

# silhouette

Inflight magazine of Air Seychelles • October-December 2021

# Johannesburg to Seychelles

Paradise is only hours away...

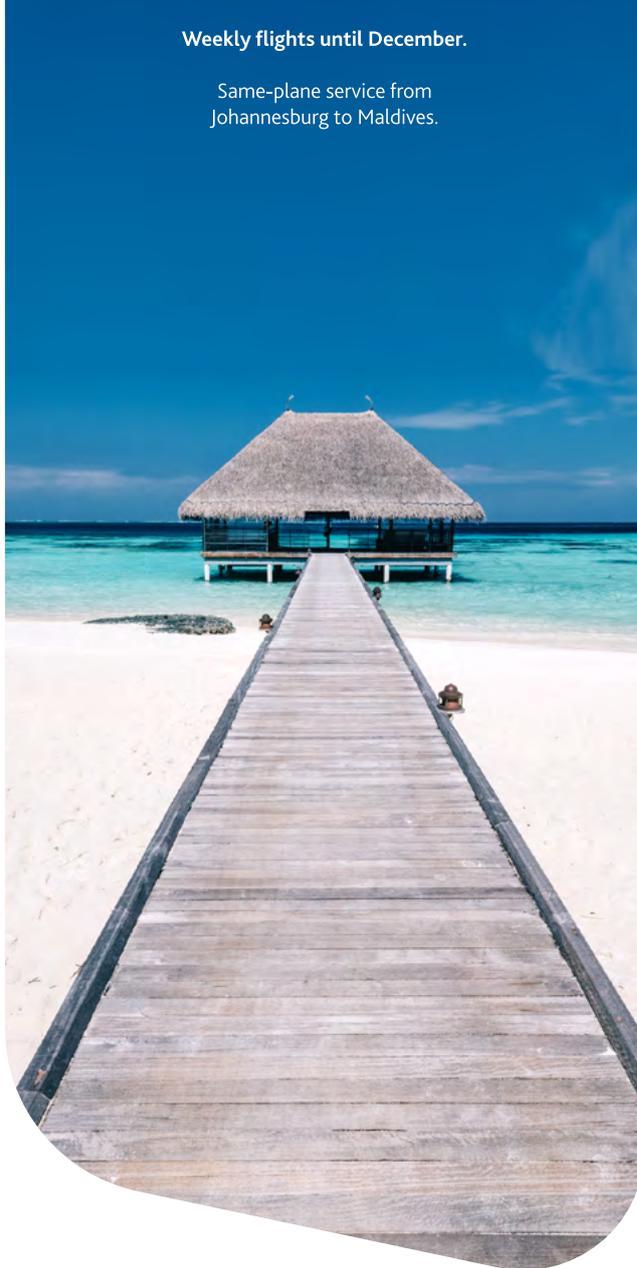
Air Seychelles offers the shortest route to the idyllic island paradise with direct flights from Johannesburg.



# Johannesburg to Maldives

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## Dear Guests, Welcome aboard!

Keeping Seychelles connected is part of our mission and as travel restrictions start to ease globally, we continue to connect families, friends and loved ones to our shores.

Despite COVID-19 being persistent, the ongoing support of our guests surely motivates us to be more determined, resilient and agile in everything that we do. In fact, to keep flying the skies we love, we have amazing news, definitely worth sharing, as part of our airline's recovery and network restoration.

Following the reopening of Seychelles borders to South Africa, I am pleased to announce that since 26 September 2021 flights to Johannesburg have been reinstated. The twice weekly service conveniently timed, offers travellers more choice and flexibility when planning their short or extended stays in the Seychelles, with quick connections up to Praslin.

After an absence of more than 18 months on the route, from 3 October 2021, the national flag carrier reintroduced Mauritius back on its network. Holiday makers looking to explore another island within the Indian Ocean can now plan their fun-filled adventure to the tropics and even better combine their whole trip to both the Seychelles and Mauritius.

In addition to Tel Aviv, Air Seychelles has also ramped up flights between Johannesburg and Maldives. Committed to meeting market demand on this route, following a partnership built with visit Maldives, Seychelles livery will be present in Maldives throughout 2022 as the airline extends its services to the archipelagic state.

Great news indeed and together with the team, we are happy to bring more of the Indian Ocean to you. As the festive season is fast approaching, visit [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com) early to book your seat to paradise with us!

If you are visiting the Seychelles, you can also book our 15 minute flight to Praslin to enjoy a bird's eye view of the most spectacular spots of Mahé, and the untouched natural landscape and coastline of Praslin.

Remember your checklist to the Seychelles includes a negative 72 hours PCR test and complete approval via [seychelles.govtas.com](http://seychelles.govtas.com). Be safe, wear your mask at all times and we look forward to welcoming you onboard our flight soon!



**Captain Sandy Benoiton**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



“  
Bringing  
more of the  
Indian Ocean  
to you!

”

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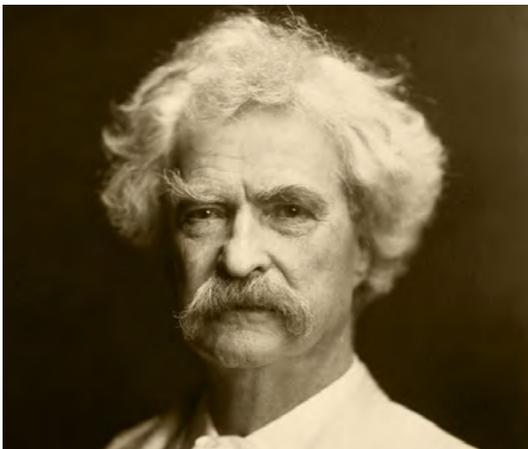


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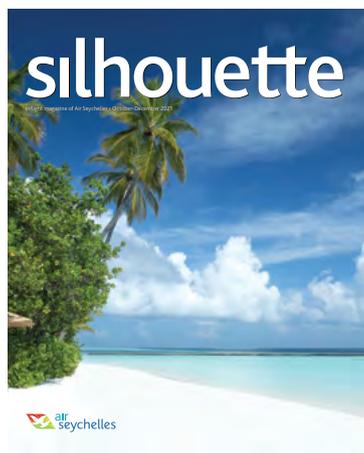
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Cover image

Aride, natural paradise of the world's granitic ocean islands.  
Photo © unsplash.com

# silhouette

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## SSFC La Digue Offshore Fishing Tournament

Venue: Mahé

Date: 29 - 30 October 2021

Email: [ssfcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ssfcmail@gmail.com)

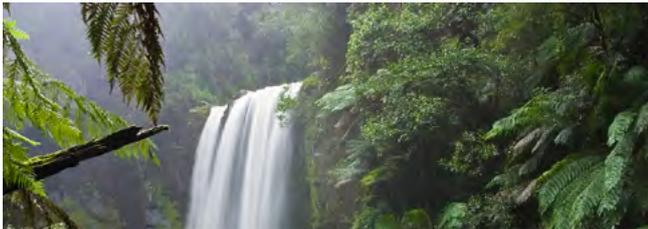
SSFC La Digue Offshore Fishing Tournament will be held on Mahé this year due to restrictions. The two-day 31-hour overnight event challenges anglers with 25 total species in both bottom and trolling categories. It is one of the most attended SSFC events of the year. Even if you are not participating with a team in the tournament, the weigh-in event is an event not to miss. Many of the Seychelles species will be on display at the weigh-in event.

## SSFC Big Game Classic

Date: 27 November 2021

Email: [ssfcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ssfcmail@gmail.com)

The Big Game Classic is a trolling event with a focus on marlin. The all release tournament typically showcases Seychelles largest marlin. In total, 10 species are the target including all marlin, sailfish, swordfish, barracuda, wahoo, dorado, yellowfin tuna and dogtooth tuna.



## World Conference on Soil, Water, Energy and Air (EUWCSWEA)

4 - 5 October 2021

Website: <http://eurasiaweb.com>

The conference provides a platform for professionals involved in Soil, Water, Energy and Air to exchange knowledge and gain an insight into the state of the art in the current technology, techniques and solutions in Soil, Water, Energy and Air as they have been developed and applied in different countries. Participants include a wide variety of stakeholders from research and academia, to industrial sectors as well as government organisations.

## Seychelles Yachting Serenade

Venue: Eden Island Marina

Date: 16 - 23 December 2021

Cruising vacation around the beautiful islands of the Seychelles.



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This aircraft is equipped with **seyStream** wireless in-flight entertainment system which can only be accessed on your personal device (*smartphone, tablet or laptop*).

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\*The automatic pop-up will re-direct you to a browser and **seyStream** will be ready for use. If the pop-up does not appear automatically, type in '**airfi.aero**' in your preferred browser.

As per the airline regulation, **seyStream** will not be accessible during taxi, take-off and landing or as advised by the cabin crew.



## Maldives National Day

Venue: Malé

Date: 8 October 2021

According to Islamic calendar, the first day of Rabi' al-awwal is Maldives National Day. It commemorates the victory of Muhamadhu Thakurufaanu al-A'uzam over Portuguese in 1573.

The military parades are common for the National Day and they are held in the capital of the Maldives and on different islands of archipelago.

## Festival of Motoring

Venue: Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit

Date: 28 – 31 October 2021

Johannesburg is not your average motoring event. This is the one event that brings the entire industry together and allows visitors to not only view or compare the latest models but to jump in and experience the performance and handling of these vehicles on the track. It provides world-class motoring and motorsport content to appeal to the many petrolheads with the show having a strong family appeal.



## Diwali or Deepawali

Venue: All over India

Date: 4 November 2021

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights falls on the new moon night in the Hindu month of Ashwin coinciding with winter. As evening falls, streets take on a festive look with shimmering garlands of electric and oil lamps lit across balconies and windows. Sweets and gifts are exchanged between families and friends amidst bursting of crackers.

## Tel Aviv Night Run 2021

Venue: Tel Aviv-Yafo

Date: 10 November 2021

The most popular fun race in Israel provides an unusual tour of Tel Aviv and is the most vibrant athletic events in Israel. The fantastic atmosphere and thousands of cheering spectators that support over 25,000 runners make this race so unique. Tel Aviv Night Run is the most popular non-marathon running event in the country that promotes a healthy lifestyle and the touristic potential of the capital of Israel.



## Festival of Lights

Venue: Joburg Zoo

Date: 25 November 2021

Joburg Zoo in association with the City of Johannesburg entities; Joburg Theatre, City Parks and City power are excited to present the annual Joburg Zoo Festival of Lights featuring an enchanting collection of illuminated life-size animal characters and classical, harmonious entertainment, food and craft night market for visitors to the Joburg Zoo.

Patrons can enjoy a tranquil walk in the zoo on a designated lit route away from the animals under trees decorated in lights. The Joburg Zoo Festival of Lights offers patrons entertainment and a night out in the zoo for all ages. Children under three years of age enter for free.

## Mauritius Marathon

Venue: Le Morne Village

Date: 12 December 2021

Mauritius is already widely known for its lagoons, beaches and the hotel services, but could have a new asset: an international marathon along the beautiful coastal roads. Mauritius Marathon combines sport challenge and discovery of the natural and cultural heritage of Mauritius. At each corner, from Le Morne village to the finish at Saint Felix public beach, the course unveils sights which are spectacular, specially the unforgettable views on the vast lagoon of the south. There will also be a half marathon (21.1 kilometres) on the same date and on the same track (South Coast).





# Maldives

Your Safe Haven Awaits

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[airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com)  
[visitmaldives.com](http://visitmaldives.com)

## Smart Gadgets

With changing technology, let's face it, how many can keep up? Here are some of the best-selling gifts on everyone's list. From wireless must-haves and smart gadgets that makes your life easier, to fun for the young ones to learn and the latest in-home security, there's something for everyone. Check out all the top picks!

### The All New Echo Dot (4th Generation)

**Price: \$59.90**

The fourth-generation Echo Dot is now a sphere, to mirror the look of the new fourth-gen Echo, though in a smaller size for half the price. Not a lot has changed here, but the new Echo Dot remains one of the best ways to add Alexa voice assistant to every room of your home. The LED clock face on the Echo Dot with clock is worth the extra money if you plan on placing the speaker on your desk, nightstand, or anywhere else you use clocks and timers.

The fourth-gen Echo Dot is a 3.9-inch sphere, half plastic and half fabric and comes in blue, dark grey, or white. On the top are four buttons for volume up, volume down, activating Alexa, and turning the mic off. The blue light ring that shows when Alexa is listening has moved from the top of the speaker to the bottom, making the surface underneath glow softly.

Along with the standard model, there's an Echo Dot for kids, and you get a two-year warranty and a yearlong subscription to Amazon Kids.



### The PhoneSoap

**Price: \$74.00**

PhoneSoap has not been tested against COVID-19 yet, so there is no evidence to show that it kills the virus itself. However, keeping your phone clean is still a good way to reduce exposure to bacteria that could affect your health and weaken your immune system.

PhoneSoap designed its products to kill 99.99 percent of bacteria and germs on devices surfaces in five minutes.

The PhoneSoap Go acts as a power bank, so you can charge your phone up to four times on the go as long as the unit itself is fully charged.

How do our phones get so dirty? Well, whatever sickness is on anything that we touch – from poles to grocery carts and doorknobs to toilet handles – soon gets transferred to our phones. Our phone is practically like our third hand that we never wash.

PhoneSoap, believe it or not, is not just for phones. It will literally sanitise anything you can fit inside of it and cause no damage. Yes, even your credit cards. It's as simple as tossing your money in the unit.

### Echo Buds

**Price: \$130.00**

These are dynamic audio and active noise cancellation (ANC). Premium speakers deliver crisp, balanced sound with sealed in-ear design and ANC limit background noise.

They are compact and comfortable – Echo Buds are small, light, and sweat-resistant, with a secure, customisable fit that's made to move with you. Echo Buds work with the Alexa app to stream music, play podcasts, and read audible audiobooks. It has long-lasting battery with five hours music playback per charge and up to 15 hours with the charging case. Leave your phone in your pocket – use your voice to make calls, set reminders, add items to your shopping list, or even start a meditation session. Echo buds are built with privacy ability to mute the mics with the Alexa App.





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## Apple Watch Series 6 (GPS + Cellular, 44mm)

**Price: \$399.00**

The Apple Watch 6 (or Apple Watch Series 6) is the latest watch from the company alongside the Apple Watch SE that launched at the same time.

Apple Watches are rising in popularity to the point where most will know that they're small second screens that connect your iPhone to your wearable, and the new device offers many benefits; if you're thinking about upgrading from an older model you will be especially keen to learn what's new.

Apple's new Watch has a blood oxygen sensor inside, new colours to delight and a more efficient S6 engine at its heart. It is also supposed to have a brighter display in sunny conditions.



## Apple AirPods 3

**Price: \$197.00**

It is now two and half years since Apple last updated its basic AirPods. With the AirPods looking old it was time to update them. Compared to the standard second-generation AirPods, the AirPods Pro feature a higher price tag, a different design with silicone ear tips and a shorter stem, active noise cancellation, and improved sound.

The AirPods 3 alongside new iPhone's production began in the third quarter of 2021 in preparation and will be launched soon. Not only will they sound significantly better than the original ones, but they will offer more in the way of features and useful accessories too.

High notes (1100Hz and above) sound twice as loud with the AirPods Pro compared to the AirPods. This treble emphasis makes it easier to hear harmonic resonances, so our brains perceive this as greater detail in music playback. 🎧



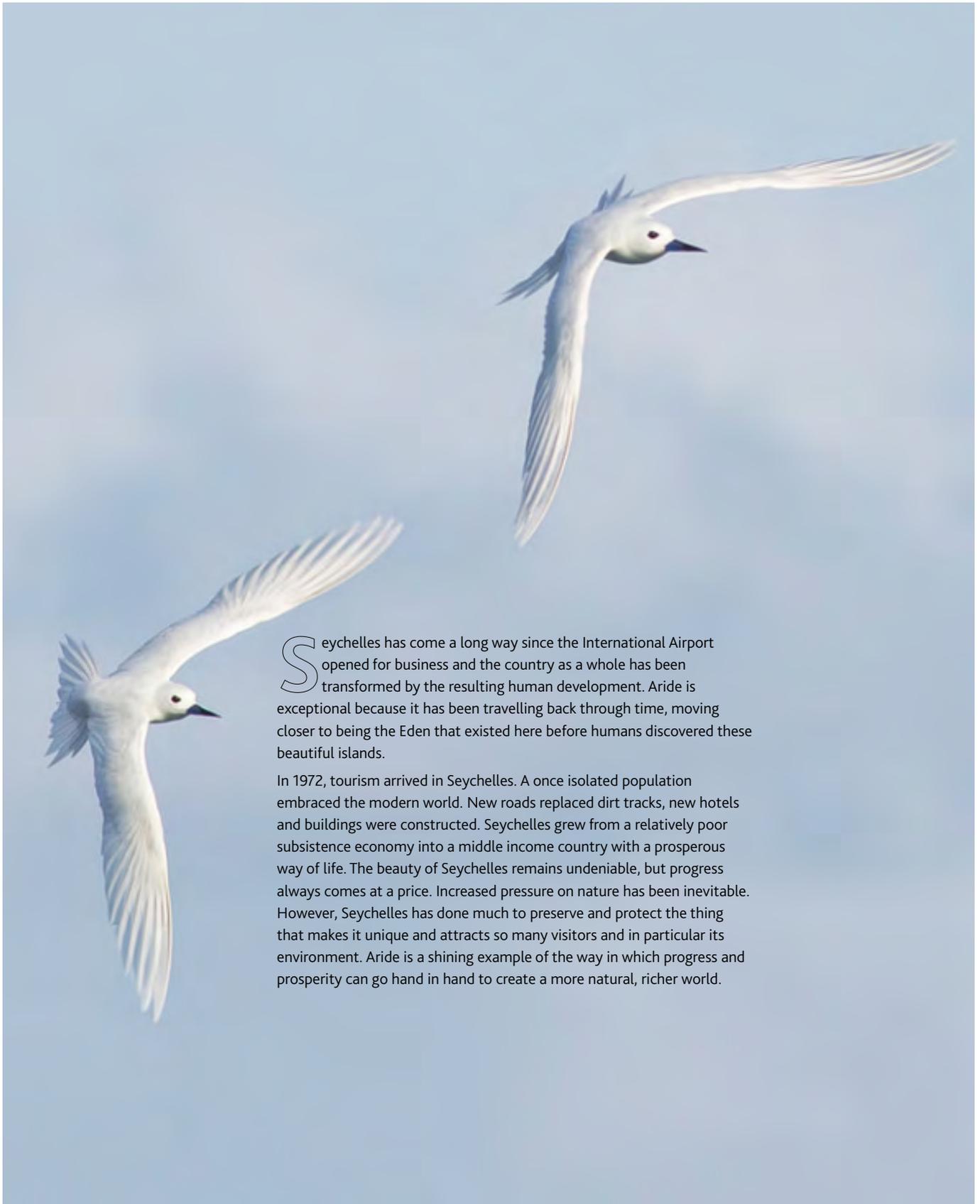
Source: Courtesy of Amazon, Apple, Oculus, The Home Depot, Facebook & Google



# Aride Island

Seabird citadel of the Indian Ocean

WORDS: ADRIAN SKERRETT



Seychelles has come a long way since the International Airport opened for business and the country as a whole has been transformed by the resulting human development. Aride is exceptional because it has been travelling back through time, moving closer to being the Eden that existed here before humans discovered these beautiful islands.

In 1972, tourism arrived in Seychelles. A once isolated population embraced the modern world. New roads replaced dirt tracks, new hotels and buildings were constructed. Seychelles grew from a relatively poor subsistence economy into a middle income country with a prosperous way of life. The beauty of Seychelles remains undeniable, but progress always comes at a price. Increased pressure on nature has been inevitable. However, Seychelles has done much to preserve and protect the thing that makes it unique and attracts so many visitors and in particular its environment. Aride is a shining example of the way in which progress and prosperity can go hand in hand to create a more natural, richer world.

When Aride came up for sale in 1973 it was saved for posterity by the philanthropist Christopher Cadbury who provided UK's Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) with the requisite price tag of £40,000 (equivalent to almost one million pounds at today's values). RSWT purchased the island just one year after the airport's ribbons had been cut, and ran it successfully for many years before passing responsibility to local NGO Island Conservation Society (ICS). Today ICS owns and manages Aride Island and their conservation staff are Aride's only inhabitants.

Even in 1973, Aride was something special even though it had, like other islands, suffered from exploitation. The original forest had been removed, cats were introduced, seabird eggs were collected and shipped to Praslin.



But fortunately rats never arrived and the absence of streams (hence the name Aride) made the island much less attractive to settlers than others. Landing can be difficult and consequently the size of boats coming directly onto the shore is limited. This factor (plus a little bit of luck) means that Aride is the largest island in Seychelles to have never suffered from the scourge of rats. Despite exploitation, birds and plants survived so that the seeds of recovery were all there. Aride was bruised, but not beaten.

Since Christopher Cadbury stepped in, the number of birds, the variety of species, the native forest and the overall biodiversity of the island have increased in spectacular fashion. Today Aride is a fragment of a lost world, dominated by birds and reptiles, which existed before the arrival of man. It is not just another island: it is the best island on which

to experience Seychelles as it was before any human footprint appeared on these shores. What is more, because it requires a little more effort to reach than the easily accessible satellite islands of Mahé and Praslin it receives fewer visitors. For the discerning tourist, this affords the opportunity to escape the crowds and experience something special. Aride is one of the finest tropical nature reserves in the world. At the same time you do not need to be a nature enthusiast to appreciate how different Aride is. Visit Aride for a taste of Seychelles as it was centuries ago: pristine, stunningly beautiful and positively bursting with life.

Aride is home to more breeding seabirds of more species than the other 40 granitic islands of Seychelles added together. There are land birds unique to Seychelles, a beautiful gardenia shrub found nowhere else, a fabulous coral reef and one of the highest densities of lizards in the world. At the pinnacle of the nature trail you will find the most spectacular view in granitic Seychelles. Reaching the summit requires some effort but at the top there is a wonderful reward which makes the exertion worthwhile:



the cliffs drop away at your feet, the breeze cools the face and the glitter of ocean dazzles the eyes. Delicate white fairy terns flutter curiously almost within touching distance and beyond there are spirals of majestic frigatebirds climbing upwards on two-metre wingspans. Curiously, frigatebirds do not breed on Aride despite the huge numbers present. Aride represents a staging post on their long cyclical foraging journeys from Aldabra and perhaps even further afield.

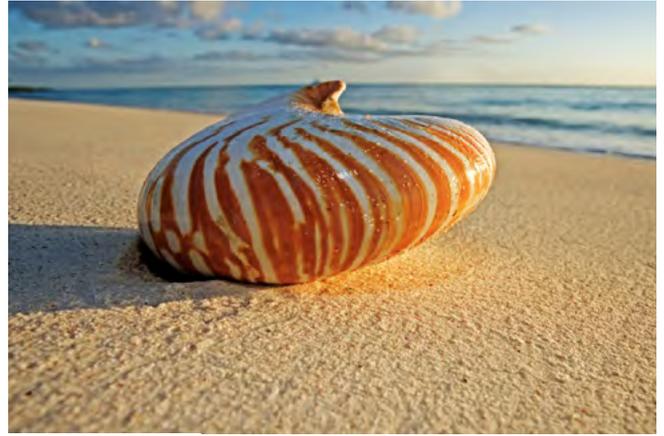
Among the breeding birds of Aride are the world's largest populations of two species: lesser noddy and tropical shearwater. Noddies nest in trees all over the island, their calls resonating through the forest during the day. A speciality of the Indian Ocean, they get their name from their curious nodding courtship rituals. By contrast, shearwaters are nocturnal, emerging from their burrows just before dawn to climb trees and launch themselves into the air. Other breeding seabirds include roseate terns of a distinctive race found only in the



western Indian Ocean. Named *arideensis*, after the island, Aride is of course its stronghold and it is the only viable breeding ground in all the granitic islands.

When Aride was purchased by RSWT none of the twelve land birds unique to granitic Seychelles were present there. Today there are five. Seychelles warblers were transferred to the island in 1989 and it is now the world's stronghold for the species, with greater numbers living here than on all its other island homes combined. Later, Seychelles magpie-robins were transferred and a new population established for a species once described as the rarest in the world. Magpie-robins suffered a massive decline following human settlement until fewer than 20 remained, all confined to Frégate. Today, thanks to translocations to other islands, including Aride, numbers have increased more than ten-fold. Later, Seychelles fodies were also successfully transferred and in the meantime, two other species, Seychelles blue





pigeons and Seychelles sunbirds did not wait for human assistance: incredibly they flew across open ocean to found new colonies on Aride themselves.

Hand in hand with the recovery of bird populations has come the restoration of the natural forest. Approaching Aride from the sea it is noticeable that unlike the other islands, coconut palms are confined to the shoreline. Introduced plants have been virtually eliminated and native plants have thrived. Among these is Wright's gardenia, a beautiful shrub with fragrant flowers, found in its natural state only here. Two and a half centuries since the establishment of the first settlement in Seychelles, Aride is the ultimate island for those looking for a window on a world that existed before any human footstep touched these shores. 🌿



Trips to Aride can be arranged through Praslin boat operators, tour operators and larger hotels. Alternatively call Aride on 2719778 for advice.



# Sea Turtle

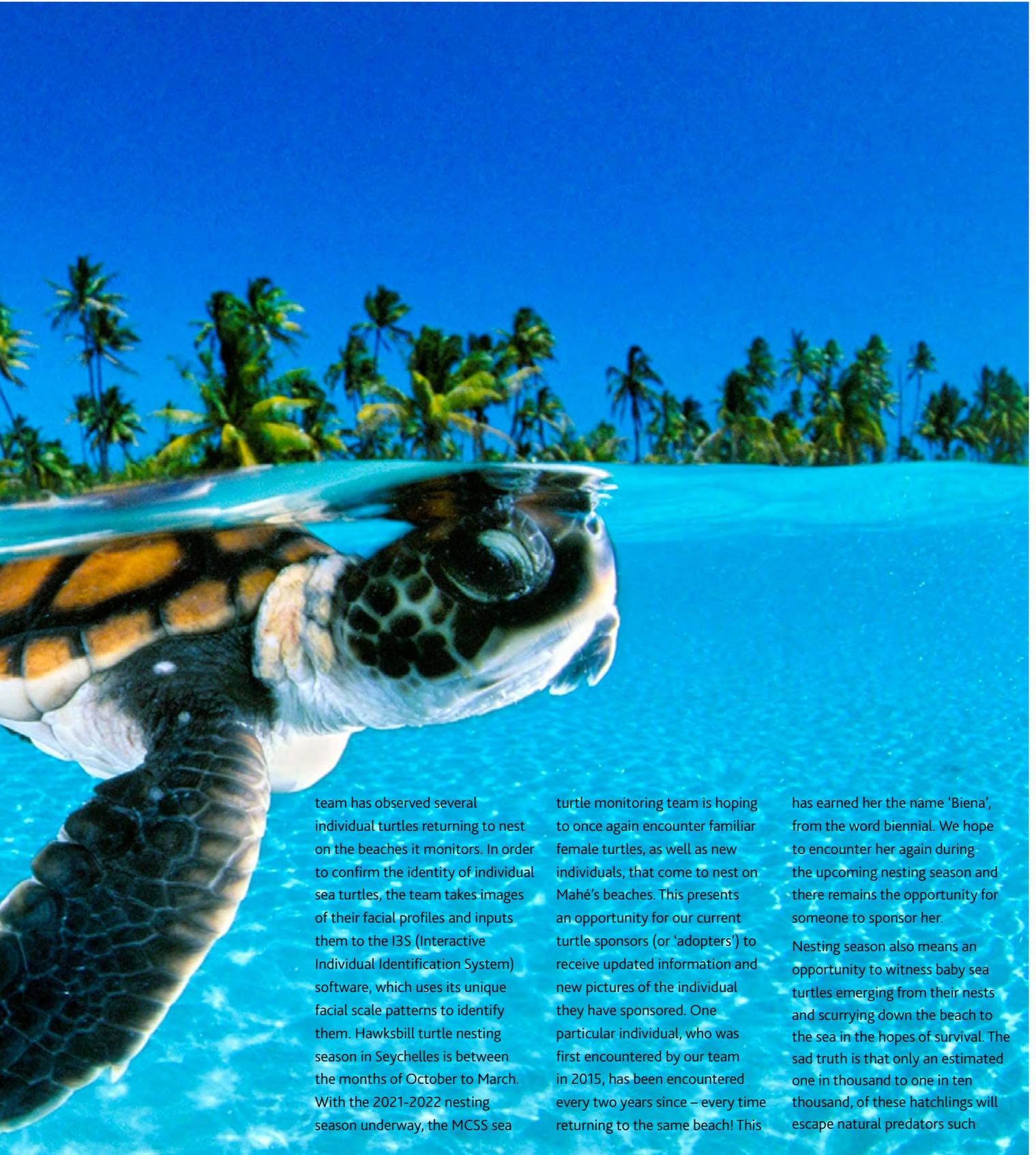
## nesting season

WORDS: RUBIA SOMERS

Sea turtles are ancient creatures, having been around since the time of the dinosaurs. Sadly, however, six of the world's seven species of sea turtle are currently threatened, with the two species known to nest in Seychelles; green *Chelonia mydas* and hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* listed as 'Endangered' and 'Critically Endangered' respectively on IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. Poaching, entanglement, pollution, habitat loss, coastal development, bycatch

and climate change are amongst the multitude of human-induced threats that they face. Sea turtles are found throughout the world's oceans due to their migratory behaviour and spend the majority of their lives at sea. Females come ashore several times a season every two to five years to lay an egg clutch of between 50 to 200 eggs, depending on the species of sea turtle.

Over the years, the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS) sea turtle monitoring



team has observed several individual turtles returning to nest on the beaches it monitors. In order to confirm the identity of individual sea turtles, the team takes images of their facial profiles and inputs them to the IBS (Interactive Individual Identification System) software, which uses its unique facial scale patterns to identify them. Hawksbill turtle nesting season in Seychelles is between the months of October to March. With the 2021-2022 nesting season underway, the MCSS sea

turtle monitoring team is hoping to once again encounter familiar female turtles, as well as new individuals, that come to nest on Mahé's beaches. This presents an opportunity for our current turtle sponsors (or 'adopters') to receive updated information and new pictures of the individual they have sponsored. One particular individual, who was first encountered by our team in 2015, has been encountered every two years since – every time returning to the same beach! This

has earned her the name 'Biena', from the word biennial. We hope to encounter her again during the upcoming nesting season and there remains the opportunity for someone to sponsor her.

Nesting season also means an opportunity to witness baby sea turtles emerging from their nests and scurrying down the beach to the sea in the hopes of survival. The sad truth is that only an estimated one in thousand to one in ten thousand, of these hatchlings will escape natural predators such



**Sea turtles are found throughout the world's oceans due to their migratory behaviour and spend the majority of their lives at sea.**

as crabs, birds and fish and survive to reach sexual maturity. With these odds, we'd like to shed some light on how best to ensure that as many of them as possible make it safely to the sea. After an incubation period of around two months, successfully developed sea turtle hatchlings will emerge from their nests and attempt to make it out to sea. 'Imprinting' on their natal beach – digging themselves out of the nest and making their way to sea – is considered to be integral to the life cycle of turtles. It allows them to exercise their lungs to be able to swim and dive when in the water and potentially return to the same area for foraging, mating or nesting a decade or more later. Hatchlings should thus be left to do so and be observed from a minimum distance of two metres. To break open their shells, hatchlings use a temporary egg tooth, or carbuncle, though it can take a few days for them to actually emerge from the nest. They generally emerge at cooler times of day, such as morning

or evening, when they are less likely to be predated upon or overheat. When emerging in darkness, it is thought that turtle hatchlings are guided by the light reflected on the sea, which is why they are disoriented by artificial lights. As such, all lights visible from the beach should be switched off when hatchlings are or may be emerging. If hatchlings become disoriented, it is advisable to guide them on a path to the sea without touching or handling them as far as possible and remove obstacles such as holes, debris or other items on the sand. If possible, remain at a safe distance to ensure that they are not trampled on and safely reach the sea. The Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS) has been monitoring turtle nesting activity on Mahé since 2003. The data obtained over the years from this long-term monitoring programme has indicated some of the most important beaches on the island for the two species of sea turtle that nest in Seychelles.



possible without the financial support of the public. All donations and contributions really do make a difference. For more information on how you can sponsor a sea turtle or make a donation to MCSS' ongoing research and conservation activities, visit our website [www.mcsc.sc](http://www.mcsc.sc) or use the QR code or link [https://www.mcsc.sc/turtle\\_adoption.html](https://www.mcsc.sc/turtle_adoption.html) for more information. 🐢

Marine Conservation Society Seychelles' (MCSS) Temporal Protected Areas Project is funded under the GOS-GEF-UNDP project entitled "A Ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles" (Ridge to Reef Project). The projects' objective is to manage and conserve the flow of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services in targeted islands of the Seychelles for multiple benefits through the Ridge-to-Reef approach.



Flight information: [www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com)

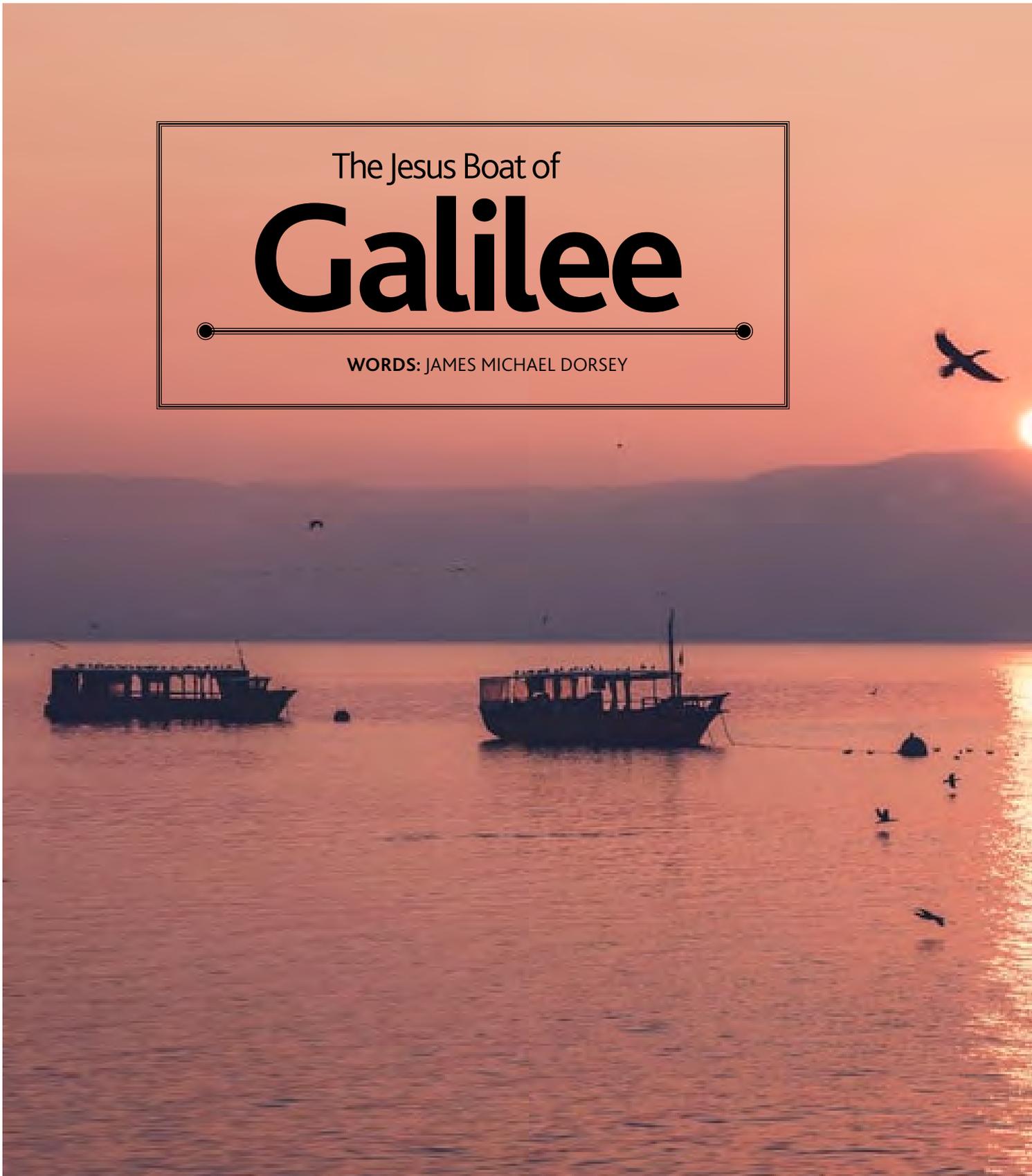
In order to improve conservation efforts of these marine protected species, MCSS has conceptualised and tested an innovative approach to the management of these critical habitats, which are currently beyond the Protected Area network – 'Temporal Protected Areas' (TPAs). The concept of the TPAs is that they are transient conservation areas, coming into effect only during the hawksbill nesting season.

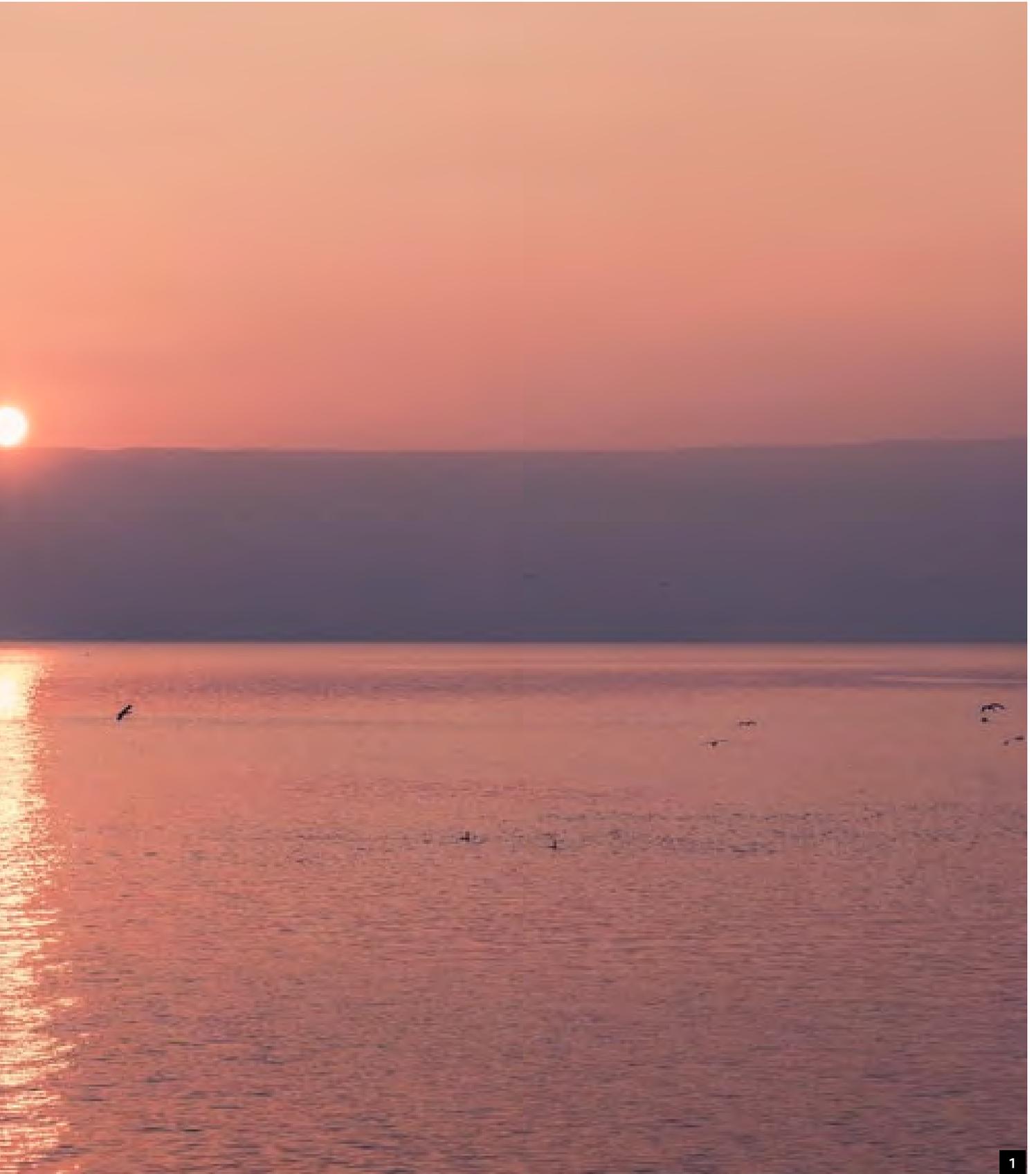
There are several ways that the public can contribute to MCSS' sea turtle conservation efforts, including volunteering on our beach rehabilitation activities, reporting illegal activities to the Greenline and sponsoring a sea turtle. The donations received through sea turtle sponsorships provide critical financial assistance, which facilitates ongoing research activities, including the monitoring of important sea turtle nesting beaches. This long-term monitoring programme would not have been



The Jesus Boat of  
**Galilee**

WORDS: JAMES MICHAEL DORSEY







2

1. Sunset over the Sea of Galilee.
2. Replica of the ancient Galilee boat at the Yigal Alon Museum, Kibbutz Nof Ginosaur.
3. James Dorsey (Author) with Yuval Moshe and Rosemary Dorsey.
4. A sculpture carved by Yuval Lefan.
5. Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
6. Cafe at the Kibbutz.

One great reward of travelling in a country as small as Israel is that almost every historic site is an easy day trip from the capital city of Tel Aviv. For many visitors, the Sea of Galilee is a must see and it is only 132 kilometres (82 miles away); easily accessible by car or on a tour. Though it is called the Sea of Galilee, it is actually a fresh-water lake, that due to its location and local weather, is prone to violent storms with enormous waves. The Sea has supported fishermen for more than two millennia and is also the home of one of early Christianity's great stories about one of those storms.

It tells about the disciples of Christ who were all fishermen and found themselves far from shore when a great storm overwhelmed them. They began to panic in fear for their lives when they saw Jesus walking upon the water coming to calm them. Fearing the apparition to be a ghost, the leader, Simon Peter cried out that if it was indeed Jesus, he should ask Peter to come to him and he did so. Peter exited the boat and began walking on the water towards Christ but as he took his eyes off Christ for a moment, he began to sink. Christ lifted him up and all onboard proclaimed him to be the Son of God.

This story was recounted in the gospels of Matthew, 14:22-33; Mark, 6:45-52; and John, 6:16-21, however only Matthew tells of Peter also walking on the water. It is mentioned an additional 47 times in the Old Testament, but is of course, up to the reader to believe or not.

Fast forward 2,000 years to a local fisherman named Yuval Lefan and his brother Moshe. Yuval works as a guide at Kibbutz Nof Ginosaur. When not working, Yuval carves large whimsical stone and wood sculptures that line the shore of the lake. Yuval told me with all humility that he had carried a sense of destiny since childhood. He said that he always felt he was meant to do something significant with his life. That inner sense had been no daydream. When not fishing, Yuval and his brother Moshe, actively pursued a search for local artifacts, especially after a year-long drought had lowered the water level. One day in 1986, his destiny unfolded on the shore.

Yuval and Moshe were on the North-West shore when they spotted a dark shadow just underneath the surface: They knew from history that it was a very old boat. Excavation began immediately. First, a dike was built around it to stop rising water levels when the rains came. As water was pumped out, the ancient timbers had to be constantly sprayed



3



4

to stop evaporation from collapsing the cardboard-like wood. During an 11-day excavation they encased the boat in a polyurethane foam molding to keep it intact. That began an 11-year conservation process in which synthetic wax was injected to penetrate the wood cavities that once held water. Needless to say, they had found a national treasure.

The boat was 27 feet long, (8.3 metres) seven and a half feet wide, (2.3 metres) and just over four feet high, (1.2 metres). It was built using several different types of wood using mortise-and-tendon joints, held in place by pegs of wood instead of nails. It showed signs of much repair and may have been in use a century before Christ. The vessel could carry up to 15 people and was exactly of the type of boat in use during the time that Jesus was there. Carbon dating placed it between 120 B.C. to 40 A.D. Today, it is officially called the 'Ancient Galilee Boat' and the remains are on permanent display, open to the public, at the Yigal Alon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar, only metres from where it was first discovered.



5

At the museum, there is a small scale-model showing what the boat looked like in its working days, along with diagrams showing its original site and restoration process. There are also several small artifacts on display that were taken from the boat. Visitors file in, silently, reverently, some carrying prayer beads. In the large room that holds the boat not a sound is heard. Some are overcome with emotion and many cry openly. The room though quite small has the feel of a great cathedral. Whether it is the actual boat from the story of Christ does not really matter to most of the faithful; for them, it is close enough. 🇮🇸



6

There is a snack bar and a gift shop at the museum and rooms are available with meals at the Kibbutz which also offers tours. Kibbutz telephone: (64) 672-7700.

There are numerous tour companies offering sailing trips on the Sea using boats designed to look like ancient fishing and commerce vessels and local stories are told with live music onboard.

Email: [Daniel@seaofgalileeworshipboats.com](mailto:Daniel@seaofgalileeworshipboats.com)  
In country phone, 972-54-6864247  
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A leopard cub is the central focus of the image, standing on a large, weathered log. The cub is facing right, looking off-camera with a calm expression. Its fur is a mix of tan and white, covered in dark, irregular spots and rosettes. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting. The overall mood is serene and naturalistic.

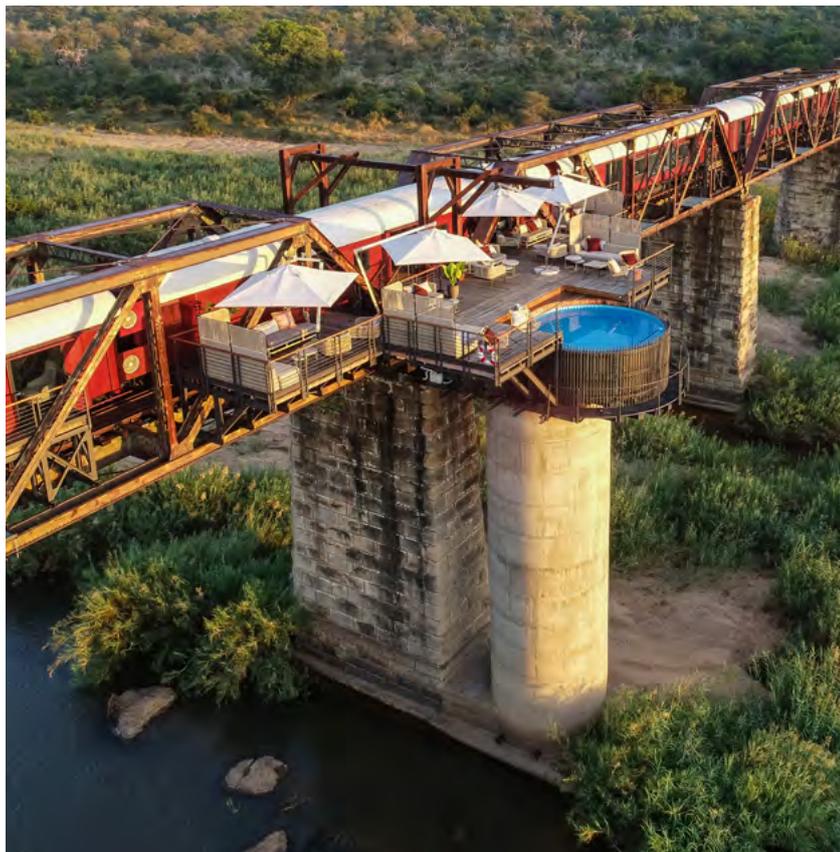
# Bush breaks for summer

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES

Less than an hour's flight from Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport, or perhaps a few more if you'd prefer the scenic drive, the Lowveld of South Africa's eastern Mpumalanga province promises an unforgettable summer safari.

**Y**ou'd be hard-pressed to find a better season than early summer to discover the bushveld reserves that stretch out along South Africa's eastern border. With the arrival of the first rains – falling in dramatic afternoon thundershowers – the tinder-dry vegetation of winter bursts into new life. Grasses long browned by wintry cold are transformed into verdant fields of green, and the bush comes alive with the arrival of young antelope.

The bounty of spring brings a feast for the herbivores of the bush, and in their wake follows big cats and predators hungry for a share of the spoils. It's untamed South African safari at its unfiltered best, with lush savannah and forests below framed by bright blue skies above. If you've always dreamt of a South African safari, waste no more time. Book your flight, and take your pick of these four fine lodges of the Lowveld...



## Kruger Shalati

Breaking the mould for an unforgettable safari experience is Kruger Shalati, often referred to as, simply, the train on the bridge.

That's something of an understatement though; underselling this stylish boutique hotel perched atop the girders of a piece of Kruger National Park history. The Selati railway line was envisioned as a branch line to service the region's booming goldfields of the late-1800s, but financial mismanagement saw the line come to a halt amid the Lowveld wilderness. But the line was eventually put to good use in ferrying visitors in to explore the new national park by train. Indeed, the iron bridge that carried the line above the Sabie River has been standing for more than a century, and from the early-1920s the train would park up overnight in the exact spot where Kruger Shalati now rests.

Of Kruger Shalati's 31 rooms, you'll want to reserve well in advance for one of the 24 Carriage Suites, perched high above the river. Here glass-walled rooms offer endless panoramas of the Kruger wilderness, complemented by contemporary décor and a bathtub with views for the bucketlist. If you're afraid of heights, or travelling with kids, the seven Bridge House rooms offer no end of luxury on terra firma. But a highlight of staying on the bridge itself is easy access to the remarkable plunge pool, suspended off the bridge's central stone pillar. While you escape summer's rising heat with a refreshing dip, cast your eyes below to admire elephant and hippo splashing in the shallows.

And while all eyes have been on the hotel – it made Travel+Leisure magazine's 'It List' for 2021 – you'll find plenty of good reasons to leave your room behind. Situated within the borders of the world-famous Kruger National Park, experienced rangers lead guests on guided safari drives twice daily, while bush walks and night drives can also be arranged.

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



## Dulini Moya

Among experienced safari travellers in search of the Big Five, the Sabi Sands Game Reserve is spoken of in hushed tones. This 65,000-hectares conservancy of like-minded landowners, sharing a fenceless border with the vast wilderness of the Kruger National Park, is one of the most remarkable safari destinations South Africa has to offer. It's a place especially famous for its big cat sightings, with lion and leopard all but guaranteed, and cheetah if you're lucky.

Enjoying traversing rights over a full 10,000-hectares of the reserve's western reaches, the lodges in the Dulini Collection offer an intimate five-star safari experience, with three boutique properties embracing the sense of romance, adventure and discovery central to any memorable safari. While Dulini Leadwood and Dulini River offer a contemporary safari experience infused with charm and character, it's the heart of the Collection – Dulini Moya – that is especially worth a look.

Ambitious owner's used the pandemic lockdowns to rebuild from the ground up; enlarging guest suites, reimagining the communal areas, creating new dining spaces and creating a beguiling destination that blends old-school safari charm with hints of playful modernity.

While the game drives in the company of experienced guides are a twice-daily highlight, you'll be just as happy ensconced in your suite. Just six spacious suites are stretched out along the banks of the seasonal Mabrak River, so you'll enjoy a passing parade of wildlife from your private deck and plunge pool. Or from the freestanding bath and outdoor shower, both of which offer glorious bushveld views.

<https://dulini.com/>





## Kirkman's Kamp

In the eastern reaches of the Sabi Sands, and Beyond's Kirkman's Kamp has long been a favourite amongst local travellers, who relish the yesteryear charm celebrating its origins as one of the region's earliest farmsteads. It harks back to a time when guests here sought big game with their carbines, not cameras, and this hilltop lodge retains a distinct 1920s colonial charm.

But nostalgia fades quickly into tired and tatty if you're not careful, and Kirkman's Kamp recently enjoyed a welcome rejuvenation. Refurbishing a classic camp is always a balancing act of retaining character while reinventing the destination. Happily, the interior design minds at Fox Browne Creative walk the tightrope with aplomb in their revamp, bringing a lighter, brighter, 21st-century aesthetic without losing any of the soul of the property.

Kirkman's is a spacious camp, spread out on a grassy hilltop overlooking the Sand River below. The most striking change is in the guest suites, set a short walk from the main lodge. Here wallpaper murals and revamped outdoor areas create a more welcoming space for relaxation between game drives, while the ensuite bathrooms enjoy an elegant overhaul to infuse a sense of glamour into this classic safari camp.

A similar approach is followed in the historic homestead, now adorned with historic photographs and memorabilia balanced by contemporary touches. The ever-popular lodge bar has also been remade, creating a convivial communal space for guests to gather after game drives. Happily, the carbines have long been packed away and today your camera will be happily firing off shots to capture some of South Africa's best Big Five game viewing.

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





## Fitzpatrick's at Jock Safari Lodge

Even before the pandemic hit, the trend towards small-group multi-generational travel contributed to a growth in demand for exclusive-use safari properties, where families and friends could enjoy the luxury of a private safari experience.

At Jock Safari Lodge the refurbished Fitzpatrick's offer just that, blending the exclusivity of a three-bedroomed villa with remarkable game viewing on a 6,000-hectare private concession within the borders of the Kruger National Park. Twice-daily game drives – on a private vehicle with dedicated guide – make full use of the wilderness, returning guests to their luxury hideaway in between.

Fitzpatrick's is perched on the banks of the Mitomeni River, named for the towering Jackalberry trees that thrive here. While spacious communal living areas are shared between three suites, bedrooms are divided into a separate family unit offering two luxury suites – with private bathrooms, lounge, deck and plunge pool – and a third private suite with its own plunge pool and deck. Perfect for grandparents seeking some peace and quiet in between family time! And it's family time that's central to Fitzpatrick's, with an engaging 'Kids on Safari' programme to introduce young adventurers to the wonders of the bushveld. Throw in private dining experiences, experienced guides and exclusive access to the wilderness of Kruger, and you have a family holiday to remember. 🌿

<https://jocksafarilodge.com>



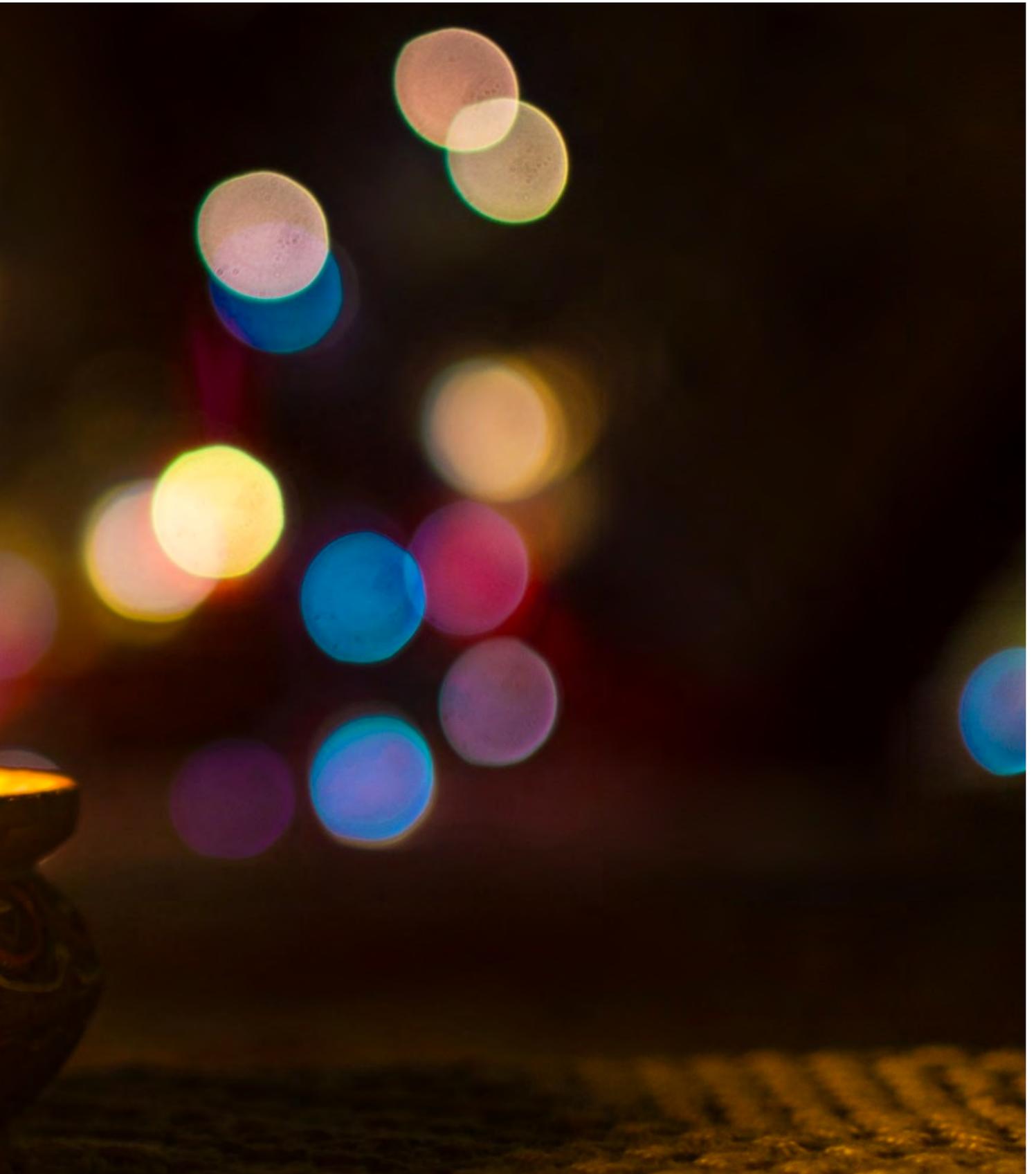
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# Cycle of the seasons and power of the planets

WORDS BY: SILHOUETTE

The visitor to India is struck by the colour and exuberance of festivals and fairs celebrated throughout the year. It is a country that celebrates the cycle of seasons and acknowledges the power of planets.



The visitor to India is struck by the colour and exuberance of festivals and fairs celebrated throughout the year. It is a country that celebrates the cycle of seasons and acknowledges the power of planets.

The calendar is marked by the passage of the sun and the moon, and each festival has its place deriving, the importance from each phase of the moon. While most of the festivals are marked by the lunar calendar, special significance is attached to winter solstice, when the sun travels north bringing, warmer days, the beginning of the growing season. The 13th and 14th of January are festive days in most parts of India.

*Pongal* in Tamil Nadu – also called *Makara Sankranti* in other parts of India – is an occasion to offer the winter rice harvest in thanksgiving and to honour cattle that laboured, tilling the land. Newly harvested rice is cooked in milk that is allowed to boil over as a symbol of abundance. Cattle are decked out with flowers and their horns are painted in garish hues.

Elaborate patterns in rice flour, called *kolams*, decorate the entrance to homes. Similar celebrations take place in other parts of rural India, such as *Bihu* in Assam and north-eastern states.

In north India, *Lohri* is celebrated on the same day. Bonfires are lit and offerings of sugar and sesame seed are thrown into the fire. Considered the coldest day in the year, it is believed that as the sun grows warm,



Pongal/Makara Sankranti



Rongali Bihu



Lohri bonfire

stimulation growth so, too, will the children of the house be blessed with strength and good health.

There are many legends associated with *Holi*, but besides the religious myth it is associated with a spirit of renewal. On full moon night a bonfire is lit and all things old in the house are burnt amid much singing and dancing to the rhythms of drums. The morning after friends and family get together to 'play Holi', boisterously celebrated by dousing one another with coloured water and daubing with many-hued powders.

The lunar month of *Chaitra* (March-April) brings New Year celebrations to many regions in south and western India. *Ugadi* in Andhra Pradesh



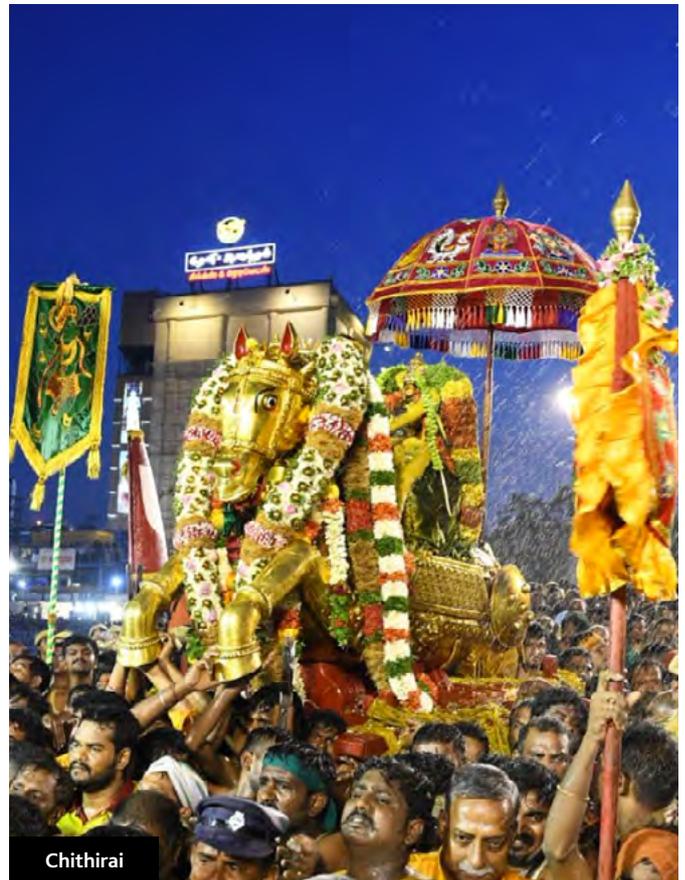
Holi

and Karnataka and Gudi Padva in Maharashtra are celebrated with new clothes and special feasts. In the same month, the people of Kerala celebrate Vishu, a harvest thanksgiving auspicious symbols such as golden sheaves of grain, fruit, flowers and clothing are arranged in front of a mirror the night before. In the morning, the display of the blessings of the past year reflected in the mirror is viewed by members of the family as a token of good things to come in the future. Children receive gifts of money from the eldest member of the family.

Many festivals are connected with the great temples of India. Pilgrims in their thousands gather to catch a glimpse of spectacular processions of deities carried in large, decorated, wooden chariots called temple cars. These are also occasions for trade, barter, amusement and shopping at the fairs that spring up in the temple town.

The *Chithirai* festival in Madurai (Tamil Nadu) and the car *Rath Yatra* festival in June-July at Puri (Orissa) are two such occasions.

It is almost a cliché to say that the monsoons awaken the land to life with the earth flushed green, the occasions for rejoicing are many and varied. Wherever you are in India the fairs and festivals follow the path of the rain clouds. As cool winds blow over the dusty plains of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, women gather to enjoy themselves at the Teej festival. They put up swings in the shade and as the wind rushes through their hair they sing songs commemorating the wedding of Shiva and Parvati.



Chithirai



Janmashtami



Dusshera



Ganesh



Onam

The full moon in the lunar month of *Shravana* (July-August) marks the end of the rains. It is a time for prayer and new beginnings. Agriculture is resumed. This day is called *Rakhsa Bandhan*, a day to honour brothers.

Eight days after the full moon, *Janmashtami* the birth of Krishna, is celebrated with religious fervour by devout Hindus. Temples are crowded, as through the night people bring their offerings and come to see tableaux depicting scenes from Krishna's life.

Ten days later, it is Ganesh Chaturthi, the festival of the much-loved elephant-headed Ganesh, son of Shiva and Parvati. Clay images of Ganesh are worshipped in the home and in public places, were gigantic stages are erected. At the end of the week images are carried in procession followed by large crowds, to be immersed in the sea or river. Pune and Mumbai have particularly grand processions, where people dance in the streets to loud music and the bursting of firecrackers.

Fisherfolk along the coast offer coconuts to Neptune before the start of the fishing season. In Kerala, *Onam* is when the legendary King Mahabali is said to visit his subjects. His coming is greeted with floral decorations song and dance. Boat races on the canals near Kerala's coast are keenly contested, and crowds gather on the banks and shout encouragement to their teams.

Then comes *Dusshera*, the festival of the goddess Kali as Durga, who rides a tiger and destroys evil. It is a festival of colour, as everyone joyfully prepares food and decorations days in advance. Music and dance performances are held.

The ten days of *Dusshera* are dedicated to Rama in the region along the Ganga plain, where the story of Rama and Sita is narrated and enacted with the interest and excitement never seeming to pall. Traditional drama groups perform episodes from the Ramayana every night and, on the 10th night, the climax of the drama when Rama kills the demon Ravana, giant effigies of Ravana and his brother are set alight, signifying the power of good over evil. Fireworks and noise and clamour of excited crowds contribute to the magic of the moment.

The season for fireworks is just beginning, for the next month *Karitika* (October to November), is the high point of the festival calendar. The new moon of Diwali (or Deepavali) is the biggest festival of the year, country wide. Diwali literally means 'a garland of lights'. The little earthen lamps or *diyas*, of Diwali bring a cheerful glow to the humblest home, for on this, the darkest night, the lights invite Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity to enter the home, bringing good fortune, happiness and wealth. Every home is cleaned and decorated, sweets are exchanged between friends and



Dewali/Deepavali

well-wishers. The noise and light of fireworks fill the night sky and, as the festival comes to an end, there is a sense that every day after this is an anti-climax.

The month of *Karatika* is also a season for agricultural fairs in parts of north India. These farmers' gatherings, too are linked to stories from mythology and take place at temples and places of pilgrimage.

Buddha Jayanti, the full-moon day of *Vaisakh*, is thrice-sacred to Buddhists, for on this day the Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and died. The places associated with the Buddha's life and teaching are visited by Buddhists from many parts of the world.

Mahavir Jayanti is the day when the founder of Jain faith, Mahavi, was born. It is a day of prayer and fasting for his followers.

Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, was born on Kartika Purnima, when the moon is full in the month of Kartika. The celebration of *Gurparab* is the most important day for Sikhs. Sikhs and Hindus through the gurudwaras (abode of the gurus), where readings from the holy book, the *Granth Sahib*, continue through the whole day.

The Muslims are the second largest religious group in India. The faithful gather in mosques for prayers at Id-al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan, the

30 day fast in the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. Shia Muslims observe *Muharram* a 10 day long mourning period for the loss of Hazrat Imam Hussain in the battle of Karbala.

The Christians in India observe Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. Catholics in addition, observe certain other days as special, especially those connected with saints who died and were buried in India. It is believed that Thomas Didymus, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, came to India in the first century AD and spent his life preaching the gospel in south India, especially in Kerala. He is believed to have been martyred in Chennai and the Cathedral of San Thome on St Thomas' Mount also houses his tomb. The Shrine Festival of St Thomas is held every year.

In Goa, at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, the body of St Francis Xavier, the great Catholic missionary, lies embalmed. Every 10 years the exposition of the relics of St Francis Xavier draws crowds from all over the world. The feast of St Francis Xavier is observed every third December. 🌿

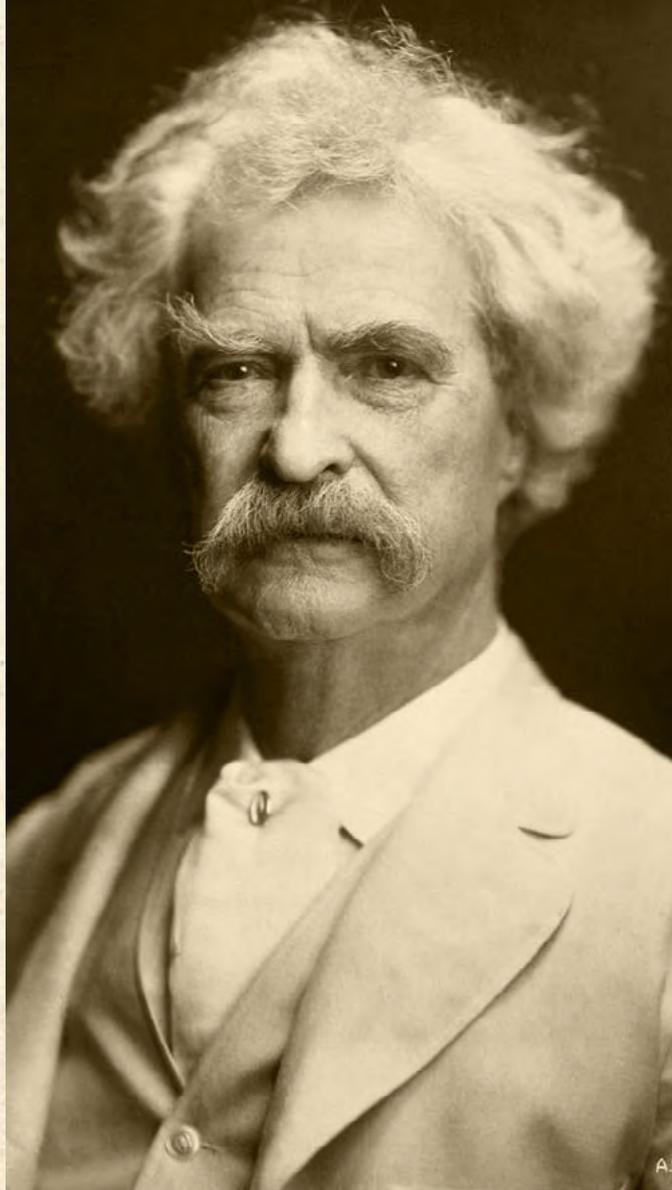


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# Mark Twain

## An American In Mauritius

Samuel Langhorne Clemens may not be a name that you're familiar with but Mark Twain – Clemens' pen name – is known to many people, writes Tony Smart.



The author of such great novels as 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn', Twain wrote profusely throughout much of his adult life. He also authored 'The Prince and the Pauper' and 'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court' and has been lauded as 'the father of American literature' by William Faulkner. One of America's greatest authors, Ernest Hemingway, once said that "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn."

Twain's path to successful writing was not an easy one. Born in the village of Florida in the US state of Missouri on 30th November 1835, just two weeks after the closest approach to Earth of Halley's Comet, his family moved to Hannibal, a port town on the Mississippi River, when Twain was four. By the age of 12 he'd started work as a printer's apprentice and three years later he had become a typesetter and contributor of articles and humorous sketches for the Hannibal Journal, a newspaper owned by his brother Orion.

Two years later he left Hannibal and worked as a printer in New York City, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Cincinnati, educating himself in public libraries in the evenings. A couple of years later Twain's career path took a radical change. Whilst on a voyage to New Orleans down the Mississippi, steamboat pilot Horace E. Bixby inspired Twain to become a pilot himself. This appealed to Twain because it was a very well paid job and one that exceeded the steamboat's captain in prestige and authority.

It was this change of job that gave Clemens his pen name because 'Mark Twain' was a shout the pilot

would make to indicate the current river depth was two fathoms (one fathom equals 1.8288 metres).

Twain worked as a pilot until the American Civil War broke out in 1861 and traffic along the Mississippi was stopped.

After a brief two week flirtation with the southern Confederacy at the start of the war Twain moved to Nevada to work for his brother Orion again who had become secretary to the governor of Nevada, but this was another brief job and Twain became a silver miner in Virginia City, Nevada. He quickly failed at this new career and started work on a Virginia City newspaper, the Territorial Enterprise, where he used his pen name Mark Twain for the first time.

After little more than a year here Twain moved again, this time to San Francisco where he continued to work as a journalist and where he achieved his first success as a writer when his humorous story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," was published in a New York weekly, The Saturday Press, on 18 November 1865. It brought him national attention. A year later he began his career as a travel journalist, travelling to the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii) and then the Mediterranean for local newspapers in California.

It was on this latter trip that Twain wrote a popular collection of travel letters, which were later compiled as 'The Innocents Abroad' in 1869, and was shown a photo of his future wife Olivia Langdon by her brother Charles. Twain claimed to have fallen in love on first seeing the photo and when he returned to the US he began corresponding with Olivia who rejected his first marriage proposal but then changed her mind and in 1870 Twain and Olivia were married.

Initially they lived in New York but, after the birth of his first daughter, Twain moved his family to Hartford, Connecticut in 1873. The family, which quickly expanded to three daughters, stayed there for 17 years and it was during this time that Twain wrote many of his most famous novels including those mentioned above.

Twain made a substantial amount of money from his writing but whilst a great writer he was a lousy businessman and lost a great deal of that money and most of his wife's inheritance through badly judged investments and in 1893 he had to file for bankruptcy.

Desperate to raise money to pay his creditors Twain accepted an offer from Robert Sparrow Smythe and embarked on a year-long, around-the-world lecture tour in July 1895, a long, arduous journey during which he was sick much of the time, which took him to Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, India, Mauritius, South Africa and England.

Following this trip Twain wrote the 712-page book 'Following the Equator' which includes two chapters on the ten days he spent in Mauritius.

After a three month stint in India Twain quickly fell in love with the Indian Ocean, noting whilst still on the boat taking him to Mauritius "We are far abroad upon the smooth waters of the Indian Ocean, now; it is shady and pleasant and peaceful under the vast spread of the awnings, and life is perfect again – ideal."

He arrived in Mauritius in the early hours of 15th April 1896, the boat anchoring off Port Louis, and when it was daylight Twain quickly noted the island's 'inviting' beauty in his

journals, adding that the island was the "scene of the sentimental adventure of Paul and Virginia", a romantic novel that still pervades Mauritian life to this day.

When he went ashore to Port Louis the next day Twain found "a little town, but with the largest variety of nationalities and complexions we have encountered yet. French, English, Chinese, Arabs, Africans with wool.....East Indians..... and great varieties in costumes and colours." Nothing much has changed in Port Louis since then except that it's no longer a little town and I think it's safe to say that Twain, though a great lover of science, technology and time travel who developed friendships with Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison in his later years, would be astonished at what he found had he been able to travel forward in time and become 'A Connecticut Yankee in Port Louis' in 2021.

After exploring Port Louis Twain took the afternoon train to Curepipe, a two hour journey then, and enjoyed what he saw along the way writing "what a contrast, this frantic luxuriance of vegetation, with the arid plains of India; these architecturally picturesque crags and knobs and miniature mountains, with the monotony of the Indian dead-levels."

In his notes from Curepipe Twain comments further on the island's fascination with Paul et Virginie. "Apparently, there has been only one prominent event in the history of Mauritius, and that one didn't happen. I refer to the romantic sojourn of Paul and Virginia here. It was that story that made Mauritius known to the world, made the name familiar to everybody, the geographical position of it to nobody."

After five days on Mauritius Twain noted the horrific cyclone of 1892 that "killed and crippled hundreds of people," then moved on to further observations of the island. "The roads are hard and smooth; some of the compounds are spacious, some of the bungalows commodious, and the roadways are walled by tall bamboo hedges, trim and green and beautiful; and there are azalea hedges, too, both the white and the red; I never saw that before." Further notes in 'Following the Equator' are on local foods of the time like 'camaron' and 'palmiste', lengthy observations on the devastation wrought by the 1892 cyclone, and the Mauritian monkeys of which Twain writes "the monkeys live in dense forests on the flanks of the toy mountains, and they flock down nights and raid the sugar-fields. Also on other estates they come down and destroy a sort of bean-crop – just for fun, apparently – tear off the pods and throw them down."

Twain left Mauritius enchanted by the island. "What there is of Mauritius is beautiful," he wrote. "You have undulating expanses of sugarcane – a fine, fresh green and very pleasant to the eye; and everywhere else you have a ragged luxuriance of tropic vegetation of vivid greens of varying shades, a wild tangle of underbrush, with graceful tall palms lifting their crippled plumes high above it; and you have stretches of shady dense forest with limpid streams frolicking through them,....and here and there and now and then a strip of sea with a white ruffle of surf breaks into view."

Upon his return to the US Twain continued to write and was also much in demand as a guest speaker at men's clubs and society dinners. But he sank into a deep depression after the death of his daughter Susy from meningitis in 1896 and the death of his wife in 1904, and he eventually died of a heart attack on 21 April 1910. The previous year he was quoted as saying "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: "Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together." And sure enough his death was just one day after the closest passing of the comet to earth.

Mark Twain was a truly amazing man, a real 'fish out of water' who found his place in life and society through his great writing and his adventurous spirit. He will always be remembered as one of America's greatest writers. 🇺🇸



# Island dreaming

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES



If you're searching for a dose of socially distanced island escapism to end off the year, look no further. While the Maldives is made up of more than 1000 islands and atolls, barely a hundred have hotels or resorts on them, making this the perfect place to unwind beneath wide blue tropical skies. Whether you're on a budget, ticking off the bucket-list or blowing the budget, you won't go wrong with any of these unforgettable destinations. Pick your passion, and make a booking...





## Surf's Up: Niyama Private Islands

The Maldives is fast earning a reputation as one of the world's surfing hotspots, with world-class breaks on offer. The best time to visit is from April to October, when the south-west monsoon delivers the combination surfers dream of: plenty of swell, and offshore winds.

And it's hard to beat the location of Niyama Private Islands at the southern end of the Dhaalu atoll, with the private left-hand point-break of Vodi just a short paddle from the beach. If you want to explore further afield, the legendary right-hand breaks of Hocus Pocus and Mauroofs are not far off. And if you're just starting out, don't worry, FLOAT, the water sports centre offers professional coaching and selection of tailor-made programmes that will have you up and riding in no time.

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





### Marvellous Manta Rays: Soneva Fushi

When it comes to marine mega-fauna, the manta ray is the undisputed star of the Maldives. From June to October each year, changing ocean currents and water temperatures result in vast plankton blooms across the Maldives, creating a microscopic marine buffet for these gentle giants. Alongside the manta rays whale sharks arrive then too, finning gracefully between the atolls.

The best place to see these wandering giants is the Baa Atoll, the only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Maldives. Soneva Fushi combines a magical manta discovery with unforgettable five-star lodgings. Snorkelling and scuba tours take guests to Hanifaru Bay, 20 minutes' from the resort by speedboat, which has one of the world's largest population of manta rays. Accommodation is offered both on the island or in over-water villas which offer the whimsical addition of a private waterslide into the ocean.

<https://soneva.com/resorts/soneva-fushi/>





## Wine Adventures: Constance Halaveli

There are many good reasons to add Constance Halaveli to your Maldivian escape. To start, there are the glorious over-water villas, sprouting from the sides of the dhoni-shaped wooden walkway that stretches out across turquoise seas. At 900-metres it's one of the longest in the Maldives, and early twice as long as the island itself. Then there's the serene spa, likewise floating atop the Indian Ocean, and the immaculate white-sand beaches that encircle the tiny island in the North Ari Atoll.

But for gourmands and wine-lovers Constance Halaveli holds other charms. On Constance Halaveli all eyes are on the world of fine wine. For though this luxurious resort ticks all the usual boxes of a five-star escape – and then some – it's the remarkable wine cellar offering that is unique. On a wine list stretching to nearly 100 pages, you'll find hidden gems from acclaimed New World producers, alongside icons of the French vineyards. Enjoy a tasting discovery in the island wine cellar, or in the stylish over-water Jing Bar. Expert sommeliers are on hand to guide you through the wine offering, ensuring an unforgettable vinous escape in the heart of tropical paradise.

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







### New-look Luxury: Naladhu Private Island

This November sees a remarkable new offering on the edge of a pristine lagoon in the South Malé Atoll, with a total redesign of Naladhu Private Island by New York-based designer Yuji Yamazaki.

At Naladhu the emphasis is on intimacy and luxury in equal measure, with just 20 'houses' – each with private pool – strung out along idyllic beaches. Yamazaki has drawn on the tropical landscape and the colonial style of south-east Asia to create a destination with a thoroughly contemporary aesthetic. Further, he's focused on creating quiet spaces for rest, relaxation and contemplation, from the sea-facing private dining areas to poolside escapes.

Butler service is reimagined here too, with each house butler – here known as The Kuwaanu – on hand to assist with curating a bespoke island stay. If you can bear to leave your oceanside escape, the public areas of the island are just as impressive, from the dedicated spa treatment zone, to the completely revamped restaurant, bar and fitness centre. For luxury and exclusivity in equal measure, Naladhu Private Island is hard to beat.

[naladhu.com/en](http://naladhu.com/en)

## Sleep With The Fishes: The Muraka

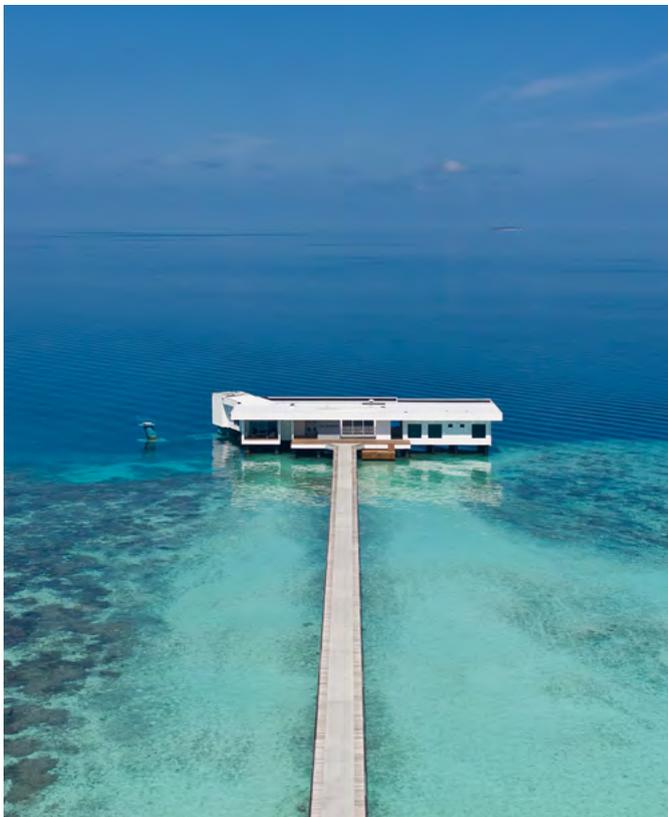
For a blow-the-budget stay in the Maldives, you'll struggle to beat The Muraka, the remarkable villa that lies offshore of the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island resort.

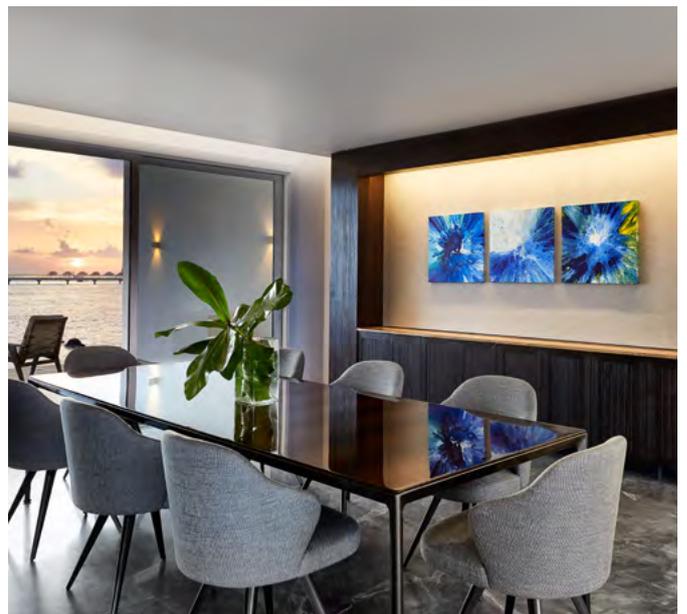
Above the surface The Muraka is already impressive, offering two spacious suites with ocean-facing bathrooms, and expansive living areas giving onto a large terrace with infinity pool and views to the horizon. Of course butler service is part of the package, with highly trained staff on hand to arrange exclusive culinary experiences, spa treatments or activities beyond the resort.

But it's downstairs where The Muraka becomes truly breathtaking, as a spiral staircase descends to the architectural masterpiece, an underwater suite – including king-size bedroom, separate living area and private bathroom – roofed by a curved acrylic dome boasting 180-degree panoramic views of the Indian Ocean's abundant marine life. The undersea bedroom lies five metres below the surface, ensuring uninterrupted views of the surrounding reefs. Little wonder they chose the name The Muraka, or 'coral' in the Dhivehi language of the Maldives.

And the price? Well, if you have to ask you probably can't afford it, but a night at The Muraka will set you back in the region of USD 50,000. Start saving.

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



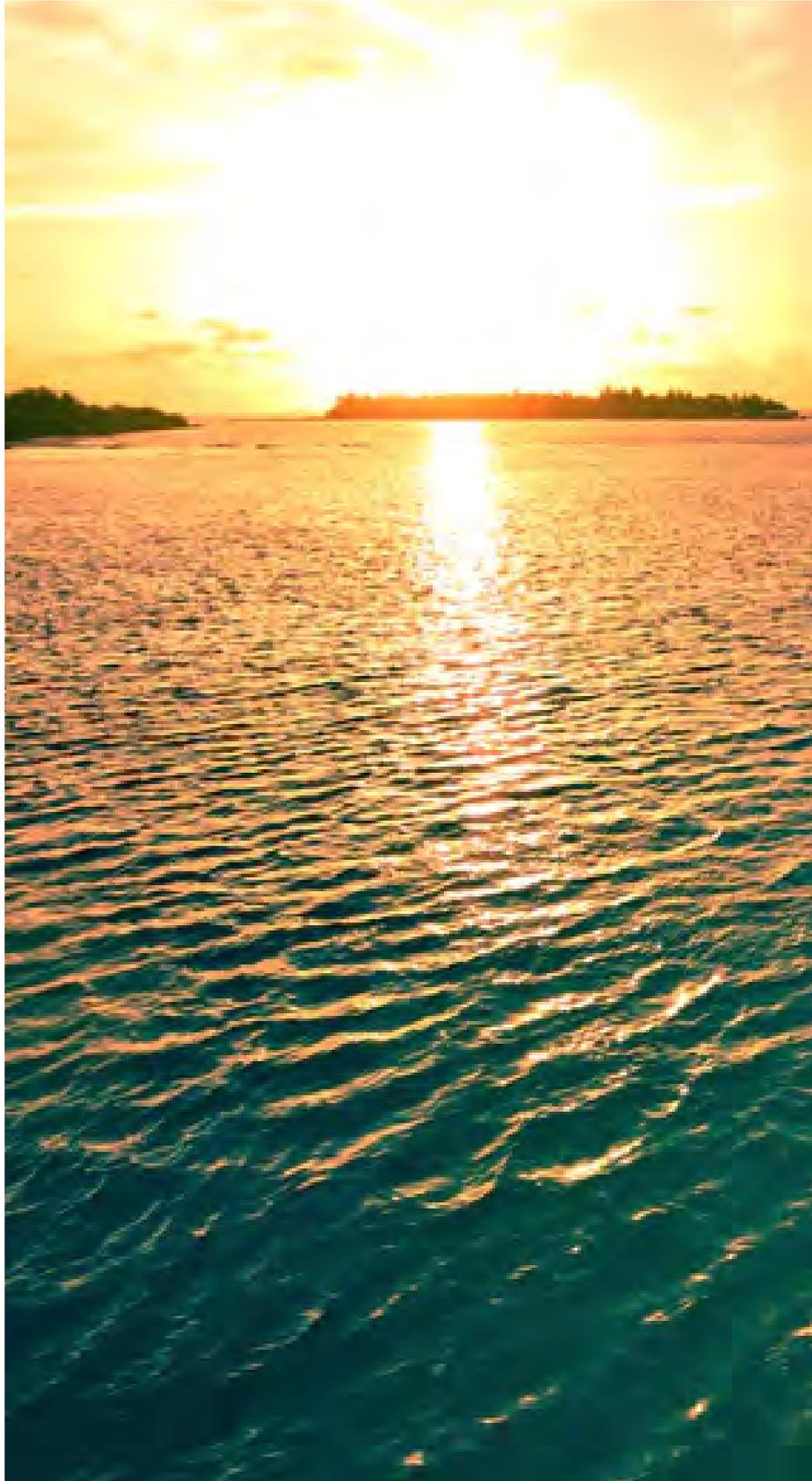




### Budget Break: Sun Island Resort & Spa

With more than 450 rooms hosting up to 700 guests at peak capacity, the Sun Island Resort and Spa is the largest in the Maldives, and offers a rather more commercial Maldives experience. But, what it lacks in exclusivity it makes up for in affordability, with a wide range of beach and over-water villas offering the same turquoise waters and sparkling sands, and a fraction of other more intimate resorts. There's no shortage of activities on offer, from wellness treatments in the Araamu Spa to whale shark trips and snorkelling excursions. Remember that most activities and equipment rental on the island cost extra, so budget accordingly.

[www.villahotels.com/sun-island](http://www.villahotels.com/sun-island)



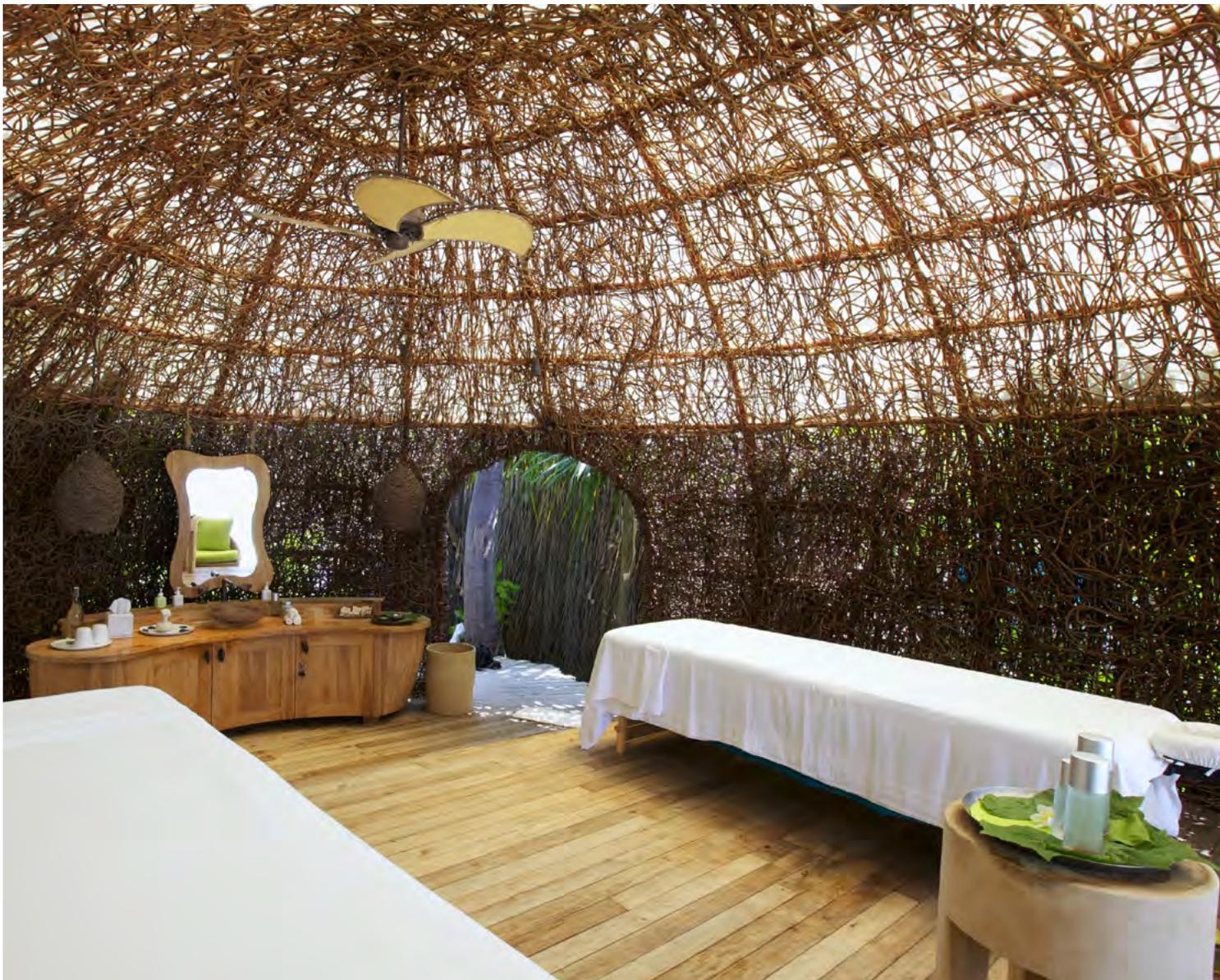


## Island Wellness: Six Senses Laamu

It's been a stressful 18 months, and we should all devote some time to our physical and mental health. And there are few better places to choose than Six Senses Laamu, the only resort on the remote Laamu Atoll in the southern Maldives. Here the wellness focus extends beyond the expansive spa – where you'll find signature massage and locally-inspired wellness therapies – to a holistic programme that extends to sleep, dietary and exercise programmes that are woven gently into a tropical escape. The 'Sleep with Six Senses' offering is also unique. Developed with sleep doctor Dr. Michael Breus, it uses bespoke bedding, room scents; acoustic inputs and wearable tech to help clients learn to sleep better. Also ask about the benefits of acoustic wellness, from underwater sound therapy and Tibetan singing bowls to the dedicated sound treatment suite.

And when it comes to wellness the resort doesn't only look after its guests. In partnership with the Manta Trust, Blue Marine Foundation and Olive Ridley Project, the resort supports conservation projects that protect and preserve the delicate marine ecosystem of the Maldives. 🌿

[www.sixsenses.com/en/resorts/laamu](http://www.sixsenses.com/en/resorts/laamu)





Flight information: [www.airseychelles.com](http://www.airseychelles.com)

# Before You Travel

Due to the unprecedented events surrounding COVID-19, your travel plans may be delayed or cancelled at any given time.

## Before you travel:

- Ensure your flight is still operating as scheduled.
- Proceed with PCR testing upon receiving confirmation of your flight.
- Pay attention to the latest COVID-19 entry requirements at your country of final destination.
- Adhere to all safety measures at the airport and on board the aircraft.

Contact your travel agency or the airlines' Call Centre via email at [callcentre@airseychelles.com](mailto:callcentre@airseychelles.com) or contact **+248 439 1000** for more information.



# Inside Air Seychelles

News and information



Inside Air Seychelles

Global offices

Route network

Our fleet

Travel tips



### MAURITIUS FLIGHTS RESUMED

Air Seychelles resumed scheduled passenger flights to the neighbouring island of Mauritius in October 2021 after an absence of more than 18 months.

The return of the Seychelles flag carrier to the Indian Ocean Island followed the full reopening of the Mauritius borders from 1 October 2021 to allow entry for fully vaccinated travellers looking to explore the many treasures of this tropical destination.

The flights between Seychelles and Mauritius started on 3 October 2021 and operate twice per week on Wednesdays and Sundays. The route is serviced by the airline's environmentally-friendly single-aisle aircraft of 168 seats.

The flights can be booked via [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com), the airline's call centre via email at [callcentre@airseychelles.com](mailto:callcentre@airseychelles.com), by phoning +248 4391000 or through travel agents.



The flight schedule between Seychelles and Mauritius starting 3 October, 2021 is as follows:

#Flight	Origin	Destination	Depart	Arrive	Days
HM049	Seychelles	Mauritius	1000hrs	1235hrs	Wednesdays and Sundays
HM048	Mauritius	Seychelles	1325hrs	1610hrs	Wednesdays and Sundays

Travellers to Mauritius are requested to visit [www.mauritiussnow.com](http://www.mauritiussnow.com) to remain up to date with the latest entry requirements whilst for those bound for Seychelles please visit [www.advisory.seychelles.travel.com](http://www.advisory.seychelles.travel.com). Note quarantine measures may be applicable for unvaccinated travellers in Mauritius.



### FLIGHTS REINSTATED TO SOUTH AFRICA

Air Seychelles reinstated passenger services between Johannesburg and the Seychelles from 26 September 2021. The action followed the announcement by the Ministry of Health allowing visitors from South Africa entry into the Indian Ocean Paradise from 13 September 2021.

The twice-weekly flights depart OR Tambo International Airport on Saturdays and Sundays, and include a late evening service on Saturdays to provide travellers more choice and flexibility when planning their getaway to the Seychelles.

To maximise their holiday, visitors can also book their connections from Johannesburg up to Praslin without having to overnight in Mahé.

The flights are served by the airline's A320neo aircraft with 168 seats on sale via [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com) and through travel agents.

Irrespective of vaccination status, visitors will not undergo quarantine upon arrival. All visitors must hold a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to departure with completed Health Travel Authorisation at [seychelles.govtas.com](http://seychelles.govtas.com), including proof of accommodation at a certified tourism establishment and a valid travel insurance providing COVID-19 coverage.

## HIGH LOAD FACTOR ON PEAK DUBAI FLIGHTS

Air Seychelles recorded a 95% load factor on flights operated between Dubai and the Seychelles during the peak Eid holiday period.

The seasonal route serviced by the airline's A320neo aircraft on 16 and 19 July 2021 carried over 300 visitors to the island.

Delighted with the performance of this route, Air Seychelles Acting Chief Executive Officer, Sandy Benoit, said: "We are pleased to offer travellers the choice and connectivity when planning their getaway to the popular holiday destination, in addition to supporting Seychelles' efforts to boost tourism to the island.

"Despite the competition in the market and the flight being operated on a weekly basis, the great story we have created to build traffic on this route, from the convenient flight timings, through to the attractive fares, including free-quarantine one week holiday packages to the archipelago, definitely enabled the airline to record this great achievement.

"As travel starts to ease across the globe, keeping up the momentum, Air Seychelles will continue to seek opportunities within the region and beyond to rebuild its network, safeguard its revenue and increase tourism to the Seychelles".

The airline will be adding more flights on this route in November 2021 as part of its seasonal schedule.



## AIR SEYCHELLES, THE OFFICIAL SPORTS CHARTER AIRLINE OF AFRICA

Chartering an aircraft has become the best way for sports professionals travelling from one destination to another, without the long wait at commercial airports during this pandemic.

Air Seychelles continues to be the preferred airline for teams to charter across the Indian Ocean and Africa.

Between 3 and 8 September 2021 the Seychelles flag carrier operated a series of charter flights carrying the Namibian, Ghanaian and Madagascar national football teams at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifier games.

The flights, which arrived in Johannesburg, Lomé, Accra, Antananarivo and Dar es Salaam respectively, were conducted in a safe and timely manner by the airline's international fleet of A320neo aircraft equipped with 168 seats.

Air Seychelles has also operated several charter flights for cricket teams. The airline recently carried members from the Australian Indian Premier Cricket League to Sydney, in addition to flying the South African national cricket team to Pakistan and back home for their test match series.

Charles Johnson, Air Seychelles Chief Commercial Officer said: "Over the past year, Air Seychelles has built a reputation based on flexibility, reliability and safety – all key attributes sports teams look for when chartering flights. We've been proud to fly teams all over Africa, the sub-continent, Asia and Australia. This further solidifies our niche status as the official airline for sports charters everywhere."

\*All flights will be subjected to the approval of the government including regulatory approval as well as that of the health authorities at each destination. Times shared on the schedule are the local time at each destination.

It is the responsibility of each traveller to verify and follow all COVID-19 pre-departure guidelines in addition to ensuring all related travel documents are available upon check-in as requested by the country of destination.

# International Network



## MAP KEY

- Air Seychelles Flights
- - -● Air Seychelles Chartered/Special Flights

# Our Fleet

The airline now operates the youngest fleet of A320neo aircraft.

On its domestic network, the airline owns and operates five DHC6-400 aircraft and offers over 350 weekly scheduled services between Mahé and Praslin, as well as charter flights to other islands within the Seychelles archipelago. Air Seychelles also offers a 30 minute scenic flight product on a daily basis providing guests a bird's eye view of the Seychelles inner islands. The scenic flight can be booked up to 24 hours prior to departure.



**Airbus A320-200neo**  
**Aircraft: 2**  
Length: 37.57m  
Wingspan: 34.09m  
Passenger capacity: 168  
Cruising speed: 840km/h  
Cruising altitude: 37,000ft



**Dhc-6 Twin Otter-400 Series**  
**Aircraft: 5**  
Length: 15.80m  
Wingspan: 19.80m  
Passenger capacity: 19  
Cruising speed: 260km/h  
Cruising altitude: 10,000ft

# Domestic Network



# The best way to Island hop



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

With over 20 daily departures, getting there and back has never been easier.

Charter services are also available.



Book your ticket  
on [airseychelles.com](https://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>Bird Group LTD                      204, 2nd Floor A Wing                      Kanakia Wall Street 400093                      Mumbai                      Tel: +91 959 4013686                      Email: hmsales@bird.travel                      hmres@bird.travel</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>AIRLINES GSA                      3 Gilboa St                      Airport City 7019900                      Tel Aviv                      Tel: +972 3 5160598                      Email: airlines-gsa.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: Port Louis</p>	<p>Rogers Aviation (Mauritius) Ltd.                      The Gardens                      Bagatelle Office Park                      Moka, Mauritius                      Tel: +230 2026697                      Email: salim.mohungoo@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                      Tel: +248 4391000                      Email: callcentre@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.                      280 Oak Avenue                      Ferndale                      Randburg 2194                      Gauteng                      Tel: +27 11 3264440/+27 83 3871698                      Email: reservations@border-air.co.za                      helena@border-air.co.za</p>

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Airport

Seychelles International Airport is the main airport on the main island of Mahé. There are two terminals for International and Domestic.

### Information

There is a tourist information/hotel booking desk in Arrivals. There are ATMs, a Bank and a Bureau de Change at the airport.

### Time

Seychelles is four hours ahead of GMT and three hours ahead of Central European Time.

### Electric supply

The power sockets are of type G. The standard voltage is 240 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

### Language

Creole, English and French are the official languages of the Seychelles.

### Currency

The Seychelles Rupee. There is no restriction on the import and export of domestic and foreign currency in the country. However, anything over USD 10,000 should be declared on arrival or departure. Banks and Bureaux de Change are authorised dealers in foreign currency.

### Credit cards

Most credit cards and travellers' cheques are accepted.

### Banking

Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 0800hrs-1400hrs.

### Public holidays 2021

- New Year (1 January)
- Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday (2, 4 & 5 April)
- Labour Day (1 May)

- Liberation Day (5 June)
- Corpus Christi (3 June)
- Constitution Day (18 June)
- National Day (29 June)
- Assumption Day – festival on La Digue (15 August)
- All Saints Day (1 November)
- Immaculate Conception (8 December)
- Christmas Day (25 December).

### Passport requirement

Valid passports or other travel documents recognised by Seychelles are required for entry into Seychelles. The passport MUST be valid for the period of the intended stay.

### Visa requirement

Visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder. Re-confirm before travel. [www.ics.gov.sc](http://www.ics.gov.sc)

### Ground transport

Driving in Seychelles is on the left side of the road. You can rent cars on Mahé and Praslin. There are several car hire counters outside the arrivals hall at Mahé International Airport.

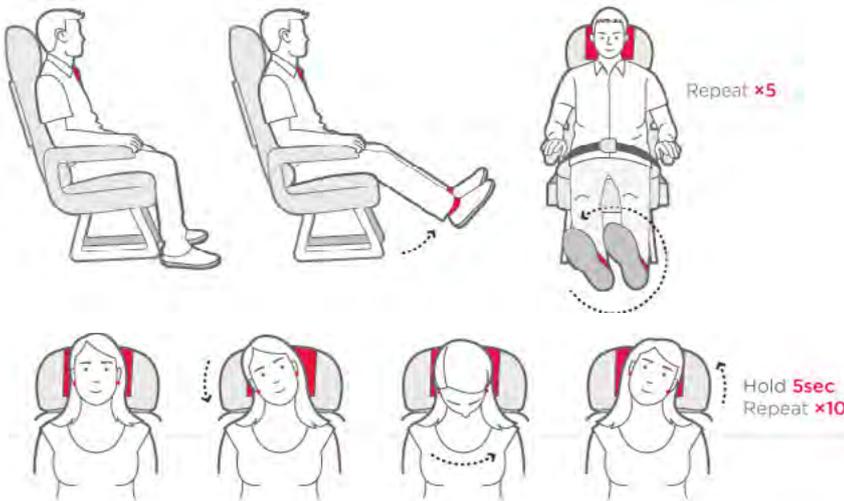
### Taxi service

Taxi service is safe and reliable and you can get one from the International Airport or call for one from your hotel.

### Tourist information office

The Seychelles Tourist Office is located in Independence House, Victoria, Mahé.

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.



Seychelles reopens its borders to visitors from across the globe except those coming directly from South Africa.

All visitors are required to present a negative PCR test taken 72 hours prior to departure and stay in certified accommodations.

There will be no quarantine requirement nor restriction on movement upon entry into Seychelles.

Visitors have to adhere to public health measures, which include the wearing of faces masks and social distancing in public, regular sanitisation or washing of hands. The new measures also give visitors access to all communal area within the hotel premises inclusive of bars, swimming pools, spas and Kid's club.

### 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.

# Journey in Style

Business Class on our new A320neo



Receive access to our Premium Lounge before departure. 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.

# Discover the best of the Seychelles



Enjoy a bird's eye view of the Seychelles islands with the Air Seychelles scenic flight.

The Seychelles islands, a living museum of nature and a sanctuary for some of the rarest species of flora and fauna on earth. Let us take you to the sky and see places not accessible by foot.

Discover magnificent boulders, lush tropical greens of the mountains or simply be amazed with long strings of beaches and crystal clear blue seas on our 30 minutes scenic flight to the North or South of Mahé.

For more information, please email [hmcharters@airseychelles.com](mailto:hmcharters@airseychelles.com) or call +248 439 1000.



[airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com)