



the seychelles islands
another world



ENGLISH

www.seychelles.travel

Not just another place, another world.



Since that distant time when Seychelles' 115 granite and coral islands became scattered over a secluded corner of the Indian Ocean, they have remained sanctuaries for much more than some of the rarest species of flora and fauna on earth.

As the highest peaks of the submerged remnants of the super-continent Gondwanaland, Seychelles represents the most ancient mid-ocean islands in the world, a true lasting legacy to the earth's very beginnings.

Like an armada of Noah's arks, these sparkling islands have safely cocooned not only their unique life forms, but a sense of belonging to a bygone age. One where tranquility and simplicity can still be found and innocence rediscovered, and where a diverse people share the warmth that only its young and tiny island communities can know.

This remote archipelago has been the source of numerous myths and legends since it was first settled in the late 18th century. Chief among these tales is that of the Vallée de Mai, one of Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and home to the legendary coco-de-mer, which some believe could be the original site of the biblical Garden of Eden.

Where to Stay.

ISLAND GETAWAYS

A total of 14 islands, including 10 island getaways with only a single lodge per island, provide an authentic tropical island experience and offer a range of accommodation choices from the homely comforts of rustic beachside bungalows to the pampered privacy and luxury of 5-star resorts.

25 & OVER

In Seychelles, a hotel offering more than 25 rooms is considered large although you will find a few hotels offering 100 rooms or more. All are favourably located on or close to a stunning beach and offer most of the usual amenities such as a choice of bars and restaurants, water sport facilities and programmes of evening entertainment.

25 & UNDER

A variety of smaller hotels, each with its own character and charm propose simpler comforts, typical of a Creole family guesthouse, evoking an intimate, home-away-from-home feeling.

SELF-CATERING

A selection of self-catering establishments offer visitors privacy, comfort and independence within a homely environment.

Traditionally associated with the most beautiful beaches on the planet, framed by timeless granite boulders, the Seychelles islands are at the top of the world's list of romantic destinations, perfect for that lazy tropical retreat for two. But the archipelago has even more to offer in addition to the ultimate sun, sand and sea holiday. For the modern traveller, these islands represent escape and an opportunity to recalibrate one's soul in harmony with the primal essence of nature.

For those wishing to do and see it all, Seychelles offers superb sailing, diving and snorkeling where relatively few have ventured, excellent fishing and wonderful opportunities to discover the islands' unique ecosystems on mountain hikes and nature trails, all enjoyable in a climate of almost perpetual summer. Island hopping by plane, boat or helicopter will allow you to discover each island's individual character, as well as a cuisine to seduce the most demanding palate and the genuine, heart-warming welcome of the Seychellois people.

Amidst this glimmering archipelago, spread across a million miles of azure ocean, an unforgettable journey awaits those eager to finally discover a place that's truly different and magical. A place like no other and another world entirely.

ACCOMMODATION AFLOAT

A wide selection of specialised craft, both sail and power, will entice you to cruise the warm, azure waters of the most spectacular archipelago on earth and experience the breathtaking beauty of its romantic bays and deserted beaches.



The Seychelles Islands.

There are two categories of islands: the granitic 'Inner' that cluster around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, whose verdant peaks climb skywards from virgin forests and immaculate beaches, and the 'Outer'; a sparkling array of flat, coralline islands extending westwards towards the coast of Africa that includes legendary Aldabra, the world's largest raised coral atoll. The 'Inner Islands' are the cultural focal point of Seychelles where the majority of the population lives while the 'Outer Islands' remain miniature worlds, little touched by man thus offering a unique and incomparable island experience.

MAHÉ

This fertile, granite island with verdant forests, soaring peaks and over 65 beaches enjoys a rich diversity of flora and fauna to be discovered by organised excursions as well as on walks and trails through lush countryside. North Mahé, home to famous Beau Vallon beach, tends to be more populous than other regions of the island, and discreetly features a range of hotels of all sizes, guesthouses and villas.

South Mahé presents, in contrast, a wonderfully pastoral aspect and is home to some of the island's prettiest beaches and villages too, all made accessible by an efficient network of roads.

Victoria, one of the tiniest capitals in the world, has managed to retain much of its original charm and character with outstanding examples of traditional architecture, a busy market, shops, boutiques and service providers.

OTHER ISLANDS

There are smaller, more remote islands that offer accommodation as well, including Bird, Cerf, Chauve Souris, Cousine, Denis, Desroches, Frégate, North, Silhouette, Round Island Praslin and Sainte Anne, with even more to come in the years ahead. For more information on these islands and a wealth of other helpful information about the Seychelles archipelago, you can visit www.seychelles.travel.



Activities.

SAILING

Outside the cyclone belt and offering a year-round sailing season, moderate swells and gentle tides, there is no better way to enjoy Seychelles than by cruising their pristine waters by catamaran, keelboat, bareboat or kayak, to name but a few.

UNDER THE STARS

Enjoy the unique atmosphere of the local clubs and bars where you can dance to the latest music until the small hours. Most large hotels have public bars and often host their own programmes of evening entertainment where you can try local dances such as the Sega and Moutya. You can even test lady luck at casinos on Mahé and Praslin.

PRASLIN

Praslin's original name of 'Isle de Palme' bears eloquent testament to its reputation as home to the Vallée de Mai UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the famous coco de mer grows wild in abundance. Seychelles' second largest island, Praslin lies 40 kilometres north-east of Mahé - 15 minutes by plane or 45 minutes by catamaran ferry. Divided by a ridge of hills intersected by a road that leads through the Vallée de Mai, Praslin possesses some of Seychelles' most striking beaches such as Anse Lazio, widely acclaimed to be the most beautiful beach on earth. Featuring the only 18-hole championship golf course in Seychelles and a luxurious casino, Praslin also has a rich assortment of hotels and guesthouses steeped in Creole hospitality. The island is ideally situated for holidaymakers wishing to island hop to La Digue, Chauve Souris, Curieuse, St. Pierre, Cousine, and the island bird reserves of Cousin and Aride.

LA DIGUE

La Digue, lying 45 kilometres from Mahé and 7 kilometres from Praslin is the fourth largest island in Seychelles, celebrated for its granite boulders that seem to have been sculpted by a divine hand to adorn beaches of breathtaking beauty such as Anse Source D'Argent. The island, where more traditional modes of transport such as bicycles and ox-carts still hold sway, offers authentic island-style accommodation, mainly situated on the west-coast while the east remains more or less untouched. The island serves as an ideal stepping-stone to the nearby islands of Grande Soeur and Petite Soeur, Félicité, Coco and Marianne.



DIVING

Open the door to a vast world that lies between 4 and 10 degrees south of the equator. Home to a marine extravaganza as diverse and vibrant as it is unique.

The Inner Islands reveal an abundance of marine life including butterflyfish, angelfish, soldierfish and squirrelfish among others and reefs that feature octopus, spiny lobster and a plethora of nudibranchs. The Outer Islands offer rewarding experiences around the numerous coral atolls and sand cays accessible mainly by live-aboard charter yacht. There are dive centres located on the island of Desroches, famous for its caves and canyons, and also on Alphonse with its spectacular drop-off.



FLORA & FAUNA

Seychelles is a pristine sanctuary for diverse species of flora and fauna. The Islands are home to an exciting diversity of birdlife that can be discovered in the wild or in specially designated reserves. Discover the treasures of this living natural history museum along its nature trails, through its breathtaking landscape, several national parks and other reserves and its increasing number of exciting eco-tourism ventures.

MIND, BODY & SOUL

From the signature treatments of dedicated spas offering relaxing massages with exotic herbal oils, scrubs, detox baths and invigorating wet-treatments to a full range of beauty and grooming services, Seychelles' spas hold the answer to your complete renewal of mind, body and soul.

WATER SPORTS

For thrills on the ocean, Beau Vallon bay is the place. Enjoy a selection of water sports that includes water-skiing, parachute rides, jet-skis, banana rides, sailing and so much more. Non-motorised water sports are widely available at some resorts.

SWIMMING & SNORKELLING

Step from uncrowded beaches straight into the warm embrace of the purest turquoise water and live your dream of a perfect tropical island lifestyle in the land of perpetual summer. And, in the waters just offshore, you will discover the enchantment of the Seychelles marine parks where a living aquarium awaits you in the form of colourful schooling reef fish, octopus, lobster and turtle.

FAMILY FUN

Although Seychelles enjoys an enviable reputation as the romantic destination of the tropics, it also proposes enticing holidays for families seeking glorious days packed with sea, sun and fun. A number of hotels throughout the islands have swimming pools and tennis courts and some also offer a range of water sports facilities, kiddies clubs and baby-sitting services.

DINING OUT

Eating out in Seychelles ranges from the refined international cuisine of 5 star resorts and excellent local restaurants to delicious Creole dishes served to you in charming seaside bistros where you can soak up the vistas with your feet in the sand.

Many hotels cater specifically for Asian, European and international tastes. Throughout the islands you'll also find an array of cafés, pizzerias and snack bars.

GOLF

The Seychelles Golf Club on Mahé has a 9-hole course while Praslin's Lémuria resort boasts a spectacular new 18-hole championship course with views that will take your breath away.

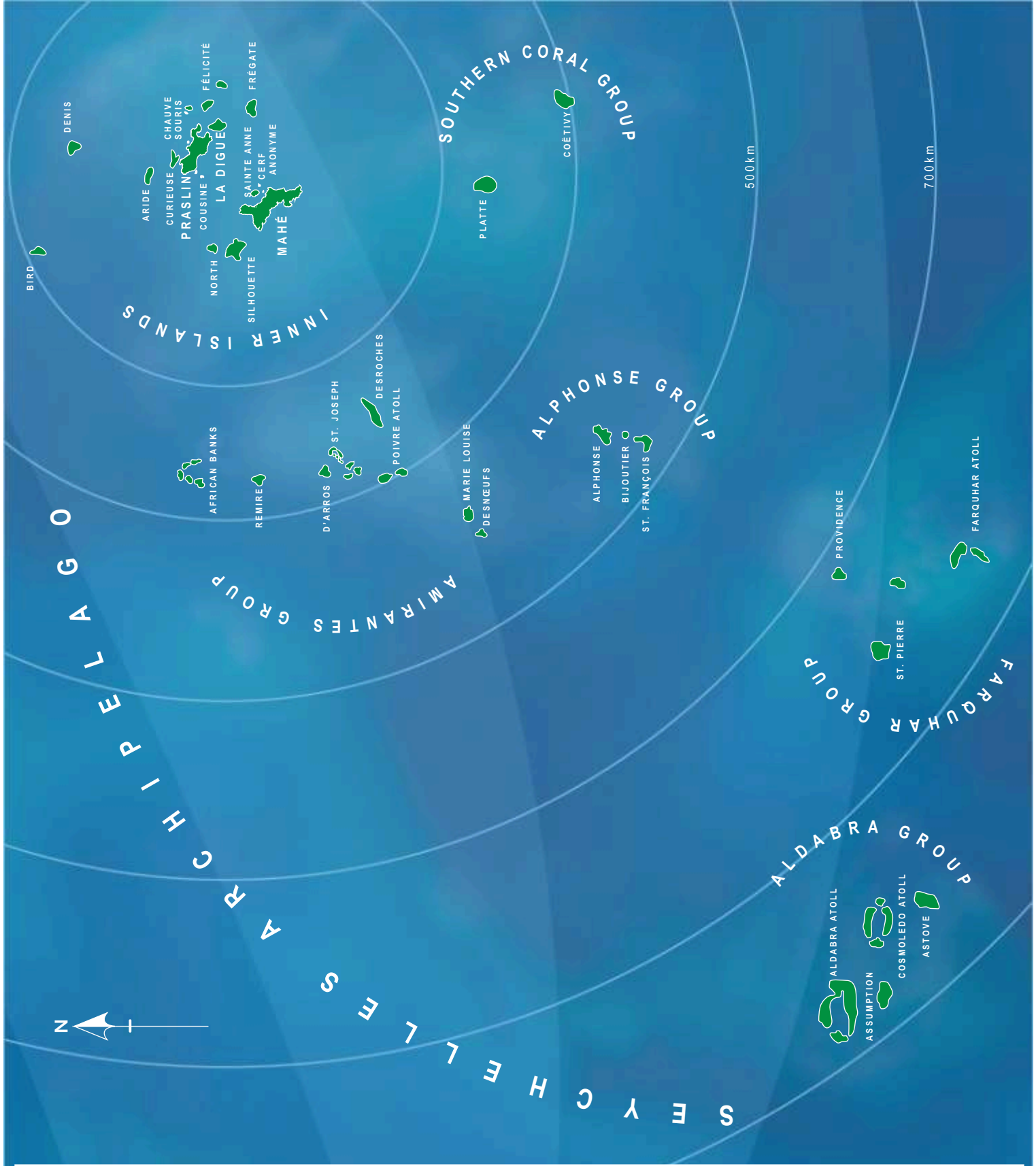
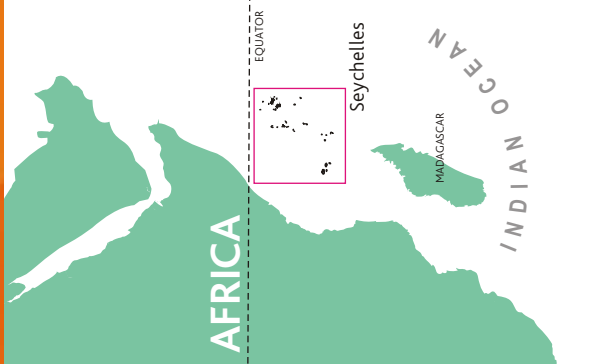
FISHING

The stuff of fisherman's tales. Over 1.4 million sq. km of fishing grounds offering catches of marlin, giant barracuda, shark and other prize game fish. Whether saltwater fly-fishing, blue water fly-fishing or deep-sea fishing, you will be rewarded with some of the finest fishing in the ocean.



Island Hopping

INNER ISLANDS	Kms from MAHÉ	BOAT (Mins)	Plane/ Helicopter (Mins)
Mahé			
Ste. Anne	4	15	5
Cerf	4	15	
Ile Longe	6	NA	
Ile Ronde	6	20	
Ile Moyenne	5	20	
Ile Anonyme	1	5	
Ile Thérèse	3	5	
Silhouette	30	45	15
Ile du Nord	35	50	20
Frégate	55	45	20
Praslin	45	40	10
Cousin	44	50	
Cousine	44	50	15
Curieuse	52	50	
Ile Aride	50	60	20
La Digue	50	60	
Grande Sœur	60	60	
Petite Sœur	60	60	
Marianne	60	60	
Félicité	55	60	20
Ile Coco		60	
Ile aux Vaches/Bird	105	70	30
Denis	95	6	30



TRAVELLERS TIPS

Climate

Temperatures range between 24° and 32° centigrade all year round. The year is divided between the northwest trade winds (December-March), when it is generally hot and humid, and those of the southeast (May-September), when it is drier and cooler. March, April, May, October and November are normally calm and relatively windless.

Communications

Competing GSM networks operate with full International roaming agreements with most countries. Payphones are available in most districts on the Inner Islands. Internet service providers, Internet cafés, postal and courier services are located in central Victoria with postal services and Internet cafés also available on Praslin and La Digue.

Credit cards

MasterCard/Access and Visa Cards are widely accepted in Seychelles. American Express and Diners Club to a lesser extent.

Currency

The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (Sr) made up of 100 cents. Notes come in denominations of Sr10.00, Sr25.00, Sr50.00, Sr100.00 and Sr500.00 and coins from Sr5.00 downwards. Seychelles accepts all major currencies. Traveller's cheques are accepted at all banks.

Drinking Water

Tap water on Mahé and Praslin is safe and drinkable. However, when visiting the other islands it is advisable to drink bottled spring water.

Entry Formalities

There are no visa requirements to enter Seychelles. Documents required for immigration clearance are:

- A valid passport
- Return or onward ticket
- Proof of accommodation
- Sufficient funds for the duration of your stay

Presentation of the above documents will grant you a Visitor's Permit issued upon arrival by the Seychelles Department of Immigration. The Visitor's Permit is valid

for a maximum of one month, extended stay available upon application to the Department of Immigration.

Foreign exchange regulations

Visitors must pay for all their excursions, board and lodging and all other services provided by hotels, guesthouses or self-catering establishments in major international currency notes, or by credit card. Other services payable in foreign exchange include:

- car hire
- diving
- boat charter, ferry or air transportation
- excursions
- entrance fees (reserves, marine parks, etc)
- restaurants outside of Hotels

Exchanging foreign currency into Seychelles rupees must ONLY be done at banks, authorised money dealers at the Seychelles International Airport or with the hotel cashier. Be warned. It is a criminal offence to change money with any person or business other than those authorized and mentioned above. If you require Rupees, it is advisable to exchange only what you need on a daily basis. To re-exchange Seychelles Rupees into foreign currency on your departure, you MUST produce the official receipt from your initial authorised dealer to the bank. Your money will not be re-converted into foreign currency without this receipt.

Greetings

The handshake is the common form of greeting, often accompanied by 'Ki dir' (kid-zee) meaning 'How are you doing?'

Health matters

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 1 year of age who come from or who have passed through a partly or wholly infected area (South America and Africa but excluding South Africa) within the preceding 6 days. There is NO risk of contracting malaria or yellow fever in Seychelles. Health clinics exist on the islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and there are dispensaries on each of the islands offering accommodation.

Hours of business

Office hours are between 0800 and 1600. Many shops outside the Capital remain open until 1900.

Language

Seychelles has three official languages English, French and Creole.

Religion

Most of the population is Roman Catholic, with Anglican and other Protestant churches on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue existing in harmony alongside Muslim, Hindu and Baha'i communities.

Safety & Valuables

Seychelles is a safe destination but it is advisable to be cautious. Be advised not to flaunt large sums of money or other high value items. Rather make use of your room or the hotel safes.

Shopping

Shops are open 09h00 to 16h00 during weekdays and from 08h00 to 12h00 on Saturdays. Most shops in Victoria are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Tax and Tipping

Restaurant and hotel bills include a tax of 7%. Tipping is not expected but will be warmly accepted if you have received exceptional service.

Time difference

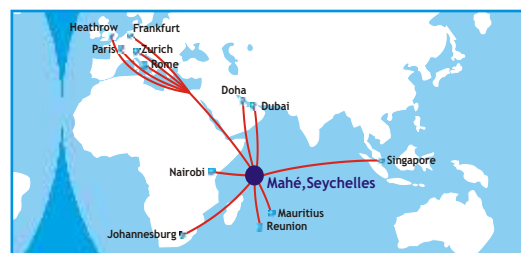
Seychelles is 4 hours ahead of GMT, 3 hours ahead of British summer time and 2 hours ahead of European summer time.

TV, radio and Newspapers

Local TV is broadcast in Creole, French and English with the recent addition of 'TV 5 Afrique'. The music radio station 'Paradise FM' broadcasts to Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette and the Inner Islands. The 'Seychelles Nation' is a morning newspaper that appears Mon-Sat and is available in English, French and Creole. 'Isola Bella', appears monthly. Political party publications 'The People', 'Regar' and 'Seychelles New Weekly' are published weekly.

HOW TO GET THERE

The national airline, Air Seychelles, operates scheduled flights from London, Paris, Rome, Mauritius, South Africa and Singapore. Qatar Airways and Emirates fly to and from Seychelles with connecting flights to various worldwide sectors through Dubai and Doha. Other operating airlines include Air France, Kenya Airways, Condor, Air Austral and Air Mauritius. Private aircraft are welcomed at Mahé International Airport after having cleared all relevant formalities with the Civil Aviation Authority.



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