Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe

THINGS TO SEE

- Deshaies Botanical Garden This beautiful estate was once home to Coluche, a famous French comedian. Now it's home to a vibrant botanical garden that covers 12 acres (five hectares) of sloping mountainside, and breathtaking views of a waterfall and the coast.
- 2 Church of Saint-Pierre et Saint-Paul This
 19th-century basilica is nicknamed "the
 Iron Cathedral" because of its sturdy
 girders and beautiful interior ironwork.
- 3 Mémorial ACTe This former sugar factory is now a cultural center dedicated to the memory of those who suffered at the hands of the slave trade. A UNESCO Slave Route Project that began in 1994, the center features historic and artistic exhibits and research libraries.

- 4 Place de la Victoire The main public square of Pointe-à-Pitre, this place was named Victory Square in 1794 in celebration of the abolition of slavery.

 It was also home to a busy guillotine during the French Revolution.
- Musée Municipal Saint-John Perse (The Museum Saint John Perse) A two-story colonial house that is now home to a museum honoring the renowned poet and Nobel Laureate Alexis Saint-Léger, better known as St-John Perse.
- 6 Museum Schoelcher A colonial building that is now a museum dedicated to the life and work of Victor Schoelcher, an activist who helped abolish slavery in Guadeloupe. Peruse exhibits and artifacts of the slave trade and Victor Schoelcher's personal collection of art.

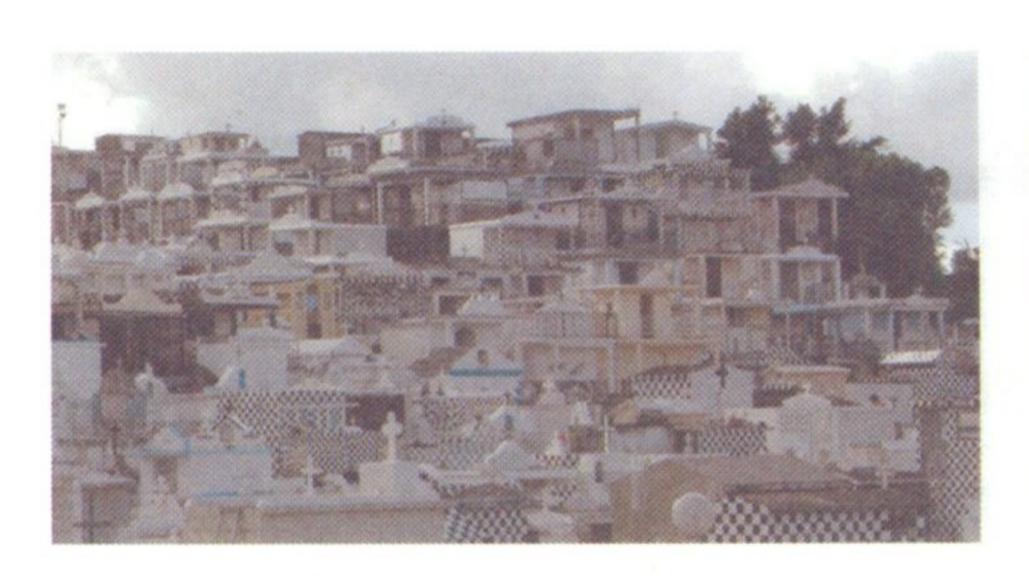
EAT

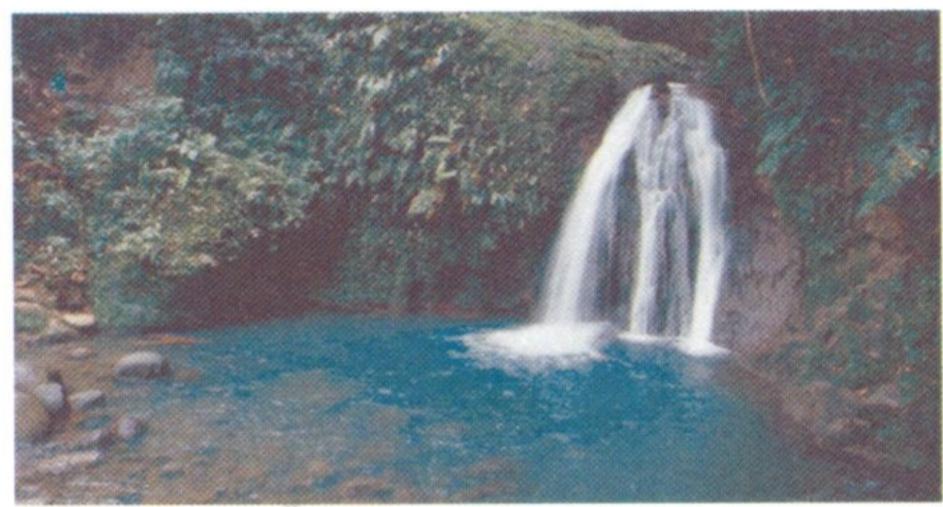
La Canne à Sucre This elegant, stylish restaurant is known for its delicious Caribbean and European cuisine, extensive wine list, renowned dessert menu and spectacular views of Pointe-à-Pitre's harbor from the covered terrace.

SHOP

- Rue St. John Perse Named after the French poet-diplomat St-John Perse who was born here and won a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1960 this street is lined with shops and cafés.
- Marché Saint-Antoine This open-air pavilion is informally known as Central Market. Shop for spices, produce, and arts and crafts.







GET OUT OF TOWN

Guadeloupe National Park This park covers more than 46,000 acres and is part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It contains areas of tropical rain forest, coastal forest, mangrove swamps, hundreds of species of trees and plants, the beautiful Cascade aux Écrevisses ("Crayfish Falls") and the three waterfalls that make up the Chutes de Carbet.

Pointe des Châteaux Did you know that Guadeloupe is not a single island, but rather an archipelago of multiple islands? From this peninsula of castle-like rock formations, you'll see dramatic views of La Désirade, Petite Terre and Marie-Galante, three of these islands. This site is also on the list of Grands Sites de France, which protects France's natural monuments.

Réserve Cousteau Named after Jacques
Cousteau, who declared Pigeon Island to
be one of the world's best dive areas, catapulting it to international fame amongst
scuba divers. The water surrounding the
island is a protected underwater park, and
many of the dive sites are also suitable for
snorkeling.

Sainte Anne This tourist-friendly little town hosts a daily market in front of a small fishing port, and is home to a small arts and crafts village.

Our award-winning shore excursions provide convenient access to these sights. See the Journeys Ashore™ order form for a description of offerings, or ask your Journeys Ashore Manager.

ESSENTIALS

Currency Euro (€)

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From Your Location Team

Guadeloupe is an overseas department of France, meaning it's fully considered French soil. This much is made obvious by the French you'll hear spoken all around you, the euros you'll use to pay for things, and the wide selection of French food and wine that's available. But it's also still the Caribbean, meaning there are uniquely Caribbean elements — open-air markets filled with spices and tropical fruits set against a backdrop of rain forests, waterfalls and of course, the stunning coastline. Find the best of both worlds as you shop for a variety of island-made and French-imported goodies, sip on local Caribbean rum and fine French wine, and nosh on fresh seafood, prepared in nearly every style possible.

Pointe-à-Pitre is specifically known as being the cultural center of Guadeloupe — with its many museums, cultural and historic sites, interesting architecture and vibrant markets. If being outdoors is more of your thing, head for one of the picturesque beaches or explore the extensive national park nearby.

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