

## Immigration & Clearance information

### **General process Clearance:**

All vessels arriving in or departing from Sint Maarten waters must clear in and out.

**Clearing in** can be done either in Simpson Bay or especially for the St. Maarten Heineken regatta, at the Port

de Plaisance Regatta Village. (Only available from Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February till Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February).

Bring:

- clearance documents from your last port
- crew list
- passports from all the crew members
- vessel registration
- insurance documents.

All vessel have to clear in within 24 hours of arrival. So if you are arriving on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February you

can also clear in at Port de Plaisance.

Be aware the clearance process is different for **St Martin**.

**Clearing out** can only be done in Simpson Bay.

Bring proof of payment of bridge, clearance and moorage fees and your crew list, passports, vessel registration to the Immigration Office.

### **Simpson Bay:**

**Immigration Department** : Located in the Police Station adjacent the channel into Simpson Bay Lagoon. It is open from 08.00 am to 4.00 pm hours 7 days a week. Note: Opening hours vary during the year. Tel +1 721 545-0031. VHF Channel 12.

**Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation (SLAC) Clearance Office (same location as immigration):**

Open from 07.00 am to 5.00 pm 7 days a week. Tel +1 721 5453183

**Note:** The Police Dock can be used by dinghies coming to the Police Station for the services of the Police;

Immigration; Customs or the Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority. It can also be used for drop offs and pick ups

### **Port de Plaisance:**

Immigration office: Located at the Regatta Village. Is open from 10am to 5pm on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 27<sup>nd</sup>.

SLAC Clearance office at the Regatta Village. Is open from 10am till 5pm on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 27<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Domestic Clearance:**

Clearance papers are necessary if you are sailing to another island, even a Dutch one and also to the French side.

### **International Clearance:**

All vessels must clear out from Immigration, Customs and the Lagoon Authority before departing to their next destination.

### **General process Immigration:**

Upon arrival in Sint Maarten a tourist must present a passport that is valid upon entry and for the duration of stay and a valid visa sticker if one is required. See the list below for who and who does not require a visa. The maximum stay is 30 days for tourists in general.

For Dutch and American nationals, maximum stay is 6 months with the possibility to extend.

For nationals of Canada, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand and Japan 3 months is allowed with the possibility to extend.

### **Incoming Crew and Guests:**

Crew and guests joining a boat sometimes experience difficulty with Immigration officials if they are unable to show an onward ticket and proof of financial means. Captains of yachts expecting crew and

guests are advised to contact Immigration in advance.

**Other Visa Information:**

Extensions may be possible for some visitors, but they are required to have medical insurance valid for the duration of the extended stay.

The tourist stay extension form and list of requirements are available at the Immigration and Border Protection Office in Philipsburg and can also be downloaded from the [official Sint Maarten Government website](#).

**Custom Fees** (net ton):

- 001-099t: \$2
- 100-499t: \$5
- 500t and over: \$9

**Harbor Fee** (gross ton):

- 001-099t: \$5
- 100-499t: \$10
- 500t and over: \$20

**Anchor Fee** (per week):

- From 8 to 13 metres: \$20
- From 13 to 18 metres: \$40
- From 18 to 23 metres: \$60
- From 23 to 28 metres: \$90

**Bridge Fee** (includes in and out):

- From 9m to 12m: \$7
- From 12m to 15m: \$21
- From 15m to 18m: \$42
- From 18m to 22m: \$120

\*Fees in USD

**Simpson Bay Bridge**

The main access into and out of Simpson Bay Lagoon from the Dutch side of the island. The Bridge is located on the southern side of Simpson Bay, and will accommodate vessels up to a maximum beam of 46 feet and a maximum draft of 15 feet. When the bridge is closed there is 8.6 ft (2.6m) ceiling clearance in the port channel and 8 ft (2.4m) clearance in the starboard channel. There is a 5kt speed limit for all vessels using the access channel, and within the lagoon all marinas and yacht anchorages are no-wake zones.

Current openings (December 2018) are as follows but for most up to date information see the [Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation \(SLAC\) website](#).

08.30 Outbound traffic  
09.30 Inbound traffic  
10.30 Outbound traffic  
11.30 Inbound traffic  
15.00 Inbound traffic  
16.00 Outbound traffic  
17.00 Inbound traffic

**Causeway**

The Causeway, is a swing bridge that gives access to the French side of the lagoon and down to the Airport and Cupecoy areas of the St. Maarten section of the lagoon. We strongly recommend that competitors do not moor in areas that require the use of the Causeway.

Current openings (December 2018) are as follows but for most up to date information see the [Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation \(SLAC\) website](#).

0800 In/Outbound traffic  
1000 In/Outbound traffic  
1530 In/Outbound traffic

The Sandy Ground ridge is not currently operating.

**Black Water Discharge:**

Dispose of onboard sewage by using the services of the sewage pump out boat Slurpy. The boat is owned by the local foundation Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (Epic) and The Business Point, a service company located in Simpson Bay, operates the boat. Designed to serve vessels with storage tanks up to 125 gallons. Boaters can schedule an appointment on VHF Channel 10, by phone at 544 33 15, or email [pumpoutsxm@gmail.com](mailto:pumpoutsxm@gmail.com).

**Note:** Slurpy is scheduled to be back in action late December 2018.

**Dinghies/RIBs:**

The Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba may check dinghies to ensure they have the following items on board: an anchor, lights, lifejackets and the driver may be asked to show a copy of an operator's license.

Last updated: December 2018

**VHF radio channels**

Bridge tender & Coast guard listen to VHF channel 12.

If you need any additional information about immigration requirements, please call the Immigration Department in St. Maarten. They can be reached through the central Police Department operator at (+599) 542-2222.

You can also contact the Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority: (+599) 545-3183.

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**Annexe 4: Nationalities not required to obtain a visa & the visa waiver programme**

For the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the countries of Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten) including the Netherlands in the Caribbean (the Dutch public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba)

**Countries whose nationals are exempt from the visa requirement**

Albania	Latvia
Andorra	Liechtenstein
Antigua and Barbuda	Lithuania
Argentina	Luxembourg
Australia	Macao – holders of a Special Administrative Region passport
Austria	Macedonia
Bahamas	Malaysia
Barbados	Malta
Belgium	Mauritius
Belize	Mexico
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Moldova
Brazil	Monaco
Brunei	Montenegro
Bulgaria	Nicaragua
Canada	New Zealand
Chile	Norway
Costa Rica	Panama
Croatia	Paraguay
Colombia	Peru (visa required for Curacao and St. Martin)
Cyprus	Poland
Czech Republic	Portugal
Denmark	Romania
Dominica	San Marino
Ecuador	Serbia
El Salvador	Seychelles
Estonia	Singapore
Finland	St Christopher and Nevis (St Kitts)
France	St Lucia
Germany	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Slovakia
Greece	Slovenia
Guatemala	South Korea
Guyana ( <i>Guyanese nationals do require a visa for St Maarten</i> )	Spain
Honduras	Suriname
Hong Kong – holders of a British National (Overseas) passport	Sweden
Hong Kong – holders of a Special Administrative Region passport	Switzerland
Hungary	Taiwan – only applies for passports containing personal ID-card number

Caribbean visa: nationalities not requiring a visa and exceptions

Iceland	Trinidad and Tobago
Ireland	United Arab Emirates
Israel	United Kingdom
Italy	United States of America
Jamaica ( <i>only for Curaçao – Jamaican nationals do require a visa for Aruba, St Maarten and the Caribbean Netherlands</i> )	Uruguay
Japan	Vatican City
	Venezuela

NB: Russian nationals living in the Baltic States who hold alien's passports issued by Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania do not require a visa for Curacao, but do require one for Aruba.

### Visa waiver programme for certain categories of nationals

Below follows a summary of visa exemptions applicable to certain groups of nationals of third countries that usually require visas.

- Holders of a valid multiple-entry short-stay visa for the Schengen Area  
All holders of a valid multiple-entry visa for the Schengen Area are exempt from the visa requirement for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.
- Holders of a valid multiple-entry visa for the US and/or Canada  
Nationals of the following countries are exempt from the visa requirement for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom on condition that they hold a valid multiple-entry visa for the United States of America and/or Canada.

Nationality	Aruba	Curaçao	St Maarten	Caribbean NL
Bolivia	✓	✓	✓	✓
China	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuba	✓	visa required	✓	✓
Dominican Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guyana	no visa required	no visa required	✓	no visa required
Haiti	✓	✓	✓	✓
India	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jamaica	✓	no visa required	✓	✓
Peru	no visa required	✓	✓	no visa required

✓ = waiver applies if condition described is met

- Holders of a valid residence permit for the Schengen Area, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Holders of a valid multiple-entry visa for the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Aliens who have an authorisation to stay/residence permit for one or more of the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom valid for more than six months.
- A person who requires a visa who holds a certificate of right of return for the Netherlands in the Caribbean.<sup>1</sup>
- Holders of a laissez-passer issued by the United Nations and/or one of its specialist organisations.
- Passengers of cruise ships which moor at the island/in the country in question for a maximum of 48 hours (NB in Aruba, 24 hours).
- Crew of civil aircraft who are on the ground for a maximum of 48 consecutive hours.
- Crew of civil ships who are on land for a maximum of 48 hours, in accordance with the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (London, 9 April 1965).
- Holders of a visa for Saint Martin do not require a visa for St Maarten, but do require one for the other Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.
- Holders of a valid residence permit for Saint Martin do not require a visa for St Maarten, but do require one for the other Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

<sup>1</sup> A certificate of right of return (*terugkeerbewijs*) is a document which enables an alien who has applied for authorisation for temporary stay to temporarily travel abroad from and return to Aruba, Curaçao and/or Saint Martin.