



Rebirth of Montserrat



Montserrat's new waterfront businesses adjacent to port.

Photo Credit: Tom Wilmer

Situated in the heart of the Eastern Caribbean, the tropical paradise of Montserrat, a British overseas territory island, 10 miles wide, by 7 miles long, with Antigua just 30 miles away. A visit to Montserrat is truly unique Caribbean experience—it's like stepping back in time—to a long vanished era of Caribbean life in the 1920s or 30s when people didn't lock their doors, when crime was an anomaly, and gated, guarded mega resort destinations such as Sandals were not even imaginable. The island was dealt a one-two punch when Hurricane Hugo thrashed the island back in 1989, and followed in 1995 when Montserrat's Soufriere Volcano erupted. The subsequent pyroclastic flow buried the historic town center of Plymouth.



The Town of Plymouth buried in ash Photo Credit: Tom Wilmer

The town and the entire southern half of the island was abandoned. But today the island is in the midst of an amazing rebirth and renaissance.

An entirely new town on the northern end of the island has been laid out. Bulldozers are leveling ground for the new town center on the north end of the island with the centerpiece— a waterfront resort hotel complex, hillside condominium and townhouse complexes, a state of the art protected port, and yachting center. This enchanting island's rebirth includes harnessing the volcano's geothermal vents for power generation, cultural tours to its modern day Pompeii town of Plymouth, treks to the Scientific Volcanic Observatory high perched on a mountainside, rain forest hikes, birding adventures, scuba diving, kayaking and other nature oriented adventures.



Architectural rendering of new development on Montserrat

Join Correspondent, Tom Wilmer on the lush tropical isle of Montserrat for a journey of discovery as we visit with Ayiesha de Coteau Sammy Director of Trade and Investment Promotion, David Crichton, economic development consultant, and Ivan Browne Chief Executive of the Montserrat Development Corporation, and the Honorable Reuben T. Meade, Premier of Montserrat.

Listen to the audio excursion on the Lowell Thomas Award winning Podcast Journeys of Discovery with Tom Wilmer, featured weekly on [NPR.ORG](http://www.npr.org)

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