

Erika's CAPTAIN'S BRIEF **#01**:

Preparing for your Grenadines Voyage
Covid Regulations; SVG Overview

You are coming to the Grenadines! **Erika's** will help you prepare for your trip. Our briefing notes will give you suggested itineraries to discuss with brokers and guests - and we are happy to strategise with you as you discern guest likes and dislikes to tailor your programme to make the Grenadines experience as delightful as possible. Our notes also address frequent questions and answers that will assist you to create a memorable experience for your guests.

SVG COVID REGULATIONS: Check with **Erika's** when you plan your travel.

Key Message: Allow time for testing, and retesting.

Arrive with a RECENT (Negative!) COVID PCR Test.

The regulations that will apply to your vessel will depend on where you have been, for how long, who has joined the boat, when, and from whence they came.

The first step in the process is to APPLY for permission to arrive. **Erika's** will help. There is an online form: link [here](#).¹ The application needs to be done at least **five (5) days before arrival** in SVG. Vaccine certificates for all aboard need to be submitted at that time - Vaccines (2nd dose if applicable) to have been administered at least 14 days prior to arrival in SVG. (See below for format the vaccination certificates MUST TAKE)

The second step, **24 hours before arrival**, is the submission of COVID-19 PCR test results taken from the Port of Departure (must have been taken within 72 hours of arrival in SVG - an exception exists for direct trans-Atlantic arrivals). **NEW:** Tests must have been taken **>24 hours before arrival processing in SVG** to avoid further delays.

IN GENERAL: *If all aboard have been vaccinated:* You will arrive with a (negative) COVID-PCR test for all aboard; you will have a COVID PCR test upon arrival in the country at one of the entry ports (Saint Vincent: Kingstown or Young Island Cut; Bequia: Admiralty Bay; ~~Ganouan: Sandy Lane Marina~~; Union Island: Clifton Harbour). You will wait till the results of arrival test, (<48 hours) and, if negative, you will be cleared-in to the country and free to move about without further restrictions.

If *anyone* aboard is not vaccinated, *the entire vessel will be treated as unvaccinated.*

The quarantine period will be approximately 2 weeks; release from quarantine will depend on 3 successive negative tests (including the arrival test) for all aboard.

If the arrival COVID PCR test for any guests or crew shows **Positive** be prepared to quarantine-in-place till a successive test shows negative for all aboard.

Acceptable Vaccines: (doses required, last dose to be >2 weeks prior to arrival)

- ➡ AstraZeneca (Covishield, Oxford), (2)
- ➡ Gamalaya (Sputnik-V, Sputnik Light, Gam- Covid-Vac), (2)
- ➡ Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna, (2)
- ➡ Janssen (Johnson and Johnson), (1)
- ➡ Sinovac, Sinopharm, (2)
- ➡ Cuban Covid-19 vaccine (Abdala, Soberana) (2).

¹ Try opening with Firefox or Chrome is unsuccessful. We recommend that a single email address be used for guest/crew applications.

Acceptable Proof of Vaccination:

- Must be issued by competent state or national authority; *cannot be handwritten*.
- Travellers from the USA must provide a printout of vaccination details using a CDC International COVID-19 Travel Certificate or from an App such as the Excelsior Pass App.

While in quarantine awaiting the (negative) results from your arrival PCR test: Display the Yellow Quarantine Flag

- Captain to record temperatures of all aboard
- Do not go ashore
- Do not accept visitors to vessel
- Water sports permitted in proximity to the vessel
- Arrange provisioning through **Erika's**

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Prior to Arrival in SVG waters:

Erika's will need to receive:

- Your guest and crew lists
- Ship Registration

Upon Arrival in SVG, after COVID regulations are satisfied:

Erika's will need to receive:

- Clearance-out paperwork from port of departure (original)
- Passports for all aboard (original)

After satisfying the COVID protocols, clearance-in to SVG can generally be effected in an hour or two (depending on Customs and Immigration official availability) and you will be free to explore the country.

Check with **Erika's** for current regulations for guests joining the vessel after the vessel has completed its quarantine protocol.

MUSTIQUE

Mustique is a quarantine bubble island, its COVID rules are separate from (and in addition to) SVG's Ministry of Health rules and regulations.

- All passengers and crew must have a COVID *Antigen* test before arrival in Mustique (**Erika's** will need to submit test results to island security 24 hours before arrival).
- Anyone going ashore in Mustique must also be **fully vaccinated**. Proof of full vaccination (2x shots for those vaccines that require 2; 1x for those vaccines that require 1) is required.
- Mustique requires that any vessel must undergo a **48 hour quarantine** after arrival in Britannia Bay before anyone aboard can come ashore.
- **Erika's** must send a complete crew and guest list to Mustique Security 24 hours before planned arrival in Mustique.

Please see *Briefing Note #55 Mustique* for more detail.

Mustique's protocol may be waived by intervention of a Mustique homeowner. If your guests have been invited by a homeowner, we recommend that the homeowner make application directly to Mustique Security.

COVID EXIT TESTING

All good things must end, and you will have to arrange to depart our waters. COVID has made life more complex.

Odds are that your next port of call will require COVID tests of one sort or another for all aboard (as well as your clearance-out paperwork).

We can support you to obtain COVID-19 PCR tests, or COVID-19 Antigen tests.

COVID **PCR** tests, which are required in the majority of countries, take 24-48 hours to process (the length of time is based on the time the test takes to complete and the testing load at the laboratory). COVID **Antigen** tests, that are allowed for entry in some countries, take under an hour to show results.

Test charges have three components:

- The nurse who takes the swabs (PCR/Antigen). The price varies based on where the testing takes place (your vessel, or testing site)
- Swab transport to the lab (PCR)
- Test processing fee (PCR), test kit (Antigen)

FOR PCR TESTING we have two options, the National Public Lab, located at the Milton Cato Hospital in Kingstown, and a private facility, SIGMA Labs, also located in Kingstown.

If using the public lab an online *exit test application form* must be completed and sent to the SVG Coronavirus Task Force requesting an exit test 5 days in advance of the requested test time². The link to the form is [here](#). If you have difficulty with the form, try using Chrome as your browser. We also suggest, as with the SVG arrival form, that you use a single email on the vessel for the contact email address.

The cost of the public lab test is US\$40 for non-nationals. The test results are generally available within 48 hours when the lab is not in backlog. Check with [Erika's](#).

If using the private lab there is no form required and we can arrange the testing at your convenience. We will arrange for the swabs to be taken by a nurse or doctor and will send the samples to Sigma to be tested by the best available means (including air charter) based on your plans and budget. The cost of the lab test itself is US\$150 per test, if test processing is required over a weekend or evening, a shift premium is charged (EC\$300) (per batch, not per test).

Private COVID-PCR test results are available within 24 hours.

Antigen tests are discrete test kits, no laboratory is required and no application process needed.

The test kit cost depends where the test is performed and who is providing the kits.

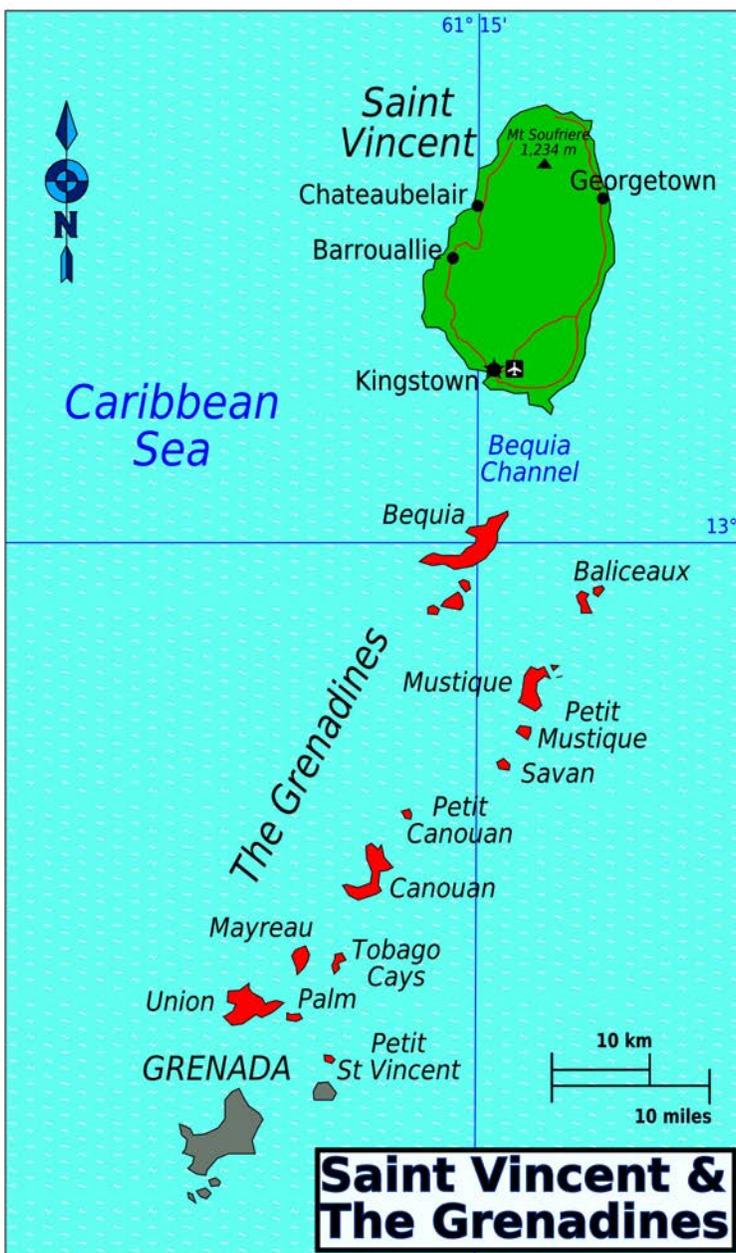
- ➡ In Union island and Bequia the tests are US\$40 each.
- ➡ In Canouan, the cost is US\$90, and
- ➡ In Saint Vincent the cost is US\$60

Note: The Sandy Lane Yacht Club and Residences (Canouan) does not offer Antigen tests; Antigen testing is done through the Canouan medical centre.

² Yes, we agree that 5 days is a difficult requirement to meet for departure testing.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: AN OVERVIEW

(Each island has its own briefing notes; the information following is merely an overview summary)



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) consists of eight settled islands and the Tobago Cays Marine Park. Each island is unique: different attractions, different features, even different accents.

Saint Vincent (referred to here as “*the Mainland*”) is the largest and most populous (population estimate 2021 111,000 people) island. It is the centre of Government, the majority of agriculture, and the main commercial international airport. The island is notable for its rugged coastlines, tropical rainforests, an active volcano and black (volcanic)-sand beaches.

Bequia, (population estimate 2021 3,500 people) the first island south of Saint Vincent marks the beginning of “the Grenadines”, the land of white (coral) sand beaches. Bequia is a busy place, with dozens of restaurants, hotels and a focus on yacht-based tourism.

Mustique, (population estimate 2021 1,000 people) is the next principal island south. It is a private island with over 100 spectacular villas and the amenities to support them. It is home to the Mustique Jazz Festival (end of January each year)

Canouan, (population estimate 2021 2,500 people) is a hybrid of private and public lands. The northern part of the island is private: the home of the *Canouan Estate*, the *Canouan Golf Course* and the *Mandarin Oriental Resort*. The village of Charlestown is the main hub of the island (and gives its name to the main west-facing bay). The southern part of the island is home to the *Canouan JetPort* and the *Sandy Lane Yacht Club and Residences* (a new marina with slips for superyachts up to 300 feet).

Tobago Cays Marine Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a protected area where visitors can explore reefs, swim with sea turtles and picnic on white sand beaches nestled in beautiful turquoise waters.

Mayreau, (population estimate 2021 300 people) is a charming small island with some excellent anchorages.

Palm Island, a private island, with some private villas and a resort, is known for its pristine beaches and prickly relations with superyachts.

Union Island, (population estimate 2021 2,300 people) the administrative capital of the Southern Grenadines. Union Island has some dramatic views from its various peaks and has been compared to Bora Bora by several superyacht captains. It is the centre of Kitesurfing in the Eastern Caribbean. It is also home to **Erika's**.

Petit Saint Vincent, a private island and resort. PSV is the southernmost island in SVG, the waters and islands to the south are Grenada.

GUESTS: GETTING THEM TO/FROM SVG

Access to SVG by private aircraft is simple: The Canouan JetPort can accommodate up to a Gulfstream 650 with a large enough apron to accommodate long term waiting. Erika's works with the FBO, Canouan Aviation, to make certain that transfers between jet and yacht are seamless. The Sandy Lane Marina is adjacent to the airport.

Access to SVG by commercial airline is possible, there are flights to Saint Vincent weekly to/from Miami, NYC, London, UK and Toronto; and daily to/from Barbados. The commercial connections to/from Saint Vincent change frequently in this post-COVID period, See *Briefing #03 Guests, Crew: Getting to the Grenadines*. For latest developments check with **Erika's**.

Check our **Erika's 2022 Briefing Note Index** for more detailed briefings on activities and features of each of our SVG islands.



M/Y Lady Lara off Clifton Harbour, Union Island