

ARC Information for Friends and Family Contents

ARC Information for Friends and Family	2
ARC+ 2018 Schedule	2
ARC+ St. Vincent Schedule	2
ARC 2018 Schedule	2
Following the ARC Boats.....	2
Blogs and Gallery	2
Following the Boats Online.....	2
Facebook.....	2
Twitter	2
YouTube	2
Contacts	3
Contacting Boats at Sea.....	3
YB Connect via YB3 Tracker.....	3
Contacting World Cruising Club	3
Las Palmas, Gran Canaria	4
Travel Information A to Z	4
Accommodation, Airport and Airlines, ARC Discounted Flights, Buses, Car Rental, Taxi, Tourist Information, Travel between the Canary Islands, Local Travel Agencies	
Watching the ARC Start.....	6
ARC Information Centre & Shop in Las Palmas.....	7
Finding Your Boat	7
ARC Programme in Las Palmas	7
Passes for Friends and Family	7
ARC Information Centre & Shop	7
Sending Mail and Packages to Las Palmas	8
Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia.....	10
Travel Information A to Z	10
Accommodation, Airport, ARC Discounted Flights, International Airlines, Caribbean Flights, Buses, Car Rental, Helicopter, Ferries, Taxis, Water Taxis	
ARC Office in Rodney Bay	12
Finding Your Boat	12
Programme in Rodney Bay	12
Sending Mail to Saint Lucia.....	12
Blue Lagoon, St. Vincent	13
Accommodation, Airport, Special ARC Flights, Buses, Car Rental, Ferries, Taxis, Water Taxis	
Sending Mail to St. Vincent	14
Exploring the Island.....	14
St. Vincent & the Grenadines Tourism Authority.....	14

ARC Information for Friends and Family

These pages are for friends and family of ARC participants. If you are visiting Las Palmas to wave goodbye, or the Caribbean to welcome them in, then these pages will provide you with travel and other useful information.

If you are staying at home and want to follow the fleet, or need to send mail or parcels to Las Palmas, Saint Lucia or St. Vincent, then these pages will explain how.

ARC+ 2018 Schedule

ARC+	Dates
Las Palmas Activities Start	2 November
Leg 1 Start	11 November
Cape Verdes arrival dates	16-18 November
Leg 2 Start	21 November
Saint Lucia arrival dates	3-8 December
ARC+ Prize Giving	12 December

ARC+ St. Vincent Schedule

ARC+ St. Vincent	Dates
Las Palmas Activities Start	2 November
Leg 1 Start	15 November
Cape Verdes arrival dates	20-22 November
Leg 2 Start	25 November
St. Vincent arrival dates	8-12 December
ARC+ Prize Giving	15 December

ARC 2018 Schedule

ARC	Dates
Las Palmas activities start	12 November
ARC Start	25 November
Average boat arrival dates	13-18 December
ARC Prize Giving	22 December



Following the ARC Boats

Blogs and Gallery

Every ARC boat can post blogs and pictures onto the ARC website when they're at sea - encourage your family and friends to use the blog so you can follow their adventure.

www.worldcruising.com/arc

Following the Boats Online

When trackers are fitted to the boats, regular position reports will automatically be displayed on the **Fleet Viewer** on the rally website. The Fleet Viewer provides an overview of boat locations; daily distance sailed; distance to the next port; and relative position within the rally on handicap. The interactive map allows users to show tracks, zoom in & out, and select individual boats or groups to display. There are separate tabs for each route.

It also provides an approximate arrival time in Rodney Bay or Blue Lagoon - click on 'Leaderboard and ETAs'.

The Fleet Viewer is located on the upper right side of the screen on www.worldcruising.com/arc. You can also download a smart phone app - search for YB Races.

The satellite positions are updated every six hours, but sometimes these fail to update for technical reasons. This doesn't mean there is a problem with the boat! The position is usually updated in the following six hours.

Facebook

Friends and family can post messages of support ask each other questions, and see pictures of preparations and arrivals on the ARC rally Facebook page. www.facebook.com/arcally

Twitter

You can follow the latest rally news on Twitter [@ARCally](https://twitter.com/ARCally)

YouTube

Check out the ARCs dedicated Youtube channel www.youtube.com/user/worldcruising

Contacts

Contacting Boats at Sea

The best way to contact the boats at sea is by satellite phone which you can call directly. Not all boats will have a satellite phone.

We require all ARC boats to be able to send and receive emails while they are at sea, so each boat will have an 'at sea' email address. You will be able to send emails to the boat, but make sure these are plain text (simple) emails with no attachments.

Please note that we will not give out satellite phone numbers or email addresses of ARC boats to anyone, so ensure that you have the contact details before your friends and family leave Las Palmas.

Don't forget that crew can be very busy sailing the boat, so emails sent to boats may not be answered immediately. Sometimes there are technical reasons why boats can't receive emails or telephone calls - so don't panic!

YB Connect via YB3 Tracker

All boats in the rally are provided with a YB Tracker – this is a remote satellite tracking device. It enables World Cruising Club to monitor the positions of boats at sea during the crossing.

The YB3 can connect via Bluetooth to suitable smartphones or tablets and using the YB Connect app, to send and receive messages from email addresses and mobile phones. To use this service, crew can set it up in the days before the start, and purchase credits to use during the crossing.

It is limited to text-only, but is an easy way to for crew to keep in contact with those back at home, without needing to use the boat's main satellite system. A single YB Tracker can support multiple users with separate accounts, allowing crew or guests to pay their own communication costs.

See <http://ybtracking.com/connect> for the set up guide and Rally Newsletters for more information.

Contacting World Cruising Club

World Cruising Club office in Cowes UK

Open Monday-Friday: 0900-1730 UTC. This is the main point of contact for ARC questions.

Tel: +44 (0)1983 296060

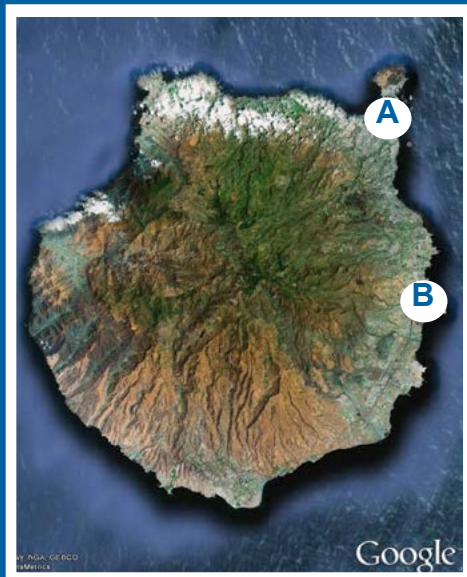
Email: mail@worldcruising.com



Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

Local Information

Dialling Code: +34
Time zone: UTC
Currency: € Euro
Emergency Tel: 112
Web: www.grancanaria.com



A: Las Palmas city and marina
B: Gran Canaria Airport

The ARC fleet will be moored in the **Muelle Deportivo marina** in Las Palmas.
www.palmasport.es T: +34 928 234 960

ARC Office in Las Palmas

Open from 2-24 November 0900-1300 / 1500-1800 UTC.

T: +34 928 234 678

Travel Information A to Z

Accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation available in Las Palmas with several large hotels close to the marina, and a good choice of hotels throughout the city. Many apartments, villas and hotels are also available in the main tourist areas in the south of the island, about 50 minutes drive from the marina.

November is still high season thanks to Gran

Canaria's temperate climate. It is recommended to book in advance.

Hotels within walking distance of the marina are:

Hotel Fataga www.hotelfataga.com

AC Hotel Gran Canaria achotels.marriott.com

AC Hotel Iberia achotels.marriott.com

Casa Mozart www.casamozart.com

Alcaravaneras Hostel Luis Antunez 22 (next to marina). T: +34 928 248 914 Book early. Lower budget. booking@canaryhostel.com
www.canaryhostel.com

There is a Tourist Information point next to the ARC Shop.

Search online using the **Gran Canaria Tourist Board** website, www.grancanaria.com, see the "tour planner" section. Other useful websites:

www.infohostal.com

www.grancanarianet.com

www.citygonow.com

www.las-palmas-24.com

Also try international booking sites like www.lastminute.com, www.expedia.co.uk and www.airbnb.com

Local travel agents can also assist with bookings
Viajes El Corte Ingles Avenida. Juan XXIII, 9 T: 928 292 402 E: juanxxiii@viajeseci.es English, French and German spoken..

Airport and Airlines

The Canary Islands has been a popular tourist destination since the 1970s, and there are many airlines flying direct to Gran Canaria from all over Europe. The island's only airport is about 20kms (30 minutes drive) south from Las Palmas city centre and the marina where the ARC is based.

Gran Canaria Airport (LPA) Main T: 928 579 130 (multi-lingual). Flight Information T: 928 579 538. Reservations T: 928 360 111 www.aena.es/en

Traveleads, based in the UK, have been helping ARC participants organise flights for several years to and from Las Palmas and the Caribbean.

ARC Discounted Flights

Traveleads

Tel: +44 (0)113 242 2202

Email: arcsailing@traveleads.net

Web: www.traveleads.co.uk

They can help get you the best price for one-way flights, as well as offering more flexibility than booking direct with the airlines, all for no extra cost. E: arcsailing@traveleads.net T: +44 (0) 113 242 2202

Airlines flying to Gran Canaria include scheduled and charter operators.

Air Berlin	www.airberlin.com
Air Europa	www.aireuropa.com
British Airways	www.britishairways.com
Easyjet	www.easyjet.com
Iberia	www.iberia.com
Monarch	www.monarch.co.uk
Norwegian Air	www.norwegian.com
Ryanair	www.ryanair.com
SAS	www.flysas.com
Transavia	www.transavia.com
Thomas Cook	www.thomascookairlines.co.uk

Binter and **Canary Fly** operate flights between the Canary Islands www.bintercanarias.es and www.canaryfly.com

Buses

The city bus service provides several bus routes to take you from one end of Las Palmas to the other, whilst the Global (Utinsa and Salcai) bus lines have routes covering the whole of the island www.globalsu.net

From the airport there are regular fast buses to Central Bus Station (Estación de Guaguas Municipales) at San Telmo. This is a few kilometres from the marina – you will need to get a taxi to complete the journey to the marina (about 10 minutes).

Bus No 12 (fast) and No 1 (stopping) link the two parts of Las Palmas. The nearest bus stop is on the main road outside the marina and the routes run all the way into the city centre, while in the other direction (south) it stops near the Central Bus Station (Estación de Guaguas Municipales). Ask in the ARC Information Centre for a timetable and route map. T: 928 381 110 www.guaguas.com

Tickets for city buses can be bought from the driver at a flat rate of 1.40€ approx for a single ticket. Or you can buy a ticket valid for 10 journeys (“Bono guagua”), at a reduced price, available from local kiosks and supermarkets.

Car Rental

Approximate cost for daily car hire: 40€

It is a fairly easy 35 minute drive from the airport to the marina. Leaving the airport, follow signs north for Las Palmas. The main highway follows the coast all the way up. Turn off when you see a green sign saying ‘Avda Juan XXIII’. You will see the marina directly below you on your right – As you turn off, turn immediately west (round the white monument roundabout, then after 100m or so, follow the one way system back round to your right. The main entrance to the marina (Muelle Deportivo) is just ahead, on the right at the T-junction.

Airport car rental companies

Avis	T: 928 579 578	www.avis.es
Cicar	T: 928 579 378	www.cicar.com
Europcar	T: 928 574 292	www.europcar.es
Hertz	T: 928 579 577	www.hertz.es

Car rental companies in Las Palmas

Dolar Rent A Car are the ARC Official Supplier, offering collection and delivery to the ARC Office T: 928 228 165 E: dolarcar@hotmail.com

Avis Muelle Santa Catalina T: 928 265572

Cicar Calle 29 de Abril, 47 T: 928 277 213

Hertz Calle Dr. J.D. Perez, 11 T: 929 463 738

If you rent a car and bring it back to the marina, be sure to park only in a designated bay or you will get a parking fine. There are usually discounts for ARC participants’ car parking.

Taxi

A taxi ride from the airport into Las Palmas costs around €35 depending on the time of day.

Vacant taxis have a green light on the roof, and a sign in the windscreen saying ‘Libre’. They can be stopped anywhere on the main road just outside the marina. Alternatively, try calling one of the radio taxi numbers below. The marina is known as the Muelle Deportivo (pronounced ‘Mweeyey Deporteevo’). If you are going to the city, write it down so you can be sure to return home again!

Radio Taxi Insular	T: 928 460 000
Eurotaxi	T: 928 469 000

Tourist Information

To find details of the Spanish Tourist Office in your own country, visit:

www.planetware.com/national-information/spain-tourist-offices-national-holidays-e.htm

More information about Spain at www.spain.info
Gran Canaria Tourism www.grancanaria.com

Travel between the Canary Islands

Airlines

Inter-island flights are reasonably-priced and frequent with Binter Airways

Binter T: 902 391 392 www.bintercanarias.es

Note that Tenerife is the only Canary Island with two airports – one in the south, where most inbound International flights arrive, and a smaller airport in the north, from where most inter-island and domestic flights depart. Travel between the two airports is easiest by bus, but takes time!

Ferries

Frequent and reliable ferry services operate amongst the islands, but don't underestimate the distances! Ferry timetables vary and they are often more expensive than flying. Ferry companies are:

Fred Olsen T: 902 100 107 www.fredolsen.es

Armas T: 928 300 600 www.navieraarmas.com

Trans Mediterranea also operate from Cadiz in mainland Spain to Las Palmas
www.trasmediterranea.es

Local Travel Agencies

Viajes El Corte Ingles Avenida. Juan XXIII, 9 (in square just before you reach post office, 5 mins from marina). T: 928 29 24 02 E: juanxxiii@viajeseci.es Open Mon–Fri: 0900–1800 English, French and German spoken and can help with local Canarian travel bookings, international travel and local accommodation.



Watching the ARC Start

The start of the ARC in Las Palmas is very exciting and emotional! A brass band will march around the marina from about 1000, and music will be blaring from the Cepsa Fuel dock.

Boats will start leaving the marina from 1000, with most leaving between 1030-1130. The Cruising Division will start at 1300, with the racing boats starting slightly earlier. The exact times will be confirmed in November.

The start line is about a mile out to sea, and to the south of the marina. There are no official boats from which to watch the start; your only option is to watch from land.

- **Marina wall** You will be able to enjoy the sights and sounds of the boats leaving the marina, the band and Don Pedro's commentary. You can see the boats going out towards the start area, but the actual start line is too far away to see properly. Lots of people watch from the wall, and there is a great atmosphere.
- The **sea wall** alongside the Av. de Canarias (main road south) provides an opportunity to see the start and watch the boats sail south. Follow the crowds (!) or aim for the Vegueta (old town).
- From above the **Old Town** (Vegueta) If you climb the steep streets behind the Santa Ana cathedral, you will get a bird's eye view of the start and the boats sailing south.
- Near the **airport** the boats will come within a mile or so of the headland (Punta de Gando) and there is often stronger winds here, so there can be some exciting action! It will take the boats about an hour to get to Punta de Gando. Their distance away from the headland depends upon the wind speed and direction.

In the past, the ARC starts have been streamed live on the ARC Facebook Page, and plenty of videos are available on YouTube and other social media channels. Search #ARCrally

ARC Information Centre & Shop in Las Palmas

This is where you find the answers to all your questions! Our knowledgeable and multi-lingual staff can help with anything you may need before the start of the ARC. Information boards are displayed inside with daily news and updates on the programme, messages and local information. The shop sells postcards, limited edition ARC clothing and souvenirs, and a range of useful books and guides.

The ARC Offices are located on the terraces half way along the western side of the marina, opposite the Sailor's Bar.

Please note, the Information Centre & Shop can only be contacted (including by email) during office hours.

ARC Information Centre & Shop

Friday 2 November to Saturday 24 November

Open: 0900 – 1800 every day

Closed: Sunday 18 November

Tel: +34 928 234 678

Email: arcallycontrol@worldcruising.com

The ARC office number is not available for personal calls, but there are several public payphones around the marina.

The World Cruising Club offices in Cowes can be contacted on +44 (0)1983 296060 or mail@worldcruising.com

Finding Your Boat

If you are meeting a boat in Las Palmas, you can get the boat location from the boat lists in the ARC Information Centre & Shop.



ARC Programme in Las Palmas

The ARC is not just about sailing! A comprehensive programme of activities is arranged for ARC and ARC+ participants in Las Palmas. The schedule begins on 2 November for ARC+, and 12 November for ARC participants. Activities include:

- Welcome party and welcome fiesta
- Informative seminars
- Safety demonstrations
- ARC official opening ceremony
- ARC sunset rendezvous (happy hours)
- Crew dinners
- Guided bus tour of Gran Canaria
- Planting trees in the ARC Forest
- Don Pedro's dinghy race
- Kids club and activities
- Farewell party

We recommend that participants arrive in Las Palmas in plenty of time to make the most of the great activities on offer and get the most out of the ARC. Most activities are included in the ARC entry fee, but tickets need to be purchased from the ARC Shop if you wish to attend some of the evening dinners or the island tour.

Participants will be sent a provisional programme of activities with the August ARC Newsletter, and it will also be posted on the ARC website. Daily emails are also sent to all registered crew with programme updates in Las Palmas.

Please remember - ARC crew passes are required for access to all programme activities.

ARC friends and family are most welcome to join in with the ARC activities, but you will need a Friends and Family pass (see below). Most activities are included in the programme cost, but there is a charge for some dinners and parties, and some require tickets.

Passes for Friends and Family

Extra passes for friends and family who wish to take part in the programme of events can be bought from the ARC Information Centre & Shop by someone with their own Crew Pass, at a cost of 50€ (cash only). The cost includes an Official ARC T-shirt.

Sending Mail and Packages to Las Palmas

Important Information

The Canary Islands are outside of the customs territory of the European Union. This means that larger items of mail are often held up in Madrid.

Carefully read the information in this section, to help you choose the most suitable method of post, minimise delay with delivery and prevent unexpected costs.

Contact details of the Post Office, couriers and customs agents are listed in the A-Z of What's on Shore from page 25, in this section of the handbook.

The ARC Information Centre & Shop in Las Palmas marina are always on hand to help if you have problems with delayed mail, and can also advise you on the best ways to send mail from Las Palmas to the rest of the world.

Points to remember:

- Mail always takes longer than you think to arrive in Las Palmas.
- There is a process and cost to clearing customs and delivery, which can be expensive compared to the item being shipped.
- Delivery is made to either the Marina Office or the ARC Information Centre & Shop. Ask in both places, and check in all the mail boxes (pigeon holes) in the marina office.
- Ask at the ARC Information Centre & Shop if you need any help.

Top Tips

- Clearly label packages with all the details needed.
- Use a reputable courier, and preferably a local customs agent in Las Palmas.
- If it is really urgent, consider asking other ARC participants, as they may have crew flying out to Las Palmas who could bring items.
- Be patient!



Ways of sending mail to Las Palmas

There are two ways of sending mail to Las Palmas: direct to the marina, or via a local customs agent. See below for the benefits and drawbacks of each method.

1. Sending mail direct to the marina

If the mail is small, light, or not urgent - send it direct to the marina address. You can use the normal mail system or a private courier company.

i. Using the normal postal system:

e.g. Royal Mail, Correos, Deutsche Post etc

- Slower than using a courier, but cheaper
- Sometimes you will need to collect your package from the local Spanish Post Office, a short walk from the marina. They normally deliver a note to the Marina office or ARC Information Centre advising that your item is waiting collection.
- It helps to use a priority service – mail can then be traced through the Spanish Post Office.

ii. Using a courier company:

- Quicker than normal post, but more expensive particularly when sending a low value item.
- Problems are common - the delivery speed and efficiency is more dependent on the local agent than the international reputation of the company.
- In Las Palmas, DHL and UPS are the most reliable. FedEx are often unreliable.
- Whatever assurance you are given, expect your item to take a week to arrive.
- Check with the Courier if you are expected to pay local customs and delivery charges. This can be anything up to 100€ (sometimes more) depending on the size, weight and value.

How to label your mail:

1. Add your name, return address and a telephone number that you can be contacted on in Las Palmas. This can be your own mobile phone number, providing it will work in Spain. Remember to include the International Dialing Code for your country, eg. UK mobile +44 7990 123 456.
2. Write the contents of the package on the box.
3. Send your package to:

Address for postal deliveries:

[boat name] – YATE EN TRANSITO
Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC)
EORI NR. GB874456194000
Muelle Deportivo,
C/ Joaquín Blanco Torrent s/n
35005 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Islas Canarias, SPAIN

2. Sending mail via a local customs agent

If the mail is large, heavy, valuable or urgent, send it with a courier company, via a local customs agent.

Sending mail via a customs agent can significantly prevent delays at customs, and speed up delivery to the marina.

Cost varies with package size, weight and value, and if there are duties to pay.

If you need items urgently, additional costs of €60 for custom clearance and from €40 for delivery will apply to expedite the process.

There are a number of customs agents in Las Palmas, and a selection are listed on [page 27](#).

How to send packages using a Customs Agent:

1. Label the package as follows:

Atlantic Rally For Cruisers (ARC)
EORI NR. GB874456194000
[Yacht Registration Number]
[Boat name] – YATE EN TRANSITO
[Skipper's Name]
Muelle Deportivo
C/ Joaquin Blanco Torrent
35005 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Islas Canarias, SPAIN

Add the sender address and the telephone number that you can be contacted on when in Las Palmas.

2. Include with the package:
 - A copy of the invoice / something that shows the contents and value of the item
 - Certificate of Origin (if originating from a non-EU country)
 - Try to match the name on the invoice with the name on boat papers and yacht registration number

Take the original invoice and shipping details from the courier with you to Las Palmas.
3. Send the package in plenty of time, with a reputable courier. Read the notes on 'Using a private courier' in the 'sending mail direct to the marina' section above.
4. Get in touch with your chosen customs agent who will need from you:
 - The details of the courier company that you sent the package with;
 - The tracking number;
 - A copy of the yacht registration document and passport of recipient;
 - The date you will be arriving in Las Palmas;
 - A contact number which he can reach you on in Las Palmas (use your own mobile number for example – using the ARC Office number won't help to locate you in the marina).
5. When you arrive in Las Palmas:
 - Contact the Customs Agent to let them know you have arrived.
 - They will explain what you need to do. Normally, they will ask you to leave the shipping documentation (ask them what you need to leave) at the ARC Information Centre & Shop. They will then collect the documentation, and process it for you with Spanish customs. They will then deliver the package directly to the marina.

While this process may sound complicated, we know from experience it is by far the easiest and most efficient way of guaranteeing your package arrives without delay in Las Palmas.

Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia

Local Information

Dialling Code: +1 758

Time zone: UTC -4

Currency: EC\$

Emergency Tel: 911

Web: www.stlucia.org



A: Gros Islet and Rodney Bay Marina

B: Hewanorra International Airport

C: Castries

The ARC fleet will be moored in **Rodney Bay Marina** in Gros Islet. www.igy-rodneybay.com T: +1 758 452 0324

ARC in Saint Lucia

The ARC office in Rodney Bay is open from 2-22 December 0900-1800 local (1300-2200 UTC) Tel: +1 758 452 8398

Travel Information A to Z

The **Saint Lucia Tourism Authority** website www.stlucia.org provides a full guide to accommodation in resorts, hotels, guest houses, villas and apartments.

Accommodation

There are many excellent villas in the Rodney Bay area, and this can be a cost effective option for larger groups or families. Popular villa companies include www.tropicalvillas.net and www.dragonflyvillas.com

Bay Gardens Hotel

T: 452 8060

baygardens@candw.lc

www.baygardenshotel.com

Bay Gardens Inn

T: 452 8200

baygardensinn@candw.lc

www.baygardensinn.com

Bay Gardens Beach Resort

T: 452 8060

baygardensbeachresort@candw.lc

www.baygardensbeachresort.com

Bay Gardens Marina Haven

www.baygardensresorts.com/marina-haven

Harbor Club

T: 731 2900

www.theharborclub.com

The Landings Resort and Spa

T: 458 7300

info@landingsstlucia.com

www.landingsstlucia.com

The Royal by Rex Resorts

T: +44 (0)20 8741 5333

adminuk@rexresorts.com

www.rexresorts.com

Village Inn & Spa

T: 458 3300

reservations@villageinnstlucia.com

www.villageinnstlucia.com

Other recommended hotels include:

CoCo Resorts www.coco-resorts.com

Cotton Bay Village www.cottonbayvillage.com

Ginger Lily Hotel www.thegeringerlilyhotel.com

Harmony Suites www.harmonysuites.com

Le Sport www.thebodyholiday.com

Windjammer www.windjammer-landing.com

Airport

Hewanorra International Airport (code UVF) is the main International airport in the south of the Island, 50 miles and a 90 minute taxi ride from Rodney Bay Marina. Approximate taxi costs one-way: US \$85 (up to 3 passengers); for 4 or more US \$25 per person. For couples or individuals, place a notice on the ARC notice board to try and

taxi-share with other crew on the same flight.

Hewanorra Airport T: +1 758 454 6644
www.slapsa.com

Regional flights operate from Saint Lucia's second airport, **George Charles Airport** (code SLU), located in Castries. This is only around 25 minutes from the marina, but most international flights do not use this airport. It is about 90 minutes by taxi from George Charles Airport to Hewanorra Airport.

International Airlines

Saint Lucia is well connected by air directly from North America, Europe and the Caribbean through a wide range of regional and international airlines. Each airline provides convenient services directly from major international cities or from a number of gateways including Antigua, Barbados, Miami, Philadelphia, and Puerto Rico. See the section below for inter-island travel.

Airlines serving Saint Lucia from Europe:

British Airways www.ba.com

Virgin Atlantic www.virginatlantic.com

Air France (via Martinique) www.airfrance.com

Air Caraïbes (via Martinique) www.aircaraibes.com

Airlines serving Saint Lucia from the US and Canada include:

Air Canada www.aircanada.ca

American Airlines www.aa.com

Delta Airlines www.delta.com

US Airways www.usairways.com

Jet Blue www.jetblue.com

WestJet www.westjet.com

ARC Discounted Flights

Traveleads

Tel: +44 (0)113 242 2202

Email: arcsailing@traveleads.net

Web: www.traveleads.co.uk

Caribbean Flights

Regional flights between Caribbean islands are frequent, and generally operate from Saint Lucia's second airport, **George Charles Airport** (airport code SLU), located in Castries, about 25 minutes from the marina. T: +1 758 452 1156

Airlines serving George Charles Airport include:

LIAT www.liatairline.com

Air Caraïbes www.aircaraibes.com

Caribbean Airlines www.caribbean-airlines.com

SVG Air www.svgair.com

Air Antilles www.aiantilles.com

Buses

Local buses can be used to get nearly anywhere at very little cost. They have green 'M' registration plates. Buses pass outside the marina gates to/from Castries. Simply flag down any bus with a "Route 1A" sign.

Car Rental

Sixt Car Rental in the Marina. T: 452 9404

Other car hire companies on the island (that will likely charge for delivery to Rodney Bay) are:

Avis T: 452 2700/2202

Budget T: 452 9887

Hertz T: 452 0680/0679

National T: 450 8721

Paradise Car Rental T: 456 2800 / 452 4934

Scottie's Scooter Rentals T: 450 1404

Helicopter

Helicopters are no longer allowed to land at the marina, so travelling to the International Airport in the south this way means departing from George Charles airport in the north. With clearances, it will take about the same time as getting a taxi from the marina. www.stluciahelicopters.com T: 453 6950

Ferries

A daily high-speed catamaran service between Saint Lucia, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Dominica is operated by **Express Des Iles**. www.express-des-iles.com (website in French and English). T: 456 5000

There are also ferries from the marina that travel to both Fort-de-France and la Marin in Martinique. Bookings are made through **Tropical Discoveries** (see Island Tours) based in the marina.

Taxis

The Taxi Association at Rodney Bay Marina T: 452 9957 offer discounted fixed rates.

Marina Taxi Stand T: 719 9877 Fully licensed taxi operators are denoted by blue 'TX' license plates. It is strongly recommended you use licensed operators and it is wise to agree on the specific fare before departing.

Water Taxis

These are an easy way to reach the beach, adjacent bars & restaurants or to reach yachts at anchor. Most are on VHF Ch 16, but are also usually found on the main pontoon. Offer sightseeing trips to Marigot Bay, Soufriere, Pigeon Island and sunset cruises.

Quincy T: 716 6733 quincyjones23@hotmail.com

John T: 518 2290 or **Tafari** T: 716 4004

Tourist Board

There will be a **Saint Lucia Tourism Authority** representative in the ARC office in Rodney Bay Marina, on hand to give advice about what to do and see on the island.

ARC Office in Rodney Bay

This is where you find the answers to all your questions! Our knowledgeable and multi-lingual staff can help with anything you may need before the start of the ARC. Information boards are displayed inside with daily news and updates on the programme, messages and local information.

ARC Saint Lucia Office

2-22 December

Open: 0900 – 1800 (local) every day

Tel: **+1 758 452 8398**

Email: arcallycontrol@worldcruising.com

The ARC Office is the beige building near pontoon B in Rodney Bay Marina.

Please note, the ARC office can only be contacted (including by email) during office hours.

The ARC office number is not available for personal calls. Faxes can be sent and received from the marina office.

The World Cruising Club offices in Cowes can be contacted on **+44 (0)1983 296060** or mail@worldcruising.com

Finding Your Boat

If you are meeting a boat in Saint Lucia, you can get the boat location from the boat lists in the ARC Office.

If the boat hasn't arrived, you can track its progress and follow the ETA arrival time on the Fleet Viewer on the ARC website

www.worldcruising.com/arc

Programme in Rodney Bay

A comprehensive programme of activities is arranged for ARC and ARC+ participants in Rodney Bay. These activities include:

- Welcome cocktail
- Cooking demonstrations
- Live entertainment and music
- IGY Marina party
- Caribbean cruising seminar
- Anse La Raye Fish Fry
- Prizegiving ceremony

Most activities are included in the ARC entry fee, but tickets need to be purchased from the ARC Office if you wish to attend some of the evening dinners or the island tour.

Participants will be sent a provisional programme of activities with the August ARC Newsletter, and it will also be posted on the ARC website.

Please remember - ARC crew passes are required for access to all programme activities

ARC friends and family are most welcome to join in with the ARC activities, but you will need a Friends and Family pass. Most activities are included in the programme cost, but there is a charge for some dinners and parties, and some require tickets.

Sending Mail to Saint Lucia

The Rodney Bay Marina Office holds mail for yachts. Please ensure your letters are addressed correctly. Mail is slow and unreliable to and from Saint Lucia.

Couriers

Leverage Management offer UPS express delivery, customs clearances and savings for ARC participants. P.O. Box 2000, Mongiraud, Gros Islet. 453 927 E: info@leveragemgt.com

Federal Express Sixt Car Rentals is a FedEx centre Tel: 452 9404.

Blue Lagoon, St. Vincent

Local Information

Dialling Code: +1 784
Time zone: UTC - 4
Currency: EC\$
Emergency : 911
Web: www.discoversvg.com



A: Blue Lagoon Marina

B: Argyle Airport

Blue Lagoon Marina is a full service marina offering 20 slips and 4 alongside berths. There are showers, good laundry facilities, water, ice and fuel available, plus onsite restaurants and the Blue Lagoon Hotel.

Desmond the Dockmaster, and the team of Blue Lagoon Marina can assist with anything you need from taxis to gas refills. The marina is situated close to the capital Kingstown where some marine services are available.

The small shopping complex in the marina caters for most immediate needs. There is a small supermarket, laundry, restaurant, café and bar.

Accommodation

Blue Lagoon Hotel At the marina. This wonderful 30 room hotel forms an integral part of The Blue Lagoon Resort and Marina complex. The hotel was refurbished 3.5 years ago and upgraded along with the entire marina complex to create a delightfully upscale resort environment and some of the best accommodations available in St. Vincent. The rooms are tastefully fitted out with modern décor and Caribbean colours plus all luxury extras. www.bluelagoonsvg.com/rooms

The Cobblestone Inn Kingstown Located on Bay Street in Kingstown (overlooking the commercial harbour) - this stylish, Georgian period building was originally constructed in 1814, as a sugar warehouse. T: 456 1937 E: cobblestone@vincysurf.com www.thecobblestoneinn.com

Airport

Argyle International Airport (code SVD) is the main International airport in the south of the Island, and a 20-25 minute taxi ride from Blue Lagoon. The approximate taxi cost from the Argyle International Airport is \$25US one way. www.svg-airport.com

Getting to St Vincent is easiest via the major Caribbean hub of Barbados with daily international flights from the US, Europe and South America. In addition, flights into St Lucia, Grenada or Trinidad can connect into St Vincent with the local Caribbean carriers.

Regional airlines serving Argyle International Airport include:

LIAT www.liatairline.com

Caribbean Airlines www.caribbean-airlines.com

SVG Air www.flysvgair.com

Special ARC Flights

Traveleads have worked together with World Cruising Club since 2004 to offer ARC and ARC+ crews a reliable, flexible and low-cost option to return home following the rally. They also offer return flights and holiday options for friends and family. In 2018 Traveleads are offering seats aboard Virgin Atlantic Airways flights from Saint Lucia to London Gatwick Airport throughout December. Connections to Saint Lucia can be made using SVG Air. Contact Traveleads for the latest prices and full details.

Buses

There are inexpensive buses running to most villages and to the capital Kingstown, with a stop on the main road just outside the marina. There is no timetable for public transport. Buses passing Blue Lagoon Marina are all heading to Kingstown. Buses from Kingstown to Blue Lagoon are often marked "Prospect" as their destination. This is just after Blue Lagoon.

Car Rental

Visitors are required to purchase a temporary licence for EC\$65 and must be able to produce a domestic driving licence.

Blue Lagoon Marina and Hotel can arrange car rentals. Ask at reception.

D & J Auto Rentals Arnos Vale and at Argyll International Airport. D & J are a very flexible and an easy company to work with, offering pick-ups and drop offs to suit your needs, and will deliver your rental car to the marina for you on request. T: 456 6548/ 527 1652 / 458 4944

There is also **Ben's Auto Rental** located 10 minutes away from the Marina.

Ferries

St. Vincent & The Grenadines has an inter-island ferry system that makes it very easy to get from one island to another.

Bequia is serviced by several ferries on a daily basis from Kingstown. Fares One Way are EC\$25 or US\$10 for foot passengers. Journey time is approximately one hour. See www.bequiaexpress.com for schedules

Ferries to Canouan, Mayreau & Union Island and to Mustique also operate. See www.discoversvg.com

Taxis

Blue Lagoon Marina and Hotel can arrange taxis. Ask at reception.

Sam Taxi & Tours Yacht agent offering multiple services throughout St. Vincent & the Grenadines. VHF 16/68, T: 456 4338 M: 528 2240 E: sam-taxi-tours@vincysurf.com

SVG Taxi Association T: 457 1807

It is strongly recommended you use licensed operators and it is wise to agree on the specific fare before departing.

Taxi rates:

Kingstown (one way): US\$18/EC\$50

Montreal Gardens (round trip): US\$150/EC\$400

Soufriere Volcano (round trip): US\$240/EC\$640

Black Point Tunnel (round trip): US\$160/EC\$420

Botanical Gardens (round trip): US\$60/EC\$160

Vermont Nature Trails (round trip): US\$160/EC\$420

Wallialbou Bay (Pirates of the Caribbean) round trip: US\$160/EC\$420

Dark View Falls and Fort Charlotte: \$US220/EC\$590

Arnos Vale (one way): US\$15US

Arnos Vales shopping round trip: US\$45/EC\$120

Short Drops: US\$10/EC\$25

Water Taxis

Sam Taxi & Tours Yacht agent offering multiple services throughout St. Vincent & the Grenadines. VHF 16/68, T: 456 4338 M: 528 2240 E: sam-taxi-tours@vincysurf.com

Sending Mail to St. Vincent

The Blue Lagoon Marina Office holds mail for yachts. Please ensure your letters are addressed correctly using the address below. Mail is slow and unreliable to and from St. Vincent.

Blue Lagoon Marina Imported parts for yachts in transit is ONLY 5% customs charge. T: 458 4308

Address for Mail to St. Vincent

Name of Yacht, ARC+

Blue Lagoon Hotel & Marina

P.O. Box 124

Ratho Mill

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Exploring the Island

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Tourism Authority

Nature lovers, scuba divers and hikers will all love St Vincent. From the comfort of a bus tour to the challenge of hiking to the top of La Soufriere volcano, there are fabulous activities for everyone to enjoy at this world class island destination.

Visit tropical gardens, go bird watching, take in a cricket match or replay scenes from Pirates of The Caribbean. The possibilities are endless. See www.discoversvg.com