couples). We will eat dinner as a group in the luxurious setting of our private villas for the first three nights and at local or hotel restaurants on other nights; breakfast will be provided by each accommodation. Lunches will be trail lunches and are a participant's responsibility. Our itinerary includes a visit to a market for food and other supplies.

Transportation internal to the trip is via rental vehicles. Prior to the trip start date, some participants may be asked to volunteer to drive a rental car, which will require a check of one's driver's record.

Trip Difficulty

This trip is rated a **4 out of 6, moderate**, and is suitable for participants with a good fitness level and past experience to sustain the activity at a moderate pace. Expect to be active up to 4-6 hours per day with rest and photo breaks. An ideal participant is in good physical condition, and able to hike 10 miles a day with 2,300 feet elevation gain at a moderate pace while carrying a daypack with all standard and essential day hike supplies. There may be some days or activities that may be considered vigorous due to elevation gain, trail conditions, heat and humidity, the total amount of time spent outdoors, or other reasons.

Trails may be rocky, uneven, steep, narrow, muddy, and slick in the rainforest, and the trails are likely to be sandy on our coastal hikes. Although technical skills are not required for this trip, participants should be comfortable with trails with steep drop-offs. Participants will be asked to commit to staying in good physical and hiking shape between now and the start of the trip.



Margit Umbach, Unsplash.com

TRIP LOGISTICS

Cost

The trip cost is US \$2,350 per person for AMC members and US \$2,450 for nonmembers. Join the AMC (currently \$50 for an individual membership, \$75 for a family membership, and \$25 for a senior membership) [here](#).

The cost will be adjusted in accordance with currency fluctuations, changes to the itinerary, and the best final arrangements that can be made by the trip leaders. Any cumulative increased cost or savings realized will be shared among the participants in accordance with AMC Adventure Travel policy.

The cost includes lodging, group ground transportation, most meals, and entrance fees. The trip cost includes neither airfare to or from Guadeloupe nor airport shuttles. We expect a flight to and from Guadeloupe may cost a participant ~\$1,000 depending on many variables. While the eventual purchase of air tickets is the responsibility of a participant, trip leaders will provide guidance. Before submitting an application, please research flight costs to and from Guadeloupe from your preferred airport to budget appropriately for this cost to you. Currently, direct flights to Pointe-à-Pitre are offered from Miami and New York's JFK airport.

The trip cost includes:

- Group ground transportation internal to the trip with rental vehicles driven by leaders and some participants (airport shuttles, should they be needed, are not included)
- Double occupancy room accommodation for 6 nights
- Activity fees as noted in the itinerary
- 6 hotel breakfasts and 5 group dinners, including New Year's Eve dinner
- Emergency medical (limited) and evacuation insurance



Jeremy Bezanger, Unsplash.com

All other expenses including, but not limited to, airfare to and from Guadeloupe, optional airport shuttles, optional transportation, local transport on free time, optional activities and unscheduled sight-seeing, lunches, other meals or snacks, beverages, individual travel insurance (*e.g.*, for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, baggage loss, coronavirus-related expenses), incidental expenses, and alcoholic beverages, are not included.

AMC Adventure Travel trips are offered on a nonprofit basis. The trip leaders are volunteers and are not compensated; some of the leaders' trip and administrative costs for the trip are shared by the participants as reflected in the trip cost. The trip cost includes a surcharge for the administrative expense of the AMC Adventure Travel program.

Single Travelers

The trip cost is based on double occupancy for all lodging. For single applicants, leaders will aim to match same gender applicants for room-sharing purposes. In some case, singles may share a triple room. The leaders reserve the right to assign and reassign roommates.

REGISTRATION

To apply:

Complete and submit the online application via this link: [Application for Guadeloupe Trip](#).

1. Mail a deposit check in the amount of **\$1,500 USD**, payable to the **"Appalachian Mountain Club,"** to: **Michelle Spaziani, 21 East Wayland Dr., Greenfield, MA 01301.**

Upon receipt of all application materials and a deposit check, a trip leader will reach out to the applicant to verbally discuss the applicant's capabilities and experience, and references may be requested. A



Sunrise in Guadeloupe. Cedric Frixon, Unsplash.com

participant will be accepted, and subsequently the participant's check will be deposited, if the trip leaders have determined the participant and trip are a good match, and the trip is confirmed.

A final payment of \$850 USD via check is due from accepted participants on October 1, 2022.

We expect a group size of 12-16, including the two trip leaders. The trip may fill quickly, thus we encourage early registration.

Applications received within two weeks of the distribution of the AMC's Adventure Travel e-newsletter in which this trip is announced for the first time will be reviewed as a single group. (Sign-up for the AMC Adventure Travel e-newsletter at the bottom of [this webpage](#).)

Cancellation Policy

The cancellation cost to a participant is \$300 before August 15, 2022, and \$500 from August 16 – September 15, 2022. No refunds will be granted after September 16, 2022, or after the trip has been confirmed, whichever occurs first.

If actual costs are higher due to a participant's cancellation (*i.e.*, expenses already incurred on the participant's behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of the cancellation of one's registration for the trip), they will be assessed unless they may be applied toward a new participant registration. Should the leaders be able to replace a canceled registration with a new participant registration, there may be a reduced penalty. Generally, these numbers will not be determined and these decisions will not be made until after the trip concludes. Please refer to the [Adventure Travel Standard Terms and Conditions](#).



White jasmine flower at Jardin Botanique. Larry RW, Unsplash.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AMC Mission

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreational, and educational principles and mission of the Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace™ environmental and conservation principles and local regulations.

Climate

The tropical island of Guadeloupe enjoys warm weather throughout the year with two main seasons: a dry season occurring from December to May and a rainy season occurring from June to October. Showers can, however, occur at any time although they are usually brief. Its tropical climate leads to temperatures on the coast between 77 and 82 °F (25 and 28 °C), with extremes of 68 and 93 °F (20 and 34 °C), and the humidity can be exceedingly high at times. The sea in Guadeloupe is warm enough for year-round swimming.

According to Weather Atlas, December in Guadeloupe offers the lowest average daily UV index of all months. This being said, the average daily UV index in December is 8, which is considered Very High on the Global Solar UV Index scale. Extra precautions (*e.g.*, appropriate clothing, a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses) are highly recommended.

Rain gear, non-cotton synthetic clothing, and hiking boots with good grip are essential for hiking in the rainforest areas of the island.

Cooperation, Flexibility, and Teamwork

This trip is designed so everyone may experience our adventure in Guadeloupe through shared participation in activities and tasks in an organized group environment. AMC participants are known for



Eruptive mouths and chasms releasing fumaroles on La Soufrière. Guilhem Pouxviel

their cooperative efforts, and the expectation is all participants will be considerate of others sharing in this AMC Adventure Travel experience.

It is important each participant easily adapts to change. A leader has sole discretion to modify the itinerary at any time for any reason.

It is also important each participant acts as a team player, as we will be acting as a group and team from beginning to end. Ideal participants understand being a team player means communicating with a trip leader about one's whereabouts, injuries and illness or an inkling of an injury or illness, and personal health issues that may affect the participant's ability to perform well and as expected in trip activities. Participants are also expected to arrive on time for all activities for the good of the group.

Each participant is responsible for his/her/their own safety and behaving in a way that supports the safety of the entire group.

Currency

Guadeloupe's official currency is the Euro. Major credit cards are accepted at many types of establishments throughout the island, and ATMs are available across the island, including at Guadeloupe's Pointe-à-Pitre International Airport. Debit cards used at an ATM are generally the easiest and least expensive way to obtain local currency.

Entering Guadeloupe

As of the date of this prospectus, United States citizens and Canadian citizens visiting Guadeloupe for less than 90 days do not need a visa, but are required to produce a **passport - valid for a minimum of six**

months - at the time of entry. Customs officials may request proof of a return or onward airline ticket upon arrival in Guadeloupe.

For an applicant's research purposes, the airport on Guadeloupe is Pointe-à-Pitre International Airport (IATA: PTP). Do not book air travel; a trip leader will notify accepted applicants when it's appropriate to book air travel. When purchased, air tickets are the participant's responsibility.

Leaders will inform participants of other entry requirements at the time of the trip, such as COVID testing and vaccination requirements.

Language

French, French-Creole, and English languages are spoken in Guadeloupe. One of the trip leaders speaks fluent French; the other, un peu (a little). Familiarizing oneself with some French phrases, such as "bonjour" (good day, hello) and "parlez-vous anglais?" (do you speak English?), may be helpful as you explore the island and travel to and from it.

Leader's Discretion

It may happen on any trip that a trip participant is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. A leader in his/her/their sole judgment has the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or individual. Illness, injury, or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that may result in a participant being unable to perform an activity or multiple activities. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip participant, but this may not always be possible.

Time Zone

Guadeloupe observes Atlantic Standard Time all year. During our trip, the time in Guadeloupe will be one hour ahead of New York EST.

Trip Extensions

Some participants may take the opportunity to travel to other places on their own and outside the scope of this trip and sponsorship of the AMC. Those persons doing so are acting on their own, and must recognize and acknowledge any trip extension is outside the AMC-approved trip, and as a result, the AMC takes no responsibility related to that travel and the associated risks. The official trip dates are December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023 including travel days for those persons coming to and going directly from the trip. Be aware the AMC-included emergency medical (limited) and evacuation insurance coverage is only valid while you are participating in the AMC trip. Consider purchasing additional insurance if you will be participating in a non-AMC-sanctioned extension.

What to Bring

A detailed packing list will be provided to participants at a later date. In addition to being prepared physically and mentally, participants are expected to be equipped with appropriate gear.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read the [Adventure Travel Standard Terms and Conditions](#) as they are an integral part of this prospectus.

TRIP LEADERS

Marianne Bonnard



Marianne is an active AMC leader based in Québec City after 4+ years in the Boston area. Born, raised, and educated in Europe, she's a native French speaker, and has lived in five countries and traveled in 30+, including most of Europe. A community organizer since her teenage years, she has substantial experience in leading various groups, and enjoys sharing her curiosity for local culture, history, and politics. Marianne is fluent in French and German.

MBonnard@outdoors.org

Michelle Spaziani



Michelle is a volunteer Assoc. Leader with the AMC's Adventure Travel program and hike guide with the AMC's NH Chapter. She has summited the Northeast's 115 4,000-footers, summited New Hampshire's 48 4,000-footers in winter, section-hiked the ~260-mi New England Trail, hiked all the trails in NH's Belknap Mtn. range, and adventured in 30+ U.S. national parks and ~30 countries. She pursues her wanderlust with zeal, enjoys both solo and group travel and hiking, and has a strong affinity for the polar regions having visited Greenland, Iceland, and Antarctica. She is a certified Leave No Trace™ Trainer and Wilderness First Responder.

MichelleSpazianiHikeAMC@hotmail.com

Questions

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marianne or Michelle.

Marianne may be reached at via MBonnard@outdoors.org.

Michelle may be reached via MichelleSpazianiHikeAMC@hotmail.com.

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