

St. Lucia

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN ST. LUCIA

- 1) You will be given immigration forms to fill out during your flight. Keep a pen, your passports, and travel documents easily accessible from your seat.
- 2) You will deplane using a set of steps and walk outside before entering the airport terminal. Please advise airline personnel if you will require mobility assistance.
- 3) Next you will enter the Immigration line. Have your passport and completed forms in hand and answer any questions from the officer.
- 4) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all of your checked bags.
- 5) Take all of your belongings to the Customs line. Your bags may be x-rayed, or selected for additional inspection.

LEAVING THE AIRPORT

FINDING YOUR TRANSFER – After clearing Customs, you'll enter the arrivals hall. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS to find your transportation company or your resort's departure lounge.

TRANSFER TIME – Note that traveling by car from the main airport Hewanorra International (UVF) to northern areas of the island can take up to two hours. Consider bringing motion sickness medication.

HELICOPTER TRANSFER – Helicopter service is available, offering faster transfer time and a view of the island. Ask your Travel Specialist for details.

TIMESHARE/VACATION CLUB

Offers of discounted tours, promotional items, or other "freebies" are most likely connected with a timeshare or vacation club company. Their presentations often take up

considerable time and can be high-pressure sales pitches. Firmly say no if you do not wish to be approached about this. If you do attend, USE EXTREME CAUTION before entering into a contractual agreement in a foreign country.

CULTURE

LANGUAGE – English is the official language in St. Lucia, so communication is easy. You will also hear locals speaking a local dialect called Patois (Patwah) which is a version of French Creole.

TIPPING – Many bars and restaurants will add an automatic 10% service charge, which might be listed as a separate charge or included in the price—feel free to ask if you aren't sure. If not included, tipping at 10-12% is customary. Housekeepers, luggage handlers, and tour guides may also be tipped at your discretion. (Note that at Sandals resorts the tipping of resort employees—other than personal butlers or spa staff—is not allowed.)

LGBT TRAVELERS – Local attitudes towards LGBT couples can be negative, especially outside of resort properties, and public displays of affection may attract unwanted attention. Local laws prohibit certain activities between same-sex couples. See the US Department of State website for more information: [Travel.State.gov](https://travel.state.gov).

DRESS – Daytime dress is casual. Shirts and swimsuit coverups are recommended while not at the pool or beach. Dinner dress codes vary by resort and restaurant. Some may require collared shirts or closed-toed shoes for men, and may prohibit flip-flops, shorts, or tank tops. Your Travel Specialist can answer questions about your resort's policies.

CAMOUFLAGE CLOTHING – Out of respect for military and law enforcement personnel, clothing or bags with camouflage print are prohibited.

CURRENCY

St. Lucia's currency is the Eastern Caribbean dollar, but US dollars are widely accepted in tourist areas and at most resorts. Before making a purchase, verify the vendor's exchange rate and be aware that you might receive change in the local currency even if you pay with US dollars. Use caution when carrying or storing any amount of cash.

ELECTRICITY

St. Lucia uses a higher voltage than the USA (usually 240 Volts/50 Hz) and 3-pronged UK-style (Type G) plugs. Some hotels offer 110 Volts/60 Hz with US-style outlets, while others may provide adaptors and transformers. If you have questions about your hotel's electricity, ask your Travel Specialist.

STAYING HEALTHY

WATER – Tap water is chlorinated and generally considered to be safe for drinking. Bottled water is an option for those who prefer it.

SUN – Be sure to apply plenty of sunscreen in a higher SPF than normal, even on cloudy days. The sun in the tropics is more intense and can be reflected by the water and sand.

BUGS – Insects are common in the tropics. Consider using bug spray to ward off mosquitoes and no-see-ums, and bring along an anti-itch cream. Keep your balcony door closed and do not leave food in your hotel room.

GETTING AROUND

ROAD CONDITIONS – The island has many narrow and twisty mountain roads with steep drop-offs. Secondary roads can be especially rough.

RENTAL CAR – In addition to challenging road conditions, traffic drives on the left and most rental vehicles are stick shift. Never leave valuables in a rental car.

TAXI – Licensed taxis are identified with blue license plates and numbers that begin with TX. Taxis do not have meters, but some rates are fixed by distance and destination. Always verify the fare in advance and confirm whether the driver is quoting the price in US or Eastern Caribbean dollars.

MINIBUS – Public transportation via minibus is available, with routes and schedules varying widely by area. This option is not recommended if you are transporting luggage. Your hotel staff can provide details about local routes.

DEPARTURE AIRPORT

PRE-BOOKED TRANSFERS – Confirm your pick-up time with the transfer company at least 24-48 hours before departure. Be in the hotel lobby at least 20 minutes before your pick-up time to complete your checkout.

AIRPORT ARRIVAL TIME – Plan to arrive at the airport at least 2 hours before your flight to allow time check-in and security lines. Airline check-in closes 60 minutes prior to departure. This cutoff is strictly enforced, and late arrival will result in denied boarding.

RETURNING TO THE U.S.

1) You may be given immigration forms to fill out during your flight. Keep a pen, your passports, travel documents, and receipts from anything you purchased during your trip easily accessible from your seat.

2) After deplaning, you will enter the Immigration line. Have your passport and completed forms in hand, answer any questions from the officer. **NOTE:** Some airports now offer automated kiosks to enter your passport information, have your photo taken, and print a receipt to present to the Customs officer.

3) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all of your checked bags.

4) Take all of your luggage to the Customs line. You may be asked questions about what you are bringing back into the country, and your belongings may be subject to search.

5) For connecting flights or to reach the final airport exit, you may need to pass your checked luggage back to the airline. This is usually done at a counter outside of the Customs area.

DUTY FREE REMINDER: If you have to pass another security checkpoint before proceeding to the next gate or to the airport exit, you will not be able to carry your liquid duty-free purchases with you. These need to be placed in your checked bags before handing them over to the airline.