SCF Trail Advisory – October / November 2026

Updated: 26 October 2026

Special safety notice — Hell's Gate Lookout, Mt. Scenery

The final summit section at Hell's Gate Lookout is closed until further notice as a precaution following observations of openings in the ground and concerns about the stability of the rock formation.

Do not proceed beyond the sign on the staircase, before the geographical marker. Do not cross barriers or attempt to bypass the closure.

The restriction concerns the final summit section at Hell's Gate Lookout. Follow all other posted trail restrictions and SCF updates. The closed section must not be entered pending further assessment and an announcement reopening access.

November falls in the late wet season in the Caribbean, after the peak of the hurricane season. This year, the current El Niño conditions are expected to bring fewer rain showers than usual and unusually warm weather, with daytime temperatures above **30 °C (86–90 °F)** at lower elevations and nights around **25 °C (77 °F)**. Showers, high humidity and occasional thunderstorms remain possible. Heavy rain can cause **slippery trails, localized flooding and falling rocks**, so please take extra care and check trail conditions before setting out.

The hurricane season runs until 30 November, and tropical storms may lead to temporary trail closures or restricted access to park facilities. Always monitor official weather updates and follow SCF safety notices.

Sea temperatures are unusually high, around **30 °C (86 °F)**. Elevated water temperatures increase the risk of coral bleaching; divers and snorkelers can help by reporting bleached corals to SCF.

Hiking poles are highly recommended, especially in wet conditions! They can be rented at the Trail Shop or the SCF office at Fort Bay.

Weather Summary for Saba

Temperature

- Temperatures begin to ease slightly in November, but daytime highs remain around 30 °C (86 °F) at lower elevations. Overnight lows are around 25 °C (77 °F) near the coast and slightly cooler at higher elevations such as Windwardside.
- Due to El Niño, the forecast suggests unusually warm days and nights, higher humidity, and more frequent and longer hot spells, with the possibility of heat waves.

Rainfall & Wetness

- November is normally one of the wettest months of the year, averaging 150 mm of rain over 17 days. However, rainfall has been below average so far this year.

Humidity, Wind & Sunshine

- Humidity remains high, with muggy conditions on most days.
- Wind speeds drop to around 14 mph (23 km/h) in late October and early November, rising to around 17 mph (27 km/h) towards the end of the month.
- November averages around 8 hours of sunshine per day.

UV Exposure & Protection

- **UV Index:** High to extreme, typically ranging from 8 to 11+, requiring strong sun protection.
- **Peak UV hours:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, when exposure is most intense.
- **Sunscreen:** Apply broad-spectrum SPF 30+ (preferably reef-safe) every 2 hours and after swimming.
- **Clothing:** Wear lightweight, UV-protective clothing, wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses.
- **Shade:** Seek shade during peak hours to reduce direct sun exposure.
- **Hydration:** Drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration from prolonged sun exposure.

	Trail / Status	Description	Notes
A.	**The Ladder** Distance: 0.43 km / 0.27 mi Time: 1 hour round trip **OPEN (use caution – lower stairs collapsed)**	**Access:** From The Bottom, follow the road past the hospital towards Well's Bay. Bear left at the junction by the lookout gazebo. After a short distance down the steep road, you will see the trailhead sign on the left. **Special features:** Historic step road by which cargo was hauled up from Ladder Bay to The Bottom. Mahogany trees, cinnamon trees, beautiful vistas.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous** (on the way up). **Caution! The lower stairs, close to the sea, have been washed out by heavy swells and have collapsed.** No mobile phone connection.
B.	**Crispeen Track** Distance: 0.91 km / 0.56 mi Time: 1 hour **OPEN**	**Access:** From the Mt. Scenery steps just below the end of the Mountain Road (at the first shelter) or from the road from The Bottom to Windwardside, just above The Bottom. **Special features:** Views of The Bottom and secondary rainforest.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. Beware of possible loose gravel on the trail.
C.	**Mas' Cohone's Trail** Distance: 0.48 km / 0.30 mi Time: 20 minutes one-way **OPEN**	**Access:** Look for the trailhead signboard on your left as you head up to Mt. Scenery from Windwardside. **Special features:** Dry forest; a short alternative for those who don't want to climb to the top.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. **Caution! Steep cliff at the top of the hill. No railing at the viewpoint. Slippery when wet!**
D.	**Mount Scenery Trail** Distance: 2.39 km / 1.49 mi from Windwardside Time: 2.5 hours round trip **OPEN** *Wet season: expect a muddy and slippery trail. Use proper hiking gear, including hiking poles and a light raincoat.*	**Access:** From Windwardside, opposite the Trail Shop. Alternative access is from the end of the Mountain Road (this reduces hiking time by about 20 minutes) or from the Bud's Mountain Trail, which joins the Mt. Scenery Trail at the highest shelter. **Special features:** 1,015 steps to the highest point in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Unique cloud forest (Elfin Forest) vegetation at the top.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. **Be cautious on the way down. Use handrails where available!** Walk down sideways and use hiking poles for balance. No mobile phone connection on parts of the trail. Interpretive signs at the rest shelters.
D.1	**The Bottom Viewpoint** Distance: 0.21 km / 0.13 mi from junction Time: 30 minutes **OPEN**	**Access:** Turn left at the bench before the railing down to the valley on Mt. Scenery and follow the narrow path until you reach a cliff/cavern. Carefully climb the wooden stairs to the viewpoint. **Special features:** Great view of Torrens Point!	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate** – some parts of the trail are difficult to access. **Caution! Steep cliffs on all sides. Vegetation cover gives a false sense of safety. Deep hole at the end of the staircase.** Parts of the trail can be **very muddy and slippery**.
D.2	**Windwardside Viewpoint** Distance: 0.14 km / 0.09 mi from junction Time: 5 minutes **OPEN**	**Access:** Turn right past the communication tower when reaching the top of the mountain. **Special features:** Great views of Windwardside, The Level, Sint Eustatius, St. Kitts & Nevis and even Montserrat on a clear day. Picnic table with a view of the summit to the left of the path.	Degree of difficulty: **Easy**. **Caution! Slopes along the viewpoint are not secured.** **It is strictly forbidden to climb the tower.** Rare orchids and bladderwort grow near the main tower. Please don't touch or break the flowers.

	Trail / Status	Description	Notes
D.3	**Hell's Gate Lookout** Distance: 0.14 km / 0.09 mi from junction Time: 10 minutes **PARTIALLY OPEN** **(summit closed)**	**Access:** Turn left when reaching the top of the mountain. The path meanders through a muddy valley, partially covered by boardwalks, until it reaches a cliff. Wooden stairs and a rope lead to the summit. **Special features:** Great views of Hell's Gate, the airport, St. Barth's, St. Maarten and Anguilla. Selfie sign at the actual highest point in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Rare Guadeloupe Wild Coffee grows on the east side. Please don't pick!	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. **The final summit section is closed until further notice (see the special safety notice on page 1). The lower part of the stairs remains accessible, but do not proceed beyond the sign on the staircase, before the geographical marker.** **Caution! Steep cliffs on all sides. Vegetation cover gives a false sense of safety, so don't hold on to vegetation for balance.** Not for people afraid of heights. Boardwalk and steps can be slippery.
D.4	**Elfin Forest Trail** Distance: 0.89 km / 0.55 mi from junction Time: 45 minutes **CLOSED**	**Access:** From the Sandy Cruz trailhead in Upper Hell's Gate. Turn left at the junction after 350 meters, after passing through Deep Gut. Rest bench halfway along the trail. **Special features:** Spectacular views of the airport and neighboring islands from the bench. Huge banana trees in the Elfin Forest.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. **Closed until further notice due to the poor condition of the trail.** **Recommended for experienced hikers only. Not suitable for children under 12.** Upper trail is **steep, very muddy and slippery**. Good hiking boots recommended. Prepare to get dirty!
E.	**Sandy Cruz Trail** Distance: 2.86 km / 1.78 mi Time: 2.5 hours one-way **OPEN** *Respect the private banana farm in the middle of the trail. Don't pick the fruit!*	**Access:** The trailhead is near the end of the dead-end road in Upper Hell's Gate. If you are walking to the trailhead, signs will direct you from the main road. Alternatively, start from the road on Troy Hill, which adds about half an hour of hiking time. **Special features:** Lush rainforest, abandoned farmland, great views.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate to strenuous** (arduous ridge, tricky steps, frequent up- and downhill sections). Arguably Saba's second most famous trail and a hikers' favorite! **Bring hiking poles** for additional balance. Parts of the trail can be **muddy and slippery**. No mobile phone connection.
F.	**Sulfur Mine Trail** Distance: 0.51 km / 0.32 mi Time: 40 minutes one-way **OPEN (mine closed)**	**Access:** Going down from Upper Hell's Gate (Zion's Hill) towards the airport, follow the second side road (the one that branches sharply to the left); the trail starts at the end of the paved road. **Special features:** Location of the old McNish Sulfur Mine; great views of cliffs and the airport; seabird watching (bring your binoculars!).	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. **Entering the mine is presently not permitted.** Inside the mine it is very hot and humid. Keep a distance from the eroded edges near the old sulfur oven.
G.	**Flat Point "Tide Pools" Loop** Distance: 0.58 km / 0.36 mi Time: 30 minutes **OPEN (riptide advisory)**	**Access:** From the road below the airport to Cove Bay. Follow the yellow trailblazing marks on the rocks. **Special features:** Lava flows; colorful saltwater pools with abundant marine life; ruins of an indigo boiling house.	Degree of difficulty: **Easy** walk to the bluff overlooking the tide pools; a steep scramble over rocks to get down to the pools. **DANGER: Rough seas – riptide advisory in effect! Don't climb down to the pools!**

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H.	**Spring Bay Heritage Trail** Distance: 2.96 km / 1.84 mi Time: 2–3 hours one-way **OPEN (use caution)** 	**Access:** From the Agriculture Center in English Quarter (along the road from Windwardside to Hell's Gate/Zion's Hill) or from Kelbey's Ridge near the airport (follow the orange markings; path not maintained). **Special features:** Dry forest and dry scrub vegetation; beautiful vistas; ruins of a sugar cane boiling house.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. Take enough water and sunscreen – this is a long and hot hike! No sign at the junction to Spring Bay Flat. **Beware of Manchineel trees along the trail, and of loose rocks, gravel and erosion in the section leading to Spring Bay Gut (ravine).** **Path to Kelbey's Ridge not maintained.**
I.	**North Coast Trail** Distance: 3.27 km / 2.03 mi Time: 3.5 hours one-way **CLOSED (guided hikes only)** *Guided hikes by certified SCF staff only.*	**Access:** From the main trailhead in Lower Hell's Gate. **Special features:** Spectacular ocean views, ruins of Mary's Point.	Degree of difficulty: **Very strenuous**. In many parts the trail is not visible; flagging tape and reflectors have been placed on trees to avoid disorientation. **Dangerous unstable areas, sudden landslides possible, loose rocks and steep cliffs that are difficult to climb.**
I.1	**Mary's Point Trail** Distance: 0.75 km / 0.47 mi Time: 1 hour one-way **OPEN (use caution)**	**Access:** Start from Well's Bay, through the Well's Bay Gut (ravine). Turn left when reaching the sign. Don't continue past the ruins. Trail marked with reflectors. **Special features:** Great views of the north coast and Well's Bay from the Valiulis bench.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. **Beware of falling rocks!** Handrails and wooden steps from Well's Gut to the old village. No mobile phone connection. Be respectful of the historic ruins and graves. **Don't remove any artifacts!**
I.2	**Torrens Point Trail** Distance: 0.4 km / 0.25 mi Time: 20 minutes one-way **OPEN (use caution)** *Trail not maintained regularly.*	**Access:** Start from the Mary's Point ruins in the middle of the village. Follow the ridge to the DP7 geographical marker. **Special features:** Cavern used by Amerindians as shelter. Great views of the north coast and Diamond Rock.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. Path not clearly marked and signs absent. **Steep cliffs on both sides of the ridge before reaching the open area above Torrens Point. Edges could be undermined by erosion!**
J.	**All Too Far Trail** Distance: 1.5 km / 0.93 mi Time: 1–2.5 hours one-way (depending on hiking up or down) **OPEN**	**Access:** From the junction on either the North Coast Trail or the Sandy Cruz Trail. **Special features:** The trail meanders through dry scrub vegetation and lush rainforest (4 different ecosystems), with spectacular views of the Pirate Cliffs.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. **Beware of stinging nettles and Jack Spaniard wasps on the lower part!** This trail connects the North Coast Trail with the Sandy Cruz Trail. No mobile phone connection.
K.	**Bottom Mountain Trail** Distance: 1.1 km / 0.68 mi Time: 1.5 hours **OPEN**	**Access:** From the road opposite Queen's Gardens Hotel or the junction at Rendezvous. **Special features:** Secondary forest, transition to rainforest, Mammee Apple trees and views of The Bottom. Brown Tremblers and Bridled Quail-Doves can be seen along the trail.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. **Exercise caution when climbing down the ridge.** Use the ropes provided where available!
L.	**Bud's Mountain Trail** Distance: 1.47 km / 0.91 mi Time: 1.5 hours uphill **OPEN**	**Access:** From the Bottom Mountain Trail or opposite the last (3rd) rest shelter on the Mt. Scenery Trail. **Special features:** A good example of secondary rainforest.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. A nice alternative on the way down from Mount Scenery. The upper part can be **muddy and slippery**.

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M.	**Tara's Ground Trail** Distance: 0.69 km / 0.43 mi Time: 45 minutes **OPEN**	**Access:** Follow the signs from the junctions on the Bottom Mountain Trail or Crispeen Track. **Special features:** Dense secondary forest with large mango and ficus trees. Historic terraced farm ruins.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. The trail is hard to find in the valley because of the dense canopy, fallen leaves and branches. **Trailblazing:** follow the orange markers along the path.
N.	**Parish Hill Trail (Loop)** Distance: 1.01 km / 0.63 mi Time: 1.5 hours **OPEN** *No sign at the Health Care Center access.*	**Access:** The trail starts at the steps opposite the hospital or at the beginning of the road from The Bottom down to Fort Bay, next to the old Radio Station. For safety, get a local guide to rock climb the "Whale's Tail" on Great Hill. **Special features:** Parish Hill is one of the younger volcanic domes (less than 100,000 years old); great views of The Bottom and St. John's; deep caves.	Degree of difficulty: **Moderate**. **Keep away from Pinguin (wild pineapple) plants.** Their leaves have razor-sharp, spiny edges! Beware of loose rocks and gravel. **Caves should only be entered with an experienced guide and adequate equipment.** Signs absent. The middle part of the outer loop may be hard to find.
O.	**Giles Quarter Trail** Distance: 3.49 km / 2.17 mi Time: 3 hours **CLOSED** 	**Access:** From the Dancing Place Trail on top of the ridge or the dirt road below the stone crusher at the eastern end of Fort Bay. **Special features:** Great ocean vistas along the coastline, an impressive view of The Road from below and old farming structures, including a functioning well near the beach at "Hole in the Corner". Manchineel forest near the new harbor construction site.	Degree of difficulty: **Strenuous**. **Closed until further notice due to construction activities at Black Rock Harbor. No through pass to the harbor.** Take enough water and sunscreen. **Trailblazing:** follow the orange markers along the ridge. Markers and signs are absent on the lower section. **Beware of Jack Spaniard wasps, spiny cacti and Manchineel trees!**
P.	**Dancing Place Trail** Distance: 0.4 km / 0.25 mi Time: 20 minutes one-way **OPEN** (use caution)	**Access:** From the road from Windwardside to St. John's at Peak Hill, or from the parking bay at Lambee's Monument. **Special features:** Large almond and many soursop trees, great views of the south coast and St. Eustatius.	Degree of difficulty: **Easy**. **Caution! A portion of the trail is washed out.** **Beware of the Tamarind tree, which could collapse without warning!** **Lambee's Monument is closed because of the crumbling wall.**
Q.	**Middle Island Trail** Distance: 1.1 km / 0.68 mi Time: 40 minutes one-way **PARTIALLY OPEN** (from Ladder Bay side) *A landslide has blocked the middle part at the ravine; it cannot be bypassed.*	**Access:** From The Bottom towards Well's Bay, turn down to the left at The Gap and continue past The Ladder; turn into the driveway on the left and continue for about 100 meters to the trailhead. **Special features:** Heritage trail with the remains of an old open cistern, impressive farm stone walls, a cavern, dry forest and great views across Ladder Bay and Well's Bay.	Degree of difficulty: **Easy to moderate**. **Accessible from the Ladder Bay side up to the ruins detour. Still closed from the Well's Bay side.** **Beware of Jack Spaniard wasps.** No mobile phone connection.
R.	**Thais Hill Trail** Distance: 0.4 km / 0.25 mi Time: 15 minutes **OPEN**	**Access:** Between two houses on the main road in St. John's, just before the first junction into the village when coming from The Bottom. Sign visible from the road. **Special features:** Great views of Fort Bay, The Bottom and neighboring islands. Excellent bird-watching spot. Old Pan Am radio station ruins.	Degree of difficulty: **Easy**. A short walk to enjoy gorgeous views and sunsets on top of the hill.

Trail Etiquette & Park Rules

Hike at your own risk!

Most trails on Saba are steep and often wet, muddy and slippery. You may encounter unstable slopes, landslides, falling rocks, dangerous drop-offs and hidden crevices. Not all trails are regularly maintained. Only you can decide if you are capable of hiking the trails. Please use extreme caution and hike at your own risk! Report any issues encountered on the trails to our Trail Hotline on WhatsApp at **+599 416 3295** or send an email to **info@sabapark.org**.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Before starting your hike, please inform the SCF office (see contact details above) or the Trail Shop in Windwardside (+599 416 2630). Let a friend or somebody at your hotel know your hiking plan. Cell phones won't have reception in most areas of the park, especially the north coast. Bring a whistle to attract attention in an emergency; you can get one for free at the Trail Shop or the SCF office at Fort Bay.
- **Always bring plenty of water and use hiking poles** (especially useful downhill). High-quality hiking poles are available for rent at the Trail Shop and the SCF office at Fort Bay.
- On the hot, open trails, also wear a hat or cap. Long-sleeved shirts and long pants are recommended. Use sunscreen.
- Wear good hiking shoes that provide ankle protection. Many trails have wet, muddy parts, even during the dry season, so flip-flops or sandals are not recommended.
- In the unfortunate event of an injury, take a compass bearing or GPS coordinates before notifying the medical response team or when leaving somebody behind to seek help. **Emergency: 911** (24/7). On weekdays from 8:00 to 16:00 you can also call **+599 416 3237**.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Whatever is brought into the park should be taken out of the park.
- Help protect nature by taking a bag with you on any trip and simply collect any litter you come across. It's one thing to leave the park as you find it, but how much better to leave it ever so slightly cleaner?
- Dog owners must pick up after pets.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- The endangered endemic Red-bellied Racer snake (*Alsophis rufiventris)* is very shy, sensitive to sound and completely harmless to humans.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting or raising young.
- Please leave all plants and flowers for others to enjoy.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Be Considerate of Others

- Stay on the designated trails; most trails pass through private lands. Do not cut switchbacks or take shortcuts. Respect the rights of the landowners. Camping is not allowed.
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. If you're descending a steep trail and you see hikers coming up, step off the path to let them pass. Since gaining elevation requires more energy than going down, it's polite to give way to the person burning more calories. Keep to the right side of the trail when you are being passed.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Be Aware

- During the early summer months, when grass, weeds and other vegetation are heaviest, chigger mites can cause an itchy rash. Avoid brushing bare skin against hanging vines, branches or ferns, and wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- **Beware of Jackies** (Jack Spaniard - *Polistes lanio*). The wasp stings can be very painful and people who are allergic to bee stings should carry an EpiPen (available at the local pharmacy).
- The flying of UAVs (drones) is not permitted in the park without express permission from the relevant authorities.

