

MAURITIUS



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An islander once told Mark Twain that “Mauritius was made first and then heaven; and heaven was copied after Mauritius”.

Its miles of palm-fringed sandy beaches, almost entirely encircled by coral reefs, offer sanctuary for those who want to spend days lounging on the beach. The crystal clear waters are perfect for diving, snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and that’s just the beginning.

What makes Mauritius different is that it has so much to offer beyond the beach. Whether it’s skydiving out of a plane, hiking through the mountains and National Parks or soaking up the culture, this is truly a destination with something for everyone.

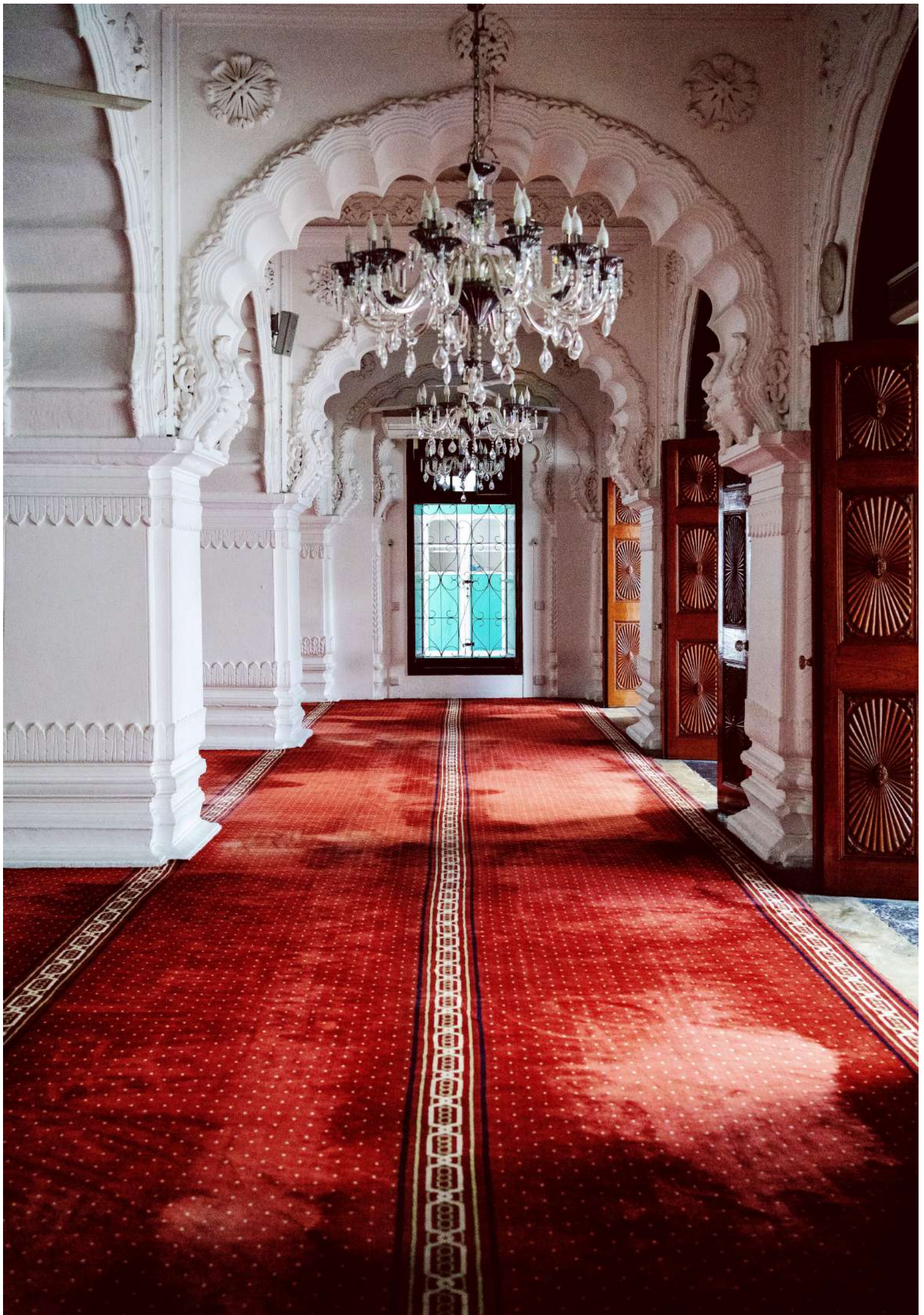
The islands’ Dutch, French and British legacy is reflected in colonial mansions and botanical gardens, while hospitable locals of African, Indian and Chinese heritage give the island an authentic feel, with colourful markets and temples, fusion cuisine, and the sashaying séga.



Welcome to Mauritius
The dream you can afford

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THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS MAURITIUS

MAURITIUS



Volcanic, jungle-covered crags bursting through subtropical forest, fishing villages and sugar fields, Hindu temples, weekly markets and colonial architecture: for an island just 65 km (40 miles) across at its widest point, Mauritius packs in a lot.

IT ALL STARTS WITH
Ki manier? (How are you?)

Mauritius is located in the Indian Ocean, with breathtaking white sandy beaches, crystal-clear blue waters and wonderful luxury properties. With world class diving, golf and watersports it is a great spot for both couples and families. Visitors to Mauritius can enjoy the delicious cuisine, fantastic service and interesting mix of Indian and Creole cultures.

With its gorgeous and idyllic white sandy beaches opening out onto crystal-clear blue seas, Mauritius is simply the definitive luxury beach holiday destination. Mauritius is located in the southern Indian Ocean and provides visitors spectacular natural beauty in a wonderfully safe environment, amazing cuisine and attentive service around every corner.

Whether you after a perfect family holiday, a romantic honeymoon, or a revitalizing escape as a couple, Mauritius has a diverse range of luxury hotels and resorts to suit all tastes.

PORT LOUIS

THE CAPITAL

Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius, is a vibrant town. Located in the north-west of the country, Port-Louis will touch you for sure. Founded by French Governor Bertrand-François Mahé de Labourdonnais in 1735, the city is the economic hub of the island and is very lively during the day, teeming with life. Visit the colourful market, stroll through the streets, visit museums and other historical and cultural sites, taste the flavours of Mauritian street-food and meet the population. A tour in the capital is a must during your stay in Mauritius, let yourself be impregnated by the local life, the history and the culture of Mauritius. Port-Louis is a cultural melting pot, a city where traditions and the modern go alongside.

An entire day would probably not be enough to see all places of interest in Port Louis. You can start your journey at the Caudan Waterfront, the shopping centre located on the harbour front, and leave your car there before beginning your tour of the capital.

You will be struck by the beautiful avenue bordered with giant palm trees, facing the harbour. It is the Place d'Armes, also called Place Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, which leads to the Government House, built in the early 18th century during the French era, now housing the parliament sessions.

Port Louis and History

The history of a country can also be revealed through its museums, and Port Louis houses several of them, all different and yet complementary. Next to the Jardin de la Compagnie, the Natural History Museum awaits you. Discover the history and wildlife of Mauritius, and of course, the famous extinct Dodo reconstituted as well as the various bones found in Mauritius and throughout the world.

Shopping

Port-Louis offers a wide range of shopping options. In the city centre, all you need to do is walk the streets to find the articles you are looking for. There are all kinds of stores there; in some streets, the shops are grouped by categories, such as the Corderie Street, intended for fabric stores and Royal Road for hardware stores. You will find everything, just take your time and venture into the shop mazes; do engage in conversation with the traders, they will be delighted to talk about Mauritian culture.

THE NORTH

The North of Mauritius is renowned for being a highly touristic area with beautiful sandy beaches such as Grand-Bay, Péreybère and Mont-Choisy. It is the place where tourists enjoy strolling, water sports, shopping or savouring the delights of local cuisine, whether in a restaurant or in a food truck. The North also conceals other treasures away from the coast, its historical sites and heritage will be appealing to you.



What to see in the North? The reputation of the northern beaches is not exaggerated. Péreybère, Mont Choisy, Trou aux Biches, Cap Malheureux, Pointe aux Canonnières, Bain Boeuf, all these idyllic beaches are an invitation for relaxation in the shade of Casuarina trees and sunbathing. Swimming, water sports and street-food are also on the menu. Just let yourself go. If you are there in the late afternoon, you may enjoy the sunset on some of these beaches.

One of the most popular sites in the North is the red-roofed church, Notre-Dame Auxiliatrice, in Cap Malheureux, one of the emblematic postcards of Mauritius. It is one of the favourite places to capture special moments from your holidays or honeymoon, with the sea and the islands of the north as background. Luckily enough, you will meet fishermen bringing back their catch of the day, sold right next to the church.

Activities

The north abounds in activities, mostly water activities. Sailing enthusiasts can opt for kite surfing or windsurfing in the region of Cap Malheureux and Anse La Raie. Several catamaran or motor boat cruises are also organised around the northern islands, with stops at sea to dive or watch the dolphins. Flat Island or Gabriel Island will be the ideal places for a picnic and a swim in the clear waters around.

You want to do Scuba diving? The various certified diving centres will lead you to the most popular diving spots of the north such as the Gunner's Coin, Holt's Rock, and the famous Whale Rock which is about thirty meters deep; be careful, you may come across a hammerhead shark... The Balaclava Marine Park offers a completely different diving experience with snorkelling, you can discover a preserved underwater life and even swim with turtles. The Blue Safari submarine and the underwater scooter can also be a good alternative for those who do not dive, but who are still interested in exploring the underwater world!

The Mauritius Aquarium at Pointe aux Piments will appeal to young and the young at heart with its collection of 200 marine species ranging from various fish to different types of corals, and sharks. Children will also be able to interact with selected species in a designated pool.

If you stay in the north of Mauritius, cycling would definitely be an environmentally friendly and suitable option to ride along coastal or inland streets to discover local communities and their populations.

Nightlife

The north is the place to be for clubbers. Grand-Bay and its surroundings are renowned for their active nightlife; you have a wide choice between the various nightclubs, bars and pubs there. If you drive along the coastal road at night, especially on weekends, you can go around the clubs to meet the Mauritians and have fun.

Shopping

Grand-Baie is very popular for shopping among tourists. You will find whatever you are looking for, be it in the shops on the coastal road, in the shopping malls of the region or at the bazaar, ranging from clothing, accessories, handcrafts to food, among others.

Pamplemousses is also an interesting place to get souvenir gifts. There are several shops for handcrafts, local products, superbly designed boat models, and other art works.

THE WEST & SOUTH WEST

The west and south-west coast of Mauritius will offer you a completely different experience of the country. It is the sunniest and driest region of the island, with a nature and landscapes that will remind you of the African savanna. There are many places to discover and a lot of activities and leisure to experience, at sea or inland, in the heart of nature.

The beaches of Flic en Flac, Tamarin and Le Morne are the most popular for family outings, surfing and kitesurfing and for its heritage as well. Leisure parks will delight young and grown-ups alike, and nature lovers will also be delighted to discover the Black River Gorges National Park or take a trip out to sea and watch dolphins.

The region benefits from a pleasant temperature all year round, during summer and winter, and has a myriad of activities and leisure for the whole family during your holidays in Mauritius.

What to see in the West? The west and southwest of Mauritius consist of several coastal villages, each with its own characteristics. These villages, although residential, and all located in the Black River district, offer visitors remarkable experiences in terms of leisure, food, nature and encounters with locals.

When you leave Port-Louis to the south, take the Black River Road that will lead to all the villages in the west and southwest. Pointe aux Sables and Albion are the first on the way. Rather residential, these coastal localities are quiet and visited by the inhabitants of the region. At the entrance of Pointe aux Sables, you can have a quick stop at the Martello tower, a defensive stone structure built by the British in the early 19th century. For the daring, there is “Montagne Zako” between Pointe aux Sables and Albion, a cliff of about twenty meters high, from where you can jump into the sea below.

Flic en Flac is known for its beautiful beach with casuarina trees that stretches over a few kilometres, but also for its many food outlets and its nightlife. The beach is very popular among Mauritian families for the weekly picnics, being easy to reach from the urban centre of the island; tourists also love it. Take the opportunity to discover the local street-food in the many food trucks on the beach or try one of the restaurants along the street. After sunset, the coastal road teems with people on weekends next to the various pubs and nightclubs. You could opt for a restaurant-club evening, and try to meet the Mauritian night owls.

Heading south, it is a completely different landscape that lies before you; the mountains and vegetation take various shades of ochre, recalling the African savannah.

Activities

There is a wide range of activities available in the Black River region, between leisure parks and wildlife, Nature Park, water activities and climbing. Leisure parks such as Gros Cailloux and Casela, offer a myriad of activities for the whole family, such as quad, wake board, zip line. At Casela Park in particular, you can discover the Mauritian and African fauna. Safaris and other interactions with wild animals and other savannah creatures are proposed. Exceptional moments await you!

If you are more attracted by the sea, make your childhood dream come true and venture out at sea to watch the dolphins, various packages are available with the several operators in Black River. Surfers and kite surfers can indulge in their favourite sport in Tamarin and at Le Morne, the equipment can easily be rented nearby. For information, the practice of sailing sports is regulated, there are specific sites dedicated to them.

Those who want to immerse themselves into nature can opt for hikes at the Black River Gorges National Park, or try climbing Le Morne Mountain, with or without a guide, the second part which is higher, is not within the reach of everyone.

Shopping

The main shopping centre in the region is the Cascavelle Shopping Mall, at the junction of Flic en Flac and Black River. You will find several clothing, accessories, jewellery, souvenir shops, a wine outlet, a supermarket, a bank and a food court. Towards the south, in Black River, you will have the Ruisseau Créole Shopping Mall which also includes shops, restaurants, bank, and wine shops, among others. You will have smaller commercial complexes in the different villages on your way.

THE SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

The southern region of Mauritius, also known as the Wild South, is the most preserved part of the island; it stands out from the other regions with its incredible cliffs and impressive waves, creating a feeling of closeness to nature.

The south and south-east offer magnificent views of the mountains and sugar cane fields as far as the eye can see. Many tourist operators from the region have chosen a sustainable development for their hotel and leisure projects, like the Domaine de Bel Ombre.

The south of the island is also a concentrate of history, the region has witnessed the various landings of explorers during centuries and houses a lot of remnants from the past.



What to See?

The village of Mahebourg alone will require a full-day tour. The highly historical town was founded at the beginning of the 19th century by the French and was named after Mahé de Labourdonnais. The famous naval battle of 1810 took place in the lagoon, more precisely at Vieux Grand Port - the only French naval victory inscribed on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

The village abounds of ancient vestiges recalling the different colonisations along time, as well as the period of slavery; you can still see the slaves' wash house, among other protected monuments.

Pointe Canon, The Naval Museum, Cavendish Bridge, Ferney, Pointe du Diable, Ile aux Aigrettes, Blue Bay Marine Park, Gris-Gris and its beautiful surroundings, Rivière des Galets and Baie du Cap scenic route are famous attractions to see.

Things to do in Mahebourg

In the centre of Mahebourg, if you take the time to wander around, you will find typical culinary treasures from Mauritius: all kinds of spices, dholl puris, "gateaux piment" (chilli cakes), bryani and other delicacies forming part of the Mauritian street-food.

You will also find a wide array of clothes and souvenirs in the various shops along the streets and at the market, next to the waterfront. There are also some commercial centres that opened their doors recently on the outer boundary of Mahebourg.

THE EAST

The eastern region of Mauritius features large stretches of sandy beaches. This part of the island is also the windiest, with a pleasant soft breeze in summer and becomes cooler in winter, beaten by the south-east winds. The beautiful beach of Belle-Mare, the longest of the island, Bras d'Eau forest, golf courses and Ile aux Cerfs, among others, are some of the attractions in this region to discover during your holidays in Mauritius.



Beaches

Belle Mare, Palmar, Trou d'Eau Douce, Poste Lafayette and Roches Noires are the beaches to see when you visit the region. With their beautiful stretches of fine sand and crystal clear waters, some which are more open to the elements than others, each of the beaches of the East is worth a visit; you will enjoy the peace and nature in all its splendour; relax and let yourself go with your feet in the sand. On weekends, when the weather is sunny, these beaches are packed with Mauritian families enjoying a picnic and spending time together. It is the perfect moment to meet the locals and share their culture.

Ile aux Cerfs

Ile au Cerfs is the most popular tourist destination in Mauritius. It is the cliché of the tropical paradise island with its gorgeous sandy beaches, turquoise waters and coconut trees... an invitation to unwind!

Flacq

Flacq is also a place of interest in the east. It is a large village buzzing with life, it is very representative of the Mauritian population and its liveliness. Flacq being a cultural melting pot, you will love walking in the streets, especially on a market day.

Activities

There are several activities for nature lovers in the East. At Ile d'Ambre, you can go kayaking through the mangrove, in the preserved lagoon, accompanied by guides. Local operators also offer boat trips that include the meal, a visit to the ruins and a walk in the forest.

At Belle Mare beach, water activities are also available for those who want to remain active, such as parasailing or banana ride.

Inland, the region of Roches Noires abounds with volcanic caves that can be visited, preferably with a guide. A little further, at Pont Bon Dieu, you can also get into a natural volcanic cave of 15 meters high and 20 meters wide. The cave houses a colony of swifts that nest there, their flights are a real aerial choreography. The surrounding forests and sugar cane fields are the privileged habitat for the macaque monkeys who will certainly be curious enough to come close to the visitors.

Bras d'Eau, a small coastal village with very few inhabitants, next to Poste La Fayette is very interesting for its forest, a nature reserve, a few minutes from the beach. Bras d'Eau National Park is easily accessed from the main road. You will start your hike from the information centre and, if you are lucky, you may come across the Paradise Flycatcher, a small endemic colourful bird that likes to play hard to get!

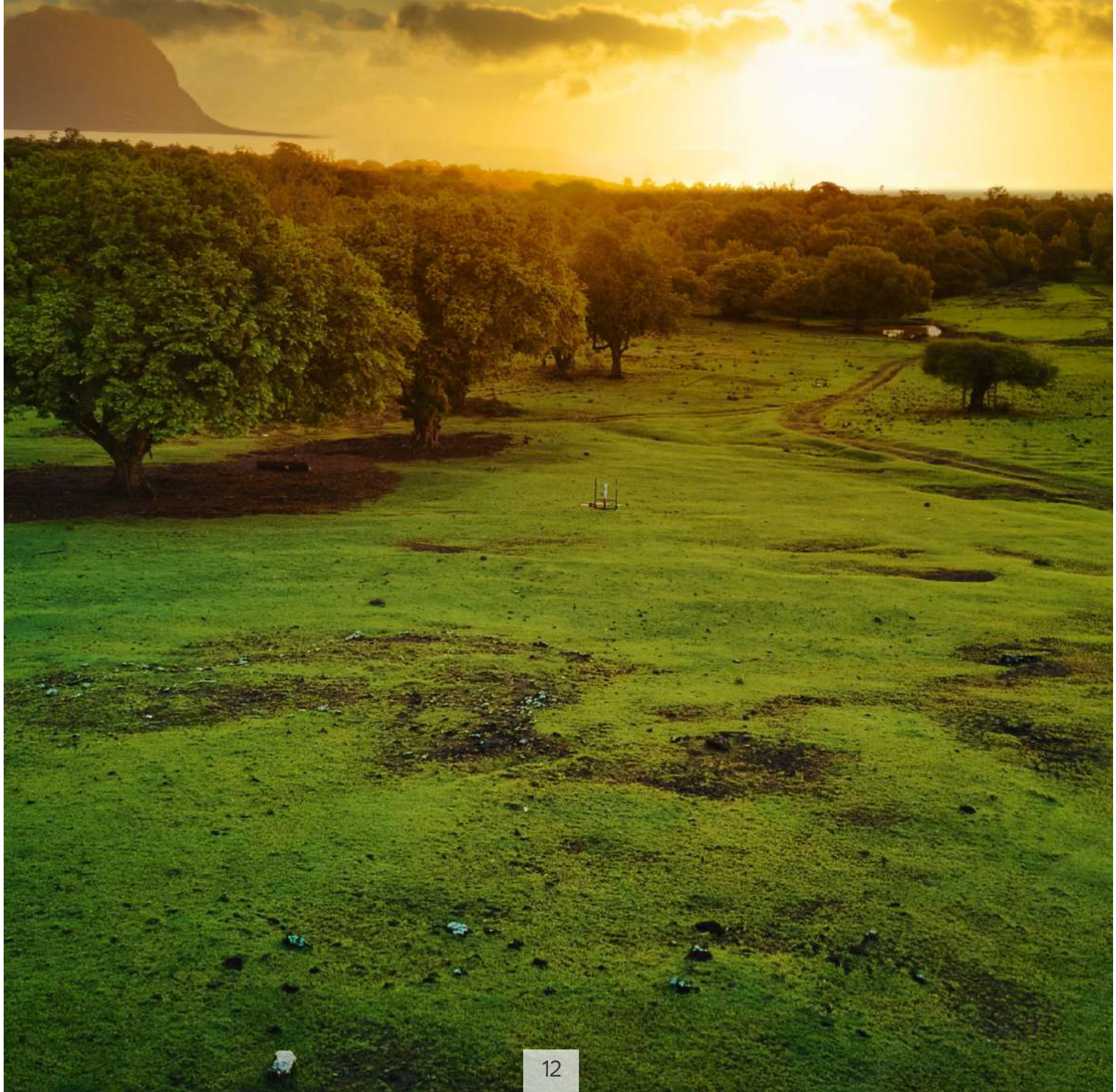
After your hike, you can stop over at the beach of Bras d'Eau, a small but very pleasant beach, in the shade of the big mangroves, and trigger a conversation with the fishermen and other people hanging out there.

Further south-east on the seafront, you will reach Pointe du Diable, also known as Pointe Canon, with its series of guns pointing towards the sea. It was a French defence base set up to protect the coast from English invaders. The site is said to take its name, literally "Devil's Point", from the fact that the navigators' compass indicators rotated in all directions when they arrived in this place, but in reality, this was due to the magnetic field of the mountain nearby.

THE CENTRE

The visit of the central region and its towns are to be included in your plans during your stay in Mauritius. The coastal area with the beaches and water activities is very popular among tourists, but the centre has also a lot to offer with a different pace of life.

The first thing you will notice is the change in climate; it is cooler as the more you head towards the centre, the higher you will get. The central plateau includes all the towns, except for the capital city which is on the coast, and oddly, there are more forests there than in the littoral zone. This part of the country is definitely to be added to your holiday itinerary in Mauritius.



What is there to see in the centre of Mauritius? The towns of Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill, Quatre-Bornes, Vacoas/Phoenix and Curepipe are located in the heart of the island. They are all bursting and packed with people during the day, but each town has different characteristics, starting with their climate.

The cities in Mauritius are very quiet at night, they just turn back into residential towns when sun sets; everything happens during the day, no nightlife or shop open after 6 pm, only the restaurants and some local grocery stores are operational. Street-food is very widespread in urban areas, do not hesitate to follow the queues waiting in front of the hawkers of dholl puris, chili cakes (“gateaux piment”) or dumplings (“boulettes”), it is a guarantee of quality!

Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill, located southbound just after Port-Louis, is a well prized place for shopping and eating, with its large variety of restaurants and street-food. For a nature break, Balfour Garden will be just perfect, only a few minutes from the city centre.

Curepipe, the coolest town in Mauritius and the highest as well, offers a stunning view of the island from the top of Trou aux Cerfs, a dormant volcano prized by joggers and walkers from the region. For a breath of fresh air, the Botanical Garden is the ideal place, you will almost forget you’re in town!

Activities

Reaching the top of the mountains

You have a view on mountains everywhere you go in Mauritius. In the centre of the island, Le Pouce Mountain, located in the Moka range of mountains, offers a great climbing experience with its 811 meters height. There is also the Pieter Both, with its distinctive boulder that gives the impression of being in balance at the top.

Eureka House

History and ancient architecture enthusiasts will be delighted to discover the Eureka House in Moka, nestled in the heart of a beautiful garden. It is a Creole-style house from the early 19th century that will bring you back to the colonial times of Mauritius with its easily recognisable architecture.

The Folk Museum of Indian Immigration-Mahatma Gandhi Institute

Also in Moka, within the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the Folk Museum of Indian Immigration traces the history of the Indian workers sent to Mauritius in the 19th century through a vast collection of documents and photographs.

The Tea Route

Tea is the preferred beverage in Mauritius. Although it is no longer one of the pillars of the economy, tea holds an important place in the history of Mauritius.

Central South

The southern part of the central plateau is greener. As soon as you leave Curepipe, heading south, you will pass Mare aux Vacoas, the main freshwater reservoir of the island. Then you will enter the region of Plaine Champagne and its various forests. It is also the road to Grand Bassin.

Shopping

Where to go shopping in the centre? There are many options! You have shops in all towns, from ready-to-wear to fashion accessories, bookshops and home appliances. Regular markets or fairs are also interesting, such as the Quatre-Bornes clothing fair on Thursdays and Sundays. You will also find souvenir shops, especially in Curepipe and Quatre-Bornes.

RODRIGUES

Rodrigues, considered as the little sister of the Mascarenes Islands, is located some 580 kilometres northeast of Mauritius. Small in size, with an area of only 108 square kilometres, the “Cinderella of the Mascarenes” has however a lot to offer!

A beautiful unspoilt nature, a vast lagoon for water sports and fishing, a delicious and creative cuisine, and an incredibly welcoming local population. You will inevitably fall under the charm of this island which lives at another pace.



Rodrigues is very popular among land and water sports enthusiasts. It is an ideal playground for walkers and trailers with a hilly terrain that offers a splendid view from wherever you are and a return to nature. The East coast also features exceptional hikes with several coves along this coast, just enjoy the peace and unspoilt nature.

The François Leguat Reserve, a reserve for Aldabra giant tortoises is also worth seeing. You will walk among these amazing creatures, reintroduced into the island after their extinction during the colonial era, in a stunning setting. You can visit the caves and the Garden of the Senses on the site.

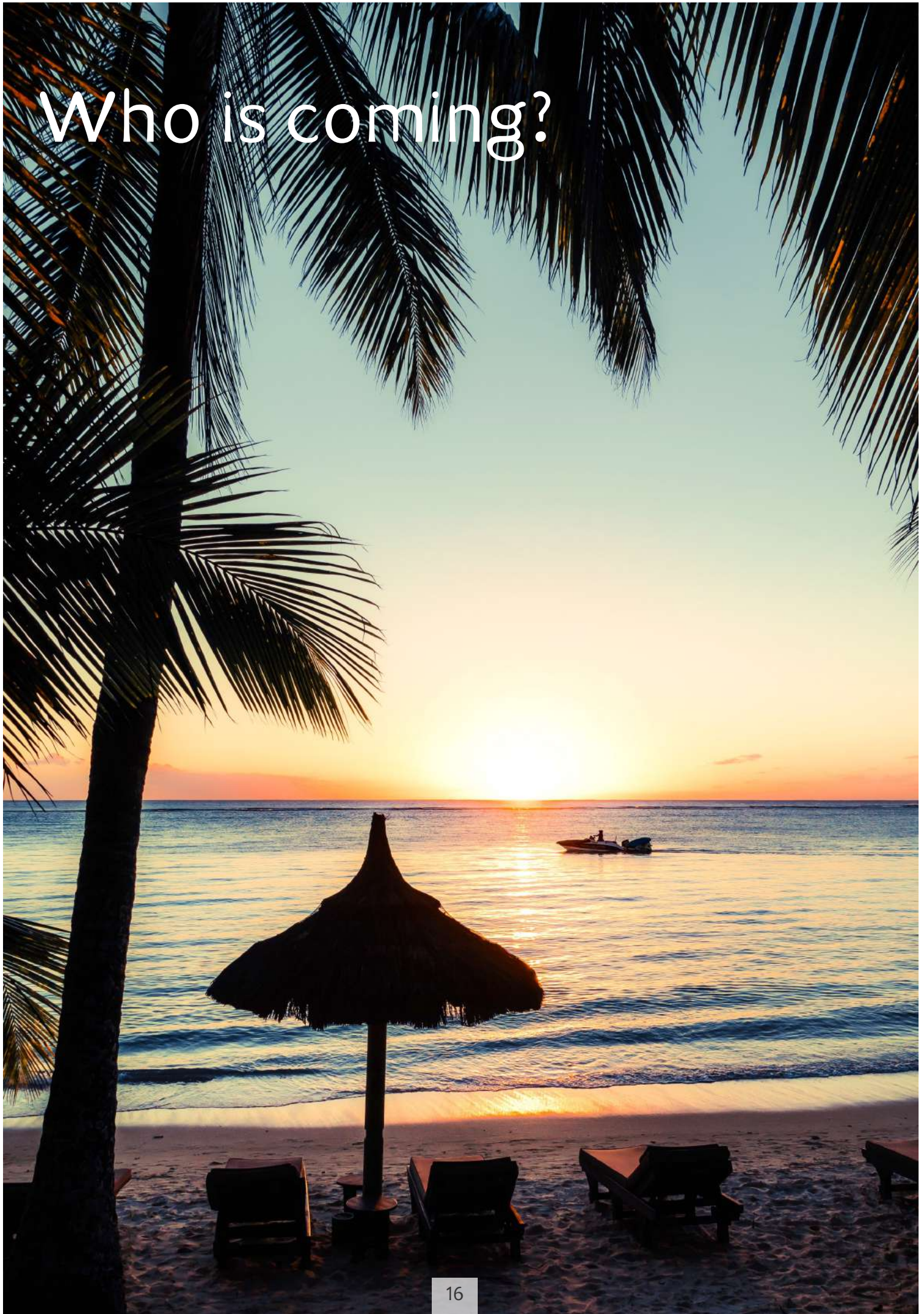


Rodrigues is famous for its kitesurfing spots in the south-east, an international competition is held there every year, towards the end of June. Line fishing in traditional boats is also an experience to live. One of the fishermen of the island will be happy to take you on board for a roam in the lagoon. There are also local operators who offer fishing outings inside and outside the lagoon, diving sessions and visits of the islands around Rodrigues.

Rodrigues is a vibrant island with a culture of its own. The Sega Tambour, the traditional dance from Rodrigues, is now a UNESCO World Heritage; you definitely have to learn a few steps during your stay, it won't be that easy though! Its cuisine is not only delectable, it is made with the heart; Sausage rougaille, «ourite» salad (octopus), red beans soup, papaya pie, pork curry and Kono-kono salad, are among the specialties of the island's gastronomy. Its honey is also renowned, many locals produce their own backyard honey, and it is of very good quality.

When planning your trip to Mauritius, why not book 5-7 days to explore Rodrigues. The flight journey between the two islands lasts only an hour and a half. You will undoubtedly be conquered by your stay in Rodrigues.

Who is coming?



Families

Looking for the ideal destination for your next family vacation? With its beautiful sandy beaches, protected lagoons with a nice temperature all year round, and countless activities for all ages, Mauritius is perfect for a family getaway and quality time. Whether at the hotel or during the journeys awaiting you, your stay in Mauritius promises to be memorable for young ones as well as for the young at heart.

Mauritius is the ideal destination for a return to nature. Forests such as the Black River Gorges National Park, Ebony Forest in Chamarel or the Bras d'Eau National Park in the East, will plunge the whole family into an unexpected world, in the heart of a preserved nature.

Discover centenary endemic trees and protected native animals such as the Pink Pigeon, the Mauritian Parakeet, the Paradise Flycatcher and the very rare Kestrel. Ile aux Aigrettes is also worth a visit. The island is part of a conservation program and encompasses a unique flora and fauna. That will be a complete change of scenery!

Leisure parks are very appealing to the more adventurous. From quad biking to zip lining, and safari to approach African animals, countless possibilities are available to families at the Gros Cailloux Park, Casela and La Vallée des Couleurs. Giant Aldabra tortoises and crocodiles are waiting for your visit at La Vanille reserve; the most impressed will probably not be the youngest ones.

The time spent at the hotel will never get boring neither. Hotels in Mauritius offer a wide choice of sea and land activities to do with the family. Some of them also offer art or cooking workshops, an opportunity to learn a little more about local cuisine while having fun with the family. Some children will prefer to spend time at the Kids' Club with other kids of the resort while their parents relax on the beach or at the spa. Babysitter services are also usually available.

The activities proposed are very diverse and resourceful, both indoors and outdoors, suitable for different age groups. Some resorts even organise outings on the surrounding islands for teenagers who will love playing adventurers!

Couples

Mauritius is the perfect destination for a romantic getaway with its idyllic beaches, hotels appealing to romance and stunning sceneries. Whether you are on holidays with your loved one or on your honeymoon, your stay in Mauritius promises to be unforgettable.

Hotels offer a wide range of services and experiences for couples, from room service, romantic dinners in the sand to wellness packages for couples at the spa. If you want to realise your dream and spend the most beautiful day of your life on a tropical island on the beach at sunset, you can make it! Almost all hotels offer the possibility to organise your wedding in Mauritius, from the paperwork to the wedding organisation itself, as well as the honeymoon!

You only have to contact the hotel much in advance so that the procedures are finalised in time. Those looking for more discretion and calm will find several «Adult-only» hotels across the island.

There is a wide array of leisure and activities for couples in Mauritius. The most romantic will choose the cruises in catamaran in exclusivity, the dolphin watch outings, and horse-riding at dusk or the treatments for two at the spa. Reconnection to nature is also an option, immerse into one of the various forests and nature reserves of the island such as the Black River Gorges National Park with its marked trails and its exceptional fauna and flora, and feel like Paul and Virginie for some hours...

The Double zip lines and skydiving may be appealing to the more adventurous... or simply take an exclusive helicopter ride to admire the beautiful landscapes of Mauritius from above. Scuba diving is also very popular, whether for beginner courses or to discover the stunning sites around the island. Time for amazing adventures!

When we think about doing something romantic, the tête-à-tête dinner seems so obvious with a refined menu, ambient music and elegant décor... Whether at the hotel under the stars, or in one of the island's gourmet restaurants, a romantic dinner will always be a hit with your loved one.

Weddings & Honeymoons

Mauritius consistently ranks as one of the world's top wedding and honeymoon destinations, thanks to its picture-perfect venues and superb luxury. Couples can marry anywhere in Mauritius - be it aboard a catamaran, on a submarine underwater or even saying 'I do' on a zipline over the forest.

Most hotels offer extensive wedding and honeymoon packages and have their own experienced wedding coordinator, who will organise every last detail of the wedding of your dreams. Villas are also increasingly popular with multi-generational wedding parties and honeymooners.

Mauritius is home to some of the best wedding photographers, who will be with you from the initial consultation until the moment you leave for your honeymoon.

Honeymoon

A Mauritian honeymoon marks a unique beginning to wedded life. We want to make your honeymoon truly unforgettable. Think romantic walks on the beach, private dinners with blissful views over the ocean, adventurous climbs across rugged mountains - paradise.

Our hotels and resorts specialise in honeymoons and offer up to 25% discounts on their rooms and suites for honeymooning couples. Other added extras include free spa or beauty treatments, fruit baskets, excursions champagne, or private candle-lit dinners for two on the beach.

Authentic Mauritius



Nature

Mauritius is the ideal getaway destination to get closer to nature. Besides its beautiful white sandy beaches, the island features an unexpected lush nature. From protected forests to mountains and exceptional sites, Mauritius will charm nature lovers, whether you love sports or are simply looking for discoveries.

The Pamplemousses Botanical Garden is a must-see during your holidays in Mauritius. Also known as the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden, this wonderful garden created over 300 years ago, houses a multitude of native and endemic plants and the famous giant water lily ponds. The youngest will be happy to approach the tortoises and other animals living in the garden.

The Botanical Garden in Curepipe is a haven of tranquillity just a few minutes from the hustle and bustle of the city centre. A walk in this garden dating back to 1870 is a must. Rejuvenate before you hit back the road, surrounded by the beautiful endemic trees, the small lake and the river that flows through the beautiful green spaces.

Also in Curepipe, the Trou aux Cerfs is often an unexpected site for tourists. It is a volcano crater surrounded by houses, and very popular among walkers and joggers. Take a breath of fresh air while enjoying the view of the centre of the island from above.

Another geological curiosity that is to be seen in the centre of the island, heading east, is the caves of Pont Bon Dieu. The island being volcanic, several lava tubes were formed during the various eruptions. The one at Pont Bon Dieu, located at Brisée Verdière in the middle of sugarcane fields, houses a whole colony of swifts and other animals.

Chamarel is one of the most preserved villages of the island with a lush environment. One of the most visited sites is the Seven Coloured Earth, with its unique geological topography. Discover dunes of multiple shades produced by the oxidation of minerals contained in the soil. Nearby, you can admire the stunning Chamarel waterfall from the promontory and access the Ebony Forest. If you have some time, take a stroll in the village and breathe some fresh air before continuing your nature expedition.

The peaks of the island are also to be added on your to-do list if you are interested in nature. Several mountains are accessible for climbing, some tougher than others. Different options are available to you, including Le Morne Mountain in the south, which is also part of the UNESCO World Heritage, with a breath-taking view of the ocean as you climb up. Le Pouce and Pieter Both Mountains are also popular in the centre.

History

Mauritius has so much to offer to history enthusiasts. From museums to historic and cultural sites, make the most of your holidays in Mauritius to take a step back in time, and walk in the footsteps of the different peoples who built this beautiful nation. For centuries, the island has seen the successive settlement of the Dutch, the French, the English, the Africans, the Indians and the Chinese, and the Arabs and Portuguese who stopped over here long before the arrival of the Dutch. A beautiful heritage bequeathed to the Mauritian population.

The Dutch were the first to really settle on the island as from 1598. They landed at Grand Port in the southeast, driven by a storm. They remained here until 1710 and left discouraged by the successive storms, the infestations of pests and epidemics. It is therefore in the south-eastern region, around Vieux Grand Port that you will see the remnants of this period. A memorial was also erected where they landed, next to Ferney. At Vieux Grand Port, the Frederik Hendrik Museum and the ruins relate the Dutch stay on the island. The island was named Mauritius - Ile Maurice after the Prince Maurice de Nassau.

On the way to Vieux Grand Port, stop at Pointe du Diable, also known as Pointe Canons, with its series of cannons installed by the French to defend this part of the island from the British invasion. Mahebourg, in the south-east of the island, contains a lot of vestiges of the history of Mauritius. The Naval Museum is a must to learn about the maritime history of the island; you will also find a memorial monument for slaves next to the waterfront and places used by them before the abolition of slavery, such as the Lavoir (wash house). At the entrance of Mahebourg, you will drive on the Cavendish Bridge, also known as the Ville-Noire Bridge, built under the British era in the early 20th century. Take a pause on the longest bridge of the island - 155 meters!

Museums are of course a very good way to discover the history of Mauritius. In addition to those of Mahebourg and Vieux Grand Port, most of the museums are located in Port-Louis, like the Natural History Museum, where you will discover the history of the famous Dodo, and the Blue Penny Museum with its famous exceptional stamps that have travelled across the world, among others. Also in the capital city, the Aapravasi Ghat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will reveal the history of Indian indentured labourers who arrived in Mauritius shortly after the abolition of slavery in 1835, through artefacts and testimonies from their descendants. This is exactly where these workers landed, hoping to find a better life on the island.

Slavery is also part of the history of Mauritius. The site that symbolises it the most is Le Morne site, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was on this imposing mountain that the runaway slaves, called the "maroons", used to hide, and it is said that some of them preferred to jump from the top of the mountain rather than be caught. Slave communities have settled there over time. At the foot of the mountain there is a space dedicated to the memory of these slaves coming from Africa and Madagascar for most of them, with a historical reconstruction of scenes of life of the period and some sculptures.

Cultural

A trip to Mauritius would be incomplete without an immersion in its culture. The cultural richness of Mauritius comes from the diversity of the many communities living there. Mauritian people are mainly from European, Asian and African descent, and this has formed an extraordinary melting pot. Different religions and traditions live in peace and harmony in the island today.

From food to places of worship and music, everything in the Mauritian life brings you back to the diversity and cultural richness of the population. It is even difficult to designate a symbolic national dish today because there are several dishes from various origins that could aspire to this title, such as the chicken curry, fried noodles, dhol puri, Chinese dumplings and the bryani... Anyway, Mauritian food is known to be delightful and, although it is inspired from other countries' cuisine, it has a special flavour that makes it unique.

The places of worship found all along the Mauritian scenery are the testimony of the peaceful cohabitation of local communities. Many of these buildings or sites must be added to your itinerary, whether for their historical or cultural interest. Grand Bassin, or Ganga Talao, a high place of pilgrimage for the Hindus is worth visiting. It is a dormant volcano nestled in the heart of lush nature, where you can recharge your batteries.

The Hindu temple of Maheshwarnath Mandir in Triolet and the Jummah Mosque, the Grand Mosque of Port Louis, and the Kwan Tee Pagoda, also in the capital city, are also outstanding buildings to see. History and architecture enthusiasts will be interested in the various churches of the island, many of them built since the 18th century, like that of Saint Francis of Assisi in Pamplemousses, the oldest still standing.

Several protected sites trace the history of Mauritius in the colonial era and are worth a stopover. The Aapravasi Ghat, where Indian labourers landed in the 19th century, and Le Morne region, where runaway slaves used to hide, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, as well as the large Creole-style mansions such as the Domaine de Labourdonnais and Maison Eureka, are all sites to be on your holiday itinerary in Mauritius.

Culture is also a country's musical heritage. In Mauritius, the various communities of the island have contributed to create a musical culture that is unique to the island, and recognised throughout the world thanks to their inscription to the UNESCO World Heritage, like the Segga Tipik of Mauritius, the Geet Gawai, the Segga Tambour of Rodrigues and, more recently, the Segga Tambour from Chagos. The Geet Gawai is more precisely a ceremony held during Hindu weddings and consists of rituals, prayers, rhythmic music, songs and dances.

And to immerse yourself even more in the Mauritian culture, start learning the common Creole words and expressions to use without moderation during your stay!

Green Tourism

With its lush nature, mountains and endemic forests, Mauritius is also the perfect destination for nature lovers and to relax away from the hustle of professional life. Since several years, Mauritius has been offering a wide range of activities for travellers choosing sustainable tourism. Whether you are a family or a couple, there is a wide choice for visitors looking for green tourism: hiking in the forests, climbing the mountains and for sports enthusiasts, an established annual trail programme. You will discover an unexpected facet of Mauritius with its superb landscapes and exceptional fauna and flora.

For a real immersion in the Mauritian nature, nothing like walks in the forest. At the Black River Gorges National Park in the west, discover protected native animal species such as the Pink Pigeon, the Echo Parakeet and the Mauritian Bat, as well as endemic centenary trees that have gone through history. Several marked trails are accessible and some will take you to the heights of the island, to Macchabée and Pétrin.

The Bras d'Eau forest, another national park in the East, is also worth a visit. The challenge will be to see the Paradise Flycatcher, a small protected endemic bird that will not be easy to find, even if you hear its shrill birdsong. Several other parks and forests are accessible across the island, including the Vallée de Ferney in the southeast, Ebony Forest in Chamarel and Plaine Sophie in the centre, among others.

To gain height and enjoy the nature of Mauritius from above, go for mountain climbing. The most popular mountains are Le Pouce and Pieter Both, starting from Saint Pierre, and Le Morne Mountain in the south. It is advisable to be accompanied by experienced guides for this adventure.

The practise of trail running has taken off in Mauritius giving to sports enthusiasts a very interesting range of medium to high-level competitions during the year, open to foreign participants. Partner hotels also offer runners special accommodation packages for their stay in Mauritius during the competition.

Culinary

Food in Mauritius is a journey on its own! Between traditional dishes, gourmet cuisine or street-food, it is a real pleasure for the senses. Mauritian cuisine has been influenced by the different settlements originating from Europe, Asia and Africa through the centuries and is unique. The cuisine is an important part of the Mauritian culture and hospitality.

Wherever you go, you will find restaurants and snacks on your way. Among the dishes of the traditional cuisine to try, you have the famous Creole-style rougaille, a sauce prepared with crushed tomatoes, onions, garlic, and thyme with sausages, meat or salted fish, the various currys, including the tasty chicken curry with shrimp or fish curry with eggplant, fish vindayes, prepared with turmeric, onions and mustard seeds, all theses with or without chilli, accompanied with white rice and a soup of pulses or “bredes” (local greens)... a delight!

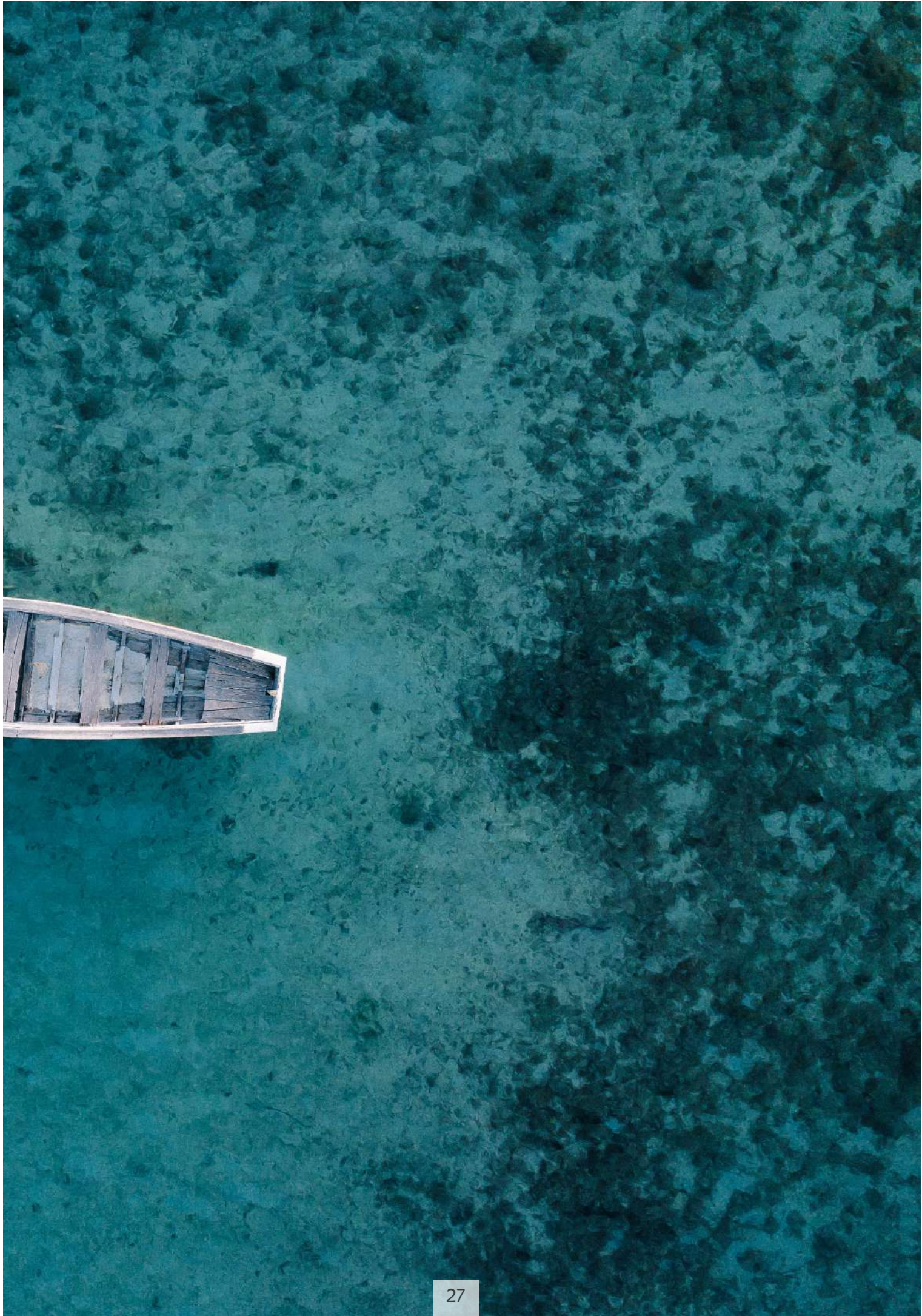
You must also try the bryani, oriental-style rice with spices cooked with vegetables and any meat, and the surprising Chinese magic bowl.

Your stay in Mauritius will not be complete if you miss out on street food, ranking in the world Top 10, according to The Telegraph! Faratas, Dholl puris, boulettes (dumplings), boiled or fried noodles, gateaux piments (chilli cakes), samoussas, are the most popular among the wide variety of street food available to you, all very tasty and addictive.

For the sweet tooth, there are just as many choices such as the Napolitains (in no case similar to those found in France), the moutay cakes, oundé, ladoos, among many treats.

There are also original drinks that will refresh you and perfectly pair some of the food you will taste. There is the famous Mauritian tea, hot black tea with sugar and milk, the delicious Alouda, sweetened flavoured milk with tukmaria seeds and grated agar-agar jelly, the best are found in markets, and the various tamarind or lemongrass juices, and of course, the local beer and the limitless rum-based drinks evoking flavours of holidays!

Adventure & Sports



Diving



Diving in Mauritius

Discover Mauritius as you would never have imagined it. With stunning underwater sceneries featuring a rich fauna and flora, and numerous wrecks lying on the sand for hundreds of years for some of them, the island offers an extraordinary adventure playground to amateur and professional divers. It is also an opportunity for those who want to embark on this new venture to do so in one of the various diving centres of the island and to enjoy a pleasant water temperature all year round - 22 to 29°C. You will be amazed by the beautiful corals, multi-coloured fish, dolphins, turtles, and even hammerhead sharks and other sharks... and, if you are lucky, the sperm whales and rays that constantly evolve around the island will honour you with their presence. Get ready for moments of intense emotion!

The sea bed in Mauritius is exceptional because of its characteristic landscape. With an area of 2.3 million square kilometres of territorial waters in the heart of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius rests on the Mascarenes plateau, and is surrounded by a barrier of coral reefs. Diving in Mauritius never starts directly from the beach, all the dives take place in the open sea. The qualified diving teams will take you to the designated spot by boat.

Diving Spots

There are numerous diving spots around Mauritius. The experienced divers will choose Gunner's Coin, the Whale Rock which goes down to 38 meters deep, or Holt's Rock which descends to 25 meters. Other more accessible sites will be recommended for beginners like the Blue Bay Marine Park in the southeast.

The North

The north of Mauritius features a lot of diving spots, from Pointe aux Piments to Calodyne; more than 65 sites are listed. The northern islets, including the Gunner's Coin, Round Island, Flat Island and Ilot Gabriel, offer outstanding sceneries with the various landscapes formed by corals, rocks and shallows, and the various and multi-coloured creatures that inhabit them. You will undoubtedly come across sharks who love the area, including the terrible hammerhead shark! Visibility is usually good, this part of the island being relatively protected from the trade winds and very few rivers end their course in the sea there.

The West

More than 45 diving sites are located on the west coast, from Albion to Le Morne in the south. This is the region to watch dolphins and rays. With reefs of 15 to 46 metres deep, strong currents going through basalt tunnels and chimneys, the west coast features a completely different landscape for divers. The sea bed there has fewer coral reefs and more basaltic landforms with changing topographies and highly variable depths.

The East

With some 60 sites listed, this part of the island stretching from Poudre d'Or to Blue Bay in the south will delight divers. Over the centuries, many ships wrecked there. The south-east trade winds and strong currents can be a danger for sailors, but are definitely an exciting challenge for divers. The area swarms with marine species and plankton, and the numerous passes along the reefs provide an easy access to the high seas.

Live the adventure



Mauritius is the ideal destination for a beach holiday, but it also turns out to be a perfect playground for adventure-seekers with the countless activities available on land, in the water or in the air! There is a vast choice for both the most adventurous and those who want to try new experiences in a heavenly setting, taking a break from their routine.

The landscapes of the centre of the island, composed of mountains, rivers and gorges, provide an ultimate setting for extreme activities. Opt for quad biking in the savannah, canyoning in the gorges and rivers or zip-lining at Casela Park in the west, try hiking and swimming in the canyon at Domaine de Chazal or hop on the longest zip line of the Indian Ocean at La Vallée des Couleurs, thrills guaranteed!

If you need more adrenaline rush, go for the skydiving in the north! For those who are not ready to jump, but still have an adventurous soul, try flying over the southern region in a seaplane or on a helicopter ride to admire the breath-taking sceneries.

The mountains in Mauritius offer great adventures for those who are attracted by heights and give the opportunity to see the island from another point of view. The most popular mountains are Le Pouce with its thumb shape (811 meters high) and the Pieter Both, with a huge rock standing at the top, culminating at 820 meters. The climbing of the two mountains usually starts in Saint Pierre and it is recommended to be accompanied by guides. In the south, the impressive Le Morne Mountain is a call to adventure.

On the central plateau, the forests of the Plaine Champagne region await you for more or less sporty hikes which are nevertheless accessible to all. Start at the Black River Gorges National Park in the west and take one of the many marked trails that lead to the central plateau to Pétrin, Macchabée and Mare aux Joncs.

An underground expedition awaits you at Roches Noires in the caves formed by successive lava flows. They are not huge, but are definitely to have on your itinerary. Several caves, or rather lava pipes, are accessible from Roches Noires and Rivière du Rempart with names such as the La Cave Madame or Princess Margaret. You will come across swifts and bats nesting there or fish in little ponds formed inside some of the cavities. The visit of these caves and pipes however requires the supervision of a guide to ensure your safety.

After the heights and the land, live the adventure in water! Fans of surfing, kitesurfing and diving will be delighted. Mauritius is recognised worldwide for its surfing spots. The most popular for experienced surfers and kite surfers are in the south-east and west/south-west regions, such as the famous One Eye at Pointe du Morne or Cap Dal in Tamarin. Surf and kite schools are located in these regions for those who hear the call of adventure! Parasailing is also an exciting activity suspended above the sea.

Scuba diving also attracts many divers to Mauritius. With more than 150 spots listed around the island, amateurs and professionals have an extraordinary choice. Each region has its specificities in terms of landforms and fauna and flora. Some areas are home to more stranded ships than others such as the East and South-East, while around the northern islands you can come across hammerhead sharks among other impressive marine creatures, and in the West you will certainly see dolphins and rays, and with some luck, the sperm whales, which usually roam not too far from the coasts.

A night stay in an unusual accommodation could be an adventure for many... A night in a comfortable eco-tent in the heart of nature at the Domaine de Chazal, in a Bubble lodge in Bois Chéri or in one of the tents of Otentic Lodges in Deux Frères, is an experience to live absolutely. Get closer to nature, take the opportunity to observe the stars, safely.

Golfing



Mauritius is a popular golf destination among the little white ball enthusiasts. Each of the ten golf courses in Mauritius is unique in its design, setting and technical specificities. Most of the courses have been designed by renowned professional golfers such as Rodney Wright or Ernie Els. Golfers will be able to indulge in their favourite sport on all the golf courses of the island during their stay without ever getting bored!

Some courses are nestled in the heart of lush nature, between mountain and sea, such as Heritage Golf Club in Bel Ombre, ranking among the best golf courses in the Indian Ocean, and the Tamarina golf course in Tamarin, which offers a sumptuous scenery of the African savannah, and holes isolated from each other by their positioning, while other courses constantly remind you that you are on a tropical island like the Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club, set on a paradise islet with beautiful sandy beaches, and Anahita Golf Club, both in the East, and that of Mont Choisy Le Golf in the North, the last born in Mauritius.

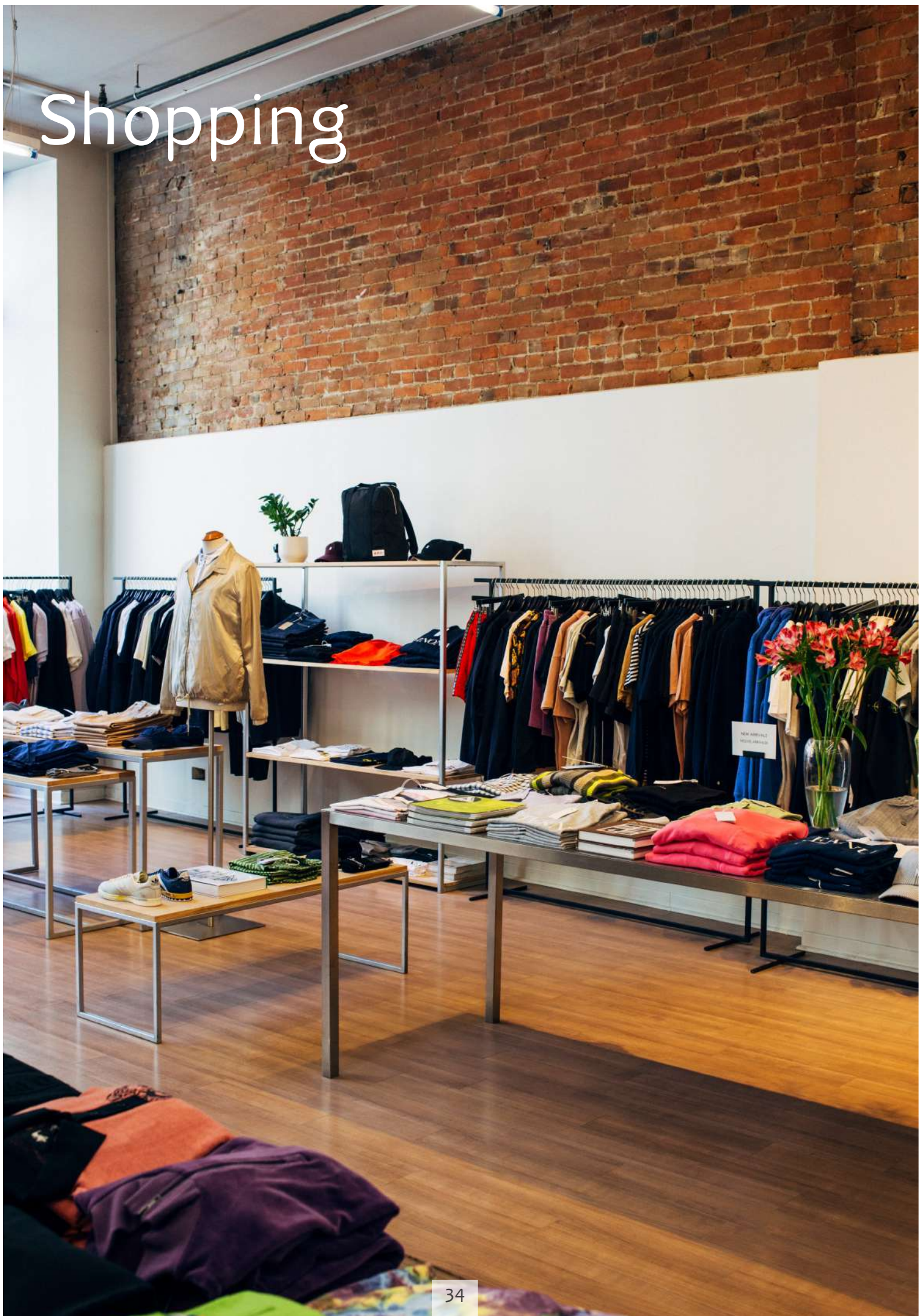
The Gymkhana club located in Vacoas is mainly open to its club members and their guests. Thanks to this club created in 1844 by the British, Mauritius became the third country in the world to have introduced golf! In the centre of the island, Avalon, located in the middle of the tea fields, offers a completely different experience with its cooler climate being established in the heights of the island. At Belle Mare, the Legends and Links courses, both attached to the Constance Belle Mare Plage, are also very popular among golfers.

Mauritius is part of the international competition circuits and hosts various events throughout the year bringing together professionals and amateurs of various nationalities, like the Staysure Tour, formerly the MCB Tour Championship, which is played in Mauritius at the Legends, and the famous AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, the first tournament sanctioned by the European, Asian and Sunshine tours and which is played every year alternately at Anahita and Heritage.

Other golf courses will be constructed in the coming years to enrich the golfing offer in Mauritius, including a second golf course at the Domaine de Bel Ombre, and one in Azuri in the north-east.

It is also possible to take advantage of your holiday in Mauritius to learn how to play golf. Most of the clubs offer learning and improvement sessions provided by their Pros as well as workshops for children, there is no age to start golfing! Golf equipment and accessories are available for rent and sale in the golf clubs' Pro shops.

Shopping



Shopping in Mauritius is an experience to live during your holidays. From the most unusual shops to the big modern shopping malls and the traditional markets, you will find a wide range of products for everyone and for all budgets. In addition, many stores offer a tax refund that will be indicated at the entrance. Almost all shops accept credit cards, but bring some cash when you visit markets and other fairs.

Shopping centres regroup both international and local brands. Bagatelle Mall of Mauritius, Phoenix Mall and Caudan Waterfront are the largest shopping centres. Bagatelle Mall is located in the centre of the island, a few minutes from the capital city Port-Louis, and features more than 150 stores. In a completely different style, the Caudan Waterfront facing the harbour in Port-Louis, is also popular with its 160 shops and the Craft Market dedicated to artisanal products.

The Phoenix Mall in the centre, a few minutes from Quatre-Bornes, also offers a nice range of brands with some 80 shops. The shopping centres of Riche Terre, La Croisette in Grand-Baie, Bo'Vallon in the south, Flacq Coeur de Ville in the east and Cascavelle Shopping Village in the west, are among the many centres where you can do your shopping, stroll with the family, meet the Mauritians and, of course, eat in one of the many snacks and restaurants in the food courts located in these malls.

You can't travel to Mauritius without visiting its markets! These places are the very reflection of the Mauritian community with unique colours and scents. From vegetables and seasonal fruits to street-food, the tour in a market will be an adventure, liven up with the resourceful chatter of the vendors... In some places, the vegetable market gives way to the clothing market on some days, and there are good deals to grab!

The unmissable Port-Louis market is very popular, even if you do not buy vegetables, you will definitely enjoy a visit inside, especially during summer. Don't hesitate to taste local street food and engage in conversation with local customers and sellers.

Shopping at the Quatre-Bornes market is more popular among Mauritians and tourists who come to buy clothes and other accessories at very competitive prices on Thursdays and Sundays. The products sold at the fair are generally different from those found in the shops.

The markets in Flacq and Mahebourg are also not to be missed. The first one, which is also the largest, is worth visiting on Wednesdays and Sundays, even if you will find nice products there on other days. Monday is the day to visit the market of Mahebourg. Take the opportunity to make a tour in the village after your shopping to plunge into the authentic Mauritius.

Spa & Wellness



Holidays are the perfect time to recharge your batteries and take care of yourself. Mauritius is the ideal destination for those who are looking forward to indulge in a wellness journey during their vacation. Whether you need a simple massage or an all-in-one wellness formula during your stay, the island's spas feature a wide range of treatments beauty care to pamper yourself and heal the body and the soul.

Hotel spas, many of which have been bestowed international accolades, use high-quality products from renowned brands such as Clarins, La Prairie, Givenchy, Cinq Mondes, Guerlain and Shiseido. A local hotel group has even developed its own range of treatment brand, Seven Colours, which can compete with the best international names.

A luxurious or more intimate setting, Ayurvedic massages, treatments inspired by the ocean, Africa or Mauritian nature, indoors or in the garden facing the sea, alone or in couple, with two hands or four, everything is made possible to reach the much sought-after serenity and immerse yourself in a moment of intense well-being.

In addition, in some spas, you can enjoy an infusion or fresh fruit juice from the Juice Bar next to the facilities after your treatment.

Yoga and fitness sessions, and healthy nutrition workshops led by renowned guest coaches are also proposed in some hotels as well as healthy buffets and vegetarian restaurants in some cases.

If you are not staying at a resort during your stay in Mauritius, most hotel spas are open to non-guests, depending on the availability, but there are also some quality independent wellness centres and spas throughout the island.

Cruises



A cruise to Mauritius is a very interesting option to consider for your holidays. More and more cruises are organised in the Indian Ocean islands and Mauritius is part of the journey with Reunion Island, Seychelles and Madagascar.

Several renowned cruise companies have travelled the Vanilla Islands in the recent years, including AIDA, Costa Cruises, Silversea Cruise Liner and Fred Olsen. Port-Louis harbour also occasionally hosts high-end cruise ships such as the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

The Indian Ocean islands offer a beautiful alternative to traditional holidays, with the possibility to have a taste of each of the Vanilla Islands.

In order to better accommodate ships and their passengers, a new cruise terminal is currently under construction in Mauritius and should be inaugurated in January 2021. This terminal will spread over 7500 m² with a capacity of 4000 cruise passengers and the set-up of other facilities to enhance the visitors' experience.

You could also opt for a cruise in the Indian Ocean and book a few days in Mauritius to complete your vacation.

MICE



Mauritius has positioned itself as one of the top MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destinations. This niche segment is well established in Mauritius whether it is at the level of the reception facilities, the expertise and the services available here. A wide range of choices is accessible to the organisers of MICE trips, regardless of the size of the group, with tailor-made quality offers. Events can be held in a hotel, an independent conference room or a multipurpose centre, with state-of-the-art equipment and quality service.

In normal times, several daily flights serve the island through airlines such as Air Mauritius, Air France, Emirates, South African Airways and Turkish Airlines among others, providing easy access to the island from Europe, Africa or Asia.

In addition, a wide range of group facilities are available, including preferential flight rates, personalised account management, specific cabin seats at no extra charge, custom headrest covers in the aircraft (additional cost), dedicated ticket counters as well as flight check-in and other procedures done at the hotel level depending on the size of the group, exclusive activities such as helicopter tours or catamaran cruises at a preferential rate, and for golfers, free transport of golf clubs not exceeding 23kg per bag, among others.

Mauritius features a wide range of venues that are suitable for conferences and other meetings, including the largest and most modern one, the Swami Vivekananda Conference Centre in Pailles, which can accommodate up to 5,000 people. This centre regularly hosts international and local conferences, exhibitions, fairs and shows.

The Conference Centre in Grand Bay can accommodate up to 600 people, while the Freeport Exhibition Centre at Mer Rouge can accommodate up to 1000 visitors, and the Trianon Convention Centre, 3,000 delegates. The latest addition is the Caudan Arts Centre, launched in 2018, in the heart of Port-Louis, which can house up to 430 participants.

There are also other smaller facilities across the island available for events. Most hotels also offer accommodation and conference room packages, with a capacity of up to 800 people for some of them.

Mauritius is full of options for MICE delegates when it comes to activities, whether it's for the sportiest or just to discover the island. Zip lines, mountain biking, golf, quad biking, mountain climbing, catamaran or yoga are part of the numerous activities available during the stay. Companies specialising in team-building can also be contacted to organise tailor-made activities for the group.

Where to accommodate groups in Mauritius? You have a wide choice for accommodation: luxury hotels, boutique-hotels, club hotels, business hotels or guest houses, everything will depend on your needs and budget. Transfers are also part of the MICE offer with Destination Management Companies (DMCs) that can take care of all the transportations of the group during your stay, from arrival at the airport to departure, with their fleet of buses, minibuses or cars according to your requests.

Medical Tourism

A white, pill-shaped medical device with a small port on its side is centered on a dark wooden surface. The surface is illuminated by parallel, golden light rays that create a striped pattern. In the background, a glowing orange, textured orb is visible, and a red fabric is partially seen on the right side.

Are you planning for a medical surgery or treatment abroad? Mauritius is a destination to consider for medical tourism, from the surgical stage to your recovery phase in a stunning hotel. Mauritius is more and more sought after for cosmetic surgery, dental care and hair implants.

Mauritius now offers state-of-the-art care and benefits from the expertise of recognised medical professionals in these fields; the island positions itself as a destination of choice for a quality health stay, under the sun. Medical packages are available, combining hospitalisation, care, air tickets and accommodation at the hotel. Nothing better than a few days in an idyllic island to recover from your surgery!

With care and needs changing rapidly, medical staff are constantly training and catching up with the latest techniques to provide the best possible care to patients. In addition, in Mauritius, all the accompanying staff involved in medical tourism are bilingual, English and French, which will ease communication during hospitalisation. Private clinics and medical centres are also equipped with modern equipment and facilities that meet international standards.

If you choose a more holistic approach and you only need to rejuvenate and get back in shape without going through the surgical stage, Mauritius is perfect for a wellness stay with several spas and centres offering a wide range of treatments to invigorate and get back on your feet. Some offer tailor-made bundles according to your needs and others feature pre-set packages during your stay in Mauritius, accompanied by coaches or even Ayurveda doctors in some cases.

Sustainable Tourism



Mauritius positions itself as a green tourism destination and has committed to develop sustainable activities and leisure during the last years. Ecology has taken on an increasingly important place at all levels and, much more than its beaches, Mauritius offers a wide range of things to see and do inland during your stay. Its various landscapes, forests, parks and reserves, fauna and flora, make the richness of this island and are waiting to be discovered by green tourism enthusiasts. Hoteliers and other tourist operators are also actively involved in this sustainable approach, involving both employees and guests.

To reconnect with nature, there are a multitude of green zones in the island: its forests, parks and nature reserves, where you can discover the fauna and flora of Mauritius. The Black River Gorges National Park in the west coast, will offer a full immersion in nature. Several marked trails are available, some will take you to the centre of the island towards Macchabée and Pétrin; enjoy the many centenary trees and protected endemic birds that you will see there, and just appreciate the nature around.

Bras d'Eau forest is another national park in the east. Like the one in Black River, it is part of a conservation program and is easily accessed from the main road. At La Vanille Reserve des Mascareignes park in Rivière des Anguilles, you will come across the Aldabra tortoises, introduced in Mauritius after the extinction of the endemic species of giant tortoises that lived here, and the impressive Mauritian bat, the only endemic mammal of the Mascarenes Islands. On the west coast, Casela Nature Parks will be the perfect place for a family outing.

In addition to the walk in the park and other entertainment, you can enjoy activities in the wild such as ziplines and the Via Ferrata, or visit its endemic garden.

In Chamarel, the Ebony Forest is also to be seen, with its unique forest of endemic Ebony trees and preserved flora and fauna. You can opt for a guided hike to better understand the ecosystem; you will be stunned by the exceptional view of the western and southern part of the island from the top. End your tour with a visit at the museum on the history of ebony wood, before taking a break in the restaurant.

On the south-east coast, Ile aux Aigrettes, a small island in the lagoon, is part of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation's (MWF) conservation program in collaboration with the government. The visit there is a must. Take the shuttle boat at Pointe Jérôme, and take a step back in time. A guide will be waiting for you on site and introduce you to the incredible wildlife there. You will learn about the remarkable conservation work done over the years, with the support of the Durrell Wildlife Foundation Trust.

Some species that live on Ile aux Aigrettes can only be found on this islet, such as the Telfair skink. Beautiful animal sculptures are also displayed around the island, and you'll be surprised to see that of an owl... Yes, Mauritius was indeed home to endemic owls!

Off the beaten path



Mauritius has much more to offer than just white sandy beaches, turquoise waters and sunshine all-year round... Step out of the hotel and experience the authentic Mauritian adventure off the beaten path, plunge into the island's nature, immerse yourself in its culture and history, and discover its unique flavours!

Activities in the heart of nature

Green tourism is more and more practised in Mauritius. The island features a lot of beautiful natural sites that will appeal to eco-friendly and outdoor activities enthusiasts. Hikes can be done in the various parks and forests existing throughout the island, such as the Black River Gorges National Park in the west, which has several marked trails accessible to all levels, and Bras d'Eau forest in the East.

Climbing is also an option, especially for the fittest. Several mountains can be accessed, such as Le Pouce Mountain in the centre of the island, and Le Morne in the south, with a breathtaking view on the west and southwest coasts as far as the eye can see. The most daring will have activities up to their expectations such as canyoning, an extreme sport practised along waterfalls and gorges in centre of the country, and always accompanied by qualified professionals. The promise of great moments in harmony with nature.

Dive into the ocean

Your holidays in Mauritius would not be complete without having tasted the joys of the sea. Apart from the usual water activities, venture in the underwater world that guarantees fantastic experiences and encounters! The lagoons of the island are home to unique and colourful flora and fauna, you may come across one of the many shipwrecks that lay on the sea bed around the island, but little chance of finding a treasure!

Horse Racing

Looking for an immersive experience in the heart of the Mauritian population? One of the things not to be missed, is the horse races at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis. Discover one of the oldest traditions of the island on one of the oldest racetracks in the southern hemisphere. Horse races are very popular in Mauritius, for some people it is the opportunity to bet, and for others, to enjoy a family outing. In the middle of the track, where spectators are gathered, there are a variety of stalls for fun games and street-food. And why not bet a small amount on one of the horses, just for fun.

Cultural Discovery

Mauritius is a multicultural island where different communities and cultures originating from Africa, Asia and Europe live together. Take the time to immerse yourself in local life. Wander around the city or villages you will come across during your stay, stop to meet people and learn a little more about their culture and way of life.

Heritage Regattas

Take a leap into the past with the regattas held throughout the year in the Mauritian lagoons. Sailing boats are less used today for fishing and going out to sea, compared to motor boats and luxury yachts, but they are still popular locally. Regattas are organised regularly, essentially in Mahebourg, to honour these boats with beautifully coloured sails that are part of the Mauritian heritage. It is a wonderful show that takes place on the water.

Mauritius from the sky

Mauritius is as beautiful from above as it is on land or in the water. It is an amazing experience to live! You already have a glimpse as you approach the island by plane, in daylight. Several options are available to discover Mauritius from the sky, the Ultralight aircraft, the seaplane, or the helicopter ride on any part of the island. The more hesitant will be able to try the parasailing above the lagoon, while the more adventurous will get the thrill with the sky dive or paragliding!

Travel with Children



Mauritius is the ideal destination for a full-fledged family vacation. The island features a wide array of activities for children to have wonderful memories to cherish back home. Whether you are looking for sports and leisure activities, nature outings or pedagogical tours to enjoy with your family, the island is full of options: museums, leisure parks, nature reserves and water activities. Various activities and entertainment are also available for different age groups at the Kids' clubs in most hotels. With these, children will be sure to bring back unforgettable experiences from their holidays in Mauritius.

Kids & Teens Club

Most hotels in Mauritius offer a myriad of activities for the youngest in order to entertain them and keep them busy during the time the family will be spending in the resort. The Kids' Clubs offer pedagogical and sports activities inside the hotel or at the beach. Painting or cooking workshops are also regularly organised in some hotels, and they will even have the opportunity to learn the Mauritian Sega during dance classes!

The museums

The best way to learn about a country in a limited time is obviously to visit its museums. This activity will be appreciated by both children and their parents. On the list of places to go, there are the Natural History Museum in Port Louis, where you will learn more about the legendary extinct Dodo, and the Blue Penny Museum, also in the capital city, with its famous Blue Penny stamps that have travelled the world; there is also the Photography Museum which traces the history of photography in Mauritius.

Meeting the animals of the savannah, a childhood dream!

Who has not dreamed of approaching animals of the African savannah? What about getting close to lions, tigers, giraffes and other typical species from the African fauna, or even touch them, but without taking any risks? It is possible in Mauritius! Walking with lions, feeding giraffes, driving through a reserve where you will come across rhinos, antelopes, ostriches, deer, in a completely safe context, this is what awaits you in the west of the island, where the climate recalls that of the African savannah.

Encounter with centenary Turtles

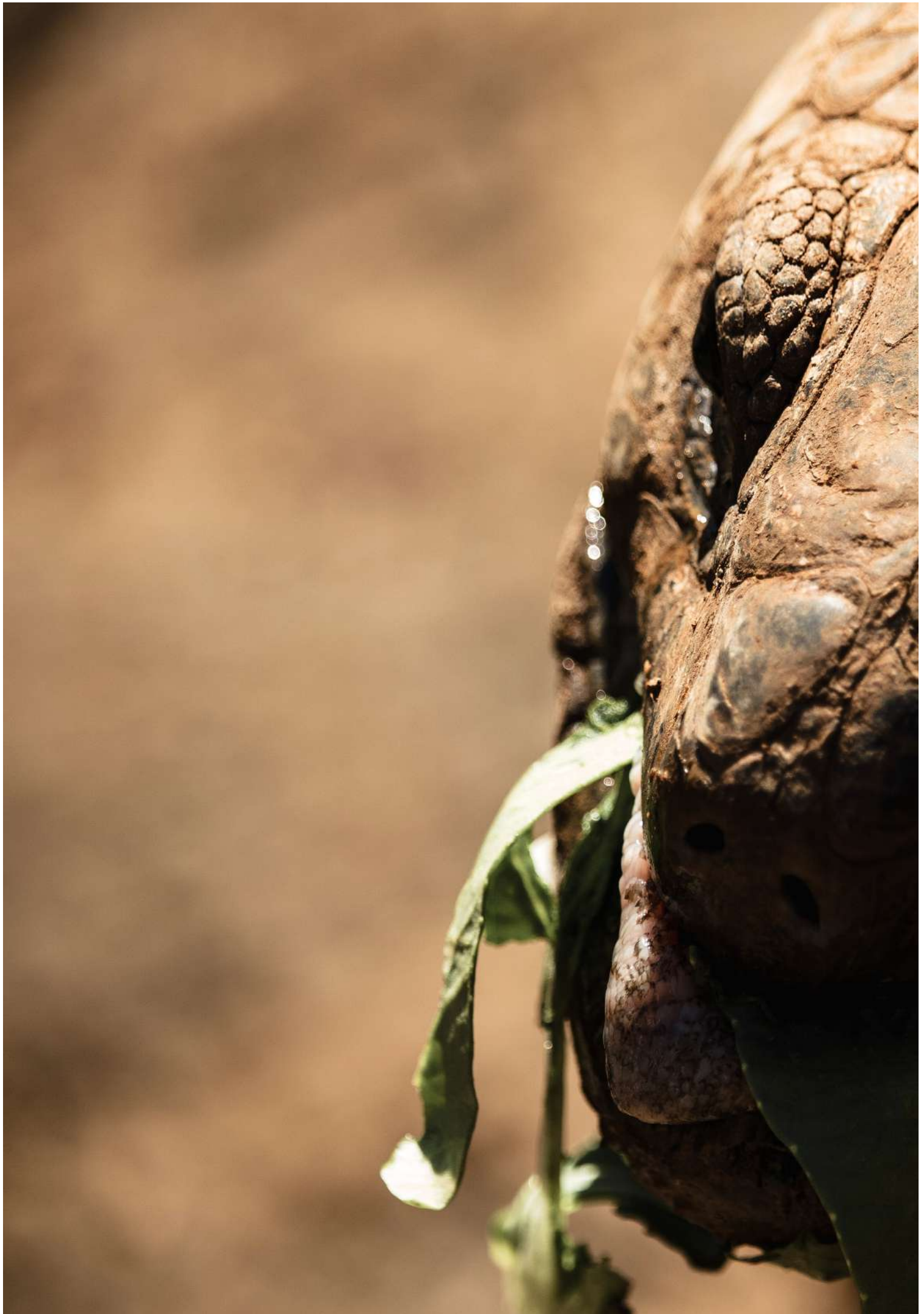
Children are all fascinated by animals, and in Mauritius there are sites that are home to all kinds of creatures. In the south, the nature park located in Rivière des Anguilles shelters a wide variety of species, including the famous giant tortoises that became extinct and reintroduced later on in Mauritius, and which can live for nearly 150 years!

The thrill of taking heights

Ziplining is definitely an activity that will enthuse children ... and parents as well! Let yourself slide over the forests and green clearings, it's quite an adventure! There are several parks where zip lines can be accessed in the west and south, the longest in the Indian Ocean! Zip lines can be practiced by everyone, no specific sports level required.

Meet the dolphins

Another childhood dream is to encounter a dolphin in the middle of the ocean. Mauritius is a privileged habitat for dolphins, a blessing for sea lovers! To have the chance to see them, boat trips are organised very early, most of the time on the west coast, in Tamarin or Black River.





DISCOVER

Mauritius

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius lies about 500 miles (800 km) east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Its outlying territories are Rodrigues Island, situated about 340 miles (550 km) eastward, the Cargados Carajos Shoals, 250 miles (400 km) northeastward, and the Agalega Islands, 580 miles (930 km) northward from the main island.

Mauritius also claims sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago (including Diego Garcia), some 1,250 miles (2,000 km) to the northeast, although this claim is disputed by Britain.

PEOPLE

Approximately two-thirds of the population is of Indians and Pakistani origin, most of whom are descendants of indentured labourers brought to work in the sugar industry during the 19th and early 20th centuries. About one-fourth of the population is Creole (of mixed French and African descent), and there are small numbers of people of Chinese and Franco-Mauritian descent.

Although English is the official language, it is spoken by a very small percentage of the population. Creole, a French-based patois, is spoken by about four-fifths of the population and is the lingua franca of the country. Bhojpuri, an Indo-Aryan language, is spoken by one-tenth of the population, and French is spoken by a small percentage. Other languages spoken on the island include Hindi, Chinese, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Mauritians commonly speak two, three, or even more languages, and the educational system supports a wide range of language instruction.

Religious affiliation varies: about half of the population is Hindu, about one-third is Christian (the majority of whom are Roman Catholic), and—with the exception of a small group of Buddhists—the majority of the remainder are Muslims.

CULTURE

Mauritius offers a rich mixture of the many cultures and traditions of its different peoples. The ethnic and religious diversity of Mauritius also means that there are many holidays and festivals scheduled throughout the year, including the Hindu festivals of Maha Shivaratree (see Mahā-śivarātrī) in February and March and Divali in late October and November; the Muslim festival of 'Īd al-Fiṭr, marking the end of Ramadan; the Catholic observances in honour of Père Laval in September, All Saints' Day in November, and Christmas in December; the lively Chinese Spring Festival celebration; and the Tamil holiday of Thaipooam Cavadee, usually held in January or February, which includes fire-walking ceremonies.

The entire country observes Abolition of Slavery Day on February 1, Republic Day on March 12, Labour Day on May 1, and Arrival of Indentured Laborers Day on November 2.

Interest in arts and letters and the sciences is promoted by voluntary associations, and the island has produced talented poets and novelists. Perhaps the best-known local writer is Dev Virahsawmy, a poet and playwright.

Though he writes easily in both French and English, Virahsawmy is most renowned for his efforts to popularize the use of Creole. In addition to his own plays and poetry, he has also translated several of Shakespeare's plays into Creole, which have been performed in Mauritius.

Mauritius is known for the séga, a popular folk dance consisting of suggestive movements of the hips and arms to a rhythmic beat. The dance can be traced back to the 18th century, when it was performed by slaves.

SPORTS & RECREATION

There is a very active sporting culture in Mauritius. Football (soccer), introduced by the British, claims the greatest number of participants and fans. At the highest level there is a national team that competes in the African Cup of Nations tournament. Locally, fans follow the teams in a football league that has been around for decades.

The small Franco-Mauritian community avidly supports a highly organized and rather ritualized season of deer hunting. Mauritians from all communities make winter horse racing one of the most popular and highly attended sporting activities of the year. Individual Mauritians have competed at the highest international levels in both bridge and backgammon.

Since its independence, Mauritius has actively participated in both regional and international sporting events. The Indian Ocean Island Games have been hosted in Mauritius, as have international tournaments for boxing, judo, and women's volleyball. Mauritius made its Olympic debut at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Areas of recreational interest include Black River Gorges National Park, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Gardens, Trou aux Cerfs (an extinct volcano that is now heavily forested), and the island's numerous beaches and casinos.

EDUCATION

Education is compulsory between ages 5 and 16. Six years of primary education begins at age 5, which is followed by up to seven years of secondary education. Primary and secondary education are free.

The University of Mauritius (1965) has faculties of agriculture, engineering, law and management, science, and social studies and humanities. Other institutions of higher education include the University of Technology, Mauritius (2000). Some students attend universities in India, France, and the United Kingdom. More than four-fifths of the population is literate.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Time 4 hours ahead of UTC
International telephone code +230
Electricity 240 volts

Mobile Services - Prepaid SIM cards are available from two mobile service providers at the airport. The SIM cards can be used for local and international call and for data.

Currency - The Mauritian Rupee is the local currency. All major credit cards are accepted in the country.

Visa - Most nationalities receive a 60-day visa on arrival, provided that you have a valid passport, an onward ticket to continue your journey and a reservation at a tourist facility or enough funds to cover your stay in the country.

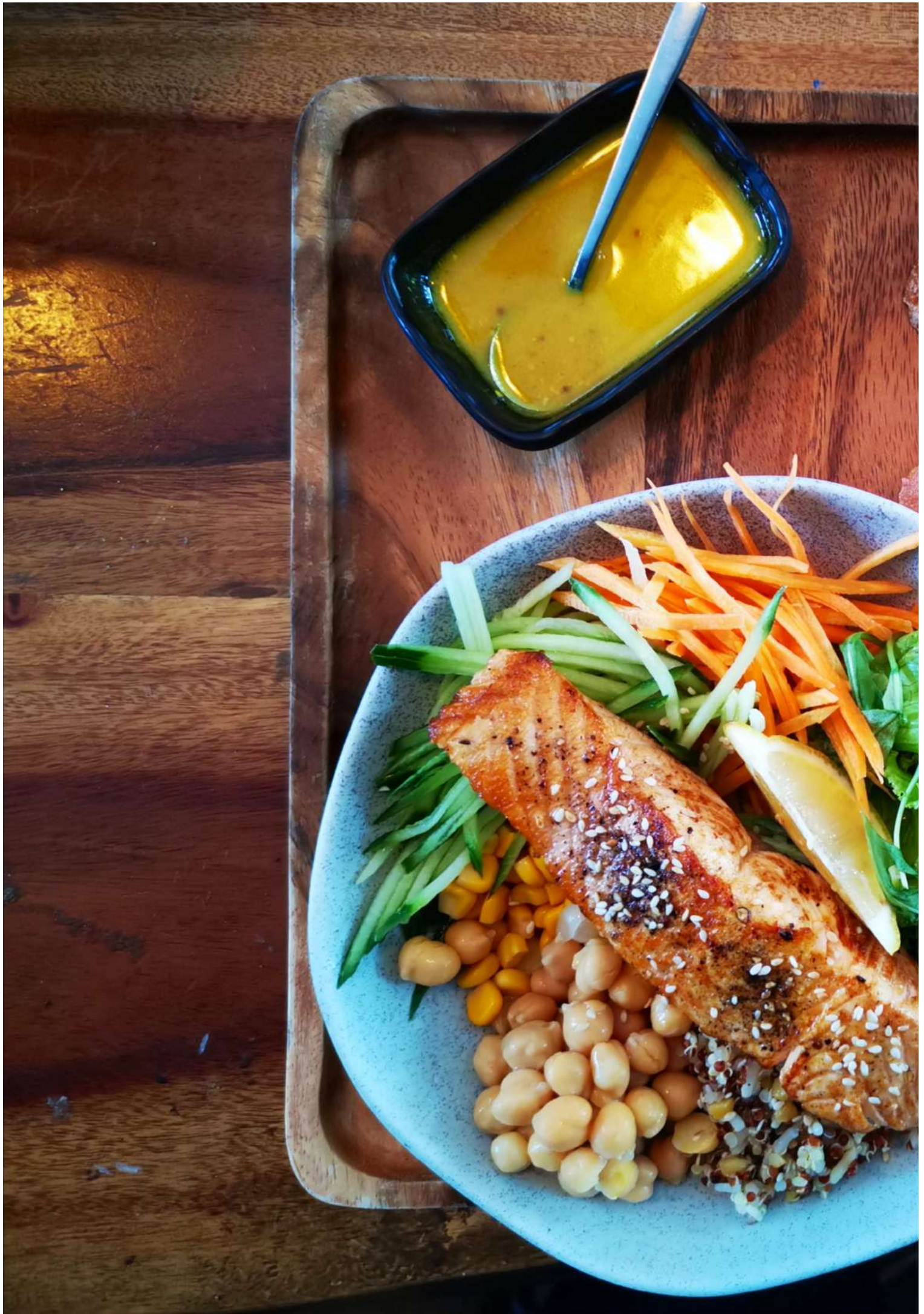
Weather - The Mauritius weather is very pleasant and allows the visitors to have perfect holidays all the year round. You can decide to come to Mauritius at any time of the year and you will be sure to have a comfortable weather during your stay.

Because Mauritius is not far from the Tropic of Capricorn, the sun is at its highest point longer than in other destinations around the globe. This is why Mauritius benefits from many hours of bright sunny skies all year round.

The weather and local climate of the island is of a micro climate, meaning that it can be raining in one part with dark grey skies, while the other part enjoys clear sunny skies. Even if it is raining in the morning, the weather can change quite quickly and the sky will become clear blue in no time.

So, tourists can enjoy the excellent tropical climate all the year round, the white sandy beaches and the turquoise lagoons of the Island of Mauritius.

Mauritius has only two seasons: Summer is from November to April and winter is from May to October.





Tips - On the go

Travel Insurance: Health First

It is always wise to use travel insurance when you are planning an international vacation. If you want to cut down unexpected expenses on your trip to Mauritius then it would be beneficial to get travel insurance done before heading for your holiday.

Is Mauritius Safe: Safety At Par

Mauritius is known for offering a safe and friendly environment to the visitors and it is believed to be amongst the safest destinations in Africa. News of thefts and crime do occur here like any other city of the world, however, the government here maintains a safe environment for the visitors.

How To Reach Mauritius: Best Mode

Before planning a vacation to Mauritius, one must know the best way to reach here. Are you wondering how to go Mauritius from India? There are several direct and indirect ways to reach Mauritius, however, yours best one depends on your budget and preferences! Read on to know the best way to reach Mauritius:

By Air: The easiest and time saving way to reach Mauritius is via air. You can take a direct or an indirect flight to Mauritius as it is well-connected to all the major cities of the world.

Sir Gaëtan Duval Airport situated in Plaine Corail on Rodrigues and Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport are the two international airports of Mauritius and you can choose your flight according to your preferred destination.

By Sea: You can also take a cruise to reach Mauritius. If you are traveling from India then board a cruise to Port Louis from Chennai or Mumbai and enjoy the luxurious stay.

However, it is quite time consuming mode to reach Mauritius and amongst the most expensive one.

If you are thinking that how to travel in Mauritius then you would surely be delighted to know that the island is well connected and you can take a cab or self drive to your destination. You can also board a local ferry or cruise to reach the nearby islands.

Things To Carry: Essentials

“What to pack” is among the most challenging phases of vacationing and this list of things you need to know about Mauritius will surely help you with it. You can't take every essential at home to your trip.

So, know how you can narrow down the stuff to pack and head to Mauritius with a 'cool' you. Here is a quick checklist of important things to take to Mauritius, so that you can enjoy a relaxed vacation, without worrying about what you have left behind.

- Pack light cotton clothes for summers. Keep synthetic fabrics at bay as they could make it extremely uncomfortable in the humid climate of Mauritius. Evenings get slightly cold in Mauritius, especially from May to October. Also, pack light woolens to stay cozy.
- Don't forget to pack swimwear. And please remember that there is a difference between underwear and beachwear. Women should pack swimwear with coordinating sarongs, scarves, sundresses, and kaftans. Keep appropriate dresses for visiting places of worship.
- Keep space for a small umbrella and a lightweight raincoat.
- Flip flop for beaches and flats, whether sandals or shoes, for exploring nature parks, and gardens.
- Pack dive shoes to enjoy snorkeling or paddling to protect your feet from corals.
- Camera to capture the gorgeous landscapes.
- Sunglasses, mosquito or insect repellent, lots of sunscreen lotion, beach bag to carry everyday essentials, prescribed medicines, wipes, lip balm, medicines like Imodium to decrease the frequency of diarrhea, and a pack of tissues.

Tourist Safety Tips: Things Not To Forget

Most Mauritius travel guide from India suggest that it is completely safe to visit Mauritius. And we can not agree more. However, every destination comes with its share of petty crimes and Mauritius is not an exception.

There are some certain things to be careful of in Mauritius.

So, if you are wondering how safe is Mauritius, do's and don'ts mentioned in the list of most important things to know about Mauritius will act as your guiding commandants –

- Ditch Google maps: The trustworthy Google Map is not optimized for Mauritius. So, don't count upon it when you are here. Trust your guide only.
- Drive on the left: Mauritius drives on the left so stay left.
- Don't park on double yellow lines: It is prohibited to park on double yellow lines unless you want to get a parking ticket, which we're sure, you don't.
- Avoid buses after 6 pm: On your leisure day in Mauritius, restrict your activities to 6 pm. As soon as the clock strikes 6 pm, avoid bus trips as a majority of regions are deserted after this time.
- No hike without a guide: Hiking without a guide is a big no-no. Hire one on spot and save yourself from getting stranded in dense jungles.
- Beware of slippery tiles in restrooms: Restrooms in Mauritius don't adhere to the safety rule of using non-slippery tiles. So watch your step.
- Stay healthy: Diarrheal illness is the most common health issue that vacationers in Mauritius face. Keep a hand sanitizer with you always and religiously wash hands before popping something into your mouth.

Avoiding Tourist Traps: Don't Trust Strangers

Ways to avoid tourist traps come as important tips for Mauritius holiday. Although Mauritius is quite safe for travelers, it comes with a fair share of booby tourist traps. So, here are some dos and don'ts in Mauritius that will keep you safe during your vacation:

Luggage thugs at Plaisance airport: As soon as you reach the terminal, several geezers will try to grab your stuff, assuring to help you wade smoothly through swarming tourists. The terminus is not teeming and they are simply lying. Carry your bags as it is almost 50 yards.

Shop like locals: It is recommended to buy water from local shops as hotels charge almost double for water. Price of bottled water ranges from INR 30 to INR 600 as per the location.

Trust only guides: Do not fall for taxi drivers claiming to take you to 'pristine beaches with golden sands' and the likes. This is a major tourist trap as these taxi drivers not only charge exorbitantly but are also paid to get travelers to not-so-touristy-places. AVOID! Stick with your travel guide.

Beach hackers: There is nothing like a private beach in Mauritius. Although hotels colonize sand expanses smartly, know that they don't own any. It is good to ask locals about a good beach and escape crowds.

Local Laws: To Avoid Problems

When in Mauritius, do as the Mauritians do. The following are the Mauritius laws for tourists:

- Mauritians are social people and it is appreciated if you greet them politely. Bonjour and Namaste are the greetings that Mauritians use.
- Although Mauritians are tolerant, Mauritius is a conservative culture. When visiting any of the places of worship, do not show much skin. Women are recommended to cover up their skirts with a sarong.
- There are no nudist public beaches in Mauritius. Going topless on beaches is frowned upon.
- Mauritians are friendly people and are proud of their country. Do not offend the locals by saying anything offending about the culture, food, or region it is one of the most crucial things to consider post reading the things to know about Mauritius.

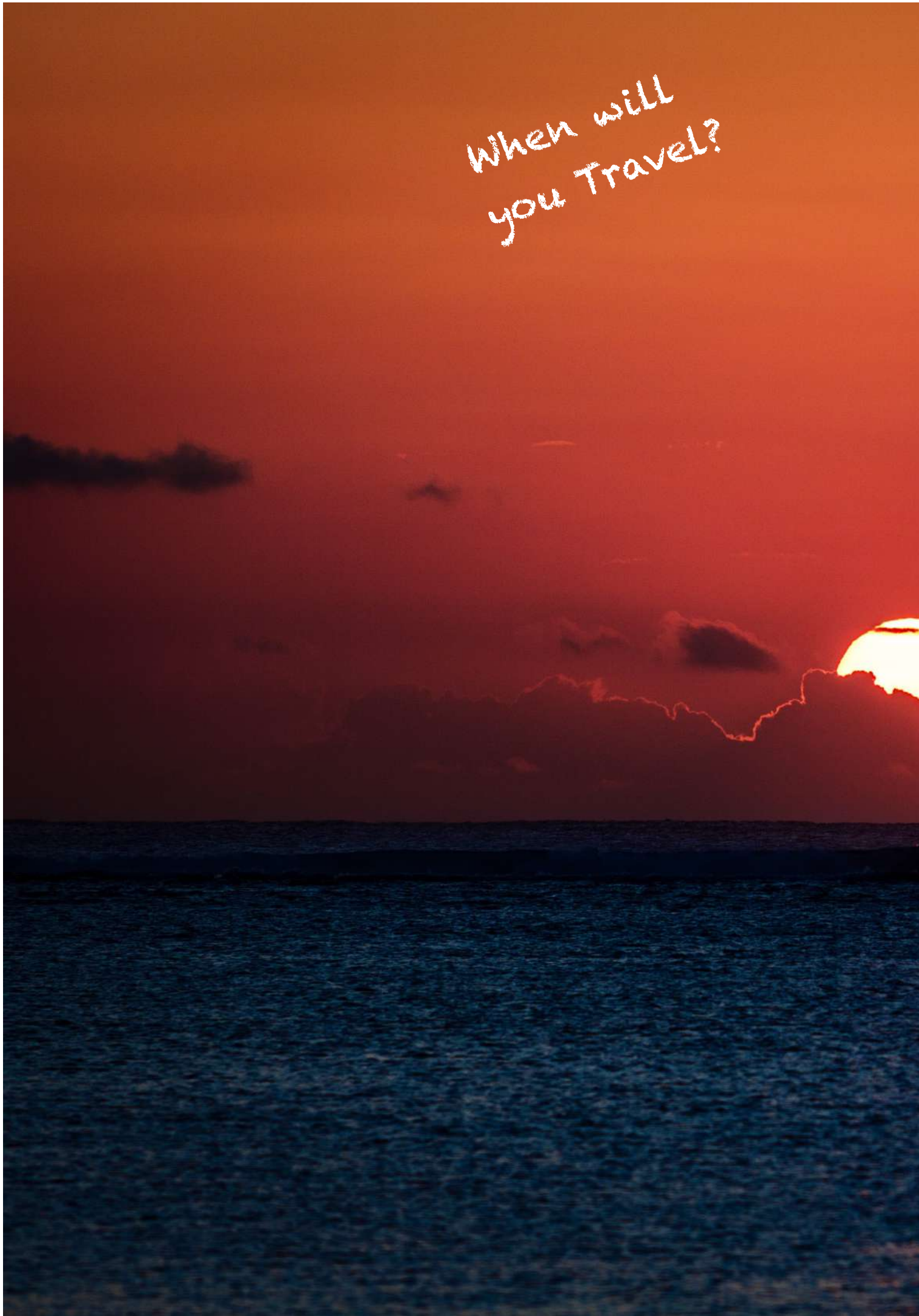
Decoding The Mauritius Travel Code: Your Stay And More!

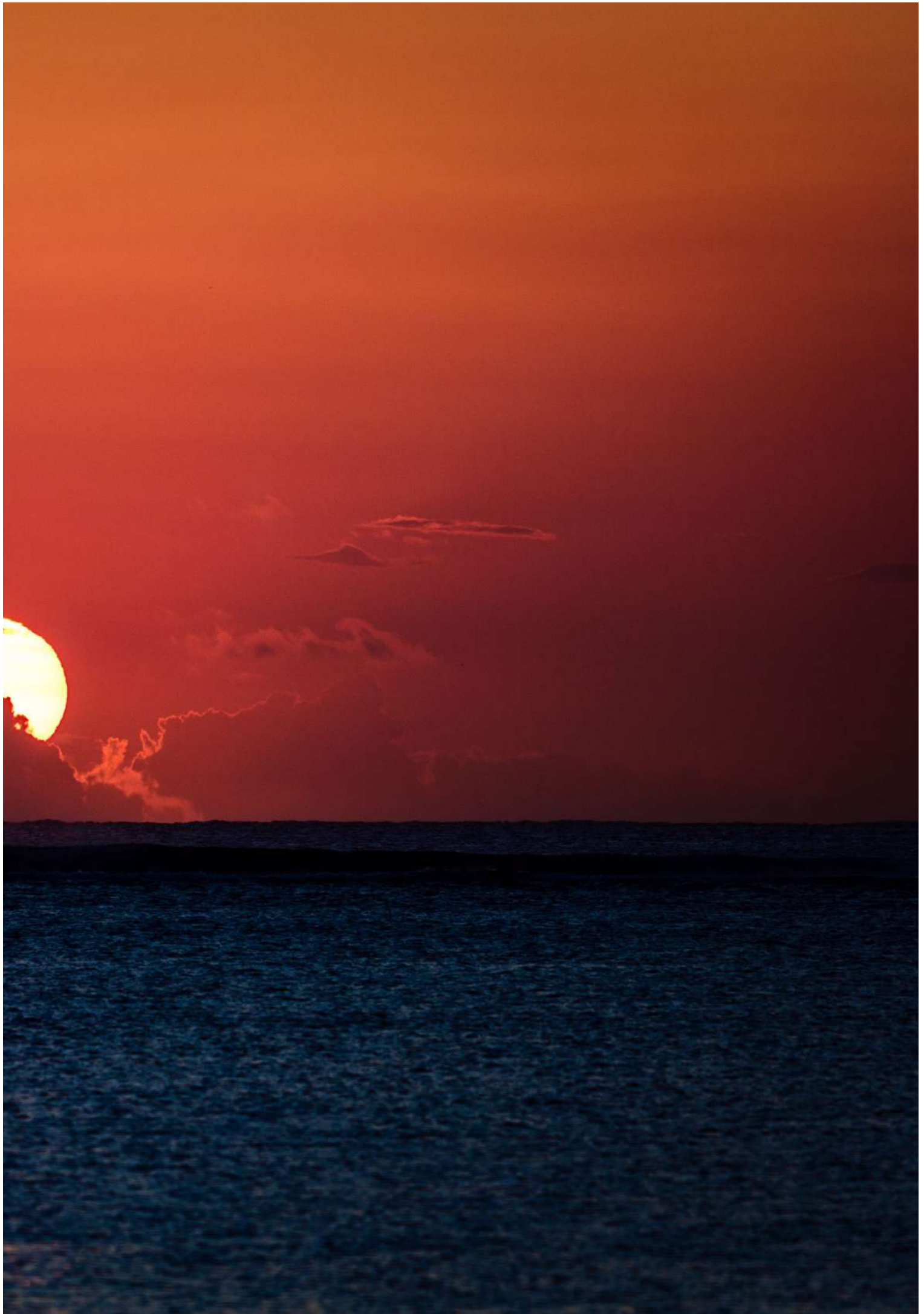
There is no dearth of local transportation to help you explore the island. Board buses, rent bicycles, and ride taxis.

TaxiCab Mauritius, Taxi Mauritius, Taxi Service Mauritius are among the most sought after taxi service providers that you can count upon during your trip. To rent a vehicle, you should be at least 23 years of age and carry a valid driving license.

However, it should be noted that the roads are not paved and that both people and animals may be using the roads as well.

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you Travel?







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