



# No Stress Nomads

A LIFESTYLE OF TRAVEL, FOOD, & DRINK.

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## Going from Carriacou to Union Island

Traveling from Carriacou to Union Island may seem like simple island hopping, especially since you can see Union from Hillsborough. But it's important to realize that *it is international travel*. As such, there is a process to going between the two countries of Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

The trip from Carriacou (Grenada) to Union Island (St. Vincent & the Grenadines) is possible by air, but we chose to save money and travel by sea. In retrospect, we are very glad that we chose to go by boat. The sea crossing allowed us to take in some added sights of both islands, and enabled us to make some new friends on the journey.

After some online research, we found that one highly recommended charter service is the M/V Lady J-J, captained by Troy Gellizeau. Booking passage with Captain Troy on his boat is as simple as sending an email or a Facebook message. The process for the international trip was outlined for us in his reply email, but what follows is a summary of our experience.

The morning of departure, you meet Capt. Troy or his assistant at the immigration office in Hillsborough at 9:30 am. There are usually fellow travelers present for the same purpose. There, you are processed-out of Grenada, pay the visitors tax (\$20 EC per person), and are required to leave your passport at the office.

## Leave your passport with a stranger?

Leaving your passport behind is a frightening concept for many tourists. This fear extends from your own government, and simple common sense, expressly telling you to never leave your passport out of your possession. But the reality is that you don't have a choice in the matter.



The immigration officer secures your passport in a cabinet. Then Capt. Troy or his assistant will take custody of the passport. They literally take custody of it because the captain of the boat becomes an agent of the government and is responsible for your proper clearance into the country of your arrival.

And there is no reason to be nervous about the outbound immigration requirement. It's about as simple a process as it could be. The immigration officer we had was a cheerful guy who didn't hesitate to crack jokes with our group. He made the experience fun and easy.

## No rush, man

Once you are processed-out, which only takes about 15 minutes, you have some time to kill. The boat is not scheduled to leave until 2pm, but it often leaves later. This provides a full four hours for you to check out of your hotel, play at the beach, do some sightseeing, and/or have lunch.

When you are ready to go, just call or flag a taxi (your hotel will happily do this for you), and tell them you need to go the Lady J-J in Tyrell Bay. The driver will get you to the right spot.

On our trip, the captain and crew were not present when we arrived, which meant we could not wait at the boat, and had to wait in the departure terminal. Our driver, Junie, convinced the customs officer to let us unload our luggage at the boat first. Because it is a secure area, and nobody is really interested in your dirty underwear anyway, your luggage is safe there.

However, if the weather looks questionable in any way, then keep your bags with you. They are otherwise exposed to the elements.

Our wait was 30-45 minutes because the captain and crew were dealing with some other business. When they arrived, a customs officer informed us we could now go to the boat.

## Cargo Loading

[image]



[image]

Loading the M/V Lady J-J

Loading the Lady J-J is a slow process, so don't rush back to the dock. Take your time, and be sure to use the washroom before you leave the terminal. The Lady J-J is a small vessel with no toilet facilities.

It took a while to load the cargo, so the crew handed out St. Vincent customs and immigration forms for us to fill out, and collected the fare of \$60 EC per person. Then the luggage and us passengers were loaded. There were eight passengers on our crossing, but there is space for more.

The crew then tarps the luggage and cargo that won't fit in the hold (wheelhouse). We weren't underway until 4:10 pm.

## Departure, Crossing, & Arrival

The 45-50 minute boat crossing can be wet. At best, you'll get some sea spray. At worst... it all depends on the weather. On the plus side, this is an excellent way to see Carriacou from the sea. You'll be surprised how large the little island of Carriacou really is!

[image]



We traveled in the month of June, and had good weather during our sea crossing. As a result, we managed to stay quite dry. The ride was a little bumpy, but not enough to make anyone sick. We had read about some much wetter trips, but we got lucky on this day!

Upon arrival at Ashton, on Union Island, the passengers and luggage are unloaded first. A waiting taxi/bus and a crew member then transport you to the immigration/customs office at the Clifton airport. The taxi will wait for you outside.

Inside, the crew person will present your passports and forms to customs & immigration officials. You wait for them to call your name and be processed. For our party, clearing Vincentian customs & immigration only took 30 minutes.

Our taxi/bus then dropped us passengers off at our individual hotels. The taxi/bus fare was supposed to be \$3 EC per person, but one of our boat companions paid for us, so I was not able to independently verify the actual charge.

The entire process was simple and smooth. The sea crossing and customs/immigration process couldn't have been any easier. We would certainly travel with the M/V Lady J-J again.

For specific information and to confirm scheduling & prices, contact the Lady J-J directly by email at [gellizeautroy@gmail.com](mailto:gellizeautroy@gmail.com), by Facebook [@captroyMvLadyJJ](https://www.facebook.com/captroyMvLadyJJ), or by telephone at +1-784-432-5728.

You may have arrived at this post from our review of [Carriacou](#), or from our review of [Union Island](#). But if you're not sure which page to visit next, try the other one of those two choices.