

## **Arriving at the Airport or Ferry Dock and the Journey to Villa Vidal**

We strongly suggest... if you have little or no experience driving on Dominica that you hire transport from the airport (located on the east coast near the town of Melville Hall) or the ferry dock (located on the west coast in the capital city of Roseau) to Villa Vida, especially if you are arriving around 4:30 pm or later in the afternoon at the airport.

Driving on Dominica is very challenging especially at night, even more so if you are not certain of your destination! Driving on Dominica is not for the faint-of-heart and demands serious attention and concentration. Note that traffic drives on the LEFT side of the road here; consequently, car steering wheels are located on the RIGHT side of the vehicle. If arriving from America or other countries where traffic moves on the right, this is *exactly the opposite* of what you are used to and is trickier than you might expect.

We can assist in making arrangements to have you picked up from the airport or ferry dock, or a taxis can be obtained as soon as you exit customs at either location. Expect transportation cost from the airport to Villa Vidal to be approximately \$45-\$60 US, from the dock \$25-\$45 US. From the airport, the trip will take approximately 1:15 to 1:45 minutes... from the dock approximately 30 minutes

Once arrived (at either location) expect to add on a least 30 minutes, or more, for getting through customs, collecting your luggage, etc., longer if filling out car rental paperwork at the airport... before you ever leave the vicinity.

If you are planning on renting a car, please know that arrangements can be made to have one dropped off at Villa Vidal and or some rental companies will pick you up at Villa Vidal and bring you to Roseau (Dominica's capital city – about a 30 minute ride) to get your car in the daylight! Please inquire. If arriving at the ferry dock talk to the rental agency about meeting you there; though there are several car rental businesses in Roseau, none are located near the dock.

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See following pages for driving instructions from both arrival locations.

Please call Tony Roudette, House Manager, 767-277-3135  
if you need further assistance with directions once on-island.

## Driving Directions from Melville Hall Airport to Villa Vida

1. Depart the airport – after passing through the airport’s parking toll booth proceed straight ahead; the road will curve LEFT around the end of the runway (you will be traveling North); you will stay on this road for the remainder of your journey until you reach the road that leads to Villa Vidal, approximately 55 miles; expect the drive to take 1½ - 2+ hours depending how familiar you are with Dominica’s roads
2. The first village you will pass through will be WESLEY; the next, CALIBISHIE.
3. Further along, you pass by HAMPSTEAD; a bit further down the road you will come to a corner with a sign advertising the village of Bense and a small bus stop shelter (on the left). Here, the road makes an immediate 90° RIGHT turn after which you will cross over a 1-lane bridge – keep following the road...
4. After a short distance you will pass by the village of ANSE deMAI; you will now be heading West (though you might not have noticed), – keep following the road...
5. After awhile you will notice a sign that says Dos D’Ane... keep following the road; you will begin to encounter some very sharp hairpin curves – after awhile, the road will become noticeably flat, you are now coming into the East side of Portsmouth –
6. As you enter Portsmouth, you will drive by a large open field on your Right, then past a gas station on your Left and some other buildings before arriving at a dead-end – there could be a lot of traffic at this location as it is also a taxi bus parking area.
7. At the dead-end, turn LEFT (you are now heading South)... you will cross the Indian River Bridge – you will see a Texaco gas station on your left... shortly after, very near the road, you will see a large rusty boat on your Right – just a little bit further you will see an intersection -- a black/yellow striped guardrail, and a white Eat Fish sign will be immediately on your right – do NOT go straight...
8. Turn LEFT and proceed up the hill, the road curves Right then straightens – you have now entered the village of Picard; you will pass a Kentucky Fried Chicken on your Right; soon after, you will see Ross University on the Right.... keep following the road out of town – you are 25-40 minutes from Villa Vidal.
9. After some turns and bends, the road will become steep as you proceed through 4 sharp turns ... at the crest you will proceed downward eventually passing by the village of DUBLANC, then BIOCHE
10. Further along, after a short, very steep decline, you will enter the larger village of COLIHAUT – upon leaving Colihaut you will drive along the coast for a short distance at a couple of locations – you are about 10 minutes from Villa Vidal
11. You will then pass directly by the sea-side village of COULIBISTRIE – you are now about 3 minutes from Villa Vidal.
12. Shortly after passing by Coulibistrie you will go up a long, steep hill. Just after the top of the hill, on your RIGHT, will see a rickety blue & white sign that reads STONE EDGE – about 300 feet past this sign on your Left you will see a small road - turn LEFT here (directly across from it you might notice a rickety shed)
13. At the dead-end, turn RIGHT – in about a 200 feet you will see a white wall on your Right, with a black gate – after passing the gate, turn LEFT – drive up the narrow road about 700 feet.
14. Villa Vidal is the 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the right at END of the road – WELCOME!

## Driving Directions from the Ferry Dock in Roseau to Villa Vida

These instructions have you leaving directly from the ferry dock. If you are renting a car and leaving from the rental office, initial instructions will vary for you in getting back to Dominica's "west coast road." Please inquire with your car rental agency for more specific details.

1. From the street immediately in front of the ferry dock drive north (LEFT) about 4 short blocks (the sea will be on your left) to where the street dead-ends at the river – turn RIGHT, the outdoor city market will be immediately on your right; drive about 200 feet and turn LEFT at the first intersection; as you cross the river bridge you will now be on the west coast road, also known as the "main road." YOU WILL REMAIN ON THIS VERY WINDING AND CURVING ROAD, DRIVING TOWARD THE NORTH FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR JOURNEY TO VILLA VIDAL.
2. Driving north, the sea will always remain on your left; after about a half mile you will leave Roseau and will see and pass by the cargo ship dock & port after which you will drive about a half mile along high rock cliff on your Right and the sea on your left (the rock cliff is the edge of the road).
3. At the end of the cliff the road make a sharp right as it winds its way through a small business district. Leaving the business district you will quickly pass by a small seaside airport on your left.
4. Next, you will pass through the small seaside village of Massacre (pronounced ma-sock), followed about a mile later by the village of Maho. NOTE, that driving through these villages can be a harrowing experience for first time visitors / drivers as the road passing through these villages is very, very narrow. When meeting oncoming traffic it is sometimes necessary to stop to let the other vehicle pass (by scant inches!); doors to shops and homes open immediately to the road by mere inches, as well; pedestrians will be in the street; traffic jams occur frequently; patience and being keenly alert is required!
5. After passing through Maho the road will make a hard right and then a hard left; you will pass by a Palmolive soap factory then cross a narrow river bridge; driving will now become a little bit less stressful having moved beyond the road's main bottle necks.
6. The next major landmark will be a very high cliff located on your right as you drive along the sea; after about a half mile the road will bend sharply to the right (you are now immediately alongside the Layou River, Dominica's largest); you pass through a large grove of palm trees - the road curves across a large double river bridge; after crossing the river the road T's at a dead-end, TURN LEFT.
7. The river is now on your left and a quarry is on your right, after about a quarter of a mile road bends sharply RIGHT, (do not go straight) -- go RIGHT.
8. You will continue to navigate several curves and hills... soon you will curve around the village of St. Joseph – it will be located on your left– be watchful for pedestrians along the road.
9. You will continue to navigate several curves and hills... after a few you will see a sign that points to Mero Beach (you will not be able to see the beach) – stay on the Main road ...keep driving north. \*You are now within 10 minutes of arriving at Villa Vidal!
10. You will continue to navigate several curves and hills... after a short distance you might pass by the Macoucherie Rum Distillery, there is a sign but you might not see it... , there is a sign but you might not see it... you will then go up a steep hill that bends into a sharp right bend (be careful); immediately after the sharp bend you will be at the entrance to the village of Salisbury. (you will not be able to see the village as it will be immediately above you behind some big hills.. \*You are now about 3 minutes from Villa Vidal!
11. At the top of the hill the road flattens and straightens! At this point you are driving along one of the only straight stretches of road of in all of Dominica, an area known as the Grand Savanne. **NOW BEGIN TO WATCH CAREFULLY FOR a small, roadside shack** (there could be weeds grown up around it); this is a bus stop. Immediately across from the bus stop is a road. **TURN RIGHT** on this road! --- (IF you see a pile of trash and a blue & white sign on your left that reads STONE EDGE you have missed the turn by about 100 yards! Carefully turn around!)
12. You will quickly come to a dead-end - turn RIGHT; in about a 200 feet you will see a white wall with a black gate on your Right – after passing the gate, turn LEFT – drive up the narrow road about 700 feet.
13. Villa Vidal is the 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the right at END of the road – WELCOME!