



HISTORIC SVG

Land of the Blessed



ST. VINCENT
& THE GRENADINES

The Caribbean you're looking for

St. Vincent, Land of the Blessed



Homeland of the Garifuna, host of mighty La Soufrière, breadbasket and battleground – this small island and its siblings the Grenadines have had a momentous history. Its original Carib inhabitants called it “Hairouna”, Land of the Blessed. Since the age of European colonial expansion we’ve known it as St. Vincent.

Ancient native sites, sugar plantations, peak-topping coastal forts – SVG’s historical legacy is very much intact. You can hear it in the voices of the Vincentian people when they talk with pride of their national hero Joseph Chatoyer, the Black Carib chieftain who led his tribe in revolt against the British. Or recognise it in places with names like Bequia, Dorchester Hill and Chateaubelair.

For visitors to SVG there are a wealth of opportunities to see some of the marvels of the nation’s history from up close. The islands have several sites that combine the relics of the past with facilities for relaxation, play and other forms of recreation. Bathe in a natural pool, eat authentic “Vincy” cuisine and meditate on how life once was amidst the settings where it once took place.

Black Point Historic and Recreation Park

Walkway to the Past



The waves of the Atlantic lap against the dark hued sands of Black Point Beach. Stand on the shore and you can look out at the vastness of the ocean. But behind you is a spectacle almost as amazing, a feat of human engineering and ingenuity that has lasted for nearly two centuries almost unchanged. The Jasper Rock Tunnel, an over 360 ft passageway carved through the hillside, lets you traverse a low-lit corridor of history.

The tunnel was constructed in 1812 using slave labour to speed up the transportation of sugar from the Grand Sable Estate to the wharf at Byera Bay. Walk through the darkness of Jasper Rock, stand at its mouth looking down upon the jagged boulders hammered by the water. You will see what soldier, slave, sailor and native saw almost 200 years ago.

Black Point Facilities

- Welcome Booth
- Vending Booths
- Parking
- Playing Field
- Children's Playground
- Gazebos
- Washrooms
- Barbecue Pits
- Interpretation Centre

Getting There

Public transportation, tour operators or taxis.

Visits

Contact the Black Point Eco-Tourism Development Organisation.

Email: bettychild@vincysurf.com

Layou Petroglyph Park
History's secrets in stone





The English were the first to lay claim to St. Vincent in the early 17th Century but the island's history stretches out long before that. It stretches into hazy forest villages lit by firelight, painted hunters silently stalking their prey through the wild. This history, thousands of years old, remains largely unknown, lost in the dead embers of long spent tribal fires. But some glimpses of that past are still here to see. The Layou petroglyphs are one such.

Inland of Layou Bay in the southwest of St. Vincent, the Layou Petroglyph Park contains the mysterious rock carvings of the native people. The petroglyphs are estimated to be from between 300AD and 600AD. The area, hydrated by the Rutland River, must have been quite popular to the native people. Besides looking at the petroglyphs, visitors today can enjoy the forest, river and natural pool.

Maybe they were trying to tell us about the beauty of Layou itself.

Layou Petroglyph Park Facilities

- Visitor Centre
- Gazebos
- Parking
- Trails

Getting There

Public transportation, tour operators or hired taxis.

Visitors

Contact Vernon Mc Donald of the Layou Tourism and Heritage Organisation.

Tel: (784) 454-8686





Wallilabou Heritage Park

Estate of Play

Looking out at the waters of Wallilabou Bay it's easy to imagine what life in the early days of colonial St. Vincent was like. It's easy to imagine the tranquil waters of the Caribbean Sea now dotted by yachts to once have held the slow-moving ships of the age of sail. Situated near the island's west coast, the Wallilabou Estate was once a producer of cocoa, cotton and arrowroot. Today this former estate has been converted into one of SVG's beautiful recreational parks.

Relax in the bathing pool fed by the mini waterfall. Or bath in the aqueduct of the nearby river. The recreation area includes gazebos and benches, perfect for a family picnic, and a lovely flower garden.

Come experience a bit of what estate life used to be in St. Vincent – without the work of course.

Guest Facilities

- Visitor Centre
- Gazebo
- Restaurant and Bar
- Washrooms
- Parking

Getting There

Taxis, tour operators and public transportation.

Visits

For more information contact the Barrouallie Tourism and Heritage Organisation at (784) 455-6728.



Youroumei Heritage Village

History of the soil

Once upon a time fields of sugarcane spread across the land. Remote estate houses were the centres of human habitation. Simple machinery, powered by human muscle, tended the soil, transported the crops and refined its produce. A part of that important piece of St. Vincent's history has been preserved at the Youroumei Heritage Village.

Close to the Windward Highway on St. Vincent's east coast, Youroumei includes a complex of historical and archaeological buildings from the Orange Hill Estate, mainly ruins of sugar plantation houses and facilities. There is a museum within the "Old Sugar Mill" that contains some of the implements and items from that historic time period.

The people of St. Vincent have managed to maintain their deep ties to their history and soil. The Youroumei Heritage Village combines both of these for the pleasure of visitors.

Youroumei Village Facilities

- Restored Old Sugar Mill
- Museum
- Washrooms
- Site Office
- Parking

Getting There

Taxis and tours, sometimes public transportation, are readily available.

Visits

For more information contact National Properties Ltd: (784) 451-2094.

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