

SEYCHELLES

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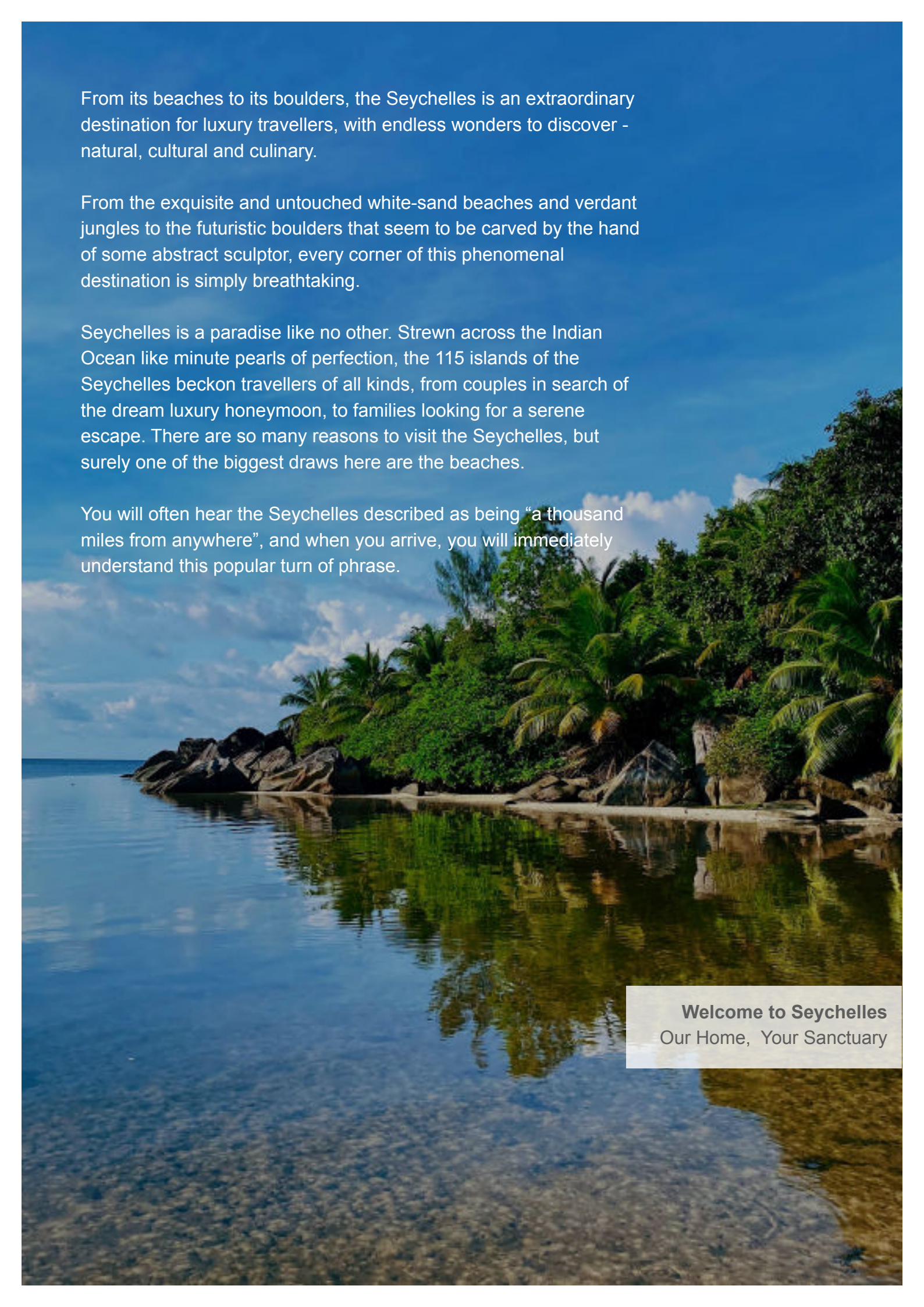


From its beaches to its boulders, the Seychelles is an extraordinary destination for luxury travellers, with endless wonders to discover - natural, cultural and culinary.

From the exquisite and untouched white-sand beaches and verdant jungles to the futuristic boulders that seem to be carved by the hand of some abstract sculptor, every corner of this phenomenal destination is simply breathtaking.

Seychelles is a paradise like no other. Strewn across the Indian Ocean like minute pearls of perfection, the 115 islands of the Seychelles beckon travellers of all kinds, from couples in search of the dream luxury honeymoon, to families looking for a serene escape. There are so many reasons to visit the Seychelles, but surely one of the biggest draws here are the beaches.

You will often hear the Seychelles described as being “a thousand miles from anywhere”, and when you arrive, you will immediately understand this popular turn of phrase.



Welcome to Seychelles
Our Home, Your Sanctuary

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Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.

‘We are real voyagers and love varying voyager’s life!’

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Sanyog Gupta Voyages brings to you finest luxury holidays in Seychelles, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Indulge your passion, arrive in a private jet, travel in a limousine or a yacht, the Opulent Routes Concierge services will weave magic in your holiday experience.

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Sanyog Gupta
President - Sales & Marketing

THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS SEYCHELLES

SEYCHELLES

The Seychelles oozes elegance and luxury with a selection of hotels offering truly world class levels of indulgence. With pristine beaches and sparkling seas on their doorstep, these hotels are the finest in the Seychelles, offering unparalleled relaxation.

IT ALL STARTS WITH
Allo (Hello)

A thousand miles off the coast of Africa, the 115 islands of the Seychelles are scattered like gemstones across the sparkling Indian Ocean.

With swathes of white sandy beaches fringed by palm trees, a Seychelles holiday is as relaxing as it is beautiful. One of our tailor-made holidays to the Seychelles gets you closer to the people and places that make these islands so special.

The seductive Seychelles offer 360-degree unspoilt beauty. Here you'll find coral atolls and islands carpeted with rich vegetation, dominated by rugged granite mountains.

Winding lanes meander through swaying coconut groves, while crystal waters lap the shore. Its reputation for its pristine, untouched environment won't disappoint. Here you can catch glimpses of some of the rarest species on earth. Discover the smallest frog, the heaviest tortoise and the Indian Ocean's only flightless bird.

VICTORIA

THE CAPITAL

In the north-east of Mahé, bordered on one side by steep mountain slopes, is the capital of the Republic of the Seychelles. At first glance, it isn't really clear just how important the city is as the country's cultural and administrative centre; there are only two dozen streets, which not only characterises the cosy feel of the city but of the Seychellois way of life itself.

With the spirit of 'Beauty Acts Silently' coursing through the veins of the city, visitors will struggle to find anything in terms of parking garages, neon signs, or showmanship in general; the city only has two traffic lights! That said, with around 25,000 inhabitants, Victoria is still the largest settlement in the Seychelles, and its only city. Its foundation harks back to the French settler period in 1778, before it was later given its name by the British, after Queen Victoria.

These days, this 'backwater' has grown up, with a small, lively market offering fish, fruit and vegetables, restaurants, offices, banks, and shops. At its eastern edge, Victoria opens up onto the harbour and the ocean, containing the Sainte Anne Marine National Park. The New Pier welcomes cruise ships, large freighters, and tankers, serving as the main trading port for the country. In terms of exports, the Seychelles sells spices, vanilla, coconuts, coconut oil, soap, tuna, and cinnamon bark.

The city's surrounding urban area contains numerous amenities and attractions, including the International Airport, the Botanical Gardens, a university, museums, places of worship, offices belonging to tourism companies, airlines, and banks, and finally a cinema and shops.

In terms of its design, the town is mostly dominated by stone and wooden houses from the early 20th century, which paint a colourful picture thanks to their colourful facades, shutters, and balustrades. Walking through the streets past these buildings, you will surely pick up the scent of various exciting spice aromas, often emanating from small grocery stores where you can stock up on supplies.

LUXURY STAYS



North Island Resort

There are very few island resorts like North Island anywhere in the world: beautiful, private, and offering a fully customizable experience. Its signature style combines natural beauty with sheer indulgence—nothing found here is short of unique and exceptional. It's a place for those seeking an unspoiled, spectacular dream island all for themselves.



Six Senses Zil Pasyon, Felicite

Discover the ecological jewel of Seychelles and private-island home to Six Senses Zil Pasyon.

Coral-fringed beaches and massive granite rocks create an air of drama and beauty in this haven of perpetual summer. Step in tune with nature, swim with turtles and enjoy an intimate destination that is a tropical ode to well-being and absolute comfort.

Four Seasons, Desroches Island

Remote and secluded, yet only 35-minute away (by a small plane) from Mahé, the Desroches Island is perfectly placed to provide an experience of “luxury castaway” — courtesy of Four Seasons. The resort offers forty beach suites with private pools and eleven private residence villas. All are set up as an exclusive destination on a pristine tropical island. Edged by fourteen kilometers of white beach, with wild nature in the interior, it's the ultimate desert-island fantasy.





Four Seasons, Mahe

Perfectly appointed, beautifully designed, and distinguished by a great vacation atmosphere, the Four Seasons Resort Seychelles raises the bar for the tropical beach resort luxury. It's a great choice as much for couples as it is for families.

Anantara Maia, Mahe

High above a magnificent beach of opalescent sand lapped by aquamarine water, amongst swaying palms, lies an opulent hideaway that transcends tropical luxury. This specialty spa resort enjoys a truly idyllic setting—offering a perfect escape from modern life's frenetic pace.



Fregate Island Private

Fregate is often listed among the most exclusive private islands in the world. It is designed as a carefree luxury destination. Surrounded by lush greenery, the resort's pool villas are focused on privacy and are positioned to ensure the best views from their infinity pools. The island has seven gorgeous white-sand beaches and if you fancy having one all to yourself, simply flip the 'Beach Occupied' sign as you descend. And every beach is always ready for you, with a cooler box stuffed with iced drinks, towels, and loungers, any time of the day.

Banyan Tree, Mahe

Commanding a majestic view of the Indian Ocean and overlooking one of the most beautiful beaches we've ever visited, the magnificent Banyan Tree Seychelles delivers a refined luxury and top service in a classic, quasi-colonial property surrounded by tropical greenery. With a top-class spa, secluded pool villas, and a great location, the Banyan Tree Seychelles is an excellent choice for couples and honeymooners.



Raffles Seychelles, Praslin

Located on the beautiful north-eastern tip of Praslin, this luxury resort from one of the most respected hotel brands features eighty-six contemporary villas, each with a private outdoor pavilion and plunge pool. The villas are among the most spacious in Seychelles. They are positioned to take advantage of the resort's privileged location, ensuring breathtaking views of the lush green hills, the beach, and the sea off Praslin.

Constance Lemuria, Praslin

Also located on Praslin, Seychelle's second-largest island, where the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve is located (with the endemic Coco de Mer palms), is the Constance Lemuria Resort. The guest suites of this exclusive property are scattered alongside two pristine beaches, each guest accommodation no farther than fifteen meters from the shore. Constance Lemuria has two three-level swimming pools, access to three beautiful sandy beaches, and its own eighteen-hole championship golf course.





Denis Private Island

Denis Private Island is a self-sufficient, tropical hideaway that will fully connect its guests with nature. Geared towards families with children and proud of its conservationist efforts, this tiny private paradise is covered by a luscious jungle and home to many indigenous bird species, as well as giant tortoises.

Hilton Labriz, Silhouette

With its rugged cliffs, jungles of primeval forest, valleys, and meandering rivers, Silhouette island is spell-binding. Mostly wild and left to its own devices, only a sliver of Silhouette is inhabited. This populated spot is taken up by the Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa, a beautiful resort designed in a simple island-chic style. The villas, located on the beachfront or up on hills, are generously sized and furnished with nods to the Creole vernacular. The hotel boasts a range of experiences and attractions that take advantage of the location.



Constance Ephelia, Mahe

Ephelia is the largest resort in the Seychelles, with 313 rooms and villas, offering many attractions on-site and plenty of activities outside. There are four tennis courts, a squash court, and five shops, and the spa has eighteen treatment rooms. Watersports, yoga lessons, fishing and diving excursions, and even a zip wire are among the attractions. Dining options are varied and attractive, with five restaurants and bars located in the resort or on the two beautiful beaches. There are also several swimming pools placed among the guest rooms.

Maia Luxury Resort, Mahe

With its stunning white sands, sparkling turquoise waters and verdant green hillside, the Seychelles' MAIA Luxury Resort & Spa certainly looks the part of paradise. Occupying a private 30-acre peninsula on Mahé, this hideaway puts a luxurious twist on an all-inclusive getaway.



Le Domaine de L'Orangerie Resort & Spa, La Digue

Becoming one with the landscape is easy at Le Domaine de L'Orangerie Resort & Spa on laid-back La Digue Island. Touting a zen combination of warm wood and cool stone, this contemporary resort is a perfect place to rest your weary head.

Accommodations include 63 private villas mere steps from the gorgeous Anse Severe beach with its glistening sand and rolling ocean waves. The main, lagoon-like infinity pool is large and gorgeous.

Kempinski Baie Lazare, Mahé

Located on the south coast of Mahé, the Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare is nestled in the quiet, secluded bay of the same name. This idyllic location makes Kempinski a fantastic place for diving.

The resort's hill-view rooms offer balconies with vistas of a natural lagoon backed by incredible rock formations, mountains, and a verdant forest. Sea-view rooms are similar but face the ocean, which lies just ahead of the perfectly manicured gardens.





The H Beau Vallon Beach, Mahé

Vacationers flock to The H Resort Beau Vallon Beach for its tranquil waters, pristine beach, and lush forest. The friendly Creole hospitality, healing Sensel Spa treatments, and 100 luxurious suites and villas are added bonuses.

Dhevatara Hotel, Praslin

Dhevatara is the expression of our take of Barefoot Luxury, a new concept to the current trend of a gilded luxury tourism segment. Instead, we believe that high standard of service and respect for Nature can coexist, that the conscious traveler expects an authentic experience, that real luxury is quality time and the chance to take off your shoes and just be yourself. The surrounding lush forests and the Indian Ocean provide the perfect back drop for you to do this. Our ambitious target is simply to provide you with the place and the conditions for harmony to be found and enjoyed. And let Nature do the rest.



Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove, Mahe

Seabirds skim the azure waters of the Indian Ocean, schools of fish flurry just below the surface, and the clear sunlight illuminates the rippling crystal waves. Welcome to the Seychelles, home of the amusingly shaped 'lovenut', the largest seabird colony in the world, and over one thousand species of fish.



Eden Bleu, Mahe

Located alongside the prestige marina of Eden Island and just 3.7 mi away from Seychelles International Airport, Eden Bleu Hotel features an outdoor pool and modern conference and business facilities.

The hotel is within walking distance to the Eden Plaza retail center and commercial precinct where guests can find a variety of shops, a supermarket, a spa and a casino.



Bird Island Seychelles

Bird Island Seychelles - Private Island Villas are self-catering villas nestled among coconut palms of Bird Island's old plantation. The island is a 30-minute flight from Mahe.

The Villas are spread along the western coast of the island and overlooking the natural parkland. The Villas are completely TV and phone free for added relaxation and each bedroom is equipped with a fan, safe, and optional mosquito net. The showers are solar heated.

Cousine Island Seychelles

Cousine Island is an intimate private island in the Seychelles archipelago, accessible via boat transfer or helicopter flight.

The island features French colonial-styled Luxury Villas and one Presidential Villa nestled in the lush endemic vegetation, close to the beach. All villas are individually decorated and equipped with handcrafted furniture. Guests can admire the views from the privacy of their private verandas or relax by the pool.





JA Enchanted, Round Island

Located on a private island off the coast of Mahe, Enchanted Island Resort offers luxury villas nestled in lush local flora on Round Island. It features a swimming pool, spa, fitness facilities and water sports. Free WiFi is available in the villas and public areas.

Enchanted Island Resort can be reached via a 15-minute motorboat transfer from the Mahé jetty and Seychelles International Airport on Mahé is 10 minutes from the jetty.

Savoy Seychelles, Beau Vallon

Located on Beau Vallon Beach, Savoy Resort & Spa offers 2 restaurants, a large 700 sqm outdoor pool and a 24-hour front desk. Central Victoria is a 6-minute drive away. Free WiFi is available.

Culinary cuisine can be enjoyed at Pescado, overlooking the resort's pool while Grand Savoy offers a sumptuous breakfast.



Le Château de feuilles

Located in Baie Sainte Anne, 1 mi from Anse Consolation Beach, Le Château de feuilles provides accommodations with a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool and a bar. Each accommodations at the 5-star hotel has pool views, and guests can enjoy access to a garden and to a terrace. The accommodations offers room service, a concierge service and currency exchange for guests.

Mango House, Mahe

A House with Heritage, Storied & Distinctive; Mango House is nestled deep in the South of Mahé. Directly standing on the oceanfront with direct access to Anse Aux Poules Bleues “Aquarium of wonders”. Mango House is a 30-40 minutes distance by car to and from the Seychelles International airport and approximately 60 minutes from Victoria.

A contemporary and intimate retreat, providing the backdrop to multilayered experiences, creative ingenuity, and expansive views enveloped in the rugged nature of the Seychelles.



Story Seychelles, Mahe

Located in Beau Vallon Beach one of the most luxurious neighbourhoods in the picturesque island of Mahé and only 10 min from Victoria (the capital), 5 min to Morne Seychelles National Park, and 20 to Seychelles International Airport.

Beau Vallon Beach has 3km of white sand beach and turquoise water and it's the only swimmable beach in Mahe all year round.

Alphonse Island

The Alphonse group of atolls is considered one of the most pristine, untouched Edens of the world, making it a nature lover's paradise. The magnificent island threesome comprising of Alphonse, St. François and Bijoutier lies in the very heart of the Indian Ocean as part of the Seychelles outer islands.

Beautiful white beaches line the edges of the dense natural forest, interspersed with the remnants of old commercial coconut groves.



THE ISLANDS



Seychelles' 115 islands fall under two distinct groups. The tall granite, Inner Islands cluster mainly within the relatively shallow Seychelles' plateau, 4° south of the equator and roughly 1800 km. distant from the east coast of Africa while the low-lying coralline cays, atolls and reef islands of the Outer Islands lie mainly beyond the plateau up to 10° south of the equator.

These Outer Islands are divided into five groups: the Amirantes group lying 230km distant from Mahé, the Southern Coral Group, Alphonse Group, Farquhar Group and finally the Aldabra Group, some 1150km from Mahé.

There are 43 Inner Islands in all -- 41 granitic and 2 coralline and a total of 72 coralline Outer Islands.

INNER ISLANDS

The Inner Islands which are mostly granitic, cluster mainly around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, forming the cultural and economic hub of Seychelles, as well as the centre of its tourism industry.

Together they are home to the majority of Seychelles' accommodation facilities as well as almost the entire population of the archipelago.

There are 43 Inner islands in total, 41 granitic and 2 coralline.

Below is the list of Inner Islands that would be of interest to you.

Please select accordingly.

Islands with accommodation

Main Islands: Mahé, Praslin, La Digue

Others: Bird Island, Cerf, Chauve Souris, Cousine, Denis Island, Frégate, North Island, Round Island (Praslin), Silhouette and Ste. Anne.

Islands without accommodation

Anonyme, Aride, Conception, Cousin, Curieuse, Félicité, Grande Soeur, Ile Cocos, Long Island, Moyenne, Petite Soeur, Round Island and St. Pierre.

OUTER ISLANDS

The Outer Islands are those situated beyond the Seychelles plateau. They comprise 72 low-lying sand cays and atolls lying anywhere between 230km and 1150km from Mahé.

Less visited than their granitic cousins due to their relative remoteness, these pristine miniature worlds, some little more than sand spits or lonely rocky outcrops, offer untouched habitats for many species of wildlife.

Only one island among the Outer Island groups, namely Alphonse, currently offers accommodation facilities.

It boasts luxuriously appointed lodges as well as unparalleled opportunities for sailing, fishing and diving in places where few have gone before.

Select from list the below:

Aldabra Group: Aldabra Atoll, Assumption, Astove and Cosmoledo Atoll.

Amirantes Group: African Banks, D'Arros, Desroches, Poivre Atoll, Remire, St. Joseph Atoll.

Southern Coral Group: Coëtivy, Platte.

Alphonse Group: Alphonse, Bijoutier, St François.

Farquhar Group: Farquhar Atoll, Providence Atoll.

EXPLORE SEYCHELLES

Stunning and unspoiled, the Seychelles star in countless tropical island fantasies. Beautiful boulder-strewn beaches, virgin jungles, thriving coral reefs, and UNESCO-listed nature reserves are just some of the many attractions of the archipelago's 115 coral and granite islands, which are the peaks of a vast underwater plateau.

The Seychelles lie east of Kenya, near the equator. Almost half their total land area is protected, and many of the islands and atolls are contained within marine sanctuaries. Popular things to do in the Seychelles include hiking the mountain trails, basking on the ravishing beaches, rock climbing, photographing the unique flora and fauna, and dining on mouthwatering Créole cuisine.

Aquatic pursuits abound in the clear, azure water. Diving, snorkeling, surfing, and sailing are all world class, and the Seychelles encompass some of the richest fishing grounds in the world.

ATTRACTIONS



The larger granitic inner islands of the Seychelles (primarily Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue) are the most developed for tourists, with many luxury five-star Seychelles resorts.

Mahé is home to the small capital, Victoria, as well as the international airport, the cruise ship port, and the beautiful Morne Seychellois National Park.

On Praslin Island, you can explore the UNESCO-listed Vallée de Mai, while sleepy La Digue shelters some of the Seychelle's most breathtaking beaches. The outer islands are mainly uninhabited, low-lying sand cays and small coralline islands and atolls. Fishing is superb here, and anglers will find exclusive fishing lodges on Alphonse Island and Farquhar Atoll.

No matter what you choose to do in these sublime islands, learn more about the best places to visit with our list of the top attractions in the Seychelles.

ACTIVITIES

The spectacular archipelago of Seychelles is a perfect kaleidoscope of natural splendors. Lofty mountains, lush green plantations, sparkling ocean water, sizzling beaches, and glittering lagoons - Seychelles has it all.

Besides admiring the amazing landscape, there is a mind-blowing range of best things to do in Seychelles. You can hike mountain trails, rock climb, take unique pictures of flora and fauna and more. If you are planning a getaway to this bewitching place then your itinerary is incomplete without top activities that you should indulge in.

So, check out these top activities to do in Seychelles to make your vacation more happening.

BEACHES

Whoever coined the term "paradise" must have visited the Seychelles. An area of unbeatable beauty boasting many of the world's best beaches, this utopian archipelago lies off the east coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

In addition to its sparkling turquoise waters, abundant sea turtles, and an underwater world teeming with life, the sand on these impressive strands is so soft, it soothes sore feet. Add a stunning backdrop of lush forests, giant boulders, and verdant hills, and you'll begin to grasp the extent of the area's perfection.

With 115 islands comprised of unspoiled, picture-perfect beaches, it can be hard to decide which to visit for a honeymoon, and what strand to choose for those traveling with kids.

A few of the best Seychelles beaches are home to luxurious resorts. These lovely spots are all so spectacular we bet you can't choose just one! Narrow down your search for nirvana with our list of the best beaches in the Seychelles.

WALKS & TRAILS


Hiking is the best way to experience Seychelles islands local colour and sights. While walking through breathtaking landscapes you can discover the treasures of this living museum up-close and find yourself alone amidst unspoilt nature.

It is one of the best tourist activities to indulge in because the rocky terrain and endemic diversity make it magnificently beautiful. The trails are all well-marked. Mahe, La Digue and Praslin island are made of granite and have some amazing mountainous terrain.

The majority of the inner islands of Seychelles are all made of granite, including Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, which are the three most populated islands. This means that although the beaches are stunningly white and sandy, the middle of the islands are mountainous.

There are some amazing hikes to be found in the rocky middles of these islands, so get ready to experience the best hiking trails in the Seychelles.

ISLAND HOPPING

A close-up photograph of a hermit crab on a sandy beach. The crab is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing towards the right. Its shell is a light brown color with some darker spots. The background is a blurred expanse of sand, suggesting a beach environment. The lighting is warm, likely from the sun being low in the sky, creating a golden glow over the scene.

What sets Seychelles apart from so many other holiday destinations is its wide variety of islands -- each one with its own particular geography, character and history. Whether you choose a day excursion to one of the many Inner granitic islands, or an extended stay on one of our exotic island hideaways, Seychelles has something exceptional to offer for everybody.

Experiencing more than one island during your stay is a must and will add a dimension to your holiday experience that you will never forget.

Whatever your choice, a regular network of air and sea transport operating out of the principal island of Mahé will cater for most itineraries. Ferry services, domestic flights and even helicopter transfers are also available on a daily basis to many of the islands.

SPECIAL INTEREST

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a tropical beach. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with soft clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains or hills. The foreground shows the dark, wet sand of the beach.

Sensual Seychelles, home to the unique Vallée de Mai, claimed by some to be the original site of the Garden of Eden, has long been dubbed the 'islands of love' - a place where romance is as natural as the waves caressing the shores of a secret cove at midnight.

Seychelles is a place of safety and serenity, where an astonishingly surreal beauty and a languid pace of life conspire with an enviable tropical climate and welcoming people to provide a unique backdrop for those tender romantic experiences.

Enjoy all the diversity in accommodation that Seychelles has to offer, from charming Creole guesthouses, intimate hotels both large and small, to the magical experience of sumptuous five star resorts and exquisite island hideaways.

Celebrate your special moment with us. Be it a wedding, honeymoon or an anniversary, unforgettable Seychelles holds the key to your dreams of romance in paradise.

WEDDING & HONEYMOONS



Make a rendezvous with destiny and exchange your wedding vows amid the breathtaking and naturally seductive ambience of the islands of love.

Whether in the beautiful grounds of your hotel, beneath swaying palms by the beach, on a yacht heading into a magical sunset, or on one of our several enchanting island getaways, you will be spoilt for choice when it comes to venues of heart-stopping beauty.

Share your celebration with your family and friends by having them present to witness your union. Or, if you prefer total intimacy, then say 'I do' in splendid solitude just the two of you.

Either way you will be swept off your feet by the attentions of the dedicated team of professionals, there to ensure that your wedding is organised to the very last detail of your dreams, leaving you free to savour the moment and cherish the memories for a lifetime.

Make the ultimate choice in romance, assured in the knowledge that there is no better place on earth to celebrate your commitment to each other.

FISHING

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VENTURE FAR FROM SEYCHELLES' SHORES TO BREAK FISHING RECORDS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO.

International sport and recreational fishermen enthusiastically return each year to these waters that already boast world records for striped bonito, bonefish, giant guitarfish, bigeye trevally, bluefin trevally, giant trevally, moustache grouper, humpheadmaori wrasse and dogtooth tuna.



Seychelles has some of the richest fishing grounds in the world. The abundance of wahoo, sailfish, dorado, tuna, rainbow runner and trophies such as marlin, make for an unforgettable big-game fishing experience for both the seasoned and novice fisherman alike.

Traditional bottom-fishing produces a dazzling array of grouper, job fish, snappers and emperors, rewarding you with some of the finest tasting fish on offer anywhere in the world.

Seychelles has become the epicenter of salt-water fly-fishing and casting your fly lines on the magnificent shallow flats of the Outer Islands will afford you the chance of landing several energetic silver bonefish to challenge the record books. Blue-water fly-fishing is also becoming increasingly popular, providing the ultimate challenge of landing large pelagic fish on relatively light tackle.

Fishing around the islands

The Inner Islands consist of 41 granitic islands that form a cluster around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, some with peaks rising nearly 1,000m high. Interestingly, there are also two low-lying coral islands, namely Denis Island and Bird Island within the Inner Islands. These islands offer a variety of fishing grounds that are easily reached by Seychelles' fleet of modern fishing craft and whose crew each have their own favorite spots where they will be happy to introduce both the fishing aficionado and novice to the thrills of deep-sea and bottom-fishing.

Fishing Types

Whether you are an experienced sports fisherman or an enthusiastic beginner, you will be thrilled by the opportunities that Seychelles' fish-rich waters offer. Try your hand at big-game fishing and the unforgettable experience of trolling in pristine, azure waters from a range of modern fishing boats. Experienced crew will help you exceed your fishing expectations beyond your imagination. Alternatively, you can try fly-fishing in the shallow waters surrounding the Inner Islands or even practice the art of blue-water fly-fishing.

The Catch

The fishing grounds around the Inner Islands offer both the big-game and fly-fisherman a varied catch that includes the spectacular marlin, sailfish, wahoo, greater barracuda, rainbow runner, milkfish, bonefish, trevally, barracuda and jobfish as well as varieties of bonito and tuna. The bottom-fisherman, meanwhile, can pit his skills against snappers, coral-trouts, seabass and groupers - just a few of the spectacular species to be found around the Inner Islands.

Fishing Tips

It seems that the Seychelles was deliberately designed for all types of fishing are filled. With most islands lying situated outside the cyclone belt, Seychelles allow to engage in fishing throughout the year in a marine area of more than 1.4 million km², with water fish around 115 shimmering Islands archipelago. With such a diversity of choice for fishing, your fishing experience in Seychelles promises to be exceptionally successful.

Fishing Season

Seychelles, fishing is any appreciable throughout the year is divided into specific seasons, each suitable for a more specific type of fishing but remains promising for the experienced as well as for the novice fisherman.

SAILING

CRUISE THE IDYLIC INNER ISLANDS OF SEYCHELLES..... BY SCHOONER OR CATAMARAN

Since the 9th century, when intrepid Arab seafarers first sailed the then uncharted waters off the east coast of Africa, Seychelles' waters have been visited by a succession of sailors under a host of different flags. Phoenician traders, Polynesian adventurers, a Chinese flotilla and pirates - all navigated the Seychelles archipelago, leaving little behind except footprints in silver sands and tales of buried treasure.

Today, Seychelles welcomes a new generation of sailors to its pristine waters to enjoy the myriad treasures that have remained wonderfully intact since the occupants of Arab dhows first wondered at these islands' astonishing beauty.

115 sparkling and diverse isles set like gemstones in an azure sea and offering year-round sailing combines with international and local charter companies that provide a wide selection of specialized craft, both skippered and bareboat, to offer the sailing experience of a lifetime.



Sailing Area

The Seychelles archipelago lies between 4° and 10° south of the Equator in the Indian Ocean and comprises 1,400,000 square km of azure ocean with 115 pristine islands that fall into 2 distinct groups, the Inner and Outer Islands and that lie for the most part, outside the cyclone belt.

The Inner Islands consist of 41 granitic islands that form a cluster around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, some with peaks rising nearly 1,000m high. Interestingly, there are also 2 low-lying coral islands, namely Denis Island and Bird Island within the Inner Islands.

The remaining 72 low-lying coral islands are known as the Outer Islands and extend mainly in a gleaming arc towards the coast of Africa.

Together, these form 6 distinct island groups: the Inner Islands, the Amirantes, Southern Coral, Alphonse, Farquhar and Aldabra ... all lying between 260 miles and 865 miles from the east African coast.

Sailing around Inner Islands

Enjoy the experience of a lifetime sailing the Seychelles' Inner Islands, where safe moorings and easy sailing distances will open up a world of diversity and breathtaking natural beauty to be explored the way it was intended...under sail.

Sailing around Outer Islands

Journey to Seychelles' sparkling Outer Islands, where precious few have gone before and where you can rise to the challenges of longer sailing distances and few, if any, of the numerous amenities found around the Inner Islands. Here is where true adventure lies, amid the azure world of the open ocean and the turquoise of remote lagoons.

Sailing Tips

It is as if Seychelles was deliberately designed for the recreational sailor. With most islands lying outside the cyclone belt, Seychelles offers year round sailing in calm waters. There is no better way to enjoy a dazzling array of islands than by cruising its pristine waters and exploring the extraordinary bounty of Seychelles at your own pace.

DIVING

SEYCHELLES OFFERS DIVERSE AND IMPRESSIVE DIVING OPPORTUNITIES.

With 115 islands scattered across the Indian Ocean between 4° and 10° south of the Equator, Seychelles offers diverse and impressive diving opportunities.

The Inner Islands, remains of a submerged mountain range, rest on a shallow plateau with prolific marine life and excellent PADI diving facilities available to access a multitude of dive sites.

The Outer Islands to the south of the archipelago are all coralline or sand cays and mainly uninhabited, presenting the experienced diver with excellent opportunities to explore where few have gone before.



Seasons & Conditions

Diving is possible all year round but is governed by an island's position and the prevailing winds. Generally speaking, the best conditions for both the Inner and Outer Islands are in the calm periods, April-May and October-November, when the water temperature can rise to 29°C and offers excellent (up to 30 metres) visibility.

In December and January, the north-west winds blow but conditions remain much the same as in the calm periods, with the exception of greater surface movement and some localised turbidity.

From May to September the winds are stronger and blow south-easterly. Visibility and temperature may thus drop during August with water temperatures of around 25°C. A wet suit of at least 4mm is necessary.

Unlike the Inner Islands, some of the more southerly Outer Islands are close to the cyclone belt, and during these months they can experience extremely rough conditions on occasion.



Dive Types & Depths

With 43 Inner Islands to choose from, variety is the order of the day. All of these northerly islands offer impressive granite reef locations where the sculptured rocks can be covered with soft corals and sponges, and fish life is prolific, due to the archipelago's isolation and also strict conservation rules.

Marine Life

The Inner Islands' marine life reveals an abundance of fish even on shallow inshore reefs and features different types of Butterfly fish and Angel fish, Soldier fish, Squirrel fish and Sweepers among many others. The island reefs are also havens for many invertebrates including Octopus, Spiny Lobster and a plethora of Nudibranchs, such as the Spanish Dancer.

Diving Tips

Seychelles offers year round diving experiences in waters mainly outside the cyclone belt and dive centers around the country cater for novice and experienced divers alike, offering a number of specialised courses.

Divers should bring proof of certification and medical clearance for any medical problem.

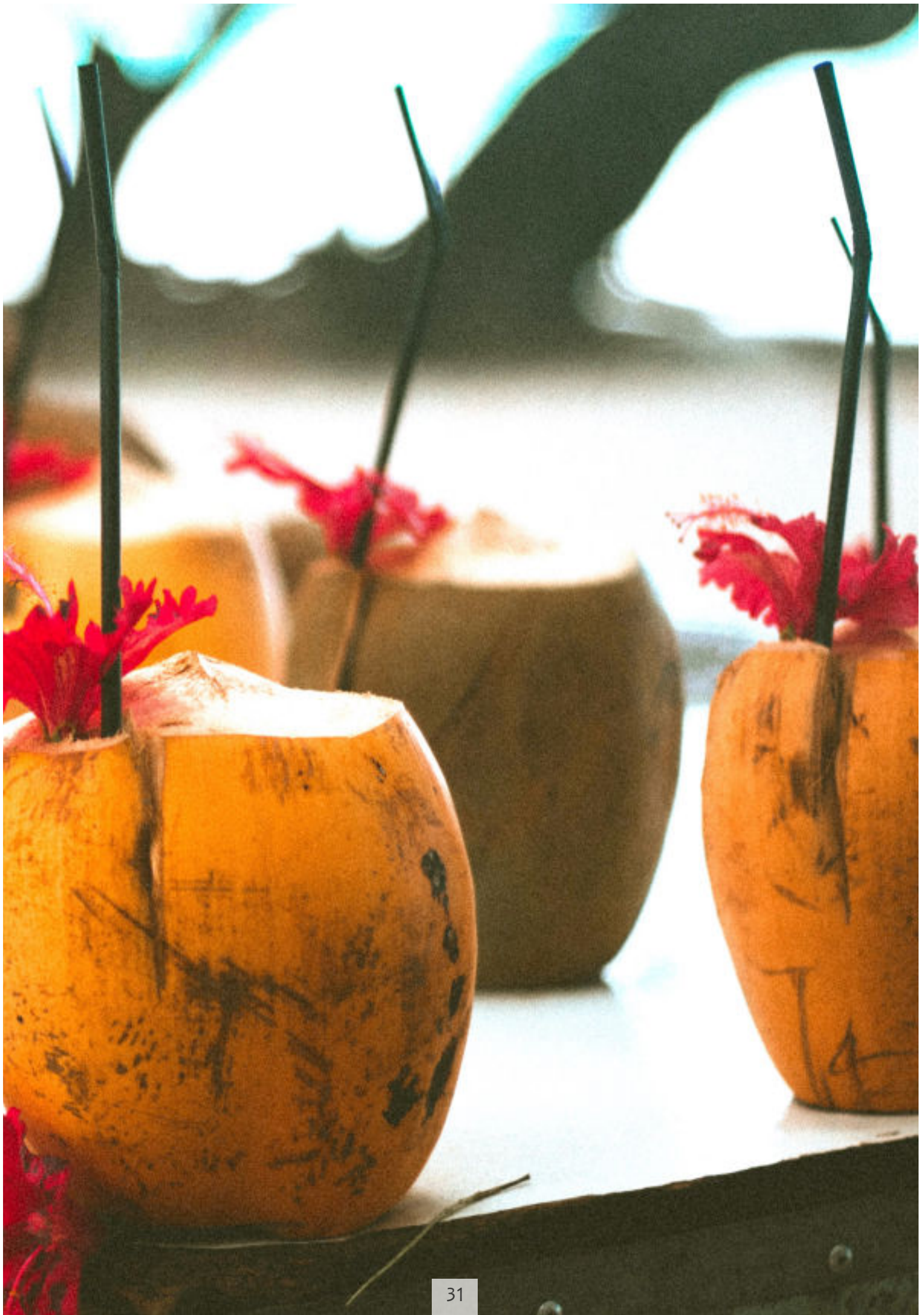
Most dive centres offer modern dive equipment rental and service facilities. However, repair facilities for divers' own gear may be limited, subject to availability of specific spare parts.

Certification & Medical

Divers need to bring proof of certification to be allowed to dive. However, those who have lost or forgotten their certification cards or log-books may be allowed to dive with a Dive master to a maximum depth of 12 metres, at the discretion of the dive centre.

Those planning to take a diving course who have had a previous medical problem, should obtain and bring with them a certificate from their doctor indicating that they are fit to dive. Local physicians in Seychelles are able to perform a diving medical if required.





YOUR FIRST VISIT

GENERAL ITINERARY IDEA

Seychelles is so much more than just a beautiful destination with divine, world-beating beaches, clear azure waters and an amazing ecology. You will discover that there's truly surprising diversity to be enjoyed with, literally, a new experience around every corner.

If you're into relaxation and just kicking back and enjoying the down-time, Seychelles has all you'll ever need, from a selection of over 65 beaches on the island of Mahé alone, where to enjoy uncrowded, silver sands framed by some of the oldest granite boulders on earth. Just the place to acquire the special glow of a Seychelles' tan, refreshed by dips into crystal waters or even a snorkel to introduce you to the amazing world just beneath the waves. There is also a host of great excursions and activities to choose from which highlight the many enchanting sights, sounds and experiences of the islands.

Mahé, the principal island, is home to the international airport and Victoria, the world's tiniest capital and is the cultural and economic hub of the nation. Here can be found most of the islands' tourism facilities in the form of the greatest selection of accommodation, cultural and eco-tourism hotspots, great restaurants, bars, café's and casinos as well as dive centres, car, fishing & sailing boat rentals and walks & trails.



But Mahé is just one island among many for you to enjoy because Seychelles is a destination made up of 115 island jewels, each with its own character, secrets and story to tell. Island-hopping between the 16 islands currently offering accommodation is easy too, with scheduled plane and ferry services to suit just about any itinerary. And, wherever you decide to stay, either in a 5-star cocoon of luxury or in any one of a selection of charming small hotels, self-caterings or picturesque Creole guesthouses, you will be met with courteous service and the friendly smile of a people who live in harmony and reassuringly close to their roots.

Your first stop might be Praslin, Seychelles' second largest island where the vegetation is so special it was once seriously believed to be the original site of the Garden of Eden. A few steps into the extraordinary forest known as the Vallée de Mai will show you why. Here, in this ancient forest of towering palms grows the incredible Coco-de-Mer palm which produces fruits that are Nature's exact replica of the female pelvis while one of the world's rarest birds, the Seychelles Black Parrot, flits back and forth in the twilight. After a stroll through this legendary glade you will be ready for a swim at one of the most famous beaches on earth, the achingly beautiful Anse Lazio, just one of many places where you can also enjoy memorable Creole cuisine within sight of the ocean and with your feet in the sand.

La Digue Island is merely a 30 minute ferry ride from Praslin and, as you set foot on this magical island where the main forms of transport are still bicycle and ox-cart, you will feel yourself transported back to yesteryear. Steeped in tradition, La Digue is one of the most popular spots for enjoying a unique, island-style way of life at a wonderfully unhurried pace.

Or, you might wish to follow your imagination to more distant horizons where low-lying coral isles and magnificent atolls have been cast like inviting stepping-stones across the waters of the Indian Ocean. Several romantic island hideaways now boast excellent facilities either in sumptuous resorts offering elegant accommodation amid surrounds of breathtaking natural beauty or in rustic island lodges with homely beachside cottages. All will offer you adventure, great cuisine and the opportunity to experience the very best that unspoiled Nature has to offer.

Seeking adventure on the ocean? Seychelles offers some of the finest sailing on earth with easy sailing distances, safe moorings and myriad islands, near and far, for you to discover.

SAILING THE ARCHIPELAGO

SAILING ITINERARY IDEA



God seems to have designed Seychelles with the sailor in mind! There can be few better ways to explore their hidden coves secret beaches and to savour their enviable tranquility than by sailing or motor yacht.

Seychelles naturally lends itself to travel over water and you can marvel at its stunning natural beauty in exactly the same way as the very first visitors to her shores the intrepid Arab mariners of the 9th century A.D riding the wind on calm ocean waters as the timeless beauty of her isles drifts ever so slowly by.

Sunday: We propose you begin a voyage of discovery around Mahé, principal island of Seychelles and home to the capital, Victoria, the port and international airport.

This imposing, verdant granite island whose topmost peak towers to over 900m boasts over 65 beaches and a cluster of picturesque islands bordering the Ste. Anne Marine Park. Sailing around Mahé (18mi by 5mi) will take you on a memorable voyage past the island's scenic northern coastline and L'Ilot islet to famous Beau Vallon with its magnificent strand and wide range of tourism facilities where you may wish to spend the night at anchor or, perhaps, on shore savoring mouthwatering Creole dishes at one of Beau Vallon's many restaurants.

Monday: It's Monday morning in Paradise and time to venture northwards to Silhouette, Seychelles' third largest island. As you leave Beau Vallon Bay behind you and slip out into the azure ocean it might be a good idea to leave a fishing line in the water. The waters surrounding these islands are renowned for their great fishing and there's the chance of having some of the tastiest fish around on your plate for lunch before continuing onwards towards beautiful North Island with its beaches of heart-stopping beauty - a great place to spend the night.

Tuesday: It's time to tear yourself away from North Island's rugged beauty and sail back in the direction of Beau Vallon and then on down Mahé's savagely beautiful west coast where the splendid beaches of Grand Anse, Petit Anse, Takamaka and Intendance await. As you'll experience some difficulty choosing which one is the prettier, it's a good idea to make a stop at each one, enjoy a swim or a snorkel in warm crystal waters or even have a late lunch at a nearby beachside restaurant where seafood delicacies abound.

Wednesday: Leaving Mahé behind you, you head for Praslin, Seychelles' 2nd largest island, 26 miles distant, sailing past the twin island gems of Cousin and Cousine on the way. Once known as Ile des Palmes (Palm Island) on account of its dense coconut groves and lush vegetation, Praslin is home to one of Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the fabulous Vallée de Mai where the wondrous Coco-de-Mer grows high on ancient palms in a primeval valley.

Thursday: It will not be long before you are lured towards the neighboring island of La Digue where, it is said, time stands still and where the traditional ox cart and bicycle are still the main modes of transport. Here, you will find one of the world's most famous - and certainly most-photographed beaches, Anse Source d'Argent, along with relics of another age - a cemetery of the first settlers, a working Calorifer or oven for refining coconut, giant tortoise pen and magnificent Creole mansion.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Wending your way ever northwards, you leave the realm of the granite islands for the glimmering world of the coral isles of Bird and Denis located some 52mi north of Mahé. Here you will be greeted by the sight of seabird colonies, nesting turtles, silver surf and golden sands. These islands are situated on the edge of the shallow Seychelles bank where the ocean plummets to 2000m and where world-beating opportunities for fishing go hand in hand with memorable swimming and snorkeling in super-clear waters and diving where few have ventured.

ROMANCING THE ISLES

ROMANCE ITINERARY IDEA



Wherever you're staying, you'll probably be lying in even though a beach near you is sure to be hosting a fabulous sunrise, just for you. Either way, you'll be needing breakfast and there's no better way to start the day than ordering a Seychelles fruit breakfast from your hotel reception. Perhaps with a bottle of champagne and some fresh orange juice?

If you haven't already, why not hire a car and take your love on a journey of discovery through Mahé? Make your way to Victoria, allowing your senses to come alive to the sights and sounds of the Seychellois way of life as you stroll the narrow streets. Stop for a delicious cappuccino at the Rendez-vous restaurant, just next to the clock tower, from where you can watch the world go ever so slowly by. Perhaps even buy a souvenir or two or an item of local jewelry from a nearby boutique.



From Victoria, take to the hills on the Sans Souci road, feeling the temperature cool as you wend your way into the mountains on a road that offers so many amazing views. Right at the summit, turn right into the Mission Lodge, a spectacular viewing point over the coast of west Mahé, built on the ruins of an ancient school for slave children.

When you've finished feasting your eyes on the beauty that surrounds you, continue over the hill and down the other side, past the tea plantation and, lower still, one of the finest views of Mahé there is.

When you arrive at the coast road, turn left past the Mahé Beach Hotel until you arrive at the beautiful beach of Grand Anse where you will probably find yourselves alone as you stroll along its golden sands. From there, continue down the coast until you arrive at Anse a La Mouche bay, a great place for a refreshing dip followed by a cool drink at Anchor Café.

An absolute must is Julien's at Anse Soleil, enjoying a long swim in the ocean as it laps against one of the island's most stunning beaches. Take your time, and soak up the ambiance before making your way to table in the early evening to savour the best in seafood cuisine with your feet in the sand.

If you still have energy left, there's a Casino (long trousers for the men, please) on the other side of the island at Beau Vallon for you to try your luck.

Oh, and don't forget to try a shot of Coco D'amour, the delicious local liquor, before bed.

TIGHT LINES IN SEYCHELLES WATERS

FISHING ITINERARY IDEA

For starters, why not charter any one of the great fishing boats available and head, with its experienced crew, in a south easterly direction until you reach the Turcos Bank which is teeming with the ultimate mixed bag: tuna, jack, dorado, barracuda, streaker, kingfish, sailfish and marlin. You can even stop along the way and try your hand at the local method of fishing - 'palangrotte' or bottom-fishing.

This art of literally, 'fishing off the bottom,' involves baiting a long, weighted line which you then let drift to the ocean floor to a depth of around 50 metres. You'll be surprised at the fish that will take your bait; groupers, bream, rock cod, barracuda, emperors, snappers and shark. This method will bring some of the tastiest fish around to your table. Be sure to ask the crew to filet a freshly caught tuna or bonito for the ultimate sushi platter and wash that down with an ice cold beer as you wait for the next strike.



You might even consider picking a spot closer to shore and trying your luck at night fishing for 'bekin' or pick-handled barracuda which is an exciting fish to catch and a delicious one to 'Bar-B-Q'.

The waters around Silhouette Island are especially fish-rich and a great place to fish sailfish when the season is right. There are also some superb bottom-fishing spots in the location. Fishing around Praslin and La Digue promises a good variety of catch with some stunning scenery to boot, or you might wish to head north to the twin coral isles of Denis and Bird which is serious marlin country.

An expedition down to the Amirantes, or beyond to Alphonse, will take you into the remoter, little-fished waters of the Outer Islands where you might even get your name into the record books. The flats of the St. Francois and St. Joseph atolls are also becoming a Mecca for serious fly-fishermen the world over on account of the record bone fish and trevally that have been caught there.

Whatever your compass heading, you'll find excellent fishing in pristine, uncrowded waters where there's still plenty of room for adventure.

TAKING THE PLUNG IN SEYCHELLES

DIVING ITINERARY IDEA



Why not take the plunge with any one of our dive centres and explore the wonders of Seychelles' underwater world, where limpid waters combine with spectacular seascapes and a plethora of marine life forms to thrill both experienced diver and novice alike.

There's a wide choice of dive operators available throughout the islands, both land-based and live-aboard, so, wherever you roam, the chances are you'll be able to dive.

Each dive centre will have its favourite spots based featuring extraordinary scenery, amazing marine life or both combined. Most dive centres are located right on the beachfront from where a short ride in your wonderfully uncrowded dive boat will bring you within reach of a host of diving sites offering unforgettable diving experiences.



A shallow-water expedition into the Ste. Anne marine park, surrounded by the splendour of its encircling islands will introduce you to a whole variety of fish. Turtle rocks, just off the east coast of Mahé, is famous for its stingrays, sharks and soldier fish while the 'Vista' and 'Sunset' rocks to the north-west are host to crayfish, octopus, snapper and scorpion fish.

Advanced divers can look forward to the delights of the famous 'Ennerdale', 'Twin Barges' and 'Dredger' wrecks with their sharks, groupers, rays and pelagics. If drift diving is what you're after then look no further than the 'Lighthouse' known for its coral formations, but also hosting many reef fish with hawksbill turtles and moray eels also often present at this site.

If you're heading to the south of Mahé, then you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to great diving venues such as the magnificent granite topography of the 'Jail House' rock or the beautiful corals of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Some diving operators offer such value added activities as beach bar-b-q's or picnics on some secret beach where to relax and swap stories of some of the best diving around. Others offer the thrill of night dives in welcoming moonlit waters. It's a good idea to combine a dive with such complementary activities which are guaranteed to fill your days and give you the memories of a lifetime.

Live-aboard dive operators give you the opportunity of traveling further afield to Praslin and La Digue. Also to islands with magical names such as Desroches where fabulous canyon and cave dives await or Alphonse, with its drop and profusion of magnificent corals.

Further on still lies the ultimate prize - Aldabra - UNESCO World Heritage Site and largest raised coral atoll on earth. Here, among the giant lagoon's rivers and channels, are diving opportunities galore among some of the most spectacular seascapes and dense populations of marine life on the planet.





DISCOVER

Seychelles

GEOGRAPHY

The Seychelles' 115 granite and coral islands extend from between 4 and 10 degrees south of the equator and lie between 480km and 1,600km from the east coast of Africa in the western Indian Ocean.

This Indian Ocean republic occupies a land area of 455 km² and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.4 million km². It represents an archipelago of timeless beauty, tranquillity and harmony that is famous for its world-beating beaches and for its great diversity which rolls from lush forests down to the warm azure ocean.

Of these 115 islands, 41 The Inner Islands constitute the oldest mid-oceanic granite islands on earth while a further 74 form the 5 groups of low-lying coral atolls and reef islets that are the Outer Islands.

Seychelles is home to no less than two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the legendary Vallée de Mai on Praslin where the wondrously shaped Coco-dermer nut grows high on ancient palms and the fabled Aldabra, the world's largest raised coral atoll, first seen by early Arab seafarers of the 9th century A.D.

Seychelles, one of the world's very last frontiers, promises adventure and breathtaking natural beauty in pristine surrounds still untouched by man.

CLIMATE

The Seychelles' climate is one which is always warm and does not reach extremes of heat or cold. The temperature rarely drops below 24°C or rises above 32°C. All but the remotest southern islands lie outside the cyclone belt making Seychelles' a year round destination for sun worshippers and beach lovers.

It is generally cooler when the north-west trade winds blow during the months of November to March. The sea is generally calm and the weather warm and humid, with average winds of 15 - 22 kilometres per hour.

A larger amount of the annual rainfall falls during the months of December to February compared to other months. The average number of rainy (days with 1 millimetre or more rainfall) in December, January and February are 18, 17 and 11 days respectively. It is also fairly cloudy at times during those months and therefore less sunshine. The weather is hottest from December to April, and the humidity is high - often 80% or higher.

The months of May to October bring drier, cooler weather, and livelier seas - particularly on south-eastern coasts - and winds of 19 -37 kilometres per hour are common.

On average the number of rainy days during this period is 11 with long periods of sunshine. Dry spells of two weeks or more are fairly common.

HISTORY

Seychelles is a comparatively young nation which can trace its first settlement back to 1770 when the islands were first settled by the French, leading a small party of whites, Indians and Africans. The islands remained in French hands until the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, evolving from humble beginnings to attain a population of 3,500 by the time Seychelles was ceded to Britain under the treaty of Paris in 1814.

During this period Seychelles came to know the enlightened policies of administrators such as Pierre Poivre, the brilliant politicking of Governor Queau de Quinssy and, of course, the terrible repercussions of the French Revolution.

Under the British, Seychelles achieved a population of some 7,000 by the year 1825. Important estates were established during this time producing coconut, food crops, cotton and sugar cane. During this period Seychelles also saw the establishment of Victoria as her capital, the exile of numerous and colourful troublemakers from the Empire, the devastation caused by the famous Avalanche of 1862 and the economic repercussions of the abolition of slavery.

Seychelles achieved independence from Britain in 1976 and became a republic within the commonwealth. Following a period of single party rule by the government of Mr. France Albert René, on December 4, 1991, President René announced a return to the multiparty system of government, 1993 saw the first multiparty presidential and legislative elections held under a new constitution in which President René was victorious. President René also won the 1998 and 2003 elections before transferring the Presidency to James Alix Michel in June 2004.

SOCIETY

In the evolution of its society, Seychelles has remained faithful to its multi-ethnic roots. For over two centuries, the islands have remained a melting pot of different races, traditions and religions from the four corners of the earth.

Inspired by its grand diversity of cultural influences, ethnic diversity with racial harmony remain the mainstays of today's vibrant yet tranquil Creole nation for which harmony is a way of life.

PEOPLE

Today, the approximately 90,000 strong Seychellois population continues to reflect its multi-ethnic roots. Traditionally, the islands have attracted a broad diversity of peoples from the four corners of the earth that has included freed slaves, European settlers, political exiles, adventurers, traders of Arab and Persian origin as well as Chinese and Indians.

Practically every nation on earth has been represented in this melting pot of cultures, each one contributing its special influence to today's vibrant yet tranquil society.

LANGUAGE

There are three official languages in Seychelles: Creole (a lilted, French-based patois), English and French. Many Seychellois also speak fluent Italian or German.

RELIGION

Roman Catholicism remains the dominant religion of Seychelles but there are also Anglican and Protestant churches and the places of worship of other denominations. These live in harmony alongside, Muslim, Hindu and Baha'i communities based on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue.

CULTURE

The cosmopolitan Seychellois are a colourful blend of peoples of different races, cultures and religions. At different times in its history, people of African, European and Asian origin have come to Seychelles, bringing with them their distinct traditions and customs and contributing to the way of life and to the vibrant Seychellois culture. One can see these influences at work throughout the domains of local art, cuisine, music, dance and architecture.

The architectural design of some of the grand old houses with their steep roofs are representative of a style adapted for comfortable living in the tropics that displays influences from Seychelles' French and British colonial heritage. Modern architecture attempts to assimilate traditional styles with practical features designed to capture the island breezes.

The traditional moutya is an erotic dance derived from the days of slavery and still features today, together with the sega with its colourful lyrics; the kanmtole, reminiscent of a country reel, and the Kontredanse, an import from the French court.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Time 4 hours ahead of GMT

International telephone code +248

Electricity 240 volts





Tips - On the go

Are there any health precautions I should take?

No specific vaccinations are currently required to enter Seychelles unless you are from, or have passed through, a yellow fever area within 6 days prior to arrival. Typhoid, Tetanus, Polio and Hepatitis A are however recommended by several health authorities. High factor sun lotions are also recommended.

Although there is currently no malaria in Seychelles, mosquitoes are quite prevalent. It's highly recommended to use repellents and to stay covered around sunrise/sunset. For non-air-conditioned rooms, sleeping under a mosquito net is also a good idea.

To / From Mahe Airport

Unless your hotel or tour company provides a shuttle service, getting to/from the airport can be a costly exercise. Taxis are readily available at the airport but can be quite expensive. Expect to pay around €30-€40 one way to Victoria/jetty and about €45-€55 to Beau Vallon hotels. Where possible, try to get a metered taxi. Otherwise, it's best to agree on a price for your journey before setting off.

For travellers continuing on to the Cat Cocos ferry, there is an affordable, shared shuttle bus service to/from the Victoria jetty. You should only book this service if your flight arrives at least 2 hours before the scheduled ferry departure time. Buses leave no later than 1 hour before the ferry departs.

The return shuttles depart from the Victoria jetty after each ferry arrival. Journey time is usually not longer than 20 minutes (depending on traffic). For anyone wishing to make use of the airport transfer, the following fees will apply - Adult: €10 each way / Child: €5 each way / Infant: No charge. You can make a reservation for the shuttle service during our simple ferry booking process.

By far the cheapest way to travel to/from the airport is by public bus. Buses operate between 05:30 – 19:30 and depart for Victoria every 20-30 minutes.

Fares start from only Rs 7 but be warned, drivers will not let you board the bus with anything larger than a daypack, let alone your luggage.

Airport facilities: Restaurant/bar, newsagent & gift shops, bank/bureau de change, ATM, duty-free shopping, free luggage storage (inside Police Station), post office, internet and car hire.

Getting Around

The most convenient way of getting around on Mahe or Praslin is to hire a car. There are plenty of rental companies that service both islands with little price difference between them; although rentals on Praslin can be slightly more expensive than on Mahe.

Some of the major companies have offices at the airport, but in general, nearly all companies will deliver your vehicle to your accommodation.

Driving is on the left side of the road, and care should be taken when driving as roads can be quite steep; some with extremely sharp bends. Taxis are widely available and are ideal for short trips or whole day charters, with metered fares currently Rs 30 per kilometre.

For full or half-day rentals be sure to agree on the price before beginning your journey. Depending on the distance you plan to travel, it may work out cheaper to hire a small car than to take a taxi.

For those with a little more time on their hands, the public bus service operating on Mahe and Praslin offers travellers an inexpensive way of seeing the islands. There is a flat-fare of Rs 7 regardless of the length of your journey. Mahe has an extensive network that reaches almost every corner of the island. T

imetales are available from the tourist office or can be found at the main terminus in Victoria. The bus service on Praslin is not as extensive but is still a good way of getting around.

On La Digue, the best way to see the island is by bicycle. Most hotels and guesthouses offer bike rental and you can expect to pay around Rs 150/day (maybe less if you rent for a longer period).

Just remember to check if the brakes and gears are working, and if you plan to move around at night, bring a flashlight as they rarely have lights.

What are the best things to shop for in Seychelles?

By far the most iconic souvenir is the indigenous Coco de Mer or Sea Coconut. Harvested from the Praslin and Curieuse National Parks, these large double-coconuts were once thought to grow on a mythical tree at the bottom of the sea until their true source was discovered in the late 1700s. Said to resemble a woman's buttocks, the Coco de Mer can be purchased from authorised gift shops.

Expect to pay anywhere from €200 and up for a decent specimen; always check that they have a green certificate of provenance and make sure you ask for an export licence if you plan to take it out of the country.

A wide variety of locally made souvenirs and handicrafts can be found in small interesting shops and markets throughout the islands, with the largest selection in the capital Victoria on Mahe. Look out for jewellery crafted from coral, seashells, tortoiseshell and black pearls.

In addition, locally produced perfumes, textiles and straw hats are also available as are paintings and other artwork by local artists. Teas, spices and locally grown vanilla are also popular gifts to bring back home.

What should I bring?

Since it's always warm in Seychelles and often quite humid, "Not a lot!" is probably the best answer. Light cotton clothing, T-shirts, shorts and light dresses are best. Don't forget your swimsuit!

A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, as well as plenty of sunscreen, is important. Insect repellent for protection against mosquitos and sand flies is also highly recommended.

Sandals and open-toed shoes are fine, however, if you plan on walking in the mountains it's a good idea to bring a light-weight pair of walking shoes with you; a pair of reef-walkers or some other type of waterproof sandal is ideal for wading around the coastline.

Having some of the most photogenic scenery in the world, make sure you don't forget to bring your camera and extra memory cards. Photographic supplies are available on the islands but it's best to bring your own.

A flashlight can be useful, especially if your accommodation is outside of the main resort areas. And even if you're not an avid bird watcher, a small pair of binoculars may afford you a better glimpse of the exotic and rare birdlife.

What are the voltage requirements?

Voltage: 220-240V AC, 50 Hz. British 3-pin plugs are in use, and although some hotels may have adaptors at the reception, it's recommended to get a universal adapter for non-UK appliances.

What is the time difference?

Seychelles is 4 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Since daylight saving time is not utilised in Seychelles the time difference then becomes 3 hours ahead of British Summer Time (BST) and 2 hours ahead of European Summer Time (EST).

Currency

The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR); however, the majority of hotels, restaurants and other tourist-related services often quote prices in Euros. You should only exchange foreign currency or traveller's cheques at banks/authorised money changers or hotel cashiers. It is, in fact, a criminal offence to change money with any person or business other than those authorised to do so. Banks are generally open Monday to Friday 08:30-14:30 and Saturday 08:30-11:00.

Major credit cards are widely accepted throughout Seychelles (although Amex and Diners Club to a lesser extent). ATM's dispensing local currency can be found at the airports on Mahe and Praslin as well as at major banks on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. Should you need to change Rupees back into foreign currency, make sure you have the original cash exchange or ATM receipt as proof of the original transaction. Nevertheless, it's wise not to change too much cash and only change what you will need for petrol and other incidentals.

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you Travel?







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India: New Delhi, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Mumbai, Goa, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin
International: Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Thailand, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece and Mexico

Recognitions: TAAI :: PATA :: IATO :: IATA :: TAFI :: ADTOI :: ASTA :: ATOAI :: ATTOI :: SITE
