



## RENTING A VEHICLE

Driving in St Lucia is a real adventure! Narrow roads, steep drop-offs with no guardrails, potholes, chickens, pedestrians, cows, unnamed roads (like ours), incomplete map apps, and lack of parking space and streetlights are all part of the adventure. That's why more of our guests hire the driver (he provides the vehicle, too).

If you want to rent, we've had good luck with [DriveAMatic](#). Their vehicles are usually in good condition, and they deliver the vehicle to the villa at no charge your first full day if you want to be picked up at the airport by our driver.

**You'll need a vehicle with high ground clearance. Four-wheel drive is recommended but not required. There are a lot of steep hills, so be sure you get a vehicle with enough power – avoid vehicles with engines smaller than 2000CC other than the Suzuki Jimny HT Sport.**

For groups of two people, we recommend a Suzuki Jimny HT Sport (two-door SUV). Its small size makes it easy to maneuver, and the back seat folds down for luggage and gear storage.

For groups of three or four, we recommend a Hyundai Tucson. Although the Jimny seats four, the back seat is very tight for adults and there's practically no room behind the back seat for beach chairs or coolers or luggage (two carryon roller bags is about the most that will fit).

Our recommendation for groups of five or six is to use our driver and not rent a vehicle. Large vehicles are challenging in St Lucia due to the narrow roads, like the roads to the villa.

If you do rent a large vehicle, be sure the rental company doesn't substitute something with low ground clearance or low-powered engines. That's happened to us and a couple of sets of guests before. It was inconvenient and time-consuming to switch, and we ended up paying to upgrade to get a suitable vehicle. *We strongly advise against a minivan as their ground clearance is too low.*

### Do I have to decide before I arrive between renting and using a driver?

You probably won't be able to get a rental vehicle after you arrive. If you think you want to rent but aren't sure, we suggest renting a vehicle to be delivered your first full day from DriveAMatic (as of May 29, 2022, they don't charge a cancellation fee if you don't pre-pay) and hire our driver for the airport pickup. If, after you see the driving conditions you don't want to drive after all, you can hire the driver for the rest of your stay and cancel the vehicle at no cost. About half of our guests that plan to rent a vehicle cancel it after they experience the drive from the airport!