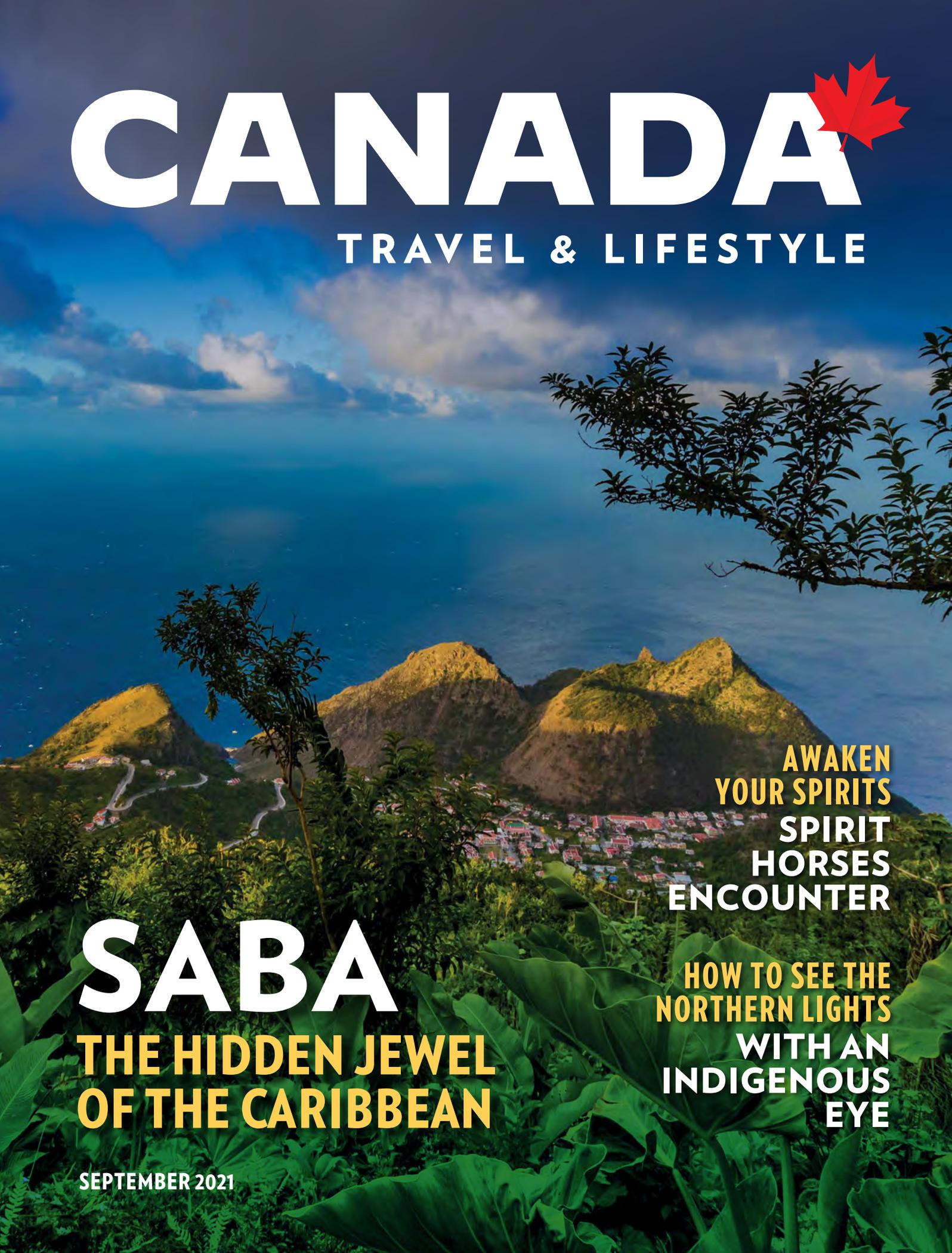


CANADA



TRAVEL & LIFESTYLE



**AWAKEN
YOUR SPIRITS
SPIRIT
HORSES
ENCOUNTER**

SABA

**THE HIDDEN JEWEL
OF THE CARIBBEAN**

**HOW TO SEE THE
NORTHERN LIGHTS
WITH AN
INDIGENOUS
EYE**

SEPTEMBER 2021

Now is the Perfect Time to

DISCOVER SABA

The Secret Treasure of the Dutch Caribbean



After a year of lockdowns and quarantines, aren't we all hungry for a getaway? Longing to discover someplace completely new? For those seeking a destination that offers a true sense of authenticity, adventure and discovery, the stunning Dutch Caribbean island of Saba is a hidden gem just waiting to be explored.

This peaceful paradise reopened its borders May 1, 2021 and lifted quarantine requirements for fully-vaccinated visitors. With more than 85 percent of the population vaccinated and the island's focus on enjoying its natural beauty and authentic relaxed Caribbean vibe, Saba is the ideal post-pandemic destination.

Once on this five square mile island, Saba's breathtaking untouched beauty belies its size. A great way to get the lay of land is to hop in taxi and explore one of the earth most magical places. With the local driver as tour guide the extraordinary

scenery flows from every vantage point, from panoramic sea views, lush foliage and flowers climbing the mountainside to the villages dotted with charming white gingerbread and red-roofed Saban cottages.

While there is plenty to keep visitors active with its world-renowned scuba diving and exceptional hiking, there are also more tranquil endeavors such as poolside cocktails, taking in the local art scene, galleries, and quaint shops offering local artisanal crafts, such as Saba Lace and Saba Spice.

Saba's volcanic origins provide spectacular underwater diversity, making it one

of the world's top dive spots. From shallow patch reefs to deep water seamounts, Saba offers interesting diving at each depth and every experience level. Surrounding the island is the Saba Marine Park, created to protect one of the most prolific environments for brilliant fish, lobster, turtles, corals and more. Saba's highly experienced dive operators will bring you up close for a spectacular underwater encounter.

To explore the island intimately, hike the old stone "roads" that evolved into stunning trails meandering up and down the volcanic peaks and valleys. Maintained for accessibility and safety, today, they offer the modern explorer the opportunity to tour the Elfin Forest and lush mountainsides full of rare, tropical foliage, wild orchids, ferns, fruit trees, palms and spectacular views. Trails vary in intensity and variety so everyone can easily hike to the island's cloud forest, tide pools, historic ruins, and rich natural wonderland. At the crossroads of several trails is the Saba Eco Lodge, a rustic retreat offering weekend hikers a fun pitstop for refreshments and cocktails. The ultimate conquest, however, is to climb to the top of Mt. Scenery, the highest point in the Dutch Kingdom of The Netherlands.

After a day exploring, it is time to enjoy some local cuisine and foodies will savor regional dishes and international gastronomic options ranging from casual to stylish. Of course, fresh seafood is abundant, particularly the famous Saba lobster, an island specialty.

When thinking about where to stay, Saba has accommodations to suit every style and budget - from intimate boutique hotels and eco-lodges to luxury villas and



PHOTO: LAURA GRIER



charming cottages. Many hotels used the recent lockdown period to upgrade. This includes the ecofriendly El Momo Cottages perched atop Booby Hill, which added a new pool deck offering magnificent sea views and Windwardside's Cottage Club which was also refurbished. While the boutique Juliana's Hotel just launched its new Captains' Suites, four oversized guest rooms with stunning views of the Caribbean.

Wellness enthusiasts will appreciate the new sky yoga deck at the chic Queens Garden Resort & Spa, a Zen-like space tucked up in the trees offering breathtaking sea views and true tranquility. For those wanting an even more immersive natural experience, the island's cloud forests are the perfect spot for "forest bathing," and mindfully connecting to the environment.

The journey to Saba is definitely part of the experience. Travelers transit through neighboring St. Maarten, where they can catch a ferry or a plane for the short trip to Saba. There are regularly scheduled flights between the islands as well as a new private charter option for even more flexibility. Those arriving by plane also get the thrill of landing on the world's shortest commercial runway.

With its warm Caribbean hospitality, authentic charm, and abundance of outdoor activities, now is the perfect time to discover Saba. Fully vaccinated adults do not have to follow any quarantine measures and must provide proof of a negative PCR test taken 72 hours before arrival or an antigen test within 48 hours.



For full travel details, please visit [sabatourism.com](https://www.sabatourism.com).
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