

# RENTING A VEHICLE

Most of our guests hire the driver, Junior, that partners with us (he provides the vehicle, too). That's because driving in St Lucia has lots of challenges: driving on the left (the "wrong" side for many), one-lane roads, steep drop-offs, hairpin curves, lots of potholes, pedestrians, chickens, dogs, goats, cows, no street signs or names, incorrect map apps, and few streetlights or working stoplights.

We encourage you to read our ["driver or rental" table](#) before you decide what's best for you.

## 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 if you purchase the EP insurance, but the EP does not cover tires or rims.

Given the roads, it's not uncommon to sideswipe something and scrape the paint or hit a pothole and damage a tire rim/blow a tire. The rental agencies examine cars thoroughly, so please drive carefully.

## RECOMMENDED VEHICLES

**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, we recommend a Suzuki Jimny HT Sport (3-door SUV) from DriveAMatic. It's very small so it's easy to handle.

For groups of three or four, we suggest the Suzuki Jimny 5-Door from DriveAMatic. It has a bit more power than the smaller Jimny and is much easier for adults to get in the back seat. But it still does not have much space for activity gear/groceries/luggage behind the back seat.

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

## CAN WE WAIT UNTIL WE GET THERE TO DECIDE?

You may not be able to get a suitable rental vehicle for your entire stay after you arrive. So, we encourage you to rent a vehicle and **don't prepay**. Have it delivered to the villa (no charge from most companies) a day or two after you arrive and hire the driver for at least the airport pickup.

If you, like many of our guests, decide you don't want to drive after you arrive, Junior will be able to provide or arrange transportation for the rest of your stay.

DriveAMatic never charged our guests if they cancelled before the vehicle was delivered and hadn't prepaid. If you rent through a different company, check their cancellation policy.