



Caring for  
your world.

Your  
relocation  
guide to  
Saint Lucia



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Memb No: A091



TELEPHONE:	Country code (758)
STANDARD TIME:	GMT -4 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric, imperial still commonly used
ELECTRICITY:	220 volts AC, 50 Hz
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	No compulsory vaccinations required
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	New Year's Day (Jan 1); Independence (22 Feb); Good Friday; Easter Monday; May Day; Whit Monday; Corpus Christi (June); Emancipation (Aug); Thanksgiving (Oct); St Lucia Day (13 Dec); Christmas Day; Boxing Day
OFFICE HOURS:	08.00-17.00 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.00-14.00 Monday – Thursday 08.00-17.00 Friday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Fire / Ambulance / Police: 999
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN ST LUCIA:	Francis Compton Building 2nd Floor (PO Box 227) Castries Tel: (758) 452 2484 / 5 Fax: (758) 453 1543 Email: britishhc@candw.lc   Web: <a href="http://ukinbarbados.fco.gov.uk">http://ukinbarbados.fco.gov.uk</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Tourist Board PO Box 221, Sureline Building Vide Boutielle Castries Tel: (758) 452 5968 / 453 0053 / 452 4094 Fax: (758) 453 1121 Email: <a href="mailto:iherman@stlucia.org">iherman@stlucia.org</a>
ST LUCIA HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON:	1 Collingham Gardens London, SW5 0HW Tel: 0207 370 7123 Fax: 0207 370 1905 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@stluciahcuk.org">enquiries@stluciahcuk.org</a>

## **Customs**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following applies for the importation of household and personal effects into Saint Lucia. However, since regulations are subject to change without notice, it is always advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.**

### **Household Goods**

Documents Required:

- Inventory in English

Duty free entry provided:

- Items have been in the owner's use and possession for over one year
- They are not intended for sale or exchange
- They have been imported within three months of owner's arrival in the State

Owner in the presence of customs officer must sign a declaration

### **Diplomats' Removals**

Documents Required:

- Letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Wedding Trousseaux**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Inheritances**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **New Furniture and Household Goods**

Documents required:

- Original signed commercial invoices

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Works of Art / Antiques**

Subject to payment of duties if not in owner's use and possession for over one year.

### **Precious Metal Objects (Jewellery / Coins)**

Subject to payment of duties unless they are part of household goods.

### **Electrical Appliances**

Subject to payment of duties if new. Serial numbers required by customs.

## **Motor Vehicles**

Subject to payment of duties.

To be valued by customs.

### **Other Vehicles (Bicycles / Water Vehicles)**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Presents / Souvenirs**

Subject to payment of duties if new.

### **Machines / Appliances / Spare Parts**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Alcohol**

40 ounces of whiskey, rum and vodka allowed.

Larger volumes subject to payment of duties.

### **Tins and Food**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Arms / Ammunition / Dangerous Goods**

Documents required:

- Permit from Commissioner of Police

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Medicines / Narcotics / Drugs**

Prohibited.

### **Plants**

Phytosanitary Certificate.

### **Cats / Dogs and Other Animals**

Must be quarantined in UK for six months prior to importation.

### **Food**

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / noncarbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be

in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated. These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for **Atlantic form QF565** for completing.

## General Information on Saint Lucia

### Background

The island, with its fine natural harbor at Castries, was contested between England and France throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries (changing possessions 14 times); it was finally ceded to the UK in 1814. Even after the abolition of slavery on its plantations in 1834. Saint Lucia remained an agricultural island, dedicated to producing tropical commodity crops. Self-government was granted in 1967 and independence in 1979.

### Geography

Saint Lucia is a typical Windward Island formation of volcanic rock that came into existence long after much of the region had already been formed.

Saint Lucia is located in the Caribbean; it's an island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, north of Trinidad and Tobago. Dominated by high peaks and rain forests in the interior, the 616km<sup>2</sup> island is known for the twin peaks of Gros Piton and Petit Piton on the south western coast, its soft sandy beaches, and its magnificent natural harbours. Mount Gimie, the highest peak, is located in the central mountain range. The steep terrain also accentuates the many rivers that flow from central Saint Lucia to the Caribbean. Fertile land holdings, which support banana farming, are scattered throughout the island.

### International Disputes

Joins other Caribbean states to counter Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation, a criterion under UNCLOS, which permits Venezuela to extend its EEZ/continental shelf over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea.

### Climate

Saint Lucia has a tropical, humid climate moderated by northeast trade winds that allow for pleasant year-round conditions. Mean annual temperatures range from 26°C to 32°C at sea level and drop to an average of 13°C in the mountain peaks. The abundant annual rainfall accumulates

to approximately 200cm, with most precipitation occurring during the June to December wet season. Hurricanes are the most severe climatic disturbance in this area and have been known to cause extensive damage.

### Population

Saint Lucia's population is 168,458, predominantly of African and mixed African-European descent, with small East Indian and European minorities.

### Language

Saint Lucia's principal language is English, but a French-based patois is widely spoken.

### Environmental Issues

There are problems with deforestation and soil erosion, particularly in the northern region.

### Currency

The currency of Saint Lucia is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar which is linked to the US Dollar at the exchange rate of US\$1 to EC\$2.65.

There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 25 cents and 1 Dollar, and notes of 5, 10, 20, and 100 East Caribbean Dollars. US Dollars are readily accepted throughout the island. Most hotels will exchange reasonable amounts of foreign currency, and there are change bureaus in Castries.

Major international credit cards are widely accepted at all large shopping centers, restaurants, hotels, etc.

### Economy

The island nation has been able to attract foreign business and investment, especially in its offshore banking and tourism industries, with a surge in foreign direct investment in 2006, attributed to the construction of several tourism projects. Although crops such as bananas, mangos, and avocados continue to be grown for export, tourism provides Saint Lucia's main source of income and the industry is the island's biggest employer. Tourism is the main source of foreign exchange, although tourism sector revenues declined with the global economic downturn as US and European travel dropped in 2009. The manufacturing sector is the most diverse in the Eastern Caribbean area, and the government is trying to revitalize the banana industry, although recent hurricanes have caused exports to contract. Saint Lucia is vulnerable to a variety of external shocks including volatile tourism receipts, natural disasters, and dependence on foreign oil. The public debt-to-GDP ratio is about 77% and high debt servicing obligations constrain the KING administration's ability to respond to adverse external shocks. Economic fundamentals remain solid, even though unemployment needs to be reduced.

## **Education**

Education is free and compulsory for ten years. It is allocated 25% of the total annual budget. Elementary schooling lasts for seven years, followed by three years of lower secondary education and another two years of upper secondary education.

## **Religion**

The vast majority of the population is Christian. About 68% of the residents are Roman Catholic. However, there is a substantial Protestant community comprised of Anglicans, Pentecostals, Seventh-Day Adventists, Baptists and Methodists. There are small communities of Rastafarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baha'is, Hindus, and Muslims. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

## **Health**

There is few health risks associated with travel to Saint Lucia, although the mosquito carried Dengue Fever is a risk throughout the island. HIV is prevalent and precautions are advised. No vaccinations are required; however, a Yellow Fever Certificate is necessary for travellers arriving from infected areas. Health care costs are high on the island and Health Insurance is recommended, which should cover medical evaluation. EHIC card holders are entitled to emergency medical treatment in the case of evacuation to Martinique, on the same terms as Martinique nationals, of which 70% of the costs can be reclaimed.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*