

Cruising your way into medical school on the island of St. Maarten

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If you are coming to St. Maarten, my husband and I would highly recommend cruising to the Island. We arrived in St. Maarten via Carnival cruise lines in December 07' and we have no regrets about it! If you live near the cruise terminal out of Miami, FL, or if you are willing to drive 16 hours like us, cruising may be the way for you too! We paid \$450 per person for a 7 day cruise in the Eastern Caribbean. Before arriving in SXM, we had two stops. One stop in the Bahamas and the other stop was in St. Thomas. We were on the ship for 5 days before disembarking at the cruise terminal in St. Maarten, for good!

Some perks of cruising to the Island are:

1. Unlimited amounts of luggage (we brought 18 bags total)
2. Mini vacation before medical school takes over your life :)
3. Cheaper than a flight to SXM (in our case it was)

4. You arrive to the Island in style and completely rejuvenated!
5. You can adjust to the atmosphere of the Caribbean even before you arrive!

Some of the things you need to know before cruising to the island are:

- ◆❑ Carnival cruise line is the only ship that will allow you to cruise "one way".
- ◆❑ The cruise to St. Maarten only leaves out of Miami, FL.
- ◆❑ When booking your cruise, you must tell them you will be disembarking at St. Maarten.
- ◆❑ You must pay the full amount of the cruise even though you are disembarking early.
- ◆❑ When packing, you should not pack your cutlery, hammers and tools. (they confiscated ours)
- ◆❑ Arrive early the day you board the ship, there may be extra paperwork and checking in procedures.

Good luck and have fun on your cruise to the Caribbean!