

SECOND CIRCULAR



SOUFRIÈRE HILLS VOLCANO 25 YEARS ON

Opportunities From Disaster:
Lessons From 25 Years Living With The Volcano

Montserrat, West Indies

July 20-24, 2020



UWI

SEISMIC
RESEARCH CENTRE

www.shv25.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Invitations to Participate	3
Organising Committees	5
Hosting Country and Venue	6
Programme Deadlines	9
Registration	9
Abstract Submission	11
Presentation Guidelines	11
Conference Program	12
Conference Theme Descriptions	13
Field Trips	15
Social Program	17
General Information:	17
• Travel & Accommodation	
• Passport & Visa Information	
• Climate	





INVITATION FROM CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues and Community,

On 18 July 1995 the Soufrière Hills Volcano announced its return to activity with the first phreatic eruption. The volcano has since impacted the landscape, the population of Montserrat and the global volcano community in the intervening 25 years. It has been one of the most significant eruptions of the last 100 years in terms of the advances in our understanding of volcanic hazard, communication, societal impacts and volcano monitoring.

The Montserrat Volcano Observatory in collaboration with The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre, are honoured to invite you to participate in the commemorative *Soufrière Hills Volcano 25 Years On* conference in Montserrat, West Indies. The theme of the conference “*Opportunities from Disaster: Lessons from 25 years living with the volcano*” highlights the scope of discussions, which will explore not only of what has happened in the past but also look toward the future of living with the volcano, integrating experiences from Montserrat and globally. We welcome you to participate in the inter-disciplinary discussions.

Come and explore this small volcanic island with a big heart. We will also complement the symposium discussions by offering several fieldtrips that will examine not only the impacts of this eruption, but also how volcanic activity has shaped the island in the past. Montserrat welcomes you to explore the rich island life through the range of tourism activities on offer, such as the annual Calabash Festival and simply enjoying the social aspects of this friendly community. However you spend your time, you will find your visit the perfect way to get away from the usual distractions of life.

We look forward to seeing you in Montserrat!

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Miller

Conference Chair - Soufrière Hills Volcano 25 Years On
Research Fellow – Volcanology

The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre – Montserrat Volcano Observatory





2nd CIRCULAR SHV 25



Montserrat Tourism Division
 Hubert Buffonge Building
 Brades, MSR 1110
 Montserrat
 Tel:1-664-491-4703
www.visitmontserrat.com

On behalf of the Montserrat Tourism Division, Office of the Premier, I extend warm greetings to the delegates of the SHV25 Conference to be held in Montserrat during the period July 20-24, 2020. What an amazing feat that we're able to be hosting this important scientific event against such a turbulent backdrop from 25 years ago! This speaks to the resilience and determination of the people of this wonderful island.

The Montserrat Tourism Strategy 2019-2022 identifies the Soufriere Hills Volcano as the trigger that will propel the destination's tourism competitiveness - the volcano itself, the historical significance of the volcanic eruption and its aftermath, as well as the "Buried City" of the island's capital, Plymouth. In fact, the volcano was identified by stakeholders as the single most important differentiating factor for Montserrat's tourism industry.

One of the significant projects in which the Tourism Division is currently engaged is the construction of a Volcano Interpretive Centre. This will be an audiovisual, interactive experience where visitors can gain first-hand knowledge of the historical, cultural, social and geologic impacts of Lady Soufriere, as she's affectionately called. We extend an early invitation for you to return to Montserrat in 2021 when the Centre is opened.

While you're here on this trip, however, please take some time away from your busy schedules to enjoy some of the quaint attractions on the island, like the National Museum, the National Trust and the Hilltop Cafe to name a few. Enjoy the local bar scene and don't forget to try a sumptuous bowl of goat water, our national dish. For those of you who like to be one with nature, our hiking trails are simply amazing and provide you with stunning and breathtaking views - don't forget your camera!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Emerald Isle for a one-of-a-kind Caribbean experience!

Warmest Regards

Warren Solomon
Director of Tourism





ORGANISERS

Scientific Organising Committee

Jenni Barclay
Eliza Calder
Erouscilla Joseph
Victoria Miller (chair)
Richard Robertson
Dike Rostant
Graham Ryan

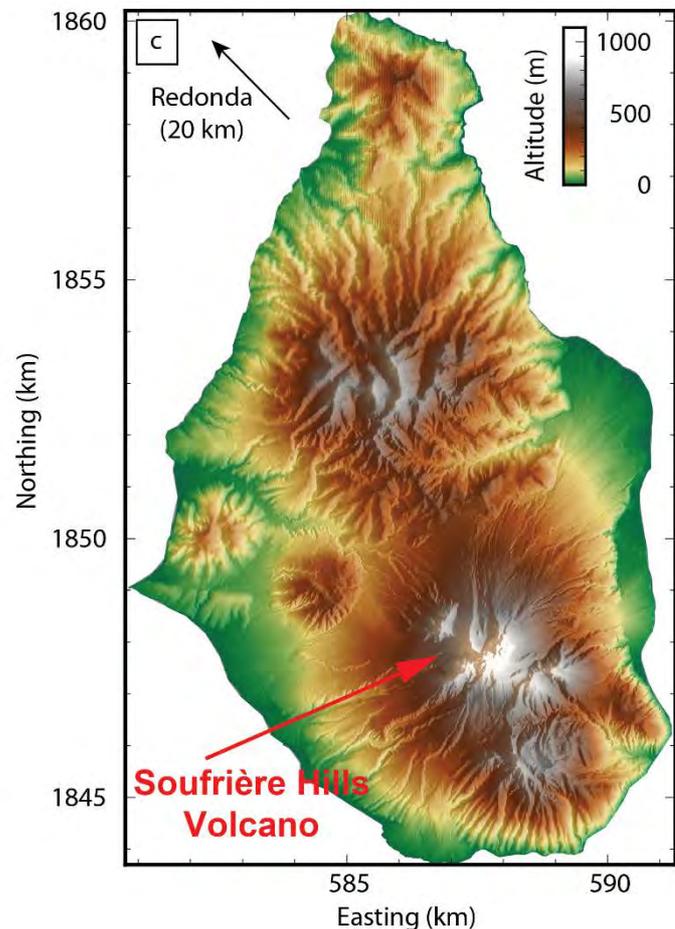
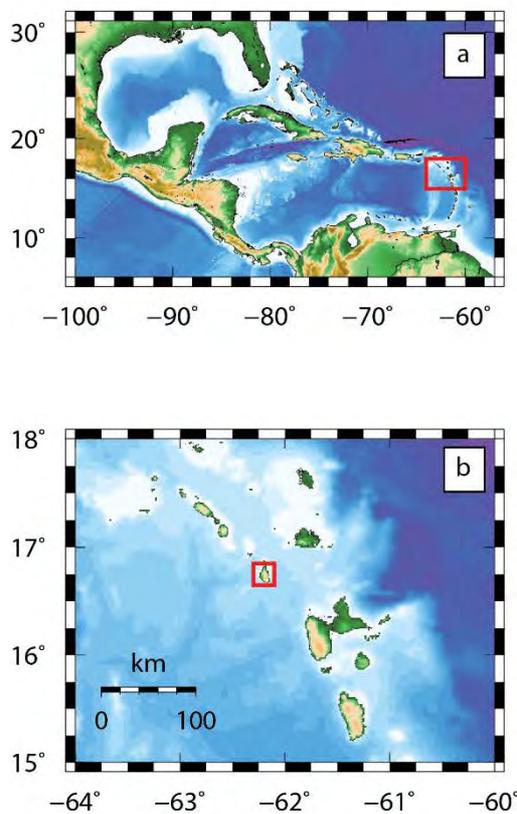
Local Organising Committee

Sharon Charles
Veda Dubery
Marlon Fergus
Angela Greenaway
Gunjan Jeswani
Victoria Miller (chair)
Dike Rostant
Carlisle 'Pyiko' Williams
Graham Ryan



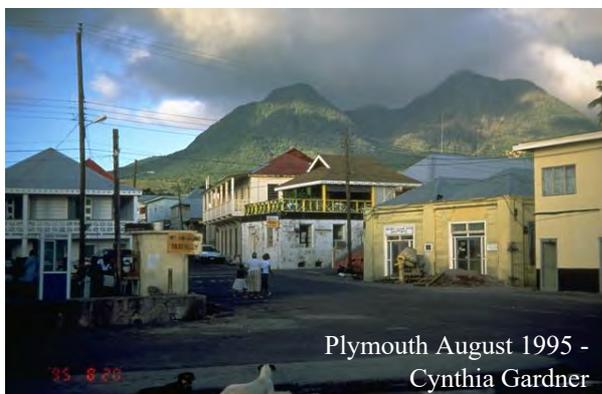
HOSTING COUNTRY AND VENUE

Montserrat is a small UK overseas territory (104 km²), located in the northern half of the Caribbean Leeward islands. Montserrat and the other volcanic islands in the Lesser Antilles Island Arc, formed in relation to the subduction of the American plate below the Caribbean plate. The island comprises 4 magmatic centres, with the southern part dominated by the Soufrière Hills volcano. After three centuries of dormancy, the Soufrière Hills volcano eruption commenced on the 18th July 1995, while the island was just recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Hugo (1989). Between July 1995- Feb 2010 (the last-to-date major dome collapse), five periods of dome growth occurred, associated to dome collapses, explosive activity, pyroclastic flows, ash falls, rockfalls and lahars.





The unusually long-lived eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano has had a tremendous socio-economic impact on Montserrat, and has been a life-changing experience for the population. In 1997, the pre-eruption population of ~11,000 people had dropped by ~70%, following several evacuations of the unsafe zone surrounding the volcano. The destruction of many communities in the south of the island, including the capital city of Plymouth and most of the island's infrastructure, the death of 19 people on 25th June 1997, the lack of housing, food, employment, and the closure of schools (in order to be used as shelters) all contributed to the dramatic situation. A parallel challenge, as families were torn apart, has been for Montserrat and its population, to adapt to the new demography of the island. In 2019, the population is approximately 4500 inhabitants.



Plymouth August 1995 -
Cynthia Gardner



25 June 1997 -
Paul Cole

Since the beginning of the eruption, traditional Montserratian arts such as storytelling, poetry, drama and song-writing, have helped the population to cope with the loss of their references and stability, in front of an unrecognizable landscape and uncertain tomorrow, and under the constant shadow of the Soufrière Hills volcano. Having lost their roots, the Montserrat population and the Montserratian diaspora have slowly been building themselves a new life, in Montserrat or abroad. With the financial assistance of the UK, multiple projects have been contributing to the birth of a new society in the northern half of the island. With the Soufrière Hills volcano being continuously surveyed by state-of-the-art monitoring and now at a low level of activity since 2010, it seems that the time for finding ways to maximize the



October 2009 -
NASA





benefits of the Soufrière Hills volcano, its products and its extraordinary beauty might have finally come.

Due to Montserrat's small size and population, you will not find a choice of shows every night. Large-scale, organised partying is seasonal. There are five festivals spread across the year that showcase different aspects of life on Montserrat. Carnival runs from mid-December to New Year's Day and features calypso and queen competitions as well as masquerade street performances. It culminates on New Year's Day. March next features a weeklong celebration in St Patrick's Festival that focuses on Montserrat's African and Irish heritage and commemorates the enslaved Africans' uprising of 1768. If you come a few days earlier than the conference start, you can take part in the Calabash Festival which promotes local crafts incorporating the use of calabash fruit. The event involves a calabash exhibition at the Montserrat National Trust and a fair where food is served using calabash bowls and utensils. It will also allow the opportunity to be on-island for the 25th anniversary of SHV's first eruption on July 18. The CUDJOE HEAD celebrations paying homage to African ancestry and influence; usually observed in late July / early August and The Alliouagana Festival of the Word, usually held in November which brings together, acclaimed writers and readers from the Caribbean, North America, the UK and Australia for readings, conversations, lectures, panel discussions and workshops round out the last two festivals on Montserrat.

The Montserrat Cultural Centre (MCC) is your conference venue and a prominent landmark in Little Bay. The MCC was built by Sir George Martin in 2006 as a gift to Montserratians. This building located in the developing Little Bay Area is popular for hosting performances, local and international conferences and other events. The MCC overlooks the Little Bay Public Market and indoor Basketball Auditorium.





PROGRAMME DEADLINES

ITEM	DATE
1st Circular	July 22, 2019
2nd Circular	February 03, 2020
Abstract Deadline	March 31, 2020
Pre-registration Deadline	April 30, 2020
Conference Programme Available	May 20, 2020
SHV25 Conference	July 20-24, 2020

REGISTRATION

If you would like to indicate your intention to participate in the conference, please fill out the online expression of interest form at <http://shv25.com/online-submissions/expression-of-interest/> this will help to ensure your place at the conference as well as help the organisers cater to your needs, as well as any persons accompanying you.

Registration Fees:

	"Early Bird" Registration (up to 31st May, 2020)	Registration Fee (From 1st June 2020)
Conference Participant	US\$ 400.00	US\$ 450.00
Students	US\$ 300.00	US\$ 350.00

The registration fee includes workshop material, field trips, coffee breaks and lunch, opening cocktail event and 1 gala dinner.

Please find the link to the online registration form here, <http://shv25.com/online-submissions/register-for-shv25/>





Requests for Letters of Support

If you require a letter of support, outlining details of the Conference, you may submit a request to info@shv25.com and we would be happy to provide one for you.

Financial Assistance

A limited amount of money will be available to support participation at the SHV25 conference. IAVCEI (International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior) has dedicated funds to support graduate students and early career scientists (who received their last degree no earlier than five years ago), but senior researchers from Low- to Middle-Income (developing) countries may also be supported. To be eligible to receive the support you must be the lead author of an accepted abstract and be a member of IAVCEI (<https://www.iavceivolcano.org/iavcei-membership/benefits-of-iavcei-members.html>)

N.B. Deadline for applications is 31 March 2020

Please address your application, along with a motivation letter to Roberto Sulpizio, IAVCEI Secretary General (roberto.sulpizio@uniba.it), with cc to the conference email info@shv25.com





ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts should be submitted online via <http://shv25.com/online-submissions/submitting-an-abstract/>. Your submission must include title (as brief as possible), author(s), affiliation(s), first author email and five key words. Main text must not exceed 300 words. The Scientific Organising Committee will select whether the abstract will be presented as oral or poster. Contributors will be informed of their selection by 30th April. The presenting author needs to have registered prior to this date, in order to have their abstracts accepted into the conference program. Remember that the abstract submission deadline is 31st March 2020.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Oral presentations will be 20 Minutes long (15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Poster presentations will have dedicated sessions, without simultaneous oral sessions, and a special area for posters will be designated. Size is restricted to 84.1 cm wide by 118.9 cm high (A0 - portrait).

The official language of the Soufrière Hills Volcano 25 Years On conference is English for all oral and written contributions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Several invited talks have been scheduled to reflect the themes of the conference, including two panels of invited speakers to encourage discussions. A list of speakers and the title of their talks will be announced shortly.





CONFERENCE PROGRAM

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00-9.00		Registration Tea/Coffee	Registration Tea/Coffee		Registration Tea/Coffee	Registration Tea/Coffee
9.00		Opening Ceremony @8.30 followed by Keynote*	Keynote Oral Session	Field Trip	Keynote Oral Session	Invited panel followed by discussion
9.40-10.10		Morning Break				
10.50-11.10		Oral Session^ @10.10	Morning Break		Morning Break	Morning Break
11.10-12.30			Oral Session		Oral Session	Oral Session
12.30-1.30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30-3.00		Keynote Oral Session	Keynote Oral Session	Field Trip	Invited Panel Oral Session	Posters and discussion
3.00-3.20		Afternoon Break	Afternoon Break		Afternoon Break	Afternoon Break
3.20-4.40	Registration	Oral Session	Oral Session		Oral Session	Oral Session
4.40-6.30		Poster Session	Poster Session		Poster Session	Closing @5.00
Evening	Welcome Reception		Movie Night TBC		Public Talk TBC	Conference Dinner

*Opening Keynote is 40 minutes, all other Keynote talks are 30 minutes

^Oral presentations are 20 minutes





CONFERENCE THEME DESCRIPTIONS

The overarching theme for the conference will be *Opportunities from Disaster: Lessons from 25 years living with the volcano*. However, there are four symposiums sub-themes to reflect several topics that will have a multi-disciplinary contribution:

Symposium 1 – Science into disaster risk reduction

An important element of our response to volcanic hazard is our belief that we can build a meaningful understanding of volcanic structure and processes. These models and interpretations can help us forecast volcanic behaviour and allow evidence-based approaches to mitigating the risks that volcanic eruptions pose to human communities.

In this session we welcome submissions from the physical sciences such as physical volcanology, geophysics, geochemistry and petrology. This session also encourages submissions on developments in monitoring methods and tools which aid in the identification and interpretation of volcanic signals. Furthermore, we seek contributions highlighting the practical implementation of science for disaster risk reduction such as developments in hazard mapping and event trees that support decision making and foster a prepared populace together with rational development strategies in multi-hazard environments.

Symposium 2 - Learning from the past

Post-disaster a familiar cry strikes up 'let's learn the lessons!' But how do we really process these lessons, and to what extent are the disasters of the present rooted in the mistakes of the past? How do we use these memories to commemorate what happens and share these experiences equitably and justly? We welcome any contributions that tackle these issues and demonstrate how the geological, archaeological and recent past can offer real lessons that not only share the past but offer means to transform the future too through for example improved understandings, the development of geoheritage materials, or processes that offer real recovery and greater preparedness for the future. In addition, examples of practical mechanisms such as the use of geoparks to promote learning for future generations. Contributions that demonstrate lessons from Montserrat and the wider Caribbean are particularly welcome.





Symposium 3 – Cultures of communication

'Nothing in science has any value to society has any value if it is not communicated' (Anne Roe) - yet the complexities around a volcanic eruptions centre on much more than just the behaviour of the volcano itself. The 25 years of the Soufriere Hills eruption has also coincided with an unprecedented expansion in the methods and means we can use to communicate. The Montserrat Volcano Observatory was one of the first to share its bulletins via the internet. Thus we welcome any contributions that deal with any aspects of communicating during a disaster, from analysis of communication processes to knowledge of how to convey clear and concise messages and how to engage ethically with the emotion and upset disasters invoke. We will also explore how living with a volcano can impact the culture and invite presentations highlighting the short and long-term cultural responses to the eruption. In keeping with this we welcome contributions in a variety of formats including performance, film and audience participation as well as the more usual talk format.

Symposium 4 - Resources for future resilience

Some of the most amazing landscapes are near volcanoes. This is because volcanic activity builds land creating breath-taking scenery. Volcanoes are economically vital for many regions because of the recreational activity and tourism they attract. Volcanoes are a natural resource, the mineral rich soil influences the flora and fauna and they produce materials such as copper, gold, silver, lead, and zinc that can be utilised for economic purposes. The internal heat associated with young volcanic systems has also been harnessed to produce geothermal energy. The knowledge that we gain through learning about a volcano, its products and its impact is also a resource that we can use to promote future resilience. We invite contributions that outline work that has been done, or is being undertaken in the study of communities living with volcanoes and how they use this natural resource for promoting future resilience.





FIELD TRIPS

Sail-by geology of Montserrat

This stimulating tour allows you to take in the volcanic history of the island as you circumnavigate it by boat. A boat's eye view lets you experience the fascinating coastal exposures as well as witnessing the effects of the current eruption of the Soufrière Hills Volcano.

Tour starts at Little Bay. The highlights include:

- Thick pumice deposits at Old Road's Bluff sourced from the Centre Hills.
- Extensive red pumice deposits between Bransby point and Foxes bay sourced from the Centre Hills.
- Views of Garibaldi Hill and St. George's hill which are believed to be crypto domes associated with failed eruptions. There are also visible fault's that reflect the major structures thought to control volcanism in this sector of the island.
- Views of the city of Plymouth buried beneath pyroclastic and mud flow deposits.
- Views of the village of St. Patrick's which was devastated by a lateral blast in the 1997 Boxing day event.
- See lava flows and land lava tubes at the South Soufriere Hills. These are the only basaltic lavas on the island.
- Get the best views of the large volcanic dome and a large delta of pyroclastic material near the Tar river.
- Return around to Little bay via the Silver Hills; the oldest volcanoes on the island.

Oriole walkway nature trail

This extremely popular nature hike offers gives you the opportunity to see the island's flora and fauna including the islands only endemic bird species, and national bird, the Montserrat Oriole.

The hike starts at the popular Hilltop coffee shop which, as well as coffee and other goodies, houses a fascinating array of pre-volcanic and volcanic artefacts and memorabilia. The hike





takes you up to an elevation of 1287 feet from where you can see breath-taking panoramic views of the north and south of the island. In addition to Montserrat's national bird; some of the flora and fauna to be seen along this richly vegetated hike include the limbless lizard snake and the critically endangered Montserrat orchid and *Rondeletia Buxifolia*.

Montserrat's colonial and prehistoric cultural heritage

On this fascinating tour there will be a variety of stops targeting different aspects of Montserratian archaeology: military history; sugar, slavery, and plantation landscapes; religion and colonial architecture; and prehistoric settlement and artefacts. This excursion offers the opportunity for participants to focus on Montserrat's unique and fascinating culture, history and archaeology. The tour will start in the south and move north taking in the following stops:

- **St. Anthony's Church**—An incredible building with an incredible history! It offers the opportunity to explore religion on Montserrat (and Montserrat as a Catholic refuge), the island's history of disasters (since it was damaged repeatedly by earthquakes and hurricanes, and now by the volcano), historical graveyards on the island, Anthony Briskett, colonial architecture in Plymouth, and more.
- **Bransby Point**—At this stop we see some of Montserrat military history with some dramatic cannons and colonial military architecture. The site offers views up and down the western coast of the island a key factor in its strategic significance.
- **Old Road Bay**—Take a short walk down to the sugar ruins/golf club house (almost of which is now buried). Opportunity to talk about Montserrat's prehistory, Stapletown (the initial settlement on Montserrat), and the change in the Belham's landscape since the volcanic eruption began (or, put differently, threats to the island's material heritage from the ongoing crisis). Comparison of this site before and after the eruption of the Soufrière Hills is illuminating.
- **Little Bay Museum**— At this stop you can see a collection of artefacts which span precolonial history up to the modern age.





MVO and Plymouth

Take a field trip through the buried city of Plymouth to get some understanding of the massive human impact of the volcano on life on Montserrat. During this trip you will walk above the streets of the now buried capital among the roofs of this once bustling capital city that has been evacuated since 1996.

Following the trip to Plymouth visit the Montserrat Volcano Observatory where there will be a tour of the monitoring facility along with a showing of a short film on the eruption of the Soufrière Hills Volcano.

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

As previously noted, organised partying is seasonal. SHV25 happens just after the Calabash Festival and some individuals lengthen their stay to enjoy the festival in addition to the generally relaxed atmosphere that Montserrat affords. There is a choice of service providers for health and wellness from massage therapists and yoga instructors to day spas. Sleep in, have a day on the beach, the choice is yours. Visitors generally enjoy the Friday early morning market and lunchtime serving of Goat Water, Montserrat's national dish. There is also an exhibit carded to take place during the period of the conference. It will be mounted at the National Museum which is a gentle walk from the conference venue and will give viewers the chance to interact with the Mountain A Glow exhibit. Certified tour operators will happily take you to parts of Montserrat that you may not have time to go to during the conference. There will also be two social events included in the programme, namely the welcome reception and conference dinner.

GENERAL INFORMATION

How to get to Montserrat?

Several carriers operate international flights to Antigua. From Antigua, you have the option of travelling to Montserrat by air or sea. The Montserrat Tourism Division provides detailed information on your travel options to Montserrat: <http://www.visitmontserrat.com/get-here/>

By Air: (20 minutes)

FlyMontserrat – Web: www.flymontserrat.com

The Grenadines Airline (SVG Air) – Web: www.montserrat-flights.com





By Sea: (1½ hours approximately)

Montserrat Ferry Service – Web: www.ferry.ms

Accommodation

There are a variety of accommodation solutions on Montserrat with a combination of hotel rooms, villas and apartments. The Montserrat Tourism Department's Website provides a comprehensive list which can be accessed at: <http://www.visitmontserrat.com/stay/>.

Visa and Passport Information

All visitors to Montserrat should have a valid passport and a return ticket. If you require a visa to visit Montserrat, you can apply online at <https://www.immigration.ms/>. This website will also give you the list of countries which require visas to enter Montserrat.

Participants are advised to make appropriate arrangements for travel insurance.

Climate

Winter and summer temperatures in Montserrat average between 24 and 32 degrees Celsius with constant breezes from the sea and mountains. During the month of July, we would expect the temperature to be on the higher side so light clothing is recommended for wear during the Conference days.

Social Media Links

Stay up to date with all conference information by following @mvoms on Facebook and Twitter. The conference website remains www.shv25.com

