

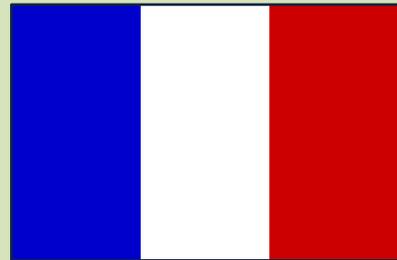
Windward Islands (Caribbean Waters)

“A *Sailors Guide to the Windward Islands*” by Chris Doyle is a necessity to sail in the Caribbean Waters. He has an own website with lots of useful information. You can buy a paper version of the pilot at all islands in every chandler or download a free copy of “A Cruising Guide to the Lesser Antilles 2.0, vol. III, The Windward Islands”, by Frank Firgintino ([The Caribebean Compass/ The Caribbean Compass](#)) a monthly free sailing magazine gives a lot of info about the whole area too. You can pick up one at several shops and marinas at the islands or download it.

Most cruisers anchored or docked in Grenada monitor Ch-68 during the day for routine non-emergency calls. Some monitor Ch-68 overnight for emergency, medical, security and vessel dragging situations. If you have a question, its best asked on Ch-68. The daily cruiser net is at Ch-66i. In the information underneath are only highlighting the anchorages/moorings/marinas we have been with our boat “SY Zeezwaluw” (46ft, draft 7ft) since early 2016.

Martinique

Martinique is the most Northern Island of the Windward Islands and it is French. They speak French of course but when you ask them politely: “*Parlez-vous un petit pue Angles*”, most of them do and conversation is possible. That’s how we got along in this wonderful French Island. The infrastructure is like in most European countries but the people are much more pleasing as we experienced in mainland France. We love the island! Although we only anchored in the anchorage of Le Marin and spend 8 days in the marina, we have been travelling around the island by car a few times and enjoyed the landscape, sea sides and villages as big towns. Next to that, local friends took us around Fort de France and Schœlcher for more detailed information and sightseeing by foot.



Le Marin marina (is a port of entry)

The buoyed entrance channel to Cul-de-sac du Marin (14°26'.7 N 60°54'.0W) is easy to spot. Follow the green and red buys and you will end up near the fuel pontoon. Call the Capitainerie on VHF **channel 9** if they have a free berth. A dinghy will come to you and they will help with the mooring bow or stern to a floating pontoon. Have 2 long lines ready so the helping hands in the dinghy can tie them to the mooring balls. Once secure and safe the mariner will inform you where the marina office is, opening times etc.

In the office you can clear immigration and customs to fill in the forms on the special computers available. (€5. =) All facilities are available, like water (not for free) & electricity at every berth, showers & toilets, laundrette, little “Carrefour” supermarket on the premises and a larger one “Simply” just outside the parking lot.

Also money change at the marina office (EC and US dollars or Euros). In the marina office is a table with leaflets and books about the area. One of them “**Ti’Ponton**” (French and English) gives a lot of information about almost every question you may have. We used it a lot!

Diesel and gas is available at the fuel pontoon. There are many restaurants and shops on the marina premises. The Digicel shop, for buying a French telephone SIM-card is in “Centre Commercial Annette” next to the large Carrefour supermarket.

Wi-Fi 30 min/day for free and the possibility to buy 1-3-5 Gig at the marina office.

Le Marin anchorage 14°27'.922N 60°52'.521W

This anchorage is at the port side of the channel to Le Marin marina outside the area with the yellow buoys. We stayed here 4 weeks in 3 different spots. At some places the holding is not too good due to weed. When you hid mud/sand the holding is excellent in 5-9m.

To go ashore you have many options to leave your dinghy. At the dinghy docks of the boatyard or near the supermarket “Leader Price” just a bit to the right of the boat yard. Or up the channel, buoyed with long red & green poles, a bit left from the boat yard, take the first side channel right hand side and tie to the large stainless steps for the chandler Yes & the sailmaker and other shops or at the beach opposite the fresh food market in town or take the dinghy to the marina to one of the many dinghy docks at the very end of the marina. The one to the far starboard side will never be closed; the other places will be closed off by a gate during the night.

The tourist information in the marina has a lot of information and city & road maps to get you around in Le Marin and the rest of the island, car hire, busses and timetables etc. etc. On the city maps and in the pilot “*Windward Islands*” of Chris Doyle you will find all the information about the many chandleries and workshops of special brands.

Listen to the English spoken “Cruisers Net” VHF channel 8, mon-wed-fry at 8.30 a.m. for even more info or asking questions or join the Facebook page of Martinique.

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