



SCF Trail Advisory – August/September 2026

August and September fall within Saba's wet season, heat season and Atlantic hurricane season. Expect **hot, humid conditions**, with daytime temperatures near **30 °C (86 °F)** and warm nights. CariCOF forecasts **near- to below-normal seasonal rainfall** across the Antilles, with fewer wet spells than normal. This does not mean dry weather: intense showers can still cause **slippery trails, flash flooding, falling rocks and landslides**. Check current trail conditions before setting out.

A strengthening El Niño is expected to suppress Atlantic storm activity, but it does not remove Saba's risk. August–September is still the **peak of hurricane season**; any nearby tropical system may bring dangerous rain, wind and seas. Monitor official weather updates and follow SCF safety notices.

The use of hiking sticks is highly recommended, especially in wet conditions! They can be rented at the Trail Shop.

Saba Seasonal Weather Outlook

Temperature

- Hot, humid weather is expected. Daytime temperatures near 30 °C (86 °F) are typical, while higher trails are cooler but may feel muggy.
- Heat stress may increase into September, and CariCOF warns of recurrent Caribbean heatwaves. Start early, pace yourself and carry extra water.

Rainfall & Wetness

- July–September rainfall totals are forecast to be near or below normal across the Antilles, with fewer wet and very wet spells than normal.
- Heavy downpours remain possible. On Saba's steep terrain, even a short storm can rapidly cause mud, runoff, rockfall, landslides and unsafe crossings.

Very Strong El Niño & Storms

- NOAA reports a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño in fall and winter 2026–27.
- El Niño increases upper-level wind shear, usually reducing Atlantic hurricanes. NOAA now gives the 2026 season a 75% chance of below-normal activity.
- This outlook does not predict impacts for Saba or eliminate risk. One storm or isolated cloudburst can still create dangerous trail conditions. Seasonal forecasts cannot predict individual days, so check short-term forecasts and SCF notices before every hike, especially after heavy rain.

UV Exposure & Protection Recommendations

- **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: 0.43km/0.27mi Time: 1 hour round trip OPEN	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 collapsed. No mobile phone connection.

B.	Crispeen Track Distance: 0.91km/0.56mi 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: 0.48km/0.29mi 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 undertake the climb to the top.	Degree of difficulty: Moderate . Caution! Steep cliff on top of hill. No railing to hold on at the viewpoint. Slippery when wet!
D.	Mount Scenery Trail Distance: 2.39km/1.49mi from Windwardside Time: 2.5 hours round trip OPEN to Hell's Gate Lookout only Communication tower work is ongoing until the end of August	Access: From Windwardside opposite the Trail Shop. Alternative access is from the end of the Mountain Road (this will reduce 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.	DANGER: Section to the Windwardside Viewpoint from the last junction on the top of the mountain still closed until September! Degree of difficulty: Strenuous . No mobile phone connection on parts of the trail. Be cautious on the way down. Use hand railings where available! Walk down sideways and use hiking stick for balance. Interpretive signs at rest sheds.
D.1	The Bottom Viewpoint Distance: 0.21km/0.13mi from junction Time: 30 minutes OPEN	Access: Turn left at the bench before the railing down to the valley on Mt. Scenery, follow narrow path until reaching a cliff / cavern, carefully climb the wooden stairs to the viewpoint. Great view of Torrens Point!	Degree of difficulty: Moderate as some parts of the trail are difficult to access. Caution! Steep cliff to all sides. Vegetation cover gives a wrong perception 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: 0.14km/0.08mi from junction Time: 5 minutes CLOSED until 1 September	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, 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 viewpoint are not secured. It is strictly forbidden to climb the tower. Rare orchids and Bladderwort near the main tower. Please don't touch or break flowers.
D.3	Hell's Gate Viewpoint Distance: 0.14km/0.08mi from junction Time: 10 minutes OPEN	Access: Turn left when reaching the top of the mountain. The path meanders through a muddy valley partially covered by boardwalks until reaching 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, the actual highest point in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Rare Guadeloupe Wild Coffee can be found at the east side. Please don't pick!	Degree of difficulty: Moderate Caution! Steep cliff to all sides. Vegetation cover gives a wrong perception of safety. Hence, don't hold on to vegetation for balance. Beware of vent hole to the right of geographical marker. Not for people afraid of heights. Boardwalk and steps can be slippery.

D.4	Elfin Forest Trail Distance: 0.89km/0.55mi from junction Time: 45 minutes OPEN	Access: From the Sandy Cruz Trail Head in Upper Hell's Gate. Turn left at junction in 350 meters, after passing through Deep Gut. Rest bench halfway of the trail. Special features: spectacular views of the airport and neighboring islands at the bench. Huge banana trees can be found in the Elfin Forest.	Degree of difficulty: Strenuous. Recommended for experienced hikers only. Not suitable for kids under 12 years of age. Upper trail is steep, very muddy and slippery. Good hiking boots recommended. Prepare to get dirty!
E.	Sandy Cruz Trail Distance: 2.86km/1.78mi Time: 2.5 hours one-way OPEN	Access: The trailhead is located 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. Or start from the road on Troy Hill, which will increase the hiking time by about half an hour. Special features: lush rainforest, abandoned farmland, great views.	Degree of difficulty: Moderate to strenuous (arduous ridge and tricky steps, frequent up- and downhill sections). Arguably, Saba's second most famous and hikers' favorite trail! Bring a hiking stick for additional balance. Parts of the trail can be muddy and slippery. No mobile phone connection.
F.	Sulfur Mine Trail Distance: 0.51km/0.32mi Time: 40 minutes one-way OPEN (access to the mine is forbidden without a guide)	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 airport; seabird watching (bring your binoculars!).	Degree of difficulty: Moderate Inside the mine it is very hot and humid. Thus, exploration of the mine is presently not permitted. Ask for a qualified guide if you really want to go spelunking. Keep a distance from the eroded edges near the old sulfur oven.
G.	Flat Point "Tide Pools" Loop Distance: 0.58km/0.36mi Time: 30 minutes OPEN	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.	DANGER Rough Seas - Riptide Advisory in effect! Don't climb down to the pools! Degree of difficulty: an easy walk to the bluff overlooking the tidepools; a steep scramble over rocks to get down to the pools.
H.	Spring Bay Heritage Trail Distance: 2.96km/1.84mi 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 (follow the orange markings) near the Airport. 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 sunblock - this is a long and hot hike! No sign at junction to Spring Bay Flat. Beware of Manchineel trees along the trail. Beware of loose rocks and gravel, erosion in the section leading to Spring Bay Gut (ravine).
I.	North Coast Trail Distance: 3.27km/2.03mi Time: 3.5 hours one-way Heavy erosion @ Goat Rock. Use cable for hold. CLOSED Guided Hikes Only	Access: From the main trailhead in Lower Hell's Gate. Special features: Spectacular ocean views, ruins of Mary's Point. Guided Hikes by certified SCF staff only.	Degree of difficulty: Exhausting Trail is not visible in many areas; flagging tape and reflectors placed on trees to avoid disorientation; dangerous unstable areas, sudden landslide possible, loose rocks and steep, difficult to climb cliffs.

I.1	Mary's Point Trail Distance: 0.75km/0.47mi 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 ruins. Trail marked with reflectors. Special features: Great views of the north and Well's Bay from the Valiulis bench.	Degree of difficulty: Strenuous . Beware of falling rocks! Some steps are covered with ground, watch your steps! 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: 0.4km/0.24mi Time: 20 minutes one-way OPEN (Caution: trail not being 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 to the sides of the ridge before reaching wide open area above Torrens Point. Edges could be undermined by erosion!
J.	All Too Far Trail Distance: 1.5km/0.93mi Time: 1-2.5 hours one-way (depending on hiking the trail up or down). OPEN	Access: From the junction at either the North Coast 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 & Jack Spaniard wasps at the lower part! Upper section muddy and slippery. This trail connects the North Coast Trail with the Sandy Cruz Trail. No mobile phone connection.
K.	Bottom Mountain Trail Distance: 1.1km/0.68mi 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 found aside the trail.	Degree of difficulty: Moderate . Exercise caution when climbing down the ridge. Use provided ropes where available!
L.	Buds Mountain Trail Distance: 1.47km/0.91 Time: 1.5 hours uphill OPEN	Access: From the Bottom Mountain Trail or opposite the last (3rd) rest shed on the Mt. Scenery Trail. Special features: good example of secondary rainforest.	Degree of difficulty: Moderate . This trail is a nice alternative on the way down from Mount Scenery. The upper part can be muddy and slippery .
M.	Tara's Ground Trail Distance: 0.69km/0.43mi Time: 45 minutes OPEN	Access: Follow signs from the junctions on the Bottom Mountain trail or Crispeen Track. Special features: dense secondary forest with large mango and ficus trees. Historical terraced farm ruins.	Degree of difficulty: Moderate-easy . Trail hard to find in the valley, because of dense canopy, fallen leaves and branches. Trailblazing: Follow the orange markers along the path.
N.	Parish Hill Trail/Loop Distance: 1.01km/0.68mi Time: 1.5 hours OPEN No sign at Health Care Center access.	Access: The trail starts at 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 cacti. They have razor-sharp leaf edges and spines! Beware of loose rocks & gravel. Caves should only be entered with an experienced guide and adequate equipment. Signage absent. Middle part of outer loop may be hard to find.

O.	Giles Quarter Trail Distance: 3.49km/2.17mi 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, impressive view of The Road from below, old farming structures, including a functioning well near the beach at "Hole in the Corner". Manchineel forest near new harbor construction site	Degree of difficulty: Strenuous . Take enough water and sunblock. Due to construction activities at Black Rocks, the trail is closed until further notice. No through access to the harbor. Trailblazing: Follow the orange markers along the ridge. Markers and signs absent at lower section. Beware of Jack Spaniard wasps, spiny cacti and Manchineel trees!
P.	Dancing Place Trail Distance: 0.4km/0.24mi 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 where Lambee's monument used to be. 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 Jack Spaniard wasps in the side walls! Beware of Tamarind tree, can collapse without warning. Because of crumbling wall, Lambee's Monument has been closed!
Q.	Middle Island Trail Distance: 1.1km/0.68mi Time: 40 minutes one-way CLOSED DANGER – unstable slopes, landslides, fallen trees	Access: From The Bottom towards Well's Bay, turn down to the left at The Gap and continue past The Ladder; turn into driveway to the left until you reach the trailhead after about 100 yards. Special features: heritage trail, remains of an old open cistern, impressive farm stone walls, a cavern, dry forest and great views across Ladder- and Well's Bay.	Degree of difficulty: Easy/moderate Beware of Jack Spaniard wasps. Trail obstructed by several unpassable landslides. Unstable steep slope near Well's Bay, fallen trees caused by storms prevent passage in middle section. No mobile phone connection.
R.	Thais Hill Distance: 0.4km/0.25mi Time: 15 minutes OPEN	Access: Between 2 houses at the main road in St. Johns, just before the first junction to 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.	Degree of difficulty: Easy A short walk to enjoy gorgeous views and sunsets on top of the hill. Old Pan Am radio station ruins. Beware of plant nursery along the sides of the trail.

Trail Etiquette & Park Rules

Hike at your own risk!

Most trails in 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 info 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 headquarters at Fort Bay.
- **Always bring plenty of water and use a hiking stick** (especially useful downhill). High quality hiking poles are available for rent at the Trail Shop.
- On the hot, open trails, also wear a hat or a 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. Hence, slippers 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 number: **911 or +599 416 3237** (from 8:00 to 16:00 weekdays)

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.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- 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 with bare skin on hanging vines, branches or ferns. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- **Beware of Jackies** ([Jack Spaniard - Polistes lanio](#)). Their stings can be very painful and people who are allergic to bee stings should carry an [EpiPen](#) (available at the local hospital).
- The flying of UAVs (drones) is not permitted in the park without express permission from the relevant authorities.

