

RENTING A VEHICLE

Driving in St Lucia is a real adventure! The driving is on the left (the “wrong” side for the US and Canada), but that’s the least of the challenges, in our opinion. Narrow and one-lane roads, steep drop-offs with no guardrails, **big** potholes, chickens, pedestrians, cows, unnamed roads, no street signs, incomplete map apps, and lack of parking space and streetlights are all part of the challenge. That’s why many of our guests hire the driver (he provides the vehicle, too).

But if you want to rent, we’ve had good luck with [DriveAMatic](#). Their vehicles are usually in good condition, and there’s no extra charge to deliver to the villa instead of your getting it at the airport.

You need high ground clearance but can usually get by without four-wheel drive. An SUV-like vehicle is best. There are a lot of steep hills, so get a vehicle with enough power!

For groups of two people, we recommend a Suzuki Jimny HT Sport (two-door SUV). Its small size makes it easy to maneuver. We know they say it seats four, but the back is cramped and hard to get into, and there is no space for activity gear or luggage unless the back seat is folded down.

For groups of three or four, you should be able to get by with a Suzuki Grand Vitara. We’ve rented one before but didn’t try it with four people and gear. (They recently discontinued our recommended vehicle.)

For groups of five or more, we don’t have a recommended vehicle. We strongly advise **against** a van. **Most of the larger rental vehicles are underpowered and can’t make it up the hill out of Soufriere.** Wide or long vehicles are extremely challenging to maneuver in St Lucia. You can rent two of the smaller vehicles, but the price will be more than hiring the driver.

Our recommendation for groups of five or more is to hire the driver that partners with us (Junior).

Do we have to decide before arriving between renting and using a driver?

It’s not likely that you can get a rental vehicle after you arrive. So, we encourage you to rent a vehicle to be delivered to the villa a day or two after you arrive and hire the driver for at least the airport pickup. More than half of our guests that rent a vehicle cancel it after they experience the drive from the airport, especially the larger groups!

If you decide you don’t want to drive after you arrive, Junior will be able to take care of you for the rest of your stay (or arrange someone else to do it for the same prices). DriveAMatic has never charged our guests a cancellation fee if the vehicle hadn’t been delivered and the guest hadn’t pre-paid. If you rent through a company other than DriveAMatic, check their cancellation policy.