

RENTING A VEHICLE



Driving in St Lucia is a real adventure! Narrow and one-lane roads, steep drop-offs, no guardrails, deep potholes, chickens, cows, dogs, pedestrians, unnamed roads (like ours), incomplete map apps, lack of parking space and streetlights, and driving on the left (the least challenging aspect, in our opinion) are all part of the adventure. And gas stations aren't open around-the-clock so you have to plan ahead. That's why most of our guests hire the driver (he provides the vehicle, too). We encourage you to read our [decision chart](#) before deciding to rent a vehicle.

You'll need a vehicle with high ground clearance. Four-wheel drive is recommended but not required. There are lots of steep hills, so be sure you get a vehicle with enough power – avoid vehicles with engines smaller than 2000CC (2 liters) 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 for luggage or gear storage.

For groups of five or six, we don't have a recommended vehicle (but we strongly advise against a van due to their size and low ground clearance). Roads in St Lucia are narrow and there are lots of tight turns which make wide or long vehicles very challenging. We strongly recommend using the driver, but if you prefer to drive yourself, we suggest two Jimny HT Sports.

RECOMMENDED RENTAL AGENCIES

We recommend [DriveAMatic](#), [St Rose Rentals](#), or [Cool Breeze](#). Please be sure to read the terms of hire. For instance, DriveAMatic prices include insurance but with a \$2,000 US deductible. That's reduced to \$250US for some damages (not all) if you purchase the EP insurance.

Please note that it's not uncommon to brush up against something or hit a pothole and damage a tire rim/blow a tire. Unfortunately, it seems like the rental agencies are getting pickier and charging for any little blemish they can find instead of raising their rates upfront.

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE ABOUT RENTING OR HIRING THE DRIVER?

First, we encourage you to read our [decision chart](#) and watch the video on that page. If you decide you want to rent a vehicle, we encourage you to hire the driver for the airport pickup and your first day or two, then have the vehicle delivered to the villa on your second or third full day if you still want to use it. Around two-thirds of our guests that rent a vehicle end up hiring the driver and cancelling the rental (or letting it sit in the driveway) after they see the driving conditions!