

A VISIT TO COCONUT BAY BEACH RESORT & SPA IN ST. LUCIA

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Flying over the Caribbean Sea, St. Lucia appears covered in a thick, green carpet of rainforest. Two massive hills – les Pitons – stand on the coast, the icons of the island.

Located five minutes away from the airport is Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, set on 85 acres surrounded by hundreds of coconut trees. The property is divided in two, catering to different types of visitors.

The aptly-named *Splash* section offers families plenty of pools and water slides, along with a lazy river. A swim-up bar exclusively for young people offers juices and frosted drinks. There's also a paintball facility for teenagers, the only one of its kind in the Caribbean.

Splash also features the CocoLand Kid's Club, an area where parents can relax and kids can play safely. It is equipped with a



nursery for toddlers and a games area for older children. Lia, who runs the kids club, says that some of the families frequently return to the resort; one young girl, who is barely six years old, is visiting for a third time, she said.

The rooms at *Splash* can accommodate up to five people and the resort offers adjoining rooms for families vacationing together. The first floor rooms have direct access to the gardens and pool, and feature large patio doors.

Catering to adult travellers, the *Harmony* side of the resort boasts spacious rooms with great views of the sea and the Maria Islands. These two islands are protected by the government of St. Lucia due to their unique flora and fauna, including more than 80 species of plants, the zandoli lizard and the Kouwes snake, one of the world's rarest reptiles.

Among the culinary offerings at Coconut Bay are its signature a la carte restaurants: *Silk*, offering modern Asian cuisine, and *Calabash*, featuring Caribbean fare. The restaurants are closed one night a week in order to make them available →





for weddings or business meetings. After 8 p.m., the restaurants and lounge are reserved for adults only, with live music and dancing.

The resort is a popular spot for destination weddings, offering a number of packages in a variety of settings, including its ocean-front gazebo, lush tropical garden or along the resort's mile-long beach. Coconut Bay hosts more than 200 wedding ceremonies a year, with all arrangements made through a booking office in Miami where expert planners offer personalized service to assure a couple's expectations are met.



A popular activity at Coconut Bay is kite-surfing, and the resort features a rental centre on the beach. Luckily, the winds always blow toward the beach, making it the perfect spot for beginners looking to take up the activity, though typically three days of lessons are required first.



Riders on horseback are also a familiar sight on the beach, along with the banana, coconut and calabash trees which seem to grow everywhere and give Coconut Bay its unique identity.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

In St. Lucia, they drive on the left side of the road

St. Lucia was alternately a French and English colony. The names of the towns and villages are French, and although French is still spoken throughout the country, inhabitants speak mostly English

Coconut Bay Resort & Spa is sold as an all-inclusive

A nurse is present onsite every day and a doctor is on call 24/7

A baby sitting service is available by request



MUST DO ACTIVITIES:

Visit the Soufriere and the botanical garden in the centre of the rainforest

Go on an excursion to The Beacon restaurant for its breathtaking views and traditional dishes

Take a catamaran cruise to explore the coast of the majestic Pitons

For the more adventurous type, there are several zip lining options through the tops of the rainforest and on the Pitons

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