

Public Transportation

Saturday, 16 September 2006

How to get around St. Maarten/St. Martin by bus.

Well you know. It's pretty easy. You just stand on the side of the road, and wait. Soon enough a bus will approach and you just raise your hand. It could be anywhere, don't think you have to walk to a bus stop. There are no bus schedules either, you could have 10 buses in 5 minutes or 1 in half an hour, but most of the time, the buses are very convenient, you'll never be stranded.

There are areas where it's tough to get a bus, like for instance going to Pointe Blanche, there is no bus going there. The farthest the bus will go is Philipsburg and from there on you have to walk.

When you see a bus, always look for the sign behind his windshield with his destination.

Mostly the destinations are:

- Philipsburg
- Marigot
- Cole Bay
- Mullet Bay
- French Quarter
- Dutch Quarter
- St. Peters
- Grand Case
- Rambaud

You can take any bus if it brings you any further and you just take a next one to go further. Sometimes buses coming from Philipsburg going to Marigot will not go further, you have to take a next bus to go to Grand Case.

The fares are like \$1 per region. For instance, Grand Case to Philipsburg: is \$1 to French Quarter, and \$1.50 to Philipsburg. It is also a cash service, tickets do not exist.

Try to have single dollar bills and some change. If you take a French bus, you can pay in Euros as well.

The buses are small 6-8 passenger buses. They are all privately owned mostly by the driver itself.

During the week, buses ride up to about 9 to 10pm, in the weekend up to about 11pm.

Going to the beach by bus? They don't really go there, except Mullet Bay and Grand Case. There is no bus going to Orient Beach for example. You can take the bus to Grand Case, and do a little walking though.

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