

# Grenada

## The Knowledge



### Grenada

Location:  
Caribbean

- 1 Sauteurs
- 2 Victoria
- 3 Moutrevill
- 4 Tivoli
- 5 Gouyave
- 6 Grand Riv
- 7 Woodford
- 8 St. George
- 9 Belmont



- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 10 Grand Anse       | 13 Willis      |
| 11 Lance aux Epines | 14 Marquis     |
| 12 Westerhall       | 15 St. David's |

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Virgin and Excel Airways fly direct, BA flies via Antigua and BWIA goes via Port of Spain.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Only a passport for British citizens.

**CLIMATE:** The tropical climate is tempered slightly by cooling and constant trade winds. The dry season (the best time to visit) runs from January to May and it can rain quite a lot the rest of the time, but it is still pleasantly warm and most of the rain showers last only ten minutes or so. A 3mm will do you fine.



**INOCULATIONS REQUIRED:** None.

**CURRENCY:** East Caribbean dollar.

**TIME ZONE:** GMT -5.

**ELECTRICITY:** 110-volt.

**TOURIST AUTHORITY:** Grenada Tourism, CIB Group, 1 Battersea Church Road, London SW11 1LY; Tel: 020 7771 7016; web: [www.grenadagrenadines.com](http://www.grenadagrenadines.com)

## The country

Grenada shot on to the world stage in October 1983 when the US decided to invade under the guise of stopping another Cuba situation being formed on its doorstep. The invasion was a complete disaster, but as it turned out the US's worst fears were completely unfounded and Grenada is now safely under elected governmental rule. The tourism industry is still behind farming and fishing (a rarity in the Windward Islands), but this is steadily changing and tourism is a growing force on the island.

Grenada has been an independent state in the Commonwealth since 1974 and the nation includes Carriacou, Petit Martinique and several islets of the Grenadine Islands.



However, the island is on the cruise ship route and so it is not totally overlooked. It is a very pretty island, with a good infrastructure and a warm and pleasant population.

St George's is the capital and the main centre for many industries. It is the home to the largest fruit-and-veg market on the island, which is well worth a look. Its harbour, The Carenage, is another popular spot – and a very pretty one, too. On the days cruise ships arrive, there is very often a steel band playing, although as soon as the ship has docked, make



## INTO THE ABYSS

There are some impressive walls and one particular site is Molinere Reef, where at one end there is a 20m drop-off teeming with life.

Another site, ironically called Windmill Shallows, has a wall dropping to around 50m, where experienced divers can gain some depth. It's a beautiful reef wall with an abundance of marine life, both fish and corals.



## SHARKS!

Best place to see sharks here is on the Atlantic side, and you can expect to see nurse sharks and Caribbean reef sharks.



## CORAL FEVER

There is plenty of coral life in these waters, and it is typically Caribbean in its nature. It's got plenty of coral sites suitable for beginners, particularly Molinere Reef, a shelving reef that reaches within 3m of the surface. Marine life includes the ubiquitous Creole wrasse, seahorses, angelfish, hawksbill turtles, nurse sharks, barracuda and a myriad of damselfish.

There are reef dive sites in abundance in Grenada, and a few to mention in the space allowed would be Stingray City, which is relatively close to shore in the mouth of Prickly Bay. The sandy ground is a resting place for roughtail stingrays, southern stingrays and electric rays. Airplane is another unusual site where you will get a chance to see the pelagic fish, brought in by the currents where the Caribbean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean.

yourself scarce, as hundreds of the checked-out brigade disembark and swamp the place.

Other popular areas include St

Patrick's, home to the island's oldest rum distillery, and Gouyave St John's, the home of Grenada's fishing industry. The island is also one of the world's



## GET WRECKED!

- **Bianca C** By far the most coveted wreck to dive in these waters is the *Bianca C*, but it's only really suitable for advanced divers. The *Bianca C* is the 182-metre bulk of an Italian cruise liner which went down in 1961 and is now known as the 'Titanic of the Caribbean'. As one of the largest wrecks in the Caribbean, it makes an awesome sight as you parachute down through the blue to meet her main deck. Though the years have led to her frame being encrusted heavily with gorgeous soft and hard corals, they have also caused deterioration and so she is starting to collapse in places. She lies upright near to Whibble Reef and is exposed to quite strong currents at times. Combined with her depth, she is only suitable for those with confidence and experience. You can spot the big swimmers here, which make it a great all-rounder to dive time and time again.

- **San Juan** - also known as the 'shark wreck' because of the resident nurse-shark population, this is a recently rediscovered wreck of an inter-island fishing vessel. She lies almost undamaged in around 27m of water. Due to its location two miles off Grenada's south coast on the Atlantic side, it experiences strong currents.

- **King Mitch** - This is deemed by many to be advanced diving at its best - currents, blue-water descent and depth, all around four miles out in the Atlantic Ocean. This is a former US Navy minesweeper turned cargo vessel and it sank in 1981 after the ship leaked and the bilge pump failed. Fortunately, all the crew survived and today nurse sharks, reef sharks, eagle rays, stingrays, turtles and swarms of barracudas can be spotted here.

- **Shakem** - this is Grenada's newest addition to its wreck collection, which sank in 2001 after a troubled overnight journey from Trinidad to Grenada. The full load of cement bags shifted in the vessel and she went down just in sight of the port's entrance. She lies perfectly on her keel at a bottom of around 34m, and has a variety of hatches, penetrable hallways, galleys, cabins, freight rooms and a longspan bridge and crane, making it one site not to be missed.



## TOP TIPS:

- The local beer is Stag and Carib, and a bottle will set you back under £2.

largest suppliers of nutmeg, and Grenada is, in fact, known as the 'spice island'.

Unfortunately, just before we went to press, Grenada was totally devastated by Hurricane Ivan. Many homes were demolished, people were killed and a state of national disaster was declared.

It has yet to be seen how quickly the island as a whole will bounce back from this horrific event, but the islanders are resourceful and, with the right funding and foreign assistance, hopefully it will only be a matter of time before Grenada is back on its feet - and on the diving map.



Colourful reef