



ST. EUSTATIUS

(Statia)

Welcome to our island



Statia: Leave no Trace

Sint Eustatius is being increasingly recognized as an attractive eco and sustainable tourism destination. Nature abounds.

Diving and snorkeling are magnificent. Shipwrecks, thriving coral reefs and a diverse array of marine life thrill divers from around the world. Numerous trails affording hikers a view of beautiful vistas are quite the attraction and The Quill, a dormant volcano standing 600 meters (1,969 feet) high, is the highlight of it all. Hikers can get to the summit within an hour and an exploration of what lies within the crater will delight nature lovers.

Above and below, Statia offers a superb experience to those who appreciate nature, are mindful of the importance of nature conservation and want to enjoy it, responsibly.



Statia: A Sustainable Destination

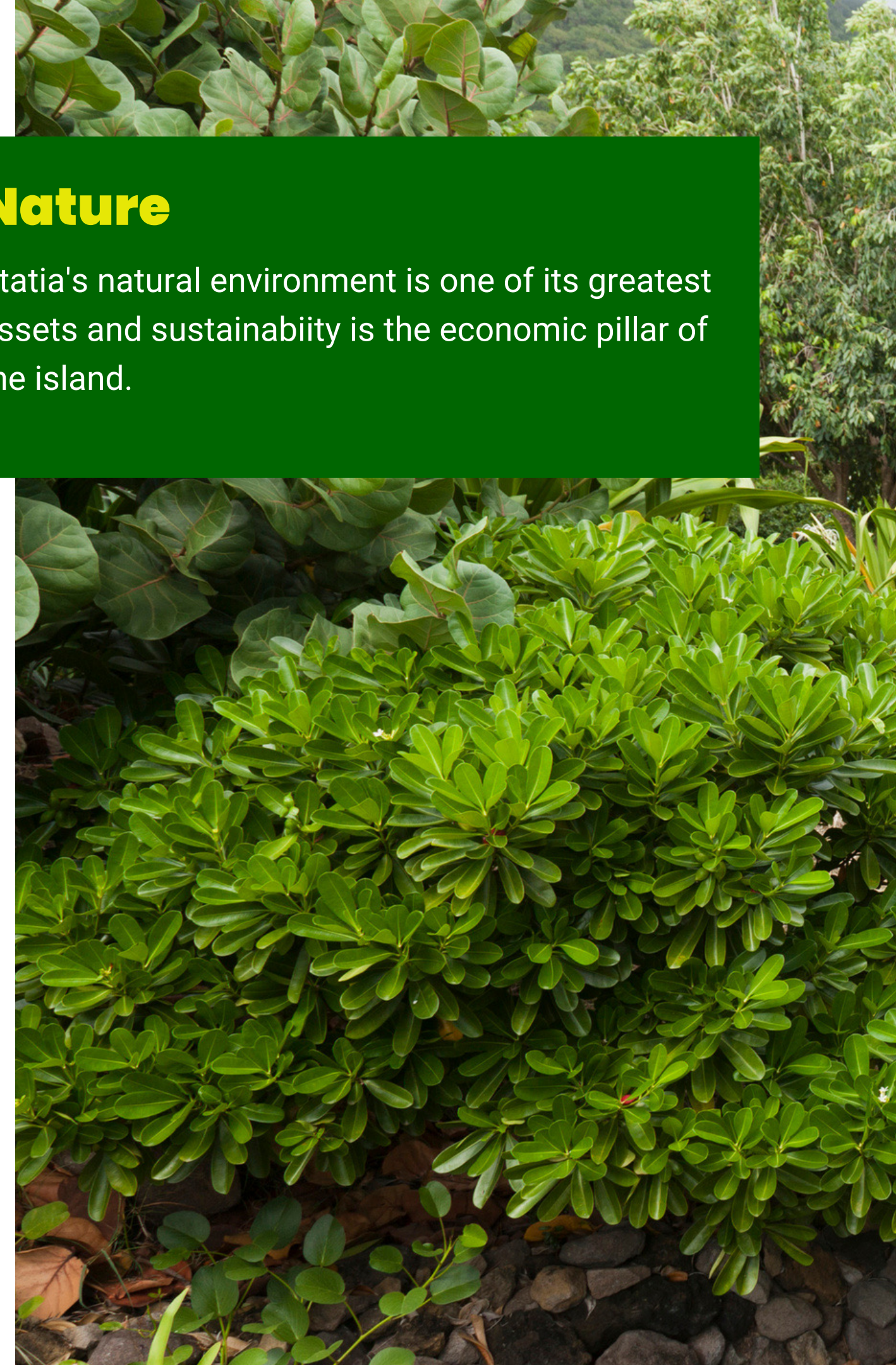


Nature

Statia's natural environment is one of its greatest assets and sustainability is the economic pillar of the island.

In 2019 and 2021, Statia received the Green Destination Silver award distinction and was mentioned among the top 100 sustainable destinations of the world. In 2021, numerous businesses on the island under the guidance of the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation, participated and received the Good Travel Seal recognition.

By engaging the local community as a strategic partner, the authorities work collaboratively to avoid damage to the environment and culture, while reducing tourism's environmental impacts, and ensuring economic benefits are enjoyed.



Statia: An Ecotourism Destination

Known for its stunning beauty, Statia is eager to preserve its natural environment so it can remain a paradise for nature enthusiasts.

- ◆ Conservation of cultural heritage and the natural environment
- ◆ National Parks
- ◆ Protected wildlife
- ◆ Encourages the practice of responsible tourism
- ◆ Ensures that tourism has a low impact on the environment
- ◆ Locals are involved in the preservation of the island's ecosystems
- ◆ Statia is home to an abundance of globally important species including critically endangered and endangered and vulnerable species





Protected areas



The Quill-Boven National Park

The Quill, a dormant volcano, is the highest peak on the island at 1,969 feet. Inside the volcano's crater, visitors can explore a small tropical rainforest filled with cotton, fruit trees and orchids.



The Botanical Garden

Located near the Quill, the Botanical Garden is dedicated to preserving species native to Statia and nearby islands.



The Marine Park

The National Marine Park was created in 1996 and it surrounds the entire island. Divers will find coral reefs, marine life and shipwrecks that remain untouched thanks to preservation efforts.

The Quill–Boven National Park

The park protects approximately 26% of the land area of St. Eustatius and is home to biologically diverse habitats and archaeological sites. Some of these sites include a fort, slave villages, industrial complexes, plantations and walls dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. The endemic creeping vine, Statia Morning Glory, can be found within the Boven section of the National Park.

The National Park offers some of the best hiking on the island with views of neighbouring islands Saba and St. Kitts.



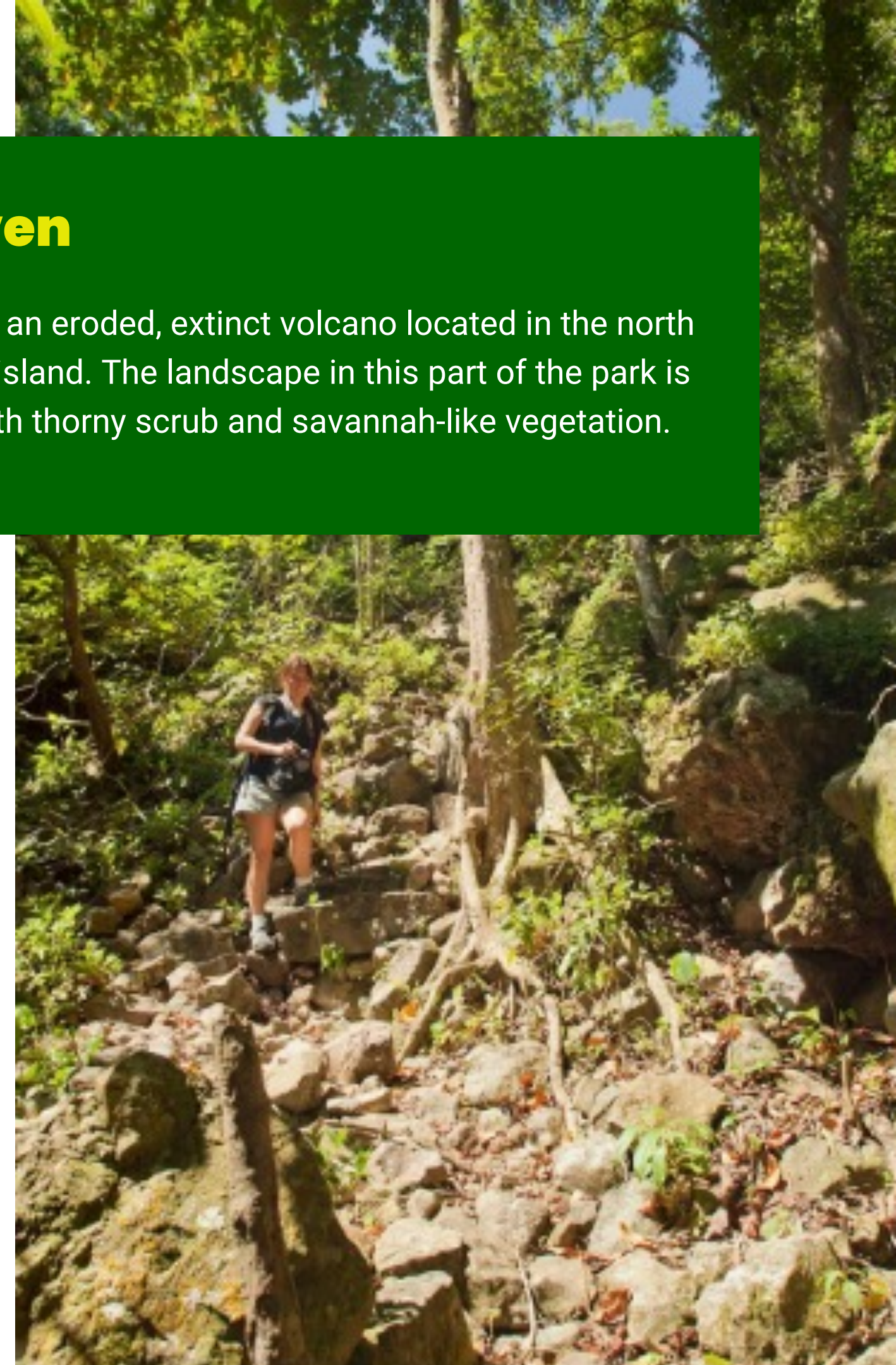
The Quill

This is a 600-metre (1,969 feet) dormant volcano covered in dense tropical forest. It is located on the south-eastern end of the island and includes areas of primary and secondary rainforest.



Boven

This is an eroded, extinct volcano located in the north of the island. The landscape in this part of the park is dry, with thorny scrub and savannah-like vegetation.

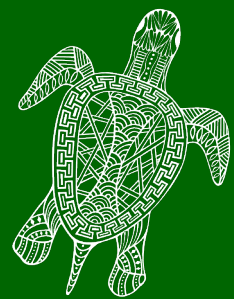


National Marine Park

The park surrounds the island of St. Eustatius and extends from the high-water mark to the 30-metre (100') depth contour and extends significantly into the territorial waters around St. Eustatius. It was established to protect and improve biodiversity, regulate and promote sustainable use of the park and a green economy.

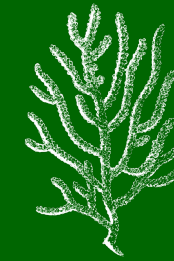
Dive moorings are maintained to prevent anchoring, while allowing people the opportunity to enjoy the diving on Statia's reefs.

The Park lies on the seasonal migration route for Humpback Whales.



Reserves

The Reserves were set up to conserve marine biodiversity, restore fish stocks, promote sustainable tourism, and safeguard the marine ecosystem.



Coral reefs

Within the Marine Park, there are two marine reserves - the Northern and Southern Reserves. To protect the coral reefs, no fishing or anchoring is allowed in these areas.



Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Garden

This is located on the southern slopes of The Quill. It's dedicated to preserving and enhancing the island's existing ecosystems and reintroducing species that once thrived on Statia, protecting them for future generations. It is also concerned with the conservation of available resources using sustainable practices – solar energy and rainwater catchment cisterns, composting and making mulch from garden debris.

At the Garden, education of residents and visitors about Statia's rich biodiversity with guided tours, information and public events takes place.



Nature

Nature is recognized and treasured as an important resource and its monetary and intrinsic values are taken into account in the sustainable development of St Eustatius.



Miriam Schmidt

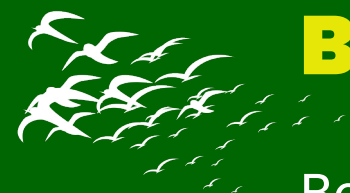
The Garden is named after Miriam Schmidt, a Statian who wanted to protect the rich biodiversity of her island. It is 5.3 hectares and was established in 1998.



Birding

The National Park is designated an Important Bird Area. Here you'll spot Hummingbirds, Bridled Quail-doves, Brown Tremblers and Pearly-eyed Thrashers and more!

While hiking up The Quill, bird lovers may have the opportunity to see the Bridled Quail-dove which wanders the outer slopes of the dry forest at elevations of over 200 meters and inside the lush, liana-filled crater. This bird is rare to see and is a declining species across its range but sightings on Statia are common thanks to the protected status of The Quill National Park.



Breeding Colony

Boven includes an estimated 100-200 Red-billed Tropicbirds and is a regionally important breeding colony for these birds.



Species

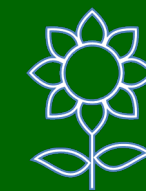
St. Eustatius is home to an abundance of globally important species including critically endangered and endangered and vulnerable species



STENAPA

The St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) was formed to manage, conserve and restore St Eustatius' natural resources and educate the community of its values. This is done to sustain and improve the value and benefits of the natural resources and the ecosystem services it provides, so that the socioeconomic, political and cultural needs of current and future generations can be met.

STENAPA manages The Marine Park which surrounds the island. The non-profit foundation is also in charge of The Quill and Boven National Parks and the Botanical Garden. They run several ecotourism activities on the island and encourage visitors to leave no trace.



Nature

Nature abounds on Statia, so bird-watchers and nature-lovers will delight in its wealth of flora and fauna.





Conservation Targets

Conservation targets are the island's ecological systems, processes, habitats, communities and species that represent the island's biological diversity.

MARINE PARK

- Coral reefs
- Seagrass beds (native)
- Grouper
- Marine turtles
- Sharks, rays and marine mammals
- Conch

TERRESTRIAL PARK QUILL/BOVEN

- Birds
- Lesser Antillean Iguana
- Red bellied racer snake
- Statia Morning Glory
- Forest and dry shrub



Red-Bellied Racer Snake



Lesser Antillean Iguana



Green Sea Turtle



Bridled Quail Dove



Lignum vitae, Tree of Life

Conservation Efforts

Efforts continue to save endangered species such as the Lesser Antillean Iguana. Iguana patrols search for and remove the invasive Green Iguana and hybrids.

STENAPA also runs a volunteer program. Travelers, here is a Voluntourism opportunity!




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St. Eustatius is striving to generate energy from renewable sources. During the day, the island's solar park generates the energy to meet the full electricity demand while in the evening and night, production of electricity is switched over to diesel generators.

The island made tremendous efforts in waste management: with its recycling approach, it sorted and integrated its waste for further usage that significantly reduced the potential contamination of the island's marine and terrestrial life.

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Conservation of available resources using sustainable practices

- ◆ Solar energy and rainwater catchment
- ◆ Banning of single use plastics
- ◆ Cisterns, composting and making mulch from garden debris
- ◆ The opening of the solar farm in 2017 cut the need for diesel generators to power the island by about half. That has removed 4,560 tons of carbon dioxide a year from the atmosphere
- ◆ Statia Utility Company is expanding its solar farm and battery storage. By 2024, the island will be able to generate about 60% of its energy sustainably

History + Culture

The island was discovered by Columbus in 1493 but changed hands 22 times before eventually being owned by the Dutch. In the meantime, the French, English and Dutch eagerly sought to take advantage of the strategic location of this small island in the Caribbean Sea. Our tiny nation earned the name the “Golden Rock” from its prominence as a trading port in the 17th century and the significant role it played in 1776, being the first to salute the United States of America as a free nation.



Smallest Capital

Oranjestad is the only city on Statia and is also the smallest capital in the world



History + Culture

Statia has 119 historical monuments. The island is considered to be an open-air museum, and, on a walk or hike, you can't help but notice the many remnants of history around the island.

52 nationalities call Statia home.

Blue Beads:

These functioned as local currencies in the 17th century and were traded for tobacco, cotton, rum, and slaves. Legend has it that you don't find the beads – the beads find you, and if you are lucky enough to find one, it means you will return to Statia. Divers can attest to that!



Fortresses

Statia has a total of nineteen fortresses, all of which offer magnificent views of the neighboring islands.

St. Eustatius is truly the Caribbean's hidden treasure.

Statia, as it's commonly known, forms part of the Netherlands along with two of our sister islands, Bonaire and Saba. Together, we are called the BES islands. A small island (8.1 square miles) with big thrills, we are gently nestled between Sint Maarten and St. Kitts and our residents are some of the most genuinely hospitable people you will ever encounter anywhere in the world. The island is blessed with a rich history and diverse population (+/- 52 different cultures live on the island). Uninterrupted natural beauty and the absence of mass tourism gives our lovely island its unique charm.

St. Eustatius is home to some of the Caribbean's best diving. There is more than a dozen shipwrecks and old historic relics on the bottom of the ocean of Oranje Bay. The island is also very popular for terrestrial birds – there are over 52 different species of birds here and our numerous hiking trails must be mentioned. We are a veritable eco-tourist's paradise!

We expect to see tourism grow by 2 to 5 percent per year over the next 5 years. When access to a product is made easier, more people will gravitate to that product and we are pleased with our sea and air expansion, as we create more options for travelers to the destination.

It is also important to have air and sea lift from multiple hubs. Sint Maarten continues to be our main gateway but in October, the Makana Ferry started runs between St. Kitts and Statia which opened another entryway into the island via St. Kitts.

Statia's aim is to attract tourists from the United States, Canada and Europe and in December, we'll be welcoming a small luxury cruise ship, SeaDream I, to the island which bodes well for tourism growth with the anticipation of repeat visits.

In 2023, our targets will be eco-friendly travelers, specialty groups, middle aged and senior travelers seeking mid to upscale experiences. Although we anticipate and welcome an increase in arrivals, we remain mindful that this must be controlled and monitored to ensure that our quality product remains intact as we are a small destination that cannot accommodate mass tourism.

Set your date and come, visit us!



Charles Lindo, Tourism Director