

# silhouette

Inflight Magazine for Air Seychelles • January - March 2022



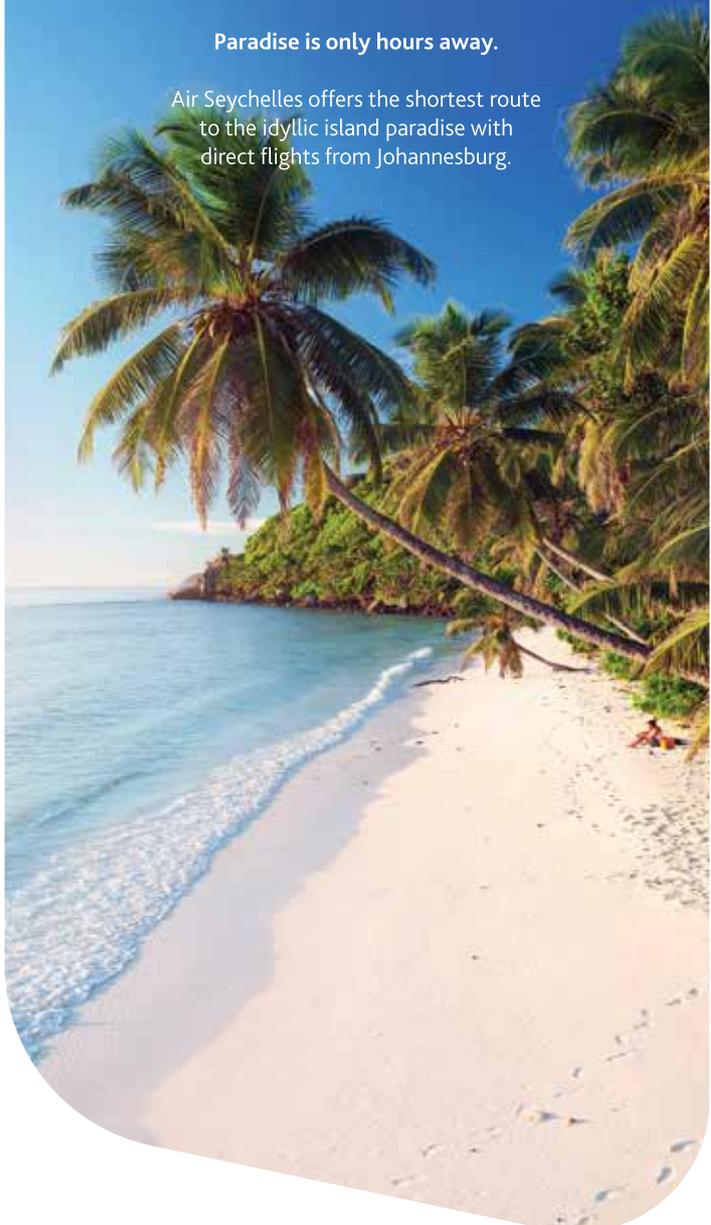
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**Dear Guests,  
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I am happy that with the ease in travel restrictions globally, our fleet of A320neo's have started to return to airports across our network.

Despite the unprecedented environment which is beyond our control, at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2021 we were delighted to resume operations at destinations where we have been absent for almost 18 months and the warm welcome received exceeded our expectations. Thank you, outstation teams, for the special welcome!

We continue to adapt our operations in line with regulatory directives, stressing on the importance of safety to keep delivering the best customer service to you. In fact, because of your unceasing support, in October 2021 we collected four accolades at the World Travel Awards including the coveted title of 'Indian Ocean's Leading Airline' for the second consecutive year and 'Indian Ocean's Leading Airline Lounge' for the first time in history.

This remarkable achievement would have not been possible if you did not believe in us, fly with us and most of all remain loyal to us. For that, I am eternally grateful and renewing our commitment to you, I invite you to keep sharing your experience with us via email at [feedback@airseychelles.com](mailto:feedback@airseychelles.com). Your valued feedback is of utmost importance in everything that we do.

I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the staff members at Air Seychelles. Almost two years of navigating the uncertainties of the operating environment, they continue to showcase great teamwork, resilience and dedication, going above and beyond proudly flying the Seychelles colours across the globe. **Thank you for your support!**

As we move forward into the New Year and explore ways to improve the service we provide to you, remember that as travel gradually gets easier, restrictions are still in place. Hence, please follow all the health guidelines on board the aircraft and on the ground, as your safety is our priority. Protect yourself, protect us and protect others around you.

Happy holidays and thank you for choosing to fly with Indian Ocean's Leading Airline today!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Benoiton'. The signature is fluid and modern, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

**Captain Sandy Benoiton**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

“

**Proudly flying the  
Seychelles colours  
across the globe.**

”

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Cover image  
Local boat on shore of Mahé island.  
© miniloc

# silhouette

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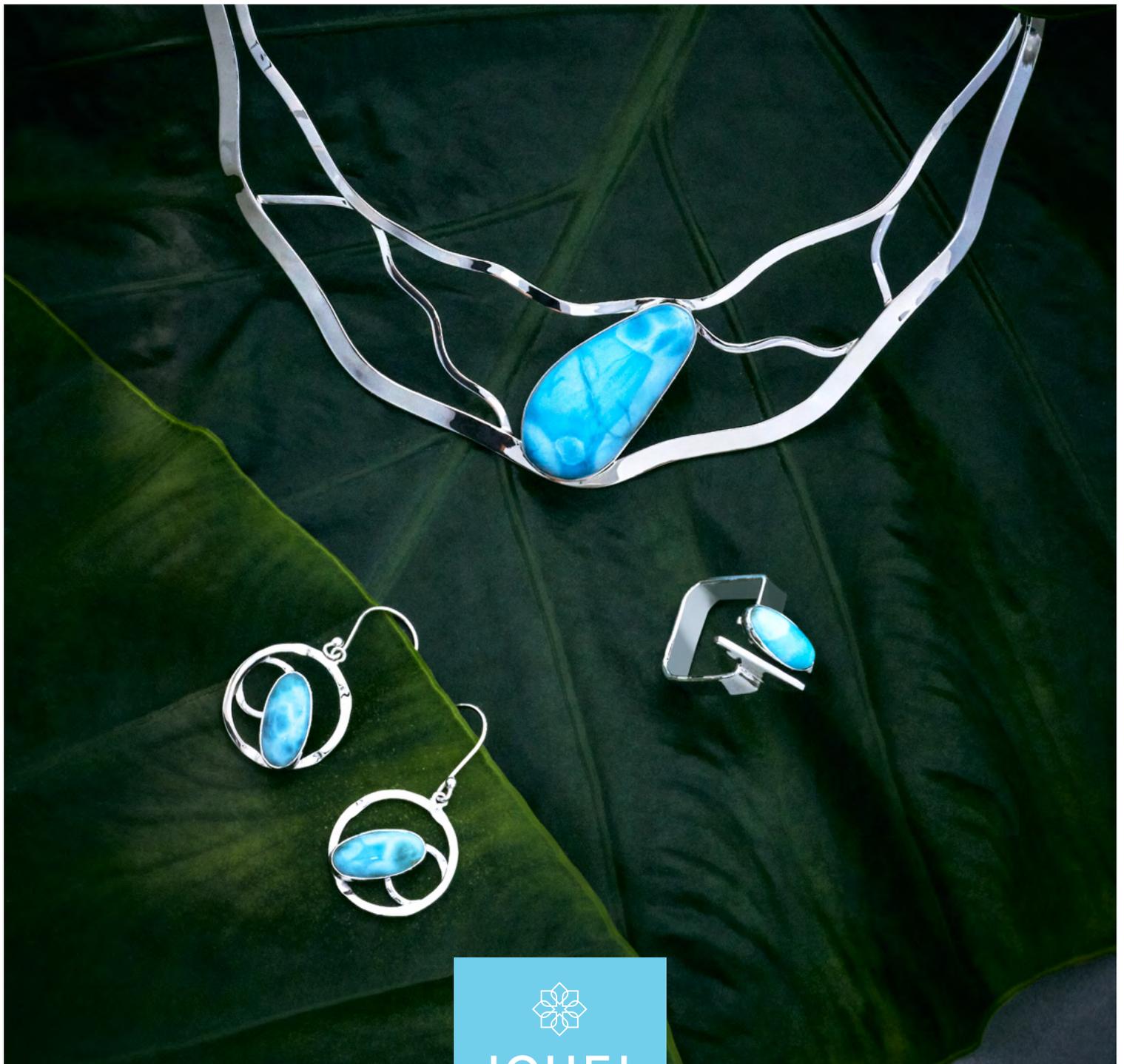
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### SSFC/Heineken Slam and SSFC/World Wide Fund for Nature

Date: 22 January 2022  
Venue: Mahé  
Email: [ssfcmal@gmail.com](mailto:ssfcmal@gmail.com)

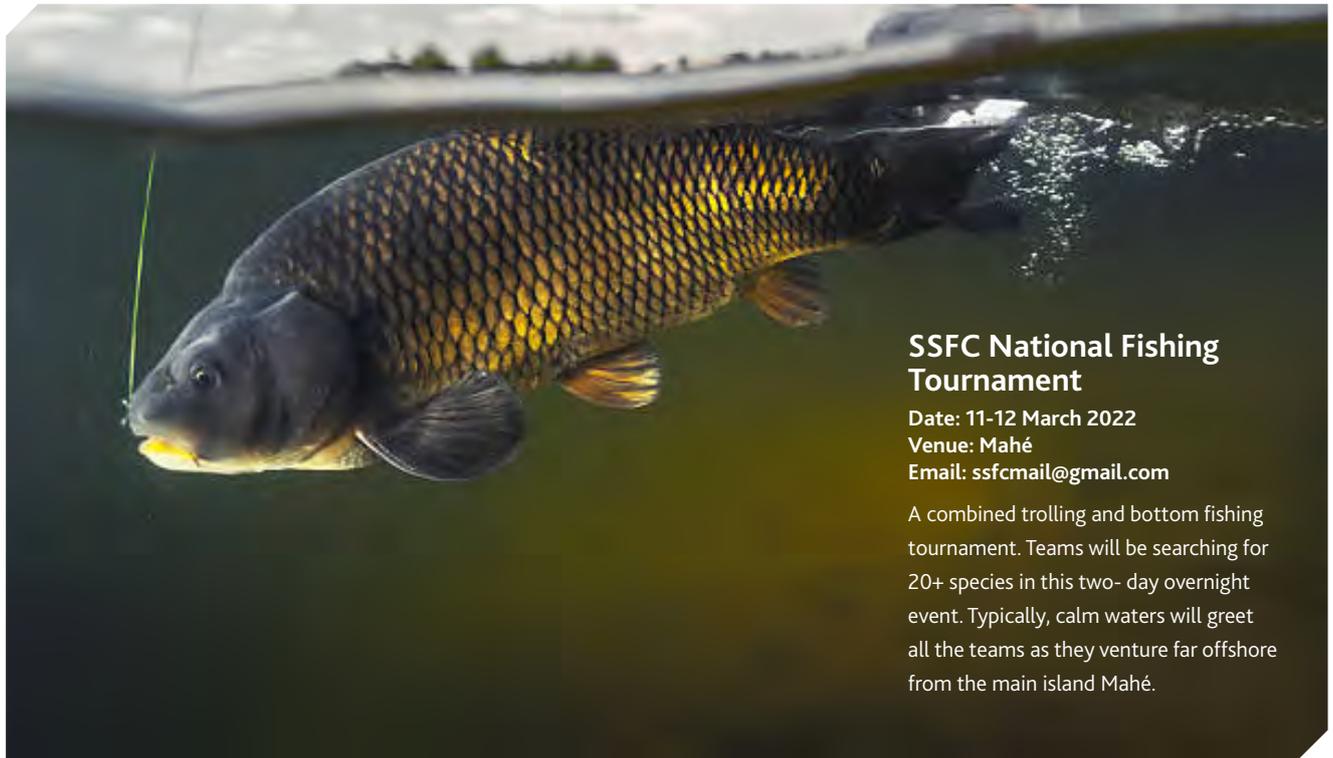
SSFC teams up with Heineken in a trolling event with the main focus of bringing back yellowfin tuna, dorado and wahoo to capture their slam. SSFC also teams up as a part of this tournament with WWF in the Billfish Release Challenge to continue conservation of the Seychelles Marine Environment.



### Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon

Date: 27 February 2022  
Venue: Beau Vallon, Mahé

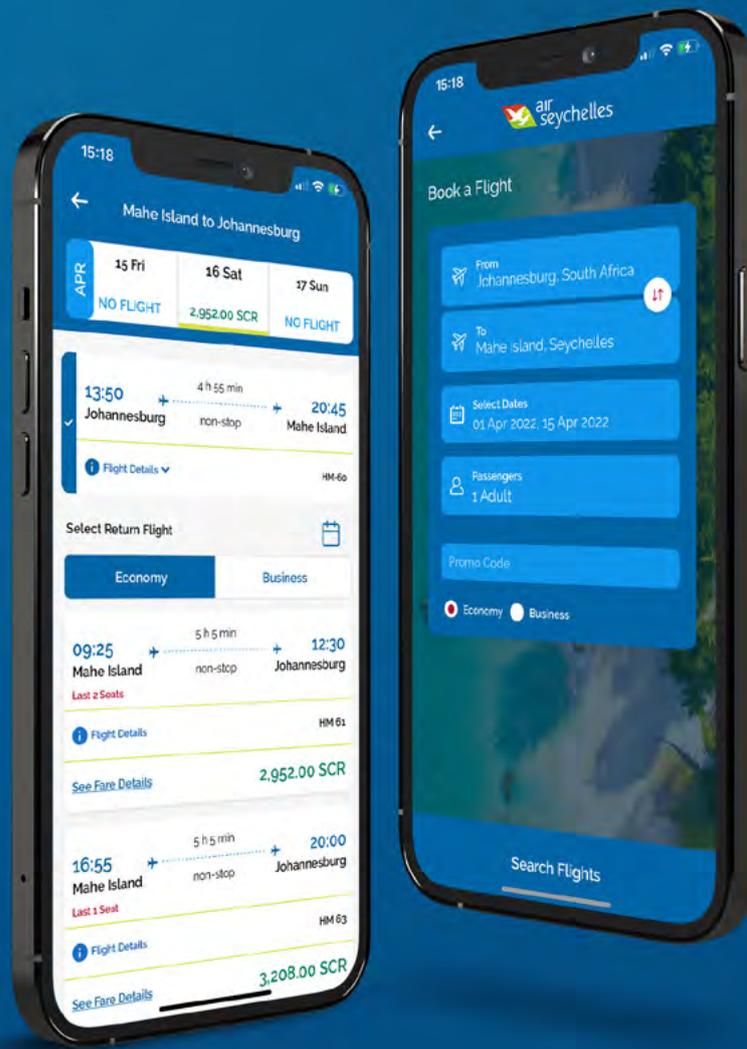
First time held in 2008, the Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon is very challenging yet a highly rewarding run. Envisioned as the scenic event that contributes to Seychellois' health and brings Seychellois and visitors together. Participants can enjoy the natural beauty of Mahé island as they run, jog or walk along the beaches. Whether you are running the full marathon, half-marathon or one of the shorter distances, this exotic trail will enchant you. 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. The Seychelles Eco-Friendly Marathon is also recognised internationally through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) label.



### SSFC National Fishing Tournament

Date: 11-12 March 2022  
Venue: Mahé  
Email: [ssfcmal@gmail.com](mailto:ssfcmal@gmail.com)

A combined trolling and bottom fishing tournament. Teams will be searching for 20+ species in this two- day overnight event. Typically, calm waters will greet all the teams as they venture far offshore from the main island Mahé.



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## Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon

Date: 25 February 2022

Venue: Virtual race, Tel Aviv, Israel

The Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon is a multi-course event allowing runners in all levels and styles to take part. It is a yearly citywide celebration designed for professional long-distance runners as well as beginners. The race starts and ends at the beachfront. As well as the beach promenade there is varied scenery incorporating the city streets and narrow bumpy trails, including Yarkon and Park HaYarkon.



## World Congress on Information Technology and Computer Science

Date: 04 - 05 February 2022

Venue: Male, Maldives

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

The conference (WCITSC) provides a platform for professionals involved in Information Technology and Computer Science to exchange knowledge and gain an insight into the State of Art in the current technology, techniques and solutions in Computer Science 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.

## Caravan Show

Date: 25 - 27 February 2022

Venue: Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg

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

Caravan Show is open to an array of products and services that includes holiday caravans, holiday caravan services, holiday camping planning services, holiday camping accessories and kits, motor homes, holiday camping solutions and other related products and services. The exhibitors of this fair present the best of products and services and create an interactive forum by means of the fair. The fair is also widely acclaimed owing to the presence of shows, events and other forms of attractions.



## Mauritius National Day

Date: 12 March 2022

Venue: Mauritius

The Independence Day is the national day of Mauritius and it marks two key events in the recent history of the country that both took place on 12th March; independence from Britain in 1968 and becoming a republic in 1992.

At this time of year, the colourful flag is displayed all over the island in shops, homes, schools, government buildings and local communities gather for smaller festivities across the country.

## Holi

Date: 18 March 2022

Venue: Mumbai, India

Holi is a popular ancient Indian festival, also known as the 'Festival of Love', the 'Festival of Colours' and the 'Festival of Spring'. The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna and is celebrated in almost every part of the country.

The ritual starts by lighting up the bonfire one day before the day of Holi and this process symbolises the triumph of good over the bad. On the day of Holi people play with colours with their friends and families and in the evening they show love and respect to their close ones with Abeer (brightly coloured powder thrown into the air).



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## Technologies to dominate in 2022



### Artificial Intelligence everywhere

'Smart' meant connected – smartphones, smart TVs, and the range of other smart devices were the same old gadgets but connected to the internet. Today, 'smart' means using artificial intelligence (AI) – machine learning algorithms which are capable of aiding us in more innovative ways. Smart cars use facial recognition algorithms to check whether we are paying attention to the road and warn us if we're getting tired.

Smartphones use AI algorithms to do everything from maintaining call quality to help us take better pictures, and are packed with apps that use AI to help us do just about anything.

AI has spread the tools used to carry out daily work – from the pervasive voice assistants to translations and tools that allow to extract structured data from pictures, whiteboard scribbles, and hand-written notes. It also powers much of the robotic process automation that has enabled workloads to be lightened

in administration, logistics, accounting, and Human Resources departments. There is an AI solution to make life easier whatever industry or job function you are in.

This broad trend surrounds AI, the internet of things (IoT) together with the emerging super-fast networks like 5G, with capabilities we didn't have just a few years ago. This emphasises the fact that on a longer period the most striking trend of all will be connection.



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## Digitisation, datafication and virtualisation

Digitisation is the process of converting analogue information into a digital format. Analogue information is sometimes represented in a physical format which might have a higher likelihood of including errors. The digital data format is generally thought to be more stable and manageable.

Digitisation results in the creation of a digital representation of another object as data recorded in binary numeric form comprising ones and zeros (1, 0, also called 'bits') in various sequences to represent words and images. In this fashion, it is possible to create and store huge amounts of data. Digital data can also be compressed from huge sizes down to more manageable packages. This allows large amounts of data to be transmitted with relative ease, and subsequently decompressed at the point of use.

There is a common misconception that to digitise something is the same as digital preservation. To digitise something is to convert something from an analogue into a digital format. An example would be scanning a photograph and having a digital copy on a computer. This is essentially the first step in digital preservation. To digitally preserve something is to maintain it over a long period of time.

Digital preservation is more complicated because technology changes so quickly that a format that was used to save something years ago may become obsolete.

Many libraries, archives, and museums, as well as other institutions, struggle with catching up and staying current in regards to both digitisation and digital preservation.

### What is virtualisation?

Even before the current pandemic, working remotely was becoming increasingly popular. According to survey around 25% of the workforce was telecommuting at least some of the time, and it was predicted that percentage would grow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced massive numbers of individuals to work remotely. For many, this has been a challenge because either they never had to perform their roles in a virtual environment, or they did not have the option to bring their work home.

Below are five ways a virtual application can make remote work easier while still ensuring the security of your network and data.

1. Application virtualisation technology separates the application layer from the OS, therefore the applications don't need to be installed locally on the user's personal devices.
2. IT managers can have more control over which users can access which applications, or remove the user's access if his or her position changes within an organisation.
3. To ensure the protection of sensitive company data when people are working from personal devices, IT can prevent users from saving files to their devices.
4. Users will have instant access to the latest version of apps without administrators needing to update software on every user's device.
5. Application virtualisation provides cost-effective licensing and server setup.

### What is Datafication?

Datafication, is the transformation of social action into online quantified data, allowing for real-time tracking and predictive analysis. It takes in previously invisible process/activity and turns it into data, that can be monitored, tracked, analysed and optimised. Latest technologies we use have enabled lots of new ways to 'datify' our daily and basic activities.

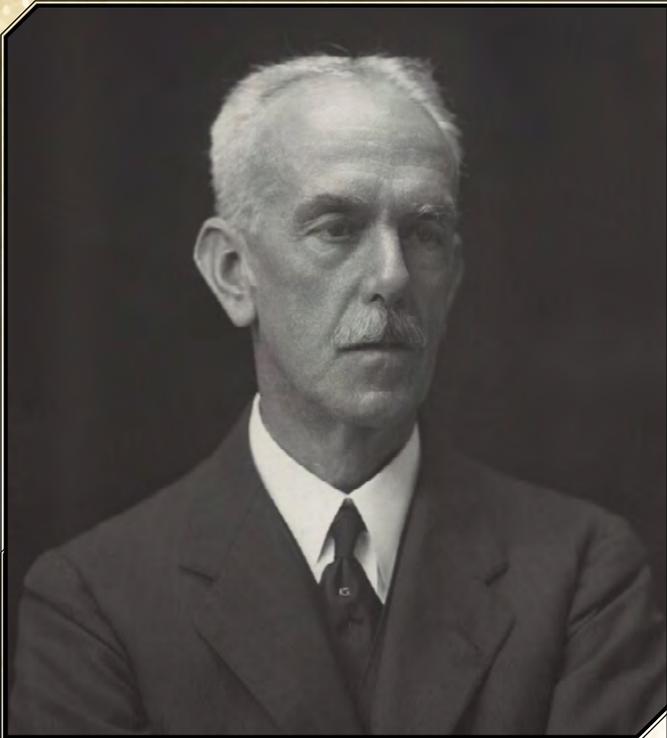
This is a technological trend turning many areas of our lives into computerised data using processes to transform organisations into data-driven enterprises by converting this information into new forms of value.

Daily interactions of living things can be made into a data format and put to social use. For example:

**Social platforms:** Facebook or Instagram collect and monitor data information of our friendships to market products and services to us and surveillance services to agencies which in turn changes our behaviour. Promotions that we daily see on the socials are also the result of the monitored data. In this case, data is used to redefine how content is created by datafication being used to inform content rather than recommendation systems.

#### Industries where datafication process is actively used are:

**Insurance:** Data used to update risk profile development and business models. **Banking:** Data used to establish honesty and likelihood of a person paying back a loan. **Human resources:** Data used to identify employees risk-taking profiles. **Hiring and recruitment:** Data used to replace personality tests. **Social science research:** Datafication replaces sampling techniques and restructures the manner in which social science research is performed. 🌟



## The first governor of Seychelles

More than a century ago, Seychelles was a British colonial outpost. Tony Mathiot describes the man who played a fundamental role in its watershed moment.

On 8 May 1904, Governor Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott stood on the deck of the Messageries steamer Oxus and waved to the large group that had gathered at the long pier to wish him farewell. During the four years and six months that he had spent in the fledgling colony they had grown fond of him. Among the group were religious dignitaries, medical officers and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and of course, ordinary citizens who had met him on his peripatetic visits across Mahé. Certainly there was a tone of sadness to the occasion – sentiment also felt by the 46-year-old Governor as he waved goodbye. He saw the clock tower that he had unveiled the year before, and the splendid new building that he had built to serve as the Government Secretariat. Further back, he could see the old Government House which had been his residence, and the avenue of sandragon trees that led to it. He gazed at the forested mountains that loomed above and he knew that he was leaving the archipelago of Seychelles in a more prosperous state than when he arrived.

Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott was appointed Administrator of Seychelles on 19 August 1899 and he assumed the administration on 20 November 1899 when he took his oaths on the second floor of the old courthouse building (the present National History Museum). His salary was Seychelles Rupees 12,500 annually.

When he arrived, the population of Seychelles was around 19,000 inhabitants, but it was administered from Mauritius, a British colony. There were railways (since 1862), a Chamber of Commerce (since 1850) over a dozen newspapers and, of course, a prosperous sugar industry. Here, he found coconut estates, vanilla plantations, cinnamon forests, a guano industry on outlying islands, mission schools in all the districts, a college established in 1867, a Government Savings Bank and two newspapers, *Le Reveille* and *The Seychelles Government Gazette*. There was a soap industry that exported to Zanzibar and Madagascar. The currency in use was the Indian silver rupee which Mauritius had been using since 1876. The *Hotel Equator*, the *Princess Hotel* and *Hotel Victoria* provided accommodation for visitors. The mainstay of the economy was vanilla, which had been introduced in 1866 from Reunion and had, since the early 1890s, proven to be the most valuable export. The year of Sweet-Escott's arrival in Seychelles was a record year for vanilla.

Sweet-Escott presided over his first session of the Legislative Council on 27 December 1899. It was during this first session that he made known some of the key issues that he had on his agenda for the first couple of years of his administration. He manifested his practical approach to development by negotiating – in today's words – 'the best deal for Seychelles'.

He announced his intentions to create the botanical experimental station that a predecessor, Thomas Risely Griffith, had wanted to establish in 1895. Sweet-Escott said: 'Depending for its prosperity, as Seychelles does, on practically one product, it appears to be a matter of vital importance to its inhabitants to ascertain whether there is no other product of commercial value for which these islands are adapted...' He also considered it 'an anomaly that these islands should not enjoy the advantages of a local post, and I am now taking steps to meet this want.'

By telling those present that 'it had been my anxious desire since my arrival in Seychelles to make myself acquainted with the requirements of these islands' Sweet-Escott was pledging to improve the economy and welfare of one of the smallest nations in the British Empire.

Among the plans he had to implement in the process of fulfilling his goals, Sweet-Escott also honoured his immediate predecessor's patriotic wish. In 1897 Henry Cockburn Stewart had proposed that a Public Fountain be erected in front of the Treasury and Courthouse building to mark the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign. Accordingly, the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain was unveiled, albeit belatedly, on the 5 January 1900, by Lady Sweet-Escott.

During the year 1900, various development projects that he initiated demonstrated the excellent level of achievements that would characterise his tenure of office. Roads, bridges and buildings were constructed on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. A turtle pond was built at the end of the Long pier. The Leper camp was transferred from Curieuse Island where it had

An aerial photograph of a tropical island in the Maldives. The island is a small, crescent-shaped landmass with a white sandy beach. On the beach, a white seaplane with red and black accents is parked. The island is densely populated with lush green palm trees and other tropical vegetation. In the center of the island, there is a small, rectangular building with a thatched roof. The surrounding water is a clear, vibrant turquoise color, with a shallow lagoon area near the beach. The overall scene is idyllic and peaceful.

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been established since 1829 to the two Round Islands. He established an Internal Postal Service which saw the distribution of 13,997 letters and newspapers during its first year of operation. He gave a new momentum to the promotion and development of education in Seychelles which included scholarships and laureates, the creation of a Board of Education and the appointment of an Inspector of Schools. In his bid to introduce the teaching of the English Language in all schools he faced acrimonious opposition from the Catholic Mission who owned most of the district schools.

He had to deal with unforeseen events as well. In September 1900, King Prempeh of Ashanti arrived on Mahé to begin an exile that would last for 24 years. He had been banished from his Kingdom, the Gold Coast (now Ghana), for revolting against British occupation. King Prempeh was accompanied by some 70 followers and close members of his family. A special ordinance had to be enforced regarding their detention and accommodation.

In February 1901 a 31-year-old Mauritian botanist, Paul Evenor Rivalz Dupont arrived in Seychelles and was appointed curator of the Botanic station. Sweet-Escott was proud to have achieved one of his most important priorities – a botanical experimental station where specimens of various plants could be grown and then distributed to landowners. This would result in the propagation of fruit trees and timber that in the long term would be of economic benefit to the country. He also established an Agricultural Board. Less than two years after his arrival, he was proving that he was an administrator who truly had the prosperity and welfare of Seychelles at heart. He asked Raphael Dupuy, the Headmaster of Victoria's school to design a specific flag for Seychelles, and after the motto *Finis Coronat Opus* ('the end crowns the work') – which Sweet-Escott himself composed – was incorporated, the flag of the Union Jack bearing the Seychelles distinguishing devices was approved by the Legislative Council. The devices were also adopted as the public seal of Seychelles.

During the year of 1901 he assented to 21 Ordinances, among which were the first laws created to protect the turtle and to regulate fishing. Registration of fishing boats were stringently enforced, dimensions and sizes of nets and traps were defined and a close season for catching female lobsters was introduced. Clearly, the circumspect exploitation of our natural resources was a dominant factor for Sweet-Escott who must have appreciated the vulnerability of a small island whose many inhabitants wrested a living from the sea.

On 19 September 1901 Sweet-Escott opened the first Seychelles Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition which was held on Gordon Square (now Freedom Square). It was a delightful event where 224 exhibits testified to the artisanal craftsmanship of the inhabitants and to the fertility of the land.

Also during the year 1901 the Chinese immigrants constructed their Pagoda and launched their society of good fellowship 'Khum Fock Fooy Qoon'. Chinese traders had been arriving in Seychelles since the late 1800s and they had brought their rickshaws and business acumen with them. A commercial treaty signed at Shanghai on September 1902 would promote the importation of Chinese products in the British colonies.

Since the early days of his administration, Sweet-Escott was vexed that the Seychelles islands remained subordinate to Mauritius. He felt that this link had a restraining influence on the economic progress and development of Seychelles. In many of his despatches, he exhorted the secretary of state for the colonies to consider the separation, and he was supported by the Governor of the mother colony, Mauritius.

Early in 1902 he allowed for the steamers of the 'Messageries Maritimes' to be accorded the status of men-of-war vessels which would entitle them to certain rights, privileges and immunities. Together with the British India Steam Navigation Company, they provided Seychelles with the only mode of communication with the outside world. In May he moved into his new offices and council chamber at new government secretariat that had been constructed. It was a rectangular one-storey building of masonry whose simplicity seemed offset by the ornamental ironwork of the balustrade and staircase which typified the aesthetics of the Edwardian period.

In December 1902 a new government steam launch, 'Alexandra', built by the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, arrived to replace 'Wave' which had been in operation since 1852.

On 1 April 1903 Sweet-Escott unveiled the Victoria Memorial Clock tower. About half of its cost of Rs 6,447 had been met from public donations. Among the large crowd that gathered in Victoria to celebrate the occasion, few would have guessed the impending historical milestone for Seychelles that would be a personal triumph for Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott.

By letters patent of 31 August 1903, the Seychelles became a British Crown Colony in its own right and the following day Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott was appointed Governor of the Seychelles. The ceremony was held on 9 November at the courthouse, attended by more than one hundred invited guests. The government gazette of that same day published acclamatory addresses by members of various establishments including the Roman Catholic clergy, the Indian community and inhabitants of Port Glaud.

From that day, three Orders-in-Council came into force: The Seychelles Legislature Order-in-Council, 1903, The Seychelles Judicature Order-in-Council 1903 and The Seychelles Capital Offences Order-in-Council. This meant that Seychelles had achieved a new state of nationhood – an auspicious preliminary to its eventual Independence 73 years later.

Governor Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott presided over his last session of the Legislative Council on 5 May 1904, during which he said: '... I believe in the future of Seychelles, and I am confident that under the wise administration of the distinguished official who will shortly take my place. a period of enterprise and prosperity will ensue.'

Sweet-Escott was knighted by King Edward VII in 1904 for his services and was made Governor of British Honduras from May 1904 to August 1906, after which he was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean until 1912 when he became Governor of Fiji until 1918. Above all, however, Sir Ernest Bickham-Sweet-Escott is enshrined as a major figure in the history of Seychelles. He lived to a good age and died on 9 April 1941. 🌈

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© Charli Davies

# 'The Egg'

Encapsulating the wonderful  
world of the Seychelles Warbler

WORDS: HANNAH L DUGDALE, JAN KOMDEUR,  
DAVID S RICHARDSON & TERRY BURKE



© Sylvia van Ommen & Hannah Dugdale



© Sylvia van Ommen & Hannah Dugdale

The Seychelles warbler – a charming little brown bird with a lovely song – occurs only in the Seychelles, where it was rescued from the verge of extinction. This bird, and the amazing conservation success story which surrounds it, is rightly a source of great pride for the Seychellois, and a global example of how science and conservation can go hand-in-hand. Now that story, and details about the fascinating biology of the Seychelles warbler, are the focus of a new children's book, 'The egg', designed to promote science to children.

'The egg', produced in collaboration with Nature Seychelles, is narrated by a Seychelles warbler from just before it hatches from its egg, and follows it as it grows up. We see how the bird is saved when its sister fights off a predatory skink, and how it learns to fly and feed itself. In this way, events in the life of the Seychelles warbler are used to explain the biology of the bird to children. For example, like humans, Seychelles warblers cooperate to help babysit the children of their relatives, and we learn about how Seychelles warblers help provide food for their siblings as they get older.

The book also presents the conservation success story of the Seychelles warbler. Back in the 1960s the Seychelles warbler was near extinction: only 26 Seychelles warblers remained in the world, all of which lived on the one tiny island of Cousin, only 29 hectare. These birds used to be widespread among the islands in the Seychelles but the forests in which they lived were wiped out to grow coconuts and predators (such as rats) were accidentally introduced to these previously pristine islands from boats. However, although Cousin Island was a coconut plantation, no rats reached this island and a very tiny area of native mangrove swamp remained intact in which the last Seychelles warblers survived. In this perilous state the Seychelles warbler, was classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as 'Critically Endangered'. This is the highest extinction risk category, meaning that the species had more than a 50% chance of going extinct within 10 years.

Fortunately, Cousin Island was purchased with funds raised by the International Council of Bird Preservation (now Birdlife International) with the aim of saving the Seychelles warbler. The coconut trees were removed, native forest was encouraged to flourish, and by the 1980s Cousin Island was again full of Seychelles warblers. In fact, the population did so well that by the 1980s it reached 320 individuals - the maximum number that Cousin Island could support.

Cousin Island is now managed by Nature Seychelles, who have continued working with scientists from the Seychelles Warbler Project to conserve

the Seychelles warbler, but also work to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of Cousin Island and the surrounding sea. Visitors to Cousin – one of the most successful examples of sustainable ecotourism in the world – will not only see the Seychelles warbler but also myriad other wonderful species and habitats.

Importantly, while the Seychelles warblers only lived on the one small island of Cousin, they remained at risk of extinction from an extreme, if rare, event, such as a cyclone or disease outbreak. Consequently, since the 1980's batches of the warblers have been moved by Nature Seychelles with the assistance of the Seychelles Warbler Project to other islands in the Seychelles to set up new populations on the islands of Aride, Cousine, Denis and Frégate. As a result of these translocations and the careful management of their island homes, the world Seychelles warbler population is now estimated at more than 3,500 and projected to soon reach 7,000. Consequently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature removed the Seychelles warbler from the endangered list in 2015.

The story of the Seychelles warbler is beautifully illustrated by Sylvia van Ommen ([www.sylvivanommen.nl](http://www.sylvivanommen.nl)). Sylvia is an internationally acclaimed children's book illustrator and writer, from the Netherlands. She lives in France with her partner and kitten. She has published 13 books that have been translated in to more than 10 languages. Her books have won numerous awards, including being long-listed for the Gouden Uil literary prize.

The book is written by Hannah Dugdale and Sylvia van Ommen. Hannah is one of four scientists leading the Seychelles Warbler Project ([www.seychelles-warbler-project.group.shef.ac.uk](http://www.seychelles-warbler-project.group.shef.ac.uk)) a scientific endeavour that has been running since 1985, which has made the Seychelles warbler one of the most well understood wild bird species in the world. Every individual in the Cousin Island population is individually recognisable from the unique combination of coloured bands placed on its legs, which do not harm the birds. This enables individuals to be monitored using binoculars throughout their entire lives, allowing a detailed picture of how environmental and social factors influence the biology of the Seychelles warbler. For example, we now know that Seychelles warblers can live for up to 19 years! They start to show signs of ageing in terms of reduced survival and reproduction from around 7 years of age, but having helpers can delay the onset of their ageing.

'The egg' was created in collaboration with Nature Seychelles to teach



children about the science and successful conservation of the Seychelles warbler. The book was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council in the UK, who enabled copies to be donated to the four schools on Praslin Island – the nearest public island to Cousin. Air Seychelles kindly provided free transport of the donated children’s books within the Seychelles.

Special events were arranged by Nature Seychelles to donate the children’s book to the Praslin schools. Dailus Laurence (Cousin Island’s Chief Warden), Dr. Luca Saponari, Roshni Yathiraj and Athina Antoine (Nature Seychelles’ Reef Rescuers team), and Bram Oosterbeek (Seychelles warbler field researcher) visited the schools. They spoke to the children about Cousin Island Special Reserve, coral restoration work around Cousin, and the intriguing life of the Seychelles warbler. The highlight for the Seychelles

Warbler Project, was hearing a girl at the visit saying that she wanted to do research herself when she was older.

So, why create a book about the Seychelles warbler? Science should be accessible to everyone, and this book aims to promote science and conservation in an accessible and interesting manner to young children. Importantly, this book presents both female and male role models to spark scientific curiosity in ALL children, therefore helping to rectify the unconscious or implicit bias, whereby people wrongly often see science as a male occupation.

**‘The egg’ is available to purchase as an e-book or paperback from Amazon, and all royalties are donated to Nature Seychelles to support their conservation work.** 🌱

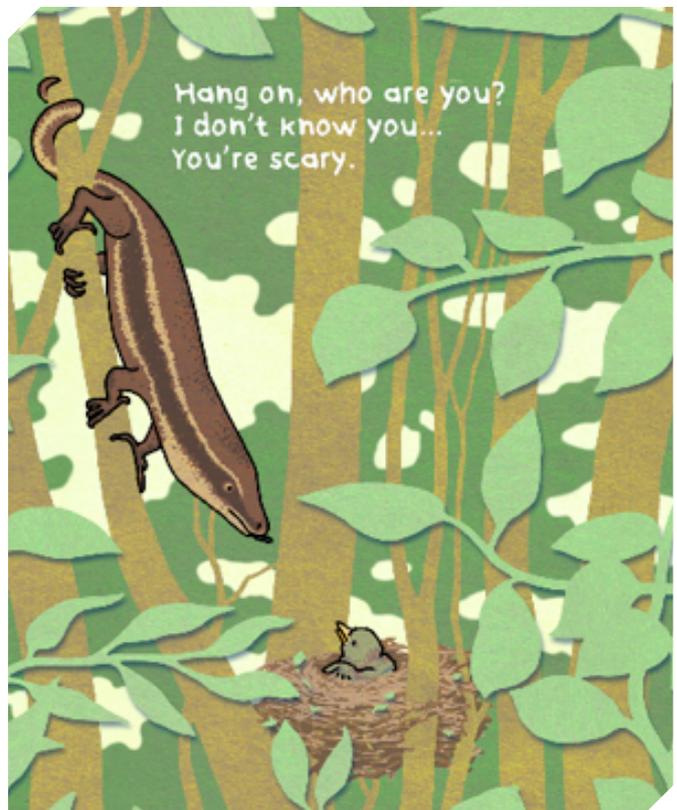




IMAGE © SHUTTERSTOCK

# Tourism, Conservation and the Curieuse Marine Park

WORDS: ISABELLE RAVINIA





**Aerial view of the marine park showing moored yachts, a popular means of spending time appreciating Seychelles' most popular marine protected area.**

The Curieuse Marine National Park, designated in 1979, is the ultimate protected area to visit. The 14.7 kilometres<sup>2</sup> marine park (MP) and majestic island is a sanctuary for flora and fauna and contains all that Seychelles has to offer in one-day trip. It is home to a significant collection of the country's endemic species, from giant tortoises introduced from Aldabra and endemic birds, to the world's biggest nut, the legendary coco-de-mer. Curieuse MP has so much to offer visitors!

One can follow the guided nature trails, engage in bird watching of both land and sea birds and the abundant moorhen, and enjoy barbeques, snorkeling and diving.

Managed by the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority (SPGA), the marine park is the authority's second most-visited site after the Botanical Garden.

At its peak performance in 2017, the park received over 52,000 paying visitors. The marine park, like all SPGA's parks is no-take zone but non-extractive activities like tourism are permissible.

Tourists above 12 years of age are asked to pay an entrance fee of Rs300 to visit the park. Management of protected areas is expensive and it is entrance fees from visiting tourists that help protect one of Seychelles' finest biodiversity spots.

Marine Park Rangers have to patrol the 14.7 kilometres<sup>2</sup> of marine protected area to ensure that park users are abiding by the regulations; they have to ensure that tourists who are snorkeling and admiring the corals are not incidentally damaging the reefs. They also have to ensure that fishing does not take place. The rangers have to monitor habitats in the park ensuring that the ecosystems are healthy.

Managing a popular marine park like Curieuse is no easy job. The key is striking a fine balance between tourism and conservation. SPGA must ensure that revenue from the marine park is sufficient to finance its operations. Alternatively, it has

to conserve the very attractions (fauna, flora, seascapes, landscapes and biodiversity) that tourists come to enjoy.

In order to maximize revenue from tourism, SPGA is planning a number of projects to encourage tourists to spend more than just the entrance fee. After two new barbeque areas were constructed on the island, now a new reception area, cafeteria and souvenir shop will be built at Baie Laraie (near the Ranger Base). New trails will also be developed. One of these will, for the first time ever, allow tourists the opportunity to observe sea turtles laying eggs and baby turtles hatching. The other trail will be at sea and this can be accessed by



using non-motorised vessels such as paddleboards and kayaks.

Meanwhile, the famous Doctors' House at Anse Jose will be turned into a cafeteria.

Besides increasing SPGA's revenue, the new development will similarly create added business opportunities for Seychellois. Besides creating the lion's share of revenue for the SPGA, Curieuse Marine Park is also the site where most conservation projects are taking place.

There are ongoing monitoring programmes on the giant tortoise, nesting sea turtles, Seychelles Black Paradise Flycatchers, mangroves as well as beach profiling, the coco-de-mer and

lemon sharks. The largest project now is a coral restoration project that aims to rehabilitate half a hectare of coral reefs that were damaged by climate change-induced bleaching events.

Restoration of the reef will render it more attractive to snorkelers and it will similarly help protect the coast from erosion as corals act as natural barriers against wave action.

So far, it appears that SPGA is striking the right balance between tourism and conservation in the Curieuse Marine Park. Increasing the number of visitors and revenue might be worrisome for some but it is important to note that the marine park and its island host are

implementing zoning in which each activity has its place. In order to ensure the protection of important species and habitats, there are strictly designated conservation zones where access to visitors is not permitted. Curieuse Island is the country's fifth largest granitic

island and only 10% of it is accessible to humans.

Remember that when you visit Curieuse Marine Park you are also contributing to the conservation of one of the country's most important protected areas so please pay us a visit! 🌿





# Morne Seychelles National Park

WORDS: STEEN G. HANSEN



**T**he Morne Seychellois National Park was created in 1979 when a 3,067 hectare area of predominantly lush, mountainous rainforest, stretching from coastal mangrove forests to a 905 metre peak in the northwestern part of Mahé was declared a national park. The aim was 'to be set aside for propagation, protection and preservation of wildlife, or preservation of places or objects of aesthetic, geological, prehistoric, historical, archaeological or other scientific interest for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the general public'. Quite ambitious, one would say, but courageous and far-sighted. It was named after the area's highest peak, the Morne Seychellois mountain.

The park today is a remarkable blend of historical, cultural and natural features, with access via a main road, former forestry wheel tracks and 11 public trails. As for the trails, there are easy ones, but also more challenging tracks that will require some serious effort.

The Park provides something for everyone, with almost unlimited opportunities for memorable experiences. Take, for example, the brush with 19th century slavery at the Mission Lodge. Here some 60-80 slaves, including 20 boys and 17 girls, were taken care of by the Anglican and Catholic Church Mission for some 20 years (1875-95) after the British had liberated them from Arab dhows – which continued trading slaves even after the British had abolished slavery in 1835 – and put them ashore in Seychelles.

Or the Good Friday pilgrimage at the mountain of Trois Frères, where for many years thousands of early birds have chosen to follow the Trois Frères trail with a struggling climb up to the Holy Cross at 699 metres above sea level.

Or the effects of the local forestry authority's efforts during the 1960s until the opening of the park with experimental plantings of different potential lumber or timber trees such as Takamaka, Northea, Eucalyptus and Mahogany. They were seeking alternatives to the once-profitable Cinnamon trees that, due to falling world market prices and other factors, caused the Cinnamon trade to decline at the end of the 1960s. This can very well be seen along the Morne Blanc and the Tea Tavern trails.

Or testimony of the former catholic monks who, in 1952 in the Area of Mare aux Cochons, finished building a remarkable stone bridge in

the Swiss style (at that time unknown to Seychelles) to improve access to and from the fields in the forest. Here, within an area of 177 hectare, they grew fruiting trees like Mandarin, Nutmeg and Butternut along with Vanilla, Patchouli and Arabian Coffee, as well as food crops, and where at the same time they raised cattle, pigs and poultry. In other words: an early agro-forestry activity in the beginning of the 20th century.

Or what about a walk through a tea plantation that is easily accessible at the Tea Tavern nature trail and along the Salazie-Fairview trail?

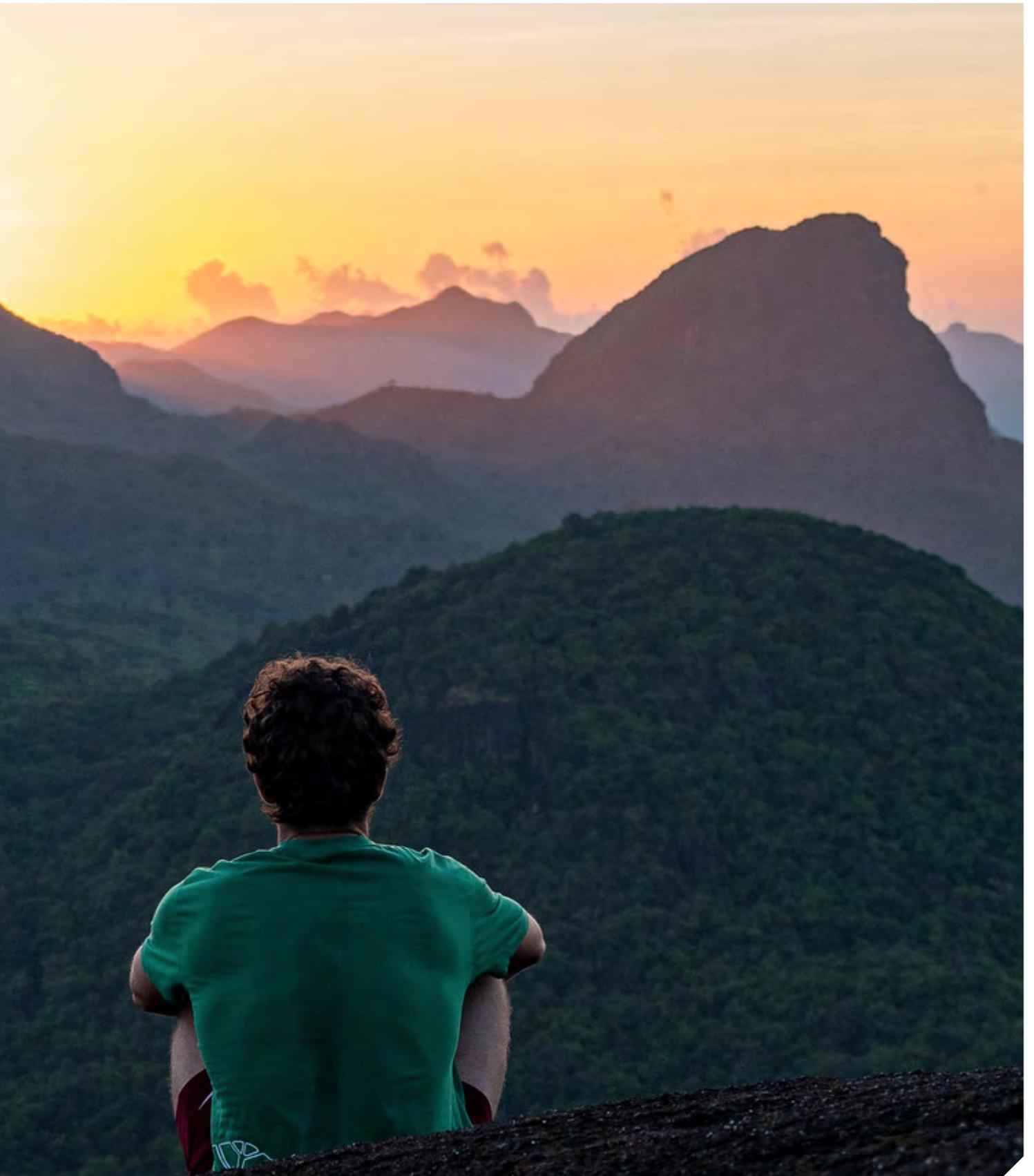
Or enjoying the highest wetlands in the Seychelles, the Mare aux Cochons-system (marshland for pigs) at an altitude of some 400 metres above sea level with its mirror-shiny water. Peace and tranquility exudes over the whole area, while the surrounding vegetation and tall endemic palm trees reflect proudly in the water surface, and native dragonflies, damselflies and slow flying butterflies add to the scenery.

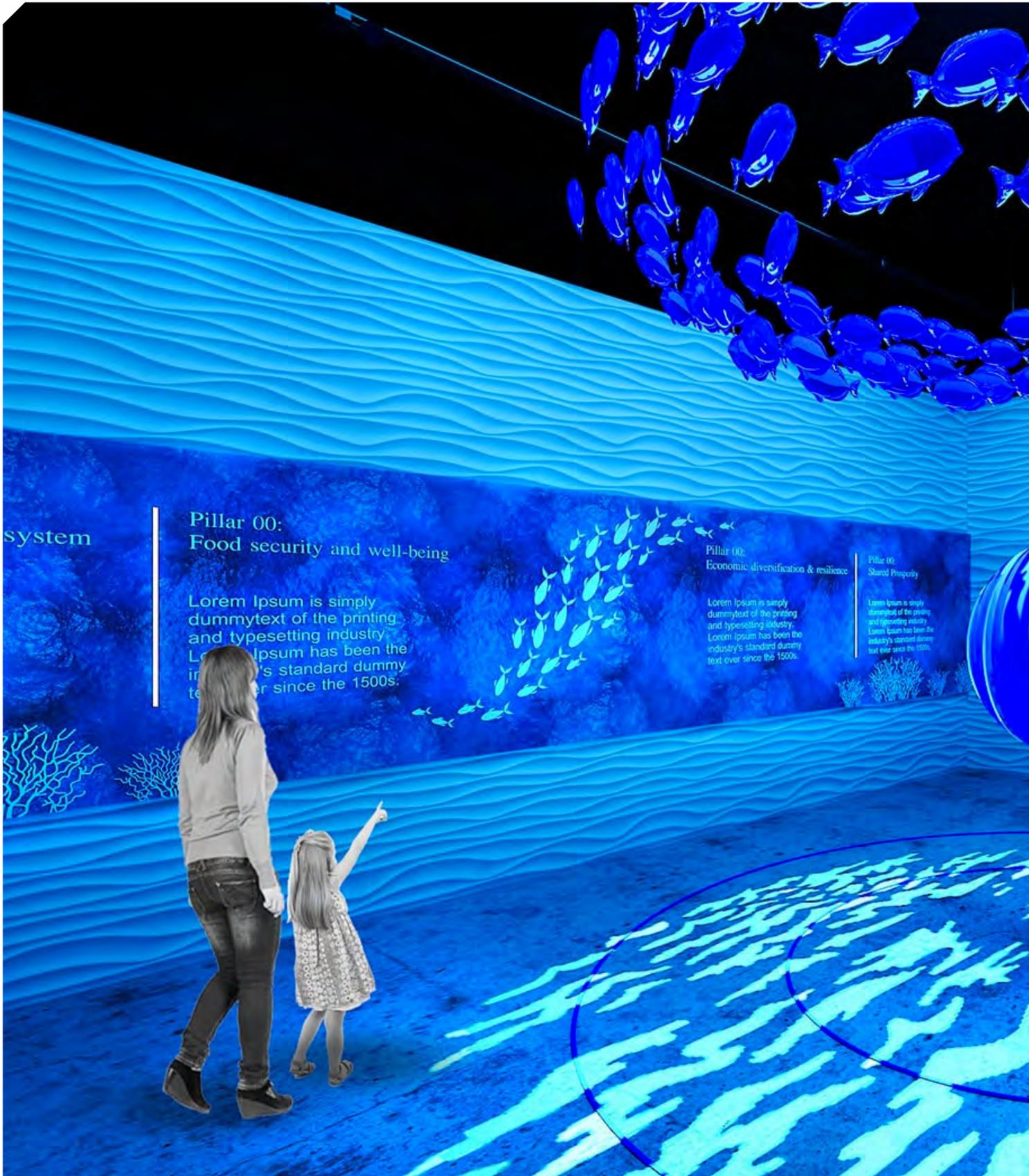
Or just appreciate the breathtaking panoramic views up and down Mahé's coasts and in good weather distantly over the Indian Ocean's vast turquoise green waters from almost any of the viewpoints that end the different trails.

No matter which trail or which access you might choose, you will be walking among many endemic and worldwide threatened plants and animals – a number that increases with higher altitudes. And along the public trails there are good opportunities to experience a major part of them.

We have been blessed to live in a world that includes lush rainforest sanctuaries like Morne Seychellois National Park, and it is therefore expected that we take care of it. Any action in this respect should, though, be based on proper insight so that we know what we really are talking about. And since it is tempting to say, that the Morne Seychellois National Park has it all, it could be an obvious place to start – to sense, smell, feel, touch, reflect and wonder. Only in that way can we tune in on sustainable and future proof actions – and help the decision makers do the same. 🌿

**Read more in Steen G. Hansen & Damien O. Doudee's book from 2021 of 'Morne Seychellois National Park (Seychelles) – a true tropical treasure', which is available in book and souvenir shops in Victoria.**





system

Pillar 00:  
Food security and well-being

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummytext of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s.

Pillar 00:  
Economic diversification & resilience

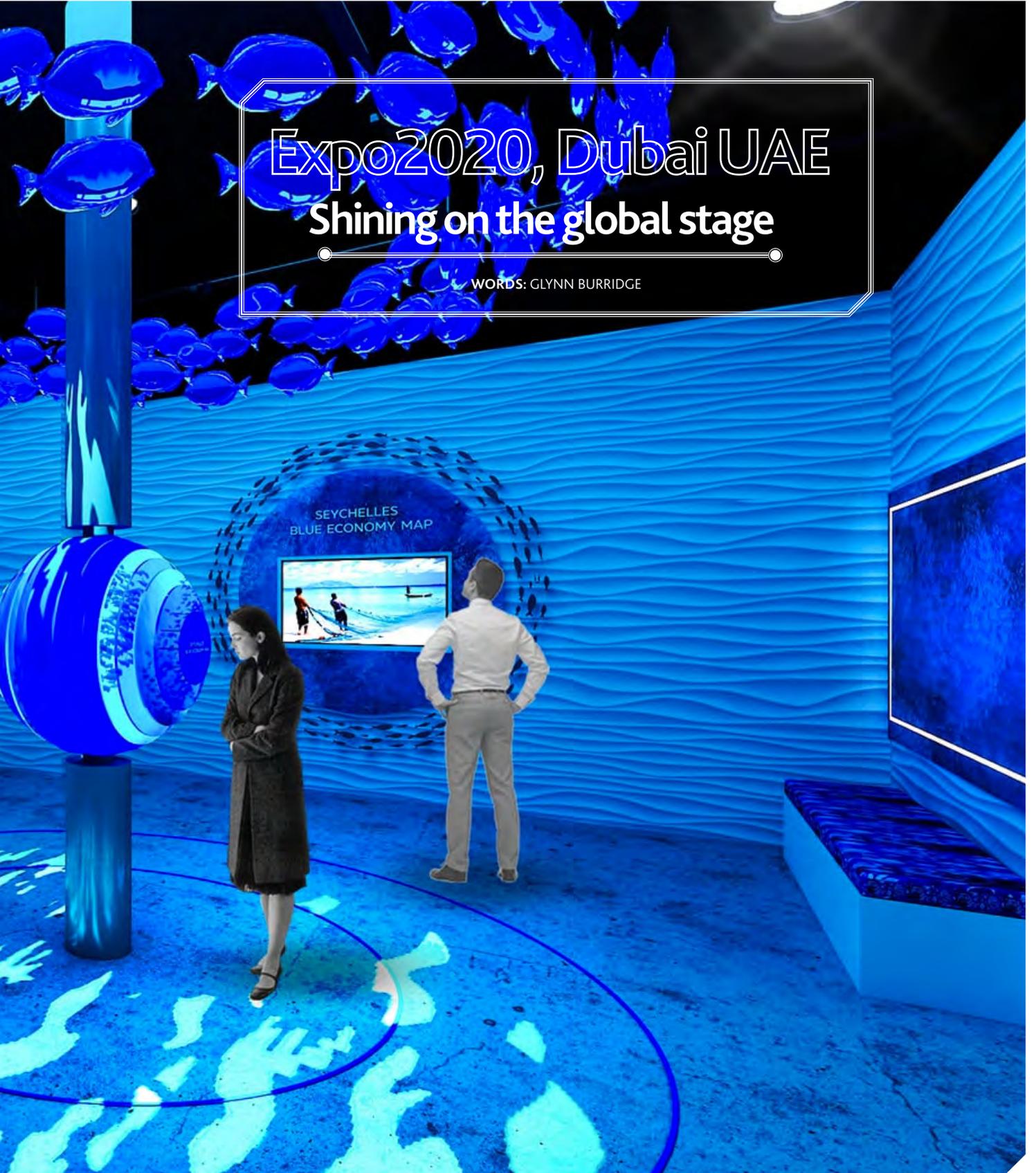
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Pillar 00:  
Shared Prosperity

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummytext of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s.

# Expo2020, Dubai UAE Shining on the global stage

WORDS: GLYNN BURRIDGE





World Expos have come a long way since their first in 1851, held in The Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London, United Kingdom, under the title “Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations”.

Traditionally, these kinds of Expos are well-known for creating global platforms for innovation – giving countries an opportunity to showcase aspects of their culture and most advanced innovations.

It is thanks to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), the intergovernmental organisation founded in 1928 that regulates and oversees World Expos, that we can now expect expos every five years. This very organisation preserves the core values of education, innovation and cooperation on behalf of its 170 member states and back in 2013, elected the UAE as the host country for this year. Dubai won by an unquestionable majority of 116 votes, leaving its contestant Yekaterinburg in Russia well behind with only 47.

For the second time, with the first being in 1906, Milan hosted the last World Expo in 2015.

Work started on the Expo 2020 Dubai site in 2016 and it is going down in history as the first Expo in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region. The theme is ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’, that identifies the fact that producing sustainable ways out of universal problems calls for teamwork across cultures and regions, while the subthemes of ‘Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability’ define the main drivers of growth.

Expo 2020 is by far the most important event which the Seychelles is participating in this year. Important because especially for this particular Expo, under its theme ‘Connecting Minds, Creating The Future,’ there will be the opportunity to discuss measures to mitigate global issues and to find solutions for universal problems.

After recently celebrating Seychelles’ 250 years since the first settlement of the islands,

no doubt, Seychelles has much to share as, in the intervening period, we have been able to sustain a good balance co-existing harmoniously with our natural environment. The concept for this Expo already echoes many of our country’s conservation credentials. Like all the other nations, Seychelles has a pavilion – a downsized replica of our country, that gives us a 6-month international platform of visibility with which to raise the profile of Seychelles as a destination worth visiting.

This year in Dubai is where the world gathers in one place on a stunning global platform that enables us to visit our favourite countries and, also, for other countries to discover us. The discovery of the Seychelles pavilion via various visual, audio and graphic presentations leaves each guest with a great feel for our Islands.

Seychelles is a national treasure – one with a lasting legacy, and EXPO 2020 is an event to change the way the rest of the world sees us.

The international event is being spearheaded by the collective effort of CINEA and Tourism

Seychelles. Situated in the Sustainability Thematic District, the Seychelles pavilion embodies Seychelles and UAE's vision of the importance of sustainable growth necessary to meet the requirements of present and future generations. Expo Dubai 2020 visitors are also able to engage with Seychelles through various conferences and workshops centred around culture, finance, environment and tourism and taking place separately from the endorsed events.

### Pavilion design

Seychelles has been allocated with a Ground floor exhibition space of approximately 213 sqm/5.49m high with 4 allocated zones. The first floor is approx. 80 to 90 sq. m/3.95m high and includes a closed office and computer for the commissioner-general/director; 4 working stations and computers for staff; an 8-person meeting room; storage space and a shared pantry. The pavilion is a closed structure with its exterior wrapping customized with designs of Seychelles natural beauty, its people, and culture.

The proposal for the pavilion came about based on feedback received from the Department of Blue Economy, Ministry of Environment, Seychelles Island Foundation, Seychelles Investment Board, CINEA as well as Tourism Seychelles. As the project progressed into its second phase, new stakeholders were brought on board to share their ideas: namely the SCCI, Enterprise Seychelles Agency, Department of Culture, SHTA, Department of Tourism.

**Zone 1:** The purpose of this section is to introduce visitors to the Seychelles pavilion story and get them excited for the journey they are about to embark upon. This is the rationale for 'Treasure nature, preserve paradise' – a short and engaging narrative on what the Seychelles pavilion is about.

**Zone 2:** Preserve Paradise Film Area drives the message of humanity and the impact our species has had on mother Earth. Its main objective is to awaken the visitor's consciousness and encourage them to do better to protect the environment of Seychelles.

**Zone 3:** The Blue Zone is an underwater-themed experience that gives visitors a deeper insight into Seychelles initiatives and projects that have made the country a leader in the Blue Economy movement. There are two large panels (walls) that house content about the Blue Economy. This zone has a unique sound installation with inbuilt speakers playing sounds of the ocean. Visitors will also be able to find out more information about the Blue Economy through this feature.

Finally, it hosts a unique fish installation made from recycled materials in partnership with the Zayed University based in Dubai. These have been combined with fish sculptures created from the plastic waste collected as part of the Aldabra Clean-up Project to create a powerful artistic expression by both the UAE and Seychelles that sheds light on the increasing problem of plastic pollution in the oceans.

**Zone 4:** The protected Treasure is where the visitors experience the protected treasures of Seychelles and where they will discover how life and landscape are interconnected and the importance of preserving them.

### After the Expo

After six months, the site of Expo 2020 Dubai will not be going to waste. In line with the Expo 2020 subtheme of Sustainability, eighty per cent of Expo's infrastructure will find new life and have practical value as a connected global centre for the next generation of original thinkers, families, artists and inventors.

Seychelles' pavilion which is situated in the Sustainability Thematic District of Expo 2020, is destined to proudly become part of Terra, the Children and Science Centre in the future city of District 2020. 🌱



# The dead sea

## Sun, salt and total immersion

WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN



Israel has always been an alluring destination for discerning travellers. From biblical times to the present day, this spectacular slice of the Holy Land in the heart of the Middle East has long attracted visitors. Its unique geography has shaped its culture and its landscape, from the breathtaking Negev and Judean deserts, to the Red Sea resort of Eilat, to the bucolic Golan mountains.

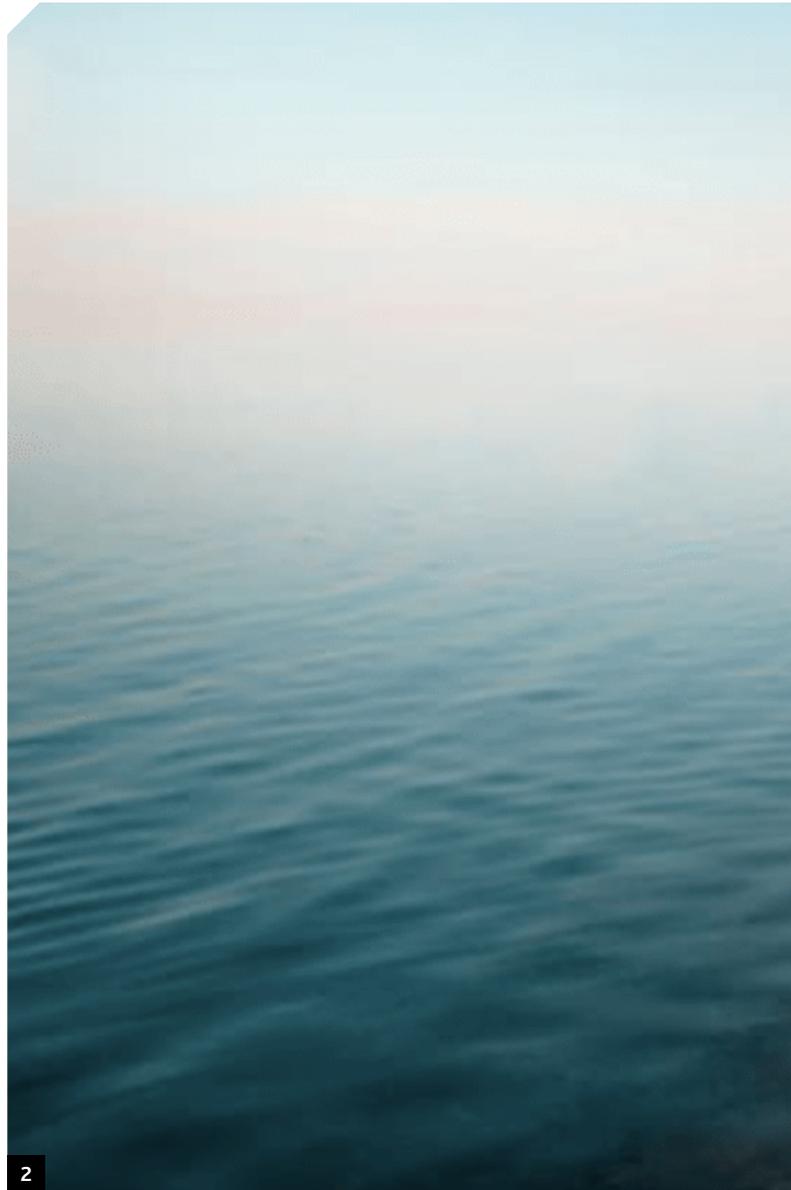
While her vibrant cities offer endless opportunities for must see visitor attractions, it is always nice to take a break from the city and venture out into the great outdoors! Israel delivers a range of diverse options given its contrasting landscapes, so pack your bag, grab your walking shoes, and venture out to discover its abundant wildlife, admire its spectacular scenery and explore its awe-inspiring natural wonders, such as the mysterious Dead Sea.

Created by the same shift of tectonic plates that formed the Syrian-African Rift Valley several million years ago, the Dead Sea owes its precarious state to both human and geological factors. Originally part of an ancient, much larger lake that extended to the Sea of Galilee, its outlet to the sea evaporated some 18,000 years ago, leaving a salty residue in a desert basin at the lowest point on earth – nearly 1,500 feet (457 metres) below sea level. Since then, this curious body of water, known as the Dead Sea since Greco-Roman times, has maintained its equilibrium through a fragile natural cycle: it gets fresh water from rivers and streams that flow from the mountains that surround it and loses it by evaporation. The evaporation process, combined with its rich salt deposits, account for its extraordinary – up to 33 percent – salinity (compared with the 27 percent salinity of Utah's Great Salt Lake) in the United States.

Until the 1950s, the flow of fresh water equalled the rate of evaporation, and Dead Sea water levels held steady. Then in the 1960s, Israel built an enormous pumping station on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, diverting water from the upper Jordan River, the Dead Sea's prime source, into a pipeline system that supplies water throughout the country. To make matters worse, in the 1970s Jordan and Syria began diverting the Yarmouk, the lower Jordan River's main tributary.

Since then, the Dead Sea has declined dramatically. It needs an infusion of 160 billion gallons of water annually to maintain its current size; it gets barely 10 percent of that. Some 80 kilometres long in 1950, the sea is about 48 kilometres long today. Water levels are falling at an average rate of three feet (0.9 metres) per year. According to a recent Israeli government study, the rate of evaporation will slow and the Dead Sea will reach equilibrium again in a few decades – but not before losing another third of its present volume. However, in 2015 Israel and Jordan signed a historic agreement to save the Dead Sea through the construction of a 180 kilometres pipeline, which will replenish the Dead Sea from the tidal waters of the Red Sea. So, there is definitely some hope for preserving this natural wonder.

Such a scenario represents an immeasurable loss. Tourists have flocked here for generations to float in the brine, soak in mineral and mud baths and take in the dramatic panorama of Israel's Judean Desert and Jordan's Moab Mountains. Sufferers from chronic skin diseases such as psoriasis and eczema, routinely make pilgrimages, attracted by the bone-dry climate, oxygen-rich atmosphere and – some claim – the sea's miraculous healing properties.



The highlight of any visit to the Dead Sea is the cobalt-blue lake itself, whose waters – shared by Israel and the Palestinian Territories on the western side and Jordan on the east – have a salt concentration 10 times higher than sea water, making it slimy, and air so rich in oxygen it protects you from sunburn.

On the Israeli shore, the best place to take a dip is Ein Bokek Beach, along the sea's turquoise-hued southern basin. Given a complex makeover a few years back, this wide public beach, sandy and spotless, has an army of lifeguards and offers a variety of free amenities, including shade shelters, changing booths, open-air showers, toilets, a paved promenade and night-time lighting. Spending a few hours being pampered at a mineral spa makes an agreeable complement to a soothing dip. The spas inside Ein Bokek's hotels offer freshwater swimming pools, saunas, mineral baths, and a wide variety of health and beauty treatments; most have day rates for non-residents. At some places, including the Ein Gedi Spa, you can coat yourself with invigorating black mineral mud scooped up from the floor of the Dead Sea.



With 330 sunny days a year, the Dead Sea area is filled with superb attractions in addition to its natural healing spas, with magnificent hiking trails, an array of gourmet and fast-food restaurants, the new Dead Sea Mall shopping centre and an abundance of adrenaline-charged activities. Just in time for the Passover and Easter holidays, a new four kilometre stone boardwalk and free, accessible public beaches with excellent facilities have opened in the world-class hotels area of the Dead Sea. The promenade will eventually extend another 10 kilometres, to include a total of 16 public beaches, connecting Ein Bokek and Hamei Zohar Beach, along the southern shoreline of the Dead Sea. This is part of a major new leisure and hotel complex that is planned for the region.

Hikes through the Ein Gedi National Park, a lush oasis set between the harsh, searing beauty of the Judean desert and the sterile Dead Sea, reveal ancient ruins, cool springs, and an abundance of desert flora and fauna.



**Having a salt concentration 10 times higher than sea water, making it slimy, and air so rich in oxygen it protects you from sunburn.**

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1. The highlight for any visit to the Dead Sea is the cobalt-blue lake itself, whose waters – shared by Israel and the Palestinian territories on the western side and Jordan on the east.
- 2&3. Tourists have flocked to the Dead Sea for generations to float in the brine, soak in mineral and mud baths.
4. On the Israeli shore, the best place to take a dip is Ein Bokek Beach, along the sea's turquoise-hued southern basin.
5. In 1947, Bedouin shepherds, searching for a stray goat in the Judean Desert discovered a cache of ancient clay jars containing seven 2,000-year-old manuscripts written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic – the famous Dead Sea Scrolls.
6. A breathtaking view of the Dead Sea, pictured here from the fortress of Masada.
7. Birds eye view of the Dead Sea.

Ein Gedi, literally 'spring of the kid' (young goat), is one of Israel's premier nature reserves, located west of the Dead Sea, near Masada and the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered between 1946 and 1947. Ein Gedi is the biggest oasis in Israel and while it is not too far from Jerusalem, it feels worlds away and is one of the most popular escape spots for locals and tourists who flock to take advantage of the reserve, its botanical gardens, springs, flowing brooks and waterfalls.

The reserve is a sanctuary for many types of plant, bird and animal species. The vegetation includes plants and trees from the desert, tropical, Mediterranean, and steppe regions, such as Sodom apple, acacia, jujube, and poplar. The many species of resident birds, include the little green bee-eater, spur-winged plover, collared pratincole, and Israel's iconic national bird, the hoopoe, which are supplemented by over 200 additional species during the annual migration periods in the spring and autumn. Mammal species include the critically endangered Nubian ibex and the rock hyrax.

The Dead Sea has attracted visitors from around the world for thousands of years and is perhaps one of Israel's most notable natural wonders. It was one of the world's first health resorts (for Herod the Great), and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of salt-based products, from asphalt for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilisers.

This immense endorheic lake is bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the west and lies in the great depression of the magnificent Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary, the Jordan River. Its shimmering surface and shores are 1,412 feet (430.5 metres) below sea level, making it Earth's lowest elevation on land. It is 997 feet (304 metres) deep, the deepest hypersaline lake in the world.

A refuge over the millennia for messiahs, martyrs and zealots, the Dead Sea region abounds with sites sacred to Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Some Muslims believe that Moses, whom they regard as a prophet, lies buried in the Maqam El-Nabi Musa, a hilltop mosque just off the main road from Jerusalem. Jesus Christ was said to have been baptized in the Jordan River after travelling down to the Dead Sea from Galilee. At the fortress of Masada, nearly 1,000 Israelites committed suicide en masse in AD 73 rather than surrender to the Roman legions. Fifth-century ascetics from Asia Minor retreated to the region's cliffside caves and built monasteries such as Mar Saba, the oldest continuously inhabited monastery in the world.

In 1947, Bedouin shepherds, searching for a stray goat in the Judean Desert, entered a cave at Qumran, near Ein Feshkha on the northern shore of the lake and discovered a



cache of ancient clay jars containing seven 2,000-year-old manuscripts written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic – the famous Dead Sea Scrolls.

And, despite its name, the Dead Sea helps support one of the world's most complex and vibrant ecosystems. Fed by freshwater springs and aquifers, a half-dozen oases along the shore harbour scores of indigenous species of plants, fish and mammals, including ibex and leopards. About 500 million birds representing at least 300 species, including storks, pelicans, ospreys, lesser spotted eagles, honey buzzards and lesser kestrels, take refuge here during a biannual great migration from Africa to Europe and back again.

With its abundance of natural wonders, Israel is a fascinatingly beautiful and beguiling nation quite unlike anywhere else on Earth, a country whose history and culture can be heard in the whispering of the wind along the hallowed walls of its iconic landmarks, where every stone tells a wondrous story of its long and tumultuous past. 🇮🇱



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



# South Africa's discernible gem by the sea

A touch of Rio along the ocean front, a 'golden mile' of holiday condos, white-sand beaches, rolling surf, a clutch of five star hotels, Suncoast casino and entertainment world and good restaurants, all make this lively city on South Africa's southern coast a great place for a holiday.

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES



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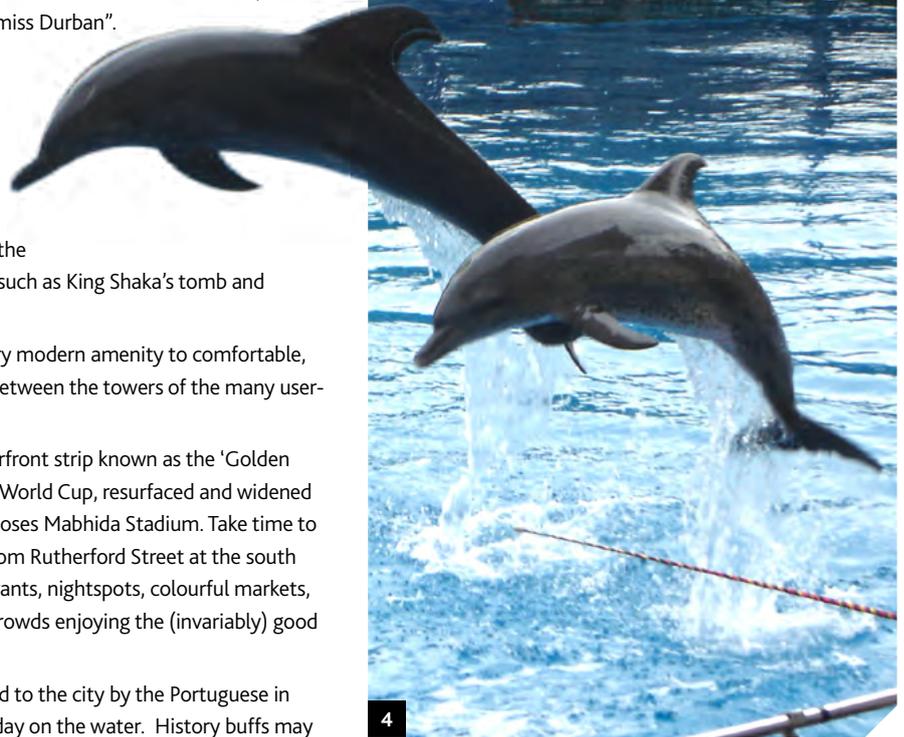
Foreign visitors heading for South Africa usually have the game reserves, Johannesburg, and Cape Town as priorities on their 'Must See' list. So did we, until South African friends said, "You really mustn't miss Durban".

The climate is subtropical, the excellent road system ensures easy access, and diverse, multicultural aspects add to the city's interest and excitement. Durban – South Africa's third-largest city and main port – boasts an ideal climate, a seemingly endless beach, and facilities for every holidaymaker. The city is also a gateway to the national parks and historic sites of the Zulu Kingdom such as King Shaka's tomb and museum and the Drakensberg.

The hotels, from spectacular five-star giants with every modern amenity to comfortable, inexpensive two-star hotels, stretch along the coast between the towers of the many user-friendly condominiums.

Undoubtedly Durban's greatest attraction is the waterfront strip known as the 'Golden Mile'. This was redeveloped in time for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, resurfaced and widened between the spectacular Ushaka Marine World and Moses Mabhida Stadium. Take time to wander along this six kilometre stretch of shoreline from Rutherford Street at the south end to Playfair Road at the north. You will find restaurants, nightspots, colourful markets, casino, pavilions and piers and for much of the year, crowds enjoying the (invariably) good weather.

Along the harbour, near the Da Gama Clock, presented to the city by the Portuguese in 1897, one can board a sightseeing ship for a pleasant day on the water. History buffs may



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prefer a guided walkabout tour that visits the city's historical landmarks or coach trip that visits the Japanese Gardens, Umhlanga Rocks, Croc World and a Zulu tribal village.

Although one is invariably drawn to the city's magnificent beaches, Durban has many other options. For the sports-minded, there is golf, squash, ten-pin bowling, ice-skating, horse racing, tennis and, most importantly, every type of watersport imaginable – fishing and yachting, deep sea diving and water-skiing, sailing and surfing – all popular with residents and visitors alike. The golfer wanting to stay at a superb Country Club with one of the best golf courses in South Africa is also not forgotten. The 'find' for him/her is the Selborne Country Lodge. The future looks bright, too, for Durban was successful in its bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Durban is also home to top class cricket and rugby and regularly stages prestigious international matches at its famous King's Park stadium.

Shopping is fun in Durban and out of city malls: the Gateway Theatre of Shopping in Umhlanga; the Pavilion in Westville; and the Galleria in Amanzimtoti. One of Durban's favourite shopping and entertainment complexes is 'The Wheel' at the corner of Gillespie Street and Point Road. Zulu handicrafts – beadwork, woodcarvings, ceramics, drums, masks and necklaces – will appeal to the keen shopper. The other big shopping centre well worth a visit is The Workshop in Pine Street, housed in what was once Durban's railway terminal. Here you will find some very upmarket shops and boutiques featuring outstanding South African handicrafts.

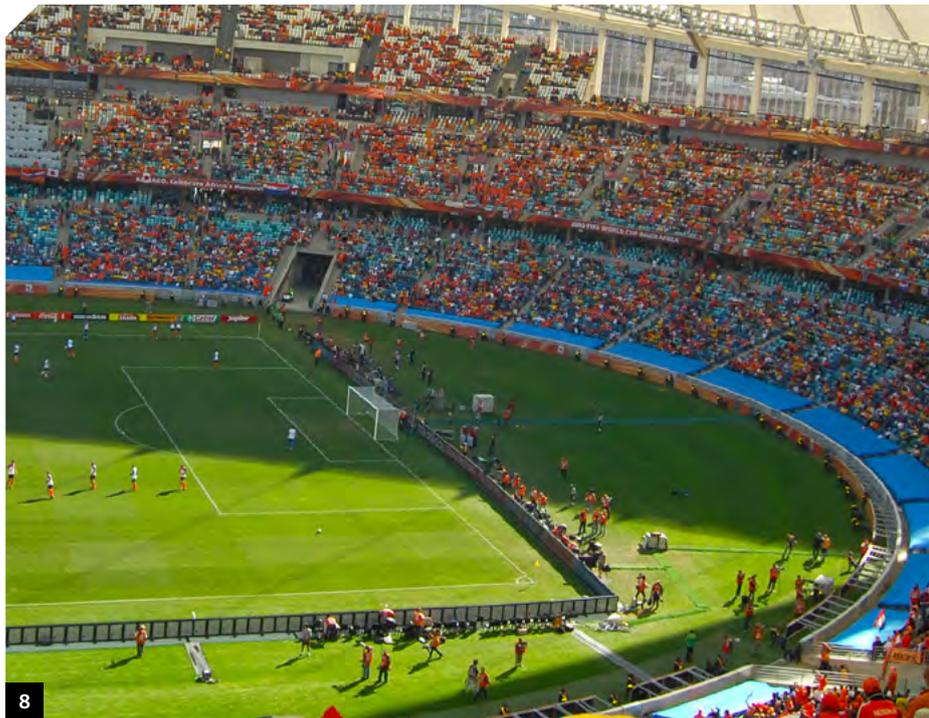
Durban's colourful Amphitheatre Flea Market held every Sunday along the Golden Mile beach front will enthral visitors, as much for the kaleidoscope of people one sees there, as for the excellent food and handicrafts on display.





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1. The Golden Mile (Promenade), is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Durban.
2. Zulu traditional dancers.
3. Street art (graffiti).
4. Dolphins at Ushaka Marine World, a 16-hectare theme park in Durban.
5. Historic Zulu women practised many arts, most notably beading, pottery, and basket-weaving.
6. Durban is South Africa's 'surf city' with mile after mile of beach break and rock reefs flowing north and south from the harbour entrance.
7. These colourful rickshaws take tourists and locals up and down the Golden Mile.
8. The Moses Mabhida Stadium, a soccer stadium in Durban.
9. Experience the hustle and bustle of one of the oldest markets in Durban, featuring a large variety of bags, spices and Chinese wholesale goods.
10. Durban from the Ocean.



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The Victoria Street Market is unique in South Africa. Barrels of Indian spices and incense infuse the air, and a visit is essential for those who want to experience Durban's relaxed Afro-Oriental atmosphere and pick up some great bargains.

There used to be a thousand rickshaws in Durban, but only a handful have survived and now they are mainly used by tourists and as photographic props. The concept, brought to Natal in the 1890s, has been enriched in Durban by the vivid decorations on the rickshaws and the gaily-coloured headgear of their drivers.

Durban also offers various transport options, from car hire services, chartered buses, shuttle services, Myna Bus Services and, for the more adventurous, you can always learn the local hand signals and take a taxi ride.

There is much, much more – mosques, Hindu temples, Seaworld, museums, parks, gardens, nature reserves, just to mention a few of the many local attractions to start with. The Durban restaurant scene is also a pleasant surprise. We enjoyed some great meals at places recommended by South African friends.

There are restaurants of every type, perhaps the best and most interesting for the foreign visitor being the ones serving really authentic Indian cuisine. Each area of South Africa has its own special attractions and 'flavour'. And Durban, with its Zulu roots and Indian influence is a city that one should not miss on any South African itinerary. 🌿



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# Mumbai Charm

## Strolling around Marine Drive

Standing on Mumbai's perfectly curved marine drive, known as 'the queen's necklace', Walter Glaser was entranced by the glittering lights that gave this waterfront esplanade its nickname.







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Millennia ago Bombay, now known as Mumbai, began its humble history as seven islands inhabited by fishermen. Since that time it has seen many changes. Today it is the world's most prolific film city and is making a name for itself around the world, but there is much more to Mumbai than its famous Indian movies.

Mumbai – is the fifth largest metropolis in the world! And what a city! It is a city vibrant with life and energy, yet one that also has its moments of tranquility, and now I am enveloped by one of these.

As I watch the sunset from Marine Drive at dusk, the lights twinkling across the water make this a moment of magic. Many of the locals come here for an evening walk to catch a breath of fresh air after a busy day. The road is flanked by Back Bay leading to the Arabian Sea on one side, and a row of art deco buildings on the other. At one end of this thoroughfare, now renamed Netaji Subhash Chandra Road is Mumbai's Manhattan, a cluster of tall glass buildings otherwise known as Nariman Point. At the other end of Marine Drive are the leafy green slopes of Malabar Hill, where apartments blocks rise from the lower slopes that overlook Chowpatty Beach. On the ridge above, the

terraced Hanging Gardens also known as Ferozshah Mehta Gardens offer a panoramic view of the surrounding city, ocean and countryside.

As I look to the east and the north, this amazing city spreads out to infinity. Mumbai is the melting pot of India, with most creeds and cultures represented there. I get the strong impression that on any evening around sunset, fifty percent of the city's population leaves their cramped apartments to stroll along Marine Drive.

With time to spare, we hire a horse and carriage for leisurely clip-clop along Marine Drive, but those with less time may prefer to enjoy the wonderful views from the top of an open double-decker bus. The city skyline, with its modern high-rise buildings, is indeed impressive. Along the street, vendors with makeshift stalls eagerly ply their amazing variety of everyday merchandise to the throng, many munching on a popular snack known as Bhelpuri. This is a combination of puffed rice, sprouts and tamarind, often followed by a refreshing drink of coconut water.

Our carriage reaches the steps to the Gateway of India, a 26-metre triumphal arch built to commemorate a visit to India by Queen Mary and King George of V of England in 1911. This spectacular construction is



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set in the centre of what is now the city's tourist area. From here the view across to the sea is spectacular. We vow to make time later to take one of the short motor – launch cruises of the city's beautiful natural harbour.

One of these motor-boat trips starts near the gateway of India and heads for Elephanta Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its cave temples – believed to have been carved into the rocky cliff-face in the 6th century AD. This thought may inspire you to head up the 125 steps that face you when stepping out of the launch.

Perhaps you might then like to walk across the causeway to see the remarkable Haji Ali's Mosque which sits on its own island in the sea to the north of the city. Haji Ali was a rich merchant who gave his wealth away after visiting Makkah. The white mosque is a recent building built in the 1940s, but the dargah (shrine) is 500 years old with the tomb at its centre.

Some of the other imposing landmarks to visit are:

The Wellington fountain was built to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's visit in 1801 and is a few blocks from Horniman circle. Strolling further we reached the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Prince of Wales Museum.

The museum's architecture has a strong Saracen influence and its collection of sculptures and miniature paintings also includes some outstanding pieces of Nepalese art.

In South Mumbai, the Fort area was a good starting place to see some of the European-inspired buildings. Horniman circle was our reference point, easy to find on any city map and St Thomas Cathedral, the old Mint building, Rajabai Clock Tower and the remains of the old Bombay Castle were interesting local landmarks.

The Colaba district is home to the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel (don't miss the amazing views of the Gateway of India from the Apollo Bar on the top floor), and we really appreciated half an hour here, sipping a drink and soaking in the panorama. For those with time to spare, there are many shops, stalls, cafes and street vendors in this area where you can easily spend a day browsing, bargaining and munching away.

Mumbai arguably has the best selection of restaurants of any Indian city. While the street vendors tempt you with their spicy snacks of traditional vegetarian curries with delicious side dishes of relishes made from carrot, cucumber, sweet-and-sour lentils and even steamed yams, the standard of



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1. Marine Drive is a three kilometre-long Promenade along the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Road in Mumbai.
2. Mumbai skyline.
3. The Hanging Gardens, in Mumbai, also known as Ferozshah Mehta Gardens, are terraced gardens perched at the top of Malabar Hill.
4. The rock-cut temples on Elephant Island, northeast of the Gateway of India are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
5. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museum in Mumbai.
6. Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
7. The Gate of India.
- 8&9. Crawford Market, one of South Mumbai's most famous markets built in 1869, and donated to the city by Cowasji Jehangir.



**'BOMBAY!  
A bewitching place,  
a bewildering place,  
an enchanting place  
– the Arabian nights  
come again!'**

More Tramps Abroad 1897,  
Mark Twain





hygiene varies considerably so that visitors are best advised to dine at the better restaurants. Look for dishes like fish in a banana leaf – a Parsi speciality, as is meat and lentil casserole. Spicy scrambled eggs for breakfast are a tasty local variation.

As Mumbai is on a famous fishing coast, seafood abounds on menus here. Prawns, lobster, squid, crab and other fish are sometimes grilled, but more often served in curries cooked with fresh coconut milk and lots of spices.

For a vignette of the local lifestyle, call in to the Crawford market. The building is a pleasing blend of both French and Flemish architecture with a bas relief of Indian peasants in wheat fields over the entrance.

A visit to the bazaars of the Kalbadevi area north of the Crawford market will be equally fascinating. Down hidden, narrow lanes, where all the washing lines of Mumbai seem to flutter overhead, each stall of the bazaars is a mini-emporium, where you find everything from incredible bargains, to incredible trash. Here you can browse among the jewellery in the Zaveri Bazaar, cloth goods in the Mangaldas market, and leather goods in Dhabu Street.

Other shopping areas include the Colaba Causeway, kemp's corner and, for more expensive, upmarket, and stylish merchandise, the shopping arcade within the - at Nariman Point.

This city is one of the most colourful and exciting in India. The metropolis is also made more interesting by the variety of its citizens who come from every corner of India – Maharshtriansm Gujaratis, Parsis, Goans, Kannadis, and Tamils, each group contributing their own cultures, customs, and cuisines to the unending hustle and bustle of Mumbai. 🇮🇳



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# Enchanting Mauritius

WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN



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1. Charmarel Waterfall, a striking piece of nature standing amidst dense vegetation.
2. The majestic peak of Montagne du Rempart and Trois Mamelles hills.
3. Exotic vegetation, and varied fauna make Mauritius an interesting destination for keen walkers.
4. Charmarel, seven Coloured Earth in Mauritius is a rare geological oddity attracting a lot of tourists.
5. The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden's (SSRBG) origin dates back to 1736.
6. Pineapple is the star of the local market found on every Mauritian table.
7. L'Aventure du Sucre museum is one of the island's most impressive attractions.
8. Sega dance is embedded into modern Mauritian culture and is the official National Dance of Mauritius.
9. Unique and unforgettable experience in the world on board of Blue Safari's magnificent submarine.
10. Vieux Grand Port is an iconic district of Mauritius with a colonial past.
11. Mauritius, one of the best windsurfing destinations in the world due to its incredibly reliable wind combined with a great variety of windsurfing conditions.



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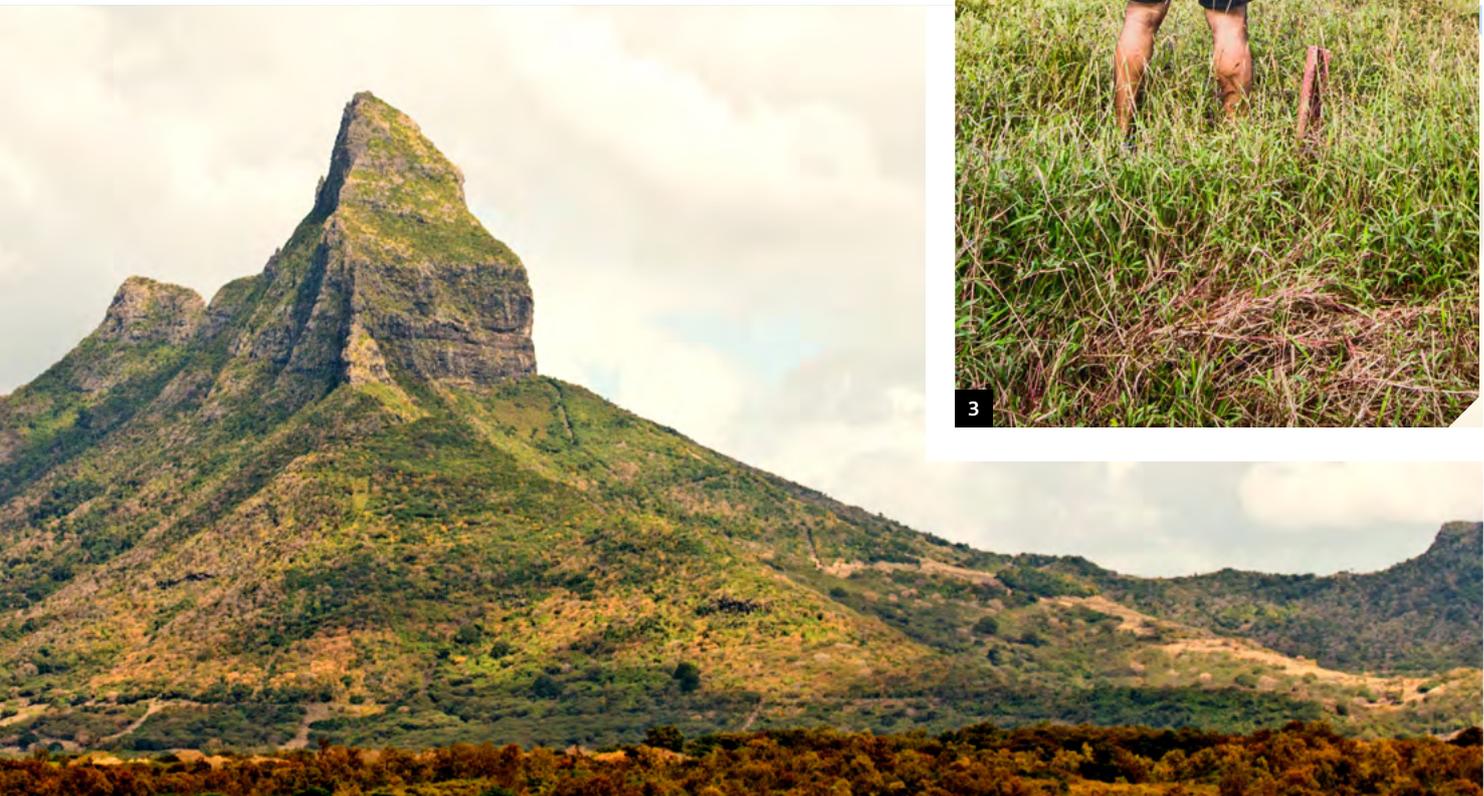
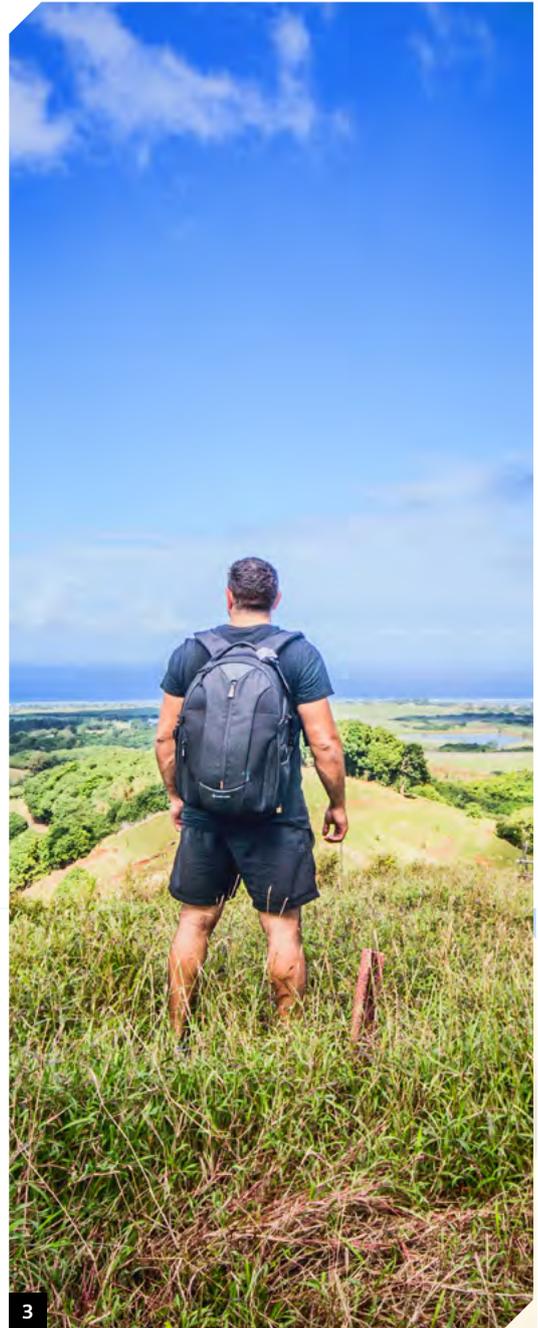
It is sunrise over the Indian Ocean and on the ivory white sand a solitary figure is greeting the new dawn. He slowly lifts his fishing nets out of the water and hangs them out to dry. Then something moves. As if from nowhere a tiny pink crab appears, scuttling sideways across the beach. It skims the surface, barely making an impression in the wet sand. And then they are gone and once more the beach is totally deserted, proof that in a crowded world there are still some places that remain unspoilt, but then this is Mauritius and it was recently my good fortune to fly to this pristine island with Air Seychelles.

Boasting some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, a wonderfully diverse culture, unspoilt white sand beaches, exhilarating water sports, exotic menus and excellent shopping opportunities, Mauritius is far more than just a tropical beach destination. In fact, it is difficult to believe there is so much to see and do on an island that covers just 2028 square metres.

Inland, the terrain rises to a central plateau, dominated by the jagged peaks of Montagne du Rempart (785 metres) and Trois Mamelles (Three Breasts). Further south on the way to Le Morne Peninsula lays the Piton de la Rivière Noire which, at 840 metres is the highest mountain in Mauritius. Guarding the peninsula is the brooding Le Morne Brabant (556 metres), which provides an impressive backdrop to one of the island's most alluring beaches.

The cliffs of Le Morne Brabant are said to be unscalable, but in the early 19th century, escaped slaves managed to climb to the summit of the mountain to hide. Believing they were about to be recaptured by an approaching troop of soldiers, the slaves flung themselves from the cliff tops. Hence the sorrowful name, Le Morne (Mournful One).

The isolated peaks of Pic du Lion (Lion Mountain) in the south-east of the island and the offshore mountain of Coin de Mire (Gunner's Quoin) in the north, virtually complete





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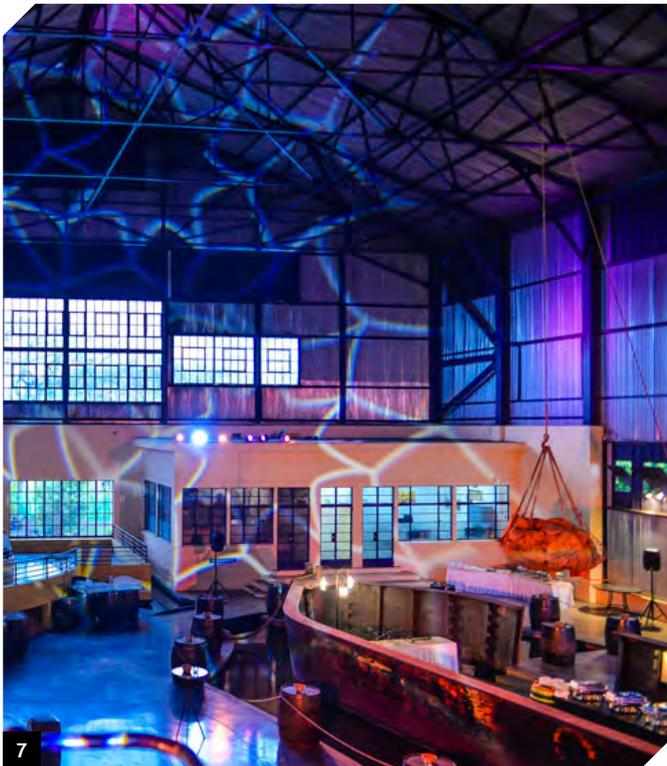
the landscape of the interior – the latter being so named because it resembles the 'quoin' or wedge used to steady the aim of a cannon. There are numerous sites of exceptional splendour on the island. Foremost among them has to be the coloured earths of Chamarel: a surprising series of undulating dunes of contrasting colours. There are said to be seven different shades of blue, green, red and yellow resulting from the erosion of volcanic ash. The neighbouring cascades of the Chamarel Falls are the highest waterfalls in Mauritius, tumbling 100 metres over a sheer rock curtain into the vault of a long-collapsed cave, the floor of which is carpeted with a lush and verdant tropical rain forest that's remained unchanged even with the coming of man.

Another natural phenomenon is to be found at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Gardens at Pamplemousses, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Mauritius. Named after the first prime minister of Mauritius after independence, these beautiful 60-acre gardens are very close to the capital, Port Louis. Explore the palm-lined avenues of the gardens where you will find rare trees such as ebony and mahogany. The centrepiece of the gardens is a pond filled with the giant nenuphar *Victoria Amazonica* water lilies, native to the Amazon region of South America. The gardens also house the 'Samadhi' funerary monument where Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was cremated in 1985. His ashes were scattered on the River Ganges in India.

If you want to discover the origins of Mauritian cosmopolitan culture and the soul of the Mauritian people, a visit to the nearby L'Aventure du Sucre is a must. This former sugar factory, converted into an extraordinary and ultra modern exhibition space, not only tells the story of the sugarcane industry in fascinating detail, but along the way covers the history of Mauritius, slavery, the rum trade and much, much more. But if lazing on unspoilt white sand beaches, exhilarating water sports or visiting sites of exceptional splendour are not your thing, then why not head to one of the islands numerous markets, particularly in Mahébourg or Curepipe, which sell everything from tropical fruits to local handicrafts, while the bustling commercial centre of Quatre Bornes is best known for its twice-weekly clothes market. Mauritius is also known throughout the world for the quality of its hand-made model ships and the industry has grown very quickly.

The capital of Port Louis is home to one of the most famous and historic of these markets, the vibrant Central Market on Farquhar Street, as well as Le Caudan Waterfront which offers a more upmarket feel. Here designer shops site beside gourmet restaurants, a casino and The Blue Penny Museum which holds two of the world's rarest and most valuable stamps – the red one-penny and blue two-pence 'Post Office' stamps issued in Mauritius in 1847.

Once you have finished shopping, Port Louis offers a wealth of other attractions. Eighteenth-century colonial architecture is widespread and the Natural History Museum offers a fascinating insight into the island's past and houses a recreation of the now extinct Dodo, for which Mauritius is famous. No visit is complete without a trip to one of the



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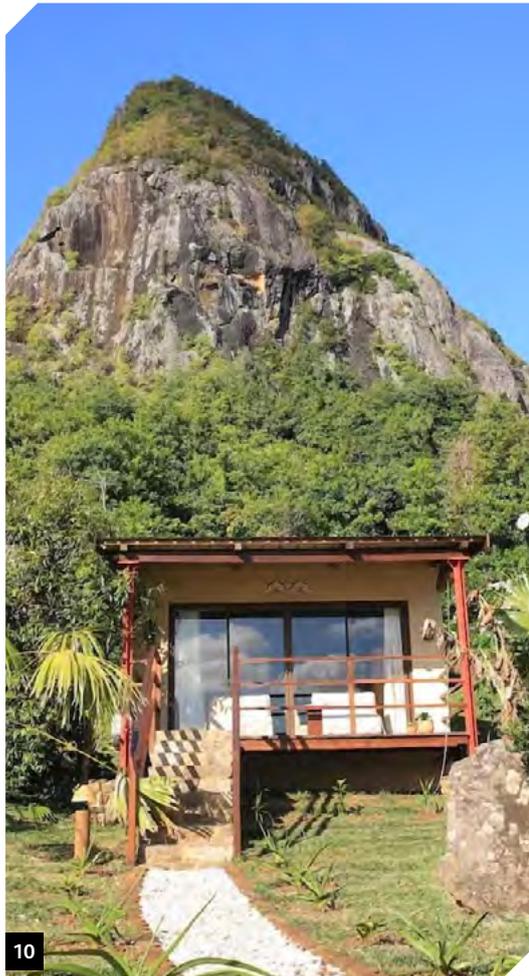
many churches, mosques or temples which, again, highlight the country's multi-cultural flavour.

For the more adventurous there is a host of outdoor activities available which allow the visitor to take in the island's natural beauty. Quad biking, kayaking and cycling are just some of the modes of transport on offer.

Should you visit the south-east of the island make sure you take in Vieux Grand Port and visit the ruins of Fort Frederik Hendrik – the first Dutch settlement built in the early 17th century. Meanwhile, for nature lovers, the Île aux Aigrettes Nature Reserve is a beautiful island set in the turquoise waters of Mahébourg Bay. Visitors to the island can see the rare Pink Pigeon and the Aldabra Giant Tortoise.

Once the sun sets on the lip of the horizon enjoy a taste of Mauritian nightlife. Alongside the bars and restaurants, many of the larger hotels and resorts have nightclubs and casinos. Guests are frequently treated to shows at which the traditional Mauritian dance – the 'sega' – is performed. If invited, don't miss the opportunity to join in!

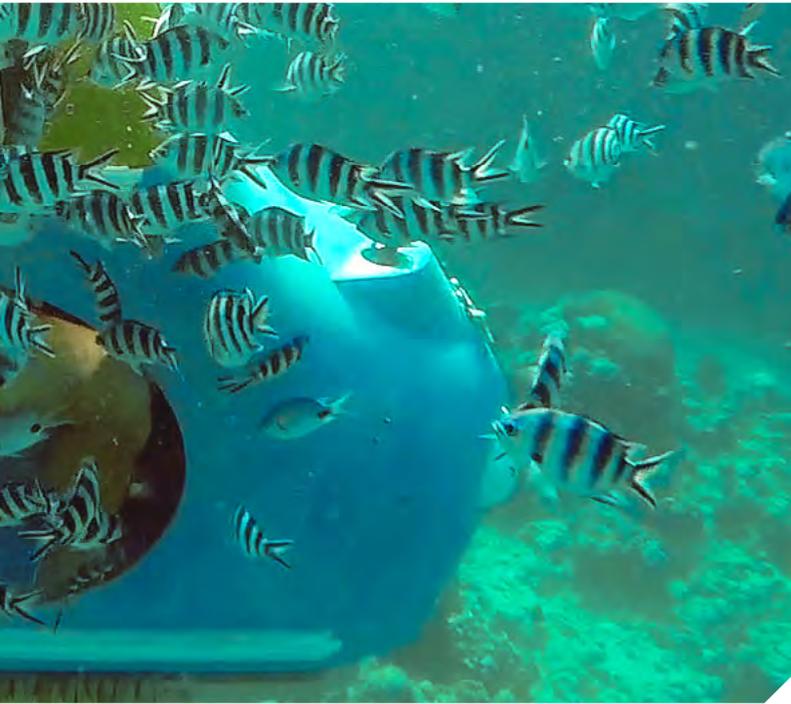
Mauritius' crystal clear lagoons and magnificent coral gardens, inhabited by bright, colourful fish are a continuous attraction to the scuba diver. One of the most spectacular ways to explore the deep is to go on board the Blue Safari Submarine. Descending to a depth of 35 metres, this 40-minute dive will take you on an enchanting journey around the coral reefs where you will encounter the wreck of the 'Star of Hope', a 17th century sheet anchor, and a myriad colourful fish. This same company operates



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the unique Subscoter, where you can pilot your own submarine sitting comfortably under the protection of a transparent dome, providing an unforgettable view of the reef.

An abundance of five-star hotels and resorts can be found all across Mauritius and many offer facilities that are so complete that guests don't even have to leave the well-manicured, lush tropical gardens that surround them.

Mauritius will enchant you; it will uplift your soul, making you feel that you belong to a chosen few. With the warm waters of the Indian Ocean lapping at powdery white sand beaches, shallow lagoons and coral reefs against a backdrop of sugarcane fields and rugged mountains, the island of Mauritius offers an essential beauty that will compel you to return, for this is a paradise that will remain engraved in your memory forever. 🌴



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# Tastes of Maldives

WORDS: SILHOUETTE

The basic diet of the islanders is rice and fish broth, *garudiya*, usually made from tuna. It is sometimes enlivened by a dash of salty fish paste, *rihaakuru* or a spicy side dish of onion and lime, *asaara*. For breakfast, unleavened bread, *roshi*, and fish paste are served. Traditionally, Maldivians do not eat reef fish.

Another popular snack is unleavened bread and a salad mixture of grated coconut, dried fish, lime and spices, *mashuni*. There is also a wide range of mild, creamy curries made from home-ground curry pastes, fish and locally grown vegetables such as breadfruit, pumpkin, sweet potato and eggplant.





## Short-eats

The most-tasty culinary treats in Maldives are the savoury and sweet short-eats, *hedhikaa*, available in tea-shops and restaurants. The savouries, *kuli eche*, are usually based on a mixture of dried smoked tuna fish, grated coconut, lime juice, onion and chilli. The sweets, *foni eche*, are a mixture of flour, sugar and eggs and are best washed down with the national drink, hot sweet tea, *sai*.

## Common savouries are:

*Fihunu mas*: fish brushed with curry paste and cooked slowly over hot coals; *gulha*: fish wrapped in a pastry ball and deep fried; *kavaabu*: deep-fried fish rissole; *keemia*: deep-fried fish roll; *kulhi bis*: fish mixture wrapped in oval-shaped pastry, steamed, turned in a thick, creamy curry paste and eaten with a spoon; *kulhi baakibaa*: mildly spiced fish

cake; *samosa*: fish mixture wrapped in a triangular shaped pastry, deep fried, with a slightly sweet after taste; *theluli hambukeo*: bread fruit chips; *theluli kavaabu*: fish rissole dipped in yellow batter and deep fried.

## Popular sweets are:

*Banas*: small bread rolls usually served with jam; *bondi*: white, finger-long coconut stick, sometimes

wrapped in leaves; *bondibaiy*: rice custard; *foni baakibaa*: gelatine like cake; *foni folhi*: thick pikelets; *keyku*: fluffy, plain cake; *kastad*: custard served on a saucer, very sweet; *usakuru gulha*: sugary rice balls; *rorst paan*: slices of bread dipped in egg and sugar then fried;

*sooji*-cereal drink made with semolina, coconut milk and a few sultanas; *kanamadhu* nuts, sugar and a dash of cinnamon and cardamom; *telali bambukeo*: strips of bread fruit, deep fried until golden brown on the outside and mushy in the middle.





## Chewing and smoking

After meals it is usual to pass round a tray with the ingredients to make a *dhufaaechchehi* – thin, crispy slices of areca nut, cloves, tobacco and lime wrapped in chewed betel leaf.

The habit dates back centuries. In the fourteenth century Ibn Battuta notes that betel was considered more precious than gold or silver. He wrote that taken with areca nuts, "they sweeten the breath and digestion, prevent the disagreeable effects of drinking water on an empty stomach and stimulate

the faculties". Although the areca nut is grown throughout Maldives, the Indian variety is preferred. From about the age of fourteen men and women chew it all day long and their teeth become stained from its red juice. In a world without alcohol, it's a mild stimulant.

*Bidi*, a local cigarette made from dark brown imported tobacco rolled very thin and tight in a newspaper, is a great favourite with islanders.

Women prefer to smoke a water-cooled *hookah*, or a hubble-bubble, in which the tobacco is flavoured with palm syrup and coconut. 🌴



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# 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



### AIR SEYCHELLES RESUMES FLIGHTS

Air Seychelles resumed scheduled passenger flights between India and the Seychelles on 2 December 2021. The return of the Seychelles colours to one of India's biggest cities and commercial financial centre, Mumbai, followed the removal of travel restrictions between the two countries on 12 November 2021.

Air Seychelles operates weekly flights from Mumbai to the Seychelles, increasing to two flights per week from January 2022, with convenient onward connections to Johannesburg.

Air Seychelles Chief Commercial Officer, Charles Johnson said: "After a 20-month hiatus, we are thrilled to be offering normal commercial flights once again between India and the Seychelles".

Travellers to the Seychelles, regardless of vaccination status, must hold a negative COVID-19 PCR test result done 72 hours prior to departure and complete Health Travel Authorization at [seychelles.govtas.com](http://seychelles.govtas.com) including a valid travel insurance covering COVID-19.

For those bound to Mumbai, besides the negative PCR test result, the completed approval received from the mandatory health declaration form completed 72 hours prior to departure via the Air Suvidha portal



will also be verified upon check-in. As each city may have specific entry requirements, travellers with onward domestic connections are requested to verify and adhere to the guidelines of their final destination.

### AIR SEYCHELLES FLY THE CHAMPIONS HOME

Air Seychelles carried the Seychelles national football team home following their victory at the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy competition held in Sri Lanka in November 2021.

The flight, commanded by captain Winsley Confiance and first officer Andre MacGaw, was supported by cabin manager Cynthia Berlouis, cabin senior Kethra Quatre and flight attendants Angela Nicette and Charlotte Morel, who gave the champions a special welcome upon boarding as they flew the Seychelles colours.

The Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Cup, also known as the 2021 Four Nations Football Tournament, held from 9 to 19 November 2021, saw the participation of Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles, and the host, Sri Lanka.



### INDIA 'A' SQUAD FLIES AIR SEYCHELLES

Air Seychelles flew India men's national cricket team to Johannesburg for their 2021-22 South African Tour, which started on 23 November 2021.

The team comprised some leading Indian Cricket Premier League players and several exceptionally talented young cricketers.

Air Seychelles Chief Commercial Officer, Charles Johnson commented: "It's very exciting for us to fly this prestigious team to South Africa for their upcoming series. Sports teams in Africa and across the Indian Ocean have come to rely on Air Seychelles for their charter needs, delivering their players in a safe and reliable manner. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to returning them home in December".



### SALON VALLÉE DE MAI

Air Seychelles celebrated a historic milestone on Thursday, 21 October. The premium lounge was recognised for the first time ever as 'Indian Ocean's Leading Airline Lounge' at the 2021 World Travel Awards.

Located in the departure terminal of the Seychelles International Airport, the premium lounge named Salon Vallée de Mai, after UNESCO's protected nature reserve found on the second most populated island in the archipelago, Praslin. It also features a stunning painting by renowned local artist Alyssa Adams called "Vallée de Mai" which continues the Seychelles-inspired theme.

Set in a stylish blue and green décor reminiscent of Praslin's nature reserve, Salon Vallée de Mai offers an array of facilities for both business and leisure travellers looking for the perfect place to relax, freshen up or enjoy a light meal prior to departure from Seychelles.

Last year, to better accommodate larger groups and to further enhance its service proposition to travellers and airline partners, major refurbishment works were held at Salon Vallée de Mai with upgraded occupancy catering to 110 guests.

Access to Salon Vallée de Mai is complimentary for Business Class travellers. For those travelling in Economy Class with Air Seychelles or any other airlines a single-entry pass for USD 45 can be purchased upon check-in at the airport or via email at [premiumlounge@airseychelles.com](mailto:premiumlounge@airseychelles.com)

### AIR SEYCHELLES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VISIT MALDIVES

In an exciting development for island-deprived travellers, Air Seychelles is pleased to announce a partnership with Visit Maldives, following the resumption of the airline's weekly commercial flights in July from Johannesburg to Maldives, via Seychelles.

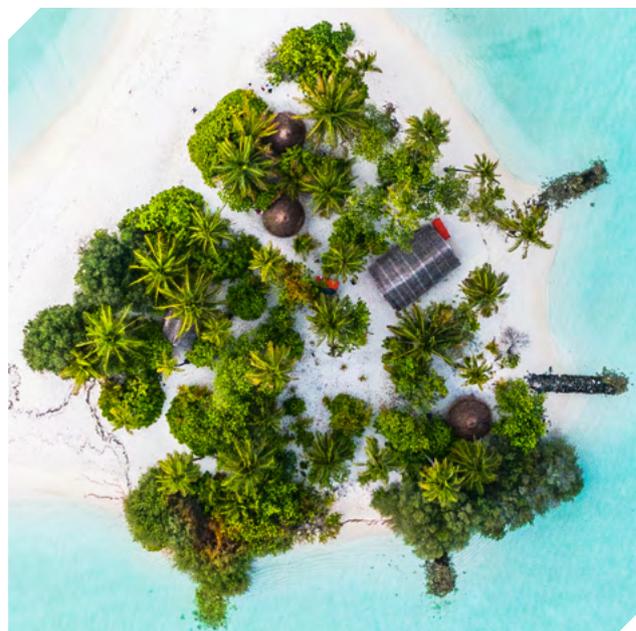
Considering the long-haul routes that are currently being offered by several other carriers, news of the shorter nine-hour journey has been positively received and welcomed by holidaymakers looking for additional incentives as they plan an escape into paradise.

Last year the Maldives was voted the world's leading destination by the World Travel Awards.

For South Africans with their sights set on the vacation of their dreams, the Maldives ticks all the right boxes for travellers of every genre. From those going solo, to romantics, and adventure seekers, Maldives is the place to be. It's also increasingly attractive to families, a place where children can swim and splash in crystal-clear waters, snorkel, and do countless water activities, all in complete safety.

Air Seychelles operates into Maldives using a fuel-efficient A320neo aircraft of 168 seats. Flight HM1124 departs OR Tambo in Johannesburg at 21h10 every Friday, and stops briefly in the Seychelles before arriving in Malé at 09h15. Returning to South Africa, HM123 departs from Malé on Fridays at 11h35, arriving in Johannesburg at 17h55.

To view the flight schedule and to book, travellers are invited to visit [airseychelles.com](http://airseychelles.com) or contact their local travel agents.



\*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://www.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: hm@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: reservations2@border-air.co.za                      helena@border-air.co.za</p>

## 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>• Corpus Christi (16 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.</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.</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 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Year (1 January)</li> <li>• Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday (15, 17 &amp; 19 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.



### 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.

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.

# Journey in Style

Business Class on our new A320neo



Indian Ocean's  
Leading Airline -  
Business Class

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.



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



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