

TOP RIGHT Cane fields and villages dot the island. **LOWER RIGHT** Southeast Peninsula and Nevis dominate the southern skies. **BELOW** Hammocks adorn the desolate southern coast. Development is encroaching on this unspoiled coastline.



St. Kitts from a whole new perspective

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photos by dagan

Caribbean islands are rarely seen as a destination for rail buffs. But with the launch of the St. Kitts Scenic Railway this month, "All Aboard" has officially re-entered the Caribbean vernacular. Using the still-viable cane plantation narrow gauge rail system, 10 custom-designed double-decker rail cars will circumnavigate the island twice daily and provide a new perspective for island tourists. Crossing over twenty-three bridges that traverse the deep ghyats flowing from the extinct volcano, the ride will last approximately three hours, with complimentary refreshments and meals on specified departures. Geared primarily towards cruise ship day-trippers, the Needsmust rail station is just minutes from the newly built Port Zante and package deals are available through many of the

cruise line operators. For tourists outside of the cruise operations, the ride will cost US\$89.50 including a seat in both the upper open-air cabin and the lower, air-conditioned cabin.

"This is going to be a whole new concept for the Caribbean," says SKSR CEO Stephen Hites. Formerly the COO of the Skagway Scenic Rail in Alaska, Mr. Hites has set his sites on a gentler island destination in which to ride the rails. "St. Kitts was the ideal location for us, with such a well-maintained track and a nearly perfect circumference, we just felt it was a natural addition to an already spectacular island."

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