

# Essential information

## OVERSEAS DEPARTURE TAXES

Overseas departure tax is included in the flight ticket **except** when leaving Bequia or St Vincent where a departure Tax of approx. EC\$100 or US\$40 is payable locally. This must be paid in CASH at the airport after checking in - can be paid in EC or US Dollars. Subject to change and should be checked locally.

## PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

British Citizens, including children and infants, need a full 10-year passport, valid for at least 6 months after their intended return date to the UK, but there are no visa requirements for any of our destinations. If any members of your party are not British Citizens or do not hold a British Passport, they must satisfy themselves as to any visa requirements by consulting the Embassy or Consulate of the relevant country. There are currently no compulsory vaccinations required, however we suggest that you check with your local health centre or GP for the latest medical advice.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Virtually all the thousands of visitors to the islands each year have happy and trouble-free holidays. These are friendly islands who welcome visitors to their shores. However, even in these idyllic surroundings you should not become complacent about safety and security. Isolated incidents, although very rare, can occur here as they can in any part of the world and visitors should exercise common sense wherever they travel. We would advise visitors to use taxis after dark whenever possible. Many restaurants will offer help with taxis to and from their premises – some offer a free pick-up and collection service. We also advise particular caution when visiting isolated beaches and deserted areas at all times of day.

**We advise all our clients travelling anywhere in the world to consult the Foreign Office website for detailed up-to-date travel advice. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> for information and feel free to talk to our staff for clarification of any information the web page contains.**

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is essential that you and your party are fully covered by travel insurance. You are free to use any source for this, as long as the following important areas are covered: Personal accident, death, medical and repatriation expenses, loss of baggage and valuables, personal liability, delay, cancellation (please check you are covered for the value of the holiday), curtailment, missed departure and legal expenses.

## CARIBBEAN “TOURIST TAXES”

In recent years many Governments in the Caribbean region have introduced various “tourist taxes” or “levies” which need to be paid locally – details of current charges on the relevant islands are listed below:

### BARBADOS ‘TOURISM LEVY’

The Government of Barbados has announced that a mandatory tourism levy of between US\$4.50 – US\$17.50 per room per night will be added to all hotel bills from 1st July 2018. The amount payable will depend on the rating attributed to the hotel by the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA). We will advise you of the amount/s payable at the time of booking. The levy will not be included in the cost of your holiday and must be paid upon check out by cash or credit card.

### **BEQUIA 'CLIMATE RESILIENCE LEVY'**

*The Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines has announced that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, all visitors staying less than 30 days will be charged a 'climate resilience levy' of US\$3 per room per night.*

*St Vincent and the Grenadines has experienced a number of natural disasters over recent years', so the purpose of the tax is to establish a fund to assist with any future natural disasters.*

*The levy will not be included in the cost of your holiday and must be paid upon check out by cash or credit card.*

### **ST LUCIA 'TOURIST ACCOMMODATION FEE'**

*The Government of St Lucia has announced that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, all visitors 16 years and over will be charged a head tax per person per day. The charge follows a two-tier structure tied to a hotel's average daily rate – fee also applies to stays in guest houses, villas and apartments.*

*The fee will either be US\$3 or US\$6 per person per day and needs to be paid locally upon check out by cash or credit card. We will advise you of the amount/s payable at the time of booking.*