

# silhouette

Inflight magazine of Air Seychelles • January-March 2020



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## Dear Guests, Welcome aboard!

I am pleased to share the first edition of our inflight magazine for 2020, filled with fantastic milestones recorded over the past three months of 2019, which was also one of the busiest periods at Air Seychelles.

Following the delivery of our first A320neo aircraft in August 2019, and after having successfully completed three months of flying, the operations control centre team conducted a survey to evaluate the general performance of the newest acquisition.

Completing 410 sectors as from 6 August up to 4 December 2019 overall, the aircraft on average completed 100 flights per month, produced 20 percent fuel savings per flight, in addition to generating 50 percent reduced noise footprint and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

This amazing result must not go unnoticed as the aviation industry globally is under considerable pressure over the issue of carbon emissions and its impact on climate change. Today, I am proud of the contribution Air Seychelles is making towards sustainable development and we cannot wait for the arrival of our second A320neo in April 2020.

The exciting month of November 2019 was marked with the introduction of our new non-stop weekly service between Seychelles and Tel Aviv. Being onboard the inaugural Tel Aviv – Seychelles flight, which was 100 percent full and bearing witness to the excitement of the guests as they boarded the aircraft was definitely a historical milestone for the national airline.

Since then we have been receiving positive feedback plus additional demand from this market and I am pleased to announce that for the winter and upcoming summer season, Air Seychelles will definitely add extra capacity on that route.

Why not add Israel on your bucket list for this year? If you are thinking of going on an adventure in Tel Aviv or on a quick tour in the nearby city of Jerusalem, check out page 60 focused on the interesting adventures one can do at this location.

Otherwise if you are travelling from Israel to the Seychelles, combine your holiday with a short stay in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius and be captivated by the charms of the bustling markets, Creole architecture as well as the amazing wildlife. Discover more about Seychelles' neighbouring island Mauritius on page 42 and book your trip today via [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com).

The collective efforts of all stakeholders across our network is also important in the success of any route. As such in December 2019 we celebrated the fifth anniversary of our Mumbai route in India, together with travel trade and media partners, in recognition of their continuous support over the years, in addition to marking the first year of successful codeshare partnership with Air India.

In fact, to provide our guests greater choice and flexibility when planning their travel from India to other destinations across our network, during the peak summer months, Air Seychelles will operate additional services to Mumbai as part of its network growth plan.

As we strive to maintain the level of service we offer to you, this year will continue to focus on bringing more efficiency and innovation across our business keeping in mind our commitment towards sustainability.

With that we are looking forward to another busy year and as always, we count on your support in everything that we do.

It has indeed been a great pleasure to fly you across the Indian Ocean in 2019 and we promise that 2020 will even be more exciting with all the activities we have planned for the year.

I wish you a pleasant trip and thank you for flying with Air Seychelles today.



**Remco Althuis**  
Chief Executive Officer



“  
Bringing more  
efficiency and  
innovation across  
our business.  
”

## FEATURES

### 32 The new Indian museums

India's new-age museums today are interactive spaces with modern technology and are slowly becoming cultural hubs for the community, drawing in visitors and conducting workshops and programmes.

### 36 The wildlife of Mauritius, a changing perspective

Mauritius is not without its wildlife, but it does things on a smaller scale, and the endemic species have endured a constant battle to survive against the effects of mankind.

### 42 The underrated charms of Port Louis

From Victorian warehouses, bungalows with low verandahs, to Creole architecture, from houses of worship for every religion to teeming markets, this is a town that has character stamped all over it.

### 48 eGoli, city of events

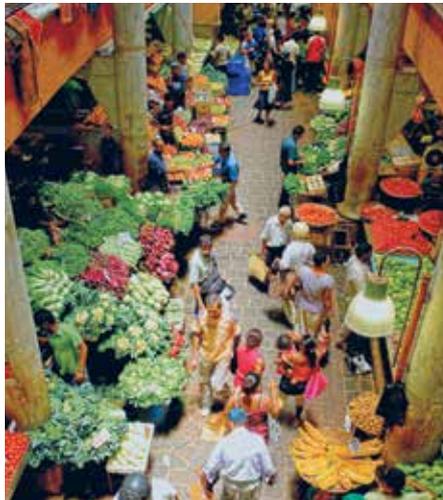
Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, South Africa's Gauteng province is brimming with world-class events, festivals, sporting fixtures and expos to keep you entertained.

### 54 A historical feast

The more you look at Hyderabad, the more you understand its intricate intertwining layers of culture. Bursting with history and architecture, along with its technologically driven character, Hyderabad lays out a gourmet fare on a platter.

### 60 A city of many faiths

Jerusalem is a city of overwhelming emotions, a city that promises a religious and spiritual experience, excitement and pleasure, interesting tours and entertaining adventures.





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# REGULARS



## 01 Chief Executive Officer's message

## 06 Kaleidoscope

Local and international news; Maintaining healthy eating habits; iPhone 11 Pro & iPhone 11 Pro Max, the most powerful and advanced smartphones; Interview with Seychelles leading local artist, Alyssa Adams, designer of the new Air Seychelles cabin crew uniforms; Seychelles: An environmental trailblazer.

## 24 Satellite islands of Mahé

Using Mahé as a base you can discover the many other small islands lying only a short distance from the big island's shores, which encapsulate our traditional dreams of paradise and an excursion to one or more of these jewels should be on every visitor's itinerary.

## 67 Inside Air Seychelles

Air Seychelles news, Air Seychelles global offices; International route map; Our fleet; Travel tips.



**Cover image**  
A320neo, flying over the satellite islands of Mahé.  
Photo courtesy of Air Seychelles

# silhouette

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in-flight entertainment



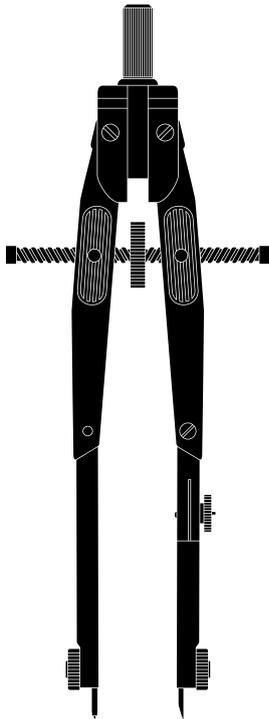
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**Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon**

Date: 23 February 2020

Venue: Mahé Island

[www.seychelles-eco-friendly-marathon.com](http://www.seychelles-eco-friendly-marathon.com)

The Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon is held on the last Sunday of February every year. Runners from across the globe descend on the Seychelles to take part in this scenic event. Participants can enjoy the natural beauty of Mahé Island as they run, walk or jog along the beaches, and onlookers cheer from the sidelines or from their sunbathing spots. The race starts at Beau Vallon Beach and follows the peninsula round to Victoria before turning to follow the same route back to the finish. In addition to the full marathon, there is a half marathon and both a 5 kilometres and 10 kilometres race.



**Goût de France**

Date: 2 March 2020

Venue: Mahé Island

<https://www.seychelles.travel>

Goût de France/Good France is part of the activities that celebrates the International day of 'La Francophonie,' commemorated on 20 March every year. On the local scene, Goût de France, which is organised by the French Embassy in collaboration with the STB, has become a key event in the tourism industry as numerous hotels and restaurants associate themselves to the event.



**SSFC Marlin Slam**

Date: 25 January 2020

[ssfcmal@gmail.com](mailto:ssfcmal@gmail.com)

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Ocean Marlin Cup**

Date: 29 February 2020

Venue: Beau Vallon

[www.flyzonefishing.com](http://www.flyzonefishing.com)

Anglers in search of the heaviest marlin with a minimum weight above 500lbs (227 kilogrammes). All within the Indian Ocean can fish from their own country and time zone within specific times and compete against other teams in other countries in the Indian Ocean.



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### Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon

Date: 28 February 2020

Venue: Tel Aviv Israel

[www.tlvmarathon.co.il](http://www.tlvmarathon.co.il)

With a series of running events including a full marathon, half marathon, 10 kilometres and 5 kilometres run, as well as 42 kilometres hand cycle race for people with special needs, participants will see some of the greatest sites of this beautiful city. The marathon will take off at Rokach Boulevard, continuing to the boardwalk and along the Mediterranean shore through the ancient and fascinating port city of Jaffa.

## TRAVEL EXPO

### Travel Expo

Date: 6-8 March 2020

Venue: Northumberland Rd, North Riding, Northgate, Johannesburg

[www.travelexpo.co.za](http://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. With over 100 travel exhibitors, visitors will enjoy the best deals, special and biggest savings with exclusive offers from various airlines, cruise lines, resorts and hotels, tours and adventures.

It brings 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.



### Indian Festival of Spring

Date: 9-10 March 2020

Venue: All around India

[www.holifestival.org](http://www.holifestival.org)

Holi is the first major Hindu festival of the year and is celebrated joyously. The exuberant spring festival starts on the night of full moon, when bonfires are lit on street corners to clear the air of evil spirits. The next morning sees the streets full of people of all ages chasing each other and throwing pots of brightly-coloured powder pigment over each other in uninhibited mischief. The fun ends at noon, when everyone retires to wash off the paint and finish the day relaxing. Foreigners are enthusiastically included in the festival, which is all about friendliness and happiness. Such is the event's popularity that versions of Holi are now celebrated all over the world.

## MAURITIUS Independence Day



### Mauritius Independence Day

Date: 12 March 2020

Venue: Mauritius

[www.officeholidays.com](http://www.officeholidays.com)

The Independence Day is also the national day of Mauritius marked by incredible festivities to celebrate the fact that on 12 March 1968, Mauritius attained its independence from Britain. To mark National Day, Mauritians show their pride in their nation by displaying their colourful flag across the island. An official flag-raising ceremony takes place with military parades and live music.

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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 an infinity pool, gym and tennis court, two other swimming pools and beautifully landscaped walkways. Also found on Eden Island is a buzzy restaurant strip with five restaurants, a coffee shop, a juice bar and two ice-cream shops together with a premium shopping

experience at Eden Plaza comprising a 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 and beaches.

Come and visit us at the Eden Island sales office and see for yourself – your next holiday could become your next home.



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# Maintaining Healthy Eating Habits

When it comes to food and drink, you are never sure what is good for you, and what isn't. We are regularly attacked with opposing advice, based on various research programmes.



For example, is coffee good or bad for you? Whilst it's true that drinking too much coffee may have some adverse health effects, such as contributing to rheumatoid arthritis and arterial stiffness, the health benefits of regular coffee drinking appear to far outweigh these negatives. In recent years studies have shown that the morning cup of coffee may help prevent Alzheimer's disease, lower the risk of diabetes, reduce symptoms of depression and reduce the risk of stroke.

But that's not all: coffee has also been found to be a powerful tool in the fight against cancer. Researchers in Japan combined data from two large studies that examined coffee consumption in more than 60,000 people. The results of the study, published in the International Journal of Cancer, showed that occasional coffee drinkers had a 30 percent lower risk of liver cancer compared to those who didn't drink any coffee. The risk of cancer was lowered even further among those participants who drank coffee daily. This confirms the results of another study that found regular coffee drinking reduced the risk of developing a type of liver cancer known as hepatocellular carcinoma. Another study showed that women who drank four or more cups of combined coffee and tea significantly reduced their risk of endometrial cancer.

This is great news for coffee lovers, but there are a few things to keep in mind when having your daily coffee. Instant coffee will certainly not have the same health benefits as freshly ground, slowly brewed coffee. And adding milk and sugar will surely compromise the quality of the coffee, and possibly its health benefits.



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified processed meat as officially carcinogenic.

WHO said that according to most available evidence, just 50 grammes of processed meat per day (two slices of bacon, or two small sausages) is enough to increase the risk of developing colorectal cancer by 18 percent.

WHO added that red meat was also 'probably carcinogenic' but said the evidence was not yet conclusive.

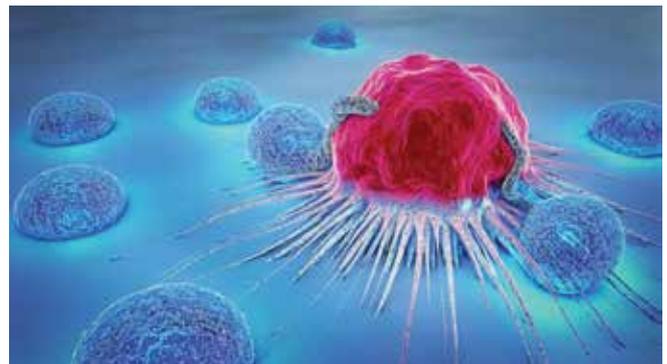
"For an individual, the risk of developing bowel cancer because of their consumption of processed meat remains small, but this risk increases with the amount of meat consumed," said Dr. Kurt Straif, who participated in the report.

The conclusions immediately faced criticism from the meat industry.

Current research shows that there are certain chemicals in red and processed meats – both added and naturally occurring – that cause these foods to be carcinogenic. For example, when a chemical in red meat called haem is broken down in the gut, N-nitroso chemicals are formed and these have been found to damage the cells that line the bowel, which can lead to bowel cancer.

Professor Tim Key, Cancer Research UK's epidemiologist at the University of Oxford, said: "This decision doesn't mean you need to stop eating any red and processed meat."

"Eating a bacon bap every once in a while isn't going to do much harm; having a healthy diet is all about moderation. Overall, red and processed meat cause fewer cases of cancer than some other lifestyle factors. And by far the biggest risk to your health is smoking – causing more than a quarter of cancer deaths and nearly one in five cancer cases."





## Tips to reduce your cancer risk

1. Cut out processed meat.
2. Reduce your red meat portions. Eat chicken or swap red meat for fish a couple of times each week. Add eggs, beans, lentils, fish or chicken to your meals for a protein boost.
3. Try a veggie burger, vegetable lasagne, tofu stir fry or a falafel wrap.
4. Vegetarian diets can be healthy and balanced too. However, if you don't eat meat or other animal foods, it is important to ensure you are getting enough protein, Vitamin B12, iron, zinc, calcium and omega 3 fatty acids.

## Avoiding a toxin overload

Do you suffer from headaches, stomach aches and feeling bloated, you can't fall asleep at night and you feel nervous all the time? These are just some of the symptoms that may be sure signs that your liver is not detoxifying your body properly and you could be heading for a complete system shutdown.

**To avoid this from happening here are seven signs that you may be suffering from a toxin overload:**

**Skin reactions:** Acne, skin rashes, boils and oily patches can indicate that your liver has called in the help of your skin to rid your body of harmful toxins. Other signs of high levels of toxins in your blood are puffy eyes, eczema and psoriasis.

**Headaches:** Frequent headaches can be a result of toxic food additives like mono sodium glutamate (MSG) and the artificial sweetener, aspartame, as well as artificial colours that are added to processed foods and junk food.

**Fatigue:** If you feel tired and lethargic even after a good night's sleep your body is trying to tell you something. It can also be an indication that your adrenal glands are under pressure as a result of your liver struggling to cope with your toxin overload.

**Insomnia:** Cortisol is known as a stress hormone. High levels of toxins in your body will result in rising cortisol blood levels causing a hormonal imbalance, meaning that your body experiences constant high levels of stress, which can lead to sleepless nights.

**Muscle pain:** A clear sign of toxin accumulation in your body is joint and muscle pain, caused by inflammation — a result of high cortisol levels and raised stress levels.

**Bad body odour:** If your body, urine or stool smells bad, it's an indication that your body is struggling with high levels of toxins (usually a result of eating an unhealthy diet rich in processed and sugary foods, consuming too much alcohol and not drinking enough water), meaning that your liver is not working at its optimal level to detoxify the body. Foul breath is also a sign that your digestive system is in distress, coupled with neglected oral hygiene.

**Constipation:** A healthy and regular bowel movement is an indication that your body is getting all the nutrients it needs to run smoothly and for your liver to function optimally. A toxin build-up in your body makes it harder for the liver and kidneys to filter and clean your blood, which has a knock-on effect on your digestive system, slowing down your bowels. This can cause severe constipation and can also contribute to headaches, feeling lethargic and suffering with fatigue.

Fortunately, it's very easy to detoxify. All you need are a few lifestyle changes. Include fruits and vegetables into your daily diet, and drink plenty of water. Cut down on your alcohol and sugar consumption.

Regular exercise will improve your blood circulation and strengthen your muscles and joints and deep breathing exercises help to oxygenate your blood, which helps with the detoxifying process. 🌱



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# iPhone 11 Pro & iPhone 11 Pro Max

The most powerful and advanced smartphones

Recently, Apple announced iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max, a new pro line for iPhone that they claim delivers advanced performance for users who want the very best smartphone. The new Super Retina XDR display is a pro display with the brightest display ever in an iPhone. The powerful Apple-designed A13 Bionic chip provides unparalleled performance for every task while enabling an unprecedented leap in battery life to easily get through the day. A new triple-camera system provides a pro-level camera experience with an Ultra Wide, Wide and Telephoto camera, delivering huge improvements to low-light photography and offering the highest quality video in a smartphone that is great for shooting action videos.

## Pro design and display

iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max have a textured matte glass back and polished stainless-steel band, and come in four finishes including a new midnight green. The most powerful devices are also designed to be durable — iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max feature the toughest glass ever in a smartphone and are rated IP68 for water resistance up to four metres for up to 30 minutes, and are protected against everyday spills including coffee and soda.

The new Super Retina XDR display, a custom-designed OLED, provides users with an immersive HDR viewing experience for movies and other high-definition video with up to 1,200 nits brightness. Super Retina XDR features wide colour support with system-wide colour management and True Tone to offer a more natural viewing experience. With a 2 million-to-one contrast ratio with true blacks, pro users can enjoy a more vivid viewing experience for HDR videos and photos, and the Super Retina XDR display is even more power efficient. Customers can interact with their favourite apps in a quick, seamless way with Haptic Touch deeply integrated across iOS 13 to provide app shortcuts for everyday tasks right from the Home screen, including taking a selfie in Camera, checking an appointment in Calendar or previewing email within Mail with just a simple press.

## Fastest performance with the best battery life

A13 Bionic, which Apple claim is the fastest chip ever in a smartphone, provides unparalleled performance for every task iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max handle and features up to 20 percent faster CPU and GPU than A12. Together, A13 Bionic and iOS 13 make up the best machine learning platform in a smartphone.

All of this compute, graphics and ML performance is delivered while still enabling an unprecedented leap in battery life, with iPhone 11 Pro offering up to four more hours of battery life in a day than iPhone XS, and iPhone 11 Pro Max offering up to five hours more than iPhone XS Max.





### A Pro Camera system for everyone

iPhone 11 Pro introduces a transformative triple-camera system with all-new Ultra Wide, Wide and Telephoto cameras, deeply integrated into iOS to create a pro-level camera experience designed for everyone.

iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max set a new standard in video, with the highest quality video ever in a smartphone. With a wider field of view and large focal plane, the Ultra Wide camera is great for shooting action videos. Users can easily zoom between each of the three cameras, while Audio Zoom matches the audio to the video framing for more dynamic sound. With iOS 13, powerful video editing tools are accessible to everyone with the ability to rotate, crop, increase exposure and apply filters to videos instantly. These adjustments are easy to apply and review at a glance, so even a novice can create professional quality video projects.

The triple-camera system takes Portrait mode to a new level with the ability to choose Wide and Telephoto framing, enabling Portrait mode with a wider field of view, great for taking portraits of multiple people.

### Additional features

The new Apple-designed U1 chip uses Ultra Wideband technology, the first ever in a smartphone, for spatial awareness. AirDrop gets even better with directionally aware suggestions.

Face ID, the most secure facial authentication in a smartphone, gets up to 30 percent faster and easier to use with improved performance at varying distances and support for more angles.

Spatial audio provides an immersive surround sound experience and Dolby Atmos delivers powerful, moving audio to iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max. Gigabit-class LTE up to 1.6Gbps and Wi-Fi 6 allow for even faster download speeds and Dual SIM with eSIM.

### Featuring iOS 13

iOS 13 on iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max delivers a seamless experience with software and hardware integration unlike any other smartphone. iOS 13 introduces a dramatic new look with Dark Mode, a more private way to sign in to apps and websites with Sign In with Apple, and an all-new Maps experience.

With advanced Camera and Photos features, photo editing is more comprehensive and intuitive with powerful new tools that now extend to video editing. Portrait lighting adjustments can be made right in the Camera app to adjust the intensity of light on a subject, and a new High-Key Mono effect creates a beautiful, monochromatic look for Portrait mode photos. 🌈



Source: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)



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# New cabin crew uniforms designed by local artist



To showcase the beauty and warmth of the Seychelles islands, and the arrival of the new Airbus A320neo aircraft, Air Seychelles recently unveiled a new uniform design for its Cabin Crew members. Inspired by the calm blue ocean of the archipelago, the stylish new uniform comprises an elegant turquoise ensemble reflecting the natural landscape and surrounding of the islands ecosystem. The vibrant ornate scarf and tie enthused by rays of the tropical sunlight glazing unto the flamboyant lily portrays the unique values, warmth, and culture of the Seychellois hospitality. To bring a fresh and modern look into the aircraft, the Business and Economy Class seats have also been adorned with a soft abstract design of the tropical Hibiscus flower, showcasing the important concept of conservation for a greener Seychelles.

Economy Class has dark aqua 18-inch wide cushion seats for prime comfort. Each seat entails USB chargers as well as a high literature pocket. Business Class, features burgundy seats paired with a sophisticated shade of grey, ergonomic reclining positions, a large storage space console and power outlets in each seat providing a superior passenger experience.

The new uniform design was entrusted to Alyssa Adams, a leading local artist and the cabin of the Air Seychelles A320neo has been designed by LIFT Strategic Design, an airline design specialist agency.

**Glynn Burrige** speaks to Alyssa Adams about the project.

## Alyssa, please give us some background on yourself and your art.

I am the daughter of Michael and Heather Adams and my father is a well-established artist, having been here since the early 1970s after living for several years in Uganda. I was born in Seychelles in 1980 and educated at the International School, Seychelles, and in England at Woldingham School, then Kingston University where I completed an art foundation

course, and Chelsea college of art – where I had the great honour of having some of my paintings chosen by the Lord Mayor of London to hang in London's City Hall. I have since had a number of successful exhibitions in the United Kingdom and Seychelles.

## What was your reaction to being chosen to refresh the design of the uniforms?

My first reaction was somewhat mixed as my father had previously been involved in this project but I quickly came to see this as an opportunity to build on his work in this area and to provide further family inspiration to the evolving design of the uniforms of our national carrier. I feel honoured to have been asked to undertake this task and to have the opportunity of continuing my father's work for Air Seychelles.

## What inspires you as an artist?

First and foremost, my overarching inspiration comes from my father who first placed a paintbrush in my hands when I was still very young. To have basked in the light of his paintings for so long has been a major influence on me, even though in the intervening years I have developed very much my own style and have followed my own path. Beyond that, I am passionate about nature, the forests and the sea. I recall, on one dive into the ocean, lying on my back and looking skywards to admire the light entering the water from above and delighting in the patterns being formed. As one might expect of a child of the islands, which I am, the surrounding ocean and its many treasures hold a real fascination for me. Furthermore, I live among the bamboos at Anse Aux Poules Bleues, a wonderfully rustic region in the south of Mahé where I feel the happiest and most complete. The rambling garden all planted by my parents since they settled here on 1972 itself is full of magic and inspirational guidance and the bamboo leaves themselves are like floating brush strokes and an absolute joy to paint. Throughout the day, the sun coaxes a wide range of colours from my wonderful garden and I find the best time to work is in the late afternoon which invariably casts shadows among the towering bamboos. I often find on my path a fallen leaf which seems to be asking me to paint it so that its beauty will not be forgotten. In this way it jumps into my painting and its fleeting beauty is preserved.

## How do you feel now about having your designs on the aircraft?

Having my designs validated in this way is unimaginable and I am extremely proud to be following in my father's footsteps. It is a great honour to have one's work represented on the national carrier and have it displayed in the various destinations of the airline's network. The images I use in my designs are the same reflections of light playing on the ocean that I referred to earlier, depicting the movement of different shapes and the fusion of myriad colours. Another source of inspiration is the water lilies we find on Mahé which sit so naturally and so elegantly on the water, achieving the perfect balance of land and water. Beyond that, Seychelles is my home and definitely where my heart is and there can be no greater inspiration than that in the work of any artist. 🌊

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# Seychelles: An environmental trailblazer

Seychelles was the first country in the world to include conservation efforts in its constitution. From land to sea protection, and one of the first to tackle packaging too, the island nation has attained some incredible achievements. Seychelles was even found to have the purest air on the planet by the 2016 Environmental Performance Index and it is also developing renewable energy sources.

WORDS: NATI FINCH AND JACK TERRY



## Land & environmental protection

Seychelles has gone above and beyond to preserve its rich natural heritage. Protected national parks make up a remarkable 60 percent of its total land area, the highest proportion of protected space in the world! The archipelago has gone so far as to limit the number of tourist beds per island, to ensure that tourism growth does not come at the expense of the environment.

Various clean-up activities are regularly organised in Seychelles. A collaboration between the Islands Development Company, the Ocean Project Seychelles and Seychelles Islands Foundation saw several clean-up activities take place on World Heritage Site Aldabra and eight other outer islands.

Seychelles National Parks Authority launched the first national campaign to eradicate alien invasive creepers in June 2017. The campaign targets the non-indigenous species, identified as a threat to the ecosystems and natural areas of Seychelles, in areas where they have grown out of control.

## Marine protection

Seychelles is carrying out ground breaking environmental work, championing the issue of marine protection in the Commonwealth's Blue Charter and committing to the protection of 30 percent of their ocean by 2020.

In 2016, the country agreed to preserve 210,000 square kilometres of ocean, almost the size of Great Britain, in exchange for paying off national debt. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio's foundation donated USD1 million to the cause. The plan restricts tourism and fishing activities to prevent damage

to aquatic life. The first marine reserve includes the Aldabra Islands, which are home to some of the Indian Ocean's more endangered species, including the dugong and giant tortoises, as well as rare tropical birds.

With the support of the Nature Conservancy, the Marine Spatial Plan Initiative was set up to designate more waters particularly around the outer islands as protected areas. The aim is to propose new areas for marine protection and sustainable use of the island nation's Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.4 million square kilometres. This expansion is part of a seven-year public process.

## Plastic & sustainable tourism

Since 2017, the Ministry for Environment has taken big leaps in minimising plastic waste. The importation, sale and commercial use of plastic bags, cups, plates and cutlery were banned in January 2017. The exemption includes plastics used in the agricultural sector, industrial packaging sold for freezing purposes and waste disposal.

Continuing its strategy to reduce plastic waste in the island nation, Seychelles completely banned single-use plastic straws in 2018. An intensive education programme to present importers with alternatives was carried out. And it doesn't stop there, as a number of different organisations and those in the tourism industry have been reducing their plastic waste. North Island is going plastic-free, using biodegradable packaging and continuing to search for ways to reduce their footprint.

Sustainable hotels are popping up too. The Cosmoledo Eco Camp consists of eight rooms made out of shipping containers, designed to have minimal impact on the environment.



## Environmental restoration

The importance and crucial role that mangrove forests play in the ecosystem is often overlooked, but fortunately in Seychelles conservation efforts are taking place. Non-profit organisation Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (TRASS) and the Ephelia Resort have made mangrove restoration and replanting one of their core activities.

Seychelles has been putting great efforts into coral restorations following major coral bleaching incidents such as the 1998 catastrophe, where 97 percent of corals bleached and collapsed in some areas. Since then, restoration projects are being carried out on land and sea across the different islands.

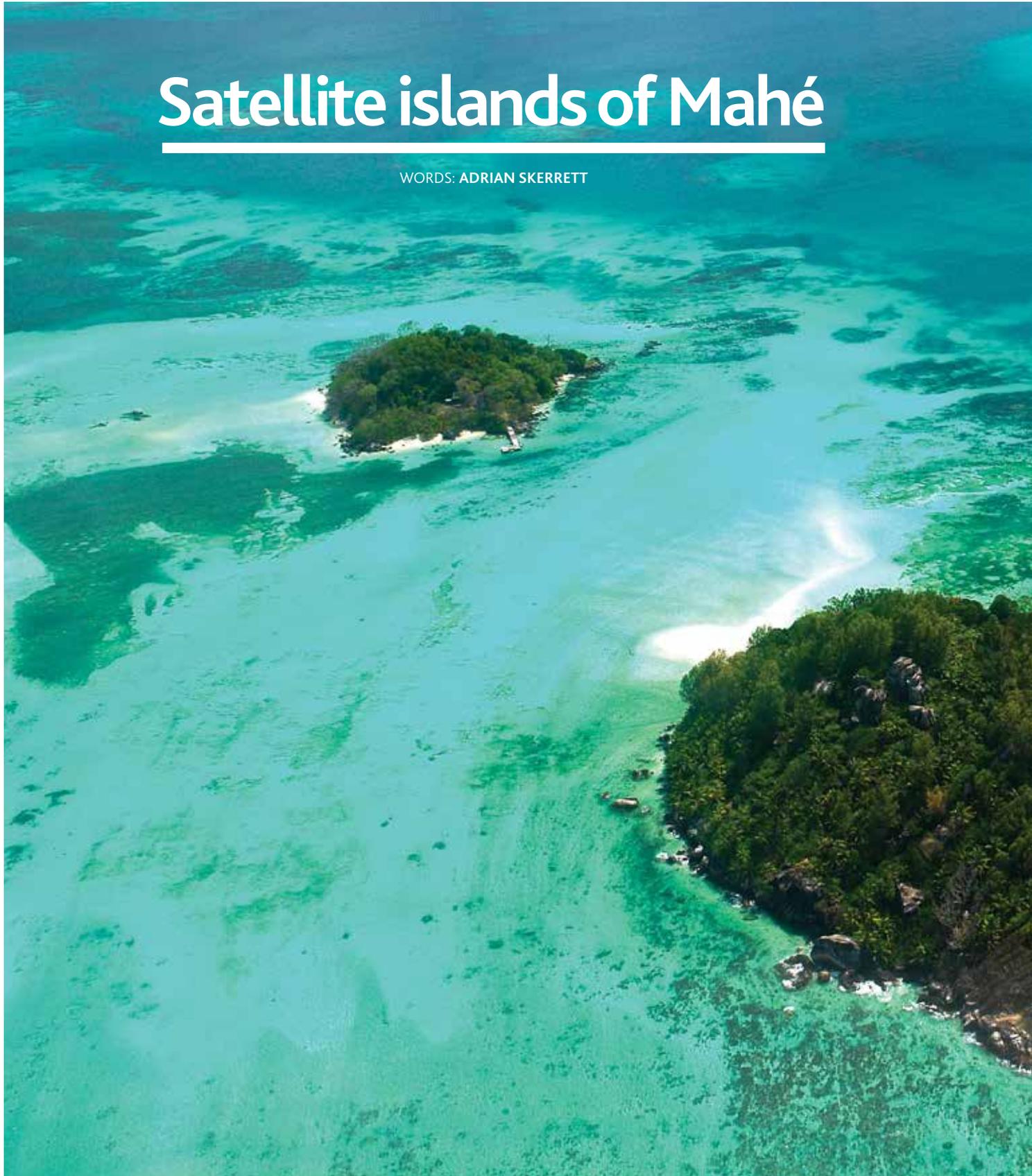
TRASS also helps combat soil degradation by replanting indigenous plants on hilltops and many other environmental groups are working on similarly important initiatives. Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S) encourages an eco-friendly lifestyle by combining traditional Creole practices with modern technologies to make lives easier without harming the environment.

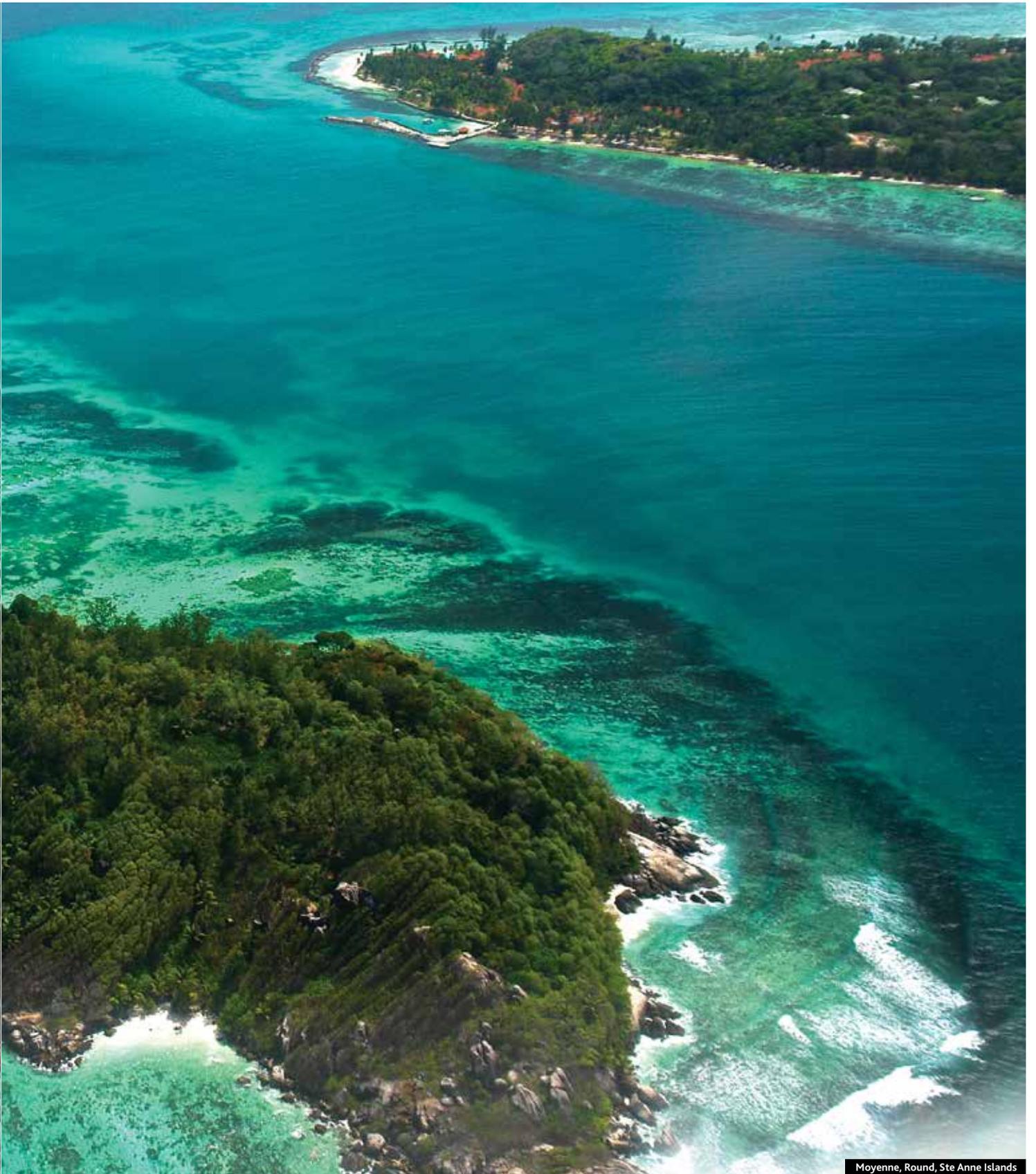
Seychelles continues to lead the way in conservation and eco-friendly initiatives, but there is still a long way to go when we look at this issue on a global scale.

With more recognition being given to these urgent needs, it is the Seychelles' hope that change will happen at an increasing rate through 2020 and that the impact will become more and more noticeable around the world. 🌍

# Satellite islands of Mahé

WORDS: ADRIAN SKERRETT





Moyenne, Round, Ste Anne Islands



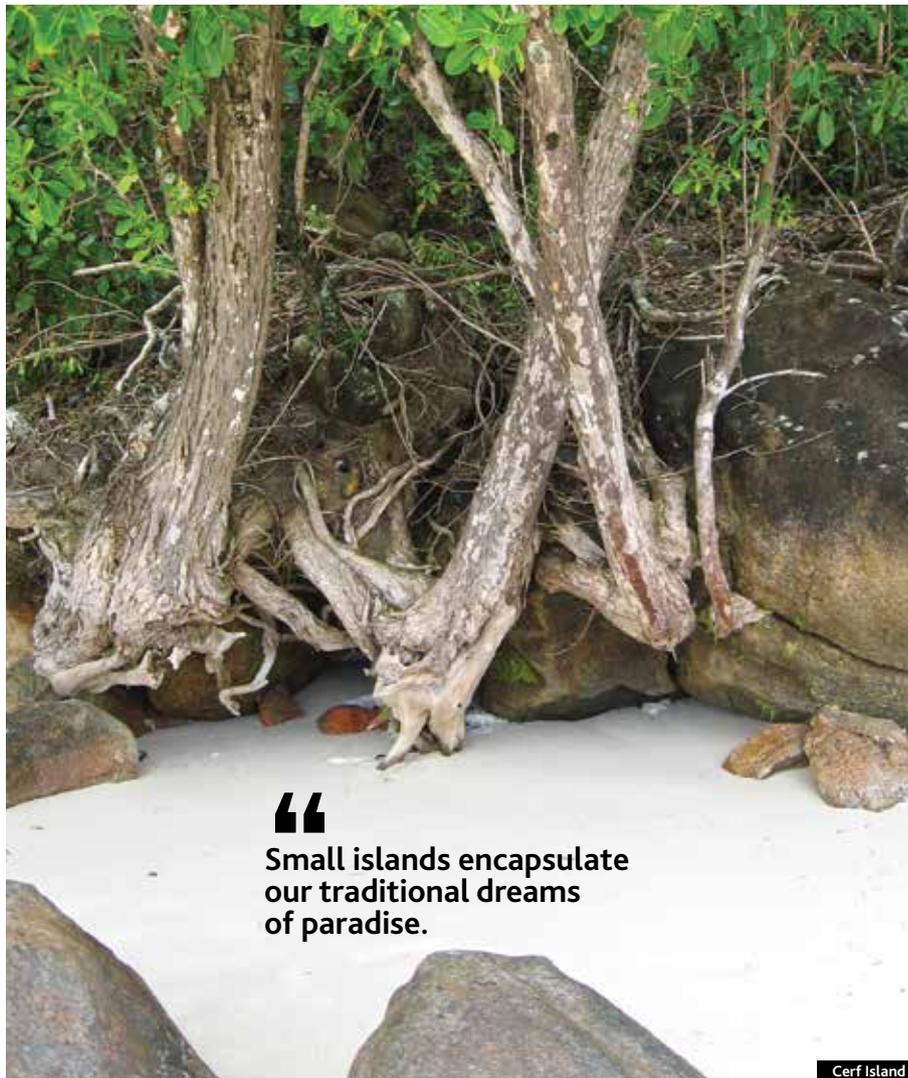
Moyenne Island

glass-bottomed boat or semi-submersible boat (journey time out to the marine park about 15 minutes), starting from Marine Charter in Victoria. A visit to the national park is also a must for self-sail holidays, being just a short distance from the marinas of Mahé where boats may be hired.

Ste Anne is the largest island of the park that bears its name. The first Seychelles settlers lived on Ste Anne rather than Mahé, perhaps because of the dangerous crocodiles which then inhabited Mahé's extensive coastal mangrove swamps. Once people did elect to live on Mahé, Ste Anne became a coconut plantation and in 1832, a whaling station was established on the island. During World War II the British had a fuel store here, and a pipeline ran from the oil tanks to a refueling point on the coast for seaplanes.

**E**very visitor by plane or ship will first touch land at Mahé, the largest and loftiest island of Seychelles, since it is the location of the International Airport and Port Victoria which are the points of entry to the nation by air and sea. There is much to explore here, mountains and coastline, but using Mahé as a base you can also discover the many other small islands which lie only a few kilometres or just a matter of metres from the big island's shores like a flotilla of small boats escorting the mother ship. In fact, no less than 17 of the 42 granitic islands of Seychelles are satellites of Mahé.

Six of these satellite islands encircle Victoria's magnificent natural harbour and lie within the Ste Anne Marine National Park. Created in 1973, the waters of the park were once a magnificent coral garden with relatively shallow reefs easily accessible to snorkellers. Sadly, the corals are a shadow of their former selves. Siltation, the El Niño weather system and global warming are all implicated in their decline. However, fish life remains prolific and the short journey to the marine park, combined with lunch on one of the charming and peaceful islands remains a wonderful introduction to the rich marine life of Seychelles. Tour operators offer full day trips by



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Round &amp; Moyenne Island



Ste Anne Island



**These satellite islands of Mahé perfectly fulfill this idyll and an excursion to one or more of these jewels should be on every visitor's itinerary.**

Lying near to Ste Anne is the second largest island, Cerf, relatively low-lying, just two kilometres long and less than a kilometre wide. It is mostly covered in coconut palms and scrub and shaded trails wind up the gentle slopes. Ile Cachée is a tiny dot of an island just off the southeast coast of Cerf. It has been associated with treasure stories in Seychelles for years, and there is ample evidence of past digs on the island, though no reports (publicly at least) of success. Nearby is Ile longue (or Long Island) which was once a prison and later a quarantine station. A new hotel is under construction here which will offer the sort of facilities the former occupants could only dream of.

In between the three larger islands lie two smaller gems, the islands of Round and Moyenne. Round Island is tiny, but the 10 luxury villas of Enchanted Island Resort offer many amenities including a restaurant,

swimming pool, spa, fitness facilities and water sports. Moyenne Island is ideal for a day visit and is a fascinating park within a park. It is the world's smallest national park at just 9 hectares and is surrounded by the wider Ste Anne marine protected area. It is associated with a rich store of tales about pirates, treasure and ghosts. Legend has it there's a fortune worth £30 million hidden somewhere on the island. As for the ghosts, there is said to be a mysterious lady who is not keen on overnight visitors. To persuade them to leave, she taps on the window of the island's only house or rocks the bed of anyone who dares to spend the night on Moyenne.

Despite its diminutive size, a 1.6 kilometres (one-mile) main path and 3.2 kilometres (two miles) of nature trails snake around Moyenne. Efforts have been made to encourage endemic plants, including Coco de Mer, Wright's Gardenia or *Bwa Sitron* – found in its natural state only on Aride Island – and other rarities which only have Creole names such as *Bwa-d-Nat* and *Bwa Bannann*. Some 40 endemic species are represented, which is more than half of the plants unique to the granitic islands of Seychelles. Moyenne is the only place on earth where all six of the palms unique to Seychelles can be seen in one place, from the legendary Coco de Mer to the Thief Palm (so called because the first specimens taken to Kew Gardens in London were stolen).

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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.

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Cerf Island

Lying outside the National Park, Ile Sèche is a tiny island northeast of Moyenne and home to nesting seabirds. To the south of the park and directly opposite the airport is Anonyme, the location of a privately-owned resort with a restaurant and seven chalets. Nearby is the unfortunately named Ile aux Rats, while further south still is another island with a rodent inspired name, Ile Souris, just a short swim from Anse Royale (though currents can be strong).

On the west coast of Mahé, there are fewer islands and they are wilder, uninhabited and, with the exception of L'Islette, more difficult to reach. L'Islette is sheltered within the bay of Port Launay, and is near to Ephelia Resort. Directly opposite the resort lies Conception Island. It rises steeply from the Indian Ocean and has no beaches, so that the only way to get ashore is to leap from a boat onto the granite boulders strewn around the coast, or to swim to the rocky shore and haul yourself onto a suitable perch. The swell can sometimes make even this adventurous way of landing extremely difficult or impossible. As a result, the island has never been settled or too disturbed by man, making it the perfect home for the Seychelles White-eye, one of the rarest endemic birds of Seychelles.





Round Island

Also not for the faint-hearted is a landing on Ile aux Vaches Marines. This comparatively barren island is home to breeding seabirds and it is protected as a nature reserve. This island is named for the sea cows or dugongs which presumably once frequented the area. In between these two rocky islands, Conception and Ile aux Vaches Marines, is the more tranquil Thérèse Island. Shaped like a gigantic turtle swimming through the ocean, this is a lovely island and just a five-minute journey by boat from Mahé. There is a beautiful sheltered beach facing the mainland, and the swimming here is excellent.

Small islands encapsulate our traditional dreams of paradise: They represent an escape from the rat race, from urban clamor, pollution and stress. For a time, you can imagine yourself master of a miniature kingdom, breathe in the air full of the tang of the ocean, listen to the whisper of the palm fronds and gaze out over a serene blue sea, rejoicing in the peace and isolation. These satellite islands of Mahé perfectly fulfill this idyll and an excursion to one or more of these jewels should be on every visitor's itinerary. 🌴



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# The new Indian museums

WORDS: KALPANA SUNDER

**I**ndian museums traditionally have been dull and dreary – dusty, little-visited, forsaken places without much viewer interaction and poor lighting and signage. Until quite recently art and culture were marginalised in the country's overall financial planning. Funding was usually the responsibility of government bodies, strapped for cash, and most museums lacked creativity and vision.

But in the past decade there has been a revolution of sorts. India's new-age museum curators have got funds from NGOs or corporate bodies. Museums today are interactive spaces with modern technology and are slowly becoming cultural hubs for the community, drawing in visitors and conducting workshops and programmes.

A trendsetter has been the *Indian Music Experience* (IME) in Bangalore which was inspired by Seattle's Museum of Pop Culture and funded by a non-profit organisation and the Brigade Group. This traces the evolution of Indian music across genres from Carnatic and Hindustani music, to Bollywood. The state-of-the-art space is completely interactive with a sound garden, with touch sensitive installations from chimes



1. Partition Museum in Amritsar.
2. The National Museum of Indian Cinema.
3. Living and Learning Design Centre (LLDC) in Bhuj, Gujarat.
4. Tribal Museum in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
5. Kiran Nader Museum.
6. Heritage Transport Museum in Tarou, Haryana.

and gongs to bells and reeds that invite the visitors to make music and their own melodies. There is even a recording studio where you can hear yourself sing.

The museum has interactive games, musical artifacts and sing-along kiosks that explore musical genres. Across four storeys and eight galleries this modern, slick museum allows the visitor to learn all about sound from pitch and resistance to craftsmanship and the making of musical instruments.

Another striking museum is the *Partition Museum* in Amritsar, located in the red brick Town Hall. It is dedicated to that time in Indian history when millions of people were displaced and there were violent clashes and episodes. From old black-and-white photos to newspaper clippings, personal items donated by people who experienced partition, and video interviews with elderly survivors, this museum uses multimedia technology to tell the human story.

There are 14 galleries covering moving accounts of people, art influenced by *Partition*, details of their journeys across the border carrying their belongings from cots to utensils, and their experiences in refugee camps. In the final gallery – the Gallery of Hope – visitors can pen

their messages on leaf-shaped papers, to be attached to a barbed wire tree.

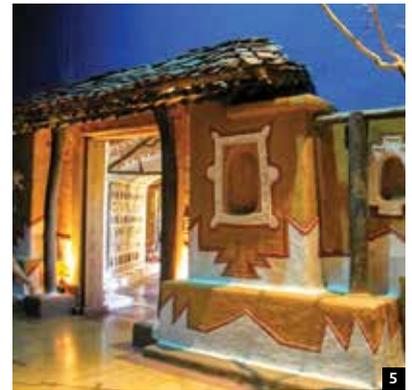
India has a rich cinema heritage and a new museum in Mumbai showcases the development of the industry. The *National Museum of Indian Cinema* that opened in 2019, is India's first cinema museum, housed in two buildings – Gulshan Mahal, a 19th century Gothic bungalow and another modern five-storey building. This showcases the evolution of Indian cinema from silent films to the New Wave. The museum exhibits topical films on wide-ranging subjects such as Gandhi and World War II and also showcases regional cinema. It has a great collection of costumes, vintage posters, soundtracks and cinema equipment from down the ages. The museums use state-of-the-art technology with touch screens and interactive displays.

One of India's best craft museums, the *Living and Learning Design Centre* (LLDC), is in Bhuj in the Kutch region of Gujarat. It showcases the embroidery heritage of the 12 communities of Kutch over three galleries, sourced from craftspeople and private collections, as well as crafts like textiles, pottery, metal, wood and stone.



Embroidery is an identity of people here, with motifs indicating which tribe they belong to. My favourite new museum is the *Tribal Museum* in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the city of lakes. This extraordinary museum deals with the seven significant tribes of the state and has displays about their rituals, customs, myths and beliefs, forms of worship, weddings and festivals, traditional games, etc. What stands out is that it's not just informative but aesthetic as well. All the artwork has been done by tribal artists themselves, from stunning wall panels, replica houses made of straw, mud and dung, embellished with mirror work, and brass figurines to ceiling paintings.

Another new kid on the block is the *Kiran Nader Museum* in Delhi, India's first private contemporary art museum situated at the rear end of a mall. The museum set up by private art collector, Kiran Nader, has more than 4,500 works of art of famous Indian artists including M. F. Hussain, Raja Ravi Verma and Anish Kapoor. The museum houses Indian art from the late 19th century, covering all major phases of modern Indian art. It's also an art hub that conducts workshops for schools and colleges, screens films and conducts curated walks.



A private museum that has generated a lot of interest is the visually stunning *Heritage Transport Museum* in Tarou, Haryana, a two-hour journey from Delhi. It was started by hotelier Tarun Thakraler and is partly funded by the Ministry of Culture and corporate donations. The museum sprawls over 100,000 square feet (9,290 square metres) and is India's largest private museum, having grown out of Thakraler's personal collection. It covers transport from old palanquins, vintage cars, antique trams and carts to buses and aviation. A separate section explores nostalgic children's toys from wooden rocking horses to tin trains. Creativity is at play throughout the museum from bike handles reinvented as door handles and chair seats made from rubber tyres. From suspended car installations to a Ganesha statue made out of 800 kilogrammes of car scrap; from fenders to brakes, this is a sensory feast. The museum also has exhibition galleries, a library, conference rooms and a mini auditorium. 🌈



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# The wildlife of Mauritius

a changing perspective

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WORDS: ROGER BARNARD



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**M**auritius is not famous for spectacular wildlife, and any visitors hoping to see African-style game parks and big game will be disappointed. However, Mauritius is not without its wildlife, but it does things on a smaller scale, and the endemic species have endured a constant battle to survive against the effects of mankind.

Due to its isolated geographic location, remote from large land masses, early visitors to Mauritius found no terrestrial mammals. The only mammals that had made their way to the island were several bat species and marine mammals.

When the Dutch first landed in 1598 the fruit bats then on the island are thought to have made their way to Mauritius from the East Indies. *Pteropus niger* (the Mauritian flying fox) survives to this day in the Black River Gorges area. Colonies can be seen at dusk flying to feed on eucalyptus and sisal trees.

*Pteropus subniger*, a smaller fruit bat, disappeared from Mauritius around 1864, hunted to extinction by the

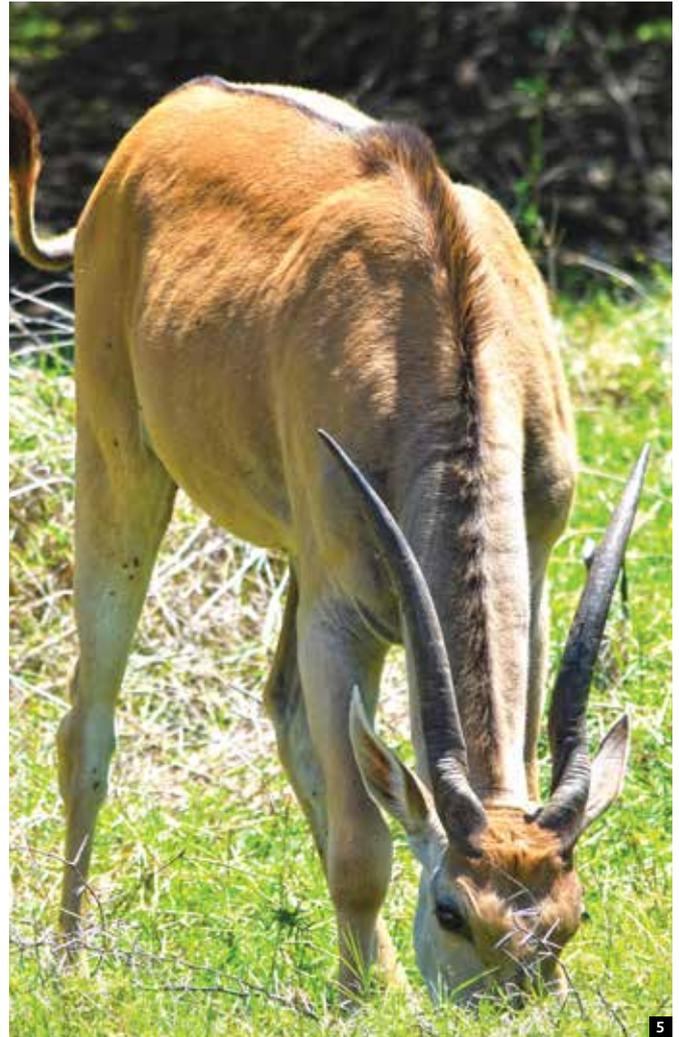
settlers who had no difficulty catching them as they took refuge in hollow tree trunks during the day.

A smaller bat in the same family, *pteropus rodricensis*, is endemic to Rodrigues. Due to its small population, it is legally protected. *Pteropus mascarensis*, once confined to Round Island, is now extinct.

Two insectivorous microbats remain: the Mauritius tomb bat and the free-tailed bat. Both species shelter in caves during the day and can sometimes be seen around street lamps catching insects at night.

Over the years a variety of mammals has been introduced – either accidentally or intentionally – by man. These include rats, mice, tenrecs, mongooses, rusa deer and crab-eating macaques as well as domestic ruminants and pigs.

These introduced mammals have had a varied impact on the island's pristine fauna. Given that they were free from natural predators, they rapidly grew to large numbers and were soon preying on, and competing with, the local fauna.



The black rat, also called tree rat because it likes to climb trees, is thought to have swum ashore from ships wrecked on Mauritius' protective reef prior to the 17th century. The first sighting of a black rat was in 1606, by which time it had probably already started destroying the island's endemic populations of snakes, lizards, Telfair's skink, and Gunther's phelsuma. Today, the black rat lives in forests, where it continues to destroy birds' eggs and nestlings, but is, on rare occasions, seen in towns.

On 7 November 2015, the government introduced a law that authorised the shooting of 18,000 Mauritian fruit bats since it claimed they were causing considerable damage to commercial fruit farms. The claims were disputed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which listed the fruit bat as 'Endangered'. Despite this status, October 2018 saw the authorisation of a further cull of 20 percent of the fruit bat population, amounting to 13,000 of the estimated 65,000 fruit bats remaining.

1. Mauritian flying fox.
2. Crab-eating macaque.
3. Small Indian Mongoose.
4. The tenrec, or hedgehog is a brown insectivorous mammal.
5. Rusa deer hunting is an old tradition in Mauritius.
6. Caracal, largest member of Africa's small cats found at Casela Park.
7. Black naped hare.
8. Southern right whale are a rare sight in Mauritius.
9. Bottlenose dolphin.

The long-tailed macaque (*jacot* or *singe* to the locals) is believed to have been introduced from the East Indies by Dutch settlers. Now considered nothing but a pest, the macaque feeds extensively on seeds, resulting in the rarity of a number of tree species and, like the black rat, it tends to ransack birds' nests for eggs and nestlings.

Pigs were introduced by the Dutch in 1606. A report written by Lamothius, the then governor, noted that by 1690 a feral pig population was flourishing in the woods. As early as 1709, hunting parties were organised to cull the huge herds of pigs. Wild pigs (known as *cochon marron*) are still to be found, but not in such large numbers.

Deer were introduced in 1639 by Dutchman Adrian van der Stel. Fifty years later, Lamothius reported that the deer 'were present in abundance' and they remain so to this day. Deer are now also reared in feed lots and the meat exported or consumed locally.



6

In 1709, Captain de la Merveille found a number of wild cats while hunting around Baie du Tombeau and wrote that they had been introduced 'to destroy the rats that plagued the country'. Wild cats, although rare, still roam the island today. Dogs were released into the wild during the early colonial days, but once deer hunting grounds were established, they were tracked down and destroyed.

The brown rat, also called the Norway rat and common rat, or simply '*le rat*', is thought to have arrived around 1735. Unlike the climbing black rat, the brown rat burrows and is a good swimmer, and it has been accused of causing the disappearance of nesting seabirds from the small islands off Mahebourg.

The house mouse is thought to have arrived in Mauritius in the first half of the 18th century. Today *la souris*, as it is known locally, is found in forests as well as towns.

The first recorded sighting of the black-naped hare was in 1753 when Abbé de la Caille mentioned its presence on his visit to map out the island. Believed to have been introduced from India, black-naped hares are still common in Mauritius and hare hunting is a popular sport among the people. The shrew – known as *le rat musquet* – is also thought to have been introduced from India in the middle of the 18th century. It feeds on insects and, in turn, is food for young Mauritius kestrels.

The tenrec, or hedgehog, is a brown insectivorous mammal native to Madagascar that was introduced to Mauritius in



7



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the late 18th century. The Tenrec, which is called *tendrac* or *tangue*, hibernates in June, re-emerging in September for summer.

The mongoose was first introduced in the mid-19th century, but was soon eradicated by the settlers who realised that it was destroying some of their domestic animals, such as chickens.

However, a plague epidemic in 1899 prompted the British authorities to bring a number of male mongooses from India to control the rat population, which carried the vector of the disease. Unfortunately, and somewhat predictably, there were some females among the mongooses, and their numbers soon multiplied. As a result, the mongoose is now a permanent denizen.

In the 17th century, there was only one endemic sea mammal in Mauritius, the dugong, particularly common in the lagoon surrounding Rodrigues. It supplied Mauritius with meat but, by the early 19th century, dugongs had become extinct in this part of the world.

In July 1991, the Mauritian Wildlife Fund, the Government of Mauritius, and the whale and Dolphin Conservation Society began a joint project to survey the species and numbers of whales, dolphins, and turtles in Mauritian waters.

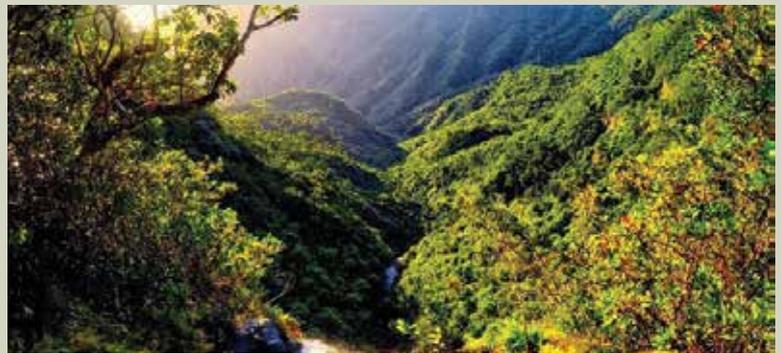
At least eight whale and dolphin species were recorded, and the National Parks and Conservation Service lists ten whales – minke, sei, Bryde's, fin, short-finned pilot, southern bottlenose, humpback, Blainville's beaked, killer, and sperm-and four dolphins – Risso's, spotted, spinner, and bottlenose. 🐬



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### Black River Gorges National Park



Mauritius' biggest and best national park is a wild expanse of rolling hills and thick forest covering roughly 2 percent of the island's surface in the south-west of the island. It's the last stand for Mauritian forests and many native species. It's also the most spectacular corner of the island so it's well worth a day trip from the coast.

Several areas have been fenced off and invasive species have been eradicated from them to preserve native wildlife. Many endemic plants and animals still occur in the park including the Mauritian flying fox and all of the island's endemic birds.

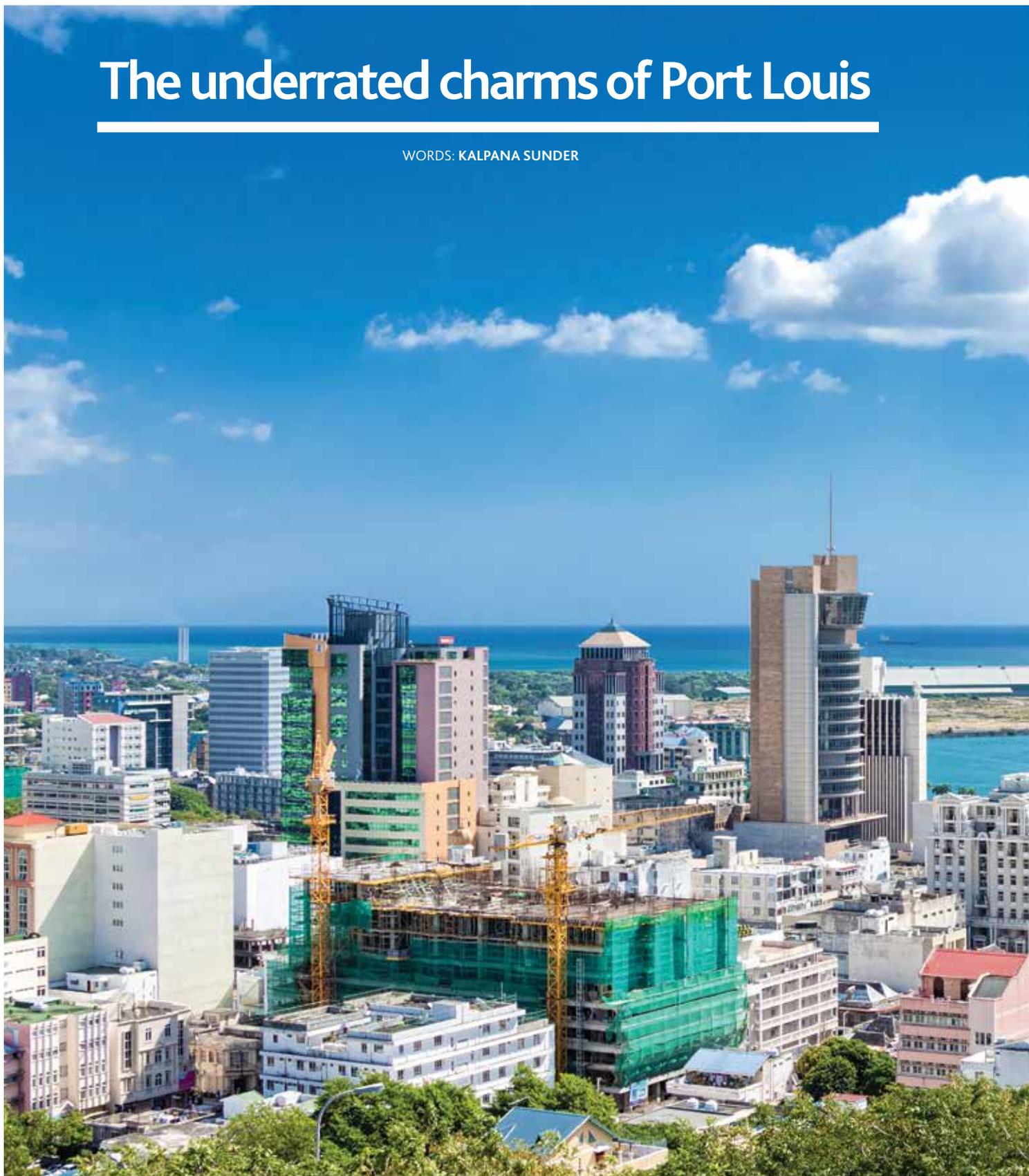


The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation agency working in Mauritius to save threatened endemic local flora and fauna.

Its best-known achievement is the saving of the Mauritius Kestrel. MWF's work in the area of captive-breeding and hands-on wild management of endemic animals is of internationally high repute. Its expertise is also being used in Rodrigues to address problems caused by degradation of habitat. Here MWF is propagating native plants in nurseries and planting them out to restore vegetation communities. Forest restoration work in Rodrigues has supported the recovery of Rodrigues Fody and Rodrigues Warbler. Rodrigues Fruit Bat population has also recovered significantly from being the rarest bat in the world in the 70s. The Foundation also works actively to restore offshore islands, by removing exotic vertebrates and plants and by restoring vegetation and vertebrate communities. MWF is currently working on several islands including Ile aux Aigrettes, Round Island, Ile aux Cocos and Ile aux Sables.

# The underrated charms of Port Louis

WORDS: KALPANA SUNDER





Port Louis Skyline

**T**he first to settle in the pear-shaped island now known as Mauritius were the Dutch in 1598. They developed it as a stopping off point for ships after long months at sea. They exported the ivory they found on the island and in time they planted sugarcane. Unfortunately, they also unwittingly introduced rats, which decimated the emblematic bird of the island – the dodo – and killed off the giant tortoises for food. After the Dutch abandoned the island they were replaced by the French who made it a colony in 1715 and turned it into a busy port and shipbuilding centre. Following the Napoleonic Wars it became a British colony in 1810 but the island lost its strategic importance after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. Mauritius achieved its independence in 1968.

Thanks to its varied history, Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, is a cultural melting pot, tucked between Signal Mountain and the Indian Ocean at the head of a natural harbour. One of the most densely-populated cities in the world, with glass fronted skyscrapers and gargantuan hoardings – the result of a building boom in the 1990s – it looks today like many other island capitals around the world. But scratch the surface and its many charms come

to the fore. From Victorian warehouses and bungalows with low verandahs, to Creole architecture; from houses of worship for every religion to teeming markets, this is a town that has character stamped all over it.

On driving from the airport, past bougainvillea bushes in shades of violet, fuchsia and red, jagged hills and groves of coconut palms, one of the first places that my affable Creole guide, Amar, shows me is Marie Reine de le Paix, an open church on the flank of Signal Mountain. With seven terraces and 82 steps of hard rock leading to the statue of the Virgin Mary holding a globe of the world, the lovely spot with benches and flowerbeds was constructed in the 1940s and ever since has been a place of pilgrimage. In October 1989, thousands of islanders attended the mass celebrated by Pope John Paul when he made his first official visit to Mauritius.

In the old town area of Port Louis, shabby colonial buildings with rickety wrought iron balconies, roofs covered in corrugated metal sheets, latticework, Creole classics with attic windows and gables, catch my eye. Many others, unfortunately, have been swallowed up by huge apartment complexes.



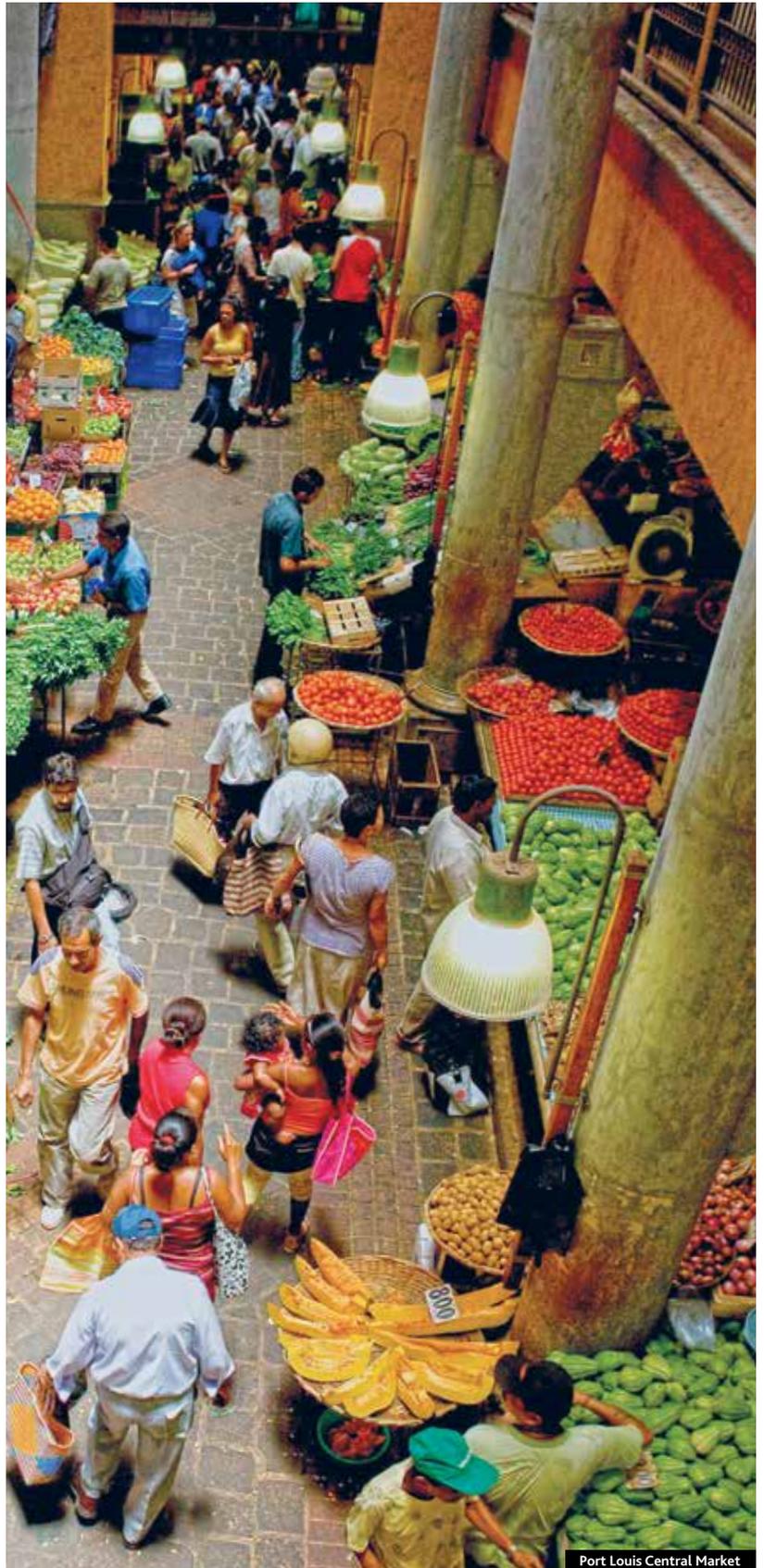
Flame tree and Church

To get a slice of local life I walk through the noisy Central Market on Farquhar Street in the heart of old town with its Victorian arcades (which had a makeover in 2004) redolent with the smell of chilies and over-ripe pineapples. I soak up the hustle and bustle of the islanders, as I trawl through craft stalls selling woven baskets and table mats in rainbow colours and small dodo figurines. Dried sea food, fresh vanilla pods, blocks of tofu, long purple eggplants, fiery spices as well as herbs for every ailment under the sun, seem to be the local specialties. Outside, on crowded street corners, hawkers sell everything from reams of fabric to spicy samosas.

From here I walk to Jummah Mosque, with huge intricately carved teak doors and pale green windows, built in the 1850s, when the Muslim merchants formed an exclusive group. It welcomes visitors every day but Friday, and is a harmonious blend of Creole, Indian and Islamic architecture. Built in the 1850s, the grounds have a courtyard with a large almond tree, which offers me respite from the frenetic pace of the city centre. Near the mosque on Royal Street, are the entrances to China Town, which started with the influx of the Hakka Chinese in 1826. Filled with grocery stores and Chinese restaurants, shop houses filled with textiles and electric red shrines, this is a sensory overload.

Dominating the townscape is the black rock Fort Adelaide, also called the Citadel, which was built by the British to counter the threat of invasion by the French. Today, the old barracks have been restored into classy boutiques where you can indulge in some retail therapy. I drive up to the Citadel with Amar. From its vantage point, I take in the eagle eye views of the dramatic Moka Mountains, the historic Champs Del la Mare racecourse (the oldest horse racing track in the Southern Hemisphere and a social hub today) and the high-rise buildings of the capital city. Amar tells me that this town is obsessed with horses and racing and that from May to November it has an electric atmosphere where jockeys are brought in from Australia and a crowd from sugar barons to Chinese merchants and locals, enjoy their betting.

At Place D'Armes is a bronze statue of the French Governor, Mahe de Labourdonnais, who founded the town in 1735. The stately avenue of tall royal palm trees leads to the Government House which is a beautiful French colonial structure with its shingled roof and broad airy verandahs, dating from 1738. Outside it stands a rather solemn statue of Queen Victoria. The Company Gardens (which was once swampland and later a cemetery and derives its name from the French East India Company) in the centre of town is a cool oasis, where locals sit





IMAGES COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK + FLICKR

Wind surfing at Le Morne



Overlooking the harbour



Government House



Le Caudan Waterfront

on benches, gossip and have their lunch in the shadow of statues of British leaders and vast banyan trees with hanging tendrils.

Port Louis has a special relationship with stamps. Mauritius was the first British colony to issue adhesive postage stamps. Located in one of the oldest buildings in the Port Louis waterfront, I visit the Blue Penny Museum, home to the rare orange-red one penny and the deep blue two pence bearing the profile head of Queen Victoria, and known as the Mauritius 'Post Office' stamps. These stamps are famous because of a mistake: Instead of engraving 'post paid' the craftsman inscribed the word 'postage'. The ground-floor is entirely devoted to two lovers, Paul and Virginia, who are the local version of Romeo and Juliet, drawn from the novel of Bernadin de Saint-Pierre.

The opulent Le Caudan Waterfront, in a trendy part of town with a slick shopping centre, was created around a fossil coral islet. In years gone by it was from this area that millions of sugar bags transited by boat, train or trucks, carried by hundreds of hands. Today this gentrified area boasts a casino and offers a modern counterpoint to the rest of the town with a craft market, a promenade, and air-conditioned shopping malls.

Omnipresent in Port Louis is street food. As I trawl through the city's streets, the multi-cultural ethnicity of Mauritius is reflected in its food. I gorge on the local street food – the unofficial national dish *dholl puri*, a chapatti filled with beans and chili, as well as the drink *alouda* with milk and jelly. In China Town I try Chinese *dim sums* and fried noodles as well as the local version of spring rolls called *Hakien*.

Though I see the beauty of the rest of the island over the next few days, I am glad to have glimpsed the soul of the compact capital town, which many overlook in their hurry to enjoy the sun and sand.

No holiday in Mauritius is complete without experiencing at least one watersport. 45 kilometres from Port Louis is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Le Morne in the southwest of the island with idyllic sandy beaches, shallow turquoise water and one of the most spectacular backdrops for windsurfing. The southeast trade winds blow for over 300 days a year above Force 4, strongest from May to November. Manawa is one of Le Morne's big wave spots, yet it's still fun to ride. The wind is usually a little lighter there, so only go out in steady conditions! Follow the reef north to find One Eye, the island's most famous spot. Very fast, powerful and long. The perfect wave to watch! 🌊

Air Seychelles offers five weekly flights to Mauritius  
[www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com)



# eGoli

city of events!

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES

Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, South Africa's Gauteng province is brimming with world-class events, festivals, sporting fixtures and expos to keep you entertained. If you're planning your visit for the first half of 2020, be sure to work these must-visit events into the mix ...



### International cricket, various dates

Summer in South Africa means cricket, and there's a bumper roster of international games on the slate for the first months of 2020, with both England and Australia jetting into take on South Africa's formidable Proteas.

From 24-27 January 2020 England will face South Africa in the fourth test match of the series at Imperial Wanderers Stadium, in the central suburb of Rosebank. Ardent cricket fans love the patience, strategy and stamina it takes to win at multi-day test cricket, but if you prefer the action on the pitch a little faster and more furious then grab a seat for the T20 clash (21 February 2020) between South Africa and Australia. Packed with big-hitters and last-minute drama, it's always a spectacle of sixes.

[www.cricket.co.za](http://www.cricket.co.za)

### Marvel Universe LIVE! 24 January – 9 February 2020

Indulge your inner Hulk at this captivating live-action performance that brings your favourite superheroes to life in the state-of-the-art Sun Arena in Pretoria, just 40-minutes' drive from Johannesburg. With high-tech special effects, pyrotechnics, lasers, stunts and mesmerising 3D projections, the world of Marvel superheroes is brought to life before your very eyes. It's a rollercoaster ride for the young, or young at heart, where you'll get up close and personal with everyone from the Avengers to the Guardians of the Galaxy.

[www.marveluniverselive.com](http://www.marveluniverselive.com)

### Johannesburg International Mozart Festival, 25 January – 2 February 2020

Now in its 11th year, the prestigious Johannesburg International Mozart Festival celebrates one of the world's best-loved composers with a packed schedule of world-class classical performances ranging from orchestral concerts to intimate recitals, coupled with youth outreach programmes. This is a festival that doesn't take itself too seriously, with improvised cinema soundtracks being created in inner-city movie theatres, to impromptu orchestral productions for charity. If you love Mozart, or classical music, this one's a must for you.

[www.join-mozart-festival.org](http://www.join-mozart-festival.org)

### Cotton Fest, 1 February 2020

Aimed at those who love the intersection of music, fashion and creativity, Cotton Fest is the brainchild of South African



rapper, actor and record producer Riky Rick. A fusion of fashion and hip-hop, this year's festival sees The Station in the inner-city Newtown Precinct transformed into a hive of creativity as leading talents from the worlds of fashion and music take to the stage.

<https://cottonfest.co.za/>

### Ultra-South Africa, 29 February 2020

One of the world's leading electronic dance music festivals roars into Johannesburg once again in February, as Ultra sets the Johannesburg Expo Centre ablaze for the seventh year running. While the final line-up is not yet released, past events have seen the likes of Afrojack, Tiesto, Skrillex and The Chainsmokers light up the stage. Tickets range from R800 (USD55) per person for general entry, to R4000 (USD270) VVIP packages.

<https://ultrasouthafrica.com>

### Joburg Classic, 1 March 2020

Hop in the saddle for a two-wheeled tour of Gauteng, with this brand-new addition to the city's busy cycling calendar. The festival of pedals offers three distinct routes, catering for all levels of fitness and ability. The 'Classic' is the challenging 95-kilometre route, which incorporates more than 1,000-metres of vertical ascent on a course that takes in wonderful vistas of the historic Cradle of Humankind. If that sounds too strenuous, there are 45 kilometres and 20 kilometres route options on offer, along with Kids' Rides to keep young ones entertained through the morning.

<http://hecticpromotions.co.za/joburg-classic/>

### Hostex, 1-3 March 2020

Africa's leading expo for the hospitality and culinary industries isn't only for those working professionally in the field. Visitors can look forward to discovering 250 exhibitors from more than 25 countries, alongside live cooking demonstrations conducted by leading chefs, tempting culinary displays, and nail-biting cook-offs between student chefs. The Global Pizza Challenge is always a highlight, challenging chefs to get adventurous with this much-loved food category. Also look out for mixology cocktail demonstrations in the Liquid Kitchen, as well as the opportunity to delve into the world of artisan coffee with the Speciality Coffee Association of South Africa.

[www.hostex.co.za](http://www.hostex.co.za)

### Hobby-X Johannesburg, 5-8 March 2020

Whether you get your kicks from 3D-printing or traditional embroidery, model planes or photography, South Africa's oldest hobby exhibition is the place to be this March. Alongside dozens of exhibitor stalls selling all you need to indulge your chosen passion; an array of workshops allows visitors to discover new creative outlets. Workshops are aimed at absolute beginners, and range from crochet to metal-stamping, scrapbooking to knitting.

[www.hobby-x.co.za](http://www.hobby-x.co.za)





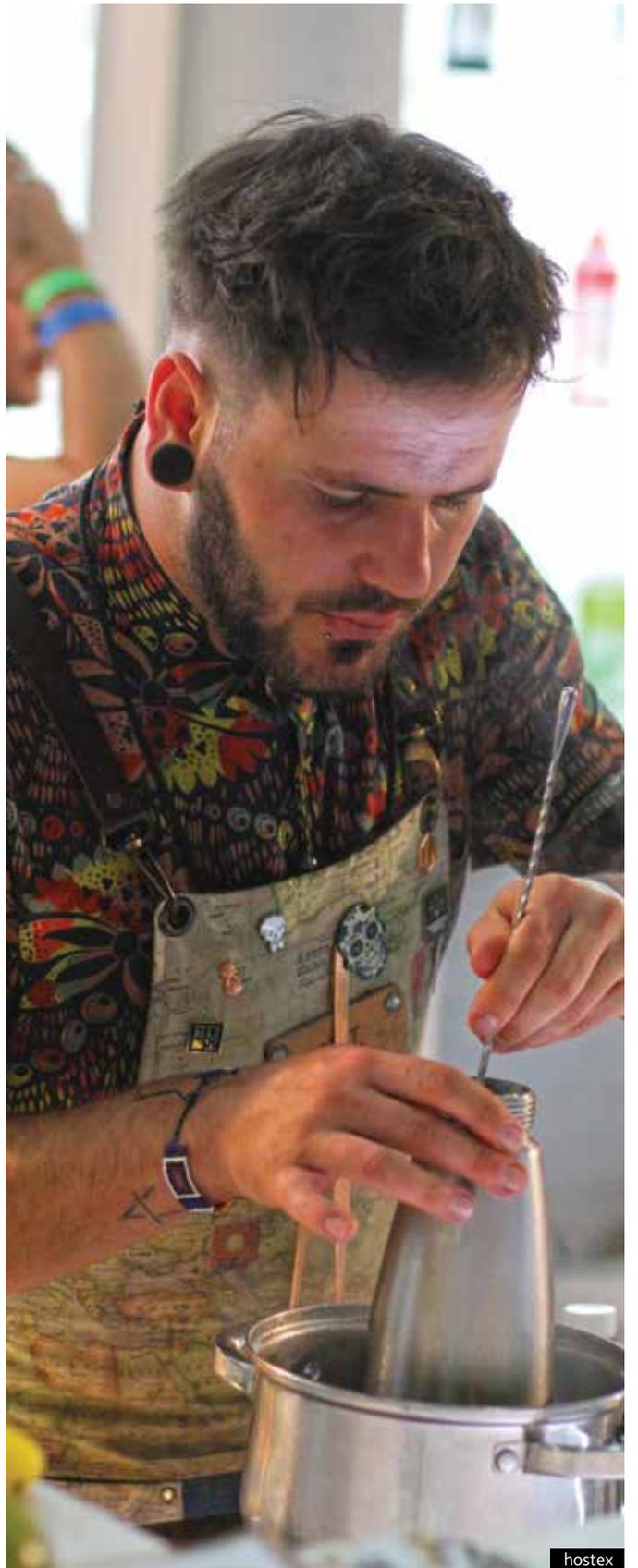
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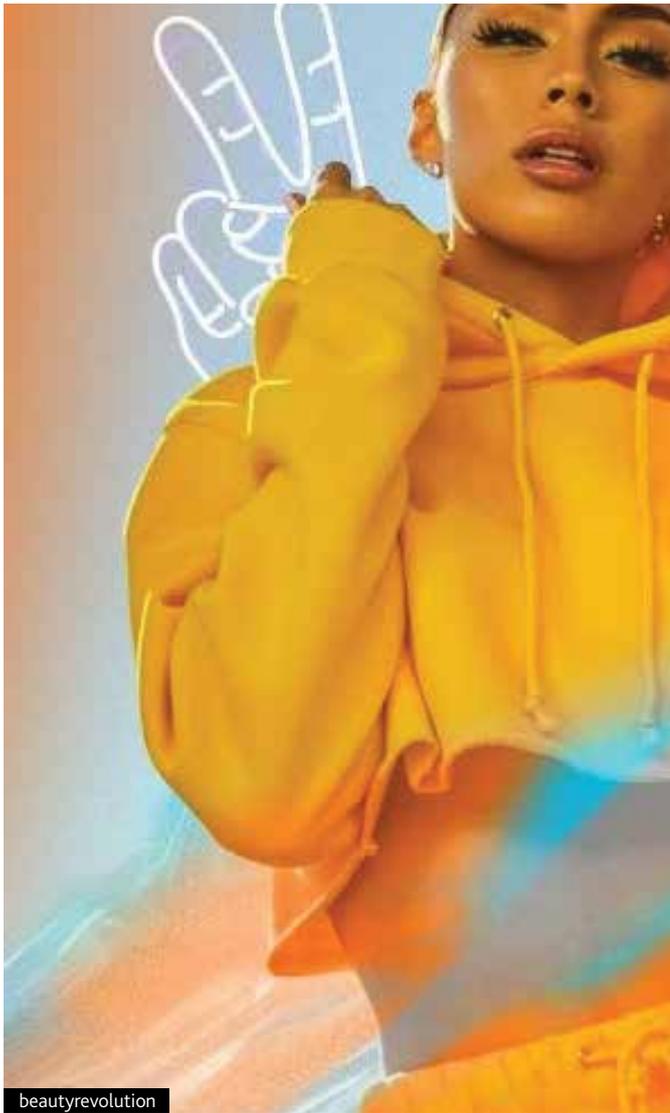
ultrasouthafrica



hecticpromotions



hostex





randshow

### Beauty Revolution Festival, 13-14 March 2020

Billed as 'Africa's Boldest Beauty Festival', this annual celebration of all things beautiful returns to the Sandton Convention Centre, with an engaging range of exhibitors, product launches and trend spotting from the worlds of make-up and beauty. Look out for masterclass workshops by experts in the field alongside panel discussions from leading influencers. It's heaven for anyone on the 'Gram, coupled with a dedication to creating a platform for beauty with a purpose.

[www.beautyrevolution.co.za](http://www.beautyrevolution.co.za)

### Om Die Dam Ultra-Marathon, 14 March 2020

Intrepid travellers heading west out of Johannesburg may have driven past the vast Hartbeespoort Dam, but here's your chance to run around it! The annual Om Die Dam ('around the dam') ultra-marathon is the largest inland ultra-marathon in South Africa, attracting runners to both the 50-kilometre 'ultra' route and the popular 21-kilometre half-marathon. Shadowed by the Magaliesberg, the route runs around the dam, including a memorable crossing of the dam wall and sluice gates.

<https://omdiedamultra.co.za>

### Rand Show, 8-13 April 2020

For more than 125 years the annual Rand Show has been part of the fabric of life in Johannesburg. The Rand Show was first organised by the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society, attracting a mere 3,000 visitors, but today it's become a multifaceted, multicultural extravaganza that draws close to a million visitors. Expect fairground rides, circus entertainment, live music, adventure sports and family-friendly fare. Another highlight is the military display, which sees aerial acrobatics from the South African Air Force's Silver Falcons, along with an armoured-car parade, military exhibitions and infantry displays.

[randshow.co.za](http://randshow.co.za)

### East Rand Motor Show, 7 June 2020

Petrolheads of Gauteng love to get revved up at this popular annual expo dedicated to all things with engines. There are street-rods, classic cars and petrol-guzzling modifications on display, along with as much horsepower and gutsy torque as you could ask for. Alongside the vehicles on show you'll also find family-friendly play areas, markets and plenty of fine food.

[www.eastrandmotorshow.co.za](http://www.eastrandmotorshow.co.za) 🇿🇦



Air Seychelles offers daily flights to Johannesburg  
[www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com)



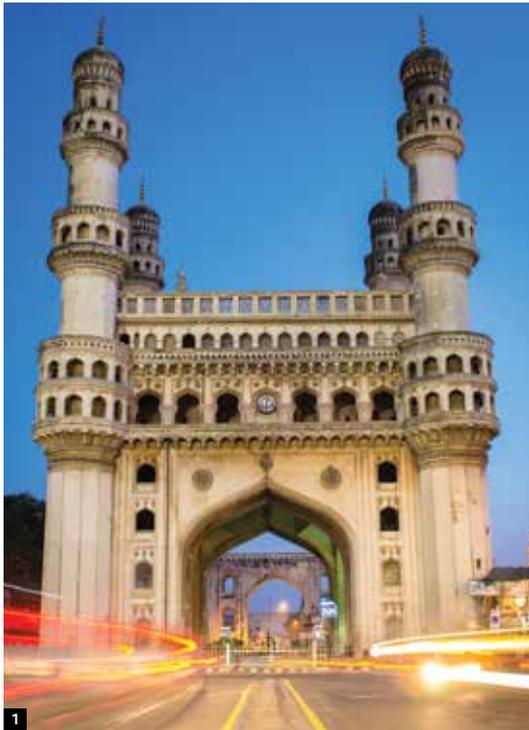


# Hyderabad

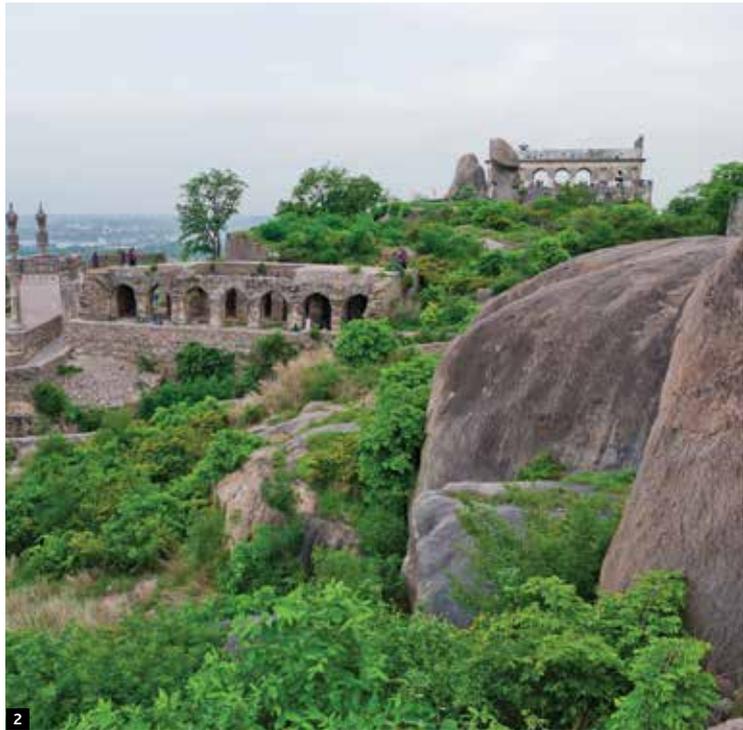
## A historical feast

WORDS: SUGATO TRIPATHY

The 400-year-old city in the newly formed southern Indian state of Telangana offers the perfect blend of fascinating history supplemented with a contemporary outlook. It is like a carpet. The more you look at it, the more you understand its intricate intertwining layers of culture. A city which is bursting with history and architecture along with its technologically driven character also lays out a gourmet fare on a platter with its famed Biryani restaurants and a smorgasbord of South Indian delicacies.



1



2



3



4

## 1. Charminar

Charminar (Urdu) translates to 'Four Minarets'. The venerable structure is literally the epitome of the city. It was built in 1591 as the founding monument of Hyderabad by Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah. Regarded as the defining structure of the ancient quarter of the city, this striking piece of architecture was originally built as a mosque. Close to 15.2 metres (50 feet) high minarets on four sides define the beautiful mosque with 46 prayer spaces. Some historians also cite a rampant epidemic in the late 16th century as the reason behind the building of the mosque. It was believed that the religious structure would help stop the disease. Designed by Iranian architect, Mir Momin Astrawadi, it is built with limestone, granite, pulverised marble and mortar. Tourists are allowed only as far as the first level in one of the minaret towers as a precautionary measure by the Archaeological Survey of India. Considered to be Hyderabad's most iconic structure, it has withstood the test of time.

The market around Charminar during the ancient days was believed to have no less than 14,000 shops. Known as Laad Bazaar, it still boasts of a plethora of outlets with varied articles on offer. Apart from jewellery, silks, perfume oils and incense sticks, the market is especially known for its colourful and gorgeous glass and lacquer bangles, which earns it the sobriquet of Choodi (Bangle) Bazaar as well. Iranian tea is offered by many roadside stalls which is a 'must try'.

## 2. Golkonda Fort

The majestic fort of Golkonda dates back to the 13th century. It changed hands over the centuries across Hindu and Muslim dynasties with its last conqueror being the Mughals under Emperor Aurangzeb. With eight gates and 87 bastions, the imposing fort fell into neglect in the late 17th century. The imposing fort has a circumference of 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) and revered as an architectural marvel. Its complex layout of palaces, mosques, and pavilions are fascinating. Parts of the fortification wall built by the Mughals can still be seen. At certain places in the fort, the acoustic effects are remarkable. The sound of a clap at the entrance of the fort reverberates to the highest point of the structure (a kilometre away). At least a day is required to explore and appreciate the magnificence of Golkonda. The sound and light show in the evening with a celebrity voiceover is a worthy experience.

## 3. Hussain Sagar Lake

The man-made lake is one of the most prominent landmarks of the city. Excavated in the mid-16th century, it takes its name from its builder Hussain Sha Wali during the reign of Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah. The primary purpose of the lake was to meet the irrigation needs of the locals. The magnificent artificial water body is adorned by Indira Gandhi Park in the east, Sanjeevaiah Park in the north, Lumbini Park in the south and the 18 metres high Gautam Buddha statue in the middle. The 350-tonne structure is



the primary attraction for tourists, and ferries ply regularly to the spot.

#### 4. Ramoji Film City

Spread across a whopping area of 2,000 acres, Ramoji Film City was built by the Ramoji Group in 1996 and is certified by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest film complex. Replete with artificial airport, hospital, railway station, jail, religious shrines (temple, mosque, church) and even caves, it can accommodate up to 50 film sets simultaneously. The grand film city provides guided bus tours for visitors to explore every attraction. There are three shows held here to showcase the idea of movie making – Spirit of Ramoji, The Wild West Stunt Show and Dadajin Live. Situated on the outskirts of the city, Ramoji Film City is visited by millions of tourists every year.

#### 5. Salar Jung Museum

The third largest museum in India is considered to be the largest one-man collection in the World. Salar Jung III (Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan) was passionate about art and history and collected valuable artifacts from across the globe. It is a mecca for those who appreciate art, science and literature. The beautiful white structure consists of three buildings and has 38 galleries spread across two floors. It houses a massive collection of 43,000 art objects, 9,000 manuscripts and 47,000 printed books. The collection ranges from Indian, European, Far Eastern

and Middle Eastern Art to Arabic and Persian manuscripts, medical encyclopedias from ancient India, rare objects from more than 20 countries and typical paraphernalia from more than 15 states of India. There are other further exhibits of Indian textiles, ivory objects, armoury, modern paintings, Middle Eastern carpets, European statues, clocks and furniture.

#### 6. Chowmahalla Palace

This is the seat of the Nizams of Hyderabad – the native rulers of the region. Consisting of four major palaces, it is said to be inspired by the Shah of Iran's palace in Tehran. The architecture has shades of Persian, Indo-Saracenic, Rajasthani and European styles. Spread over 14 acres, the most spectacular part of the palace is the Durbar Hall (Khilawat Mubarak). The ostentatious architecture consists of opulent chandeliers, china crockery, costumes, ornaments and ornate furniture. The canary yellow Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, which was custom made for Nizam Ali Khan, is on display at the rear of the complex along with other vintage motorcars – typical of the grandeur with which the Nizams led their lives. At any given time, the palace had at least 7,000 attendants at the Nizam's service.

#### 7. Hyderabad Biryani

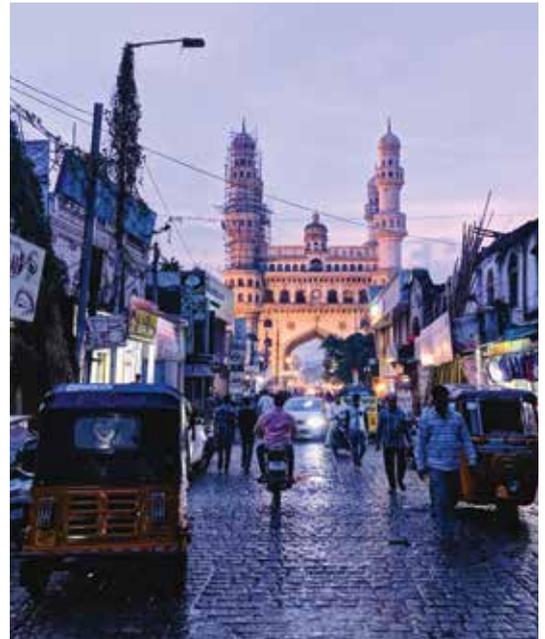
There are some places in the world where one would travel again – just for the food. Florence comes to mind



when we think of the World's best Gnocchi. Brussels springs up in our thoughts when we talk about Truffles. The Biryani of Hyderabad is no different. The much hyped culinary scene of Hyderabad revolves around the succulent Biryani on offer. Believed to have originated from the kitchens of the Nizams, it is a blend of Mughlai and Iranian cuisine. Interestingly, the word *Biryani* originates from the Persian word *Birian* (meaning: fried before cooking) and *Birinj* (rice). The version that one gets in Hyderabad is considered to be one of the finest in the country, summed up by one food connoisseur: "Here the raw rice and raw meat are cooked together along with the spices which give it its distinctive rich flavour." 🌿



Air Seychelles offers six weekly flights to Hyderabad via Mumbai with codeshare partner Air India  
[www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com)



## Factfile

**Best time to visit:** October to February.

**Where to stay:** Hyderabad has plenty of stay options ranging from budget to luxury. Almost all chain hotels have properties here like Taj, ITC, Hyatt, JW Marriot, Ibis, and Radisson etc.

**Where to eat:** Hyderabad food options vary from street-side Biryani to top notch Chinese and Italian cuisine.

- **Best Biryani restaurants** – Biryani is a way of life in this South Indian city. Bawarchi, Ulavacharu and Paradise (one of the oldest restaurants in the city) capture the true essence of traditional Hyderabad Biryani.
- **South Indian restaurants** – There are so many good restaurants here which serve sumptuous South India cuisine – Dakshin, Chutneys, House of Dosas, Simply South and The Spicy Venue have to be on the top of the list.
- **International cuisine** – Yi Jing is the top Chinese restaurant in Hyderabad and is extremely popular for its impeccable dishes. If you are looking for Italian cuisine Ottimo Cucina Italiana should be your destination.

**Where to shop:** Hyderabad is known as the City of Pearls. The best specimens can be bought from Laad Bazaar, Begum Bazaar and Koti Sultan Bazaar. Haggling is necessary in these shopping complexes to get the best price. It is advisable to take someone along with you who knows how to bargain.



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# Jerusalem

## A city of many faiths

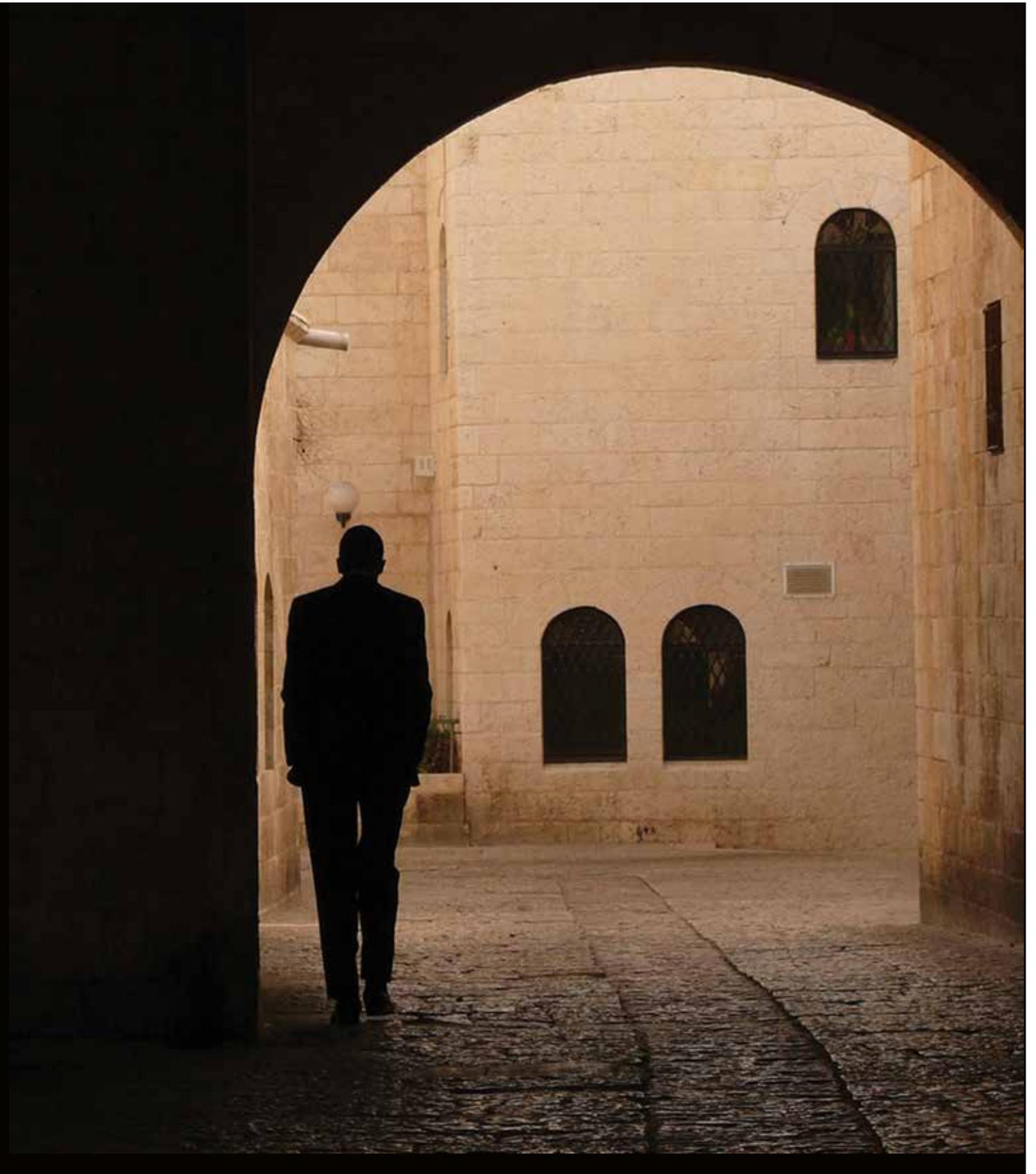
WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN

**T**here is something about Jerusalem that seizes the imagination when you first see the city looming on the horizon. I have been travelling there for more than four decades, ever since I was a student, and I never fail to be surprised by my first glimpse of the place, the way it suddenly appears without fanfare as you drive southeast from Ben Gurion International Airport, on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, into the Judean Hills.

From the road you see the arid landscape begin to curve and stretch and grow more lush as the car, still in the valley, begins to climb. Eventually, the view is all-embracing, with miles of green hills, red-tiled roofs, and open skies off into the distance.

It is a city of singularly spartan beauty, built entirely out of different shades of native stone – yellow, pink, and grey – and pocked with scrubby growth as well as sudden, random bursts of bougainvillea, forsythia, and honeysuckle. For such an ancient city, Jerusalem is enamored of the new: luxury apartment buildings under construction loom at odd intersections, with an eye to American and European Jews who look to buy second homes here.

Olive trees, pines, firs, and small maples dot the land, speaking to the city's hardy survivalist ethos, and everywhere you look is sky, which appears to hang lower here than it does in the West. I have never arrived in Jerusalem without feeling an intensification of ordinary emotions, as though the light, shimmering over the hills, carried with it a weight all its own. Call it the weight of history: that would be the obvious connection for a walled city that is close to 4,000 years old and whose existence has been documented – and contested – ever since biblical times. Small wonder Jerusalem was described as the 'Kingdom of Heaven' in Ridley Scott's 2005 epic motion picture.





1. The Altar of the Nativity in Bethlehem, beneath which is the star marking the spot where tradition says the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus.
2. The Western Wall is visited by millions of worshippers. Here, at the base of the massive wall that is a remnant of the Holy Temple, prayers are offered and notes containing heartfelt wishes are wedged between the crevices.
3. The Dome of the Rock is the oldest Islamic monument that stands today and certainly one of the most beautiful.

If you are wondering how Jerusalem became such a centre of religions and spirituality and a pilgrimage site for millions of tourists from around the world, the answer begins thousands of years ago. Jerusalem's history is one of wars and struggles. Its strategic location attracted many nations that wanted to capture the city, and some of them did rule over it for various periods. This city has known war and peace, love and hate, riches and poverty, destruction and renewal, happiness and pain.

According to Jewish tradition, the creation of the world began 5,766 years ago with the foundation stone on Mount Moriah (under the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount). This is where an important royal Can'anite city was built about 4,000 years ago, and which was conquered from the Jebusites by King David in 1004 BC and became the capital of his Kingdom and a 'holy city'. David's son Solomon built the First Temple and his descendants (Hezekiah, Zedekiah and the Judean Kings) continued to enlarge and fortify the city's boundaries, and to build a water supply system (Hezekiah's tunnel). These efforts paid off, and when King Sennacherib of Assyria besieged Jerusalem he could not subdue the city and withdrew. Only in 586 BC did Nebuchadnezzar conquer the Jewish capital. The city was destroyed and most of its inhabitants exiled to Babylon (located in what is now present day Iraq).





In 538 BC Xerxes, the King of Persia, who had conquered Babylon, permitted the exiled Jews to return to Judea and Jerusalem, where they rebuilt the city and built the Second Temple. For 370 years Judea was an autonomous district, first under the Persians and then under the Greeks. After the Hasmonean Revolt in 168 BC, Jerusalem again became the capital of a Kingdom, that later came under the rule of the Roman Empire. King Herod the Great further expanded the Temple in the years 73-4 BC.

At the end of the Second Temple period Jerusalem was a city of great social and religious tension. It was during this period that Jesus was preaching in Nazareth. In 66 AD the Jews rebelled against the Roman Empire and took over Jerusalem. The suppression of this bitter revolt ended in 70 AD, and the Romans, led by Titus, conquered the capital, destroyed the Temple completely and exiled the city's inhabitants. For the next 60 years Jerusalem was desolate, until the Bar Kokhba Revolt, when the Jews returned for a short while. In 135 AD, the Romans rebuilt and renamed the city Aelia Capitolina and barred the Jews from living there.

After the Roman Empire accepted Christianity in 324 (and later became the Byzantine Empire), Jerusalem again became a very important city. The sites connected with Jesus' life and death were located and declared holy, and many magnificent churches were built, including the basilica of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (also called the Church of the Resurrection), identified as the site of both the crucifixion, resurrection and the tomb of Jesus, and the 'Mother of all



Churches', on Mount Zion. Many of these religious sites can still be visited today but there is a strict dress code and please be prepared to queue.

In 638, the Muslims conquered Jerusalem and over the next few centuries built the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is now the third holiest site in Islam. Following the Muslim conquest the Jews returned to Jerusalem, and around the 10th century this city once again became the spiritual capital for the Jews of the Land of Israel.

The Crusaders also wanted to rule Jerusalem. They conquered the city in 1099, massacred the Jewish and Muslim residents and made the city their own capital. Less than 100 years later, in 1187, the Crusaders were defeated following the Siege of Jerusalem when Balian of Ibelin surrendered the city to Saladin. Europe responded in 1189 by launching the Third Crusade led by Richard the Lionheart, Philip Augustus, and Frederick Barbarossa separately. At that time the Jews returned to Jerusalem and have been there ever since.

In 1250, the Mamluk dynasty rose to power in Egypt and its rulers conquered this region and became the new lords of Jerusalem. In 1517, the Ottoman Empire spread to Jerusalem

4. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre; also called the Church of the Resurrection or Church of the Anastasis by Eastern Christians.
5. Jerusalem, located on a plateau in the Judean Hills between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, is one of the oldest cities in the world.
6. Ben Yehuda street for pedestrians.



and for 400 years was under Turkish rule. During the first 100 years the city flourished and its walls were rebuilt. In the second half of the 16th century, as the Ottoman Empire began to decline, so did Jerusalem's fortunes.

By the beginning of the 19th century Jerusalem was a small neglected city hidden behind its walls, and only toward the end of the century (from 1860 onward), did the New City begin to grow, thanks to the generosity of English philanthropist Sir Moses 'Moshe' Montifiore, who financed the construction of Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the first Jewish settlement built outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The success of this new neighbourhood led to more settlements being built outside the walls. More Jews began moving to Jerusalem, becoming a majority of the population in 1873.

In 1917, with the start of the British Mandate period, Jerusalem retained its status as the capital of the land. When Israel was established in 1948, Jerusalem was declared the State capital, and all the major government institutions were built here. These included The Knesset (Israel's parliament building), the Supreme Court and the various government offices.

During the War of Independence, following bloody battles and ceasefire agreements, Jerusalem was left divided between Israel and Jordan, until the capital's liberation in the Six Day War in 1967, when the two parts of the city were united and Jerusalem became Israel's largest city.

Today, Jerusalem is a city of overwhelming emotions, a city that promises a religious and spiritual experience, excitement and pleasure, interesting tours and entertaining adventures. Here, alongside Jerusalem's fascinating historic





6

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**Jerusalem was described as the 'Kingdom of Heaven' in Ridley Scott's 2005 epic motion picture.**

and archaeological sites, there are amazingly modern tourist attractions for all lovers of culture, the arts, theatre and music, architecture and culinary delights.

At Jerusalem's heart is the Old City, which is surrounded by a wall and divided into four quarters – Jewish, Armenian, Christian, and Muslim. Inside the walls are the important holy sites of the three major religions: the Western Wall, which is holy to the Jews, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. Within these venerable walls you will find a labyrinth of souks selling everything from religious icons to the necessities of life to Old City residents.

Jerusalem is also very important to Christianity, as Jesus Christ lived and died here. The Christian Quarter alone houses some 40 religious buildings. One of the most prominent and important sites in the Christian Quarter is the Via Dolorosa, the 'Way of Sorrows', Jesus' final path, which according to Christian tradition led from the courthouse of Pontius Pilate to Calvary, or Golgotha, where he was crucified and buried. Many pilgrims come to Jerusalem to follow Jesus' footsteps along a route that starts in the Muslim Quarter at Lions' Gate and passes the 14 'Stations of the Cross', ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

East of the Old City is the Mount of Olives, where there are other important Christian sites, and several churches: The Ascension, Pater Noster, Dominus Fleuit, Mary Magdalene, Gethsemane, Lazarus and Abraham's Monastery. Apart from the holy places throughout the Old City you will also find some fascinating attractions in the New City, such as the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Bloomfield Science Museum, and The Knesset.

Jerusalem is a city of superlatives, a city whose history can be heard in the whispering of the wind along the hallowed walls, where every stone tells a wondrous story of its long and tumultuous past. 🇮🇱



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# Inside Air Seychelles

News and information



Inside Air Seychelles

Global offices

Route network

Our fleet

Travel tips





### A SECOND A320NEO ON THE WAY

Air Seychelles will take delivery of its second A320neo aircraft in April 2020.

The new generation aircraft, which forms part of the airline's plan to refresh its fleet, will generate unbeatable efficiency with the lowest operating costs and will significantly reduce the environmental footprint.

Equipped with 12 Business and 156 Economy Class seats, similar to the current A320neo aircraft, the latest addition to the fleet will also be named after one of Seychelles critically endangered birds, as part of the airline's commitment to raise awareness for the protection of the Seychelles ecosystem and its endemic species.

Remco Althuis, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles, said: "The delivery of the second A320neo aircraft will complete an integral part of the Air Seychelles business transformation plan, relating to the entire refreshing of the airline's jet fleet. Air Seychelles will maintain the youngest fleet of modern aircraft in the Indian Ocean, thus positioning itself as the airline of choice in the region."

### AIR SEYCHELLES RESCUES GOLFERS

Over 60 passengers including 48 golfers, sponsoring officials from MCB, and Staysure Tour partners landed at Seychelles International Airport at Pointe Larue for the second leg of the MCB Tour Championship 2019, held at Constance Lemuria in Praslin during December.

However, passengers due to arrive in the Seychelles on another airline from Madagascar were stranded when their flight was cancelled. To ensure the tournament commenced on time, Air Seychelles quickly arranged an Airbus A320neo charter flight between Madagascar and the Seychelles.

The celebrity golf players had competed in a three-day competition in Madagascar, the first location for this year's MCB Staysure Tour.

Upon disembarkation, the guests were treated to a warm welcome jointly by the Air Seychelles ground handling team and colleagues from the Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) prior to proceeding to the Air Seychelles VIP Lounge and onboard the airline's Twin Otter aircraft to the island of Praslin where the next phase of the competition took place.



### LONG-SERVING STAFF AWARDS

Air Seychelles has presented long-serving staff with special awards in recognition of their outstanding dedication to the airline. Held at the Air Seychelles head office in Pointe Larue, the annual awards ceremony saw 27 staff – who have been with the company for between 10 and 30 years – thanked for their years of service.

The group came from various departments across the airline including Ground Operations, Procurement and Supply Chain, Information Technology, Flight Operations, Sales and Distribution, Technical Operations, Operations Control Centre, Finance, Corporate Affairs, Human Resources, Administration and Facilities.

Remco Althuis, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles, said: "The aviation field is very dynamic as some of the jobs require staff to work during odd hours; I must say that I am very proud of the team we have at Air Seychelles.

"Special congratulations go out to the long-serving staff to which I extend my gratitude for their dedication, loyalty and effort in continuously supporting the development of the national airline. We will continue to value their hard work and invaluable years of experience, as it is from their expertise that the younger generation can learn."





### FIRST TEL AVIV DIRECT FLIGHT

Air Seychelles has introduced a non-stop flight from Tel Aviv, linking Israel to the Seychelles.

The inaugural flight HMO21 was greeted at the Seychelles International Airport by a traditional water canon salute, in the presence of key dignitaries, government representatives, travel trade members and vmedia partners.

Addressing the guests during the welcoming ceremony, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine, Mr. Didier Dogley, said: "The launch of the new service between Seychelles and Tel Aviv will further enhance the tourism and economic ties between the two countries, in addition to making a significant contribution towards the growth of tourism in the Seychelles.

"As part of our marketing efforts to bring the Seychelles Islands to the world, we will continue to work with Air Seychelles to build our presence within the Israeli market, to further increase our visibility and establish Seychelles as the preferred holiday destination in the Indian Ocean."

Remco Althuis, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles added: "We are tremendously excited to have added Tel Aviv into our network and delighted to welcome the first guests on our new scheduled non-stop flight from Tel Aviv to Seychelles."

The flight between Tel Aviv and the Seychelles operates on Wednesdays and has been carefully timed to provide business and leisure traveller's seamless onward connections to Mauritius and Johannesburg.

### NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Air Seychelles, has launched its new and improved website at [www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com). The new website replaces the previous platform which had been in existence for the past four years.

The revamped website, designed with a mobile-first approach emulating mobile apps, features enhanced navigation and functionalities to provide a user-friendly experience for guests accessing the platform. Sectioned into three main areas including international, domestic and cargo, the new website also entails general information about the airline such as its history, current fleet, flight schedule, news stories and others.

Built with an accelerated mobile page tool to speed the uploading of pages and search features, the new interactive website simultaneously allows guests conducting any search on a particular page to have full access to the booking panel, available on every page.

The enhanced website is fully responsive and is able to adapt to various multimedia capabilities including videos, slide shows and interactive canvas. The new look and feel of the platform, which took over nine months to build, is being managed by the airline's e-commerce team together with Maven, a local creative agency specialised in website design.



### AIR SEYCHELLES COMMITS TO REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

Air Seychelles is moving forward with its corporate social responsibility programme to reduce carbon emissions, reinforcing its commitment towards sustainability. Apart from investing in electric equipment to reduce fuel dependency in its ground operations, the arrival of the new Airbus A320neo aircraft in August 2019, has also played a significant role in the environmental initiatives of the airline.

In its first month of operation across the airline's network the new engine option aircraft generated around 20 percent fuel savings per flight. Remco Althuis, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles said: "The aviation industry worldwide is under considerable pressure over the issue of carbon emissions and its impact on climate change.

"As fuel and emissions are two key factors that impact on the global environment, at Air Seychelles we remain committed to contributing towards the sustainable development, by conducting business in an economical and responsible manner.

"To ensure that the airline develops sustainably, we will continue to explore ways to implement ecological measures across the business, to improve and safeguard the environment where the airline operates."

# Journey in style

Business Class on our  
new A320neo

Receive access to our Premium Lounge before departure and a baggage allowance of 40kg. Recline and relax whilst enjoying our inflight streaming service. Savour a blend of Seychelles and internationally-inspired dishes from our à la carte menu and experience the convenience of our Dine on Demand service.

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seychelles**  
airseychelles.com

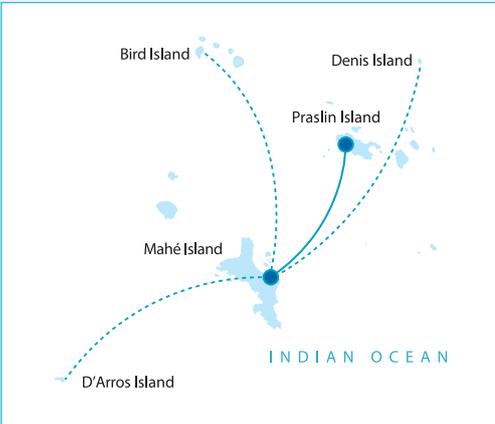
## Air Seychelles global offices

<p><b>India</b></p> 	<p>Capital: New Delhi                  Languages: Hindi, English                  Currency: Indian Rupee                  Area: 3,287,590 km<sup>2</sup>                  Population: 1,263,830,000                  Air Seychelles destination: Mumbai</p>	<p>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</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p> 	<p>Capital: Tel Aviv                  Language: Hebrew                  Currency: Israel Shekel                  Area: 20,770 km<sup>2</sup>                  Population: 9,085,610                  Air Seychelles destination: Tel Aviv</p>	<p>BSR 1                  2, Ben Gurion Rd                  Ramat Gan 5257334                  Tel Aviv, Israel                  Tel: +972 3 795 2104 / 51 000 18                  Email: info@tal-aviation.com</p>
<p><b>Mauritius</b></p> 	<p>Capital: Port Louis                  Languages: French, English, Creole                  Currency: Rupees                  Area: 2,040 km<sup>2</sup>                  Population: 1,243,000                  Air Seychelles destination: Plaisance Airport</p>	<p>Rogers Aviation Ltd                  2, Gardens of Bagatelle                  Bagatelle Office Park                  Moka, Mauritius                  Tel: +230 2026665                  Email: olivier.malepa@rogers-aviation.com</p>
<p><b>Seychelles</b></p> 	<p>Capital: Victoria                  Languages: Seychellois Creole, English                  Currency: Seychelles Rupee                  Area: 456 km<sup>2</sup>                  Population: 95,235                  Air Seychelles destination: Mahé &amp; Praslin</p>	<p>Air Seychelles Ltd                  Seychelles International Airport                  P.O. Box 386                  Mahé, Seychelles                  Tel: +248 4391000                  Email: callcenter@airseychelles.com</p>
<p><b>South Africa</b></p> 	<p>Capital: Pretoria                  Languages: English, Afrikaans                  (11 official languages)                  Currency: South African Rand                  Area: 1,221,037 km<sup>2</sup>                  Population: 45,919,000                  Air Seychelles destination: Johannesburg</p>	<p>Border Air Pty Ltd                  Lu Dowell Representations                  280 Oak Avenue                  Randburg                  Johannesburg, South Africa                  Tel: +27 11 3264440/4443/4483                  Email: helena@border-air.co.za</p>

# Route Network



## Air Seychelles Domestic Network

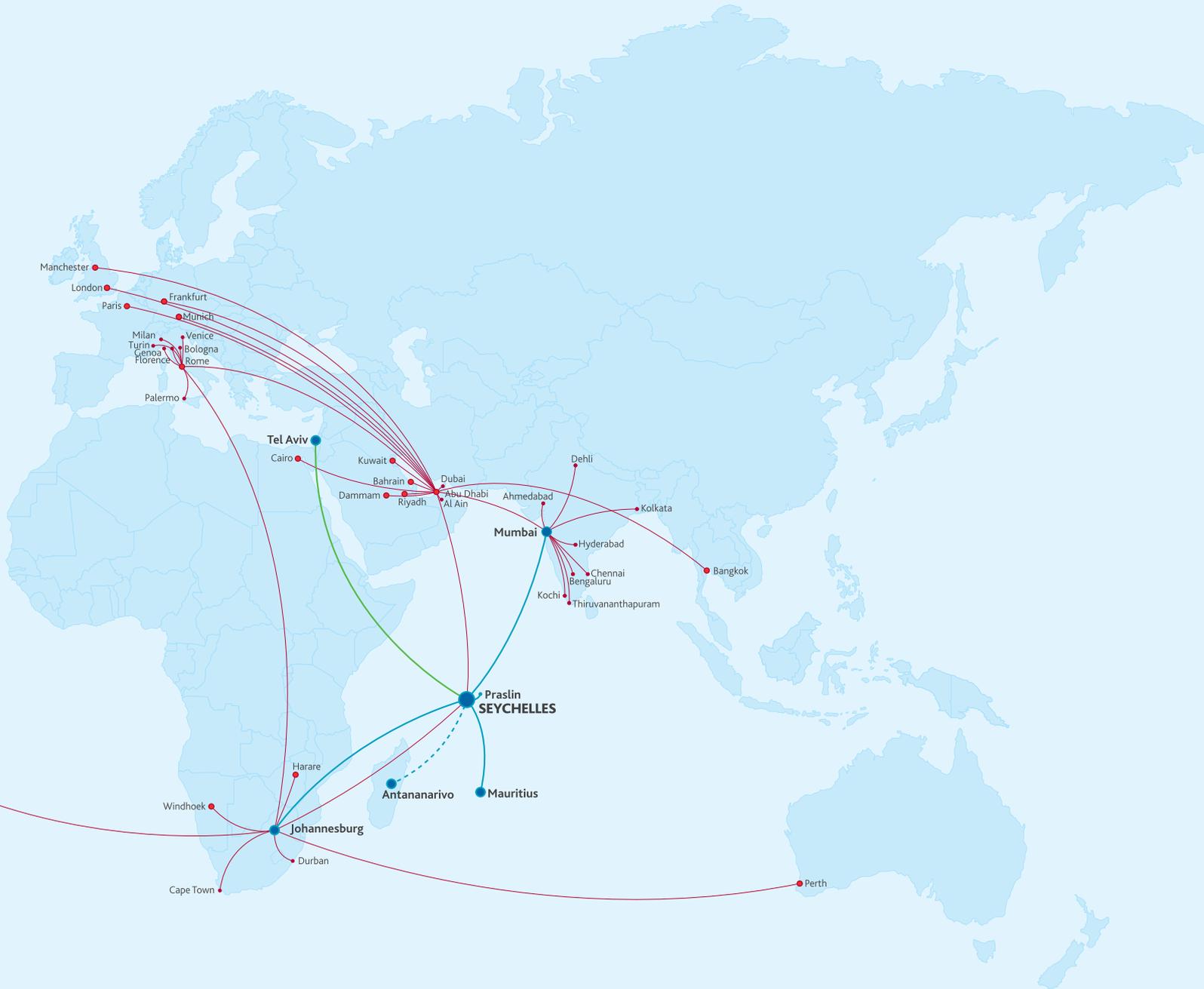


### MAP KEY

- Air Seychelles Flights
- New Air Seychelles Routes
- - - ● - - - Air Seychelles Chartered/Seasonal Flights
- Codeshare Flights
- New Codeshare Flights

### OUR CODESHARE PARTNERS





## Our fleet

### A320neo



#### Airbus A320-200neo (Veuve, S7-VEV)

**Aircraft:** 1  
**Length:** 37.57m  
**Wing span:** 34.09m  
**Passenger capacity:** 168  
**Cruising speed:** 840km/h  
**Cruising altitude:** 37,000ft  
**Business Class seats:** 12  
**Economy Class seats:** 156  
**Seat Configuration one aisle passenger cabin:**  
**Business Class:** 2-2 configuration and Economy Class 3-3 configuration

### A320ceo



#### Airbus A320-200ceo (Amirantes, S7-AMI)

**Aircraft:** 1  
**Length:** 37.57m  
**Wing span:** 34.09m  
**Passenger capacity:** 136  
**Cruising speed:** 840km/h  
**Cruising altitude:** 37,000ft  
**Business Class seats:** 16  
**Economy Class seats:** 120  
**Seat Configuration one aisle passenger cabin:**  
**Business Class:** 2-2 configuration and Economy Class 3-3 configuration

### Twin Otter DHC 6



#### DHC-6 Twin Otter-400 Series

**Aircraft:** 5  
**Length:** 15.80m  
**Wing span:** 19.80m  
**Passenger capacity:** 19  
**Cruising speed:** 260km/h  
**Cruising altitude:** 10,000ft  
**Seat capacity:** 19  
**Engines:** Pratt and Whitney PT 6A-27



# 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.

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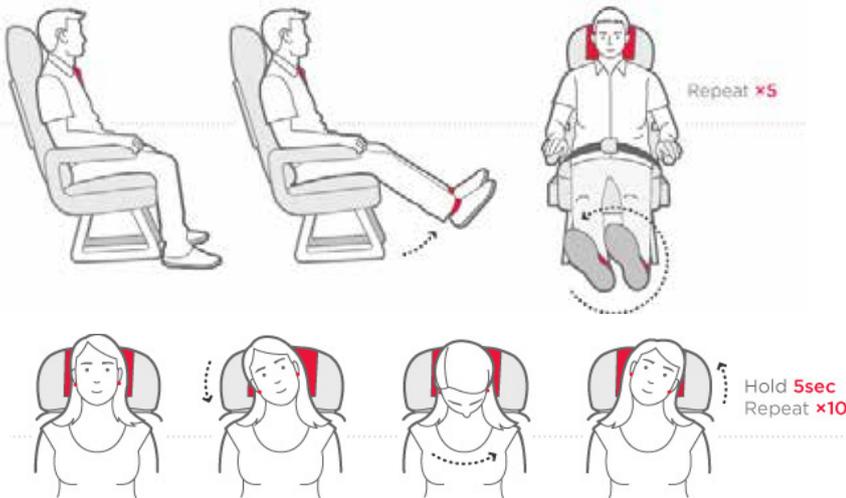


Book your ticket with your travel agent, call us on (248) 439 1000 or visit [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<p><b>Airport</b> Seychelles International Airport is the main airport on the main island of Mahé. There are two terminals for International and Domestic.</p>	<p><b>Currency</b> 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liberation Day (5 June)</li> <li>• Corpus Christi (11 June)</li> <li>• Constitution Day (18 June)</li> <li>• National Day (29 June)</li> <li>• Assumption Day – festival on La Digue (15 August)</li> <li>• All Saints Day (1 November)</li> <li>• Immaculate Conception (8 December)</li> <li>• Christmas Day (25 December).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ground transport</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>Information</b> There is a tourist information/ hotel booking desk in Arrivals. There are ATMs, a Bank and a Bureau de Change at the airport.</p>	<p><b>Credit cards</b> Most credit cards and travellers' cheques are accepted.</p>	<p><b>Passport requirement</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Taxi service</b> Taxi service is safe and reliable and you can get one from the International Airport or call for one from your hotel.</p>
<p><b>Time</b> Seychelles is four hours ahead of GMT and three hours ahead of Central European Time.</p>	<p><b>Banking</b> Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 0800hrs-1400hrs, and Saturday 0800hrs-1100hrs.</p>	<p><b>Visa requirement</b> Visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder. Re-confirm before travel. <a href="http://www.ics.gov.sc">www.ics.gov.sc</a></p>	<p><b>Tourist information office</b> The Seychelles Tourist Office is located in Independence House, Victoria, Mahé.</p>
<p><b>Electric supply</b> The power sockets are of type G. The standard voltage is 240 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.</p>	<p><b>Public holidays 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Year (1 January)</li> <li>• Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday (10, 12 &amp; 13 April)</li> <li>• Labour Day (1 May)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Language</b> Creole, English and French are the official languages of the Seychelles.</p>			

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.

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