



Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic, and Telecommunication

Ministerie van Toerisme, Economische Zaken, Verkeer en
Telecommunicatie

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

MANDATORY BUSINESS CLOSURE AND EXEMPTION FOR SHOPS IN PHILIPSBURG ON
ST. MAARTEN'S DAY (NOVEMBER 11, 2025), CHRISTMAS DAY (DECEMBER 25, 2025),
AND NEW YEAR'S DAY (JANUARY 1, 2026)

The public is herewith reminded that November 11th, 2025 (St. Maarten's Day),
December 25th, 2025 (Christmas Day), and January 1st, 2026 (New Year's Day) are
official public holidays.

In accordance with the National Ordinance on Shop Closure (*Landsverordening
winkelsluiting*, AB 2013, GT no. 542), all places of business, including all stand-alone
casinos and lottery establishments must be closed on these days.

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic, and Telecommunication (TEATT)
hereby informs the public that, due to the number of cruise ships that are scheduled
to visit our port on St. Maarten's Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, an
exemption is granted to allow shops in Philipsburg to operate and be open between
6:00 AM and 6:30 PM on November 11th, 2025, December 25th, 2025, and on
January 1st, 2026.

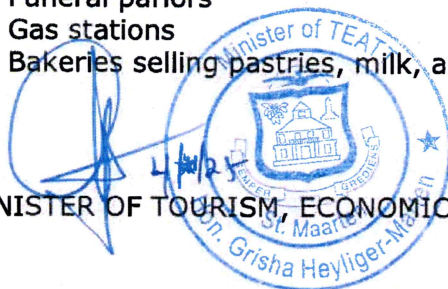
This decision is intended to enhance the visitor experience and to support our
economic activity during the holiday season.

Businesses opting to operate under this exemption are reminded to comply fully with
all applicable labor regulations.

The aforementioned does not apply to the following businesses that may continue to
operate as is regulated in article 3 of the National Ordinance on Shop Closure
(*Landsverordening winkelsluiting*, AB 2013, GT no. 542)

- Pharmacies, as long as it concerns the sale of medicine and medical products
- Bars and restaurants
- Hotels and guesthouses
- Stores located in hotels, on the airport and on the harbor premises.
- Funeral parlors
- Gas stations
- Bakeries selling pastries, milk, and/or milk products

MINISTER OF TOURISM, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TRAFFIC & TELECOMMUNICATION



Ministerie van Toerisme, Economische Zaken, Verkeer en Telecommunicatie



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