

UK Foreign & Commonwealth Travel Advice Update



Saint Lucia

Still current at: 08 November 2010
Updated: 06 November 2010

Update on Hurricane Tomas: Advice for those due to travel, statement by the St Lucia Tourism Minister and reliability of mains water supply.

- Hurricane Tomas hit St Lucia on 31 October causing landslides, damage to buildings and severe disruption to the road network. There were a number of deaths and some people remain missing. There is still some interruption to power, water and communications, but these are being gradually restored. Hewanorra International Airport (UVF) is open, although access by road from the rest of the island is currently limited to emergency vehicles (access for visitors to the rest of the island is by internal flight or boat). The smaller George Charles airport (SLU) in Castries, which serves regional destinations, is also open.
- Foreigners currently in St Lucia are strongly advised to check with their airline or tour operator before making their way to the airport under their own steam. Those travelling independently should try to speak to the airlines directly if that is possible before going to the airport.
- Those due to travel to St Lucia are strongly advised to check with their accommodation provider before travelling. We understand that a number of hotels are closed and many (hotels) are reporting that they are unable to accept any new guests. Any reservations made via ctms will automatically be reconfirmed or alternatives offered should your initial choice no longer be available. Changes or refunds will be offered where applicable in line with the airline or tour operator's guidelines.
- A statement issued 3 November by the St Lucia Tourist Board quotes the St Lucia Tourism Minister as saying "We look forward to welcoming visitors by air from Europe, North America and the Caribbean with regularity from this Friday, 5 November – a week earlier than previously forecast". However, visitors are advised that large parts of the island, including many hotels, are without mains water, and that a state of disaster is in force which is likely to last until 14 November.
- The hurricane season in St Lucia normally runs from June to November. You should monitor local and international weather updates.