



# No Stress Nomads

A LIFESTYLE OF TRAVEL, FOOD, & DRINK.

≡ Menu

December 13, 2019 by Jefferson Vinall

## Leeward Tour of St. Vincent

St. Vincent is a big island with much to do and see. Our leeward tour of St. Vincent took us from Kingstown up the leeward side of the island in a van. During our tour, we stopped at three locations:

1. [Fort Charlotte](#);
2. [Wallilabou Anchorage film site](#);
3. [Dark View Falls](#);

**Covid-19 Update:** See this link for official [Covid travel protocols from the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#). The link contains information for entry either by plane or by yacht.

We enjoyed a fabulous tour with Stefano Taxi and Tours, out of Kingstown. Stefano met us at the ferry in the capital of Kingstown, greeted us warmly, and got our tour underway in his air-conditioned, van with plush leather seating. Click here for contact info of [Stefano Taxi & Tours](#).

Our first tour stop was just outside Kingstown, at Fort Charlotte.

## Historic Fort Charlotte



The commanding view from Fort Charlotte, with Bequia visible in the upper right.

## The view from Fort Charlotte

Fort Charlotte is one *must see* of St. Vincent. The spectacular view from 636 feet up is one you won't want to miss.

We opted for a guided tour of the fort, rather than self-guided. The cost of the guided tour was \$12 ECs, but our guide, Anthony, was so engaging and knowledgeable that we tipped him an additional \$28 ECs!

The fort's construction was begun sometime after the British gained control of SVG in 1763. Its construction was not completed until 1806.

The tour begins on the approach to the fort, where the vista afforded by Berkshire Hill is evident. You can see Kingstown Harbor to the east, distant islands to the south, to the west far out on the Caribbean Sea, and north to Campden Park industrial port.

Once you cross a small drawbridge and enter the fort, you are treated to a glimpse of St. Vincent's history.

## The history of St. Vincent

Within one of the first buildings you see inside the fort are a collection of paintings that depict a section of history of St. Vincent's people. They begin with the 1675 shipwreck when African slaves who'd survived somehow made it ashore on the neighboring island of Bequia. And the depictions end with the early exile of many Black Caribs to Baliceaux and their further exile in 1797 to Roatán in Honduras.



Black Caribs trading with the French, in the late 1700s.

## Military History

As you continue your tour of the fort, you'll explore the garrison and see some of the armaments the fort was equipped with. One unique feature of Fort Charlotte is that many of its cannons were aimed inland. The inland pointed guns were to defend the fort from French invaders and Black Carib insurgents, opposed to British occupation.



An inland pointed cannon,  
to defend against land-  
based attacks.

The fort was heavily armed with thirty-four cannons of varying sizes, while the ramparts held eleven thirty-two-pounders and two mortars. Just imagine thirty-two-pound cannon balls raining down on your ship! It would have been awesome destruction for any attacking fleet.

There is one section of the fort where you can see where lepers were quarantined to bathe away from the general population.

As you continue the fort's tour, you'll see the garrison, get a sense of how the soldiers lived, and learn of the fort's history after the fort was decommissioned.



Kingstown harbor, viewed from Fort Charlotte.

Whether you are a fan of military history, or not, or hold an interest in Caribbean history, or not, you'll certainly appreciate the beautiful views from Fort Charlotte. We rate this activity as a five stars out of five.





## Wallilabou Anchorage

Wallilabou Anchorage is the site for filming part of the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise. I wasn't expecting much from this self-guided, walking tour of the movie set. But I was wrong!

There are many movie props to examine, and it's just plain cool to walk around a place you remember from the movies.

Add to that, that there are salvaged internal memos for cast and crew that are posted in various spots around the set, and you feel like something pretty interesting took place here.



The set was built by Disney crews to portray the town of Port Royal in the first movie of the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise. It was then reused in both the second and third instalments. One building was built entirely by the crew, while most were renovations of existing structures.





There is a restaurant & bar on the site for you to obtain some refreshing beverages. If you are so inclined, you can get a bite to eat there as well.

[Pro Tip: Do not confuse Wallilabou Anchorage with Wallibou Beach. The two sound very similar but are spelled differently, and are about an hour-long drive apart. Also, Wallilabou Heritage Park is a different place \(picnic spot & waterfall\), but only about a mile \(1.5 kms\) from the Anchorage.](#)

If this film sight is one that interests you, don't wait to visit. It is falling into disrepair, and there is little funding available to preserve it. It's only a matter of time before it becomes no longer worth visiting.

We spent about an hour visiting the film site. There was no charge to view the set. We did purchase some cold Hairoun beer though. We rate this activity as a three stars out of five.

## Dark View Falls





Dark View Falls is a national park in St. Vincent. It is a double waterfall, meaning that there are two tiers to the falls. It is set in a beautiful park.

The falls are located about a ninety-minute drive from Kingstown. Along the way, you'll pass through various towns and villages. The road also takes you up, down, and around some mountain switchbacks.

There was a small charge of \$5 ECs per person to enter the park. After the ticket booth and the parking area, you will find a welcome center, change rooms, washroom facilities, food kiosk (more, cold Hairouns for us), and a picnic area set in the rainforest.

### **Rainforest walk & picnic**

To get to the falls, you'll take an easy, short hike through the rainforest park and across a bamboo bridge.



the bamboo bridge at Dark View Falls

The bamboo bridge is nothing to be afraid of. It's not very high up, and there are cable railings to hang on to. If the bamboo bridge still frightens you, we were told there is another (regular) bridge you can use, but it is a further walk.



We felt adventurous and crossed on the bamboo bridge. The hot, still air of the rainforest cools considerably as you get closer to the falls.

Once you cross the bridge, you find an expansive picnic area with a half-dozen or so tables. On the other end of that, you get to change rooms, and the first of the falls.

## The waterfalls

At the first of the falls, there is a viewing platform at the first fall where you can take pictures and stay dry.



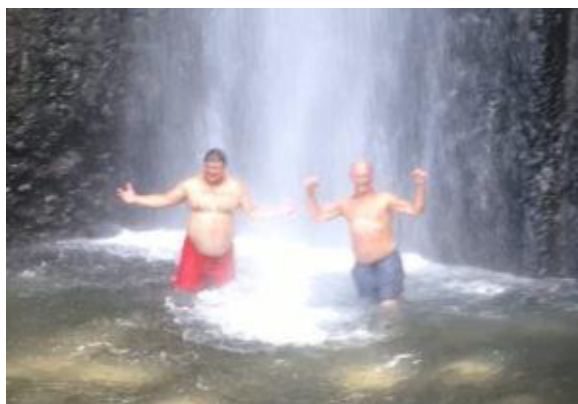
We also have a [fourteen second video of the fall available for download, here](#).

The first tier of the falls is relatively easy to access if you want to go in and get wet. You can stand under the pounding of the cold water as it pours from way up, or you can sit in a small wading area. The actual depth of the wading area ranges from waist deep, to ankle deep.

Watch your step though, as the surfaces are very slick. Some rocks under the fall can be a little jagged. This is the prettier of the two tiers, and is the one shown below.







me (left) and my dad (right) in the waterfall

The second tier of the falls is accessed via a short trail from the other side of the wading area. At the end of that trail is a set of stairs taking you up to the second fall. Unfortunately, the stairs are quite a climb, and not agreeable with the faint of breath or with poor mobility.

After the stairs, you'll walk into the water again and along the river for a short distance to get to the second fall. It is less visually stunning, and more undeveloped. The view from this tier is impressive, if you're not afraid of heights.

Our visit to the park and falls took around ninety minutes. We rate this activity as four stars out of five.

[Pro Tip: Bring a change of clothes so you can put on something dry before the long drive back to Kingstown.](#)

## What Else Interests You?

That's all we have to say about St. Vincent – for now. We think most folks would enjoy a leeward tour of St. Vincent as much as we did.

Do you have any [comments or suggestions](#)? We'd love to hear them.

If you're reading about St. Vincent, you may also be interested in tips & tricks we've included in the following articles:

- [Shops & Services in Kingstown](#), SVG;
- Contact info of [Stefano Taxi & Tours](#);



- [Bequia](#), SVG;
- [Union Island](#), SVG;
- [Carriacou](#), Grenada; or
- Grand Anse (and St. George's), Grenada – Coming soon!

📁 Caribbean, Sightseeing, Travel

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