

A detailed, stippled illustration of a turtle, viewed from above, with its head and front flippers extended. The turtle is centered on the page, and the title text is overlaid on its shell.

# **Canouan Information Pack**

## Maps of St Vincent and the Grenadines



## Welcome to Canouan Island St Vincent and the Grenadines

### Some History...

**Canouan Island**, the Carib-Indian name for “**island of turtles**” is located in the heart of the Grenadines in the South Western Caribbean. It is approximately 100 miles west of Barbados and a few miles southwest of Mustique. Stretching a mere three and a half miles by one and a quarter miles, it is one of the Caribbean’s best kept secrets with acres of unspoiled lush landscape and secluded coves to explore.

Set in the middle of the Grenadine archipelago, Canouan is an island of only 5 square miles. Like its sister islands, Canouan's first settlers (circa 3,000 BC) were a nomadic people from South America collectively referred to as the Ciboney. The next wave of migrants was the Arawaks who arrived around 250 BC by canoe. They brought with them the rudiments of farming and fishing and established Corn and Cassava crops.

Living as one with the land for over 1,500 years, the Arawak people of Canouan were brutally displaced by the invading Caribs. The warlike Caribs succeeded in keeping the Europeans at bay through a series of aggressive battles. The Caribs feared complete domination so they allowed the French to construct a settlement on the Island in 1719. The French brought with them slaves to work their plantations. Possession of the Grenadines swung back and forth between the British and the French. By 1748 the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle officially declared St. Vincent and its surrounding islands to be a neutral island controlled by neither Britain nor France. The two countries continued to contest control of the islands, however, until they were definitely ceded to the British in 1814.

During England's claim to the islands, King George III sent a team to survey the lands. Reputedly, Canouan was granted to five families -Brisbane, Decato, De Cazeau, Patrice and Snagg-with the latter family becoming the most powerful. The Snagg brothers cultivated sugar and gradually accumulated lands until they held 1,700 of the 1,830 acres.

When the price of Sugar plummeted they switched to the cultivation of Cotton. Wind-driven Cotton Gins were built at Carenage, Barbruce and Rameau. One of Snagg sons invited the British shipwright, Benjamin George Compton, to teach boat building techniques. These boats became the basis for the whaling trade that was established in the area. While Bequia dominated the trade, two Whaling Fisheries were set up on Canouan. Originally the main settlement was on the north side of the island. After the hurricane of 1921 destroyed the village, it was moved to Charlestown, which provided greater shelter.

In 1979 St Vincent and the Grenadines gained its Independence from Britain, which is celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October each year. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has an Independent Democratic Government based on the British system.

***This guide contains information about living and working in Canouan.***

## About Canouan Resorts Development (CRD)

In 1990 CRD signed a 99-year lease agreement with the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the construction and operation of an international residential resort and club of distinctive character on Canouan Island. The Canouan Resort and Golf Club, designed by the Italian architect Luigi Vietti, is an ultra-luxurious resort set on 300 of the 1,200 acres.

The Resort is set around the protected bays that offer breathtaking views of three secluded white sand beaches, all surrounded by one of the world's largest coral reefs. The Resort also features a golf course designed by the renowned Jim Fazio, a challenging but equally beautiful 18-hole, par 72 Golf Course.

## About CCA Limited

CCA Limited is a subsidiary of Canouan Resort Development (CRD). CCA prides itself on being a Vincentian company providing Construction, Architecture and Maintenance Services.

CCA Limited with its designs, have carved its place in the Construction Industry and maintains the highest international standards. The Robb Report rated The Amrita Spa Project and the Golf Course (CCA projects) "The Best of the Best" in their 2005 report.

CCA Limited built roads throughout Canouan (previously only dirt tracks), installed electricity to the island and residents' houses and provided desalinated water for the first time. Prior to that, fresh water was brought by boat from St. Vincent on a regular basis.

Along with the Resort and Villa projects CCA Limited also works closely with the Canouan Community and the Local Government. Projects that have recently been completed in Canouan are: The Police Station, Bus Terminal, The Administration Building which houses the Magistrate's Court, Post Office, Tourism Bureau, Immigration Office, Customs Office, and several other Government Departments including the Revenue and Health Offices.

The Marine Learning Resource Centre is a project that has been constructed by CCA Limited at cost, on behalf of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is powered entirely by Solar energy. The Facility is utilized to educate and provide general information on the importance of the preservation of the marine and coastal environments as well as the crucial link between the land and sea and all of the ecological structures in between. Functioning as a Lab, Classroom and Dive Centre, the Marine Resource Centre is the principle institution for marine education and conservation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Another large project recently completed by CCA Limited is the expansion of the Canouan Airport. The extension of the runway makes the airport accessible by a larger number of aircraft. The Canouan Airport boasts the longest runway in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition to the runway extension, an additional apron space and the arrivals terminal were also extended to accommodate the increasing aviation services and visitors to the island.



## Our People

CCA Limited currently has approximately 166 employees with different backgrounds and nationalities from around the world.

## Our Mission

To be a Vincentian Design, Project Management and Construction Company operating at a regional level, attaining internationally recognized quality standards to satisfy a highly demanding clientele by offering turnkey products.

## What We Do

**Core activities:** Design, Project Management, Construction

**Support activities:** Logistics & Building Maintenance

**Other activities:** Electrical, Water and Landscaping Maintenance

Recent CCA projects:



Canouan Administrative Building



The Pink Sands Club



Villa Mopian



## General Information on Living in Canouan

English is the official spoken language, with the inclusion of various international languages due to the presence of expatriate residents and visitors to the island.

### Weather/climate

The temperature ranges from 24c (75f) to 34c (94f). The dry season is January-April, and the rainy season is between July-October. The hurricane season is between June and November.

Light informal clothing should be worn outside work hours. Swimsuits or miniskirts are not to be worn in the streets or stores. It is advisable to bring long pants and hiking shoes if you intend to hike.

### Health - Medical Facilities

The **Canouan Clinic** is located in Retreat Village. Open daily between 9am-5pm.

Medical services can also be accessed via the Canouan Resort medical facility.

There is a Dentist that comes to the island twice per month (usually on Thursdays) he operates out of the Canouan Clinic.

### Schools

There are two Primary schools on Canouan, the Canouan Government School and then the private CRD group school, Pelican school. There is also the Coral Reef Pre-school, for group employees located close to Pelican. Pelican and Coral reef are for both local and expatriate employee children. Pelican is committed to teaching a combined curriculum of local and international, so that parents moving to Canouan can rest assured that their child will be able to fit back into their home curriculum should they return to it.

For more information on the school please visit <http://pelicanschool.weebly.com/> If you have children who will be relocating with you we will put you in touch with the Head Teacher for any questions you may have.

## Immigration, Work Permits and Visas

### Commonwealth & International Workers Working in Canouan

All international arrivals into St. Vincent and the Grenadines must present a valid passport. Only OECS Nationals are allowed to enter St. Vincent and the Grenadines on a Driver's License, Voters Registration Card, and National Identification Card.

As a new employee migrating to Canouan to live and work, you need a Work and Residency Permit. CCA Limited would apply for the Work and Residency Permit on your behalf. In the meantime, you should expect the following:

CCA will have already informed the Immigration office that you are arriving to work for the company and that permit applications will be sent shortly after your arrival.

### **Work Permit Approval**

A work permit normally takes between 2 to 4 months to be processed. Upon being granted the Work and Residency Permit you have a choice as to whether or not you want the W&RP stamp in your passport.

If your spouse/family has migrated with you (or will at a later date), the procedure listed above is the same for your spouse. The immigration process is facilitated by the HR department but the cost is borne by you, the employee. The costs that will be back charged to you are:

- \$ 25.00 Extension of Stay (Visa Stamp)
- \$ 125.00 Notarization Cost
- \$ 200.00 Residency Application fee
- \$ 200.00 Work Permit Application fee
- \$ 600.00 Residency Permit for CARICOM National
- \$2,000.00 Residency Permit for Commonwealth National
- \$2,400.00 Residency Permit for International National

Please note that for family or friends visiting, a return or onward ticket is required in order to enter into St Vincent and the Grenadines.

### **Caricom Workers Working in Canouan**

Members of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) are no longer required to have Work and Residency Permit to live and work in St Vincent & The Grenadines.

In light of that background, you are to obtain a Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification from the designated Ministry in your home Country. This will eliminate the need for CCA Limited to apply for a Work and Residency Permit on your behalf.

Please contact your relevant Ministry for documentation needed and the steps that you need to take to obtain the Certificate.

Once you are issued the Certificate of Recognition by your country, upon migrating to Canouan you will be granted a definite entry of six months. Then your qualifications will be reviewed by the Ministry responsible for Immigration in St Vincent & The Grenadines and once the Ministry is satisfied that you have the qualifications then you will be granted indefinite entry. You will also need to bring along a recent Police Record of Character.

## Customs regulations

Small quantities of Alcohol and Tobacco are duty free, as are personal effects and tools of profession, trade or employment. Other items are dutiable or restricted.

## Illegal Drugs

There are very severe penalties for possession of illegal drugs like Cannabis (weed /ganja), cocaine etc. (up to life imprisonment). The presence, use and/or sale of illegal drugs in your apartment/house or surroundings is strictly prohibited.

Any person found in possession of, using, or selling illegal drugs will be immediately reported to the police. In addition person(s) will be deported and have their employment permanently terminated.

## Utilities

### Gas Station

The Gas Station is open every weekday between 8am-4pm. CCA company cars are supplied with gas at no cost to employee.

### Electricity

St. Vincent and the Grenadines have a reliable supply of electricity. Electricity is generally 220/240 volt, 50 cycles. Most hotels have 110-volt shaver outlets.

The standard electrical plug has 3 rectangular pins, in the same formation as the United Kingdom, so remember to pack an adapter. Transformers and local surge suppressors are a good idea to protect your electronic equipment.

This is the type of adapter you need.



### Water

Drinking water in the island is supplied by the CCA desalination plant.



## Other Useful Information

### Garbage

Garbage is collected in the village twice per week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, the collection time is very early in the morning. It is advisable that you put out your garbage the night before.

### Internet

A good internet service is available on the island. The island's internet provider is LIME, a deposit of XCD\$300 is needed for the initial connection, followed by a monthly bill, which will include charge for modem (cost dependent on package) and installation XCD100). Upon arrival on the island you will be given assistance in the setting up your account with the provider.

### Cable TVs

A total of EC\$199.50 (includes a deposit and one month's cable)

### Currency

The currency of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$). Notes are issued in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5. Coins are issued in denominations of \$1 and 0.25, 0.10, 0.05, 0.02 and 0.01 cent pieces. The exchange rate is tied to the US dollar at a rate of \$2.6682 for notes and \$2.6882 for checks. To purchase the US\$ the rate is \$2.7169.

### Banking

National Commercial Bank (Tel: 784 452 4176) opens 8:00am to 2:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 8:00 am to 5:00pm on Thursdays. To open an account you need a letter of employment from the company and a letter from your local banking group stating that the account is current and indicating when the account was opened. The letter from the bank has to be an original on the bank's letter head. Copies are not acceptable.

### Credit cards

All major credit cards are accepted in existing Hotels and Up Market Businesses. Cash payment in US\$ is accepted alongside EC\$ everywhere else in Canouan.

Visa, Electronic Credit Cards (you can get a prepaid one just before leaving your country) and enough US \$ for the first couple of weeks on the island is advisable, to tide you over until you receive your first pay check.

Please note: that MasterCard is not accepted in the local bank and some of the shops on the island.

## Shopping

**Canouan Foods Limited** and **Rebecca's Place** carry the widest supply of grocery items. There are also other small grocery shops in the village and a small daily market selling fruit, vegetables and fish.

- ❖ Salads, herbs and vegetables can be ordered from CCA hydroponic farm.
- ❖ The Fisheries in Friendship Bay is open all day.
- ❖ A limited supply of hardware is available at K&W Supplies.

Other shops in the village are Ambrose Bargain Center and Bare Necessity. There is also a gift shop and a boutique in Canouan Resort.

Local newspapers (The News, The Vincentian and The Search Light) are available on Fridays from St Vincent and can be purchased at the local grocery stores for EC\$1.00 for The News, \$1.50 for The Vincentian and The Searchlight.

### A guide to the cost of living in Canouan

(Prices subject to change and taken from supermarkets in Canouan, shopping from mainland supermarkets is generally cheaper on all items). All prices quoted in Eastern Caribbean Dollars XCD)

*1 litre long life milk - \$6.00*

*Loaf of bread - \$6.00*

*1lb rice - \$2.50*

*1lb bananas - \$2.00*

*1lb butter - \$8.00*

*Dozen eggs - \$12.00*

*1lb potatoes - \$3.00*

*1lb tomatoes - \$12.00*

*Pack of cigarettes - \$8*

*1 bottle Heineken - \$6*

*1 bottle local Beer (Hairoun) - \$6*

Other supplies can be found in St Vincent. C K Greaves & Co Ltd, Super J and Save A Lot, are the major Supermarkets, with a wide variety of local and imported goods. They have locations both in Arnos Vale (near airport) and Kingstown (near ferry port). Gourmet Food also carries a variety of quality fresh and frozen food imported from overseas. CCA can facilitate employees in the opening of accounts with CK Greaves, but the accounts are the financial responsibility of the employee. The goods are delivered regularly to Canouan by ferry with a charge per box, and can be ordered by phone or via e-mail. Please contact the HR Department for information on opening an account.

### CCA Mailing Address

The postal system in Canouan is not very advanced, and no mail is delivered to houses. In order to receive mail/packages it should be addressed in the following way:

Your Name  
C/O CCA Limited  
PO Box 004  
Grand Bay  
Canouan  
St Vincent & the Grenadines  
VC0450

### Driver's License

If you need to drive in Canouan you must purchase a local drivers permit, which can be acquired at the Police Station on Canouan. A valid driver's license from your country of residence is required. The cost of the license is EC \$100.00 is valid for 6 months and employees are responsible to cover this cost. Please remember to drive on the **LEFT** and you must remember to carry your license with you at all times.

### Hair Salon

Diane's Hair Salon offers a wide variety in hair care for both men and women, also specializes in manicures, pedicure and facials.

Canouan Resort Hair Salon offer 50% discount to CCA Managers.

### Transportation

Local individuals provide a fixed route bus service from the village to the main entrance gate of the Canouan Resort, Monday through Saturday, from 6am to 6pm. The cost of a one-way ticket is EC\$1.00.

### Taxi Services

There are limited local taxi services available on the island.

### Ferry Services

Passenger ferries services operate daily during the week from Canouan to St Vincent (4 hours approx) and to Union island (1hr approx).

There is a fast ferry passenger service called the "Jaden Sun" that travels from Canouan to St Vincent via Bequia (1.30mins approx.). It offers affordable fares and is faster than the regular ferries.

## Flights

The Canouan airport was officially opened in 1998 with the air strip extension and major renovations to the airport completed in May 2008. It is now the jet port for the Grenadines. There are scheduled direct flights to Canouan from Barbados and St. Vincent with onward connections with LIAT and Grenadine Airways. Mustique Airways and SVG operate private charters between the islands.

A government departure tax of EC \$50.00 is charged to all passengers leaving the country. No taxes are imposed on inter-island travel within St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

[www.liat.com](http://www.liat.com)

[www.svgair.com](http://www.svgair.com)

## Activities on Canouan

### Diving



Canouan Dive Center Tel: 482 0820/532 8072

The Dive Center is located at the Moorings. It offers diving courses, diving and snorkeling trips in the beautiful coral reef of Canouan and nearby islands including the Tobago Quays.

### Sailing

**Canouan Sailing Club** organizes Sunday activities with small sailing boats, and sailing races events.

### Sport Facilities

#### Soccer, Basketball, Cricket and Tennis



There is a new recreation facility by the Fisheries (pictured), with tennis/basketball court, football pitch (not full size but sufficient to play friendlies!) To use the court, you need call to reserve, especially if at night time when you need the floodlights turned on.

## Music



Steel Pan Lessons for adults and children are available at “De Pan Yard” in the village which is sponsored by CCA Limited. We recommend that you go along to try, or at least listen to the group play, if you haven’t experienced it before!

## Tours



A number of private tour operators are available to arrange your sightseeing tours throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Book directly or through Tamarind Beach Hotel reception, which offers several daily trips by boats.

<b>Captain Yannis – Sea Tours</b>	<b>Tel (784) 458 8513</b>
<b>Baleine Tours – Sea Tours</b>	<b>Tel (784) 457 4089</b>
<b>Fantasea Tours – Sea Tours</b>	<b>Tel (784) 457 4477</b>
<b>HazECO Tours – Land Tours-St Vincent</b>	<b>Tel (784) 457 8634</b>



## Hotels, Restaurants & Beaches

### Tamarind Beach Hotel and Yacht Club (TBH)

An Italian owned and managed beachfront oasis with 45 hideaways surrounded by tropical gardens, on a long white sand beach, with breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea.



### Palapa Restaurant

Serves breakfast (7-10am), lunch (12-2pm) and dinner (7 to 9:30pm). The dress code is elegantly casual. Table Reservations are requested, please call: 458-8044.

### Pirate's Cove Bar

Is open from 4pm- 11pm and serves a variety of pizza, pasta, fish and meat dishes (also as take away). The dress code is informal.

The resident DJ provides entertainment on Wednesday nights with Happy hour from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. On occasion there is a buffet night at Pirate's Cove Bar which is very popular.

### Beach Bar



Opens for drinks, cocktails and light food from 10am to 6pm.

## Canouan Resort



An ultra luxurious resort set on 300 acres of a 1,200 acre private estate featuring three secluded white sand beaches, all surrounded by one of the world's largest coral reefs. The Canouan Resort is set in an amphitheatre style around the protected bay with each of the 156 accommodation provisions offering breathtaking views. It features the Golf Club, a challenging 18-hole, par 72 golf course, designed by Jim Fazio.



A 17th century Anglican Church, brought to the island from England at the end of the last century, has been lovingly restored stone by stone and can be found in the center of the resort. The church now features beautiful murals and stained glass windows by renowned Italian artist Costanzo Rovati.

The Resort offers distinct gourmet restaurants and bars offering a variety of cuisine:

- **Shell Beach Bar & Grill** - This serene sheltered beach in the villa community serves a light lunch sandwiches, salads, grilled seafood and meats on the beach.
- **La Piazza Restaurant** - A stylish Italian concept, will pamper its guests with a sleek and contemporary design.
- **Bellini's Bar and Bistro** - For less formal dining with great pizza and Italian/Caribe creations. Grill and salad bar make Bellini's the place to be whilst enjoying the sun or a star lit evening.

All Managers are entitled to a special 50% discount at the restaurants, on non-alcoholic beverages and at the Resort's Hair Salon. Discounts are only applicable when a personal account is opened at the resort.

### The Mangrove



Located in Bachelor's Hall, The Mangrove provides local cuisine and a daily lunch special. Just seconds away from the beach, this establishment is open from 9:00am – until.

Tel: 784-482-0761

Email: [themangrove2010@gmail.com](mailto:themangrove2010@gmail.com)

## Beaches

Canouan is famous in the Grenadines for its unspoiled fine sandy beaches and coral reef- all yours to be discovered – don't forget your snorkel gear if you have it!

- **Grand Bay** - you can walk to the end of the bay and to the Sailing Club, on the Caribbean Sea
- **Twin Bay**
- **Friendship Bay**
- **Dallis Bay** (opposite the airport)

Inside Carenage Bay Resort:

- **Godhal Beach**- great for snorkeling
- **Point du Jour**- also called Shell Beach
- **Mahault**

