



## Martinique - Moderate



**Martinique Country Map**



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 27 May 2025

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Martinique is an overseas department of France, and as such, the French government is responsible for issues such as defence and foreign policy. It is a typical

Caribbean economy, reliant on aid and technical assistance from France, with most of its GDP coming from tourism and a few agricultural exports. Its biggest trade partner by far is France, with whom it has a large trade deficit. It elects representatives to the French National Assembly. Crime is low, especially at regional levels, and it boasts some of the strongest infrastructure in the region. The largest threat currently in Martinique is civil unrest, the nation has been experiencing nationwide protests since September 2024 against the rising cost of living.

<b>KEY FACTS</b>	
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Fort-de-France
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Euro
<b>GMT</b>	-4
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	French
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	Prefect: Jean-Christophe Bouvier
<b>RELIGION</b>	Christianity

## **RISK SUMMARY**

### **Political - Moderate**

As Martinique is an overseas department of France and is considered to be a part of the French Republic, it elects representatives to the French National Assembly but also has a local government responsible for internal affairs. It is headed by a prefect, currently Jean-Christophe Bouvier, and an assembly, with free and fair elections. The Government of France takes responsibility for issues reserved for the national executive power, such as defence and foreign policy. There is an in-

dependence movement in Martinique that has elected representatives. Support for independence, however, is not a majority viewpoint.

### **Armed Conflict - Negligible**

The French military is responsible for defence in Martinique. As France has no geopolitical disagreements in the Caribbean, there is no real threat of armed conflict in the country.

### **Terrorism - Low**

There is no specific threat of terrorism in Martinique, and therefore, the risk of an attack remains low. However, there is a heightened threat of terrorism globally. As there are French institutions present, the territory may be at a higher risk of terrorism compared to other countries in the region. A large number of foreign tourists may also make Martinique a preferred target for would-be terrorists.

### **Crime - Low**

Crime rates are relatively low in Martinique, especially at regional levels. Crime is generally petty however, serious offences, including crimes involving firearms, do occur occasionally. The potential for crime increases in isolated areas (including beaches) and after dark. Petty crime is increased in Fort-de-France and its ports. Avoid isolated areas, including beaches, after dark. Do not carry large amounts of cash or jewellery with you. Use a hotel safe for your passport, credit cards and valuables.

### **Civil Unrest - High**

Demonstrations are a common occurrence in Martinique, particularly in the past year. The most common motivator for recent protests has been the rising cost of living in the Island, which is approximately 40 percent higher than in mainland France. Protests have been nationwide, but violent demonstrations have been ac-

tive in Fort-de-France and its surrounding areas since September 2024. The violent protests have led to armed clashes with the police. Multiple fatalities and dozens of injuries have been recorded since the unrest broke out in September.

Public servants such as firefighters have been known to strike and use their vehicles to block roads in protest. Public sector workers have also been known to barricade public buildings. Various demonstrations have popped up demanding reparations and justice for communities that suffer from past Chlordecone use, a beetle-killing pesticide proven to be toxic for humans.

## **Maritime and Piracy - Low**

There is no specific maritime or piracy threat off the coast of Martinique. However, regional waters are occasionally used for narcotics trafficking between South America, the United States, and Europe. While this activity generally does not impact travellers, private vessels should remain vigilant.

Maritime navigation around Martinique can be hazardous due to natural conditions. The island lies within the hurricane belt, making it prone to severe storms, storm surges, and flooding, particularly during hurricane season. These conditions can pose risks to vessels and coastal infrastructure. Additionally, coral reefs surrounding the island pose navigational challenges.

## **Health - Low**

General health care facilities, including emergency services, are excellent and equal to those found in France. This extends to specialist treatment, which is also available. If you require an ambulance, travellers should call 115.

Mosquito-borne illnesses are present in Martinique and pose a health risk to travellers. Diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus have all been reported on the island. These illnesses are more common during warmer months, when mosquito populations increase, particularly between July and January. Travellers are advised to take appropriate precautions to avoid mosquito bites, including using insect repellent, wearing long-sleeved clothing,

Martinique suffers regular water shortages. Local authorities may impose water rationing measures. Travellers in Martinique should keep a sufficient supply of water on hand.

## **Environmental - Moderate**

Martinique is located within the Atlantic hurricane belt and is at risk of seasonal hurricanes, typically occurring between June and November. These storms can bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, and disruption to infrastructure and services. Travellers should monitor local weather updates and follow official guidance, especially during hurricane season.

Martinique is situated in an active seismic zone, meaning there is a potential risk of earthquakes. While significant events are infrequent, travellers should be aware of basic earthquake safety protocols. The island is home to Montagne Pelée, a volcano that is currently dormant. The volcano is closely monitored, and local authorities have systems in place for early warning and response in the event of volcanic activity.

## **Transportation - Low**

Roads in Martinique are generally in good condition. Driving is on the right-hand side. However, traffic congestion can be disruptive, especially around major towns. Night driving should be approached with caution, particularly on mountainous or winding rural roads where visibility and road conditions can pose risks.

A minibus system operates between Fort-de-France and popular tourist areas. These minibuses are often marked with "TC," but travellers should be aware that service reliability and fare clarity can be inconsistent. Ferries provide a common, affordable option for travel between marinas and coastal points, with frequent weekday departures and typical journey times of around 20 minutes.

Martinique's main airport serves domestic and international flights across the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and mainland France. While the airport generally operates smoothly, travellers should stay informed about any potential dis-

ruptions during periods of civil unrest or other local events.

## EMERGENCY DETAILS

**POLICE DIAL 1710; FIRE DIAL 1810;SEA RESCUE (CROSSAG) + 596 596 70 92 92 FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, OR ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOLACE GLOBAL RISK OPERATIONS CENTRE ON +44 (0) 1202 795 801 OR VIA [SGR@SOLACEGLOBAL.COM](mailto:SGR@SOLACEGLOBAL.COM).**

<b>POLICE NUMBER</b>	17
<b>AMBULANCE NUMBER</b>	18
<b>FIRE NUMBER</b>	15
<b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b>	

## TRAVEL

### TRAVEL ADVICE

You can travel to Martinique without a visa for up to 90 days, for tourism or business. Your passport must have an expiry date at least three months after the date you plan to leave Martinique. To enter Martinique you must have a certificate to prove you have received the yellow fever vaccination if travelling from a country listed as a transmission risk.

Both homosexuality and same-sex marriages are legal in Martinique.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

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### DECEMBER 21, 2025

- **December Solstice:** Martinique - Seasonal

### DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Martinique - National

### DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Martinique - Observance

### JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year:** Martinique - National

### FEBRUARY 16, 2026

- **Carnival / Shrove Monday:** Martinique - Observance

### FEBRUARY 17, 2026

- **Carnival / Shrove Tuesday:** Martinique - Observance

### FEBRUARY 18, 2026

- **Carnival / Ash Wednesday:** Martinique - Observance

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**MARCH 20, 2026**

- **March Equinox:** Martinique - Seasonal

**APRIL 06, 2026**

- **Easter Monday:** Martinique - National

**MAY 01, 2026**

- **Labor Day:** Martinique - National

**MAY 08, 2026**

- **Victory Day:** Martinique - National

**MAY 14, 2026**

- **Ascension Day:** Martinique - National

**MAY 25, 2026**

- **Whit Monday:** Martinique - National

**JUNE 21, 2026**

- **June Solstice:** Martinique - Seasonal

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**JULY 14, 2026**

- **Bastille Day:** Martinique - National

## RECENT ALERTS

**SAND FOG RESULTS IN POOR AIR QUALITY ACROSS THE WHOLE OF MARTINIQUE**



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



01-Jun-2025 16:45

Local media reports that sand fog has resulted in poor air quality across the whole of Martinique. Dense Saharan haze has resulted in high concentrations of fine PM10 and PM2.5 particles, significantly impacting air quality.

# FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 13:37:46

## Warnings and insurance

### Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

### Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

### About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

### Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

## Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full ['British citizen' passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government's understanding of Martinique's current rules for the most common types of travel.

Martinique is an Overseas Department of France ('Département d'Outre-Mer'). The authorities in Martinique set and enforce entry rules. If you're not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [French Consulate General in the UK](#).

## Passport validity requirements

Your passport must have an 'expiry date' at least 3 months after the date you plan to leave Martinique.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

## Dual nationality

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

## Visa requirements

Martinique is an Overseas Department of France and so is part of the EU.

You can visit Martinique without a visa for up to 90 days, for tourism or business. To stay longer, to work or study, for business travel or for other reasons, check the [visa application process and timelines](#) on the French visa website.

## UK residents of Martinique

Carry your residence document, as well as your passport, when entering and exiting Martinique. If you have applied but not yet received your residence document, carry your certificate of application. You will have received this as an

email.

## Vaccine requirements

To enter Martinique, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#).

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Martinique guide](#).

## Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Martinique](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

## Taking food into Martinique

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

## Taking money into Martinique

Check [what cash and valuables you need to declare](#) to bring them into Martinique.

## Safety and security

### Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

### Terrorism in Martinique

Although there is no recent history of terrorism in Martinique, attacks cannot be ruled out.

## Ongoing Protests

Following the outbreak of protests, since 23 September, authorities have banned the sale and transport of fuels, petroleum, pyrotechnic articles and explosive products. You should remain aware of what is happening around you and avoid areas where protests are taking place. Follow the advice of local authorities.

Due to the ongoing social unrest, further restrictions and curfews have been imposed at short notice. These may be amended at any time. There may be disruption to transport networks, including air travel, and you should check with your operator before leaving your accommodation. Other businesses and shops may also be disrupted. The latest updates can be found here: [Préfet of Martinique](#).

## Crime

### Protecting yourself and your belongings

Crime levels are low in Martinique, but to reduce your personal risk:

- avoid isolated areas, including beaches, after dark
- do not carry large amounts of cash or wear expensive jewellery
- use hotel safes for passports, credit cards and other valuables when not in use

## Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

### Swimming safety

See [water safety on holiday](#) from the Royal Life Saving Society.

### Scuba diving

Diving schools may have limited resources and do not always observe safety and maintenance standards. Always:

- check a dive operator's credentials

- check the conditions on your insurance policy – some policies require dive instructors to have certain qualifications
- make sure safety equipment is available on the boat, particularly oxygen
- ask about safety precautions, including the ability to transfer divers to a hyperbaric chamber

If you have not had any previous diving experience, check what to do if something goes wrong, including how to call for help while at sea.

## Transport risks

### Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Martinique, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's France guide](#) as French driving laws apply. The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

Check with the local authorities or your car hire company what documents you need. You may need an [international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well as your UK driving licence.

## Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to prepare for and respond to [extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

### Hurricanes

Hurricane season in Martinique is normally from June to November. Monitor local and international weather updates from the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and the [US National Hurricane Center](#).

### Volcanic eruptions

Montagne Pelée is an active volcano. It is closely monitored. See the [Volcanological and Seismological Observatory of Martinique](#) for more information.

## Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

## Emergency medical number

Call 15 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

## Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Martinique](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Martinique](#), including:

- Zika virus
- dengue
- chikungunya

## Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Healthcare in Martinique

In general the healthcare facilities, including emergency treatment in hospitals and the availability of doctors, are of a similar standard to those in France.

Specialist treatment is also available.

## Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in Martinique, you need a Global Health Insurance Card ([GHIC](#)) or a European Health Insurance Card ([EHIC](#)).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad webpage](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time
- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare
- private clinics

## Healthcare for residents

If you plan to live in Martinique, consult the UK Department for Work and Pensions ([DWP](#)) about long-term entitlement to healthcare under the French national system.

[DWP](#) Overseas Medical Benefits helpline: +44 (0)191 218 1999

You can also get English-language [information about French social security services online](#) or on +33 (0)820 90 42 12. You can get French-language information online about [state services in Martinique](#).

## Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

## Emergency services in Martinique

Telephone: 112 (ambulance, fire, police)

or

Ambulance: 15

Fire: 18

Police: 17

## Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

## Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

## Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

## Contacting FCDO

### Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

### Help in the UK

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

## Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

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## PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a

fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

### **STAY SAFE:** Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

## TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

### **Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.**



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

## SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

**See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.**

**Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.**

**First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.**

## Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

### **THINK SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

**DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination**

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself.

You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

**CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM**

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email [SGR@solaceglobal.com](mailto:SGR@solaceglobal.com) for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact [support@solaceglobal.com](mailto:support@solaceglobal.com).

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