

# Sint Maarten & the Collectivite de Saint-Martin



Sint Maarten is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and occupies about 40% of the island, the other part being St Martin, an overseas collectivity of France, and part of the European Union. The island is about 8 miles north to south and also east to west and despite being part of the Netherlands and of France the main language is English.



Sunday  
30th January

## From the Navigator.

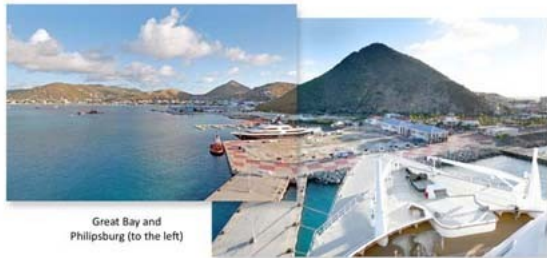
Continuing our Northerly courses, we will pass the island of Sint Eustatius and make our approach towards Philipsburg. We will alter to the East before picking up the pilot and coming alongside the pier. When we leave the berth, we will head to the West to drop off the pilot and then make various North-westerly courses towards the British Virgin Islands.



We have a tour north into the French part of the island visiting the French capital of Marigot. Then return to the Netherlands part and back to Queen Mary 2



the Netherland's island of Saba, about 29 miles south



Great Bay and  
Philipsburg (to the left)



the cruise terminal - in the Netherlands part of the island  
and Helen, Neil, William and Oliver at the same spot  
a few weeks later



Queen Mary 2 with, on the left, MSC Seaview which we  
had last seen in Georgetown, Barbados, last Tuesday



after only three miles we cross from the Netherlands into France  
and see Dutch and French car registration plates





Oyster Pond



Baie Lucas





Baie Lucas



Étang aux Poissons - Fish Pond





*Conocarpus erectus*,  
commonly called  
buttonwood  
or button mangrove



*Calotropis procera*,  
Apple of Sodom or Pillow Cotton



Green  
Iguanas



*Gardenia jasminoides*,  
Cape Jasmine



Marigot



"Dedicated to the St Martin Market Women"



"shall I buy this one?"



the shore-side market in Marigot





France

Netherlands



looking back at France from the Simsonbay Causeway in the Netherlands



sign on the left says  
"Welcome to St Maarten  
and St.-Martin Dutch side"



A border monument with the flags of the Netherlands and of France was erected on the main road between Philipsburg and Marigot, thus celebrating 300 years of coexistence between Sint Maarten and St.-Martin. It's the smallest land mass in the world shared by two larger nations.  
Flags for the EU and for Sint Maarten are included.



The statue of William Henry Bell on Cole Bay Hill







Philipsburg



the cruise terminal



taking the water taxi to Philipsburg



Philipsburg





the Methodist Church



the Courthouse, built in 1793 following the founding of Philipsburg in 1763



all in Front Street, Philipsburg



lunch at the Zee Zee Cafe

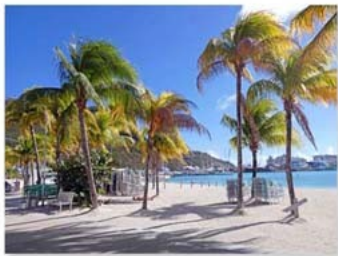


Cash Only

**Zee Zee Cafe**

**BREAKFAST**  
 ZEE ZEE'S PANCAKE PLATTER  
 2 Eggs Any Style, 2 Pancake, Sausage and Bacon,  
 FRENCH TOAST PLATTER  
 2 Eggs Any Style, Sausage and Bacon,  
 HAM AND CHEESE OMELET  
 #11 HOUSE OMELET







Iguanas near the water taxi landing stage - they were about 20 inches long



*Calotropis procera*,  
Apple of Sodom or Pillow Cotton



at the cruise terminal



# Tortola, Virgin Islands

Monday  
31st January



the cruise terminal at the capital, Road Town

Queen Mary 2 Voyage: M204P  
Monday, 31 January 2022  
Sunrise 6:52am  
Sunset 6:11pm



Tonight: Smart Attire  
Weather: 28°C (82.4°F) partly sunny with showers

## Daily Programme

### From the Navigator.

Queen Mary 2 will continue her various North-Westerly courses on her approach to the British Virgin Islands. We will pass between Ginger Island and Round Rock before heading to the West to pick up the pilot and make the final approaches to Road Town. After spending the day alongside, we will drop off the Pilot then head to the South between Salt Islands and Dead Chest Island and will then alter to the East-North-East, as we head out into the Atlantic.



The British Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Tortola (about 11 miles long, east to west), Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke, along with more than 50 other smaller islands and cays.

The British Virgin Islands, officially the Virgin Islands, are a British Overseas Territory with Queen Elizabeth II as the Monarch.

The nearby U.S. Virgin Islands (starting about 3 miles away) are an unincorporated United States territory, bought from Denmark in 1917, with a payment of \$25,000,000 in gold coin.



Mein Schiff 1 in front of Queen Mary 2 at Road Town



Mein Schiff 1 and Queen Mary 2 moored in Tortola. We are on a tour to Cane Garden Bay but showers are always around in the West Indies.



Jost Van Dyke Island, about 5 miles away and seed pods on a Albizia Lebbeck tree



one the roadside murals







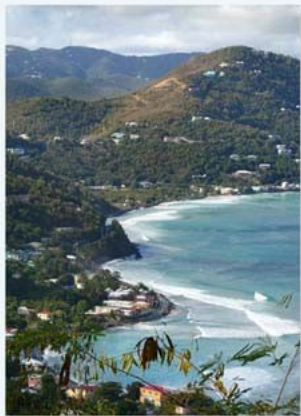
Albizia



as in the other islands,  
abandoned cars seem  
to be just left by the  
roadside



Allamanda or Yellow Elder?



at  
Stutt's Lookout



Cane Garden Bay,  
about five miles from  
Tortola



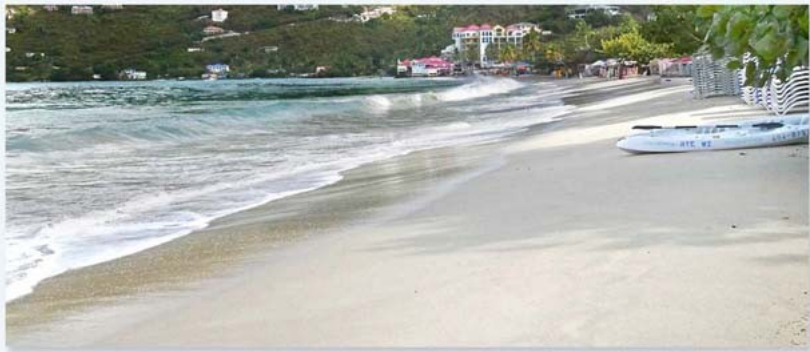


Callwood Rum Distillery





Jost Van Dyke island from Cane Garden Bay







Cane Garden Bay







the cruise terminal in Road Town and home for lunch.

Mein Schiff 1 is berthed alongside Queen Mary 2



returning to Road Town







we found the Immigration Department to have our Passports stamped



"Virgin Islands - Nature's Little Secrets" car registration plates, one being for Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016



after having our Passports stamped, fish and chips and rum punch lunch at the Bamboushay Lounge restaurant in Road Town





the outside lift  
just a few paces  
from our cabin on  
deck 11





the Pilot boat, Grey Dawn, flying the red/white "Pilot onboard" pennant



Tuesday  
1st February

#### Time change

Please be advised that at midday today the ship's clocks will be set FORWARD by one hour. Please set your watches forward at noon today, Tuesday, 1 February.



#### From the Navigator

The name Atlantic has its origins from the Greek word 'Atlantikos' which literally means 'the sea of Atlas'. The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean on Earth after the Pacific Ocean. It covers an area of approximately 31,568,000 square miles. The average depth is 3,300m, however throughout the day depths of the seabed we will pass over are generally 4000-5000m.



a day at sea, as we shall be for the following five days until to reach Tenerife



David who write a blog on his journeys



ringing the ship's bell at noon



Britannia Restaurant



illuminations theatre for the planetarium films



'Queen Mary 2 Remastered' pictured in dry dock at Blohm + Voss Shipyard Hamburg on 10 June, 2016, by marine artist Robert G Lloyd



Jesus and Paulo in the Kings Court restaurant and the intriguing floor covering



Wednesday  
2nd February

#### From the Navigator

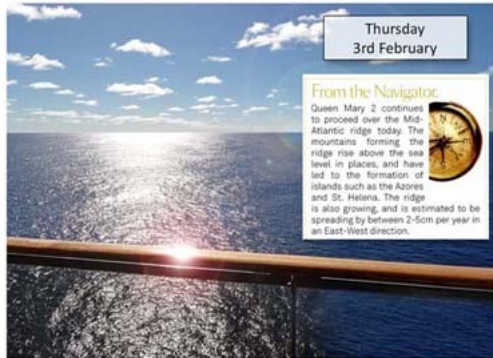
On today's passage Queen Mary 2 will start to cross over the Mid-Atlantic ridge. The ridge extends for roughly 10,000 miles long and 1,000 miles wide. It follows a curved path between the Arctic Ocean to an area near the South of Africa. It generally runs equidistant between continents either side of the Atlantic.







approaching mid-Atlantic, heading for Tenerife where we shall arrive in four days time



## STEAKHOUSE

AT  
THE VERANDA

### APPETISERS

Clam Chowder  
 Bacon and Wash salad  
 Soft Beef Brisket Hash  
 Potato Gravy

### SIDE SALAD

Green Leaf and Herbs  
 French Dressing

### VEGETABLES

the name Steakhouse and Veranda go back to the 1930s Cunard ships Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth





### From the Navigator.

After passing over the mountainous Mid-Atlantic ridge, the seafloor becomes flatter. We will start to pass North of the Cape Verde Abyssal Plain and later approach the Canary Basin. Ocean plains are more common in the Atlantic than any other ocean. It is thought that abyssal plains are formed by sediment accumulating in depressions thus smoothing out the seabed.



Friday  
4th February

Globes on sale in the shop



having one of the speciality teas in  
the Carinthia Lounge

### From the Navigator.

As we proceed through the Canary basin we will pass South of the Great Meteor Seamount. This is one of the largest seamounts in the North Atlantic. It rises out of the seabed from a depth of 4,200m up to 270m below the sea surface. Its plateau is roughly the same size as the island of Gran Canaria.



Saturday  
5th February





in the Veranda Restaurant

the Commodore Club



Sunday  
6th February

*From the Navigator.*

The Canary Current runs from North to South off the North Western coast of Africa, it forms part of the North Atlantic Gyre which is a system of currents that rotate clockwise in the North Atlantic. Circulation of currents may be driven by a combination of factors such as differences in temperature and salt concentration in the water, wind and the Earth's rotation.



Ladies and Gentlemen, Ship's Company, this is the Captain with a special announcement.

Today, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's accession to the throne. Queen Elizabeth II has now become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee year with a remarkable 70 years of service.

Cunard's long association with Her Majesty dates back 84 years, to 27 September 1938 when Princess Elizabeth, aged just 12, and her sister Princess Margaret, accompanied their mother to launch the biggest ship in the world at that time – Queen Elizabeth.

We're delighted that this association continued from then on and Her Majesty has in fact attended the christening of all three Cunard Queen Elizabeth ships in 1938, 1967 and 2010. We are indeed incredibly proud that Her Majesty is Godmother to both Queen Elizabeth and our flagship, this ship, Queen Mary 2. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall being the Godmother to Queen Victoria.

Official celebrations of this Platinum Jubilee Year are taking place in June. The historic reign will be celebrated throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world with celebratory street parties, pageants, performances, & picnics. A service of thanksgiving at St Pauls Cathedral will take place, and the lighting of over 1,500 Platinum Jubilee Beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. For the first time ever, a beacon in the capital city of each Commonwealth country will also be lit.

Whilst today is a historic milestone for The Queen, the anniversary of her accession to the throne also means it is a day of reflection with today also marking the anniversary of the death of her Father, King George 6<sup>th</sup>. As a result, Her Majesty is expected to maintain her annual tradition of quiet contemplation at her Sandringham estate.

Tomorrow, a series of royal gun salutes across London will mark the start of a year of celebrations in honour of her incredible 70 years of service to the nation.

God Save The Queen

## Prince Charles leads Jubilee tributes to 'remarkable' Queen



The Prince of Wales has paid tribute to the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee for the "remarkable achievement" of reaching 70 years on the throne.

Prince Charles welcomed his mother's wish that Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, be known as Queen Consort when he becomes King.

He said he and his wife were "deeply conscious of the honour".





Monday  
7th February

#### From the Navigator.

Overnight we passed South of the islands of El Hierro and La Gomera before setting a North Easterly course to pass West of Gran Canaria. Queen Mary 2 then altered to a West North Westerly course to pick-up the pilot and make her approach to Tenerife. After our stay in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, we will drop off our pilot and head out in a North North Easterly direction, as we proceed to Southampton.



## Santa Cruz de Tenerife





*DARWIN IS, OF COURSE, FAMOUS FOR HIS TREATISE, THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES THAT REVOLUTIONISED IDEAS ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE HUMAN RACE IN NATURE AND CAUSED THE CONFLICT BETWEEN EVOLUTION AND BELIEFS ON THE 6TH JANUARY 1812. HIS SHIP THE BEAGLE WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN TENERIFE DUE TO THE FEAR OF THE ISLANDERS THAT THE BRITISH MIGHT BE CARRYING THE INFECTIOUS AND DEADLY DISEASE OF CHOLERA.*

a long line of  
memorials about  
important scientists  
and others who have  
been in Tenerife





SS United States, photographed by Tony in 1968 at the same berth in Santa Cruz. Built in 1952 and retired in 1969, the year after the photo. After several changes in ownership she is now in Philadelphia in a very delapidated state.









Guided Missile Frigate  
F81, Santa Maria of  
the Spanish Navy



Tuesday  
8th February

### From the Navigator

After leaving the island of Tenerife, Queen Mary 2 continued on a North North Easterly course. We are following a Rhumb line route as opposed to a Great Circle Route which we took across the Atlantic. Later in the day, we will pass between the island of Madeira and the coast of Morocco.



a day at sea



at noon today, Captain Hall made a very special announcement - that Cunard's new ship will be named *Queene Anne*. We have booked a cruise to the Caribbean for January, 2024, and this will be her third sailing



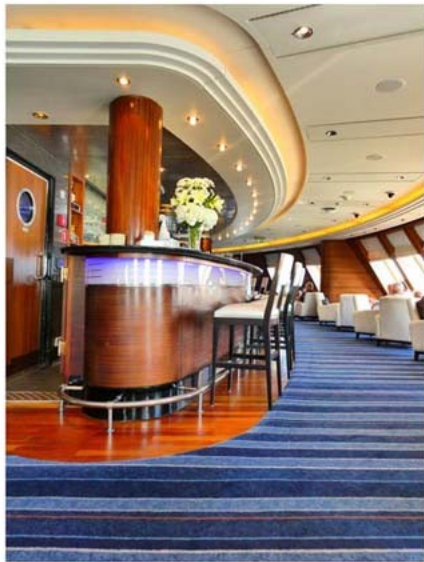
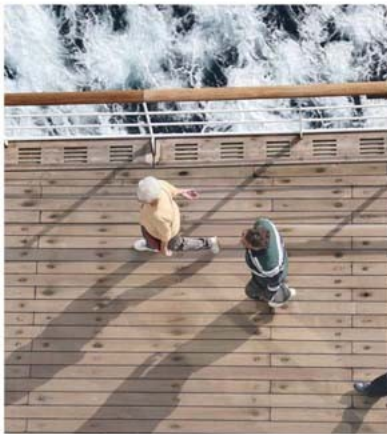


#### From the Navigator

Throughout the day Queen Mary 2 will continue on a North North Easterly course sailing past the coast of Portugal. Later we pass around Cape Finisterre which is the North West tip of Spain. We then alter to a North West Easterly course and proceed through the Bay of Biscay.




Wednesday  
9th February



Thursday  
10th February

#### From the Navigator.



Queen Mary 2 will continue on a North Easterly course as she continues to pass through the Bay of Biscay. We will utilise the Ushant traffic separation scheme to pass around the North Eastern tip of France and pass into the English Channel. Ushant is a small island which marks France's most Westerly point.

Overnight, Queen Mary 2 will cross the English Channel on a North Easterly heading and pass around the East coast of the Isle of Wight, picking up the Southampton Pilot in the early hours of the morning at Nab Tower to enter the Solent. After making the tight turns around Brambles Bank and Calshot Spit, we will make our final approach into the port of Southampton.



Friday  
11th February

arrived back at Southampton