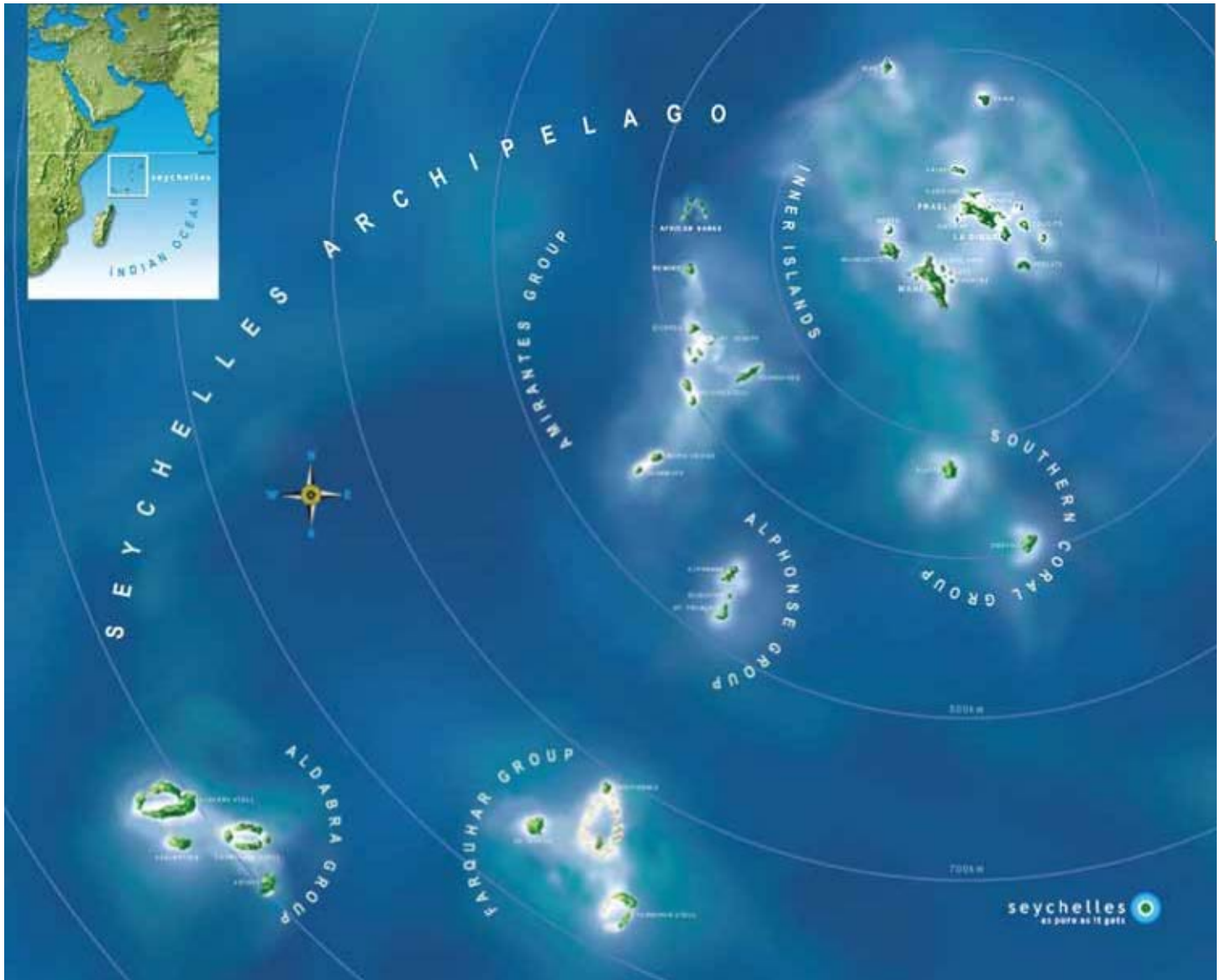


The Seychelles: As Pure As It Gets



The Seychelles : As pure as it gets

Nothing less than the perfect cocktail of luxury, serenity, and bliss ... Seychelles is as pure as it gets.

The Seychelles islands are like jewels scattered in the Indian Ocean, just 4 degrees south of the equator. The islands will enchant you with the friendliness of its people, its breathtaking beauty, its turquoise lagoons, and beaches.

The Seychelles Archipelago is made of 115 breathtaking islands each one different from the next. The islands are located just beneath the equator and to the North-East of Madagascar and are divided into 2 categories: the "inner Island" and the "Outer Islands"

The inner islands are located to the North and are scattered round the main island of Mahé. These are the granitic islands, characterised by their beaches, which features big granite boulders. Mahe, Praslin, La Digue, Curieuse, Cousin, Cousine, Fregate, Felicite, North & Silhouette are some of the islands that belong to this category.

The "outer islands" are coralline islands: sandy, flat, and covered in mostly palm trees. Amongst those is Bird & Denis, about 100km to the north of Mahe while the others to the southwest such as Aldabra, can be as far out as 1100km! The "outer islands" to the south are further divided into two groups: the Amirantes & Aldabra. The Amirantes group has some 20 islands scattered around Saint Joseph, the African Bank, Desroches, Alphonse & Poivre. The Aldabra group comprises of 22 islands surrounding Providence, Farquar, Cosmoledo and the Aldabra atoll.

The ideal holiday program would be to combine the 3 main islands of Mahe, Praslin & La-Digue, each offering something different. The islands offer a variety of hotels from the luxurious hotel chains to smaller family-run guesthouses. You have a choice of transfers between the islands including by plane, boat or helicopter.

For those wanting to head off the beaten path to explore exotic cultures and distant lands, then the Seychelles is as pure as it gets... nothing less than the perfect cocktail of serenity, luxury, and bliss.



Climate

The Seychelles islands are located in the Equatorial belt and are therefore characterized by a generally warm and humid climate throughout the year. The temperature seldom drops below 24 degrees or rises above 33 degrees centigrade. However, the weather is influenced by two main trade winds.

f South East Trade Winds: June to September - the weather is usually windy with the possibility of scattered showers. Nice and cool.

Mahe Island

f Seaweed found on the East Coast

f North Coast is calm while the South-west coast is rough

Praslin Island

f Seaweed found on Grand-Anse Beach in the East.

f North West Trade Winds: End of November to February - characterized by tropical showers with high temperatures. It is however, the best periods for fishing and diving as marine life flourishes in such weather conditions.

Mahe Island

f North Coast is more rough with deposit of seaweed on the beaches. (but still safe for swimming)

Praslin Island

f Seaweed found on Cote d'Or beach in the West.

f Intermediate Season: March and October to November are dry with high temperatures. The month of April signifies the beginning of migration for different species of seabirds - an ideal period for ornithologists.

The Seychelles lies outside the cyclone and hurricane belts, one of the few places in the world that has no real natural hazard or dangers. However, the sun is intense at all times and suntan lotions with high protection factors is highly advisable.

	Average Temperature		Humidity
	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	%
January	29.9	24.1	82
February	30.5	24.8	80
March	31.0	24.1	79
April	31.4	25.0	80
May	30.5	25.4	79
June	29.2	24.6	79
July	28.3	24.0	80
August	28.5	23.9	79
September	29.1	24.2	79
October	29.7	24.4	80
November	30.1	24.0	80
December	30.0	24.0	82
Average	29.9	24.4	80

History



Although short, Seychelles' history is as colourful as its beauty. For many centuries the archipelago remained a well-kept secret. Even if Arab manuscripts from the 12th century talk of 'high islands' beyond the Maldives, it wasn't before 1544 that the Seychelles first appeared on Portuguese maps under the name of 'The Seven Sisters' and 'The Brothers'. It is possible that the islands were frequented by even earlier explorers who came to its shores in search of food and water.

However, one thing is for sure: once the mysterious coco de mer was discovered, Arab merchants kept its location a secret for so rare and mystical was the giant nut that it was worth the price of gold. Other frequent visitors included fearsome pirates who, chased out of the Caribbean by the British Navy, sailed to the Indian Ocean to terrorise the valuable Spice Route. Traces of their passage have been left on many of Seychelles' islands...

It was Frenchman Captain Morphey who, after a series of expeditions in the 18th Century, first took possession of Mahé and several nearby islands on behalf of the King of France. To mark the occasion, the monumental 'Possession Stone' was erected on the first of November 1756 and the islands were named Seychelles, in honour of Vicomte Moreau de Sechelle who was controller-general of France at the time. 14 years later, the French established a settlement on St. Anne Island made up of "fifteen whites, five Malabar Indians and eight Africans". Towards the end of 1771, another party was sent to the bigger island of Mahe to set up the "Jardin du Roy" - a spice plantation on the southeastern coast of the island. This was done with the aim of allowing the French to compete with the Dutch in the valuable spice trade.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the islands passed from French to English rule then back again several times over, before the British finally took over as colonial masters in 1811. Besides being strategic points in the route between India and the Cape, the Seychelles were being used by French corsairs, who were making their own profits by plundering British East India Company ships.

However, for several years life under the British was no different from during the wars. The French administrator, Quéau de Quinssy was even allowed to stay even after the hand over. With this liberal attitude, it is not surprising that the colony maintained much of its French character. This was reinforced by the arrival of the Catholic Church in 1851. A British woman writing in 1893 sums up the state of affairs: *'the islands are but English in name - indeed they are as much French as they were a hundred years ago. The language, manner and customs are emphatically French; French is spoken in the law courts, where French law is also pre-eminent, and in the Government-aided schools English is taught only as a subject.'*

During the 19th century, many ships arrived with hundreds of liberated Africans, rescued from Arab slave traders operating out of Zanzibar. Seychelles was a favoured place of emancipation and the new arrivals were quickly hired as labourers on the many coconut plantations. In 1903, the islands acquired the status of a separate British crown colony. A clock tower, a replica of London's Vauxhall Bridge Tower in Victoria, was erected in the centre of the capital to commemorate the event.

Seychelles gained its independence from Britain in 1976 and since then has been an independent Republic within the British Commonwealth. Today, the islands' thriving population is made up of a colourful blend of 80 000 people of which 90% live on the main Island of Mahé with the rest scattered on Praslin, La Digue and some other smaller Islands.

Flora & Fauna



Inhabited by humans barely 200 years ago, the islands remain fragile and priceless sanctuaries where relics from a lost world survive in safe seclusion. *How this living Paradise came to be is an extraordinary tale:*



Two hundred million years ago the earth was divided into two great landmasses, Laurasia and Gondwana. The southern super-continent Gondwana included present-day Africa and India. Then during the middle of the Jurassic period, Gondwana began to split up. The sea filled a rift between Africa and India to form the early Indian Ocean. The fragments of this ancient landmass left behind the central granite islands of the Seychelles leading to the

islands' famous startling rock formations that towers over beautiful white sandy beaches.

On these islands, species separated from their ancestors grow into new and exotic forms. Rare birds and other endemic animals such as the giant land tortoises show little fear of humans and can be approached within a few feet.

Today tourism in the Seychelles is carefully managed to preserve the islands' precious natural heritage. Some 452 square kilometres have been designated as national parks, reserves, or protected areas, while a further 228 square kilometres of marine parks offer highly rewarding diving and snorkelling.

One of these include the mystical *Vallee de Mai* on the island of Praslin, a Jurassic Park of palms dating back to an age when dinosaurs roamed and all life grew much bigger. In the sheltered quiet of this ancient valley, the coco de mer tree reigns supreme. Like us, the tree exists in both female and male forms with a striking resemblance to our own reproductive organs. No one knows exactly how the male pollen reaches the female *coco de mer* but an old Seychelles legend says that the trees consummate their union by swaying together on stormy nights.



The other World Heritage Site is *Aldabra* - the largest raised coral atoll in the world with a central lagoon big enough to be called a sea. Some say that the shallow turquoise waters of the lagoon reflect in the clouds overhead and create a luminescent glow that can be seen from miles away. It harbours a profusion of wildlife, sharks, frigate birds with seven-foot wingspan, rare robber crabs, spectacularly-coloured parrot fish and the world's largest colony of giant land tortoises numbering some 150, 000.

Population & Culture

"The Seychellois women are French enough to have beautiful shapes; English enough

to have good manners; Asian enough to have the touch of the exotic, and African enough to have the wild in them!

This beautiful eulogy of the Seychelloise woman is a reflection of the islands'



colorful blend: a true melting pot of different races with African, European and Asian origins, all of whom have brought their own customs and culture to the islands. From France came Roman Catholicism and, of course, the language; from Britain a variety of ghost stories and Scottish dancing; from Africa and Madagascar the mysterious black magic and the music and dance of the *sega* and *moutia*.

While the *sega* (a calypso-like rhythm with a shuffling, hip-swaying dance) is also found on the other Indian Ocean Islands, the *moutia* is unique to the Seychelles - a dance seen by the colonial authorities as so sexually brazen that it was banned! The Moutia is much more African - usually played by the light of a beach bonfire. It is a primitive sounding beat played on a heated goatskin drum and helped along with large doses of bacca or calou - both locally brewed liqueurs made from sugar cane and coconut palm sap.

The broad range of the Creole cuisine is an eloquent reflection of the diverse ethnic mix of culture and races: this ranges from the subtleties nuances of French cooking and the exoticism of Indian dishes to the piquant flavors of the Orient.

Creole is the lingua franca of the islands, but most Seychellois will speak at least three languages fluently: Creole, English and French. The mother tongue is an adaptation of 17th Century French with additional words and expressions coming from African languages and from Madagascar. Anyone who can speak a little French will be able to largely understand Creole, which is simpler to learn, as there is no gender and the verb endings remain constant.

In general, the Seychellois are characterized by a laid-back, easy-go-lucky attitude. Many who have visited the islands have felt welcomed by the friendliness of this colorful race.



The 3 main islands & their surrounding islands

Mahé (27 km long / 7km large)



The main Island of Mahé is the largest island in the archipelago and the gateway to the Seychelles. It is also the economic and political hub of the Seychelles and hosts the international airport, the port, and the capital 'village' Victoria. Although the most densely populated with 72,200 inhabitants, it is still un-crowded and has not lost its beauty and charm. The island is dominated by a mountain range that forms its backbone, the highest peak of which is *Morne Seychellois* reaches a height of 905m and provides a perfect backdrop of the tiny capital of Victoria.

We recommend that your clients spend at least part of their holiday on the island of Mahe. Besides having over 70 beautiful beaches and lush vegetation, it has the most places to see, the best restaurants and shops and a better selection of facilities than any of the smaller islands. While on Mahe, it's worth taking the scenic drive or tour around the island, and absorbing the more tranquil atmosphere of the wild southern side, including the stunning Cap Lazare, set amid looming granite rocks and palm trees.

Attractive Sites:

- x The Victoria market
- x The Botanical Garden at Mont Fleuri
- x The Clock Tower at Victoria
- x Natural History Museum, Victoria
- x Pineapple Studio, Anse aux Poules Bleus
- x Le Jardin du Roy, Anse Royale
- x Craft Village, Anse aux Pins
- x Mission Lodge, Sans Souci
- x St. Anne National Marine Park

Beaches : Our recommendations

Anse Intendance, Port Launay, Anse à la Mouche, Anse Royale, Anse Takamaka, Beau Vallon, Anse Soleil, Petite Anse, Sunset beach...

Islands surrounding Mahé



A few miles from Victoria lie a handful of islands with a colourful history. The islands of **St Anne**, **Round**, **Moyenne** and **Long** fall within the **St Anne Marine National Park**. This park was proclaimed in 1973 in an effort to protect the sensitive and diverse marine life surrounding this small group of islands. Daily excursions can be made around these islands where you can experience the underwater world by semi-submersible boats or by snorkelling. Thérèse and Conception are to the West while North & Silhouette are to the north.

f St. Anne Island

In 1770, St. Anne welcomed the Seychelles' first inhabitants. Lazare Picault named it after Saint Anne, as it was discovered on her anniversary in 1742. This is also where the 5* Beachcomber St. Anne Resort & Spa is located.

St Anne is the largest of the marine park islands, and measures one kilometre by two kilometres and its highest point lies at 250 metres, from where one can admire a panoramic view of Victoria, the North of Mahe and other neighbouring islands.

f Cerf Island

The island was baptised « Cerf » after the French ship « Le Cerf » commandeered by Nicolas Morphey, the man who colonised Seychelles in the name of the King of France. Cerf Island is the second largest of the St. Anne marine park islands, located 5km to the East of Mah Island. She measures 1.7km long by 900m wide. Its location makes it perfect for diving and snorkelling.

The island is covered with lush vegetation and is also home to giant tortoises. There are 2 hotels on Cerf Island: the 5* Cerf Island Resort and the 3* l'Habitation.

f Moyenne Island

Moyenne is only 450 metres long by 250 metres and is the property of retired journalist, Brendon Grimshaw. Mr Grimshaw's island is also home to exotic plants and flowers; birds and giant tortoises. The island has tales of pirates and ghosts. There is a small trail that leads round the island where you will find relics from the past... A small restaurant serves wonderful Creole cuisine during excursions only. Just offshore you can admire the wonders of the marine life where 150 different species of fish await to be discovered.

f Round Island :

Round is very green and resembles a small floating forest. It's only 800 meters from Cerf Island and 4.5 km from Mahe. The island measures 150 metres in diameter and has a beautiful little beach and a reputable Creole restaurant.

f Thérèse Island :

Situated off the Southwestern coast of Mahe, Therese Island is a good snorkelling site. It has a beautiful beach with turquoise clear waters. Like many islands in Seychelles, Therese remains deserted and has its own legends of pirates and hidden treasures.

x Silhouette Island :

Although both islands are only 20km away from each other, Mahe the civilised island and Silhouette the wild island, have only their granitic backdrops and luxuriant vegetation in common. There are no cars or roads on Silhouette on the 25km² island; only a handful of people live there. This is a perfect island for eco-tourists who will marvel at its unspoilt nature.



Praslin (11 km long / 4 km large)



The second largest granitic island of the Seychelles, Praslin is the perfect base for an island hopping adventure. L'île de Palmes, as it was previously known, is only a 15-minute flight away from Mahe. Other transfer options include the Cat Cocos, a 25-meter cougar catamaran that glides across in just under an hour and, the helicopter.

Praslin is not as mountainous as Mahe - the highest point being 330 metres but it has similarly great granite outcrops surrounded by beautiful beaches. Amongst them, the

famous Anse Lazio, considered as one of the five finest in the world. Praslin is also the legendary island where the coco de mer grows in abundance in the Vallée de Mai.

Day excursions can be organised to many of Praslin's surrounding deserted islands where you can go exploring, swimming, and snorkelling. Some of the islands include Cousin, a nature reserve, Curieuse, Sister, St.Pierre and Coco, the last two being known for their vibrant marine life where sea turtles swim leisurely around you.

Attractive Sites:

- x The village of Grand Anse
- x St.Pierre Island (excellent for snorkelling)
- x Coco Island(excellent for snorkelling)
- x Vallée de Mai
- x Black Pearl of Seychelles
- x Café des Arts Galery

Beaches : Our recommendations

Anse Lazio, Anse Volbert, Anse Kerlan, Anse Boudin, Cote d'Or, Anse Consolation, Anse la Blague, Anse Georgette...



Surrounding Islands



- x Curieuse
Located 1km to the north-east of Praslin, Curieuse is less than 3km long. Inhabited by only a handful of people, this island is also home to 250 giant tortoises brought over from Aldabra Island some 10 years ago. A small trail leads to a historical leprosy colony site & to the ancient colonial house, once home to the island's doctor. There is a trail that takes you round the island where you can admire the rich flora & fauna including a lagoon where reef sharks and green turtles abound.

- x Aride
15km off the coast of Praslin, Aride was purchased by Christopher Cadbury in 1973 on the behalf of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. Aride is second only to Aldabra in its importance as a seabird-breeding colony. It has the largest concentration of sea birds in the region and is sought after by ornithologists worldwide. Fregates, terns, and lesser noddies are regular inhabitants of this spectacular island.

- x Cousin
Cousin is located a few kilometres off the coast of Praslin. It is a veritable bird sanctuary and can only be visited on particular days and times. It is managed by Nature Seychelles, a local organisation and is home to rare breeds such as the Seychelles warblers, white tailed tropicbirds, lesser nodies, brown nodies, bridled terns, ferry terns... The best months to visit Cousin is between April and November when over 250 000 birds come to nest. You can also find a lot of reptiles such as lizards and giant tortoises. The island is open to the public only 4 times a week.

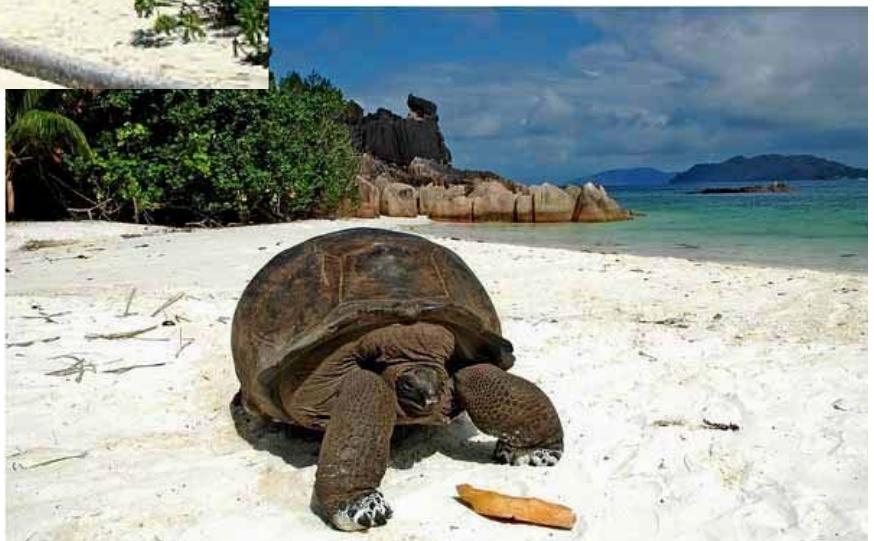
- x Coco
Located in between Félicité and the Sister Islands, Coco is a magnificent spot for snorkelling.

x Grande Sœur

This island has a particular charm as it is one of the granitic islands that has not been developed at all. The inhabitants of the island live in traditional houses and breed their own chickens, ducks and turkeys, which feed on scraps of coconuts. The coconut husks are used as fuel for the barbecues organised for the visitors of the island. The island is shaped like an « 8 » and is no more than 200 metres large, only a few metres above sea level. The south beach is protected by a coral reef where hundreds of colourful fish, turtles, and other exotic sea creatures abound.

x Petite Sœur

Petite Sœur is a rocky uninhabited island with no plateau. It is protected by a coral reef, which makes it almost inaccessible except when the sea is very calm. In the past, coconuts were collected from the island for the production of copra.



La-Digue



No doubt the most charming of the islands, La Digue has remained untouched by the passage of time. With a population of 2000 habitants, the island's rhythm of life is as relaxed and laid-back as its traditional modes of transport: the ox-carts and bicycles!

It takes about half an hour to reach La-Digue by traditional schooner from Praslin. From Mahe, the only way to reach La-Digue is via helicopter or private boat.

Attractions on La-Digue include the Union Estate, a park full of history, culture and adventure, and of course, the famous Anse Source d'Argent: the most photographed beach in the world. This beach has provided the perfect backdrop for famous films such as Roman Polanski's « Pirates », Robinson Crusoe and Cast Away. Adverts such as that for Bounty, Bacardi & Carling have also been filmed on this famous spot.

The " Nid d'Aigle" mountain peak is 300m high and dominates the in-land. The only plateau stretches to the West covering Anse Reunion, La Passe & l'Union.

There is a long beach between Point Cap Barbi to the North West and Pointe d'Argent, which is naturally decorated by large granite boulders that changes colours from pink to grey according to the sun's rays.

La -Digue can be discovered leisurely by ox-cart, by bicycle or by foot. The most secluded beaches such as Anse Source d'Argents, Grand Anse, Petite Anse and Anse Coco, all offer white sandy beaches, turquoise blue lagoons and a majestic granite backdrop.

Attractive Sites:

- x L'Union Estate
- x Veuve Natural Reserve
- x Grand Anse
- x Loutie Coco Restaurant

Beaches : Our recommendations

Anse Source d'Argent, Grand Anse, Petite Anse, Anse Coco, Anse Sévère

Surrounding Islands

The islands surrounding La-Digue such as Cocos, Petite Sœur, Grande Sœur, Marianne have a reputation of an amazing marine life - perfect for both diving and fishing.

Other Jewels of the Seychelles :

Denis



Located 85km from Mahé and 30 minutes from Mahé by plane, Denis is one of the Seychelles 75 coralline islands. Once a coconut plantation, the island now hosts a 4* hotel comprised of 25 chalets. Denis is especially known for the richness of its waters, an ideal location for deep-sea fishing! From fishing to diving, windsurfing to canoeing, tennis to billiard, swimming to sunbathing, walking in the forest or jogging round the island,

Denis offers a little something for everybody - the greatest luxury of course is to relax and do absolutely nothing!

Bird



Located 30 minutes from Mahe by plane, Bird Island like its name suggests, is the island of birds. During the southeast monsoon (May to September), the island is colonised by thousands of sooty terns that come yearly to nest. The island of birds is also the island of the most famous giant tortoise of the Seychelles, it is also the heaviest, (300kg) and the oldest on earth (more than 200 years old) ... a true celebrity!

Bird is located at the edge of the Seychelles Bank, which drops off to over 2km making it a good spot fishing.

On Bird Island, the real luxury is its own nature - perfect if you want to unwind and relax completely. The island also hosts a 4* 24-chalet hotel.

Frégate



Frégate is the perfect island hideaway: only 2km long by 1km large, surrounded by luxuriant vegetation and breathtaking beaches. Located 56km from Mahe, this Seychelles Island is the furthest to the east and a true Garden of Eden.

Frégate also hosts one of the most luxurious hotels in Seychelles with a reputation of being the most « private » of all the Indian Ocean islands! The spectacular granite blocks serves as a perfect backdrop to the villas.

Desroches



Desroches is located 35 minutes by plane from Mahe and is only 3m above sea level. This is the main island of the Amirates Coralline Island group, some 240 km to the southwest of Mahe. The rich surrounding waters are perfect for divers: there are some 15 different sites, only a 20-minute boat ride away ranging between 12m and 32m. Divers often spot manta rays, green turtles, and even tiger sharks!

The months between October and April are especially great for deep-sea fishing: marlins, barracudas, tunas, and Dorado's are plentiful! Desroches is also a good spot for fly-fishing.

The island host a 4* 20-chalet hotel.

Alphonse



Located 450km from Mahé (1 hour by plane), the beautiful Alphonse Atoll stretches 16km from north to south and comprises of 3 islands: Alphonse to the north, Bijoutier in the centre and Saint François to the south - a magnificent combination of blue, white and green!

The 25 4* chalets of Alphonse are nestled amongst palm trees some 20 metres above sea level. Each resident is given his own mountain bike and can follow the small shaded trails

round the island.

The Alphonse atoll is mostly renowned for having one of the best sites worldwide for seawater fly-fishing.

North



North island is a private paradise island located to the north-west of Mahe, a unique luxurious 5* haven. Its 12 Villas are all made out of wood and blends in perfectly with their natural surroundings - a true Robinson Crusoe hideaway. North is considered as the most luxurious island hideaway in the world!

Things to do in Seychelles . . .

Diving



The Seychelles archipelago is reputed to be one of the top 10 diving sites in the world. Its clear, calm, and safe waters are also perfect for amateur divers. Its rich coral reefs are home to over 850 different species of fish and 100 species of shells. The best period for diving is between April and November. All scuba diving centers in the Seychelles are members of PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and offer qualified dive masters and modern diving equipments. First-timers usually learn in either swimming pools or in shallow

seawater. Each course warrants an internationally recognised certificate.

Minimum Age: 12 ans.

For more detailed information, please ask for our "Diving Factsheet".



Fishing

The Seychelles offers some of the richest fishing grounds in the world, a multi faceted and exciting fishing destination for amateurs and professionals alike. Enthusiasts arrive from all over the world to battle with world-record holding marlins, barracudas and sailfish. There are 40 different varieties of game fish in Seychelles rich waters, which include Dorado, Wahoo, Tuna, and Job fish. Fishing seasons are governed by trade winds. From May to September they blow from

the southeast, which is great for Big Game Fishing. However, the seas can sometimes be rough during this period. The Northwest winds blow from November to February and brings with it calmer seas, which is ideal for bottom fishing. In general the months of October and April are the most enjoyable due to its calm seas.



Cruising / Sailing

Seychelles is an all year round sailing location. Whether you prefer tranquility or adventure, you can taste the ultimate in freedom and enjoy the thrill of safely cruising the warm, turquoise ocean and discovering the pearls of Seychelles. From majestic catamarans & yachts to pirate-style boats, from just a day's cruising to a week's voyage of discovery, we have what you're after. Yachting is not only for the experienced sailor, it is possible to hire expert local crew who can show you the hidden beaches whilst

you sit back and relax. For the more adventurous "bare back charters" are available.



Water Sports

Water Sports centres are located next to the big hotels and on the most touristy beach of Seychelles: Beau Vallon in the north of Mahe. However, motorised water sports are limited to Beau-Vallon beach only. This is a result of Seychelles' strict environmental laws to protect the marine life.

10 Reasons why you should choose Seychelles

1. An all-year-round tropical holiday destination with no seasonal variation.
2. Direct flights with Air Seychelles and other airlines.
3. A 2-hour minimal time difference from Central Europe
4. A variety of hotel resorts – from small Robinson-Crusoe hideaways to more exclusive and larger hotel chains.
5. More nature reserves and marine parks than anywhere else in the world.
6. Spectacular and diverse opportunities for water sports amid 1,300,000 km² of turquoise blue waters.
7. Her beaches have been voted as the most beautiful in the world.
8. Colorful cultural diversity with bilingual and friendly people.
9. No vaccinations required.
10. No visa required.

Practical Information

- AIRPORT:** Seychelles International Airport at Pointe Larue on Mahé.
- ENTRY FORMALITIES:** There are no visa requirements to enter Seychelles. A visitor's permit is issued upon arrival by the Seychelles Department of Immigration valid for a maximum of one month with extension available on application.
- TIME DIFFERENCE:** Seychelles is four hours ahead of GMT in winter and three hours during summer.
- LANGUAGES:** Creole, English and French are the official languages of the Seychelles and are widely spoken throughout the country. Creole Holidays' team of experienced multilingual representatives is present on the three main islands.
- CURRENCY:** The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee. However, visitors are required to use only foreign currency when making payments in hotels and guesthouses and when paying for other hospitality-related expenses such as hiring of cars or boats, services of tour operators and travel agents, patronage of casinos and domestic transfers within Seychelles. Small incidental purchases in restaurants outside hotels, shopping (excl. duty-free shops) and taxi fares are payable in local currency. *(It is important to clearly explain to the client that once they exchange their money at a local bank or make a cash withdrawal from a dispenser, they should keep their receipt as this will allow them to exchange the local currency back into foreign currency upon departure)*
- CREDIT CARDS:** Major credit cards such as Diners Club, Visa, Euro Card and MasterCard and Visa Cards are widely accepted. Note that ATM facilities at major banks on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue only does transactions in rupees.
- TAX & TIPPING:** Restaurant and hotel bills normally include a Goods Services Tax of 7%. Tips for exceptional service are warmly welcomed.

- ELECTRICITY:** 220-240 volts AC 50 Hz. Seychelles uses the standard British standard three-pin 13amp plug. Visitors from countries other than the United Kingdom should bring adaptors.
- COMMUNICATIONS:** Seychelles enjoys modern, efficient telecommunication services. Cable & Wireless and Airtel operate 24-hour link for worldwide communications and payphones are available in most districts on the Inner Islands. International roaming agreements exist between Seychelles and most countries. Internet cafes, postal and courier services are mostly located in central Victoria.
- WATER:** Tap water meets the W.H.O. specifications and is safe to drink throughout the country. Bottled mineral water is widely available.
- DRIVING:** Driving is on the left side and a valid national or international license is required. The speed limit follows the natural slow pace of the islands and varies between 40km/h to 60km/h. Note that petrol stations are not open 24 hours.
- MEDICAL SERVICES:** A private doctor can be called at any time and there are some good private clinics.
- VALUABLES:** It is highly recommended to deposit any valuables and money in the hotel safe.
- HEALTH & SAFETY:** There is **NO** risk of contracting malaria, yellow fever, cholera or other common tropical diseases in Seychelles. No vaccinations are required. However, if traveling through a country, which is considered to be an infected area for yellow fever within a period of 6 days prior to your arrival in Seychelles, it is compulsory to provide a vaccination certificate. The continents considered as infected areas are South America and Africa (excluding South Africa).
- CLOTHING:** Light clothing for tropical conditions. Casual eveningwear is required for dining and entrance into casinos (long trousers for men). You should pack walking shoes for those guided walks and trails.