Shape

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Using the Hummingbird Villa Ford Explorer

Please enjoy our spacious Ford Explorer and note the following points:

**Documentation / Accident / Breakdown:**

* All documentation is in the vehicle glove compartment (if you get stopped or have an accident)
* **IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT DO NOT MOVE THE VEHICLE** (EVEN IF YOU ARE BLOCKING A JUNCTION AND / OR CAUSING TAILBACKS!) – IT IS AGAINST THE LAW. You should immediately call 199 (or +5999 767 1610) for assistance and recovery (‘Forensys’ are the public body that handles car crashes on the island will attend the scene). Say that you have had an accident. You can also mention you have ‘VIP Priority’ service.
* If you need **breakdown assistance** call 199 and mention you have ‘VIP Priority’ breakdown service through Massy insurance (see documents in car mentioned above)
* Let Jon know if you have any vehicle issues (Whatsapp +44 7956 872 253)
* There are some narrow roads with particularly spikey thorn bushes close to Coral Estate and elsewhere. These can really damage the vehicle, so use caution in case a vehicle appears: just stop where you are rather than veer into these bushes please!
* If the car battery has run out, you can use the jump starter found in the boot under the seats.
* If a tyre(s) go flat there is a tyre pump in the boot – it’s in a black nylon bag the size of a bag of sugar.
* If you lose the car key then coded entry is possible: call Jon for assistance.

**Driving:**

* **Drive on the right-hand side of the road!**
* **IMPORTANT NOTE**: roundabouts work exactly the same way as in the UK, **EXCEPT** two or three roundabouts in Curacao have stop lines **ON THE ACTUAL ROUNDABOUT**. If you are driving around a roundabout and you encounter a stop line, then you do not have right of way, and should wait until any traffic coming onto the roundabout has passed. The roundabout near the airport with a huge iron U-bend in the middle is an example of this. [Evidently this works both ways i.e. you have priority coming onto a roundabout if the stop lines indicate that drivers on the roundabout must give you priority]
* The vehicle has strange indicators: if you (say) indicate to turn left but then change your mind whilst it’s flashing, you can pull the indicator left again to cancel. Normally of course you would put the indicator lever back to ‘neutral’ position to cancel turning. But with this vehicle the indicator lever always reverts back to centre / neutral after you have indicated anyway.
* The car has a sticker in the front window which enables you to use the ‘Residents’ gates when entering and leaving Coral Estate. These may be closed at night, meaning you go through the regular manned gate. You just say you’re staying at villa 1045 to the security guard. The owners name is ‘Fisher’ if asked.

**Filling Up:**

* Only fill the car with Super Plus petrol (**not** diesel!!!) – usually the Super Plus pumps are yellow.
* In Curacao you park at the pump, but pay at the window first before filling-up. **The vast majority only accept cash (NAF or USD).** If there is a petrol attendant, he will fill it up for you. To fill the tank costs around US$70 (120 ANG), so if you pre-pay, pay an appropriate amount that ensures you don’t overfill. Note if you are pulling the trigger and no fuel is coming out, it may be because a latch on the pump handle holder needs to be pulled up.
* The pump will continue until you reach the amount you paid, however it will be in local NAF currency not US$! ***Continued overleaf…***

**Navigating:**

* Use Google maps on the gold mobile phone provided for navigation. The whole of Curacao is cached, so it should not require network access to function. When you’re back home ensure it is cached properly by pressing the three-line menu button top-left in Google Maps, then choose ‘Offline maps’ and ensure ‘Curacao Cached Map’ is up to date.

**Cleaning the Car**

There is a jet wash and soap in the cupboard off the main lounge next to the washing machine. You will need the green hose from the garden area and a power extension from the same cupboard. There is also a shampoo bottle.

Alternatively just pay someone at the many carwashes around Curacao: washing the outside of the car costs NAF20 and takes 30 minutes. You may have to account for another 30 minutes for waiting in the queue 😊

For the inside dashboard and doors, a light wipe over with the Swiffer will do the job. For the inside carpets, note that sucking up small stones will damage the Dyson’s hard plastic shell, so please use the small brush and pan to pick up the stones and most of the inevitable beach sand. For the remainder, and the nooks and crannies, you’ll need to use the Dyson with setting on MAX. Used economically, the Dyson will do the whole car. Or just ay the carwash dude.

**Cooler Box – CAREFUL!**

The boot of the car contains a cooler box. Under one of the round covers on the top of the box are two cables – one is for plugging into the house mains (e.g. if you wanted to cool the box before going out), the other is for plugging into the cigarette lighter in the vehicle just next to the cooler box in the boot. This will keep any produce cool e.g. for a day out, or after going to the supermarket. There are also shopping / cooler bags to be used in supermarkets. **NOTE:** the cigarette lighter connection stays active when the engine is turned off! This is fine for occasional use between drives for an hour or two. But if you (for example) leave the cooler plugged in all night, it will drain the car battery and you won’t be able to start the car! You would need to use the jump starter device as mentioned elsewhere in this guide.