

Silhouette

Inflight magazine of Air Seychelles • January-March 2019



The best of
beach & bush



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Dear Guests, Welcome aboard!

Before we move forward with the exciting plans we have for this year, let us quickly review the remarkable achievements recorded during the last three months of 2018.

Our busiest month, October, saw the airline celebrate its 40th anniversary since its inception as a domestic carrier in 1978. This historic milestone was celebrated with a week-long schedule of activities starting from Monday, 22 October until Friday, 26 October – the actual day of the anniversary in both Mahé and Praslin.

As part of the exciting events held, we had the opportunity to host 120 school children on a fun-filled guided tour of our Airbus A320 aircraft at the Seychelles International Airport. It was indeed an immense pleasure to welcome onboard the aircraft the pupils who were all excited to meet our dedicated team of cabin crew, pilots and engineers as well as having the chance to experience our inflight products.

Taking the adventure to the next level, to mark our 40th anniversary celebration we also travelled to one of the airline's first and busiest domestic routes, Praslin, to host young aviation enthusiasts from the Baie Saint Anne and Grand Anse Primary School on a 15-minute scenic flight over the second largest island of the Seychelles.

Having the opportunity to experience a bird's eye view of the most amazing spots in Praslin was definitely an experience of a lifetime for the children. For some of them the memorable journey was their first experience on board our Twin Otter aircraft.

To inspire the young generation to join the aviation industry, the following day the airline's technical operations department opened its doors to a group of young trainee engineers from the Seychelles Institute of Technology. Besides meeting with colleagues from our technical operations team, the students also had the chance to view our engineers in action on the ramp performing line maintenance on one of our Airbus A320 aircraft.

The eventful week, which included the long service award celebration on 25 October saw 66 staff who have all been with the company for between 10 and 40 years thanked for their years of service. This was followed by an exciting gathering with all staff members at the Eden Bleu Hotel on 26 October.

Our guests remain the core of our business as we seek their support in everything we do. Following the 40th anniversary celebration of the airline I would like to express my gratitude to all the guests who have flown with Air Seychelles over the years. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We will continue to listen to the feedback received from our guests to improve our business further. For example, following a survey we conducted last year in our Salon Vallee de Mai lounge, we have enhanced our service and introduced a new hot food breakfast menu in the lounge. Guests accessing the location can now enjoy a range of delicious hot breakfast items prior to departure to their final destination.

This exciting year, apart from enhancing our digital platform, we will be focused on the entry into service of our first Airbus A320neo aircraft, set to be delivered in mid 2019. The arrival of the new aircraft will indeed be another historical milestone for the national airline and for the Seychelles.

So where are you flying next with Air Seychelles? If you are planning your next trip why not opt for the iconic city of Abu Dhabi or – even better – take advantage of our codeshare partnership with Air India to explore the grand palace and buzzing streets of Jaipur.

Make your holiday a memorable one with Air Seychelles; I wish you a pleasant trip today!



“

Our guests remain the core of our business as we seek their support in everything we do.

”

Remco Althuis
Chief Executive Officer

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King Rama 1 named Bangkok's Chao Phraya river "the River of Kings", but don't let the royal moniker discourage you. For the 21st century traveller, no king's ransom is needed to travel up and down this iconic river.

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'The leaning tower of Abu Dhabi.'

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Head straight for this leafy trio of suburbs in 'The Parks' to enjoy Johannesburg like the locals.

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Here's how to discover the best of both beach and bush, the wilds of Botswana and the glorious beaches of the Seychelles.

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There is a sense of space and elegance – and yes, of glorious pinkness! – that marks Jaipur out from so many other Indian cities.

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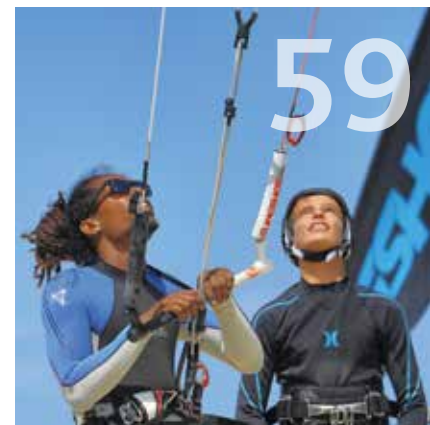
Whether you're an experienced kite-surfer, or a budding adventurer, Mauritius ticks all the right boxes when it comes to creating a memorable holiday on the wind and waves.

63 Indian Ocean Swing

After the success of the first-ever Indian Ocean Swing, excitement is already building ahead of the Staysure Tour's next visit to the paradise islands at the end of 2019.



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The scenic Anse Source D'Argent beach, La Digue Island, Seychelles. Shutterstock.com

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SSFC Marlin Slam

19 January 2019

www.ssfcmail@gmail.com

One of the biggest fishing tournaments in the Indian Ocean with a large pay-out every year, anglers target marlin in the annual Marlin Slam.



Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon 2019

Venue: Beau Vallon

Date: 24 February 2019

www.seychelles-marathon.com

The Seychelles Islands is to host its annual 13th edition of Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon for the year 2019. It will meander through the stunning countryside of north Mahé, providing a unique opportunity for marathon runners across the globe.

There is something for a wide range of fitness levels 5 kilometre, 10 kilometre, half marathon, marathon and relay run of marathon. This follows the philosophy of the Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon that is to spread the focus beyond mere competition, putting equal emphasis on appreciating exercise and being surrounded by the natural beauty of Seychelles.

The Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon is recognised internationally through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) label. It is organised jointly by the National Sports Council, Seychelles Tourism Board and INOCEAN M&C- which is also the main sponsor for the event.

Indian Ocean Marlin Cup

Venue: Beau Vallon

Date: 2 March 2019

www.flyzonefishing.com

This will be an Indian Ocean wide Marlin tournament. The largest blue marlin or black marlin over 500 pounds caught in the Indian Ocean at this one day tournament.



Coco Blu restaurant

Located in the heart of Victoria, overlooking the iconic Clock Tower is the newly renovated Coco Blu restaurant, a new edition to the Sunset Group. As you enter, you are greeted by the friendly staff before becoming immersed in the distinctive ambience of tropical chic which gives its name: Coco Blu.

Coco Blu opens daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturdays when it opens at 6pm until late in the night and offers live entertainment. It serves both Seychellois and international delicacies with true Creole flair.

The restaurant is noted for its delicious salads and pizzas but you can also enjoy a selection of sumptuous alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails to help you wind down after a hectic day.

With its central location, Coco Blu is the ideal place to invite your family and friends to celebrate special occasions.





Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship presented by EGA

Venue: Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Date: 16-19 January 2019

www.abudhabigolfchampionship.com

A favourite event for players and spectators alike, the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship presented by EGA is recognised as one of the biggest events on the European Tour, regularly attracting some of golf's most famous names. Since its inception, it has been staged at the sublime Abu Dhabi Golf Club as part of the Tour's Desert Swing.

In the 2018 edition, defending champion Fleetwood stormed to the title by coming home in 30 shots for a 65, and a two-shot victory over Ross Fisher and by four shots over Rory McIlroy.

The main attraction is the 18-hole, 7440-yard National Championship Course which hosts the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship on the European Tour. It was opened for play in 2000 and includes all of the course features associated with desert golf. Gently undulating fairways meander their way through pockets of palms, ornamental trees and no less than seven salt water lakes.



Tata Mumbai Marathon

Venue: Mumbai

Date: 20 January 2019

www.marathonrunnersdiary.com

Previously known as the Standard Chartered Marathon is the largest mass participation-sporting event in Asia. The race follows a flat coastal route, out and back passing many famous monuments of interest.

The Mumbai Marathon is an annual international marathon held in Mumbai, India, on the third Sunday of January every year. It also hosts a very diverse group of runners such as the international elite athletes, Indian elite athletes, amateur runners, fun runners, senior citizens and the differently-abled. It is the largest marathon in Asia as well as the largest mass participation sporting event on the continent. It is the richest race in India.



Mauritius Billfish Release International Tournament

Venue: Black River

Date: 2-6 February 2019

www.luxresorts.com

The Mauritius Billfish Release International Tournament is taking place in Black River, in late January during the peak of the marlin season. Situated on the west coast of the Island, sheltered from the prevailing trade winds, Black River is the perfect place for unforgettable deep-sea fishing experiences.



The Travel Expo

Venue: Northumberland Rd and Olievenhout Ave, Johannesburg

Date: 9-10 February 2019

www.travelexpo.co.za

The Travel Expo provides a platform to inform, entertain and educate the attendees about holiday destinations and fun travel vacations all in one independent expo.

The Travel Expo 2019 offers everything you need to plan your next adventure. With over 100 travel exhibitors, visitors will enjoy the best deals, specials and biggest savings with exclusive offers from various airlines, cruise lines, resorts and hotels, tour and adventure.

The Travel Expo 2019 will be bringing in the leading travel industry experts to showcase their products, offer advice, and answer any questions that you may have regarding what you have in mind for your travelling endeavour!





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Eden Island in the heart of Seychelles has so much to offer.

The award winning private residential marina development, just off the coast of Mahé, comprises a broad range of luxury Apartments, Maisons and Villas for sale on freehold title or for rental.

With the most modern and well-equipped marina in the Indian Ocean islands, Eden Island is secure and caters to every comfort: exclusive child-friendly beaches, a clubhouse with rim-flow pool, gym and tennis court, two more pools and beautifully landscaped walkways. Also found on Eden Island is a buzzy restaurant strip together with a premium

shopping experience at Eden Plaza with its restaurants, and variety of shops including a supermarket, banking facilities, medical practices and a health spa.

The [Eden Island Luxury Accommodation](#) portfolio has a selection of self-catering accommodation offering the perfect location for holidays or longer-term rentals – all with access to Eden Island's unique facilities.

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A foldable future?

WORDS: JOE MINIHANE



The smartphone revolution is unarguably the most visible example of how technology has become central to modern life. But while their cameras, apps, storage capacity and computing prowess have developed at a rapid rate, the design of the smartphone has been essentially unchanged for over a decade.

Sure, smartphones may have become bigger, slimmer and more pleasant to use. Yet their rectangular style and screen dominant design does not allow much room for creative development from in-house designers. Samsung, though, is hoping that pioneering new display technology can change that, while giving it a much-needed boost in its bid to outdo major rival Apple.

The Korean conglomerate revealed a prototype of a folding smartphone at its developers conference in San Francisco



in November 2018. Its main display is 7.3 inches (18.5 centimetres), making it more of a tablet than a smartphone. But thanks to screen tech that Samsung calls Infinity Flex, it can be folded in half. As it does so, a five inch (12.7 centimetres) screen appears on the back of the tablet, turning it into a functioning smartphone.

This as-yet-unnamed phone has been years in the making. Samsung first trailed a version of the device in summer 2016, calling it Project Valley. Now, after seemingly ironing out concerns surrounding the display's weakness where it folds, Samsung is readying the phone for launch in mid 2019.

It's not the only one. Small Chinese company Royole revealed its own device at the end of 2018 and Huawei is also preparing its own model. The question is, will such a major change to standard smartphone design catch on with consumers?

Google certainly seems to think so. Its Android operating system, which powers Samsung and Huawei's phones, is being optimised for foldable phones, with developers being encouraged to modify existing apps and create new ones specifically for such products.

Speaking at a developer event in November, Google's Vice President of Engineering, Dave Burke, said, "We expect to see foldable products from several Android manufacturers," adding that Google was, "...enhancing Android to take advantage of this new form factor with as little work as necessary."

That's big news for folding phones. Without Google's support, manufacturers would have to create their own software solutions, leading to apps that would work on some phones, but not others, likely stymying wider consumer interest in new products. By giving its full backing, and creating solutions for mobile makers such as allowing apps to work seamlessly across the open and folded screens, Google is hoping that it can get in on the action while ensuring its Android system remains at the heart of smartphones around world.

Some developers are already working on apps for Samsung's device. News aggregation service Flipboard has shown off plans for an app that shows concise content on the smaller screen, with richer video and image-led pages when it's opened out into full size.

That's not to say the success of foldable phones is a slam dunk. There are some big hurdles to clear if they're ever to catch on. Firstly, the viability of their screens remains unknown. How long will they be able to last with constant opening and closing? Current smartphone screens hold up for years, but they aren't manipulated in the same way.

Then there's the major issue of battery life. Currently, smartphone batteries last around a day on a single charge. But they only have one display. Samsung's phone, and other foldable devices, have two, and are likely going to need to draw a lot more power. That either means compromising on how long handsets last on one charge or installing larger power packs, making the phones bulky and ugly compared with existing models such as Samsung's Galaxy Note 9 and Apple's iPhone XS.

Finally, cost. The best smartphones already hover around the US\$1,000 mark. But throw in cutting edge tech and there's every chance that price tag could double. With Samsung said to be offering just a few hundred thousand models of its foldable smartphone at launch, the wait for mass adoption of these devices could be a long way off.

Yet despite all that, there's undeniable excitement about this shift. Patent applications suggest Apple is working on its own model, meaning that the biggest name in the game may soon be joining its competitors in offering a new look smartphone. It may take a while, but the way smartphones look is all set to change. 🌈



Daniella Alis-Payet

Glynn Burridge speaks to Daniella Alis-Payet, Seychelles tourism pioneer and founder of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation.



Daniella, perhaps you can explain your background and give us an insight into some of your current projects?

I have been involved in the tourism business since the age of 13 when I used to help my father, a pioneer at the beginning of tourism industry on Praslin.

Later, I left Seychelles for France where at a young age I created my Travel Agencies in Lorient (Brittany) in 1986, and then started promoting the Seychelles Islands in a first, unique brochure on the French market.

At that time, the tour operators were only selling large properties in Seychelles. Therefore, I came up with the idea of promoting the numerous small hotels and guest houses. The French market reacted quickly to my products, and we became Travel Operations Agency (TOA) No.1 for Seychelles on the French market, including Switzerland and Belgium. In 1996, I was approached by Air Austral who wanted to buy shares in my company.

Austral Voyages and I accepted in selling them 33% as I saw them as a strategic partner and kept the majority shares until 2000, when Air Austral wanted a different strategy for the company.

At the same time, I decided to start a free online central reservation website dedicated to the Seychelles destination, as I was unable to continue promoting all the small businesses in Seychelles because we were working mainly with Travel agencies and needed to promote hotels with bigger capacities.

This path led me to where I am today with 40 years' worth of experience promoting my country and wanting to give back, support the young generation, and the sustainable future of our industry.

Therefore, I decided to found the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation (SSTF).



Please describe what you consider to be your main influence on the Seychelles Tourism sector.

My special achievements and the elements of industry leadership that I have played in developing my sector involve being the first local guide before directing the agency of my late father in the 70s.

I have also created travel agencies in Africa and France in the 80s and my own travel agency in France before becoming the leading Tour Operator Specialist on the Seychelles destination in the 90s.

I founded and currently run an online reservation centre dedicated exclusively to the Seychelles' Destination and I am vice-chairman and board-member of the committee "Seychelles Hospitality Tourism Association" (SHTA) since 2003 to date as well as a member of the Marketing Committee of the "Seychelles Tourism Board" since 2008.

What has inspired you to create the SSTF?

My dream of giving back to my community and my country! Having attended the 22 session of the conference of parties (COP 22) in Marrakech in November 2016, I was confronted with the evidence of climate change and the crucial role SIDS are playing. I began seeking the right adaptation and mitigation strategies with the potential to position themselves as best practice examples for the rest of the world and concluded that now is the moment to act. This is especially true because at the COP 22 it was reconfirmed that there are a number of international funds available for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate change projects.

Calling on my vast network in the private and public sector, I pushed for the creation of a foundation which will support the Seychelles tourism industry as a whole in its journey towards a sustainable future.

Can you please explain how the foundation works and what are its objectives?

One of the main aims of the foundation is to support Seychellois who are passionate to set up their own businesses and projects in sustainable tourism.

We collect ideas, bring stakeholders together and support them

in writing project proposals and apply for funding. One of our first focus areas will be the independent Seychellois tour guides, who have no joint structure to support their communication and outreach to international markets.

We are bringing these tour guides together, helping them set up their own association and further develop sustainable tour guiding products, such as birdwatching, night walks, etc.

The action planning and activities of the foundation are based on the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC) for destinations. This includes a set of universally-recognised minimum criteria for sustainable destination development, which will guide us in our path towards a holistic approach to sustainable tourism in Seychelles, and aiming to get the Seychelles to obtain GSTC certification at destination level in the next five years.

The criteria gives us, the foundation and its partners, a recognised set of criteria in different categories, such as "effective sustainable management", "maximise benefits to communities, visitors and culture" and "maximise benefits to the environment and minimise negative impacts", among others.

What are you doing in your personal capacity to "give back"?

After 40 years in the tourism industry, I have reached the turning point where I want to give back and implement real change. I am not afraid to speak my mind and to stand up for what I believe in.

I believe that the evidence and the effects of climate change are right in front of our eyes, but also that we as a small island state have the potential to join forces and work on a common, integrated approach to bring the necessary change for Seychelles so that we become an international example of excellence for sustainable tourism. The potential is there, the world is looking at us, we just need to act.

Therefore, the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation aims to make Seychelles an international best practice example for sustainable tourism through an integrated collaborative approach between public and private sector, academia and NGSS. The foundation acts as a clearing house that deals full-time with sustainable tourism, that connects, collects, shares, lobbies, implements and raises funds for this endeavour and is the main focal point for all sustainable tourism matters in the country. 🌿

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ALPHONSE ISLAND

The turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean gently lap the dazzling white sandy beaches, fringed by palm trees and surrounded by a wild paradise. A small stylish hotel with a magnificent pool, hotel facilities, Azure Spa and an incredible diversity of experiences that can be encountered on any one of the group of three islands. Relax in one of the authentic Beach Bungalows, Beach Suites or Beach Villas with direct beach access and uninterrupted panoramas of the surrounding ocean.



COSMOLEDO ATOLL

Referred to as the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean, Cosmoledo is as wild and remote as you can get. An exceptional atoll with just eight unique Eco Pods, that blend seamlessly with the diverse landscape. Defined as barefoot luxury in a place that is frozen in time. Boasting vast sand flats dotted with over 20 islands, islets and cays, an exceptional lagoon and incredible birdlife, Cosmoledo Atoll can only be described as one of "Mother Nature's" finest creations.



ASTOVE ATOLL

Astove Atoll is home to the awe-inspiring "Wall". This breathtaking marine environment has magnificent drop offs that attract the world's finest divers and aquatic photographers and is famous for Jacques Cousteau who filmed part of "The Silent World" along its edges. The newly renovated Coral House with only six rooms receives a handful of guests each week. Astove is surrounded with white sandy beaches which are home to one of the largest populations of nesting turtles.



AMIRANTE ISLANDS

Blue Safari Seychelles will create a bespoke itinerary that is unique and seamless using its fleet of boats and team of professionals. Navigate the many uninhabited islands of the Amirantes on a yacht, exploring the diversity of these atolls. Immerse yourself in the sheer unspoilt beauty of your surroundings, experiencing the remoteness of each dive, snorkel and swim in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean whilst you marvel at the marine life that inhabits the array of islands in these waters.

CYCLING BLISS



WORDS: SUGATO TRIPATHY

As the ship approaches, it rises out of the water abruptly like a gnarled, medieval creature like a sentinel guarding the best kept “secret” of the Seychelles Islands. With granite formations dotting most of its gorgeous coastline, La Digue harbours the most photographed beach in the world in Anse Source D’Argent and probably the most exciting cycling route of the Indian Ocean. The lack of traffic, easy pace of life, perfect scenery and the complete absence of tarmac makes La Digue the perfect destination for some pedalling bliss.







First impressions

Unless you take a helicopter, La Digue can be reached only by ferry. From Mahé, it takes just over an hour to reach this spectacular island with a brief stopover in Praslin. The first thing that I noticed after arriving at the jetty was a fish market on the left and a tourism information centre at the right. Just beside is the small Tarosa Restaurant – a casual affair with the emphasis on takeaway dishes. The name Tarosa, however, is intrinsic to La Digue and is a term used for the male Madagascar Fody, the most common landbird in Seychelles. The country, though, is an ethnical mix of European, Indian and Chinese origin and the people take immense pride in them being Seychellois. So with such close-knit inhabited islands, it is fascinating to see a bit of diversity. “We are quite different from the other islands in the country. The scenery, the people and the cuisine are unmistakably Seychellois, but with a twist,” said Shanmugam, a local fisherman of Indian origin in broken English.



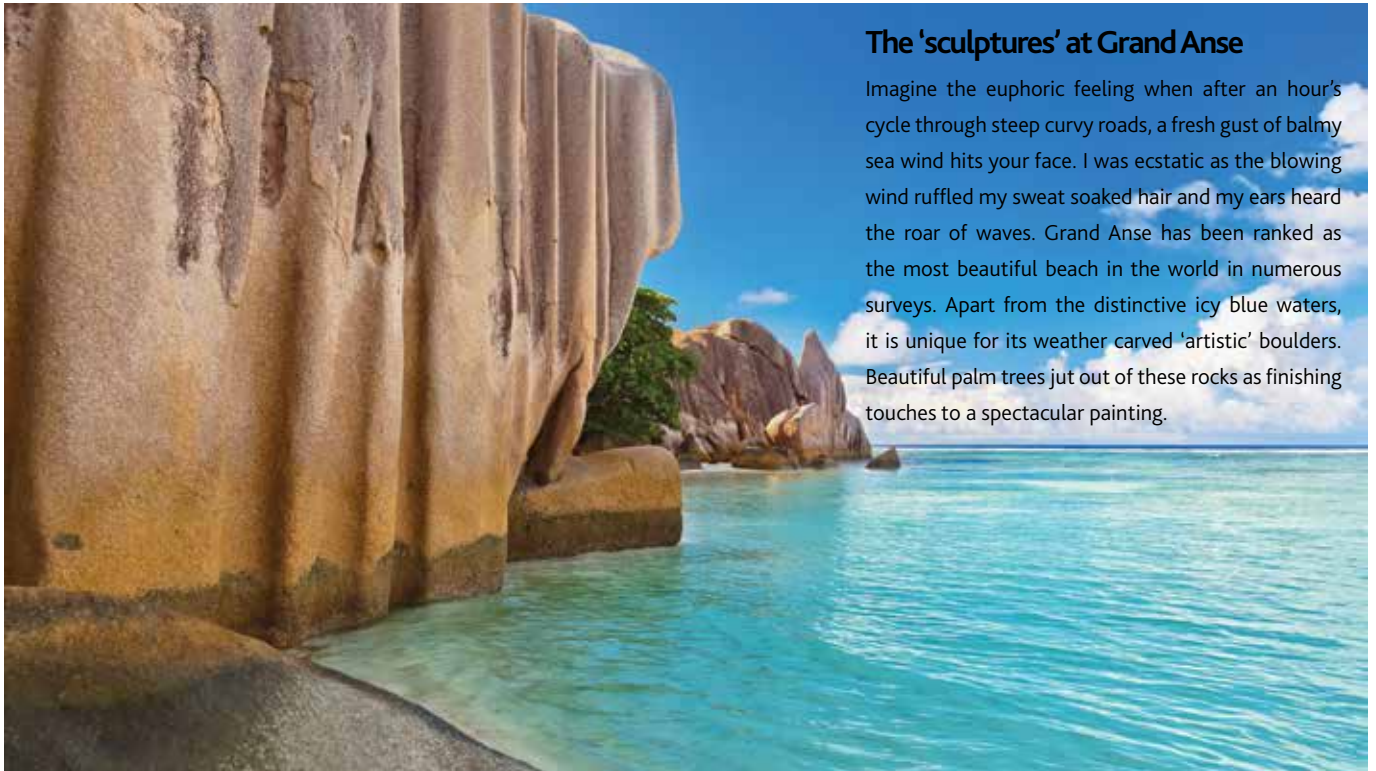


The cycling path

Bicycles rule the roads here. The small winding cemented paths either delve into lush tropical forests or open into magnificent vistas of the Indian Ocean dotted with powdery beaches of bone-white sand. The path almost circumvents half of the island with the cemented road ending at Anse Fourmis at the north eastern end and at the western end at La Reunion estate. Another inland path gives access to the world-famous beach of Grand Anse. The steep inclines especially near Anse Patates at the northern end and on the Grand Anse road can be arduous. The humidity from the dense tropical vegetation is exhausting. However, the pristine natural beauty and unbroken silence offer enough reason to pause. The unhurried pace of life is what defines La Digue. There are no speeding cars or bikes, there are no traffic jams, there are no crowded markets and the only running I see is of the kids on the beach while their parents laze on the fine white sand. On some beaches, you will be the only soul around. Whether or not you like cycling, La Digue will offer you enough reasons to try it. The thrill of pedalling past the topaz blue ocean, meandering under the thick canopy of tropical forest and exploring the island at your own pace are unmatched experiences. The only sounds are the clinks of the cycle chain, the sweetly mixed euphony of several chirping birds and the melodious splash of the crystal-clear water against big glacié boulders. The standards of bikes are usually good. It is advisable to check your ride before hiring. The recommended pathways are as follows:

- La Passe to Grand Anse via the La Digue Veuve Reserve (amidst several grand plantation type houses and dense tropical forest with huge granite boulders).
- La Passe to L'Union Estate (a short ride; they allow bicycles inside their premises).
- La Passe to Anse Banane (the most scenic ride of the island; most of the road passes by the ocean with gigantic rocky outcrops dotting the spectacular shoreline).





The 'sculptures' at Grand Anse

Imagine the euphoric feeling when after an hour's cycle through steep curvy roads, a fresh gust of balmy sea wind hits your face. I was ecstatic as the blowing wind ruffled my sweat soaked hair and my ears heard the roar of waves. Grand Anse has been ranked as the most beautiful beach in the world in numerous surveys. Apart from the distinctive icy blue waters, it is unique for its weather carved 'artistic' boulders. Beautiful palm trees jut out of these rocks as finishing touches to a spectacular painting.

GRANKAZ

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The historical L'Union Estate

A former coconut and vanilla plantation, L'Union Estate is located at the southern end of La Reunion. There is an entry charge of 100 SCR valid for 24 hours. Cycles are allowed inside the estate with no additional charge. In the late 19th century, the vanilla industry came to prominence and La Digue was the centre of production. In 1899, the value of vanilla exports surpassed coconut. The export industry flourished until 1906 when artificial vanillin arrived in the market. The estate still has a small vanilla plantation which gives a feel of the bygone era.

Until the 1980s, the estate was a hub of copra (dry coconut) production and housed a coconut oil press. Apart from the breathtaking beach of Anse Source D'Argent, the L'Union Estate has an enclosure for Aldabra Giant Tortoises. These gentle giants are the largest species of tortoise on the planet and are particularly popular among tourists.



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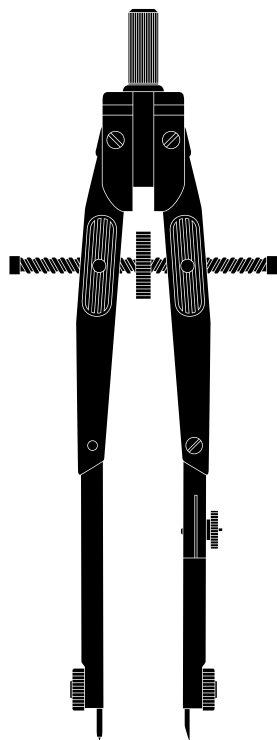
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Photographer's delight – Anse Source D'Argent

Touted as the most photographed beach of the world, Anse Source D'Argent is at the end of the L'Union Estate. At the end of the path, the gigantic boulders gave way to a view of the Indian Ocean the like of which I had never seen before. I gazed in sheer wonderment. Ribbons of pearlescent sand melted into the sparkling waters. The shoreline is dotted with magnificent smooth boulders with beautiful patterned natural ridges. A variety of marine plants and seaweeds are visible due to the shallow sand and crystal clear sea. Patches of green intersperse with the yellow sand and turquoise blue waters. It is as if an errant painter seemed to have run amok with his bucketful of colours. Further, into the lagoon where the water turns deep purple, it is ideal for snorkeling. Hundreds of species of corals and colourful reef fish call it home. Anse Source D'Argent despite being one of the most visited beaches of the country, still provides privacy in its secret granite coves and sheltered bays.







Vantage point - Nid d'Aigle (Belle Vue)

The highest point in La Digue promises unhindered vistas of the Indian Ocean. It's a great vantage point to look over the islands of Praslin, Félicité and Marianne. However, the trek to Nid d'Aigle is not easy. The steep pathway is not kind to cyclists. So, it is advisable to cycle as far as you can and then walk the rest of it. The path is a mixture of red soil, granite and grass and is mostly bereft of shade. It will take approximately two hours to reach the summit. Climbing during the afternoon should be avoided. Avid trekkers sometimes opt to descend to Grand Anse on the eastern end of the island which is another two hours amidst dense forest cover. A guide is recommended for such treks.

Some visitors who visited La Digue 10 years ago will say it has changed. There are more cars and hotels. With the number of tourists outnumbering the locals, change is inevitable here. But with utmost care for its unique environment, La Digue believes in blending the old seamlessly into the new.

I had read somewhere that places and countries are best understood by their coastlines. The massive granite boulders which dot its shores act as sentries who are aptly guarding the beautiful islands of Seychelles over centuries. La Digue, surrounded by humongous granite formations all across its coastline is an epitome of island paradise.





Getting there

A range of options is available. Air Seychelles operates regular interisland services throughout the day to Praslin. A fast Catamaran runs regular trips between Praslin and La Digue. Or take a ferry from Mahé to La Digue. It can take approximately up to three hours including the stopover time at Praslin.

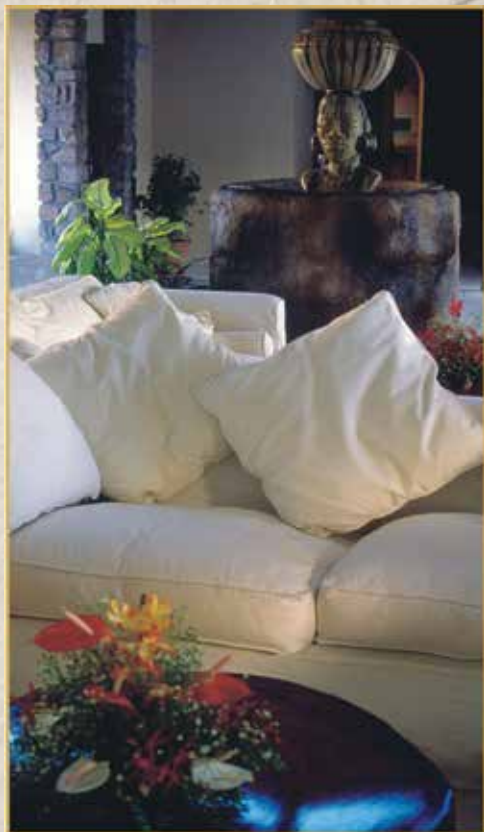
Top things to do

- ♦ Cycling is the easiest and most idyllic way to enjoy scenic La Digue. Give yourself at least two days to explore the small island. Hire a cycle and ride along the scenic coastal pathways and the forest tracks.
- ♦ Trek up to the highest point and watch the sunset from Nid d'Aigle. Get enchanted by the beguiling colours of Anse Source D'Argent.
- ♦ Cycle through the steep hilly terrains to reach Grand Anse. Enjoy the belligerent waves and naturally sculptured rocks of the spectacular beach.
- ♦ Walk amidst the vanilla plantation of L'Union Estate and feed the Aldabra tortoises. You will find them at various other places while you cycle through the island. Feed them with your hands. It will be a delightful experience.
- ♦ Explore the Veuve Nature Reserve and give yourself a chance to see the elusive Paradise Flycatcher.

- ♦ Most tourists return back after visiting Grand Anse. A fifteen minutes trek through a small hill on the Western part of the beach leads you to Petite Anse. Though similar in many aspects, this beach is more secluded and perfect for sunbathing or a quiet family picnic.

What to eat

- ♦ **Le Combava - Domaine de L'Orangerie Resort & Spa:** It is a fine dining affair by the beachside. Set beside the hotel's swimming pool and coupled with hospitable staff, it offers several epicurean delights from an international menu. It is the only upmarket restaurant in La Digue.
- ♦ **Chez Jules:** Almost near the end of the cemented road on the eastern coast is this delightfully secluded restaurant. It specialises in Creole cuisine. It is a "must visit" for tourists looking to taste authentic Seychellois food. Grilled fish fillet and octopus salad are its specialties.
- ♦ **Le Repaire:** It's the best restaurant of the island for Italian cuisine. It serves delectable pastas, pizzas and risotto.
- ♦ **Loutier Coco:** Located on the Grand Anse beach this is the only restaurant in that region. It underwent a complete and much-needed transformation in 2016 when the interiors were renovated and the battered roof was repaired. The only thing that didn't change was the delightfully fresh seafood buffet and traditional Creole curries. 🌴



The Coco D'or Hotel, is built on an Acre of lush tropical land, on the north west coast of Mahé. The hotel is a mere four minutes walk from Beau Vallon, one of the island's most beautiful beaches. The Coco D'or sets itself apart from other hotels in Seychelles by virtue of its location, amenities and unparalleled service philosophy.

The hotel provides 3 specialized cuisines of Local & International, Pizza and Chinese.

27 appointed rooms and suites, each with a private bath, balcony, terrace and/or living room are divided into two categories:-

Standard room

24 rooms with a verandah and tropical garden, 6 rooms with a terrace and 2 with a lounge.

Deluxe suites

3 rooms with a private patio terrace and mountain and garden view, two bathrooms, a kitchenette and a separate living room.



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1

The River of Kings

WORDS: CHRISTINE PEMBERTON



King Rama 1 named Bangkok's Chao Phraya river "the River of Kings", but don't let the royal moniker discourage you. For the 21st century traveller, no king's ransom is needed to travel up and down this iconic river. Indeed, it is one of the cheapest and most fun ways of exploring the city.

The Chao Phraya is, for a River of Kings, one of the most inclusive and democratic rivers going. From smart hotel shuttles, complete with staff in solar "topis" and colonial-era tropical dress, to the local ferries; from slow cargo-laden barges to colourful longtail boats zooming up and down the canals, the river is a busy thoroughfare.

Canals, known as "klongs", branch off from the river, wooden shacks lean precariously over the water, where you see palaces, temples, old hotels, new hotels, brand new condominiums and about-to-be-even-newer-condominiums under construction. There is, in other words, a whole world to be seen, along the banks of this historic river.

A perfect way to see life on and along the Chao Phraya is to hop aboard one of the local ferries that ply this evocative river, and enjoy a long, local commute. School-children, monks, office-goers, fellow tourists, the ferries transport everyone up and down.

Boats have different coloured flags to indicate their route, but the best bargain going is the boat with no flag. This local line stops at every pier from Wat Rajsinghorn (Pier S1) in the south to Nonthaburi (N30) in the north. Take this ferry for as far as it goes, then buy a return ticket and head back. No better way to enjoy river life.

Saphan Taksin (Taksin Bridge) is as good a place as ever to start your journey, since it is one of the main transport hubs of the city, with ferries, hotel shuttles, the BTS skytrain, the cross river shuttles – it's all happening.

As your ferry pulls out from the melee of boats at the pier and you head north, there, immediately on your left is one of the most prestigious developments coming up in Bangkok, Icon Siam. And, in one of the contrasts that mark Bangkok, facing the glittering new skyscrapers, across the river, sits the elegant Mandarin Oriental, the doyenne of Bangkok hotels. The hotel has been restored and developed over the years, but the original structure was the first hotel ever built in Thailand, when it opened in 1876.

On both sides of the river the panorama unfolds, as your ferry zips rapidly to the piers to drop off and collect passengers, barely pausing for breath, before heading up the river again.





Depending on the water traffic, your boat will either hurtle to a stop at the pier or edge its way through the water traffic jam, with whistles and shouts. Pausing for only as long as it takes, your boat will be off again, briskly heading into the river traffic. You'll spot the distinctive upward-curving roof of Wat Pathum Khongkha Ratchaworawihan to your right. It's hard to believe, given all the high-rises and boats and bustle, that when King Rama IV founded this temple in 1857, there was nothing but paddy fields here.

There is, in other words,
a whole world to be seen,
along the banks of this
historic river.

1. Wat Arun, Temple of Dawn.
2. Hop on a local ferry, a perfect way to see life on and along the Chao Phraya River.
3. Saphan Taksin BTS skytrain station.
4. New skyscrapers across the river.
5. The Grand Palace, the official residence of the Kings of Thailand since 1782.
6. Rama VIII bridge, a cable-stayed bridge crossing the Chao Phraya River.



A little further upriver, on the left bank, is the glorious Wat Arun, or Temple of Dawn. This charming Wat is on every visitor's "To Do" list, so there is always a mass of boats of every size and shape cheerfully delivering devotees and tourists alike. If you have the time now, why don't you hop off your ferry and visit this amazing temple.

Wat Arun, with its Khmer-style central tower is unlike any other in Bangkok. It is a happy, bustling place and has a lovely quirky feature – the towers are encrusted with colourful porcelain and seashells, which had previously been used as ballast by boats sailing from China to Bangkok. When you have climbed up and down the super-steep flights of steps (you have been warned!) you can head back down to the jetty and catch the next ferry heading north, up the river.

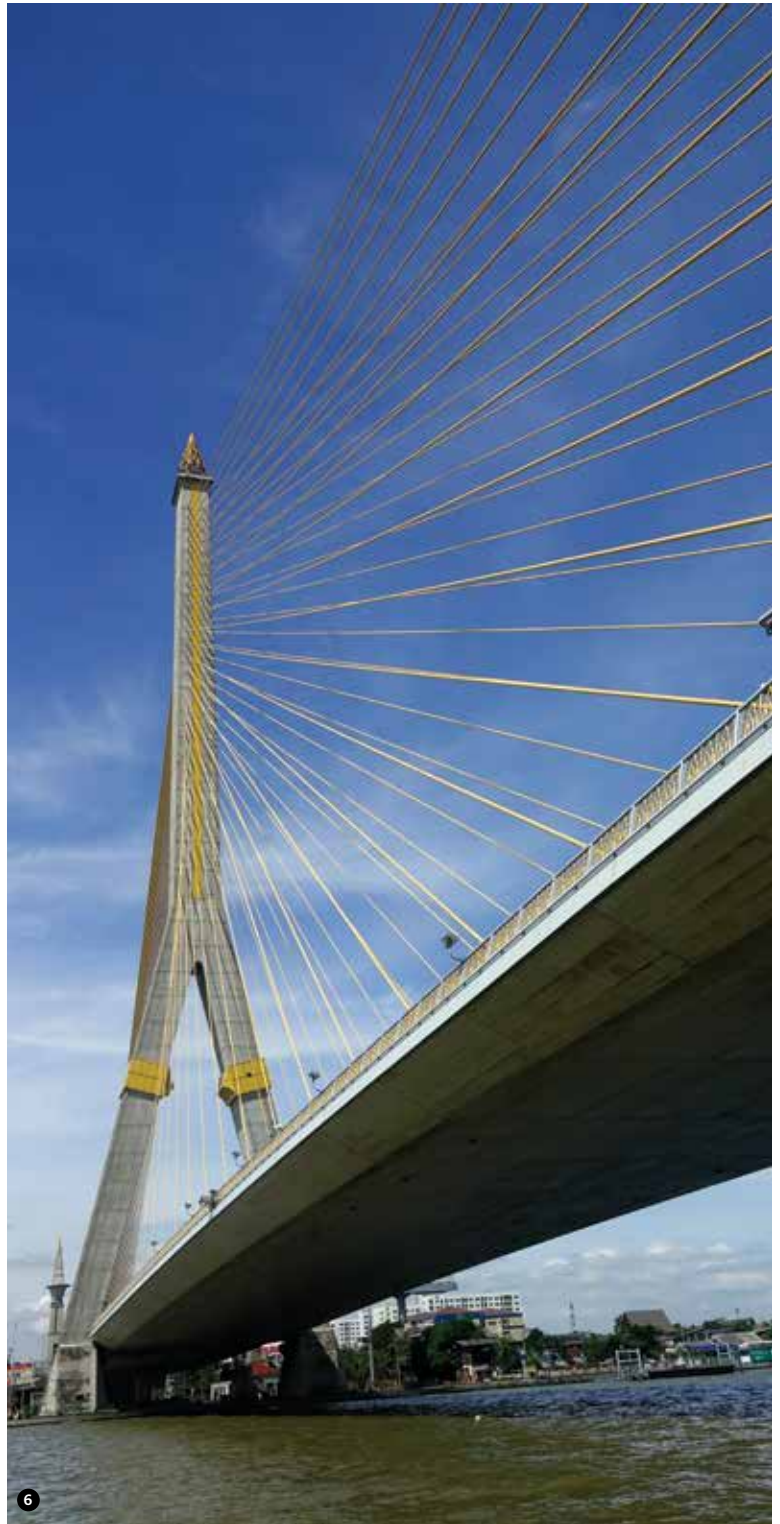
As the boat swings back into the busy river, prepare to be amazed by the glorious sight of the Grand Palace almost opposite Wat Arun, on the right bank. A stunning vision of glittering roofs and pagodas, this royal palace has been the official residence of the Kings of Siam (later Thailand) since 1782. It is another absolutely not to be missed sight, so if you feel up to it, hop off your ferry again, or wait and visit it another day. The view from the river is very special and almost magical, so enjoy it.

The ferry zig-zags its way across the river, dropping off residents and school children, and as you head north, the boat gradually empties. Wats (temples) line both sides of the river, you pass the quaint little 18th century Phra Sumen Fort and then suddenly, in total contrast, you are sailing under the modern Rama VIII bridge, an impressive and pared-down looking bridge. When the ferry arrives at Nonthaburi, its last stop, you have to get off the boat, but before you head for the return ferry or head off to explore the neighbourhood, don't forget to feed the fish.

Yup, you read that right. Don't forget to feed the fish.

The pier at Nonthaburi is famous for the hundreds of catfish swimming lazily around, and then bursting into a feeding frenzy whenever people lean over the jetty and feed them. Bags of colourful fish pellets are on sale on the ferry pier, and by feeding the fish, you gain merit. Plus it's a fun way to kill the time for the return boat – way more fun than staring at your mobile phone.

Then, all too soon, it is time to hop back aboard and head south. From the scenes of regular Bangkok life, as the boat heads downstream, the glittering spires and domes appear, the crowds pick up and by the time your ferry plunges into the maelstrom of boats loading and unloading at Saphan Taksin, you will have had a fun slice of life along the River of Kings. 


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Capital Gate

'The leaning tower of Abu Dhabi'

WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN

There are thousands of iconic buildings dominating the skyline of the world's capitals. Each sheds a subtle but quickly-detected aura of opulence and sophistication. Technical precision blends so effortlessly with a cosmopolitan suavity of style that, apart from local nuances of culture and décor, they are not always distinguishable except to the most habitual and discerning of observers.

At 160 metres tall, the celebrated Capital Gate building may not be the tallest structure in the Emirates, or even Abu Dhabi. But in a city famed for ambitious projects, it is by far the biggest architectural accomplishment. Tilting 18° westward, the Capital Gate has over four times as much lean as Italy's famous 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'.

The 35-storey building was designed by Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners (RMJM), which is one of Britain's largest international architecture and design firms, whose developments include the new Scottish Parliament Building, the Zhuhai Exhibition Centre in China, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in Singapore, London Heathrow Terminal 5, and the iconic Marina Heights Tower in Dubai.





The UAE-based Al Habtoor Group, whose name has become synonymous with dynamic growth, were the main contractors involved with the construction of Capital Gate, while the Mace Group, a leading international consultancy and construction firm headquartered in London, were entrusted with the project management.

The complex has no less than 30 meeting rooms, conference facilities for up to 1,200 people, a business centre on the ground floor, a helipad and an eight-outlet food court. From the very outset, it was designed to be used for mixed commercial purposes, with an abundance of office and retail space, and includes a spectacular cantilevered tea lounge and open air pool deck, a bridge to the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, as well as Abu Dhabi's first Hyatt hotel, the Hyatt Capital Gate, soon to be rebranded Andaz Capital Gate, subsequently becoming the first Andaz branded hotel in the Middle East.

The US\$231m project was developed by the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), and construction of the main tower started in September 2007 and was completed in 2010, with commercial leasing of the property commencing soon after completion.

Within months of completion, the UAE capital's trophy cabinet expanded even further when the coveted Guinness World Records organisation certified Capital Gate as the world's "Farthest manmade leaning building", with an incline exceeding that of the previous record holder, the otherwise unheard of Leaning Tower of Suurhusen, a medieval church steeple in Germany.

In September 2011, the Capital Gate won the 'Best Commercial/Mixed Use Project' and the coveted 'Best Overall Project of the Year' at the 2011 Cityscape Global Awards for Architecture in Emerging Markets, with the Hyatt Capital Gate ready to start operations at the hotel in December 2011.



Located within the prestigious Embassies District, and less than 15 minutes' drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport, Capital Gate forms the nucleus of the US\$2.2bn Capital Centre, a 23-tower business and residential micro city being developed by ADNEC alongside the famous Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, which is the largest exhibition venue in the Middle East.

Capital Gate, the focal point of Capital Centre, was conceived to provide Abu Dhabi with a signature tower that signifies the city's remarkable progress and evolution. At the same time, paying tribute to the legacy of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late President of the United Arab Emirates and the Father of the Nation.

Capital Gate's distinctive futuristic design, aesthetic splendour and technical excellence makes it a modern engineering marvel and a celebration of human achievement that reflects the dynamism of Abu Dhabi. Additionally, the tower integrates harmoniously with the

grandstand at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, one of the world's most modern exhibition venues. This grandstand was much loved by Sheikh Zayed and often used by him to view National parades and celebrations.

The Capital Gate building underscores the bond between the old and the new by linking to this historic grandstand through an innovative canopy commencing from the 18th floor of the tower and sweeping across the grandstand, creating a wave-like effect.

The structure of the Capital Gate tower is unique. It is a two-layer design, the central core of which leans in the opposite direction to the inclination of the building and straightens with the height. An advanced form of diagrid technology was adopted for the building's twisted design. It is the first tower in Abu Dhabi to use this innovative technique. The structure depends on the diagrid lattice arrangement of the façade which supports the tilting external load of the building and provides structural integrity.



1. The five star Hyatt Capital Gate, soon to be rebranded Andaz Capital Gate.
2. Capital Gate's distinctive futuristic design, aesthetic splendour and technical excellence make it a modern engineering marvel.
3. At 160 metres tall, the iconic Capital Gate building may not be the tallest structure in the Emirates, or even Abu Dhabi but by far the biggest architectural accomplishment.

Tilting 18° westward, the Capital Gate has over four times as much lean as Italy's famous Leaning Tower of Pisa.



The technology used consumes less structural steel than conventional frames, reducing costs and environmental impact. A triangular structure with a diagonal support beam was used for the formation of the diagrid. This technology has been used for structures such as 30 St Mary Axe, more often referred to as the 'Gherkin' in London, Hearst Tower in New York and the CCTV Headquarters Tower in Beijing.

The building is constructed on a two metres high concrete raft. The raft in turn is positioned on 490 piles, drilled 30 metres underground to withstand wind, and the subsequent seismic and gravitational forces caused by its inclination. The basement of the tower has been densely reinforced and required a concrete pour of more than 6,000 cubic metres.

An 80 metres long cone-shaped atrium is built through the upper floors of the building to form open balconies for the hotel rooms. The central core of which is constructed with pre-stressed concrete using automatic climbing formwork. The total built-up area of 53,100 metres includes a basement of no less than 5,500 metres.

About 21,500 tonnes of steel is estimated to have been used for the construction of the tower. The diagrid of the entire building is approximately 8,500 structural steel beams. Each diagrid weighs about 15 tonnes and is divided into 722 elements.

The east side of the Capital Gate has a decorative splash, designed in the form of a wave, connected with the canopy of the adjoining Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre grandstand. The splash provides sun shade for the tower and a roof treatment for the centre's massive grandstand.

The façade of the building is made of glass and steel elements which spiral skywards. The glazed panels give a striking effect to the 23,000 metres façade, which is connected to the concrete core with steel structures. The 728 custom-made glass panels fit the considering curvature of the

building and form a diamond shape. The glazing system, called Cardinal C240, is made of two silver coatings which are transparent, increasing its light transmission.

The 16 lower floors with 15,000 square metres capacity are primarily used for offices, while the upper 16 levels house the five star Hyatt Capital Gate and occupy 25,000 square metres, comprising 167 spacious guest rooms, 22 luxuriously appointed suites, three restaurants, a spa area and roof top pool deck on the 19th floor, fitness centre, and the renowned Al Maa'ed Wedding Hall, which is tailored specially for Middle Eastern weddings.

The 17th and 18th floors – the halfway point of the building – are constructed with a gigantic internal atrium. It has a cantilevered tea lounge and a swimming pool suspended 80 metres above the ground on the eastern side of the façade. At the top of the lounge is an open sun terrace which has panoramic views of the Abu Dhabi Skyline, the pristine waters of the Persian Gulf, the offshore islands and distant dunes of the Arabian Desert.

Great cities need great buildings. Over time, these iconic buildings become visual statements of the era in which they were created and the places they represent. Capital Gate is a living monument to a new age when classical architecture, exquisite art and elaborate craftsmanship define the most admired public spaces. 🇸🇪



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Park-life

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES

Looking to enjoy Johannesburg like the locals?
Head straight for this leafy trio of
suburbs in 'The Parks'...





1

Beneath that frenetic business façade you'll find a more relaxed Johannesburg. A Johannesburg of pavement cafes and city views, of museums and galleries and public gardens. On your next visit to the 'City of Gold', take a turn past 'The Parks'... a trio of suburbs popular with locals for their leafy streets and community spirit.



While the inner-city suburb of Parktown offers a handful of museums and galleries, best start your exploring in the suburb of Parkview.

Here you'll find the Johannesburg Zoo, one of the city's most popular attractions that has been entertaining young and old since 1904. Spread across 55 hectares, the spacious parkland layout makes it an ideal spot to spend the morning, wandering between the 'Big Five' enclosures and impressive walk-through aviaries. Also don't miss the 'Animals of the Amazon' exhibit, cleverly decorated to evoke the art and history of the Mayan civilisation.

Right alongside the zoo precinct you'll find the excellent National Museum of Military History. As well as commemorating South African involvement in historic conflicts around the world, it's home to an impressive exhibit of military hardware from cannons to tanks to fighter planes. Kids will love it!

If your legs are up to it, hop across Jan Smuts Avenue for a wander through the charming gardens at Zoo Lake. It's a popular local picnic spot,

and open-air concerts are often held in the warmer months. If you're feeling peckish, Moyo Restaurant offers African-inspired fare overlooking the lake.

While you're in the area, don't miss out on a visit to the Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff. Arguably the poshest address in town, this iconic property offers superb views out over the city. Book an overnight stay, or call ahead for a table at one of the trio of restaurants, where terrace tables offer panoramic vistas over Johannesburg.

From here you might just be able to spot Parkview Golf Club, one of the oldest clubs in Johannesburg with a superb 18-hole layout. Visitors are welcomed.

Next head up to Parktown North, a charming suburb of gracious colonial-era homes and leafy streets. Here, 7th Avenue is the road with all the action, with a captivating mix of galleries, restaurants and boutiques.

Start at Gallery MOMO, one of the hottest art galleries in the city. Unlike more traditional art spaces, MOMO takes a decidedly modern approach



1. Elephants at Johannesburg zoo.
2. South African National Museum of Military History.
3. Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff, an iconic property offering superb views of the city.
4. Flames Restaurant, Four Seasons.
5. Gallery MOMO, one of the hottest art galleries in the city.
6. Douglas+Hale dishes up refined comfort food with a selection of local wine.
7. Coobs - Chef James Diack.
8. Colourbox, an array of international and local lifestyle designers.
9. Coobs, known for its farm-to-table cuisine.



to its portfolio of local and international contemporary pieces. Expect to discover artworks by the likes of Dumile Feni, Todd Gray and Dillon Marsh.

Alongside floral couture, fashion designers and homeware boutiques, 7th Avenue is also one of the best streets in the city for fine food.

At La Cucina di Ciro, chef-patron Ciro Molinaro has built up a firm following for his modern Mediterranean cuisine. Heading west on 7th, The Local Grill is widely acclaimed as one of the best steakhouses South Africa has to offer, and that's largely thanks to the hands-on approach of owner Steve Maresch, a man with a passion for all things meaty. Their dry-aged rib-eye with Madagascan peppercorn sauce is superb.

If you're still in the area come evening, stop in at Workshop 55, one of the city's best gin bars with an enviable selection of local and international brands. Or wander further west to discover the trendy new venue from respected restaurateur James Diack.

Douglas+Hale – a name that pays tribute to the chef's grandfathers – dishes up refined comfort food alongside a remarkable selection of local

wines. If you're looking to discover some of the best wines South Africa has to offer, this is the place.

Parktown North slowly merges into Parkhurst, and taking a right off 7th Avenue brings you to the shops, bars and restaurants of 4th Avenue. Like its neighbour, this leafy suburb is brimming with charm, and is one of the few corners of Johannesburg where a vibrant pavement café culture exists.

Unsurprisingly, it's a great destination for artisan coffee. Top of your list should be 4th Avenue Coffee Roasters & Café, where 100% Arabica beans are carefully roasted in a hot-pink Diedrich roaster. The recipe? They won't tell, but it's a secret blend of African and South American beans. Enjoy a carefully crafted flat white in the on-site café, or grab a bag of beans to bring home with you.

Next, warm up your credit card with some retail therapy. Parkhurst has long been known for its eclectic mix of designers, antique stores and vintage boutiques, and you'll find a cornucopia of shopping options as you wander up 4th Avenue. Colourbox delivers an array of international and



local lifestyle designers, and is South Africa's leading stockist of on-trend Colombian swimwear brand Maaji. Perfect for hitting the beach back in the Seychelles! Further along 4th Avenue you'll find luxury handbags at Bloss & Co, and bespoke fashion pieces at the boutique of designer Hannah Lavery.

There's also plenty of menswear on offer in Parkhurst, from Frank Bespoke to Monsieur Johannesburg. Locals also love the quirky Hunter Gatherer, which transports visitors to a yesteryear world of apothecaries and smoking lounges with its unusual collection of vintage and antique décor pieces from around the world.

Alongside the shopping 4th Avenue is most famous for its gourmet offering, with a host of top-notch chefs setting up shop in this upmarket corner of The Parks.

Top of your list should be Coobs, another respected restaurant from James Diack. Farm-to-table cuisine is the guiding philosophy here, with much of the produce coming from his family-owned Brightside Farm west of Johannesburg.

Expect a menu dictated by the seasons, with daily specials evolving with whatever has arrived fresh off the farm that morning. If you're lucky, the

signature plate of confit duck leg with thyme-infused duck and mushroom pie will be on the menu that day.

Another good choice is Craft, a project by Jo Pinheiro and Chris Mandos. While the menu leans towards comfort food, the array of craft beers and artisan spirits makes this well worth a visit.

But then there are so many places to discover in Parkhurst. There's fine art photography at The Cow Artworks, and contemporary works at the Glen Josselson gallery. Italian cuisine at Bottega, French fare at Bistro Vine and Asian plates at YuMe. You could spend a week here and not get bored.

And that's part of the charm of discovering 'The Parks': this is Johannesburg for the locals, by the locals. And you're sure to be welcomed with open arms. 🇿🇦



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The best of beach & bush

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES

A new codeshare agreement between Air Seychelles and Air Botswana guarantees seamless travel between the wilds of Botswana and the glorious beaches of the Seychelles. Here's how to discover the best of both beach and bush...

1

2



The bush...

In the realm of southern African safaris, Botswana stands apart. Whether it's the eye-watering flatness of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park or the lush channels of the Okavango Delta, Botswana is filled with unique landscapes guaranteed to captivate your imagination. Little wonder discerning safari travellers flock here from across the globe. What's more, the country has long pursued a low-volume low-impact tourism philosophy, with expansive private concessions shared by just a handful of travellers. It's not the cheapest safari destination in Africa, but it's certainly the most memorable.

But where to begin?

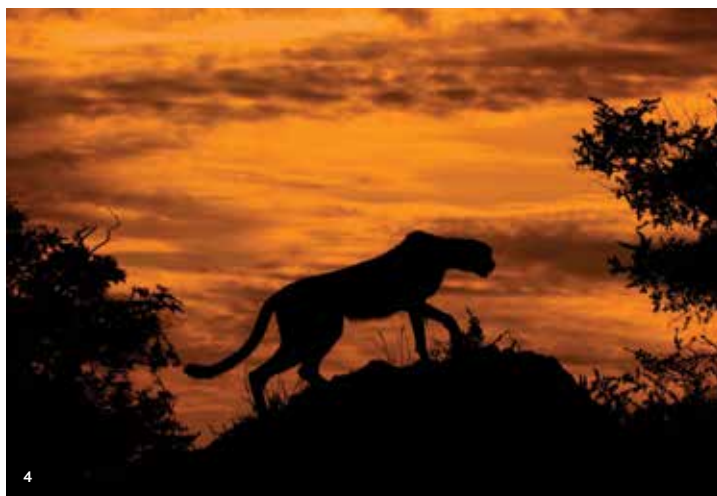
If you're short on time start up north in the Chobe National Park, where the Chobe River arrives from its source in the far-away mountains of Angola to join the mighty Zambezi River. Eventually these waters will flow

into the Indian Ocean and, who knows, perhaps wash up on the shores of the Seychelles!

The Chobe River attracts vast herds of elephant and buffalo, while boat-based safaris deliver superb game viewing opportunities and some of the best birding opportunities in Africa. The Chobe region is also just a few hours' drive from Victoria Falls in neighbouring Zimbabwe, making it a great option for travellers wanting to combine Botswana with a visit to 'the smoke that thunders'.

Towards the south-west the Chobe National Park gives way to the iconic Moremi Game Reserve; a popular destination for self-drive safari adventures out of the town of Maun.

Maun is also the hopping-off point for exploring the remarkable Okavango Delta, one of just two World Heritage Sites in Botswana. This incredible inland delta is a gift of plate tectonics, which shifted the natural course of the Kavango River away from its path to the sea. Instead, the waters now soak away into the sands of the Kalahari.



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1. Sublime stretch of beach at Constance Lémuria Resort, Praslin.
2. Fabulous Sky beds, located deep within the Khwai Private Reserve.
3. Gnus and zebras at Chobe National Park
4. A cheetah at sunset in Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
5. Small gathering of Lechwe antelope, Okavango Delta.
6. Elephant at Sable Alley, Khwai Private Reserve.

This watery wonderland is home to 150 species of mammals, over 500 species of birds and 90 types of fish. Lush vegetation lines the watery channels, which rise and fall according to the annual floodwaters arriving from their source in the highlands of Angola.

For the Okavango Delta is a land in constant flux. From May to August the floods arrive, spreading the watery tendrils of the Delta as far south as the tourist hub of Maun. No, contrary to what you may think, it's not the heavy summer rains that form the famous floodplain, but the meandering waters of the Okavango River flowing from their source 1600-kilometres away to empty into the world's largest inland delta.

While the floods peak in the popular winter months, summer rainstorms turn the landscape a thousand shades of green, a fecund paradise where predators and antelope abound. But much of the Okavango's magic is to be found in the details: the dainty African Jacanas stepping lightly across the lily pads, or the iridescent Painted Reed Frogs that can be spotted when exploring the Delta on traditional mokoro dugout canoes.

It's a regular activity from most of the luxury lodges scattered across the Okavango Delta, many of them situated on large private concessions. One of the finest is the Khwai Private Reserve, a vast 200,000 hectares slice of wilderness that is home to just a handful of lodges, including the gorgeous Sable Alley, and unforgettable Sky Beds, both within the Natural Selection portfolio. Here daily game drives deliver sightings of everything from leopard to lion to endangered wild dogs, while unique photographic hides offer close-up encounters with the region's famed elephant herds. Red Lechwe are common in these parts too, as are zebra, giraffe and large herds of buffalo.

While the Okavango trades on its lush splendour, there's a stark beauty to be found further south, in the Makgadikgadi National Park.

It's an otherworldly place, a network of three sprawling salt pans that dominate the central part of Botswana. The remnants of an ancient lake, today it's a space where the land runs unimpeded to the horizon, and quad-bike adventures are about as close as you'll get to explore a



- 7. Beau Vallon, the most famous beach on Mahé.
- 8. Anse Lazio, an idyllic stretch of shaded sand and crystal-clear water.
- 9. Aerial view of Constance Lémuria Resort.





lunar surface. Luxury camps line the edge of the pans, typically in large private concessions, while overnight camping adventures can be arranged through nearby lodges. Also don't miss a visit to the remarkable baobab forests that dominate the fringes of the salt pans.

The beach...

Few would disagree that the many islands of the Seychelles archipelago deliver some of the finest stretches of sand the world has to offer. Whether you want to laze on the beach or snorkel in crystal aquamarine waters, the beaches of the Seychelles are the perfect time-out after a Botswana bush adventure.

Start your exploring on the island of Praslin, just a short domestic flight from the international airport.

Perhaps the finest beach on the island is the unforgettable Anse Lazio, an idyllic stretch of shaded sand and crystal-clear seas. A few steps from powder-soft sands you'll also find the beachfront restaurant of Bon Bon Plume; famous for its fragrant Creole-style prawn curry.

Further along the west coast, Anse Georgette might just be the most beautiful beach in an island chain never short of a sexy bit of sand. Although open to the public, it's setting amid the Constance Lémuria resort makes getting there tricky for non-guests, so rather book a room and enjoy easy golf-cart access through the only 18-hole golf course in the Seychelles. Looking for a Robinson Crusoe experience? Offshore of Praslin, the islands of Cousin, Curieuse and St. Pierre each offer untouched island paradise that can be discovered on a full-day catamaran excursion.

After some time on Praslin, take a short ferry ride across to the smaller island of La Digue. It's a place where time stands still, bicycles outnumber cars, and historic plantations imbue the island with a yesteryear charm. And if it's beaches you're after, start by wiggling your toes deep into the powder-soft sands of the gorgeous Anse Source d'Argent, where towering granite boulders tumble into impossibly blue seas. It's certainly the most famous – and the most Instagram-friendly – beach in the Seychelles.

If La Digue's a little quiet for your taste, hop the domestic flight back to the main island of Mahé, which also boasts its share of fine beaches.

Just a short drive out of the capital city of Victoria brings you to Beau Vallon; the most famous beach on Mahé. It's a vibrant spot, with jet-skis for hire and beachfront bars dishing up plenty of atmosphere. While the soft sand and warm waters are attractive, Beau Vallon can get crowded. If you'd prefer something a little quieter, head over to the western edge of the island.

Anse Souillac – 'Anse' means 'bay' in French – is a delightful cove popular with local kids, while further south the 'Big Bay' of Grand Anse is a popular surf spot when the swell is running. If you just fancy a dip, head rather for the tiny slip of Anse Boileau or Anse à la Mouche, both well suited for families. In the Seychelles you're never far from a picture-perfect patch of sand. 🌴



Air Seychelles offers six weekly flights to Botswana via Johannesburg with codeshare partner Air Botswana
www.airseychelles.com



Jaipur

WORDS: CHRISTINE PEMBERTON

One of India's most magical cities,
is traditionally described as the Pink City.
And, you know what? It is!



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The wonderful city of Jaipur really is pink and that alone is reason enough to visit.

The historic, heritage centre of the city – walls, battlements, palaces, arched entrances, shops in the bazaar – they are all a gorgeous pink.

Jaipur was a planned city, founded in the early 18th century, and the space and elegant grandeur of the architect's original vision are still very much in evidence today. True, 21st century Jaipur is a bigger, more bustling town than its 18th century avatar, but there is a sense of space and elegance – and yes, of glorious pinkness! – that marks this city out from so many other Indian cities.

The founder of Jaipur, Maharaja Jai Singh II, had his fortress and power base in the hilltop fort of Amber (which you must visit), but a lack of water and a growing population prompted him to look for another location. The maharaja was a learned and curious man, and after consultations with architects, the new city was laid out with wide roads, and separate blocks for different municipal functions, and all surrounded by protective battlements.

1. Nostalgic Amber Fort in Jaipur.

2. Camel lumbers through the main city.

3. Arts and crafts by the finest craftsmen.

4. Hawa Mahal sits on the edge of the City Palace.

Today, as you wander through the bustling bazaars and busy streets, the original 18th century design is very much in place.

Jaipur is one of the most popular and most visited places in India, so people watching is very much a part of the whole sensory-overload experience – oh yes, did we forget to mention that Jaipur is a total 100% immersion experience, in the colours and sounds and sights of India. Palaces, forts, temples; fabrics and spices, colourful glass bangles and plump vegetables spill out on to the pavements from little shops; there are turbans drying on a balcony their colours fluttering in the breeze, and

there are people everywhere, shopping, working, praying, haggling.

You will see groups of wide-eyed Rajasthani villagers, the women in their rainbow-coloured saris and the men in their bright red turbans, exploring the city and its treasures with curiosity. You will see camels lumbering through the main streets. You'll almost certainly see an elephant or two. There are cars and bikes and rickshaws and buses and donkey carts and motor bikes, the traffic honking and swirling noisily round the cows sitting peacefully in the middle of the road.

If you can tear yourself away from the fascinating street scenes and the



amazing shopping, there are forts and palaces galore to explore in the Pink City, and a logical place to begin is the magnificent City Palace.

Designed by the Maharaja himself in the early 18th century, the City Palace is still a royal residence, although part of the extensive complex also houses a museum. The City Palace houses a wonderful array of palaces and royal residences within its crenelated walls, and as you wander around the complex, you move from one dazzling palace to another. With a profusion of arches and columns at every turn, with colourful peacock-themed decorative flourishes and delicate mirror work detailing, exploring these palaces-within-a-palace has a dreamlike, fairy-tale quality about it.

On the edge of the City Palace, overlooking the noisy, bustling street below is a unique structure called the Hawa Mahal, or Palace of the Winds. This curious shaped building was built in 1799 so that the royal ladies, in strict "purdah", never showing their faces to outsiders, could sit and watch the world go by in the streets below, unseen by the public.

Jaipur, with its royal lineage, has always been a magnet for arts and crafts, with the finest craftsmen drawn to the city and its cultured royal patronage. For the 21st century visitor, the city is like a treasure trove, an Aladdin's cave of jewels and silks and skilled craftsmanship that is, thankfully, being kept alive in this modern-day world of ours.

Take block printing, for example.

Jewellery, gems stones, fabrics – it is oh-so-easy to get swept away on a wave of colour and gorgeousness in Jaipur.

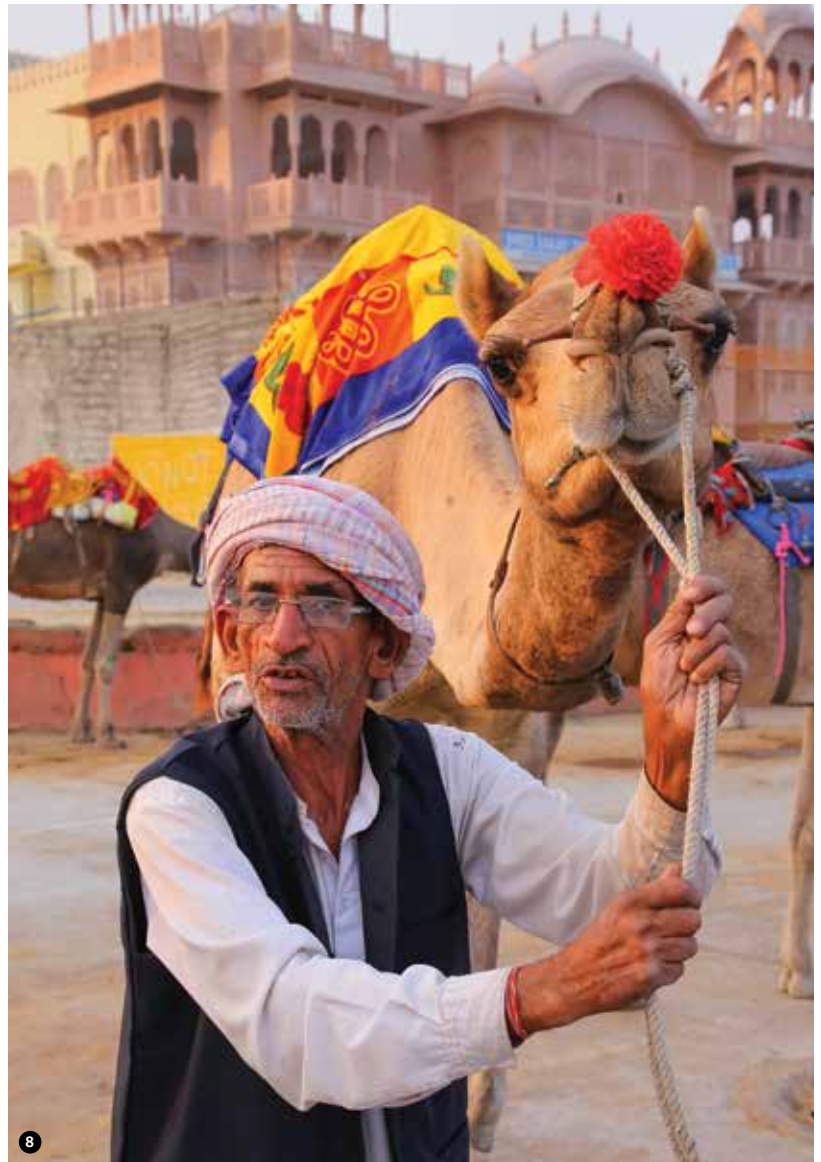
Despite machine printing and cheap textiles, Jaipur is still home to a small but thriving community of skilled artisans who block print fabric by hand, a skill that has been passed down in this part of Rajasthan for nigh on 300 years.

The craft was on the verge of extinction by the 1970s, threatened by cheap synthetics. Thanks largely to a design company called "Anokhi", that helped to resuscitate the skills and preserve generations of knowledge, block printing is still very much a part of the fabric of Jaipur life – both literally and metaphorically.

When you go to visit Jai Singh's Amber Fort, next door to Jaipur, be sure not to miss the delightful gem of a museum set up by Anokhi in the village. Housed in a charming "haveli" or mansion, you can follow the story of how a dying craft was revived, with examples of fabrics and techniques. There are craftsman on hand to demonstrate and explain their skills, which are now, one hopes, safe for future generations.

Jewels are another gorgeous strand of life in Jaipur, and some of the country's finest jewellers have shops in the city, their windows a dazzle of rainbow-hued gems, some of them as big and luscious looking as boiled sweets. That large, gorgeous, sparkly stone can't possibly be a real garnet or a real topaz, can it, you mutter to yourself? The answer, of course, is "yes, they are indeed real".

Jewellery, gems stones, fabrics – it is oh-so-easy to get swept away on a wave of colour and gorgeousness in Jaipur, so it is probably time for some more exploring,



to keep you out of harm's way. Head to Jantar Mantar and prepare to be dazzled all over again. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a collection of 19 astronomical instruments built in the 18th century by Jai Singh II, the very same Maharaja who founded the city. What is truly extraordinary about these huge stone instruments – including the world's largest stone sundial – is that you can still use them to observe astronomical positions with the naked eye.

You haven't really enjoyed polo until you've watched a game in Jaipur. This is a city that loves and lives and breathes polo, and reveres polo players the way other cities revere football players. Go watch a game if you're visiting in the winter, and you'll see, not the high-society types one usually associates with polo, but hundreds of normal folks, all loudly commenting and following the game.

The city is also firmly on the world literary map, thanks to the Jaipur Lit Fest, held every January, and it has become a mecca for lovers of literature. The hallmark of the Jaipur Lit Fest, and what makes it so wildly popular, is its easy-going inclusiveness. There is none of the security and protection that are on evidence in so many Indian events. Famous writers and critics, politicians and editors, actors and Joe Public alike, all come together in one delightfully democratic festival of words and books and language.

To be in Jaipur during the Lit Fest is to have your faith restored in the magic of books and the power of the

5. Block printing by hand on silk.
6. Jantar Mantar, UNESCO World Heritage Site.
7. Lit Fest (literature Festival) takes place every January in Jaipur.
8. Colourful people of Rajasthan.

written word, no mean feat in today's social media driven existence.

Tempted?

Sights, sounds, colours, jewels, history, shopping, festivals, stunning boutique hotels - Jaipur is there for you to explore and enjoy.

Prepare to be overwhelmed. 🌈



Air Seychelles offers five weekly flights to Jaipur via Mumbai with codeshare partners Jet Airways or Air India
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Surfing the Wind

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES

With steady trade winds blowing out of the south-east, and an aquamarine lagoon protected by a fringing coral reef, Mauritius is fast becoming the hottest destination on the planet for globe-trotting kite-surfers...

It's easy to imagine Mauritius as an island where there's little to fill the days except lounging by the pool, cocktail in hand. And, for many travellers, the lure of an indulgent 'fly-and-flop' escape is precisely why they head to the tropical beaches of Ile Maurice. And there's certainly no shortage of luxury resorts only too happy to lay out the beach towels for you.

But Mauritius is also becoming a haven for adventure-seeking thrill-addicted globetrotters, who'd rather pump up the adrenalin than kick back with a piña colada. There are dramatic mountains to explore, waterfalls to admire and mountain bike tracks to pedal. But for many travellers, it's the combination of wind and water that draws them to this island in the Indian Ocean. Over the past decade the island has transformed into a hotspot for the kite-surfing fraternity, with kites from across the globe flocking here to soak up the steady trade winds blowing in off the Indian Ocean.

And there's more good news for kite-surfers keen to pay a visit to the island. The off-peak winter months – when demand and room rates are often lower – is when the kite-boarding conditions are at their best.

From May to October the southeast trade winds blow at a steady 15 to 25 knots each and every day, offering endless kiting opportunities. But, truth be told, there's almost never a bad time to visit the island for a kite-surfing adventure.

With its mid-ocean location the island enjoys upwards of 300 windy days per year, and while the summer months may not be as windy, the water is warmer and the rare wind-free day simply means an opportunity to explore further afield, or take a surfboard out to the reefs at Le Morne.

It's the south and east coasts that pick up most of the wind, and hence have become the favoured destination for kite-surfers. And when the trades winds are blowing, there are few better places in the world to kite-board than the island's Le Morne Peninsula. Here, in the shadow of the UNESCO-listed Brabant Mountain, the combination of flat water and steady winds makes it a haven for kite surfers of all abilities.

For experienced kites there's the added allure of the fringing reefs just offshore, and a legendary waves of 'One Eye' and 'Manawa'. These are two of the most famous reef breaks in the Indian Ocean, and for kites with a healthy sense of adventure they're definitely waves to tick off the bucket list.

But in the sheltered bays closer in-shore it's common to find dozens of novice kites learning to kite-surf. There are numerous kite-schools in the area that run courses catering for absolute beginners, to intermediate kite-surfers looking to up their skills.

An excellent option is the Dinarobin Kitesurf School, situated at the luxurious Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa. The resort's kite school is run in partnership with the





respected YOANEYE Kite Centre, which is affiliated to both the International Kiteboarding Organization (IKO) and the French Kite Association (AFK). Booking with an accredited kite-school is highly recommended, as you'll know you're in good hands the first time you strap into a harness and loft your kite into the air.

While you won't be heading out to 'One Eye' too quickly, the Dinarobin Kitesurf School offers both training and practice sessions six days a week, using the accessible La Pointe and Kite Lagoon locations: with their steady winds and flat waters, these sites are ideal for mastering the skill of kiting. Lessons are typically held in small groups, so personalised attention can be given, although private lessons are available on request. All equipment is available for rental, and a complimentary shuttle is offered from the resort to the kite-surfing lagoon.

But for kite-surfers who already know the ropes, the south coast of the island is brimming with memorable kite spots. Which is just as well, because although Le Morne offers ideal kiting conditions, it can get crowded. And if you don't fancy dodging fellow kite-surfers all day, pack up your kite and head east.



1. Kiting in Mauritius over background of clouds and mountain.
2. September offers some of the best conditions for kite surfers.
3. Learning to Kite surf at Dinarobin Kitesurf School situated at the Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa.
4. Kiting on the big waves in the open ocean, Mauritius.
5. Iles aux Cerf.

It's the south and east coasts that pick up most of the wind, and hence have become the favoured destination for kite-surfers.

The lagoon at nearby Bel Ombre is almost as good as Le Morne, but with far fewer kites sharing the water and wind. There are numerous resorts and kite-schools nearby, and the shallow lagoon makes this a good spot for beginners. Though the waters here can be choppy, it's a good introduction to kite-surfing on waves, and there are some good downwind runs to be had.

Further east, just a short drive from the airport, Pointe d'Esny is becoming increasingly popular too. However, the water is deeper than many other spots and the wide lagoon makes it a destination best left to experienced kite-surfers. If there's no wind, head for a morning in historic Mahébourg. It's a charming town, home to the National History Museum and the Naval Museum, and the market is packed with local flavour.



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A day-trip to Ile des Deux Cocos offers a dose of beaches and history, while the Île aux Aigrettes Nature Reserve conserves some of the last remaining Ebony forest on the island.

Those with a bit of time under their kite-harness will also want to look into the memorable downwind runs from here to Trou d'Eau Douce and Ile aux Cerfs. The wide lagoon at Trou d'Eau Douce and sandy beaches at nearby Palmar offer uncrowded waters and the prospect of long runs for experienced kite-boarders.

While the west coast is largely protected from the south-east trade winds, when the wind is from the north and west the Tamarin region of the west coast offers a handful of kite-surfing options. Both Flic-en-Flac and La Preneuse are popular with local and visiting kite-surfers, but these

are strictly for advanced kites. The waters here are not protected by the coral reef, so expect deep waters and strong currents.

The north of the island is another destination best left to experienced kite-surfers, with shallow waters and fickle winds. However, if you're comfortable under kite and looking to surf without the crowds, the likes of Cap Malhereux, Anse la Raie and Butte a l'Herbe are good options. High tide is best, ensuring there are no exposed rocks in the lagoon.

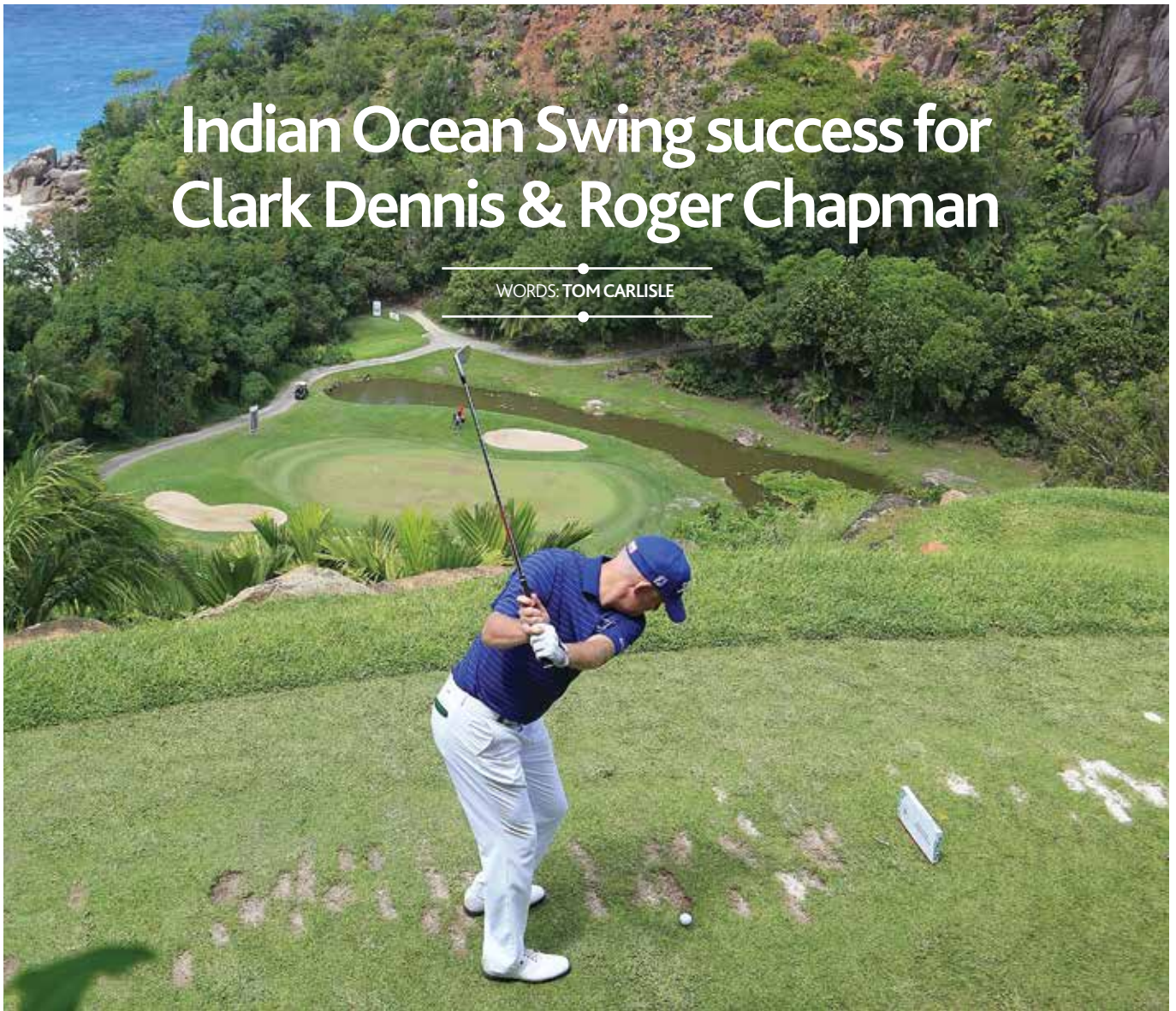
Whether you're an experienced kite-surfer, or a budding adventurer tempted by the colourful kites that dive and turn offshore, Mauritius ticks all the right boxes when it comes to creating a memorable holiday on the wind and waves. 🌈



Air Seychelles offers five weekly flights to Mauritius
www.airseychelles.com

Indian Ocean Swing success for Clark Dennis & Roger Chapman

WORDS: TOM CARLISLE



Golf stars Clark Dennis and Roger Chapman shared the spoils in the Indian Ocean after winning the MCB Tour Championship – Mauritius and Seychelles on the Staysure Tour.

The Staysure Tour, formerly known as the European Senior Tour, is the premier over-50s professional golf tour in Europe and has visited Mauritius since 2010. This year, the Tour Championship was expanded to two events, with Seychelles hosting the season finale.

The fabulous Constance Belle Mare Plage in Poste de Flacq was once again the venue for the MCB Tour Championship – Mauritius, while sister venue Constance Lémuria on the Seychelles island of Praslin became the venue for the first ever professional golf tournament to be held in this country.

Above: Roger Chapman playing at Constance Lémuria Seychelles.

Last year, Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant won the MCB Tour Championship – Mauritius with an incredible 23 under par total over three rounds, the lowest ever seen on the Staysure Tour. The Thai returned to defend his title in the company of three former Ryder Cup Captains and nine additional Ryder Cup players.

Paul McGinley, who captained Europe to victory at The 2014 Ryder Cup, teed it up alongside 2006 opposing Ryder Cup Captains Tom Lehman of the United States and Ian Woosnam from Wales.

In Mauritius, Dennis began the 50-man tournament with a nine under par round of 63 to take top spot after the first round, a position he didn't relinquish over the next two days as he romped to an eight-stroke victory ahead of Sweden's Magnus P Atlevi.



Dennis, who was the Staysure Tour's Number One player in 2017, was four strokes ahead of Atlevi, who reduced the deficit to three shots after the second round. But Dennis ran rampant on the final day as he signed for an eight under par round of 64.

The American matched Wiratchant's 23 under par total and didn't record a single bogey across the three days of competition for one of the most impressive performances of the season.

"To have my fourth victory on this Tour is amazing," said Dennis. "I was not expecting much coming into this week. My game didn't feel good and the jetlag was getting to me, but everything fell together.

"Magnus played fantastically. I couldn't get away from him. I knew he was going to make a lot of birdies today, so my mindset was to keep making birdies and that helped me – knowing that he was going to play so well.

"My son, Phillip, did a great job on the bag. He was quiet. He knew what to say and when to say it – we just had a lot of fun out there."

Above: Peter Backer playing at Constance Lémuria, Praslin Island.

Top right and below: The winners, Roger Chapman and Clark Dennis.

Opposite: Clark Dennis playing at Constance Belle Mare Plage in Poste de Flacq, Mauritius.

Below: Jarmo Sandelin of Sweden poses on Anse Georgette beach on Praslin Island before the MCB Tour Championship.



With just the top 29 from the Staysure Tour Rankings guaranteeing their places in Seychelles, there was all to play for in Mauritius as players tried to secure their spot in the final event of the season.

One person who required a big result in Mauritius was Roger Chapman, who had to finish inside the top three to move up the Rankings and ensure he would make the 2,000km trip to the Seychelles – he would go on to finish third at Constance Belle Mare Plage.

Sadly, the first round of the MCB Tour Championship – Seychelles was delayed for almost five hours and, with further inclement weather forecast, the decision was made to play just the first 12 holes at Constance Lémuria due to the mountainous layout of the final six holes.

The second and third rounds were completed across 18 holes and, after the second round, Spain's Miguel Angel Martín held a five-stroke lead and looked on-course to win his first Staysure Tour title.

Martín, however, found difficulty on the Marc Farry and Rodney Wright-designed layout, and Chapman, Lehman



and Phillip Price rose up the leaderboard as they battled for the final honours of the season.

Price set the clubhouse target on six under par, which was matched by Chapman, but Lehman missed the opportunity to join them after dropping a stroke on the 18th hole, leaving Chapman and Price to play-off for the title.

Both players found the green with their second strokes and Chapman rolled in a putt from more than 30 feet for eagle, putting the pressure on Price. Price narrowly missed his attempt, which gave Chapman, a two-time Senior Major Champion, his first victory in more than six years.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be in the tournament after playing my way in after Mauritius," said Chapman. "I had surgery at the end of May and my arm was in a sling, and I didn't think I'd be playing much golf this year – so I'm thrilled to bits that I've made it this far and won the Tour Championship.

"To win with an eagle is pretty special. Phil hit a great second shot and I thought 'I've got to hole this', I did and unfortunately for Phillip, he missed – but that's golf."

Following his third place finish in Mauritius with a victory in Seychelles, Chapman was also crowned the first 'King of the Swing' for accumulating the most prize money across the two events.

After the success of the first-ever Indian Ocean Swing, excitement is already building ahead of the Staysure Tour's next visit to the paradise islands at the end of 2019. 🌴



Air Seychelles was delighted to arrange a special flight from Mauritius to the Seychelles to transport the golfers and their families, organisers and media for the second stage of the MCB Tour Championship Indian Ocean Swing 2018 which took place in Praslin.



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CEO APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED

Air Seychelles has confirmed the appointment of Remco Althuis as its Chief Executive Officer. Board members of both shareholders – the Government of Seychelles and Etihad Airways – approved the appointment.

Jean Weeling-Lee, Chairman of Air Seychelles Board, said: "We have been working with Remco for several months and with his wealth of experience in the aviation industry I am confident that together with the Air Seychelles team, he will continue to drive the Airline's transformation plan forward.

"The air travel sector is becoming increasingly competitive and to meet the challenges, Air Seychelles will continue to focus on growing its regional and domestic operations to further strengthen its position within the Indian Ocean."

Mr. Althuis said: "It has been an honour to work with the dynamic team at Air Seychelles and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to lead Air Seychelles forward.

"We started the year on a difficult path, with the re-organisation of the airline to ensure Air Seychelles is fit for purpose to prosper. As a people-focused business we will continue to emphasize the aspects of safety, innovation and sustainability to develop our business further, in addition to concentrating on the arrival of the new Airbus A320neo aircraft, set to be delivered mid-2019."

With an aviation career spanning more than 25 years, Mr. Remco Althuis started his career at KLM where he worked across various functions before joining Etihad Airways in 2012.



Above: Members of the travel trade with Air Seychelles General Sales Agent, Harshvardhan Trivedi.

INDIAN ROAD SHOW

Air Seychelles joined forces with the Seychelles Tourism Board on a three-city tourism road show in India in September 2018.

The tour covered the cities of Kolkata, located in the east of India, the capital of Karnataka state, Bangalore, and the second-largest city in the state of Maharashtra, Pune. The event provided Air Seychelles with the opportunity to meet travel trade professionals from each region in one-to-one meetings, to promote the Airline's product, services and the non-stop air connection from India to Seychelles and beyond.

India remains one of the top 10 markets for the Seychelles tourism industry. To cater to the Indian market and to further complement Air Seychelles' five-per-week service, together with its codeshare partner, Jet Airways, the Airline is able to offer convenient connections to nine destinations in India including Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Cochin and Trivandrum.

Air Seychelles was represented at the event by its General Sales Agent based in Mumbai.



Above: Air Seychelles Chief Executive Officer, Remco Althuis and Charles Johnson, Air Seychelles Chief Commercial Officer with Air India's delegation.

AIR INDIA AND AIR SEYCHELLES SIGN NEW CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

Air India, the flag carrier of India, and Air Seychelles are now offering travellers enhanced connections on their respective networks following the signing of a codeshare agreement between both airlines in October 2018.

Under this new agreement Air India will place its "AI" code on Air Seychelles regional services between Mumbai to the Seychelles and Johannesburg.

In turn, Air Seychelles will place its "HM" code on Air India domestic services to eight cities including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Trivandrum and also on its international services between Mumbai and Bangkok.



Above: Air Seychelles Chief Executive Officer, Remco Althuis and the Chairman, Managing Director and President of CINEC, Captain Ajith Peiris signed the MOU in the presence of the airline's Chief Commercial Officer, Charles Johnson and the Vice President of CINEC, Professor Nalaka Jayakody.

TRAINING SUPPORT IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE EXTENDED

Air Seychelles has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College (CINEC) to provide internship opportunities in aircraft maintenance to students from the academy.

The training programmes and internships to be conducted by the Air Seychelles Technical Operations department under this agreement will enable the young technicians studying in the related field to gain both theory and specific on-the-job training for a period of two years in the Seychelles, upon completion of the aircraft maintenance technician programme with CINEC.

As part of the deal, following the successful completion of the internship programme in the Seychelles the students will then be eligible to obtain a basic license from the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) to work with airlines or aircraft repair organisations.

November 2018 marked one year since Air Seychelles opened its doors to students from CINEC.



Above: Air Seychelles and the Seychelles Tourism Board executives at the media conference in Johannesburg.

JOINT MEDIA CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

To further boost the visibility of Air Seychelles and destination Seychelles in South Africa, Air Seychelles together with the Seychelles Tourism Board chaired a media conference at the Saxon Hotel in Sandton to provide up-to-date information about the Airline's plans for the South African market as well as the state of tourism in the Seychelles. The national airline was represented at the event by Chief Executive Officer, Remco Althuis and Chief Commercial Officer, Charles Johnson whilst the Chief Executive Officer, Sherin Francis and the Regional Director for Africa and America's, David Germain represented the Seychelles Tourism Board.

Air Seychelles Chief Executive Officer said: "With the entry into service of the A320neo aircraft in 2019, we expect to provide more seats between Johannesburg and the Seychelles, including a greater level of comfort onboard the aircraft which will be equipped with new inflight products customised according to Air Seychelles specifications, reflecting the latest trends in the air travel industry.

AIR SEYCHELLES AT SEYCHELLES TOURISM ACADEMY RECRUITMENT FAIR

Air Seychelles exhibited at the Seychelles Tourism Academy recruitment fair in October 2018 at the institution premises in La Misere.

In addition to learning about the various job opportunities available at Air Seychelles, specifically within the ground services department, students also had the chance to meet the Air Seychelles recruitment specialist on a one-to-one basis, submit their résumés and have on-the-spot interviews.

Sandy Benoiton, Chief Operations Officer of Air Seychelles said: "This year Air Seychelles embarked on a strategic transformation plan and the structure of the airline was re-organised to fit the new business model.

AIR SEYCHELLES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS

On 11 December Air Seychelles operated a special flight from Mauritius to the Seychelles for the second stage of the MCB Tour Championship Indian Ocean Swing which took place in Praslin.

The Airbus A320 aircraft carried 32 professional golfers together with Tour Officials, MCB partners and international media representatives.

On arrival at the Seychelles International Airport, four Twin Otters were lined up to facilitate the transportation of the golfers and their spouses to Iles des Palmes Airport in Praslin.

Remco Althuis, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles said: "It has been an immense pleasure to fly the golfers and the accompanying delegation across the Indian Ocean on our Airbus A320 aircraft.

"Sports competitions are built around the spirit of friendship and having worked intensely with the STB over the past months, as the flag carrier of the Seychelles we are indeed very proud to have played a part in supporting the development of sports tourism in the Seychelles."



AIR SEYCHELLES CELEBRATED 40 YEARS ON 26 OCTOBER 2018

The airline organised a series of activities for school children, staff and general public to celebrate its 40th anniversary in both Mahé and Praslin.

Air Seychelles was established on 26 October 1978, as a domestic airline, venturing into long-haul services five years later. In 1983, the government bought a Douglas DC 10 aircraft and the airline started its first weekly flight to London via Frankfurt.

During the 40 years, the company has acquired Boeing 767-200ER, Airbus A330-200 and Airbus A320, contributing to the growth of the airline.

Currently, Air Seychelles offers flights to Abu Dhabi, Johannesburg, Mauritius and Mumbai, complementing its domestic services. The airline is looking into increasing the frequency to some destinations and will acquire more modern aircraft, including the Airbus A320neo.

The Chief Executive Officer said, "We will continue to focus on the key projects as part of the transformation plan as we strive to innovate our business in this challenging industry to ensure we maintain the level of service we are proud of."



Above: Students were taken on an educational tour on A320 aircraft.

this activity at the airport with the support of the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority to further contribute towards the schools learning and development programme.

"I can definitely say that the best part of the event was the excitement that was visible on the children's faces as they boarded the aircraft to experience the various products onboard and the souvenir photo they will keep for a lifetime."

Young aviation enthusiasts given scenic flight in Praslin

In celebration of its 40th anniversary (which took place on 26 October 2018), Air Seychelles hosted a group of 24 students from the Baie Saint Anne and Grand Anse Primary School on 15 minute scenic flights over Praslin on 23 October 2018.

Flying at low altitude, the flights in a Twin Otter DHC-6 400 aircraft allowed the young aviation enthusiasts to experience a bird's eye view of the most amazing spots in Praslin including the well-known coastline of the famous Anse Lazio beach.

After the flight, the children met the Air Seychelles Praslin Station Manager, Norbert Lepathy, who happily shared his 35 years of experience with them. The children were also provided with Air Seychelles gift bags to take home as a souvenir of the day out as well as enjoyed a cake sponsored by SkyChef to celebrate the airlines 40th anniversary.

Air Seychelles hosted 120 school children onboard A320

On 22 October 2018, Air Seychelles welcomed a group of 120 excited school children from Baie Lazare and Takamaka Primary on an educational tour onboard the airline's Airbus A320 aircraft at the Seychelles International Airport.

The pupils, who were accompanied by their teachers, were escorted by the Air Seychelles team on a quick tour around the aircraft under the guidance of Manager Aircraft Maintenance, Darrel Woodruff, who explained the different functions of the various aircraft parts and its purposes. The children then boarded the Airbus A320 aircraft where they viewed a manual demonstration of the emergency procedures.

The children also had the chance to meet two jet fleet pilots, Captain Randy Francoise and First Officer Ashley Confait, who provided a detailed explanation about the roles and responsibilities of their job.

The Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles, said: "It was a pleasure to host the 120 school children this morning on a special aircraft tour and we are pleased to have



Above: Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles and school children cutting the cake sponsored by SkyChef.



Above: Students from Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT) with Air Seychelles technical team.

The Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles said, "I am pleased to announce that Air Seychelles will soon be extending its memorandum of understanding with the institution to ensure we continue to support the students with on-the-job training and eventually career opportunities as and when available."

The visit which ended with the students sharing a souvenir photo with the Air Seychelles team was part of the week-long activities organised for the 40th anniversary.

Long-serving staff recognised

The Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles said, "I would like to extend my congratulations to Seychellois colleagues who have contributed towards the development of the national airline throughout the years.

"As Air Seychelles marks its 40th anniversary, I am pleased to see that at the moment we have a few staff members within our team whose years of service coincides with the anniversary of the airline.

"This is definitely a great achievement for the national airline and for that I want to personally express my gratitude and loyalty towards these staff members."

Air Seychelles presented 66 staff with long-service awards in recognition of their outstanding dedication.

The special awards ceremony took place in the Air Seychelles VIP Lounge at the Seychelles International Airport where the staff who have all been with the company for over 10 to 40 years, were thanked for their years of service.

The group came from various airline departments including Ground Operations, Cabin Operations, Flight Operations, Sales and Distribution, Finance, Human Resources, Technical Operations and Cargo.

Open day for SIT students

Air Seychelles opened its doors to a group of students from the Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT) at its premises in Pointe Larue on 24 October 2018.

The students were invited to meet the Air Seychelles technical operations team to learn about the various roles and services offered by the airline.

The students were taken on a guided tour of the maintenance hangar by Manager Aircraft Maintenance, Darrel Woodruff in addition to meeting with the Head of Technical Operations, Gustave Pragassen, who shared his 35 years of experience working with the national airline.

As part of the visit the students also had the opportunity to view the maintenance team in action on the ramp at the Seychelles International Airport. The team was conducting routine maintenance work on a Twin Otter DHC-6 400 aircraft before it commenced its journey to Praslin later in the afternoon.



Above: Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles with Marion Francois and Osmond Coralie at the award ceremony.

WE ARE 40 YEARS OLD!

Air Seychelles marked its 40th anniversary on 26 October 2018 with a party for its staff at the Eden Bleu Hotel.

More than 350 staff participated in the celebrations which also saw five staff members who have been with the airline for 40 years rewarded with a special dedication for their service by the Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation Ports, and Marine, Minister Didier Dogley.

The celebrations continued the following week with another gathering at the Oasis Hotel for colleagues from the Praslin outstation.

Both events featured a raffle draw, sumptuous buffet including plenty of dancing, laughter and great memories.







The best way to island-hop

Make more of your holiday with a trip to Praslin. On the short 15 minute flight from Mahé, you can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Seychelles beautiful inner islands.

With over 20 domestic flights a day, getting there and back has never been easier.

We also offer charter services and scenic flights over Mahé.



Book your ticket with your travel agent, call us on (248) 439 1000 or visit airseychelles.com

Air Seychelles global offices



India

Capital: New Delhi
Languages: Hindi, English
Currency: Indian Rupee
Area: 3,287,590 km²
Population: 1,263,830,000
Air Seychelles destination: Mumbai

Jet Air Pvt. Ltd
2-A Stadium House
Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate
Mumbai 40020, India
Tel: +91 22 22040685/82
Email: hmsales@jetair.co.in/hmres@jetair.co.in



Mauritius

Capital: Port Louis
Languages: French, English, Creole
Currency: Rupees
Area: 2,040 km²
Population: 1,243,000
Air Seychelles destination: Plaisance Airport

Rogers Aviation Ltd
2, Gardens of Bagatelle
Bagatelle Office Park
Moka, Mauritius
Tel: +230 2026665
Email: olivia.malepa@rogers-aviation.com



Seychelles

Capital: Victoria
Languages: Seychellois Creole, English
Currency: Seychelles Rupee
Area: 456 km²
Population: 91,650
Air Seychelles destination: Mahé & Praslin

Air Seychelles Ltd
Seychelles International Airport
P.O. Box 386
Mahé, Seychelles
Tel: +248 4391000
Email: callcenter@airseychelles.com



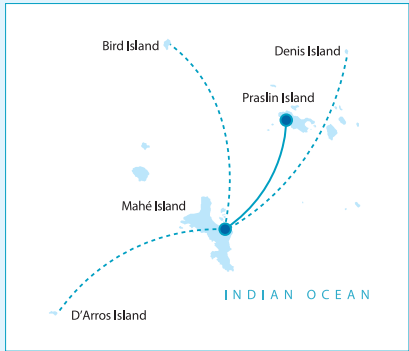
South Africa

Capital: Pretoria
Languages: English, Afrikaans
(11 official languages)
Currency: South African Rand
Area: 1,221,037 km²
Population: 45,919,000
Air Seychelles destination: Johannesburg

Border Air Pty Ltd
Lu Dowell Representations
280 Oak Avenue, Randburg
Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: +27 11 3264440/4443/4483
Email: isla@border-air.co.za

Route Network

Air Seychelles Domestic Network

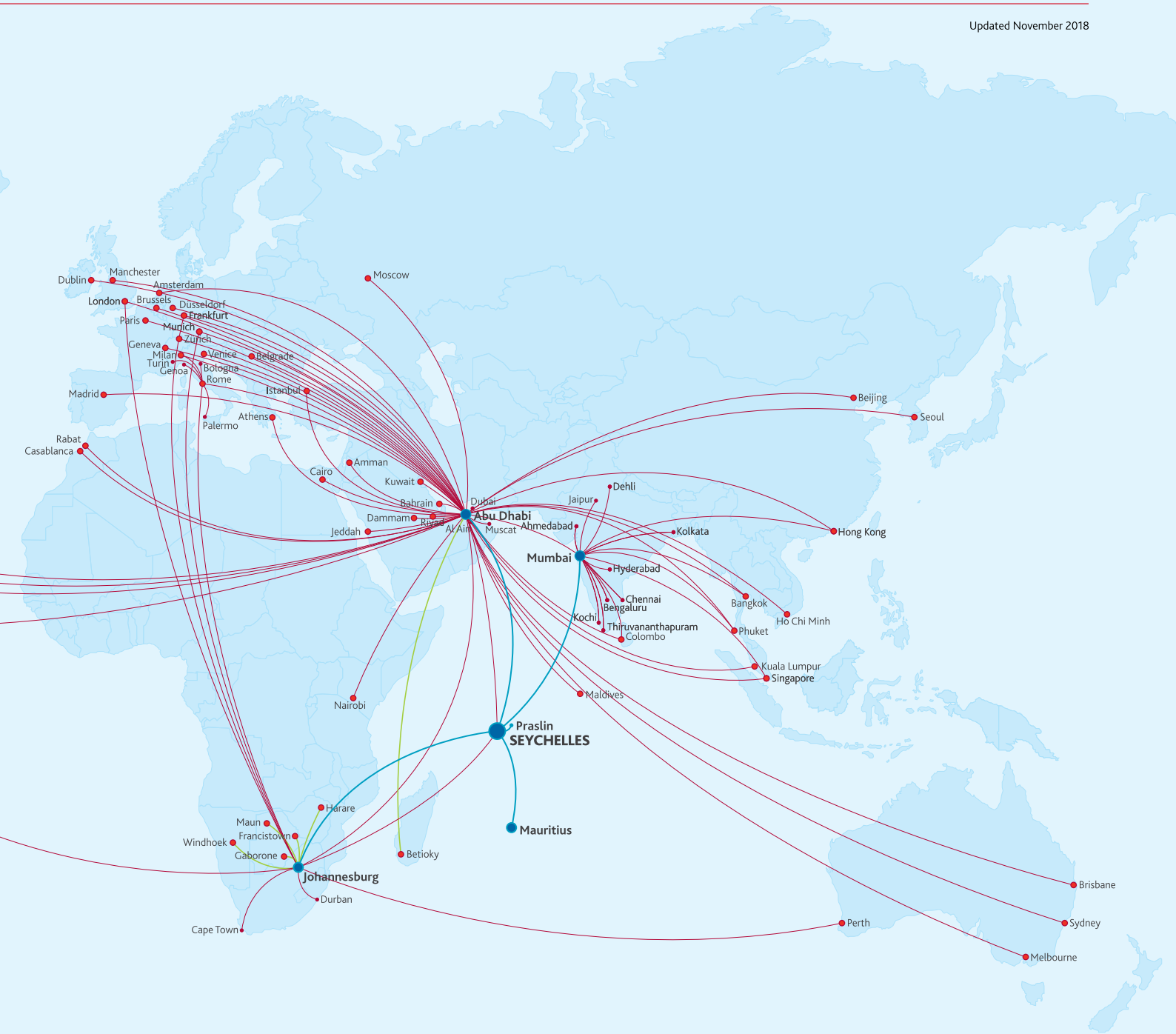


MAP KEY

- Air Seychelles Flights
- Air Seychelles Chartered Flights
- Codeshare Flights
- New Codeshare Flights

OUR CODESHARE PARTNERS





Our fleet



Airbus A320

(Amirantes, Silhouette)

Aircraft: 2

Cruise speed: 840 k/hr

Business Class seats: 16

Economy seats: 120

Wing span: 111ft 9in

Length: 123ft 3in

Maximum range: 2930 nm

Seat Configuration

One aisle passenger cabin

Pearl class: 2-2 four abreast

Economy: 3-3 six abreast



DHC-6 (TWIN OTTER)

Aircraft: 5

Seat Capacity: Total 19

Max. Gross Weight: Take Off, 5,669 kgs

Range: 490 nautical miles (907.5 km)

Engines: Pratt and Whitney PT 6A-27

Sea Level Thrust: SHP 680

Scenic Island Flights

Let us take you on a journey

Guests can now experience low altitude scenic flights on Air Seychelles.

Be enchanted by the magnificence of the spectacular views from the sky. Flights are 30 minutes, and guests can choose between a flight over the North or South of Mahé.

Bookings must be made 24 hours before departure.

For more information or to book, visit your local travel agent, airseychelles.com or call +248 439 1000.

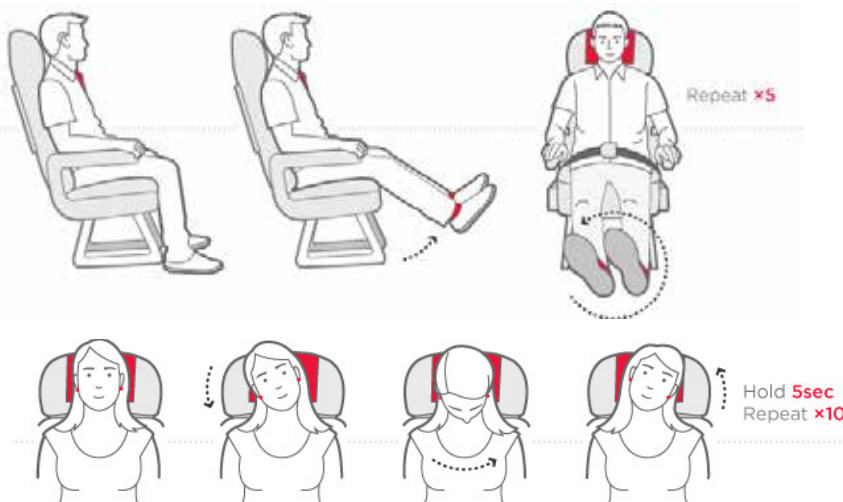


EXPLORE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Airport Seychelles International Airport is the main airport on the main island of Mahé. There are two terminals for International and Domestic.	Currency The Seychelles Rupee. There is no restriction on the import and export of domestic and foreign currency in the country. However, anything over USD 10,000 should be declared on arrival or departure. Banks and Bureaux de Change are authorised dealers in foreign currency.	• Liberation Day (5 June) • Corpus Christi (20 June) • Constitution Day (18 June) • National Day (29 June) • Assumption Day – festival on La Digue (15 August) • All Saints Day (1 November) • Immaculate Conception (8 December) • Christmas Day (25 December).	Ground transport Driving in Seychelles is on the left side of the road. You can rent cars on Mahé and Praslin. There are several car hire counters outside the arrivals hall at Mahé International Airport. Seychelles Public Transport runs daily bus services from morning to evening. The bus usually passes by every 15 minutes.
Information There is a tourist information/ hotel booking desk in Arrivals. There are ATMs, a Bank and a Bureau de Change at the airport.	Credit cards Most credit cards and travellers' cheques are accepted.	Passport requirement Valid passports or other travel documents recognised by Seychelles are required for entry into Seychelles. The passport MUST be valid for the period of the intended stay.	Taxi service Taxi service is safe and reliable and you can get one from the International Airport or call for one from your hotel.
Time Seychelles is four hours ahead of GMT and three hours ahead of Central European Time.	Banking Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 0800hrs-1400hrs, and Saturday 0800hrs-1100hrs.	Visa requirement Visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder. Re-confirm before travel. www.ics.gov.sc	Tourist information office The Seychelles Tourist Office is located in Independence House, Victoria, Mahé.
Electric supply The power sockets are of type G. The standard voltage is 240 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.	Public holidays 2018 • New Year (1 January) • Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday (19, 21 & 22 April) • Labour Day (1 May)		
Language Creole, English and French are the official languages of the Seychelles.			

These simple exercises will help to relieve the tiredness and stiffness associated with flying. Check with your doctor first if you have any health conditions which might be adversely affected by exercise.



Other tips for a comfortable flight

- For your comfort try and travel light.
- Wear loose clothing and elasticated stockings made of natural fibre.
- Increase your normal intake of water.
- Use moisturising cream to keep your skin from drying out.
- Take off shoes in the plane to prevent your feet from swelling.
- Avoid heavy meals during the flight.
- Short walks once every two hours are excellent for circulation.
- On arrival at your destination, have a hot shower or relaxing bath.
- Try to touch your toes when waiting in the aisle to stretch your hamstrings.
- On arrival a quick job, brisk walk, or a vigorous scrub will help stimulate your circulation.

Shoulder circles

- Sit tall and move forward in your seat.
- Bring your shoulders up towards your ears, then circle back downwards.
- Reverse the exercise by lifting your shoulders towards your ears and drop them back.

Neck rolls

- Sit back in your seat and flatten the headrest.
- Gently and slowly roll your neck to one side, then back through the centre towards the other side.
- Try keeping the back of your neck extended.

Sit up straight

- Place the pillow at the hollow of your back.
- Sit tall in your seat to avoid compressing your spine.
- Do not cross your legs. Instead, try to sit with your weight evenly balanced.

Ankle circles

- Sit tall in your seat, and place the pillow under your thigh, just above the knee.
- Keep your weight even as you circle your foot around, keeping the whole foot as still as possible.

MON ZIL, MON SEYBREW

MY ISLAND, MY SEYBREW



NOT FOR SALE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18
DRINK RESPONSIBLY • DON'T DRINK & DRIVE





A trip to Seychelles is incomplete without a visit to Eden Island.

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