

15-DAY CHECKLIST

Van trip across Reunion Island

Location Van La Réunion · location-van-la-reunion.re

Everything you need to prepare your 15-day van adventure across Reunion Island: gear to pack, essential bookings, practical advice and useful contacts. Print this checklist, tick each item, and take off serenely.

■ BOOKINGS TO MAKE IN ADVANCE

2 to 3 months before departure

- Van rental (contact Location Van La Réunion)
- Piton des Neiges hike: Caverne Dufour mountain lodge (very limited availability)
- Mafate cirque lodges: La Nouvelle, Marla, Roche Plate, or Aurère
- International flight to Saint-Denis (Roland Garros airport)
- Travel and medical insurance

2 to 4 weeks before departure

- Col des Bœufs parking reservation (for Mafate access)
- Boat trip: dolphins (year-round) or whales (July–October)
- Kélonia sea-turtle observatory visit (optional)
- Vanilla cooperative visit in Bras Panon
- Transfer from the airport if needed (we offer it free)

■ TIP: Mountain lodges (Caverne Dufour and Mafate) book up very fast during peak season (May–November). Reserve them as soon as you have your dates.

■ PACKING LIST

Clothing

- Light clothing (T-shirts, shorts) — daytime temps 25–30 °C
- Warm fleece or light down jacket (nights at altitude, Maïdo, Cilaos, volcano)
- Lightweight waterproof jacket (windbreaker, breathable)
- Long trousers (hiking + chilly evenings at altitude)
- Swimwear (lagoon, waterfalls, beaches)
- Hiking socks (at least 3 pairs)
- Hat or cap + sunglasses

- Warm hat and gloves (mandatory for Piton des Neiges, temps below 5 °C)

Footwear

- High-ankle hiking boots (essential for Piton des Neiges, Mafate, volcano)
- Trail running shoes or lightweight trainers
- Sandals or flip-flops (beach, van showers, lagoon)

Hiking & outdoor gear

- Daypack 20–30 L (for Mafate + Piton des Neiges)
- Headlamp with fresh batteries (mandatory for sunrise hikes)
- 1.5 L reusable water bottle (per person)
- Hiking poles (recommended, not essential)
- High-factor sunscreen SPF 50+
- Insect repellent (mosquitoes in the Highlands)
- Power bank for phone

Personal & toiletries

- Biodegradable soap and shampoo (respect nature)
- Quick-dry microfibre towel
- Basic first-aid kit (plasters, blister patches, paracetamol, antiseptic)
- Personal medication (if applicable)
- Earplugs (useful in mountain lodges)

Tech & documents

- ID card or passport (depending on nationality)
- Driving license (EU license valid, otherwise international)
- Credit card + some cash (for local markets)
- Van rental reservation confirmation
- Confirmations for mountain lodges and boat trips
- Travel insurance certificate
- Camera or smartphone with SD card / spare storage
- Universal travel adapter (Reunion uses French sockets)

■ TIP: Leave heavy toiletries at home. All supermarkets on the island sell what you need. Travel light — the van has limited storage.

■ WHAT'S ALREADY IN THE VAN

Our vans come fully equipped. You'll find on board:

- ✓ Bed with sheets, pillows, and duvet
- ✓ Gas cooktop and cookware (pots, pans, utensils)
- ✓ Cutlery, plates, bowls, glasses (2 to 5 people)
- ✓ Fridge / cooler with ice packs
- ✓ Water reservoir + sink
- ✓ Table and chairs for outdoor dining
- ✓ Basic cleaning kit
- ✓ Road maps and tourist guide
- ✓ Phone / USB charger

■ FIRST SHOPPING LIST

After picking up the van, head to a big supermarket (Jumbo, Leclerc, Carrefour) to stock up. Budget about €40–60 for 3–4 days of food.

Breakfast & snacks

- Coffee / tea / cocoa
- Bread or bread mix, local butter, jam (try the guava or pineapple jam!)
- Fresh fruit (mango, pineapple, passion fruit — local and cheap)
- Energy bars or dried fruit for hikes

Lunches & dinners

- Pasta, rice, or local Cilaos PGI lentils
- Tinned food (tuna, tomato sauce, coconut milk)
- Vegetables and fresh meat (buy along the way at farmers' markets)
- Olive oil, salt, pepper, local spices (Bourbon vanilla, Creole curry)
- Fresh bread (bakeries in every village)

Drinks

- Large-format mineral water (6L bottles, cheaper)
- Fruit juice, local soft drinks
- Dodo or Bourbon beer (local beers — try them!)
- Cilaos wine or local flavoured rums (at farmers' markets)

■ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Service	Number	When to call
Emergency (all)	112	Any emergency
SAMU (medical)	15	Medical emergency
Fire dept.	18	Fire, rescue, road accident
Police	17	Police incident
Mountain rescue	02 62 93 37 37	Hiking accident / SAR
Weather (Météo)	08 92 68 08 08	Weather forecast, alerts

Location Van La Réunion — your contact team

WhatsApp	+262 693 03 45 10
Email	contact@location-van-la-reunion.re
Website	location-van-la-reunion.re
Booking	gestion.teori.fr/Teori_resa2?cx=2BNJGa0

- We reply on WhatsApp in less than 5 minutes during opening hours. Don't hesitate to text us if you have any questions or a road issue.

■ PRACTICAL TIPS

- **Weather:** Favour the dry season (May–November). In rainy season (December–April), cyclones and flooded roads are possible.
- **Sunrises:** Leave at 4 AM for Maïdo and Piton des Neiges. The sea of clouds fades by 8 AM.
- **Altitude:** Caverne Dufour (2,478 m) and Piton des Neiges (3,070 m) are cold. Below 5 °C at sunrise — wear fleece and windbreaker.
- **Mountain roads:** Expect 2x more time than Google Maps says (tight turns, slow driving). Always fuel up before climbing Cilaos, Volcano or Salazie.
- **Swimming:** Only swim in supervised pools or in the lagoon. Open-sea currents are extremely dangerous.
- **Mosquitoes:** Not many on the coast, but many in the Highlands and forests. Bring repellent.
- **Markets:** Friday/Saturday Saint-Paul market is the most beautiful. Saint-Pierre Saturday market is the biggest. Cilaos Sunday market for local crafts.

■ **Wildlife:** Respect turtles, whales, dolphins. No feeding. Stay at least 100 m from whales.

■ BEFORE YOU LEAVE — FINAL CHECK

The day before departure

- Van tank full for the first day
- Cooler stocked with essentials
- Phones and power banks fully charged
- Hiking gear ready (boots, bag, headlamp)
- Mountain-lodge reservations printed / saved offline
- Offline maps downloaded (Google Maps + Visorando)

D-day

- Check vehicle papers in glovebox
- Note emergency van-technical number
- Check tyre pressure and oil level
- Weather check for the first 48 h
- Review Day 1 itinerary with the team
- Save all useful numbers in your phone

Day of return

- Van tank full before drop-off
- Van cleaned (interior vacuumed + exterior rinsed)
- Personal belongings collected
- Cooler emptied and cleaned
- Rubbish disposed of
- Allow 30 minutes for vehicle inspection
- Free shuttle to the airport (if agreed)

Ready for the adventure? ■

We're with you from Day 1 to Day 15. A question, an issue, a last-minute change? Text us on WhatsApp — we reply in less than 5 minutes.

■ **WhatsApp: +262 693 03 45 10**

■ **location-van-la-reunion.re**

« Fifteen days on our island: you don't come back the same. »

— **The Location Van La Réunion team**