

## GUADELOUPE

The island of Guadeloupe is in fact 2 islands separated by a salt water channel, and shortly after leaving Point-a-Pitre, we cross the bridge that links Grande Terre to Basse Terre. We travel through agricultural land, where black pineapples, bananas, dates and sugar cane grow, and we see beautiful houses set in the rolling countryside.

A stop is made at a botanical garden, where many varieties of exotic blooms perfume the air. It is strange to see "house plants" such as Poinsettias, Orchids, Begonias and rubber plants thriving in the open air. A small aviary houses some colourful and inquisitive parrots, and there is a pond with some large Koi Carp.



The trip around the island finishes at one of Guadeloupe's golden sand beaches, where we can swim, snorkel or simply relax. We are not due to leave port until 11pm, so we have plenty of time to do some shopping in town.



The prices are very good and we come back to the ship loaded with clothes, and other items, but not before we have tried the local beer and sampled some Creole spiced food at a local restaurant. When

we finally arrive back at the ship, we find that Alvina's pedometer is registering 7.29 miles - no wonder we are tired!

