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# AIG

Associazione Italiani Guadalupa

# E.C.H.O.E.S



#### Associazione Italiani Guadalupa

**AIG (Association Italiens Guadeloupe)** is an association registered in Guadeloupe, France. The purpose of AIG is to promote Italian culture in Guadeloupe, to organize cultural, tourist, sporting, recreational, promotional and commercial initiatives according to Art. L442-7 of the Commercial French Code.

The Association was founded with the intention of spreading the Italian culture, lifestyle and language in Guadeloupe; facilitating the integration and inclusion of Italians in the Guadalupe society, promoting cultural and commercial exchanges; giving welcome Italian tourists in Guadeloupe, providing them with assistance and information for their stay on the Island; offering assistance to Italian residents or those planning to move to Guadeloupe interfacing with local administrative authorities; finally creating a feeling of solidarity and friendship among the members, strengthening social relations with all the inhabitants of the island.

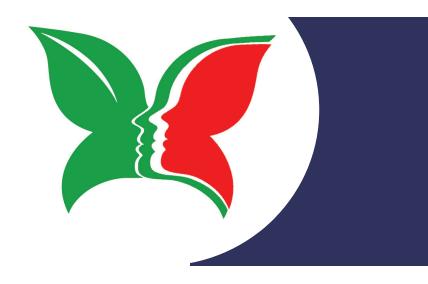
Association Italiens Guadaloupe (AIG) aims to achieve its goals by managing, among other things, the following activities:

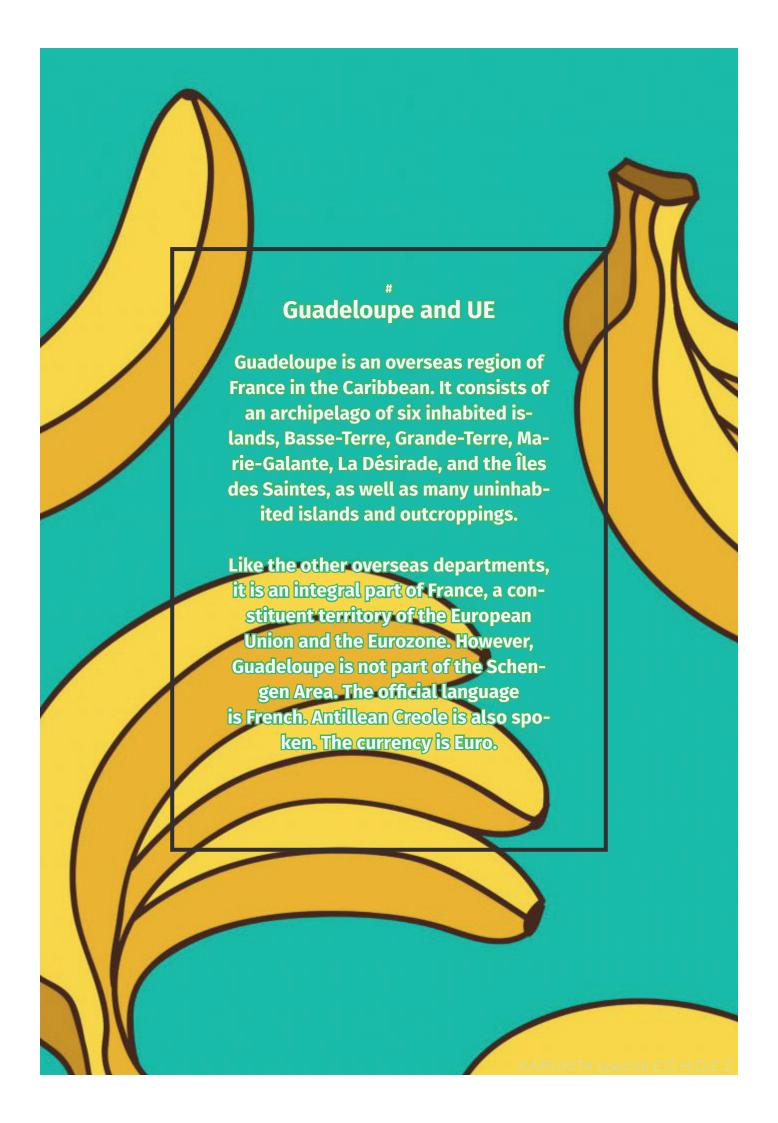
creation and coordination of a network of contacts that allows a continuous exchange of information between the members;

organization and promotion of social, cultural, sporting, recreational and commercial events:

management of a website as a virtual meeting space and knowledge of the respective experiences and needs of the members.

In Guadeloupe more and more Italians reside permanently (in 2018 there are more than 4000) and every year the number of people who visit it increases for reasons of work and tourism.





## **History**



#### **Guadeloupe was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493.**

The first inhabitants several hundred years before Christ were the Arawaks, an indian tribe, peaceful, but highly developed fishermen. They became extinct around the 9th century by the men eating warriors of the Caraïbes (Karibs), who still inhabited the island Caloucaéra (Karukera in creole language, that it means "The island of beautiful waters") when the fleet of Christopher Columbus landed on November. 1493. He named the island "Santa María de Guadalupe" after the Virgin Mary, venerated in

the Spanish town of Guadalupe. Upon becoming a French colony, the Spanish name was retained though altered to French orthography and phonology. Now the islands are also locally known as Gwada.

The Spanish showed little interest for the in-hospital island and the Guadeloupe to Charles first "volunteers" of the French - mostly farmers from the Normandie, the Bretagne or the Charente - have been settled in by the Compagnie des Isles d'Amérique not until 1635. Then the Karibs themselves aot killed by

epidemics, alcohol and guns. But the difficult living conditions affected the first settlers verv much and so soon the trade with slaves from Africa as a workforce began.

At the beginning farming was not very profitable, so the Compagnie sold Houël, who started the economic growth of the island with plantations of sugar, coffee and cocoa. Later on, the island was owned by the Compagnie des Indes, then by King Louis XIV.; the island survived attacks by

the Dutch and occupation by the British. New plants like cotton and spices were introduced.

Influenced by the French Revolution, on February 4th, 1794, the Convention in Paris voted for the prohibition of slavery and sent Victor Hugues to Guadeloupe to control the implementation. A big number of estate owners who were loyal to the king and slavemasters got executed by the Guillotine.

Since the relations between the former slaves and their former masters were extremely bad, they searched for other workers and found the coolies. These free and payed workers came from China and first of all from India. The fact that they had to pay the workers and the growing competition from the European sugar growers led to the economic downfall of many planters. In the second half of the 19th century, they lost their estates to big foreign companies. But the economic crisis could not be stopped and there were severe It was at this time, that Guadeloupe voted for her ants, the school system first socialist parlementarians: Légitimus and Achille-René Boisneuf. To get away from the economic dependance of sugar growing, a diver-

sification of the production with plantations of bananas, pineapples and rice began after World War II - sugar and rum are still the main exports. On March 19th, 1946,

will to work together for a secure social and economic future. Thus, the presidents of the regions Guadeloupe, Martiniaue and French Guyana defined together in the



Guadeloupe becomes a French Overseas Department. Like all the other French Departments she is governed by a prefect. He is assisted by two secretary generals and two under-prefects, one for the district of Pointeà-Pitre, the other one for the Northern Islands. The law is the same as in metropolitan France with some specific exsocial uproars and strikes. emptions in regard to the communities of their wages for the civil servand the social and health 07, 2003. system. An independance movement, which was very active in the eighties seems to have been replaced by the

"Déclaration de Basse-Terre", on December 1st, 1999, a new development program for the Antilles-Guyana region, and in June 2000, the law of orientation for the French Oversea's departments has been voted. Saint Martin and Saint Barth voted for their independence from Guadeloupe's administration and got French oversea own since the referendum held on December

### # TOURISM

Endowed with beautiful landscapes as well as cultures and flavours derived from a beautiful blend, Guadeloupe possesses plenty of touristic appeal and character. Thanks to that huge potential, tourism developed over time to the extent where it now represents a key sector of our economy. Numerous other sectors — commerce, transport, services, construction — enjoy the significant benefits generated by tourism activities.

Given its history and central position in the Caribbean area, Guadeloupe enjoys a great climate, exceptional biodiversity and natural sites, as well as cultural and patrimonial assets — all of which exhibit solid powers of attraction. Thanks to those riches, our territory allures each year thousands of tourists coming from the entire globe to visit it.

Guadeloupe is one the world's 25 richest areas in terms of biodiversity. It is gifted with an extraordinary natural heritage, whose strong potential suggests a grand future. White and black sand beaches, deep waters, mangrove, dense and damp forests or waterfalls and rivers... our region possesses an exceptional diversity of natural environments both marine and terrestrial, along

with an impressive quantity of remarkable sites. It also comprises: assets for the territory, and must be protected, promoted and well-used

two natural reserves: that of the Grand-Culde-Sac-Marin and the Petite-Terre islands (La Désirade);

the « Natural Parc of Guadeloupe » monitored by the National Forestry Office since 1970, and which spreads across almost 40 000 hectares. These landscapes and sites constitute major assets for the territory, and must be protected, promoted and well-used. Some of the benefits expected in coming years include:

the reinforcement of the region's attractiveness, the preservation of living conditions, and even their enhancement based on new economic development opportunities.

# History and culture

#### **Memorial Acte:**

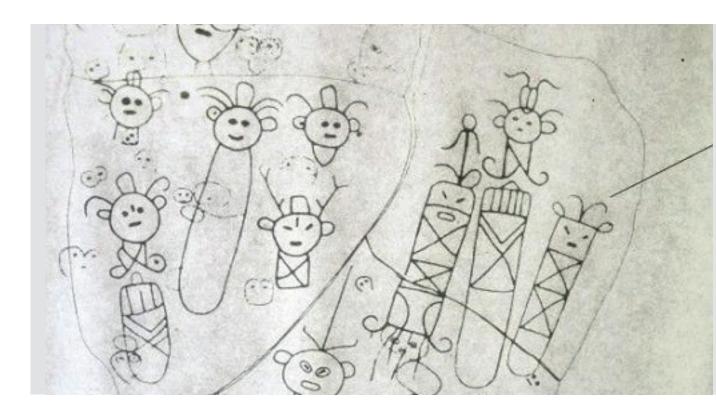
On May 10, 2015, French President François Hollande and 19 heads of state inaugurated Guade- to preserve the memory loupe Islands' Mémorial ACTe. Located in Pointe a Pitre, precisely on the Darboussier site, which used to be a sugar factory, it is a cultural center dedicated to the Memory and History of Slavery Trade. The Memorial ACTe is part of UNESCO's Slave Route Project, a global initiative to promote the rapprochement visit the Indian temple of peoples through the shared legacy of this tragedy. More than 150 years after the abolition of slavery, there is still

much untold about the difficulties and struggles of bondage in the Guadeloupe Islands. This cultural institution seeks of those that suffered during slavery, as well as to foster dialogue about the repercussions and begin to construct a historical conservation of the epoch.

#### Guadeloupe and India:

Take the time to go to Capesterre Belle-eau and Changy. On Sundays, after the ceremony, everyone (including you!!) is invited to share our famous « Colombo » dish. The

particularity of this meal is that Colombo is eaten with the fingers on a large banana leaf. Festive atmosphere quaranteed!! After this long good meal, finish the day at the fishermen village, watching the sun disappear into the Caribbean Sea and imagine Christopher Columbus stepping in Guadeloupe for the first time in Capesterre Belle-Eau in 1496 on board the "Santa Maria"...



#### The Carnival

In Guadeloupe Islands, Carnival is a major cultural event, which is celebrated over three months: January, February and March. If you are in Guadeloupe Islands during this period, you cannot miss out on this spectacular and colorful event. You will attend parades floats, and many contests! Like for costumes, lyrics and also for choreographies. Count also on the multiple Dance marathons all across the cities to delve into the hypnotic rhythm of Guadeloupe!

Color, music, happiness and laughters will be the memories that you will keep of the carnival of Guadeloupe.

#### The Arawak Indians

At the Roches Gravées site, on a new trail discovered in 1995, you will be able to admire the surprising petroglyphs (engraved motifs depicting animals, humans and strange symbols dating from 300 BC). It is the work of the Arawak Indians, the first inhabitants of the Caribbean region. Did you know? You can see the third missing city by visiting St-Pierre

piece of this beautiful Amerindian petroglyph rock engraving in New York City at the Museum of Natural History!

#### Pointe-à-Pitre

Pointe à Pitre has a verv rich architectural heritage. The city is certified since 1994 as a City of Art and History by the French Ministry of Culture.

Pointe-à-Pitre provides multilingual licensed tour guides ready to accompany visitors through the

Discover the story of the

#### # **HISTORY AND CULTURE**

and St-Paul Church, Place Anglais » (the maritime de la Victoire, St-Jones Perse and the many other museaums.

Step back in time and contemplate the beauty of traditional Creole houses and colorful and lively markets.

Pointe-A-Pitre is also the ideal location for shopping and the port of call for many cruises ships such as COSTA, MSC, CLIPPER, CLUB MED 2 etc.

Just like Pointe-à-Pitre, Basse-Terre has a very rich architectural heritage, notably: Fort Delgres, Gerty Archimède Museum, the Law Court, the spice market and its beautiful clock, Gerville Réache High

boulevard) and Notre Dame de Guadeloupe Cathédral...

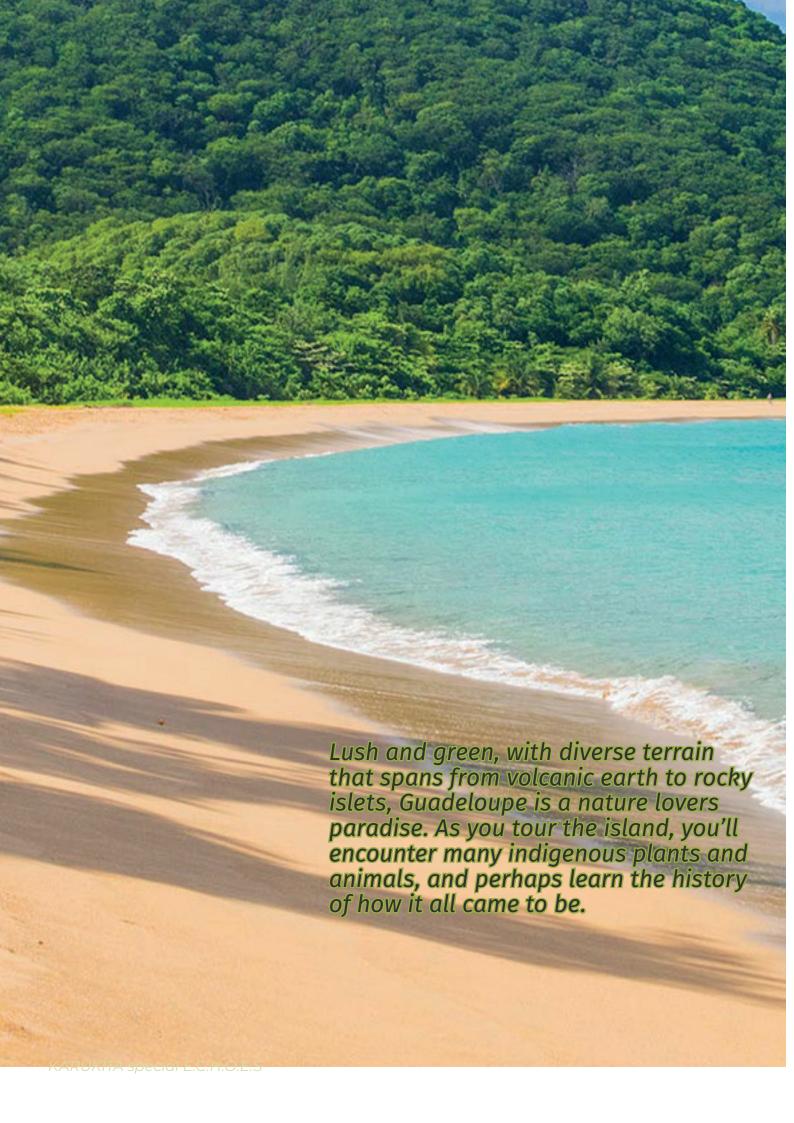
Since 1995 the city is certified as a City of Art and History by the French Ministry of Culture. Each monument has a lot of history, and visiting Basse-Terre will allow you to discover another side of the Guadeloupe Islands.

#### Music and dance

Guadeloupean music evolves constantly. It started with Gwo Ka, then Zouk music appeared in the 80's and finally Akoustik Kreyol arised. In perpetual change, this music lives School, « Promenade des on and it makes the Gua-

deloupean's heart beat. Essential to the life of the island, it is paced by the sound of Ka.





#### # **NATURE**

he Guadeloupe archipelago occupies a strategic position in the arc of the eastern Caribbean. It consists of small archipelago of Les Saintes, Marie, La Désirade, the islands of the Petite-Terre, Saint Barthélémy and part of the island St. Marteen.

#### The Basse-Terre:

Basse-Terre is set on a volcano range, topped by La Soufrière at the heart of dense tropical vegetation. The 17,000 hectares of rainforest that cover the mountain range form part of the National Park, which inlcudes many signposted hiking trail.

Follow one of the many waymarked hiking trails - some of which are easily accessible – and discover a rich ecosystem with an impressive number of endemic species. In this lush setting with breathtaking waterfalls, a thousand and one friendly species begging for your attention, Basse-Terre has a wealth of natural charm. It is also bordered by pebbled and sandy beaches in shades of ochre brown, black and pink

#### Les Saintes:

Les Saintes is formed by nine unspoiled islands, two of which are inhabited.

Terre de Haut with its bistro lined streets and the turquoise waters of its untouched Petite-Terre Islands, also bay, a member of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club. And Terre de Bas also has plenty to offer: the golden sand of Grande-Anse beach is well worth the detour.

The culinary specialties are the products of passion: do not leave without having savoured the traditional "Tourment d'Amour" cake.

#### **Grand-Terre:**

From the north to the south, everything is about enchantment and exploration. At the centre of the sugar cane production, Grande-Terre offers a rich heritage.

Tranquil and delicately shaded white sand beaches await you. Grande-Terre is set on a vast limestone plateau bordered by perfect beaches, turquoise lagoons which share the coastline with amazing surfing spots and unforgettable landscapes. This plateau is ideally suited to sugar cane plantations, which cover most of the island. It has many restaurants and hotels hat line the Riviera bear witness to the Art of French-Creole Cuisine and is famous for its warm Caribbean nights.

#### La Desirade:

"The Forgotten", La Desirade, which is the oldest island in the Lesser Antilles, and as such a geological Natural Reserve, seems away from time. Tranquility and simplicity are the characteristics of this island. Superb white sand beaches, protected by long coral reefs attract snorkelers and swimmers.

A stone throw away, discover the listed as Natural Reserves.

#### Marie-Galante:

Plantations, ox carts pass by. Climb aboard...Make your way to the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Caribbean.

Stop off at one of the exquisite restaurants run by incredibly talented chefs.

In the "Land of the best rums in the world" outings are intoxicating...Welcome to Marie-Galante, the DNA of Guadeloupe Islands!

