



CAN WE MEET IN GRENADA?

Lyssiemay Annoh explores the spice island to evaluate its suitability for the meetings and incentives industry.

What would you say if I were to suggest that we meet on an island with spice-scented hills, tropical rainforests, powder-white beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters? You may be wondering if this place actually exists. This is when I tell you that I have discovered this unique island and it is called Grenada. Volcanic Grenada, the spice island of the Caribbean is a rolling, mountainous island, with fragrant plants and rare tropical flowers, dotted with crater lakes and teeming with a wide variety of animal life. It lies at the southernmost tip of the Windward Islands and apart from its spices, it is also a favourite for those seeking a relaxing trop-

ical holiday.

Bearing this in mind, imagine that you are planning an event and need a unique location, a location that is full of character, small enough to keep all your delegates in one place and unspoilt so that they can appreciate its authenticity. Grenada is a country of three islands so clear turquoise waters come as bonus.

Although Grenada has one of the fastest growing economies in the Caribbean, poverty is widespread. Growths in investment and tourism, and a construction boom, have helped to reduce unemployment.

The country was dealt with a serious blow in 2004 when Hurricane Ivan swept through killing dozens of people, damaging 90% of the island's buildings and devastating the nutmeg crop.

Tourism has also generated its own problems, in the form of threats to the rainforest and beach erosion caused by resort projects. Nevertheless, Grenada still has something to offer.

A-Z of Grenada

Setting aside the classic hotel setting for a moment, and with the assurance that the aquatic life is made up of over forty pristine beaches, shipwrecks and treasures for the astute diver to explore, Grenada also has the following:

Belmont Estate

This is a 300 year-old plantation located in Belmont, St. Patrick's that offers a unique link between the past and the present. Here, you will find a museum, beautiful gardens, an old cemetery, discover traditional cultural performances and a restaurant that caters only for lunch.

Cruising

From Port Louis, several spectacular destinations are within easy reach. Carriacou, with its crystal-clear waters and balmy, nutmeg-scented trade winds, is nearby. A great place to anchor is Tyrell Bay, with its calm waters and great local restaurants. The local rum shop offers a great spot to meet some of the most colourful and welcoming people. Another ideal port of call is Union Island where the views of its peaks provide a dramatic sight en-route. You may also want to consider Chic Moustique and have an afternoon tea at the Cotton House or dinner in one of the is-

land's exclusive restaurants.

Cultural and historic interests

There are three military forts with magnificent views of the harbour. There is also the Georgian architecture of the Houses of Parliament and the fascinating artefact housed in the Grenada National Museum. The Capital, St George's is filled with well-preserved examples of French and English colonial architecture.

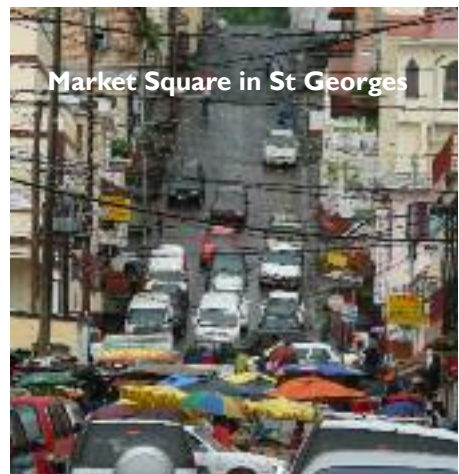
The St George's Saturday market is a spectacular event in its own right offering a wide assortment of fresh produce, numerous spices and affordable handicrafts.

Dolphin & Whale Watching

About fifteen (15 species of whales can be seen in Grenadian waters. The best time to sight whales and dolphins is during the period December to April where there is a 97% rate of seeing some sperm, humpback, as well as some long and short fin padded whales.

Entertainment

Most of the hotels provide entertainment such as steel band music, crab racing, music and dancing. There are also a few nightclubs and cinemas.



Market Square in St Georges



Dougaldston Spice Estate

This Estate is a historical monument to Grenada's past. This is where most of the spices are grown and receive primary processing. From the cocoa which helps to produce most of Grenada's finest chocolates, to the nutmegs and spices that earned the Island its name, to sugar cane and calabash, the spice estate has it all and shares its knowledge. You can interact with the local growers and learn a lot about the major cash crops of Grenada such as cocoa and nutmeg.



Festivals and Special Events

January New Year's Day Celebrations Spice Island Billfish Tournament Grenada Sailing Festival	July Calypso Semi-Finals Yacht Club Sailing Races
February Independence Day	August Carriacou Regatta Grenada Carnival
March Grensave's International Event St. Patrick's Day Fiesta Celebrations	September Grenada Yacht Club Race
April Easter Celebrations Petite Martinique Easter Regatta Gouyave Easter Regatta St Mark's Day Fiesta Spice Laugh Festival Grenada Triathlon Carriacou Maroon Music Festival	October Grenada Yacht Club Race Thanksgiving Day Celebrations Grenada Cricket Classics
May Labour Day Drum Festival	November Grenada Yacht Club Race Carriacou Sailing Series
June Fisherman's Birthday Festival	December Christmas Day Boxing Day Old Year's Day Celebrations Carriacou Parang Festival



Members of the West Indies
Cricket team



The English Cricket
team confer



The legendary Viv Richards

Grenada Cricket Classics

Usually held in October, this gives visitors a chance to stay at the same venue as the players, watch the match and mix with cricketing legends at parties and other events during the week, including a dinner. The 2009 event will be held from 7-14 October with the legendary Bob 'the Cat' Bevan MBE, who has been described as 'the most sought-after dinner speaker in the UK as guest speaker.

Fish Friday

Do not miss a visit to the Fishing Village of Gouyave on Friday night as it is transformed to welcome visitors to Fish Friday. This is where you discover seafood of every kind and watch the locals cook local fish delicacies over open fires.

Golf

The Grenada Golf & Country Club is a 9-hole course located near Grand Anse. Facilities include Club rental, instruction, a snackette and bar, and caddy service. Greens EC\$40 for 9 holes, Club hire EC\$25 and Caddy fees; A Class EC\$ 15 and B Class EC\$10 – Contact telephone: +473 444 4128

Grand Etang National Park

This is a major tourist attraction and nature park. The park encompasses the Grand Etang Lake covering 30 acres. The Lake is located approximately 1740ft above sea level and is situated in a rainforest, with many trails for hikers and nature lovers.

Hiking and Walking

It is not all about water activities in Grenada. Grenada and the other islands in the Grenadines offer superb hiking. This is actually a great way to experience the beautiful rainforests, tucked-away villages, breathtaking views out to sea and perhaps a chance to cool-off under the invigorating water falls.

Lake Antoine

This lake within a perfect crater of an extinct volcano can be found six miles north of Grenville. Lake Antoine occupies about 16 acres of land.

Leapers Hill

North of the town of Sauteurs is a steep cliff facing that descends vertically for more than 100ft. This historic landmark is where the Carib Indians in Grenada leapt off the edge into the sea, rather than surrender to the French Colonist in 1650.





**Market Scene
in St. Georges**

Market Square

If you want local interaction then the bustling, noisy and colourful market square with friendly traders should be your destination. The market is in the centre of activity in St. George's. It is the main site for those buying and selling local produce.

Morne Fedue Plantation House

This 18th Century historical stone planta-

tion house elegantly located on the Morne Fedue mound has more than lunchtime treat in store for visitors. The plantation itself displays the grandeur of misty mountains, lush vegetation, and romantic hills and valleys. Its beauty is adorned with a rich array of colours of poinsettias, flamboyant trees, bougainvilleas and palms.



**Trade cuts coconut for a
customer in the market**

However, the richness of its history does not lie solely in the meals provided or its guests but with – Hilda Betty Mascoll, who has lived and welcomed many guests such as Princess Margaret to the Plantation House and restored it to be the museum that stands today.

Parks & Rainforests

One-sixth of Grenada's landmass is preserved as parks and natural wildlife sanctuaries. Luscious, bountiful tropical forests are filled with a large variety of flora and fauna. Amidst these are waterfalls cascading to clear pools in some of the stunning rainforests. The government of Grenada is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the country, hence the unspoilt, green landscape and the thriving wildlife

some of the many treasures that visitors can enjoy forever.

Port Louis Marina

Lying in the lagoon, immediately south of the island's capital, this port of entry marina which was still under construction during our visit, will when completed offer a total of around 390 berths for craft from 10m to 90m including ten berths for craft over 60m.

The location is perfect, just five miles from Point Salines International Airport, with private aircraft facilities and direct connections to Europe and North America. The views are also magnificent with the historic fort and the restored Georgian buildings of St. George's.





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Berths under construction at Port Louis
and the Camper Nicholson team inset



The Port is being developed by Camper & Nicholson, a company whose maritime heritage and reputation spans over two and half centuries. Berths will be available for annual rental and purchase can be secured now.

Services will include:

- Customs and immigration clearances in and out
- Wireless broadband and cable TV
- Guardinage services, Capitainerie and a full provisioning service
- Restaurant, bars and duty-free shopping within the marina
- Electric carrying buggies and trollies plus dedicated car parking

- Fuel, water, electricity and black water pump-out
- 24 hour security
- First-class washrooms and laundrette

Further information can be obtained from the sales and marketing Co-ordinator, Danny Donelan on +1 (473) 435 7432 or email: danny.donelan@cnportlouismarina.com

Variety of water activities

Grenada has a variety of water activities such as parasailing, kayaking, sailing and cruising. Most resorts offer a selection of beach watersports and a number of companies specialize in charters and rentals.

The Oldest Rum Distillery in the Caribbean

River Antoine Rum Distillery

The Oldest Rum Distillery in the Caribbean

This is one unique privately owned distillery with beautiful gardens. The distilleries' processes have remained almost the same since the 1800s. It still functions on water-propellers and is the oldest in the both Grenada and the Caribbean. The process includes the fermenting juice being pumped into concrete fermentation tanks, where it bubbles away for eight days. After this, it is ready for distillation. The distillery offers guided tours.

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Concrete fermentation tanks

a water-adventure trip that will include snorkelling at the underwater Sculpture Park in Moliniere Bay organised by Grenada SeaFaris.

Snorkelers can get wet at the world's first **underwater sculpture** park at Moliniere Point while non-snorkelers are free to relax with a drink on board and listen to some Caribbean tunes. Groups of non-snorkelers, can be accommodated with a modified itinerary and maybe kick some sand on quieter beaches.

Tel: 473 405 7800

<http://www.grenadaseafris.com>



Accommodation

Azzura Castle – Grenada, West Indies

Azzura Castle is in a perfect location set at the end of a peninsula on The Caribbean Sea. It is only 15 minutes drive away from the international airport and the capital town of St George's.

This unique residence has two private gated landscaped entrance courtyards with garage and parking. It has large dining areas, roof and garden terraces, patio and beautifully managed tropical gardens, five dramatic air-conditioned bedrooms with private bathrooms and a self-contained apartment.

The property has two small private beaches, a boat deck, sunbathing deck, barbecue area, beach lounge and beach side Jacuzzi and makes an ideal setting for a retreat together with its conference room/office, private cinema and exercise room. The property can accommodate and dine 12 persons and is fully staffed with a full kitchen, bar, laundry and two staff bedrooms.

The property is secure with an architectural wall and is offered turn key and fully furnished.

Camping is not encouraged.

Coyaba Beach Resort

Located on Grand Anse Beache, 80-room Coyaba is ideal for wedding and social events, Coyaba Beach Resorts an Arawakabana signature restaurant in an Ocean-side ambiance. The restaurant serves both international specialities as well as international food.

Sporting activities at Coyaba in addition to the beautiful beach include tennis, water sports and one of a kind scuba diving adventures

Grenada Grand Beach Resort

As part of the Allied Hotels and Resorts, the Grenada Grand Beach Resort offers affordable luxury. It is spread over 20 acres of flat beach front with more than 3000ft of beach front right on the sugar white sands of Grand Anse Beach.

For further information:

P.O. Box 44, Grand Anse

Grenada - Phone: 473 444 4371

Email: paradise@grenadagrand.com

<http://www.grenadagrand.com/>



Laluna Resort



Laluna Resort

Exclusive, chic and very private is probably the best way to describe Laluna. This is an intimate place with a strictly limited number of guests and an emphasis on the individual is located on the dramatic coastline of Morne Rouge in Grenada. Villa Laluna's very private and exclusive five villa development is on 3.6 acres of prime waterfront land. They have been designed to offer a warm and

intimate atmosphere where you can enjoy the casual and unique Caribbean lifestyle. It has also 16 suites directly on the beach and 5 private residential villas on an adjoining seaside bluff.

The Private Residence has been separated by the property's natural topography so that Club owners can enjoy privacy and tranquillity.

For further information:

Laluna

P.O. Box 1500, Morne Rouge

St. Georges, Grenada, West Indies.

tel: 473-439-0001

fax: 473-439-0600

email: info@laluna.com

La Source

The original spa and well being retreat La Source is situated on the southwest tip of the island, La Source is ideal for beach vacations with 100 guest rooms including suites and luxury rooms the hotel also offers complimentary wedding services to guests staying for a minimum of 7 nights.

La Source opened its doors on 1 February 2008 after a full renovation and refurbishment. The complex aims to regain its place amongst the top spa complexes in the world with its new wellbeing centre and spa facilities.

Aqua aerobics at
La Source



Mi Hacienda

*M*i Hacienda has something special about it. Merle McEwan has nurtured her white restaurant and boutique hotel with so much passion and love that it is felt in the warmth that you receive when you visit.

At the quaint boutique hotel and restaurant, you are greeted with a stunning view of Grand Anse Beach and the surrounding tropical landscape. Guests can enjoy a fine selection of Caribbean cuisine prepared using fresh, local ingredients. Their Green Callaloo Soup comes highly recommended.

The stylish and spacious restaurant and bar are also available for small, private functions and you do not have to be a res-

ident to enjoy all of the facilities which includes a bar, a lounge area and a swimming pool.

The also organise weddings, making all arrangements through their own wedding coordinator. Function facilities are available for theatre productions fashion shows, banquets and parties (including pool parties). Merle's very British experience means that Mi Hacienda also provides specialties such as high tea and Sunday brunch.

For further information:

Boutique Hotel, Restaurant and Bar
Jean Anglais, Grand Anse
St Georges, Grenada.

Tel/Fax: 1-473-439-2799

Email: info@mihacienda.gd

<http://www.mihacienda.gd/>



Mount Cinnamon

The new and fun boutique resort has been created by Peter de Savary to offer one bedroom suites and two and three bedroom villas for guests who are seeking some privacy and attention at the same time.

Set on Grande Anse Beach, amidst exotic tropical flow gardens, this colourful resort offers beautiful costal views, a pool-side cocktail bar on one side, and a beach club and spa on another. All its rooms are luxuriously spacious. The very spacious suites and villas all have airy sitting

rooms with kitchen, breakfast bars, stunning outdoor living-spaces and breathtaking views. They also have large balconies, separate dressing areas and uniquely-styled adobe-walled shower rooms.

It is comforting to know that thoughtful extras like laundry facilities, hairdryer, BOSE sound systems, cable TV, crisp linen and painting hang nicely on the walls.

For further information:

Mount Cinnamon

Email: info@mountcinnamongrenada.com

<http://www.mountcinnamongrenada.com>

Tel: +1 473 439 4400





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Mount Hartman Bay Estate

Overlooking the ocean with breathtaking views, Mount Hartman Bay Estate is simply striking. The exclusive luxury Estate has up to twelve large beautifully appointed bedrooms and bathrooms available in very different properties on the Estate.

There is a Cave House which sleeps up to fourteen, a romantic folly which sleeps two and if your party needs even more space, there's the Beach House, with a further four bedrooms and bathrooms. Mount Hartman Bay Estate does not impose its character on the visitor. The property has been designed to make you

feel at home and this is embraced throughout the estate in such a way that when you arrive at the property, you immediately feel at home.

Prices start from £3,200 to \$5,000 per person per week inclusive of meals and it worthwhile noting that the experience at this exclusive luxury estate is well worth it.

For further information:

Mount Hartman Bay Estate

Tel: +44 1628 829222

Email: enquiries@mounthartmanbay.com

Or JacquijMMG@aol.com

Simple Facts

Grenada likes to be known as the Isle of Spice because it has a rich variety of spices. Nutmegs, Cinnamon, Turmeric, Clove, Ginger, mace and Bay leaf.

Currency:

The currency is the East Caribbean dollar, but US and Canadian dollars, the English pound and the Euro are widely used. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

Duty Free Allowances

Personal items allowed are one quart in total wines and spirits, half-pound tobacco or 50 cigars or 200 cigarettes. Restricted items are fruits, vegetables, meat soil, illegal drugs, firearms and ammunition.

Entry requirements

A valid passport and return or onward air ticket is required. However, proof of citizenship bearing a photograph is acceptable for British and Canadian citizens, if accompanied with a copy of your birth certificate. Visas are not required from citizens of USA, Canada, United Kingdom and its dependences, British Commonwealth countries (except Cuba), European Community countries and their dependencies, Norway, Japan and Israel.

Commonwealth of Independent States such as Russia and the Ukraine and the Baltic States such as Estonia and Latvia, and other eastern European countries such as Hungary, Romania and Slovenia are required to purchase a tourist visa on arrival in Grenada and cost EC\$25.

How to get to Grenada

Grenada is accessible from all major air-ports. American Airlines travels from Miami to Grenada; Air Jamaica serves the Island from New York and both British Airways and Virgin Atlantic travel from London.

Incentives for investment

The Government of Grenada encourages the establishment and development of new businesses and offers a wide range of incentives to potential investors. These include no restrictions on foreign ownership, foreign currency transactions, the repatriation of profits, capital and dividends, and double taxation relief. All of these incentives and concessions are designed to make investments more profitable.

Local language:

English is the official language but it tends to be spoken faster and with a lot of local colloquialisms thrown in.

Marriage Licence

Visitors wishing to marry in Grenada must be resident for a minimum of 3 days (including weekends and public holidays) prior to the license application. License and stamp fees and copies of Marriage registry costs EC\$35.

Tippling

Today, tipping is expected everywhere you go. In Grenada, a 10% service charge will be added to your bill at most hotels and restaurants. Further gratuities are at your discretion.