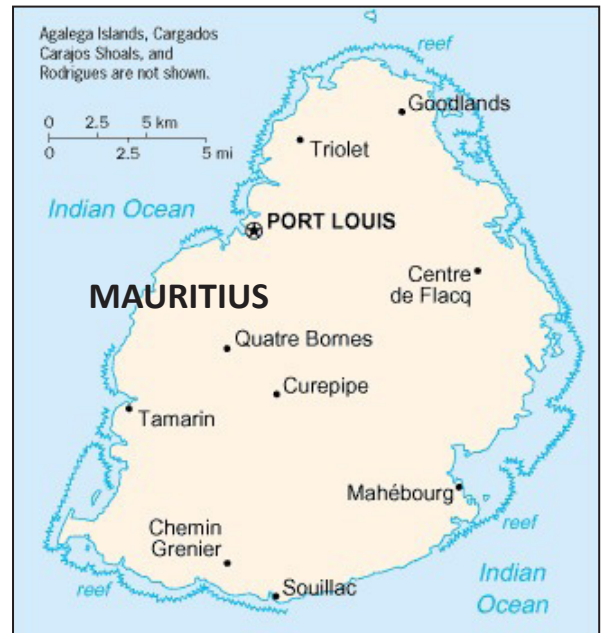




KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers from most countries are required to carry a valid driving license, vehicle documents and proof of insurance. Some rental car agencies may require motorists from certain countries to carry an International Driving Permit.
- ❑ Authorities may request proof of identification at any time.
- ❑ The Mauritian Rupee (MUR) is the official currency. The Euro and US dollar are accepted in many major tourist hotels and shops.
- ❑ Pedestrians account for an estimated 31% of traffic fatalities.
- ❑ Riders of two- and three-wheeled motorized vehicles make up about 46% of all road deaths.
- ❑ Women traveling alone and women pedestrians may be subject to verbal harassment or targeted by criminals.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.05 g/dl. Despite legal limits, around 24% of all road crashes involve the use of alcohol.
- ❑ There are 10.8 road deaths per 100,000 people in Mauritius, compared to 2.2 in Sweden and 2.3 in the UK.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Reckless** road behavior is common. Many drivers ignore traffic laws.
- **Motorists** often fail to turn on headlights after dusk.
- **Speeding** and dangerous overtaking are common.
- **Drivers** of small motorbikes often travel slowly on main roads among larger, faster vehicles.
- **Pedestrians** often walk in or along roads and may be difficult to see at night.
- **Many cyclists** ride at night without bicycle lights or reflectors.
- **Drivers often** disregard cyclists on shared roads.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **Of the** 2,428 km (1,508 miles) of roads, 2,379 km (1,478 miles) are paved, including 99 km (61.5 miles) of expressways; and 49 km (30.4 miles) are unpaved.
- **The Republic of Mauritius** archipelago is part of the larger Mascarene Islands chain, and includes the main islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega and St. Brandon.
- **There are** two highways, located on the largest island of Mauritius: M1 and M2.
- **Heavy traffic** is common during twice-daily rush hours in Port Louis and at the entrances and exits to main towns.
- **There are** currently no toll roads.
- **Road conditions** vary widely throughout the islands.
- **Roads** are generally narrow with uneven surfaces.
- **Most** roads are bordered by steep ditches.
- **Many roads** lack guardrails.
- **Lighting** is inadequate, especially along rural roads.
- **There are** few road signs. GPS navigation systems may be unreliable. Carry an up-to-date paper map.
- **Avoid demonstrations.** Peaceful gatherings may become violent, and disrupt road travel and public transport.
- **Mobile phone** reception is not available in all areas of

the archipelago. Local SIM cards may be purchased to help with connectivity.

- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is better developed in towns and cities than in rural areas.
- **Stray livestock** is common on roads.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **The B9/Maconde Road** is a coastal road along the southern edge of the island of Mauritius. It connects Souillac in the Savanne district to Grande Riviere Noire in the Black River district. The road is bordered on one side by basalt cliffs, and on the other by the Indian Ocean. Guardrails are lacking. The winding road is unlit, narrow and has a dangerous hairpin curve at Maconde rock. Traffic can be heavy.
 - » **The Palma Roundabout** on the way to Beux Songes on the island of Mauritius is a winding road with fruit stalls located at several locations along its length; pedestrians are often present. Speeding and dangerous overtaking are common. There are frequent crashes.



Road Conditions, continued

- » **Black River Gorges National Park Road** is a 20.2-km (12.5-mile) paved road linking Chamarel and Chamouny on Mauritius Island. Heavy tourist traffic can result in dangerous conditions. The road is narrow and winding, with heavy foliage creating visibility issues, including deep shadows and unclear views of oncoming vehicles. Lighting is poor. It is popular with cyclists, but there are no cycling lanes. Use caution on this road.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Mauritius** is subject to torrential rains, severe storms, tropical cyclones, landslides and tsunamis.
- **Heavy rains** can result in hazardous driving conditions.
- **Landslides** may follow rain, and result in blocked roads.
- **Tropical cyclone** season is generally from November to May.
- **The country** is located close to an active seismic zone. Tsunamis may follow seismic activity.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION










- **Transportation options** include cars, chauffeured cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, tourist taxis, shared taxis, buses, light rail, bicycles and boats.
- **Private cars** and drivers can be hired through some rental car agencies, including Europcar.
- **Public** transportation is generally regarded as reliable.
- **Buses are** the main form of public transport. Buy tickets with cash on board.
- **Multiple companies** operate buses, including the National Transport Corporation (NTC), RHT Holding Ltd., Triolet Bus Service Ltd., Mauritian Bus Transport and United Bus Service.
- **Public** and private buses provide routes between main towns and rural areas.
- **Express** bus routes are available to and from some destinations.
- **Some** private minibus companies pick up from hotels.
- **Tourist taxis** can be found at hotels, bus stations and at the airport.
- **Use only** registered tourist taxis with a taxi sign on top of car, and yellow squares on doors indicating route.
- **Most** tourist taxis are unmetered. Agree on fare with driver prior to travel.
- **At night**, tourist taxis must be booked in advance.
- **Shared taxis** run along set routes. Drivers do not depart until vehicles are full.
- **In the evening**, shared taxis replace buses after routes end.
- **Local rideshares** are available. Some are operated by taxi companies. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **There are** many motorcycles and motor scooters. Rentals are available throughout the main islands.
- **Pedestrian infrastructure** is underdeveloped. There are few sidewalks or crosswalks.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	40 kph (25 mph)
Rural roads	80 kph (50 mph)
Highways	100 to 110 kph (62 to 68 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

								
Give way to existing traffic	No through road	No parking or waiting	Pedestrians prohibited	No vehicles except motorcycles without sidecars	Bump in road	No overtaking	Yield to oncoming traffic	Keep left



Transportation, continued

- **Bicycle travel** is common. Rentals are available in towns and at some hotels.
- **There is** a limited light rail system between Port Louis and Curepipe on the main island.
- **Light rail** is regarded as generally safe.
- **Boat transport** includes speedboats, glass-bottom tourist vessels and motorized canoes called “pirogues.” Safety records vary. If traveling by boat, bring your own life preserver and do not travel during inclement weather or rough seas.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 17 years of age to operate a motorcycle, 18 to drive a car and 21 to rent a vehicle. Some rental car agencies may have other restrictions.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for driver and passengers.
- **Children** younger than ten years may not sit in front

seats. Babies and young children must be secured in child safety seats.

- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must meet national standards.
- **Laws do not** require motorcycle helmets to be fastened. For safety, helmets should be securely fastened.
- **Children** are not restricted from being passengers on motorcycles.
- **Pedestrians** in crosswalks have right-of-way.
- **Drivers** may not overtake a vehicle stopped at a pedestrian crossing.
- **Drivers are** prohibited from crossing solid white lines on roads.
- **Only attendants** may pump fuel at petrol stations.
- **To park** in city centers, drivers must purchase a parking ticket at a fuel station, or from vendors in city centers.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.

Port Louis (Capital)

- » Largest city. Located on the coast of Mauritius Island.
- » Driving is not recommended. Road conditions are often chaotic. Signs are inadequate.
- » Substantial traffic jams are common during twice-daily rush hours.
- » Transportation options include cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, taxis, buses, light rail, bicycles and boats.
- » Public transportation is generally regarded as reliable.
- » Buses are operated by multiple companies.
- » Tickets are purchased with cash on board buses; inspectors are often present.
- » Bus routes are available throughout the city, and to other towns on the island.
- » Public and private buses provide routes between main towns from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., and to rural towns and remote areas until 6 p.m.
- » Hotel pick-up and drop-off is available from some private minibuses companies.
- » There are two bus stations located at Immigration Square (north and east destinations) and Victoria Square (south and west destinations). Stations are connected by shuttles.
- » There are frequent departures and arrivals, but no formal bus schedules.
- » Metro Express is a light rail system connecting the city to Curepipe in the suburbs.
- » Light rail runs daily approximately every 12 to 15 minutes from about 6 am to 10 pm.
- » Metro Express tickets and the electronic MCard can be purchased from automated machines at stations.
- » Use only registered tourist taxis that have a “taxi” sign on top of car, and yellow squares on doors indicating route.
- » Tourist taxis are generally unmetered. Agree on fare with driver prior to travel.
- » Taxi stands are located at bus stations, the airport and most hotels.
- » At night, tourist taxis must be booked in advance.
- » Shared taxis run along set routes, and do not depart until full.
- » Shared taxis take the place of buses after bus routes end in the evening.
- » Local rideshares are available. Some are operated by taxi companies. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Motorcycles and motor scooters are common, and may be driven by visitors unfamiliar with traffic rules.



Port Louis, continued

- » Motorcycle and motor scooter rentals are available throughout the main islands.
- » Many people travel by bicycle. Infrastructure is lacking.
- » Bicycle rentals are available in towns and at some hotels. Cyclists must share narrow, poorly lit roads with motorized traffic.
- » Boat transportation includes speedboats, glass-bottom tourist vessels and motorized canoes called “pirogues.”
- » Limited passenger service operated by freight ships is available to Madagascar and Reunion. Boat safety records vary.
- » If traveling by boat, avoid overloaded vessels. Do not travel during rough seas or inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.
- » Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport is approximately 47.3 km (29.3 miles) from the city.
- » Transportation options between the airport and the city include rental car, taxis and buses.
- » Buses are available from the airport to destinations throughout the island.
- » Registered taxis can be found outside of the arrivals area. Avoid drivers of unregistered taxis soliciting for fares in the luggage claim area.
- » Some major rental car agencies are represented at the airport.

Vacoas

- » Second largest town. Located in the Plaines Wilhems district of the main island.
- » Transportation options include cars, private chauffeured cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, tourist taxis, shared taxis, buses, bicycles and boats.
- » Rental car agencies offer private cars with drivers for hire.
- » Public transportation is generally regarded as reliable.
- » The public transport system is comprised of buses overseen by the National Transport Corporation (NTC). Tickets are purchased after boarding; cash is necessary.
- » There are public and private bus routes connecting towns and remote areas.
- » Some express bus routes are available between certain destinations.
- » Multiple private minibus companies offer pick up from hotels.
- » Tourist taxi stands are located at most hotels.
- » Use only registered tourist taxis. Vehicles have a taxi sign on top of car, and yellow squares on doors that indicate their route.
- » Few tourist taxis are metered. Negotiate fare with driver prior to travel.
- » Tourist taxis must be booked in advance in the evening.
- » At night, shared taxis take the place of buses.
- » Shared taxis travel on set routes. Drivers do not depart until all seats are filled.
- » Limited rideshares are available. Some are operated by taxi companies. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Motorcycles and motor scooters are a popular form of transport. Rentals are available throughout main islands.
- » Motorcycles and motor scooters are often driven by visitors unfamiliar with road conditions and traffic rules.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped. Sidewalks and crosswalks are lacking in many areas.
- » Bicycle travel is common. Some hotels provide rentals.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Accessibility** is limited in transportation, lodging and public buildings.
- **Sidewalks** are lacking. Most buildings do not have working elevators.
- **Electronic MECards** for use of the Port Louis light rail system have a “priority” category making them free to persons with reduced mobility.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **Responders** to emergency numbers may not speak English.
- **Emergency numbers:**
 - » Police, ambulance and fire: 999 or 114
 - » Local police on Mauritius: 230-208-1212
- **Beyond** major metropolitan areas, responses to emergency situations may be slow. Private and state ambulances are available in many areas, but speed of response times and quality of care varies. If you are able, make your way directly to the nearest large hospital or medical facility.
- **Standards of care** vary among medical facilities. Adequate medical care is widely available at major hospitals and private clinics on the main island of Mauritius. On other islands, including Rodrigues, medical evacuation to the main island may be necessary in the event of serious illness or injury.
- **Private clinics** may be better equipped than public facilities. Payment is generally required before the administration of treatment.
- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries, including strong pain medicines, may be illegal in Mauritius. Verify legality prior to travel, and carry medications in their original packaging accompanied by a written doctor's prescription.
- **Roadside assistance** is limited. Check with rental car agency for availability.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call police.
 - » Notify rental car agency.
 - » Remain at scene until authorities indicate you may leave. If you feel unsafe, drive to the nearest police station or a secure location, such as a major hotel.
 - » Exchange contact and insurance information with other driver(s).
 - » Take photos if possible.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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