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Inflight Magazine for Air Seychelles • October - December 2025

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Dear Valued Passengers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you aboard Air Seychelles. Thank you for choosing us for your journey – your trust inspires us to deliver the very best travel experience. Our dedicated team is committed to ensuring your flight is smooth, comfortable, and memorable. Should you need any assistance during your journey, please do not hesitate to reach out; we are here to make your flight enjoyable.

This October, we proudly reach a significant milestone: 48 years of connecting Seychelles to the world. Over nearly five decades, our airline has grown and evolved, overcoming challenges and reaching new heights, all while staying true to our roots and our commitment to excellence. It's a journey worth celebrating, and we thank you for being a part of it.

We also take this opportunity to recognise the incredible loyalty and hard work of our staff. This year, we honour 63 team members who have dedicated 10 to 35 years of continuous service – an impressive testament to the strength of our organisational culture. Their unwavering dedication is the foundation of our success, and we look forward to celebrating many more years of their invaluable contribution. Stay tuned for more stories and tributes in our next edition.

For updates and insights into what's happening around Air Seychelles, please visit our pages 66 and 67. We are proud to serve as the official airline partner for this year's Festival Kreol, an annual event that celebrates 40 years of rich Creole culture. Be sure to check out the events calendar and join us for a wonderful celebration!

I warmly invite you to participate in the post-flight survey that will be sent to you. Your valuable feedback and insights are instrumental in shaping our future, enabling us to continually enhance our services and uphold our standards of excellence. We truly value your opinions and are committed to making your experience with Air Seychelles even better.

Now, please settle comfortably into your seats, fasten your seat belts, and relax as you enjoy the journey. On behalf of my team, I wish you a smooth flight and a joyous holiday season.

Thank you for flying with us, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard again soon.



Captain Sandy Benoiton
Chief Executive Officer

“

**48 years of connecting
Seychelles to the world**

”

Features

30

Jewel of the Arabian Gulf

It is an Arabian Manhattan, a veritable sea of skyscrapers criss-crossed by grid lines of streets, a palm-fringed Corniche, sprawling urban developments and a plethora of 5-star luxury hotels and monumental shopping malls.

34

Sacred mountains and temples

It's not gaudy or loud – it unfolds softly with the aroma of burning incense, the beat of temple drums, and the gentle flapping of prayer flags in the mountain breeze.

37

A glimpse into the past of Galilee

Whether you're a devout believer or simply fascinated by history, the Jesus Boat remains a captivating piece of the past – an enduring symbol that continues to echo the life and legacy of Jesus Christ.

41

Conserving the super corals

Today, rising sea temperatures, bleaching events, pollution, and development threaten these underwater rainforests. Scientists, local communities, and eco resorts are leading an inspiring wave of restoration and protection.

44

Echoes of youth

Climate response is the energy and leadership of the young people. From school projects to social media campaigns and volunteer clean-ups, youth are demanding a cleaner, fairer, and more climate-smart city.

48

More than just relaxation

The remote luxury villas combine seclusion, comfort, and the splendour of the natural world. They reflect the increasing demand of tourists to engage in customised experiences.

52

Selamat datang

The vibrant metropolis is a blend of Art Deco buildings interspersed with modern-day structures, making it a fascinating city to walk around and absorb the surroundings.

56

The 'Little England'

The feeling of an English county is complete when horses and ponies are seen running on grasslands and the fringes of Gregory Lake.

60

Joys of a green Christmas

Seashells collected on afternoon walks, driftwood polished by the tide, and even star-shaped leaves and dried palm fronds form the heart of our holiday decor.



30



34



37



41



44



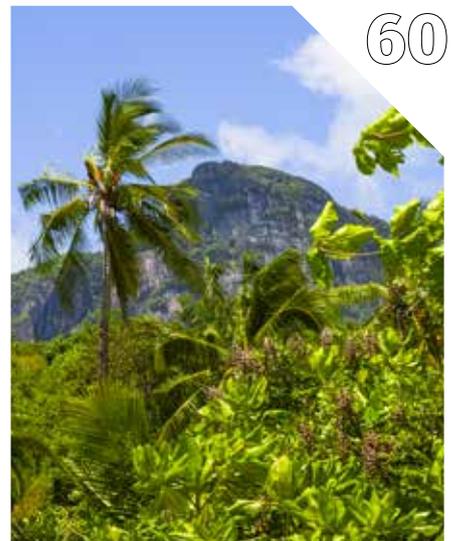
48



52



56



60

Regulars



01

Chief Executive Officer's message

13

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope: Local and international news; New technology releases.

22

The untold story beneath the beauty

It is, quite simply, a place where one can explore, admire, and experience the natural beauty of one of the most beautiful islands on the planet.

28

The iconic monuments

A broader initiative to preserve historic landmarks and celebrate Creole identity.

63

Inside Air Seychelles

Travel facts; Air Seychelles news; Route map and fleet; Air Seychelles global offices.



Cover image:
Waves and granite in perfect harmony
at Anse Source d'Argent beach, La Digue.
Image: © shutterstock.com

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Refuel. Reset. Relax.

Travel light to explore the islands, wait in comfort for your flight, or freshen up after hotel check-out — all without a boarding pass.

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Available a la carte or as part of your package



• CLUB LIBERTÉ • 5

CASINO AND RESTAURANT

SPICES
RESTAURANT

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Whether you're drawn by the thrill of the tables, the allure of gourmet cuisine, or the pulse of Seychelles' nightlife, Club Liberté is your number one place to be seen at on the island!

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Food & Drinks at
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- A fusion of **Creole specialties and international classics.**
- An "always-fresh" **sushi menu** praised among the best on Mahé.

Pair it all with our expertly crafted cocktails and curated wine list.

Unwind & Enjoy

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Bookings are highly recommended to secure your table at the restaurant.

Important Info

Entry is for guests 18+ only. Casual dress.

Valid ID required for casino entry.

View menus & book now at

www.casino-liberte.com/seychelles-restaurant



Seychelles and Branded Residences: The Perfect Fit

For travellers who return year after year, the step from visitor to homeowner is becoming easier. Branded residences – where international hotel standards meet private ownership – are changing how people connect with Seychelles. Here, buyers find more than an investment – they secure a way of life shaped by the islands' enduring appeal.

Seychelles, with its rare natural beauty and reputation as one of the world's most unspoilt destinations, continues to captivate visitors from every corner of the globe. Its appeal is timeless: white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, abundant marine life, and coral reefs that draw divers and snorkelers year after year. Fishing – whether bone or deep sea – sailing, or simply losing oneself in lush green forests, all reinforce the sense of paradise found.

But Seychelles is more than a postcard landscape. It is also a cultural crossroads, home to a warm and welcoming people shaped by centuries of diverse influences. This cultural richness, paired with the islands' natural splendour, is what keeps visitors returning, often transforming a once-in-a-lifetime trip into a tradition.





Accessibility has played its part in this steady flow. With international flights every day of the week and regional hubs such as Dubai and Doha just over four hours away, the islands are never out of reach. Air Seychelles has also expanded its network, making travel to and from the archipelago even more convenient.

For some visitors, however, returning year after year inspires more than just holidays – it leads to investment. Over the years, many have chosen to buy homes in approved developments, securing a personal base in the islands. Yet maintaining a second or third home in a tropical environment is no small task. Properties require constant upkeep, and without regular attention, costs escalate quickly.

This is precisely where the branded residences model proves so appealing. By aligning with an international hotel brand, owners can rely on consistent standards, meticulous maintenance, and shared access to facilities kept in pristine condition. The challenges of distant property management are replaced with the reassurance of hotel-level service.

The benefits extend further still. With a global hotel group comes global reach: established reservation systems ensure that when homes are placed in a rental pool, the process is seamless. Guests arrive to concierge-level service, homes are serviced daily, and each residence is prepared to exacting standards for the next arrival. For owners, this translates into both peace of mind and the prospect of meaningful financial returns.

Equally important is the lifestyle return. Ownership in a branded residences often includes a number of complimentary nights for personal use each year, ensuring that time with family and friends in the destination is guaranteed. For many, it is this blend – investment potential on the one hand, personal enjoyment on the other – that makes the model so compelling.

A prime example of this model is the well-advanced construction of the new Meliá Hotels branded resort on Mahé. Among its highlights are 40 freehold-title apartments in The Residences at Meliá Seychelles, each part of a fully licensed rental pool and managed by the hotel – a 5-star property – opening around the same time. Ownership automatically entitles buyers to an unusually generous 42 nights of personal use annually – a tangible lifestyle return in addition to investment potential.

Alongside these are 28 apartments designated for permanent private occupation, bringing the total to 68 residences in this exclusive project. With Meliá Hotels – an internationally renowned group operating nearly 500 hotels and resorts worldwide – owners benefit from the assurance of consistent quality and the comfort of having property management handled on site.

What makes the model attractive is its balance. Owners can return to Seychelles year after year with family and friends, enjoy the prospect of positive financial returns for the remainder of the year, and tap into the privileges of the hotel's global loyalty programme. It is a structure increasingly favoured by international buyers looking for a more seamless way to own abroad.

The broader market has validated this appeal: branded residences worldwide have achieved premiums of 20-30% over comparable private homes. Combined with Seychelles' advantage of no capital gains tax, the case for ownership here is both compelling and clear.

Seychelles, with its year-round tropical climate, crystalline waters, and enduring sense of rarity, offers more than just a beautiful setting. For those seeking a way to make the islands part of their lives, branded residences present a model that matches the destination's promise with practicality.

And for those reading this on the journey to Seychelles:
Monpézi dan Sesel!

For more information, visit www.theresidencesatmeliaseychelles.com or contact Maryna at maryna@theresidencesatmeliaseychelles.com



The ultimate
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(Units come fully fitted and furnished. Price shown includes all transfer costs)

*The developer is offering a 5% p.a guaranteed net rental return for three years to the first 50% of buyers of units in the Rental Pool. The artist renderings, representations and Interior decorations, finishes, appliances, and furnishings shown are for illustrative purposes only.



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*Become
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Maryna Morin-Adeline

+248 260 59 00

maryna@theresidencesatmeliaseyelles.com

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Festival Kreol

Date: 17-31 October 2025

Venue: Mahé

The Seychelles' Kreole Festival offers a rich experience of Creole customs, music, dance, and food while highlighting the history and vibrancy of Creole culture. Anticipate seeing street parades, colourful costumes and authentic Creole food, a lively, neighbourhood-wide exploration of Creole identity.

There will be different events, including traditional Creole music and dances, the sensual *moutia* dance performed around a campfire with cowhide drums. Don't miss the traditional wedding reenactments and regatta Kreolite's beachside celebrations, which combine tradition, pleasure, and heart in equal measure.

Seychellois people and tourists come together to celebrate and enjoy the seaside and Creole cuisine, offering a range of local dishes, from spicy curries to fresh seafood, reflecting the diverse influences on Seychellois food.



Seyschelly Music Fest

Date: 24-30 November 2025

Venue: Across Mahé, performance venues and public squares

The XI International Music & Dance Festival 'Seyschelly Music Fest' converts Mahé into an open-air platform for cultural interaction. Street performances by folk ensembles (children and adults), choruses, orchestras, majorette teams, and youth art schools offer music and dance to public spaces. The six-day itinerary combines performances with island tours and beach parties.

The festival encourages cultural exchange and community participation by bringing performances to the streets and public spaces. Ideal for cultural travellers, musicians, and dance groups.

Where Island creativity meets global style

Date: 23-30 November 2025

Venue: Victoria

Now in its eighth edition, Seychelles Fashion Week takes its place alongside leading global fashion weeks, celebrating innovation with fresh energy and international flair. Blending fashion, culture, and tourism, the event cements the islands' reputation as a vibrant creative hub in the Indian Ocean.

Several shows are scheduled throughout the week, offering imaginative collections that capture the essence of Seychelles and beyond. There will be fascinating presentations delivered by industry professionals, providing insights into the changing fashion market, as well as opportunities for local and international firms to network and showcase their products, thereby improving the business side of fashion.

With its growing global recognition and strong reputation for hospitality and conservation, the event encourages cultural exchange and strengthens fashion ties across Africa and beyond.



A taste of Creole culture

Date: Every month

Venue: Domaine de Val des Pres heritage site, Mahé

Held on Mahé's east coast, Bazar Domaine is a beloved cultural market blending Creole food, music, crafts, and community spirit. Locals and tourists alike flock to enjoy fresh produce, artisanal jewellery, spices, and handcrafted gifts.

Live *séga* music, drum circles, and cultural displays bring the market to life, offering a true Seychellois experience. Visitors can savour local treats like *ladob* and banana chips or sip fresh coconut water.

Organised by the Seychelles National Heritage Resources Council, the event is also known for its vibrant art exhibitions, live performances, and talented local artisans – an authentic celebration of Creole culture.



ICOCS 2025 – International Conference on Computer Science

Date: 15 & 29 November 2025

Venue: Anse Boileau and Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

ICOCS brings together global experts to explore the latest trends and challenges in computer science. Topics include AI, machine learning, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, cloud computing, and robotics.

The conference features paper presentations, panel discussions, and networking – fostering collaboration and innovation. It's an ideal platform for researchers, developers, and tech entrepreneurs to connect and share ideas in a vibrant, tropical setting.

Seychelles Ocean Festival

Date: Early December 2025, approximately a 3-day event

Venue: Beau Vallon Beach, Mahé

Underwater photography exhibits, diving and snorkelling trips, film screenings, interactive workshops, beach clean-ups, craft and food stalls with ocean-themed experiences are all part of the celebration of marine conservation and ecotourism. Perfect for families and tourists who care about the environment.



International Conference on Clinical Diabetes and Diagnostic Approaches (ICDDA) — ASAR

Date: 27 December 2025

Venue: Anse Boileau, Mahé, Seychelles

This conference is part of a broader series of international medical conferences focusing on advancements in diagnosis and treatment within clinical diabetes. The ICDDA convenes experts, researchers, clinicians, and academics to discuss and exchange insights on innovations in the diagnosis and management of diabetes, emerging clinical approaches and diagnostic methodologies and potential collaborations between industry and academia.



Celebrating 40 Years of Creole Culture in Seychelles

Imagine the beat of Moutya drums echoing through the sunset air, the scent of coconut, cinnamon, and grilled fish rising with the ocean breeze, and a swirl of dancers circling a bonfire on the beach—barefoot, radiant, alive with rhythm. This is the call. Your official call to Festival Kreol, and this coming October, it turns 40.

For four vibrant decades, Seychelles has celebrated its Creole spirit through this beloved national festival. It's not just an event—it's an invitation to feel, taste, dance, and live the heartbeat of the islands. Whether you're arriving for the first time or returning to familiar shores, Festival Kreol offers you a month-long celebration through a kaleidoscope of experiences, all rooted in rhythm, flavour, memory, and pride.

Festival Highlights

Friday 17th October

-Retour lo Zil Sen Pyer – A powerful Creole musical play at ICCS Auditorium, Victoria. A continuation of a landmark production staged 30 years ago, this long-awaited sequel revisits beloved characters and narratives that helped shape Seychellois identity. Expect a soul-stirring blend of drama, music, and dance.

-Celebration of Intangible Cultural Heritage – A tribute to traditional Creole music and dance—solely Moutya, Sega, and Kanmtole—brought to life with traditional instruments and spirited live performances.

-Regatta Kreolite 2025 – Day 1 – The start of three days of beachside fun! Enjoy Creole food, family games, local music, and cultural entertainment by the sea.

Saturday 18th October

-Lafoli Lanmod – A chic Creole fashion soirée at Canopy by Hilton, celebrating the vibrancy of modern Creole style through bold designs and inspired storytelling.

-Regatta Kreolite – Day 2 – Continues with cultural displays, local cuisine, traditional games, and the crowd-favorite Miss Regatta beauty pageant.

Sunday 19th October

-Retour lo Zil Sen Pyer – Second performance for those who missed Friday's premiere or those who fancy an encore.

-Regatta Kreolite – Day 3 – Final day of the iconic beach festival with more music, performances, and family-friendly fun.

Friday 24th October

-Selebrasyon 4Dan nou Killir – The official opening ceremony in Victoria. Featuring Creole storytelling, local crafts, and traditional performances, this event sets the tone for a week of deep cultural immersion.

-Vilaz Kreol – Opens at the Ex-Playground in Victoria. This lively Creole village runs all week, offering authentic food, handmade crafts, drinks, music, and more.

Saturday 25th October

-Karnaval Kreol – A dazzling parade through the streets of Victoria! Expect vibrant costumes, pulsating rhythms, and colorful displays by international delegations, local schools, businesses, and communities—all expressing their unique interpretation of Creole identity.

-Spektak Lakadans – A major live concert at the Music Stadium featuring top Seychellois and regional artists performing both traditional and modern Creole music.

Sunday 26th October

-Maryaz Tradisyonel Spesyal – A Seychellois couple is joined in marriage in full traditional Creole style, followed by a joyful cultural celebration at Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Hotel. A heartwarming fusion of love and heritage.

Tuesday 28th October

-Creole Mass – Held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to commemorate the International Day of the Creole Language. This spiritual gathering features songs, prayers, and readings entirely in Creole.

-Airport Cultural Welcome – Arriving visitors are greeted with cultural giveaways, music, and entertainment—a uniquely Seychellois welcome.

Friday 31st October

-Balbobes – Festival Kreol 2025 closes with Balbobes, a legendary all-night celebration pulsing with Creole rhythm and joy. With live bands, nostalgic tunes, local brews, and Seychellois delicacies, this dancefloor-fuelled party captures the true spirit of Creole togetherness and joy.

Welcome to Festival Kreol. Welcome to Seychelles.

For updates and ticket purchases: www.seychellesculturalencounters.com

Festival Kreol 2025 is proudly supported by Air Seychelles, the official airline partner of this 40th anniversary celebration.





Spring Fiesta 2025

Date: 4 October 2025

Venue: Wild Waters Complex, Margret Lane, Boksburg, Gauteng

Spring Fiesta, one of Johannesburg’s most renowned electronic music festivals, features both local and international performers. Its 2025 edition marks a major milestone as it commemorates 15 years of music, culture, and unity. On six themed stages, over 80 local and international DJs and artists will perform in a variety of genres, including house, hip-hop, amapiano, deep house, and afrotech. Mainstage features performances by Shimza, Cassper Nyovest, Scorpion Kings, Mi Casa, Nasty C, K.O, Blxckie, DJ Kent, Murumba Pitch, and many other South African and foreign artists.

As in past years, a range of musical genres and high-energy acts will be included in the multi-stage festival environment. Gourmet food vendors, leisure spaces, and festival-style amenities, including lounges and swimming pools, will also be present.

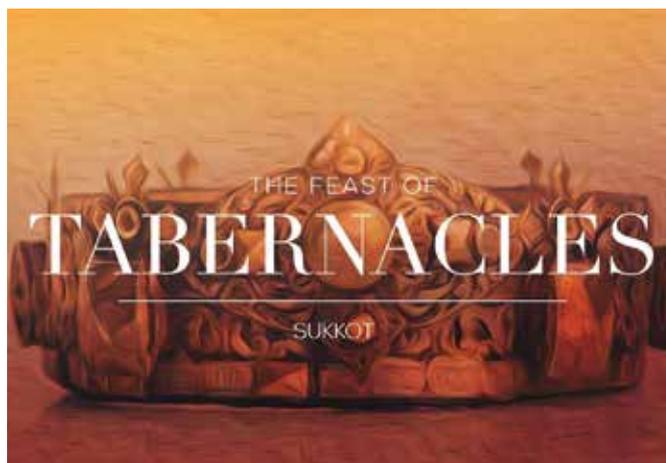
The Feast of Tabernacles

Date: 6-13 October 2025

Venue: Jerusalem

The week-long autumn holiday known as the Feast of Tabernacles, sometimes called Sukkot or the Feast of Booths, commemorates the Israelites’ forty-year journey through the desert. All Jewish males were to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem’s Temple during Sukkot, one of the three main pilgrimage feasts recorded in the Bible, with Passover and the Festival of Weeks.

According to Sukkot, 'booths', Jews celebrate this period by building and residing in makeshift shelters, just as the Hebrews did during their desert wanderings. This joyous occasion honours God’s faithfulness, provision, protection, and deliverance. Experience dynamic worship, stirring instruction, and the special delight of congregating in the city of our glorious King.



Maldives Victory Day

Date: 3 November 2025

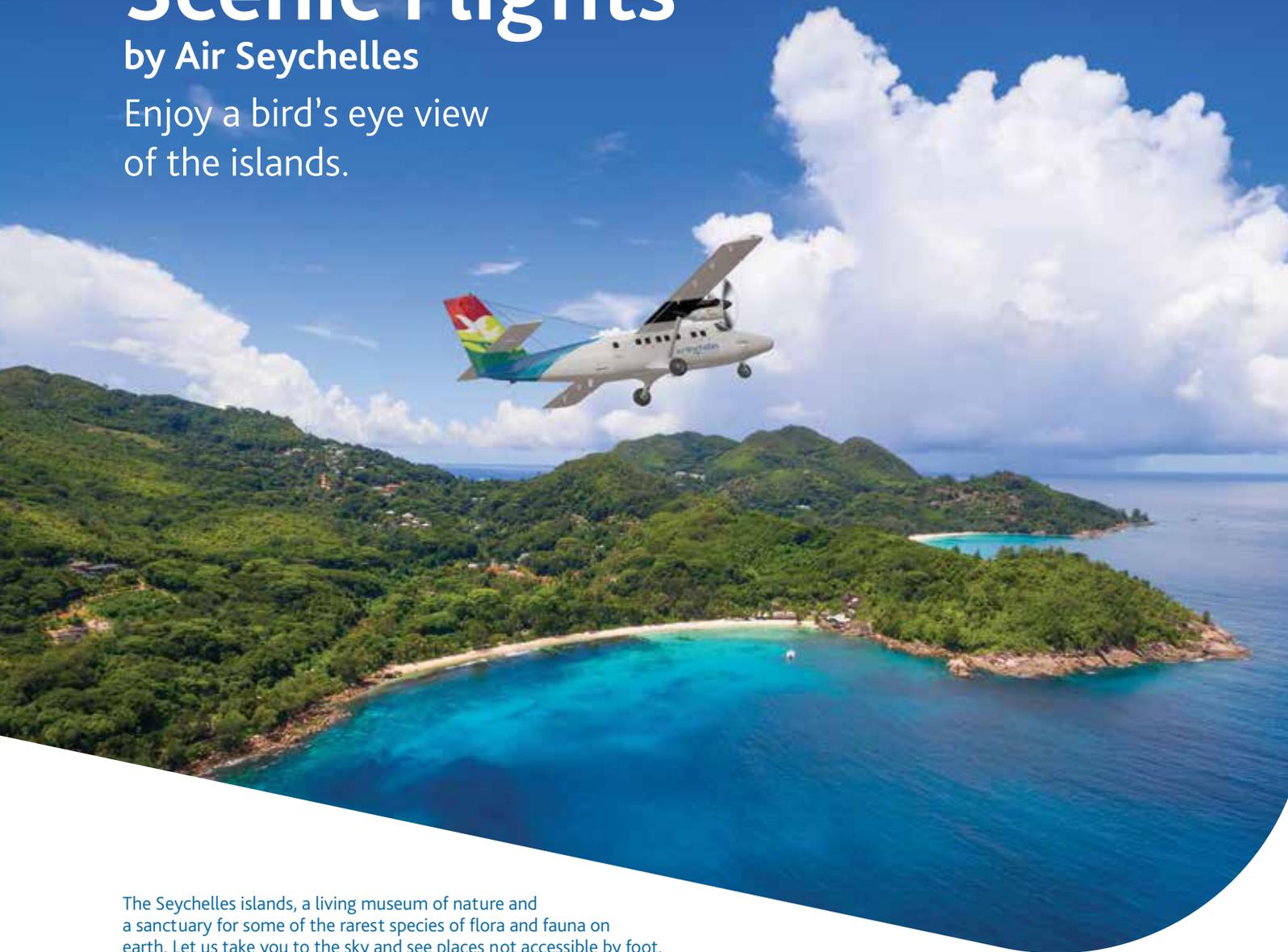
Venue: Malé

Every year on 3rd November, Maldives Victory Day is celebrated. On this day, the government of the Maldives suppressed forces trying to stage a coup. Across the nation, people celebrate this official government holiday. To honour the day, numerous parades, speeches, flag-raising ceremonies, and ceremonial events are staged close to the Victory Monument. Parades are held on Malé and Hulhumalé Streets. The day commemorates the international community’s efforts to assist the Maldivian government. On this day, Maldivians remember and honour their affection for their country.

Scenic Flights

by Air Seychelles

Enjoy a bird's eye view
of the islands.



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

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

For more information, please email hmcharters@airseychelles.com or call +248 439 1000.



airseychelles.com

Festival International Kreol 2025

Date: Mid-November to early December 2025

Venue: Port Louis

Mauritius's premier Creole cultural event returns in 2025 with even more energy and colour. Showcasing the richness of Creole language, music, food, and heritage, the festival features top performers from Réunion, Seychelles, Haiti, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Cape Verde.

Highlights include vibrant street parades, *séga* dancing, a Creole Culinary Village with traditional dishes and live cooking, cultural talks, exhibitions, and book launches – all curated by the Ministry of Arts & Cultural Heritage.

A lively, immersive celebration of Creole identity in the heart of Port Louis.



Liberté Métisse Festival

Date: December 2025

Venue: Etang-Salé les Bains, La Réunion

This festival honours the island's unique Creole identity as well as the end of slavery. This lively event highlights the uniqueness and tenacity of the people of La Réunion through live music, dance, theatre, film screenings, and cultural exhibits. The event honours independence through art, history, and community spirit, attracting both locals and tourists. It is a potent fusion of joy and remembrance.

The island's varied past will be celebrated with street art, theatre productions, outdoor music by the sea, and exhibitions.

Celebrate Christmas & New Year

Date: 15 December 2025 – 2 January 2026

Venue: Colombo

Colombo comes alive in December with dazzling lights, festive markets, and joyful celebrations. From mid-month, streets and landmarks like Galle Face Green glow with fairy lights, live entertainment, and street food stalls offering tropical treats.

Enjoy carol services, midnight Mass, and festive strolls by the ocean. Enter the New Year with spectacular fireworks and celebratory feasts blending local and international flavours. Whether dancing on the beach or exploring vibrant markets, Colombo promises a warm and unforgettable holiday season.



Non-Stop Flights to Abu Dhabi

 The National Aquarium,
Abu Dhabi

Flights between Abu Dhabi and
Seychelles operate daily.

With a flight time from Seychelles of approximately 4.5 hours,
Abu Dhabi is the ideal destination for those looking to combine
business, leisure, and world-class shopping in one trip.

Flights bookable on airseychelles.com



Download our App or visit your local travel agents.



New technology releases

From groundbreaking gadgets to major product launches, the latter half of 2025 promises an exciting wave of innovation.



✦ Samsung foldables & wearables

In July 2025, Samsung launched its most recent breakthroughs with the Galaxy Z Fold7, Flip7, and Watch8 series. With a 200MP camera and built-in AI capabilities, the Fold7 is more powerful and smaller. The Flip7 offers improved personalisation along with a small, fashionable style. A less expensive folding choice is the Flip7 FE. The Galaxy Watch8 pushes wearables towards greater wellness integration by introducing sophisticated health tracking features like vascular load and antioxidant monitoring.

Z Fold 7 Price: US\$ 1,820.00

Watch8 series Price: US\$ 380.00



➔ Apple's iPhone 17 and smart wearables

iPhone 17 Air: With a streamlined design, a potent A19 CPU, and improved AI capabilities, Apple's iPhone 17 Air is the thinnest iPhone ever. It is anticipated to prioritise enhanced battery life, a more straightforward camera configuration, and smooth interaction with Apple's latest smart wearables.

Price: US\$ 1,199.00



↑ **Apple Watch Series 11:** Advanced health capabilities, including blood pressure monitoring, better sleep tracking, and potentially non-invasive glucose detection, are all included in the Apple Watch Series 11. It will be a more potent personal health and fitness companion thanks to improved performance, extended battery life, and tighter integration with Apple's AI-powered health ecosystem.

Price: US\$ 399.00 - US\$ 429.00

↓ **AirPods Pro 3:** Improved spatial audio, more active noise cancellation, and new health sensors – possibly for tracking heart rate and body temperature – are all features of the AirPods Pro 3. Their goal is to provide a smarter, more health-conscious music experience through improved battery life, a smaller design, and smooth connectivity with Apple's ecosystem.

Price: US\$ 179.00





↑ **New Switch 2 game releases**

Exciting game releases are planned through the end of 2025, following the June 2025 debut of the Nintendo Switch 2. These games are made to fully utilise the Switch 2’s superior technology, which includes faster frame rates, better graphics, and quicker load times. Important highlights include:

Tamagotchi Plaza is a contemporary life-sim with social mechanics and virtual pet evolution that is both nostalgic and contemporary.

The Outer Worlds 2 is a much-awaited science fiction role-playing game featuring extensive open-world adventure and epic storytelling.

Zelda: Echoes of the Depths (TBA) and Mario Kart Galaxy Rush are rumoured blockbusters that seek to advance Nintendo’s flagship properties into the next generation.

The Switch 2’s appeal to both casual and serious gamers is further enhanced by the fact that many of these games enable cloud saves, cross-platform functionality, and local multiplayer.

Price: US\$ 450.00



↑ **AR glasses**

With the development of lightweight, fashionable variants by firms like Samsung, Xiaomi, and Oppo, these glasses are gradually becoming more widely used. By providing hands-free real-time translation, navigation, notifications, and even immersive entertainment, these next-generation wearables seek to integrate digital overlays with the physical world. AR glasses are turning from experimental devices into useful everyday tools for communication, work, and travel, thanks to improvements in display clarity, battery life, and AI integration.

Ray-Ban Price: US\$ 299.00, **Apple Vision Price:** US\$ 3,499.00

↓ **5.5G Rollouts and 6G Research**

5.5G, also known as 5G-Advanced, is the evolutionary step between 5G and 6G, with rollouts and large-scale trials expanding globally in 2025. It offers major improvements over standard 5G, including up to 10x faster speeds, Sub-1 millisecond latency (crucial for AR/VR and autonomous systems), more efficient spectrum use, and massive IoT support (enabling smart cities, factories, and vehicles).

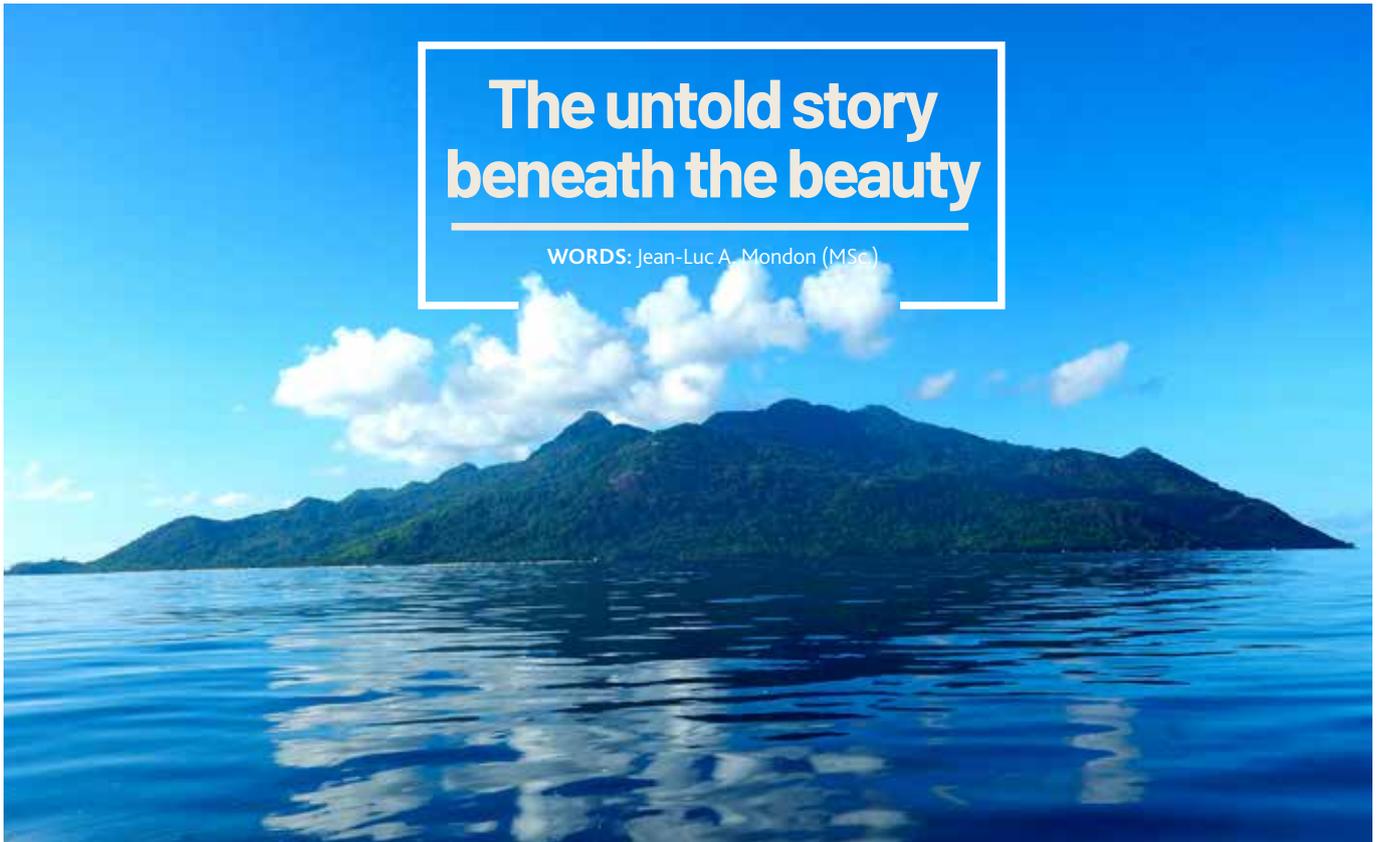
Telecom giants like Huawei, Ericsson, and Nokia are leading the charge, while operators in China, South Korea, and the Middle East are among the first adopters.



NB: Final prices may vary upon product release.

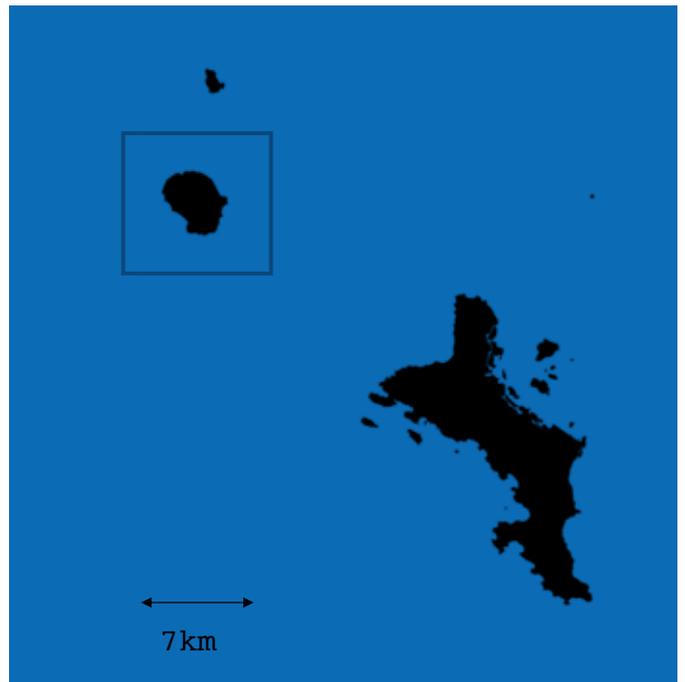
The untold story beneath the beauty

WORDS: Jean-Luc A. Mondon (MSc)



Just 20 kilometres northwest of Mahé, Silhouette Island rises dramatically from the Indian Ocean. Its steep slopes are cloaked in dense tropical rainforest, often wreathed in cloud, and its skyline is dominated by towering peaks that seem to emerge straight from the sea.

From above, the island's profile is striking, a cone-like outline encircling a massive hollow in the middle, a shape that hints at a volcanic past. From the water, it appears as a remote, rugged green fortress, seemingly untouched by humans.





Idyllic beach on Silhouette Island, perfect for those who seek sun and sand.

For most travellers, Silhouette feels like another world. The air fresher, and the absence of urban noise is immediate. It is the third largest island in the Seychelles but remains one of the least developed in the Mahe group. No cars roaming around, there are no shopping malls, and only a few small settlements exist on the east facing coastal plains of La Passe. Most visitors stay at the Hilton Labriz Resort & Spa, nestled between the rainforest and a broad sweep of white sand. The resort works in partnership with conservation organisations, reflecting the island's protected status as both a Marine and Terrestrial National Park. Here, the entire landscape, from the high mountain ridges to the fringing coral reefs, is managed for the benefit of future generations.

Getting there and first impressions

Silhouette is accessible by a 45-minute transfer from Bel Ombre on Mahé or a scenic 15-minute helicopter flight. Approaching by sea, you first notice the near-vertical cliffs rising from turquoise waters, with cascades tumbling from forested heights during the rainy season. By air, you can appreciate the rugged topography: five distinct peaks connected by ridges and valleys, and the central depression suggesting the remnants of a long-collapsed volcanic caldera. Once ashore, you quickly discover that Silhouette rewards those willing to explore on foot. Trails wind through humid forests alive with birdsong and the rustle of palm fronds, eventually reaching secluded coves, dramatic viewpoints, and mountain summits. Paths such as the route to Anse Mondon or to Anse Grande Barbe lead through landscapes that have changed little in centuries. The interior is more demanding – treks to Mont Pot à Eau or Mont Dauban (740 metres or 2,428 feet) the highest peak test endurance but offer unmatched views across the Seychelles archipelago.



Pristine seclusion at Anse Mondon.



Mont Dauban – rising above Silhouette Island with views of the forest.

A geological birth linked to global upheaval

Silhouette's story begins around 65 million years ago during one of the most violent volcanic events in Earth's history, the Deccan Traps eruptions. At that time, the Seychelles microcontinent was still part of Greater India, slowly drifting north toward Asia. Beneath it, the powerful Réunion mantle hotspot was churning, generating vast quantities of pressurized magma.

As the Indian Plate crossed this hotspot, a series of colossal volcanic eruptions poured out vast areas covering the Mascarene fragment. These eruptions were so intense that they may have played a key role in the mass extinction event that ended the age of dinosaurs. In the chaos, a fragment of continental crust, the Mascarene Continental fragment tore away from India. Silhouette became part of this fragment, born as magma pushed upward through ancient continental crust, the Seychelles microcontinent.

Unlike the basaltic volcanoes of Mauritius or Réunion, which formed directly from oceanic hotspot activity, Silhouette's magma had to travel through continental rock. Along the way, it picked up minerals and elements of the host continental rock, not normally found in ocean-island lavas. This 'contamination' resulted in unusual rock types, notably syenite and fine grained Riebekite (micro-granite), rich in feldspar but lower in quartz than the granites of Mahé. Other intrusions, including dolerite

dykes and coarse porphyry that point to multiple phases of magmatic activity and cooling.

Today, Silhouette is classified as a 'continental volcanic remnant', part of a larger geological unit known as the 'Silhouette-North Island Volcano-Plutonic Complex'. Its rugged topography is the heavily eroded skeleton of an ancient volcanic structure, with Mont Dauban representing the top-most preserved section of the magmatic core. Over millions of years, erosion removed the outer volcanic layers, leaving behind the deep-seated crystalline rocks we see today.

A deeper geological timeline

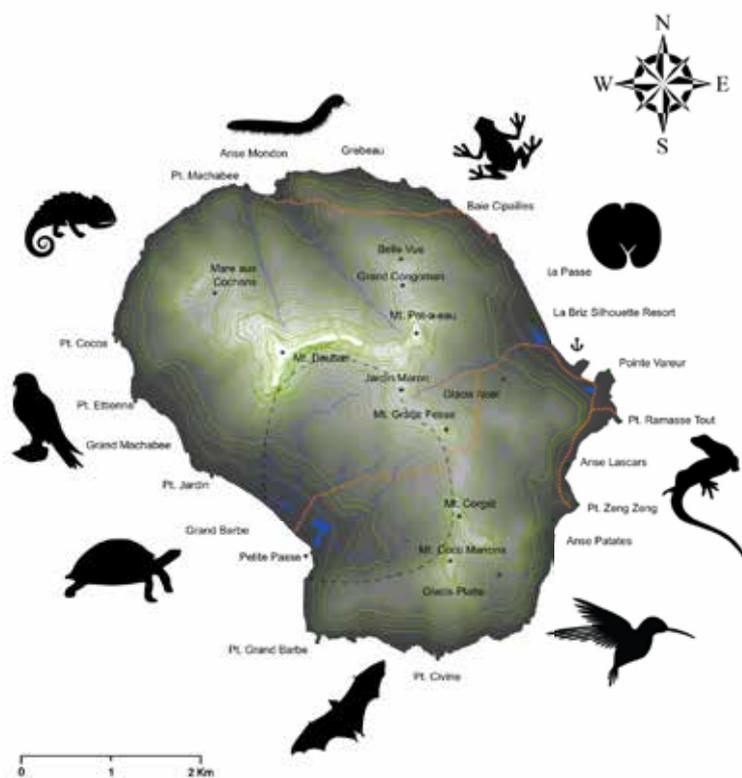
The events of 65 million years ago were just the final act in a much older story. To trace Silhouette's roots, we must go back nearly 750 million years to the late Precambrian, when the granitic basement of the Seychelles first formed deep in the Earth's crust. These rocks were born about 30 kilometres below the surface, far from any ocean, as part of the vast supercontinent Pangaea.

Later, they became part of the southern supercontinent Gondwana, which united Africa, India, Madagascar, Australia, South America, and Antarctica. Gondwana began to break apart over 300 million years ago, rifting into eastern and western halves.

The sequence of separations was gradual but relentless

- 180 million years ago – west and east Gondwana fully separated, with the east Gondwana comprising of India, Madagascar, Antarctica, Australia, and the Seychelles. This subcontinent remained together as part of East Gondwana.
- 136 million years ago – Australia and Antarctica drifted south after crossing the Kerguelen hotspot, rifting away from the greater India comprising Madagascar, the Mascarene fragment including the Seychelles, and India itself.
- 84 million years ago – Madagascar split from Greater India when the Marion hotspot triggered further rifting.
- 65 million years ago – The Seychelles microcontinent, together with the Mascarene continental fragment, broke away from India when the left-over continental fragment drifted over the Deccan hotspot, which initiated one of the largest volcanic eruptions in geologic history.

These movements left the Seychelles stranded in the western Indian Ocean, a fragment of continental crust surrounded entirely by deep oceanic crust, a geological rarity, the only one of its kind.



Ecology and Wildlife

Silhouette's isolation and challenging terrain have preserved some of the most intact habitats in the Seychelles. The island's interior forests are exceptionally dense, with towering hardwoods, endemic palms, and cloud-forest vegetation at higher elevations. Volcanic soils enriched with feldspar minerals support lush growth, and generally higher rainfall compared to Mahé keeps streams and springs flowing year-round.

Flora highlights include the *Impatiens gordonii*, a delicate, bright-flowered species found only in Silhouette's upper slopes. Several endemic palms thrive here, along with pandanus trees, orchids, and an abundance of ferns. In some valleys, the forest canopy rises over 30 metres, providing critical habitat for rare birds and bats.

The island is the last stronghold of the Seychelles sheath-tailed bat, one of the rarest mammals in the world. Conservation projects are ongoing to stabilise its population. Giant Aldabra tortoises roam the lowlands, while geckos, skinks, and unique invertebrates occupy niches unavailable elsewhere. Even common Seychelles bird species, such as the Seychelles blue pigeon and sunbird, show slight behavioural and ecological differences here, a sign of the island's subtle but significant ecological separation.

Human touch – from settlement to conservation

Although Silhouette feels wild today, humans have long been an integral part of its story. The island was named in 1771 after Étienne de Silhouette, a French finance minister under King Louis XV. During the 19th century, it was home to plantations producing coconuts, vanilla, and other crops. Settlers, many of whom were freed slaves, lived in small coastal communities of La Passe and navigated the forest trails daily. By the late 20th century, plantation agriculture had declined, and attention shifted to conservation as Mahé, Praslin and La Digue became the focal points of development in Seychelles. Declared a national park in 1987, Silhouette became a flagship for eco-tourism in the Seychelles. The Hilton Labriz Resort & Spa was built with strict environmental guidelines, using renewable energy sources where possible and supporting marine and terrestrial conservation projects.

Today, development is limited to the narrow coastal plain near La Passe. The rest of the island remains virtually untouched, with strict controls on access to sensitive areas such as breeding sites for endangered species.

What to do on Silhouette

For visitors, Silhouette offers a rare combination of geological intrigue, natural beauty, and adventure. Activities include:

Hiking – Trails range from short walks to strenuous climbs. The ascent to Mont Dauban offers panoramic views of Mahé, North Island, and the surrounding reefs.

Coastal exploration – Anse Lascars features ancient rock carvings, while Anse Patates and Anse Mondon are pristine beaches ideal for swimming and snorkelling.

Diving and snorkelling – The surrounding reefs host vibrant coral communities, reef sharks, turtles, and schools of tropical fish.

Guided biodiversity walks – Led by park rangers, these walks introduce visitors to the island's rare plants and animals, explaining ongoing conservation efforts.

Cultural visits – Explore remnants of old plantations and visit the restored Dauban family mausoleum, a reminder of the island's colonial past.

A window into earth's past

Silhouette is more than just a tropical getaway. For geologists, it is a natural archive of plate tectonics, mantle hotspots, and the forces that shape continents. For ecologists, it is a living laboratory of island biodiversity. For travellers, it is a chance to disconnect, slow down, and experience the Seychelles as they once were, and that is untamed, rich in wildlife, and full of stories written in stones and rainforests.

Standing on a high ridge as the trade winds sweep over the peaks, you can gaze down on the forests, beaches, and reefs, knowing that beneath your feet lies the frozen heart of an ancient volcano, rooted in rocks that formed hundreds of millions of years before humans ever appeared.

Silhouette is quite simply, a place where one can really explore, admire, and experience the natural beauty of one of the most beautiful islands on the planet.



A lone boat glides across the crystal-clear turquoise waters of Silhouette Island.



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Above: The recently painted Bicentennial Monument *Moniman trwa lezel*, a 1978 landmark at the heart of Victoria.

The iconic monuments

WORDS: SILHOUETTE

In preparation for the 2025 Independence Day celebrations, the Seychelles National Institute for Culture, Heritage and the Arts (SNICHA), in collaboration with the National Arts and Crafts Council and the Seychelles Institute of Art and Design, launched a volunteer-driven art initiative to repaint two major roundabout monuments in Victoria. This effort aligns with the broader Greater Victoria Masterplan, which seeks to blend Creole heritage with urban renewal while revitalising public spaces.

Launched in August 2021 by the Ministry of Lands and Housing in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the Greater Victoria Masterplan is a long-term urban development strategy aimed at transforming Seychelles' capital into a more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city. The plan outlines a comprehensive vision for Victoria's future, addressing key aspects such as improved infrastructure, enhanced public spaces, improved mobility, and the preservation of cultural and historical landmarks.

Painting the Bicentennial Monument, led by artist Robert Alexis, and the Unity Monument, led by artist Nigel Henri, was part of a broader initiative to preserve historic landmarks and celebrate Creole identity through architecture, public art, and cultural events. Working alongside a team of artists, they enhanced the monuments with deeper meaning and significance. Local participation was encouraged, giving residents a voice in both decision-making and the design of shared public spaces.

Artists infused Seychelles' rich visual language into the monuments, combining elements of the islands' lush natural beauty and various ethnic heritage. They added colour, rhythm, and cultural richness to the structures by using bold strokes and deep iconography. Motifs inspired by Creole traditions – ranging from elaborate patterns to forms reminiscent of local crafts – mixed with depictions of native flora and fauna, resulting in a visual tapestry that spoke to both heritage and identity. The use of waterproof and resilient paints ensured not just brilliance but also endurance, transforming the monuments into timeless canvases for cultural storytelling.

This facelift highlights Seychelles' diversity, enhancing urban aesthetics and fostering community pride – helping to position Victoria as a city that reflects the spirit and creativity of its people. The project was as much about community engagement as it was about cultural expression, setting a celebratory tone ahead of national festivities.

The Bicentennial Monument *Moniman trwa lezel*, erected in 1978 at the junction of Constitution Avenue and French Chang Him Road, was designed by Italian artist Lorenzo Appiani. It commemorates the



Clockwise from left: The Unity Monument *Monument de l'Unité* built in 1987, the iconic Clock Tower, and the Liberty Monument by Tom Bowers.

200th anniversary of Victoria, founded in 1778 by Frenchman Charles Routier de Romainville. Its three pairs of wings represent the tri-continental roots of the Seychellois people – Africa, Asia, and Europe – symbolising the nation's rich ethnic diversity. The wings' curved shapes also evoke the image of endemic birds, another emblem of local identity.

The Unity Monument *Monument de l'Unité*, created in 1987, is located near the National Library. This striking sculpture features four large stylised white swordfish, their bills meeting at the centre. Each fish represents one of Seychelles' four economic pillars: tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and small business. Their interlocking form symbolises the interdependence of these sectors and the unity they bring to the national fabric. Though originally intended as a fountain, the water feature is often inactive. Still, the monument remains a powerful symbol of national cohesion and shared purpose.

These monuments are accessible 24/7 – either by car or a 10 to 15 minute walk from the central bus terminal along Palm Street and Constitution Avenue. Early mornings and late afternoons provide ideal lighting for photographs. Its location near other landmarks, including the Liberty Monument, makes it a natural stop on a cultural walking route through Victoria.

Other prominent monuments are the Liberty Monument, unveiled in 2014, which is a modern national symbol located in the heart of Victoria. It was commissioned to commemorate the country's independence, and the monument replaced the old Zonn Lib (Free Man) statue. It depicts a

man and a woman raising the national flag together, representing unity, equality, and national pride.

Designed by Seychellois artist Tom Bowers, the monument reflects Seychelles' democratic values and aspirations as a sovereign nation. Standing prominently near key government buildings, it is a popular site for national events and ceremonies, especially during Independence Day celebrations.

Among the landmarks, the Victoria Clock Tower stands out as one of the most iconic symbols of Seychelles' British colonial past. Located at the intersection of Rue Pierre de la Possession and Independence Avenue, it was erected in 1903 to honour Queen Victoria and marked the Seychelles' transition from Mauritian oversight to a British Crown Colony. Cast in iron by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon and modelled after the clock at London's Victoria Station, the structure was originally painted black and later turned silver during King George V's Jubilee in 1935.

After remaining silent for decades, the clock's mechanism was upgraded in 1999 to a quartz system by the original manufacturer. With every inch adorned in intricate Victorian design, the clock tower unmistakably reflects its British heritage. Over the years, it has silently witnessed Victoria's transformation – from a small colonial settlement into a modern city of concrete and glass.

Together, these monuments anchor Victoria's crossroads with elegance and meaning. Their revitalisation not only enhances the cityscape but also supports cultural tourism, strengthens civic pride, and reinforces the role of the community in safeguarding Seychelles' living heritage.



Jewel of the Arabian Gulf

WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN

When oil was first discovered in Abu Dhabi in 1958, it was a tiny settlement, cut off from the mainland at high tide, although at low tide it could be reached across the 'sabkha', the salt flats. It had around 5,000 inhabitants, mainly fishermen.

Today, Abu Dhabi is an Arabian Manhattan, a veritable sea of skyscrapers criss-crossed by grid lines of streets, a palm-fringed Corniche, sprawling urban developments and a plethora of 5-star luxury hotels, outstanding restaurants, monumental shopping malls and thrilling desert drives.

Abu Dhabi has become increasingly popular as a tourist destination, boasting an abundance of world-class visitor attractions. Monuments such as the iconic Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Qasr al Hosn and the Heritage Village add to the city's historical charm, whereas Yas Island, Masdar City and the Capital Gate business community are more recent developments.

The Corniche is an epic four-mile promenade with many places to stop off and enjoy a picnic. You can stroll the entire length in an afternoon or, to speed things up, why not hire a bike instead? Two things will immediately catch your eye here. The Emirate's flag, as big as a bus, atop a 360 feet pole, and the remarkable Capital Gate building, with a built-in lean of 18 degrees (the slant

on Pisa's tower is four degrees). Avenue at Etihad Towers is a new mall dedicated to high-end fashion. Then turn in a few blocks to visit Qasr al Hosn fort, the oldest building in the city. As for eating out, the choice along the Corniche will send you on a journey to gastronomic nirvana, from Ethiopian, via the kitchens of the Middle East and Europe, to Iran.

An absolute must-see visitor attraction in Abu Dhabi is the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the largest mosque in the United Arab Emirates and one of the largest in the world. This magnificent mosque can host up to 40,000 worshippers. Adorning its vast prayer halls are chandeliers gilded in 24-carat gold, including the largest ever crafted masterpiece measuring 10 metres in diameter and 15 metres in height. You can look up at this while standing on the largest handmade carpet in the world. The whole place is an amazing, awe-inspiring building that has a peaceful and serene atmosphere and the gleaming white marble against a brilliant blue sky creates a stunning picture.

Known worldwide as the 'Island of Adventure', Yas Island, near the airport, is a frantic, red-hot centre of adrenaline rides. Sit back, hold on and watch your knuckles turn white. Waterworld, which opened in 2013, is reputed to be one of the world's largest water park, with a dizzying choice of raft rides, slides, terrifying ravines and endless wave machines.

Ferrari World is the first theme park dedicated to this illustrious Italian racing car. The exhilarating ride of the Formula Rossa, the world's fastest rollercoaster, reaches speeds of 240 kilometres (150 miles) per hour. Small wonder Abu Dhabi's Formula 1 racing track is also here. Feel free to walk, jog or even cycle around the circuit any Tuesday for free.

The du Arena is the island's other big feature. Feel the buzz of the crowd at Abu Dhabi's biggest live music venue. From musical legends to the most cutting-edge new talent, the 35,000-seat du Arena has played host to the world's most celebrated artists. And with its newly-installed cooling system, this state-of-the-art outdoor venue is ready to party all year round.

Abu Dhabi's latest bold plan is to bring some of the world's greatest art to its new cultural district on Saadiyat Island, a ten-minute taxi ride from the city centre. Frank Gehry, the celebrated architect, is repeating the gleaming silver sinuosity of his Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in the new Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, currently in development. The Louvre Abu Dhabi, showcasing masterpieces on loan from its famous Paris namesake and other French museums, is another new chapter in the Saadiyat Island story.

For any visitor with an interest in Middle Eastern traditions, the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital is another must-see attraction in the city. Opened in 1999, the hospital is the

first public institution in the UAE providing comprehensive veterinary health care exclusively for falcons, with a patient influx of more than 160,600 falcon patients in its 25 years of existence.

Just an hour from the busy city centre, you can peer over the razor-sharp crest of a monumental dune. There's a good choice of 4x4 tours into this pristine golden wilderness, empty apart from the occasional oil well, camel farm or power pylon. Al Ain, dubbed the 'Garden City' because of its greenery, is the place to visit in the desert. And at the nearby Al Jahili Fort, there's a permanent exhibition to the legendary British explorer and travel writer Wilfred Thesiger, who crossed the region in the 1940s.

On the 74th floor of Tower 2 at the Etihad Towers complex, the Observation Deck at 300 offers unbeatable views of Abu Dhabi's cityscape and surrounding islands. What's more, guests visiting the capital's highest vantage point – the '300', which stands for 'metres in the air' – can take in the sights while enjoying delicious refreshments, light snacks or a scrumptious High Tea in the restaurant.

Abu Dhabi is such a diverse city and, despite being in the desert, is surprisingly lush and green. It offers amazing activities, and if you want to treat yourself to a fine dining experience, then book a table at one of the numerous à la carte restaurants for which the city is famed.



Previous page: Etihad Towers — a striking five-tower complex with the tallest rising 74 floors.

Above: Louvre Abu Dhabi – where art and culture meet under a luminous dome.



Masdar City – Abu Dhabi’s pioneering eco-city.



Al Jahili Fort, one of the UAE’s most historic and beautifully restored Forts.

Naturally, Abu Dhabi saves its most surprising visitor attraction for last: Masdar City, located near the airport, is worth visiting. While conventional cars are scarce, electric and self-driving vehicles circulate in this pioneering low-carbon development powered primarily by the sun and desert winds. Visitors can travel around Masdar City in compact, four-seater autonomous pods that move on guided tracks, as part of the city's unique and sustainable transportation system. Buildings crowd together along small lanes, resembling ancient Arabian streets through which pleasant breezes flow.

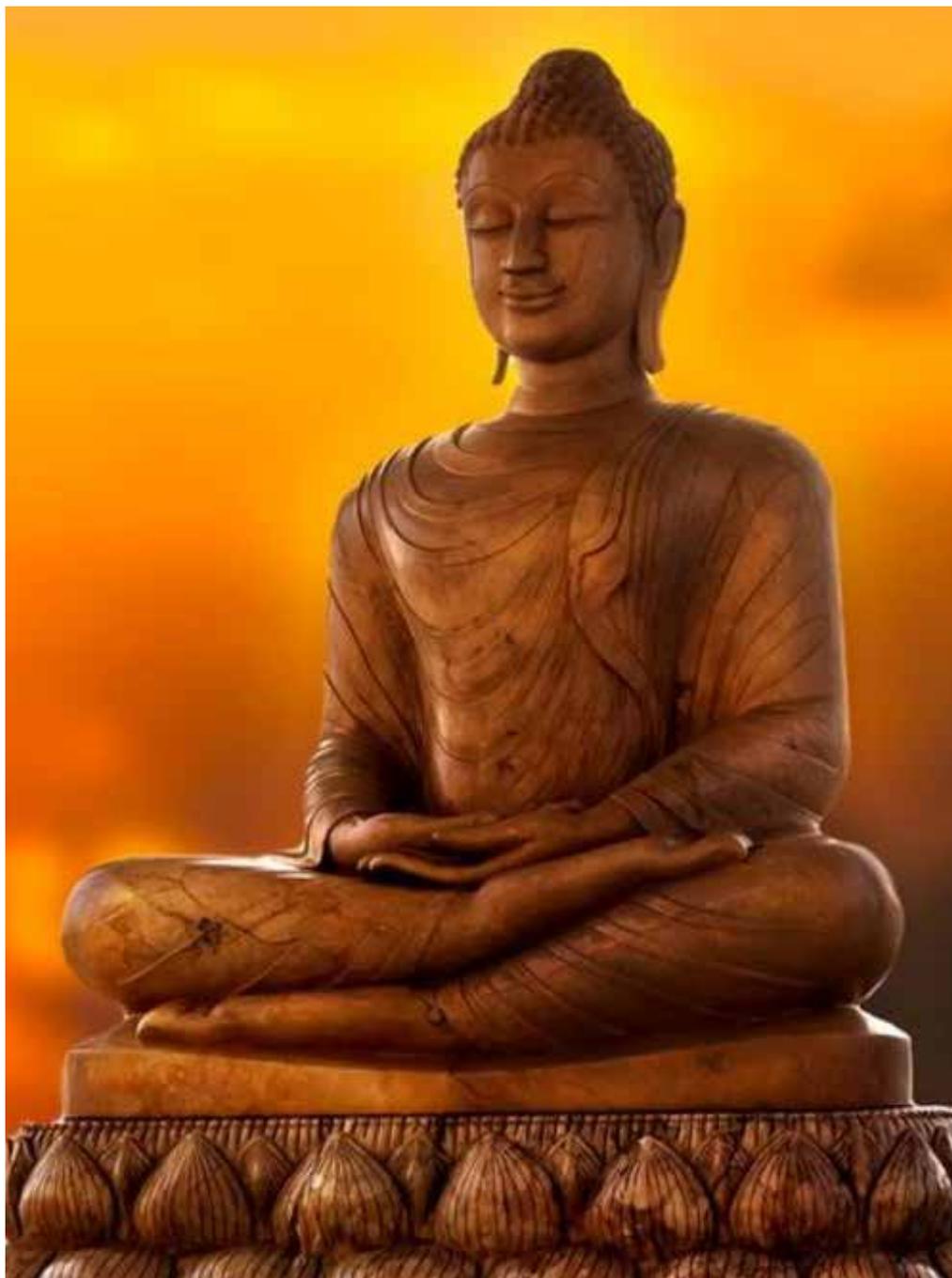
Abu Dhabi is quite simply the yardstick by which other cosmopolitan cities must be judged.



Air Seychelles operates flights between Seychelles and Abu Dhabi daily. Visit: www.airseychelles.com for more information

Sacred mountains & temples

WORDS: MAMBO GICHUKI



Buddhists and indigenous believers live in harmony.

Situated among volcanic cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and lush cloud forests, Réunion Island exudes a subtle sense of reverence. It's not gaudy or loud – it unfolds softly with the aroma of burning incense, the beat of temple drums, and the gentle flapping of prayer flags in the mountain breeze. Réunion stands out as one of the few places where Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and people with indigenous beliefs coexist harmoniously, frequently honouring each other's celebrations. You can find Tamil temples adjacent to mosques and Catholic churches alongside Chinese shrines – not separated by barriers, but united through mutual respect.

The major religion practised here is Christianity. The Catholic Church operates under a single jurisdiction known as the Diocese of Saint-Denis-de-La Réunion. According to Religious Intelligence, Christians make up 84.9% of the population, with Hindus comprising 10% and Muslims 2.15%.

There are also followers of Chinese folk religion and Buddhism present. On this island, spiritual traditions from various parts of the world have not only persisted but have also blended.





The Cavadee festival, a vibrant Tamil celebration.

Colourful Tamil temples

In the town of Saint-André, the early morning sunlight shines on the colourful domes of Tamil temples. Barefoot pilgrims, dressed in white or bright saris, gather to present bananas, flowers, and prayers to God Shiva and Ganesh.

These Malabar temples – established by early Indian labourers in the 19th century – serve not just as places of worship but as vibrant symbols of resilience and remembrance.

Since the 17th century, the island has been home to people of South Indian descent, the majority of whom came from Pondicherry. The majority were South Indian Tamils who were first imported as servants in the latter part of the 1800s. Since then, the Malabars have adopted some behavioural tendencies that differ from those of the other residents of Réunion and their Tamil Nadu forebears.

Every year, during January or February, the streets of Saint-André in Réunion Island come alive with colour, rhythm, and deep spiritual meaning. The Cavadee festival, celebrated by the island's Tamil community, honours Lord Murugan, the Hindu god of virtue and strength.

In the days leading up to the festival, devotees fast and purify themselves through prayer. On the day of Cavadee, they carry beautifully decorated wooden structures called *cavadees*, some with their bodies pierced by needles or spears – a symbol of devotion and penance.

The procession ends at temples like the Temple du Colosse, where offerings and rituals take place in an atmosphere of powerful silence and sacred sound. For many, it's not just a religious event, but a proud expression of Tamil identity and cultural resilience in the heart of Réunion.

One intriguing aspect that is probably unique to Réunion is the fact that some ethnic Indians at the same time observe both the Catholic and Hindu religions, in different ways. This practice has led to them being referred to as 'public Catholic and privately Hindu.' This is the reason why the majority of Indian Hindus were forcibly converted to Catholicism during the indenture era, yet they desired to maintain the secrecy of their original faith.

Mountain shrines and chapels

The French island of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean is home to mountain shrines that are mostly connected to religious and trekking destinations. The most notable is the island's tallest summit, Piton des Neiges, which is both a popular hiking attraction and a place for religious sites. Furthermore, the Cirque de Mafate, a secluded location that can only be reached on foot, is known historically as a haven for runaway slaves and is renowned for its distinctive terrain. Other noteworthy sites are the Cirque de Cilaos, which is renowned for its accessibility and visual splendour, and Piton Maïdo, which provides breathtaking views of the Cirque de Mafate.

Tiny Catholic chapels between ferns and volcanic stone can be seen if you ascend into the Cilaos or Salazie hills. Today's island Catholicism is highly creolised, incorporating African, Malagasy, and Indian elements into a distinctive display of faith, despite the influence of French missionaries in the past. Some homes even keep altars to saints and ancestors side by side.

Sunday mass is held outdoors in the Cirque of Mafate, a secluded alpine settlement that can only be reached on foot. For the sheer delight of getting together, parishioners cross rivers and ridgelines while riding horses to deliver bread and fruit.



The historic Saint-Denis Cathedral.



Sainte-Rose’s Notre Dame des Laves church.



Piton des Neiges, a majestic dormant volcano.



Cirque de Mafate, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The oldest church in La Réunion is the Saint-Denis Cathedral, located in the capital city. It’s a prominent example of neo-Gothic architecture, with its construction beginning in the 19th century, with a dedication in 1880. Because of its position and the legend surrounding it – that it was miraculously saved by lava flows from a volcanic eruption – the Church of Notre Dame des Laves in Sainte-Rose is unusual.

The Church of Sainte-Anne, also in the east of the island, is another architectural highlight and a listed historic monument. The Church of Saint-Benoît, located in the town of the same name, is also worth visiting for its history and unique location near a mosque, symbolising peaceful coexistence.

Sainte-Rose’s Notre Dame des Laves church is well-known for the myth that it was unaffected by the lava flows that came from the Piton de la Fournaise volcano’s 1977 eruption. Despite the widespread belief, historical reports indicate that although the lava did penetrate the church, it only slightly damaged the building itself, having a major effect on the surrounding area.

Religion isn’t the only kind of spirituality on Réunion. The spirit of the land and the presence of ancestors are highly respected, according to many islanders. Simple offerings of cloth-wrapped sacred banyan trees can be found near crossroads, springs, and caves. There is an almost spiritual veneration for the natural world, according to even non-religious people. Piton de la Fournaise, the volcano, is sometimes referred to as ‘the sleeping god’.

Mountain shrines and related attractions:

- Piton des Neiges, a dormant volcano, is the highest point on the island and a popular hiking destination.
- Piton Maïdo offers breathtaking views of the Cirque de Mafate and is a popular spot for sunrise viewing.
- Cirque de Mafate is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This remote area is accessible only on foot and is known for its stunning landscapes and historical significance as a refuge.
- Cirque de Cilaos is known for its accessibility via a road leading into the cirque and its beautiful scenery.

Tamil temples in Le Réunion

- A Hindu temple (temple tamoul) in the commune of Saint-André
- Chinmaya Mission temple, Quartier Francais, Sainte-Suzanne
- Siva Soupramanien temple, Saint-Paul
- Siva-Vishnou-Karli temple, Saint-Paul
- Siva Soupramanien temple, Petit-Bazar on Avenue Ile-of-France, Saint-André
- Sri Bala Subramanya temple, Saint Paul
- Temple du Colosse, Saint André
- Thiru Kalimata Temple, Sainte-Marie



Visit: www.airseychelles.com for more information

A glimpse into the past of Galilee

WORDS: JAMES MICHAEL DORSEY



The preserved Galilee boat — a rare relic from the time of Jesus.

One of the greatest rewards of travelling in a country as compact as Israel is that nearly every historic site is an easy day trip from Tel Aviv. For many visitors, the Sea of Galilee is a must-see destination – and it's only about 132 kilometres (82 miles) away, easily accessible by car or on a guided tour. Though it's called the 'Sea,' the Galilee is a freshwater lake, notorious for its unpredictable storms and towering waves, due to its geographical location and the area's unique weather conditions.

For over two millennia, the Sea of Galilee has supported local fishermen and has also played a central role in early Christianity, particularly in the account of one of Christ's most well-known miracles. According to the Gospels, when Jesus' disciples – many of whom were fishermen – found themselves caught in a violent storm on the lake, their boat was tossed far from shore. As fear set in, they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. Fearing the figure was a ghost, Simon Peter called out to Christ, asking him to come to him. Jesus invited him, and Peter, stepping out of the boat, walked on the water – only to begin sinking when his faith faltered. Jesus saved him, and those aboard declared Him the Son of God.

This story appears in the Gospels of Matthew (14:22-33), Mark (6:45-52), and John (6:16-21), with only Matthew detailing Peter's miraculous walk. The Sea of Galilee is referenced a further 47 times in the New Testament, though belief in these accounts, as with all religious narratives, remains a matter of personal faith.



The Sea of Galilee (Kinneret), a timeless landmark of faith and nature.



Model of the ancient Galilee boat shown during its restoration process.

Fast forward to 1986, when a local fisherman, Yuval Lefan, and his brother Moshe were working in the area around Kibbutz Nof Ginosar. Yuval, a guide by profession and a passionate sculptor of whimsical stone and wood figures, had long felt a deep sense of destiny. He believed that he was meant to make a significant discovery in his lifetime. His intuition would soon lead him to an incredible find.

In the summer of 1986, after a year-long drought caused the water levels of the Sea of Galilee to drop, Yuval and Moshe noticed a dark shape beneath the surface near the northwest shore. Recognising it as an ancient boat, they began excavating immediately. They built a dike around the site to prevent rising water from flooding the area and began the painstaking process of extracting the boat. They carefully sprayed the ancient timbers to prevent them from drying out and disintegrating. After 11 days of excavation, the boat was encased in a polyurethane foam mould to keep it intact, and conservation efforts began. Over the next 11 years, the boat underwent an intricate restoration process in which synthetic wax was injected into the wood, preserving the ancient vessel for future generations.

The boat, now famously known as the Jesus Boat, is considered a national treasure and has become one of Israel's most iconic archaeological finds. Since its discovery, it has drawn thousands of Christian pilgrims, historians, and tourists to the region.

For many Christians, the Jesus Boat is a powerful symbol of their faith. The boat connects to the Gospel stories of Jesus and His disciples crossing



Yuval with his sculpture



Sudden storms sweep across the Sea of Galilee.

the Sea of Galilee, often on boats like the one recovered. It offers visitors the opportunity to step back in time, imagining the lives of those who followed Christ and the historical context of his ministry. Many visitors also take boat rides on the Sea of Galilee to retrace the steps of Jesus, contemplating His teachings and the miracles associated with the lake.

Apart from its spiritual significance, the boat provides insight into ancient maritime culture. It offers a glimpse into how people lived and worked in the first century, a time that was pivotal for both Jewish and early Christian traditions.

The boat itself measures 8.3 metres (27 feet) in length, 2.3 metres (7.5 feet) in width, and stands just over 1.2 metres (4 feet) high. It was constructed from multiple types of wood using mortise-and-tenon joints and wooden pegs instead of nails. The boat was repaired multiple times, indicating it may have been in use for up to a century before Christ's time. With a capacity for up to 15 people, the boat is an exact match for the type of vessel used during the time of Jesus. Carbon dating places its origins between 120 B.C. and 40 A.D.

Today, the boat is housed at the Yigal Allon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar, located just a few metres from its original discovery site. The museum's exhibit draws visitors from around the world, not just for its archaeological significance but for its connection to the Biblical stories that continue to resonate across centuries.

Within the museum, a small-scale model of the boat demonstrates what it would have looked like in its prime, while detailed diagrams show its original location and the restoration process. Numerous artefacts,



Step back in time at the Yigal Allon Museum, Ginosar — where ancient secrets sail to life.



Gift shop and snack bar inside museum at Kibbutz Ginosar.

carefully recovered from the boat, are also on display. Visitors to the museum often move silently through the exhibit, many carrying prayer beads or other religious symbols, as they contemplate the historical and spiritual importance of the boat. The room housing the boat feels almost like a cathedral – quiet, reverent, and filled with emotion.

While the museum includes a small gift shop and a snack bar, the surrounding Kibbutz also offers meals and rooms for overnight stays. Several tour companies offer boat rides on the Sea of Galilee in vessels designed to resemble ancient boats, complete with live storytelling and music, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the region’s rich history and culture.

The Jesus Boat is more than just an archaeological relic – it is a spiritual landmark. It stands as a physical testament to the world of Jesus Christ and the early Christian community. The boat allows both pilgrims and history enthusiasts to connect with the past, offering a rare glimpse into an ancient way of life that continues to inspire people from all walks of life.

Whether you’re a devout believer or simply fascinated by history, the Jesus Boat remains a captivating piece of the past – an enduring symbol that continues to echo the life and legacy of Jesus Christ.



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A marine biologist exploring coral conservation.

Conserving the super corals

WORDS: BRENDA ALISTAR

The Maldives' coral reefs, once among the most beautiful and diverse on Earth, are in decline. Today, rising sea temperatures, bleaching events, pollution, and development threaten these underwater rainforests. Across the islands – from Baa Atoll to Himmafushi, Fulhadhoo and Keyodhoo – scientists, local communities, and ecoresorts are leading an inspiring wave of restoration and protection.

Coral conservation in the Maldives isn't just the work of scientists but a collaborative effort that includes local islanders, resort staff, divers, students, and even tourists. In places like Baa Atoll and Lhaviyani Atoll, resorts are teaming up with marine research centres to involve guests in coral planting experiences. It's conservation with a hands-on twist – and it's changing hearts.

Children in schools are also learning more about reef life through storytelling, snorkelling trips, and art inspired by the ocean. The goal is to cultivate a generation of reef defenders who appreciate the value of marine life and take pride in protecting it.



The Maldives Coral Institute (MCI) is leading restoration efforts at the K. Himmafushi Reef.

One of the biggest threats to coral reefs is coral bleaching, which happens when water temperatures rise and stress the corals. Without their colourful algae partners *zooxanthellae*, corals turn white and can die if temperatures stay high for too long.

The Maldives experienced major bleaching events in 1998, 2010, and again in 2016, which wiped out large sections of the reef. But some areas have shown natural resilience – bouncing back stronger and adapting to changing conditions. These ‘super corals’ are now the focus of intense research.

Marine biologists are exploring ways to select and grow heat-resistant corals, which could help reefs survive in a warmer future. It’s a race against time, but it’s a race worth running. Healthy reefs mean more fish, more food, more jobs, and stronger coastlines for Maldivians. But beyond survival, coral reefs are places of beauty, wonder, and connection.

Snorkelling through a thriving reef is like flying through an underwater rainbow. It’s no wonder people fall in love with the ocean here, and that love is driving a wave of positive change.

Many projects are underway, a hope for island nations, for marine life, and for our shared blue planet.

Himmafushi Reef Restoration

The Maldives Coral Institute (MCI) is restoring the K. Himmafushi Reef to combat the effects of climate change, rising sea levels, and reef degradation caused by human activity. Supported by Der Touristik, Mars Global, and Sheba Hope Grows, and in partnership with local NGO Minivanfaru and the Himmafushi Council, the project uses the Mars Accelerated Reef Restoration System (MARRS).

This low-tech method involves placing sand-coated Reef Stars on the seabed, creating stable foundations for coral fragments. In Phase I (2023), 100 Reef Stars and 1,500 coral fragments were deployed, showing positive results in coral health and fish return.

Phase II (2025) will install 200-300 more Reef Stars and expand local training. Community members, including women and youth, are actively involved in restoration, monitoring, and care.

The project not only helps protect the island from erosion but also boosts biodiversity and builds awareness about reef conservation, supporting long-term island resilience.

The Maldives Coral Institute (MCI) uses larval coral technology to restore reefs by collecting coral eggs during spawning, growing them into tiny coral babies (larvae), and placing them on damaged reefs. This helps boost natural recovery and increase coral resilience against climate change.

Sun Siyam Iru Fushi & Siyam World: Coral Restoration Initiatives

World resorts are leading coral conservation efforts by creating underwater coral nurseries using 'corals of opportunity'—broken coral fragments that are still healthy. These fragments are carefully nurtured and replanted on damaged reefs to help restore marine habitats. Both resorts actively involve their guests in coral planting programmes, offering educational experiences that promote ocean awareness and contribute directly to the recovery and protection of the Maldives' fragile coral ecosystems.



Dr. Johanna Leonhardt, Coral Project Manager at Soneva Fushi.



Soneva Dialogue for Coral Restoration.

How you can help

Choose resorts approved by Green Fins standards for reef-safe diving and snorkelling practices.

Use reef-safe sunscreen, avoid touching coral, and avoid using plastic.

Support sustainable tourism and community-run reef initiatives.

Advocate for debt-for-nature financing – the government has explored swapping national debt into funding for reefs, mangroves and seagrass landscapes.

Expert Voices

"The ocean gives us so much," says a reef ranger on Dhigurah Island. "It's only fair we give something back."

"As a coral biologist, I witness the tragic impacts of marine heatwaves ... however, we are not giving up on this crucial ecosystem." – Dr. Johanna Leonhardt, Coral Project Manager at Soneva Fushi.

"Corals are in crisis worldwide ... if we are to have any chance of saving reefs at any scale, we must rapidly advance regeneration efforts." Karen Sack, Executive Director of ORRAA, at the Soneva Dialogue on Coral Restoration.

"The ocean makes up 99% of my home, the Maldives, and coral reefs are the very heart of our oceans."

— Aya Mariyam Rahil Naseem, Co-Founder, Maldives Coral Institute and ambassador of SHEBA® Hope Grows



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Echoes of youth

WORDS: MARIA SMART

Johannesburg, the pulsing heart of South Africa, is a metropolis brimming with ambition, hustle, and vitality. Skyscrapers rise above expanding suburbs, traffic flows through its veins, and its residents exemplify perseverance and determination. But behind the bustle of this dynamic metropolitan hub lurks a vital concern: climate change is wreaking havoc on Johannesburg, and its consequences are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

The warning signs are evident everywhere, from searing heatwaves to violent storms, flash floods, and ongoing water shortages. The city's expanding population and aging infrastructure make it especially vulnerable to environmental stress. Rising temperatures have produced recurring urban heat islands, pushing electricity demand to its peak and burdening public health systems. Informal settlements are often the hardest hit, with families displaced by flooding, homes destroyed by rains, and livelihoods disrupted by extreme weather conditions.

Despite these enormous constraints, Johannesburg has emerged as a hub for innovation, resilience, and community action. Residents in communities, schools, and city streets are refusing to be passive in the face of climate change. And at the centre of this movement are young people. Johannesburg's environmental issues have not gone overlooked. Greenpeace Africa and Earthlife Africa are conservation initiatives in the city.

Greenpeace Africa, created in 2008, is part of the global Greenpeace organisation. In Johannesburg, its initiatives focus on combating deforestation, climate change, and pollution, as well as promoting renewable energy through collaboration with local people.

Environmental justice is central to its goal, which ensures that people most vulnerable to climatic shocks are not left behind.

Earthlife Africa, founded three decades ago in 1988, promotes sustainability while calling out harmful policies and programmes, particularly those that endanger underprivileged populations. It has helped to connect environmental protection with the fight for social justice through lobbying, grassroots mobilisation, and education efforts.

Together, these organisations have created a strong conservation voice in Johannesburg. However, the city's environmental story is not limited to established non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

A new generation has taken up the baton, and they're running with it.

If you want to grasp the spirit of Johannesburg today, go no further than its young environmental leaders. From high school clean-ups to student-led social media initiatives, the city's kids are demonstrating that activism does not always require a loudhailer. Sometimes all you need are gloves, a garbage bag, and a dream.

Groups like the Green Youth Indaba and the Soweto Youth Environmental Forum are redefining what it means to be an activist in the city. Their approach is realistic, dynamic, and based in their own communities. They could be planting native plants in schoolyards one weekend and conducting an awareness walk in Alexandra or Braamfontein the next.

Their voices resound everywhere, conveying the same message: tiny actions matter. When amplified across communities, these little actions have transforming power. These young changemakers are demonstrating that age is not a limitation, but rather a strength – that the future belongs to those who take it with both hands.

Johannesburg has also stepped up its recycling efforts to address waste management and keep the city clean. The efforts are ambitious, with many involving young people directly.

The Separation@Source (S@S) Program, headed by Pikitup, encourages households to sort recyclables such as plastics, paper, glass, and metals before collection. This system presently employs over 4,500 people, with 37 cooperatives and a fleet of 200 speciality trucks. It is a project that not only diverts waste from overflowing landfills but also provides real employment opportunities for unemployed citizens.

Buy-back centres supplement this effort by paying locals cash in exchange for recyclables, thereby fostering an environmentally responsible culture while also supporting small businesses.

E-waste, one of the world's fastest-growing waste streams, has recently come into spotlight. Pikitup collaborates with eWASA to train informal waste reclaimers on how to handle discarded electronics securely. A ground-breaking effort in Dobsonville, Soweto, has introduced storage containers, tools, and trolleys to make the procedure safer and more efficient. Reclaimers are even compensated for the items they gather, transforming obsolete laptops, phones, and appliances into a source of revenue.

Then there's the issue of unlawful dumping, one of Johannesburg's most apparent environmental wounds.



Joburg children are cleaning up their neighbourhoods one bag at a time.

Pikitup has formed a special task team of 60 officers to patrol dumping areas in collaboration with the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD). Former trash sites are being repurposed as community gardens, parks, and even car washes. The Mayor's 100-Spot Campaign, launched in early 2025, aims to restore 100 illegal dumping sites throughout the city, demonstrating how environmental restoration may also lead to communal renewal.

Many young people view recycling activities as more than just garbage management. They are about dignity, employment, and demonstrating that sustainable living is feasible in Africa's largest inland city.

Not all of the action occurs on city streets. On the outskirts of Johannesburg, youth organisations are 'rewilding' neglected rural regions. Over 400 native trees and plants have been planted along walking paths and schoolyards. The goal is simple yet powerful: to ensure Johannesburg remains green for centuries to come.

These young activists also collaborate with farmers to conserve hedgerows and teach children to recognise local bird and plant species. In doing so, they link climate action to cultural knowledge, demonstrating that saving the environment also includes safeguarding legacy.

What distinguishes Johannesburg's youth is the innovation they bring to their work. Conservation is more than just tree planting; it includes eco-art exhibitions, community picnics, and school-led awareness hikes. These activities do more than educate; they bring generations together around a common vision of sustainability.

The next time you walk around Johannesburg, whether it's the bustle of Braamfontein or the vast trails beyond Soweto, you might see a group of young people planting saplings, sorting recyclables, or collecting rubbish with fun and dedication.

They may not have the loudest voices, but they possess something more powerful: perseverance, ingenuity, and optimism. Their dirty hands and

scuffed boots hold a picture of a city that is actively crafting a greener, fairer future rather than simply surviving climate change.

And as their efforts reverberate through Johannesburg's streets and suburbs, one thing becomes clear: true change frequently starts with the youngest hands.

Why it matters!

Why does this youth movement matter so much? Because their actions ripple outward in ways that numbers alone cannot capture.

1. **They're taking ownership:** By cleaning up parks, planting trees, and restoring public spaces, young people send a clear message – 'This is our city, and we care.'
2. **They inspire change:** Passersby often stop to join youth clean-ups. Families pitch in. Even city officials take notice. Energy like this is contagious.
3. **They learn and grow:** Through environmental projects, young people gain skills in leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility – shaping them into engaged, empowered citizens.
4. **They protect the planet:** Today's plastic bottles and dumping sites will be tomorrow's burdens if left unchecked. By acting now, Joburg's youth are safeguarding their future.



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Secluded luxury villas in Mauritius.



A bird's-eye view of Mauritius.

More than just relaxation

WORDS: LISA SMART

Mauritius' warm temperature, immaculate beaches, glistening oceans, and the verdant scenery make it a popular travel destination. Even though it has some of the greatest hotels and resorts in the Indian Ocean, the emergence of remote luxury villas has drawn a more affluent traveller demographic that wants a customised, immersive experience in complete seclusion rather than just leisure.

The concept of secluded luxury villas in Mauritius has gained remarkable popularity, especially among high-net-worth individuals, couples, and families seeking privacy, exclusivity, and bespoke experiences. These villas are designed to offer a premium level of comfort, personalised services, and total isolation from the crowds, making them a perfect getaway for those who want to disappear to paradise without sacrificing luxury.





Mauritian flavours – *gateau piment*, the island's spicy chilli cakes.

Surrounded by lush foliage and tropical scenery, many private villas are located along secluded beaches or in places where visitors can enjoy unobstructed views of the Indian Ocean. These villas are often found in less-visited areas, such as the southern parts of Mauritius (including Bel Ombre, Le Morne, and Chamarel), which are remote enough to allow guests to enjoy the island's amenities without the crowds. To guarantee complete privacy, some are even built within private estates. These villas offer an immersive natural experience as they are situated within the island's protected reserves, amidst tropical forests, mountains or beaches that resemble lagoons.

These spacious villas feature multiple bedrooms, open-plan living areas, private gardens, pools, and sometimes even private spas or gyms. Full-time staff, such as butlers, private chefs, housekeepers, and drivers, are typically included in luxury villa accommodations. Guests can organise experiences like private boat trips, spa treatments, yoga sessions, and beachside dining. Many villas also have personal chefs who prepare gourmet meals with fresh, local ingredients, with options to customise menus to their personal tastes or from a variety of international and Mauritian cuisines. The villas are equipped with technology, including soundproofing, high-definition entertainment systems, home automation, and sometimes private cinemas.

These villas are designed to offer a sense of complete escape. In some cases, they are entirely isolated, meaning there are no neighbours, no public areas, and no prying eyes. It's an ideal way to disconnect and

enjoy your vacation in utter tranquillity. Guests often receive access to VIP services and private experiences such as helicopter transfers, yacht charters, or exclusive excursions to remote islands and beaches. The seclusion can cater to both types of travellers – those wanting a romantic getaway (honeymoon, anniversary, etc.) and families looking for the comfort of a private environment. Villas often offer family-friendly activities such as private snorkel trips, watersports, and nature treks.

Luxury villas provide an incredibly high degree of service and refinement. Guests may anticipate more than simply high-end furniture and fixtures. Most secluded villas include personalised amenities like private butlers, cooks, and housekeepers. The crew is taught to be attentive, and they make certain that each guest's unique wants and preferences are addressed. You can customise every element of your stay, from selecting the best wine for dinner to organising personalised excursions. Whether you prefer a romantic meal on the beach beneath the stars or a private cookout in your villa's garden, a private chef is always available. Many villas also offer wine matching experiences or Mauritian culinary workshops, allowing guests to connect more deeply with the local culture.

If you're a couple celebrating an anniversary, the villa might arrange a private sunset cruise, or if you're a family, they might organise family-friendly activities like snorkelling or kayaking. For those looking to explore, villas can curate private excursions to hidden waterfalls, remote islands, or even arrange private helicopter rides over the island.

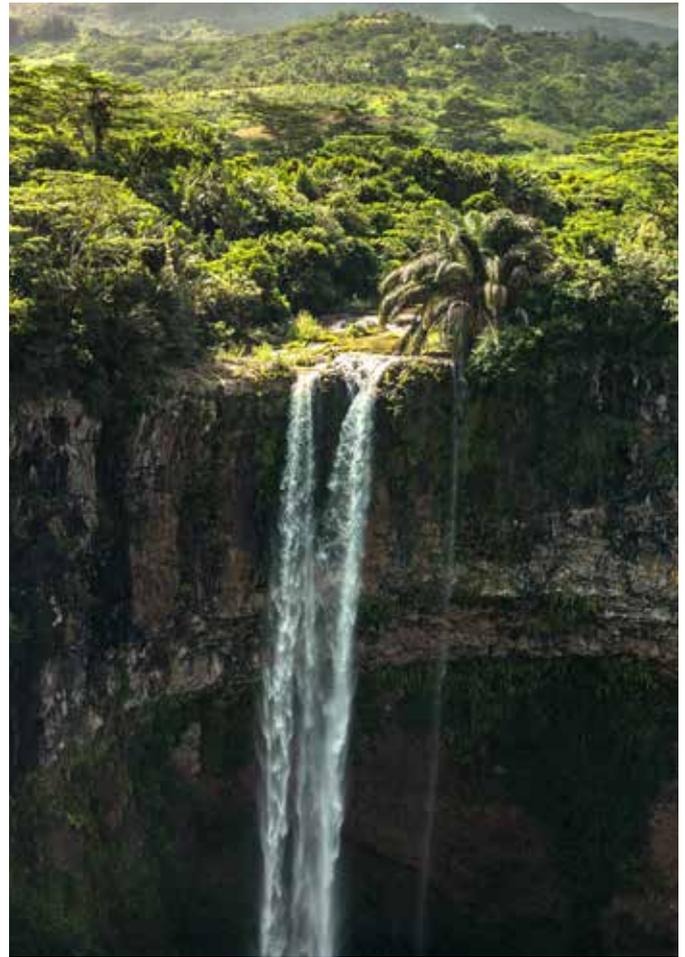


Al fresco luxury – outdoor showers in Mauritius' private villas.

The architecture frequently combines traditional Mauritian design (natural stone, thatched roofs, and wooden decks) with modern amenities such as glass facades, infinity pools, and environmentally friendly building materials. Many luxury villas have a seamless link between interior and outdoor rooms. Large glass windows provide views of the ocean, as well as outdoor lounging areas, al fresco dining, and sunbathing decks. The design maximises sunlight and seaside views. Many private villas are created with sustainability in mind. They use environmentally friendly technologies such as solar electricity, rainwater harvesting, and organic gardens for the villa's kitchens. Many luxury villas have in-house spa services such as holistic massages, facials, yoga, and meditation. Some even offer private spa facilities such as steam rooms, saunas, and hot tubs. Personalised wellness treatments like facials or detox therapies are available to guests at the spas in many remote villas. Certain villas even have on-site yoga instructors who provide individual classes in the garden or on the beach. Villas offer meditation retreats with qualified instructors for individuals seeking mental clarity. Some villas get private access to sports such as kite surfing, deep-sea fishing, snorkelling, and scuba diving for those seeking a balance



Private villas offer exclusive in-house spa experiences.



Hiking to waterfalls and exploring lush nature trails.

of relaxation and action. Private hiking tours and cultural excursions (such as discovering secret waterfalls or learning about local traditions) are also popular. Some villas cater for unique activities such as exclusive beach parties, wine tastings, and art exhibitions based on the guests' tastes.

Mauritius is renowned for its tranquil beaches, but it also offers a wealth of adventure and culture. By providing their visitors with individualised experiences, luxury villas capitalise on these factors. Among the distinctive offers are exploration and adventure. Many upscale villas offer private boat excursions so guests can visit neighbouring islands or explore the stunning coastline. You can take a sunset cruise or a day vacation to the Île aux Cerfs. Some of the best coral reefs in the world can be found in Mauritius, and the majority of remote villas have access to private diving instructors or the chance to go snorkelling with them. A few villas are tucked away in the slopes of the island's mountainous areas, providing opportunities for hiking to waterfalls, exploring nature trails, and observing birds in the tropical forests.

Some villas provide unique cooking workshops for cultural experiences, teaching guests how to prepare classic Mauritian cuisine like *gateau piment* (chilli cakes), *vindaye* (fish prepared Mauritius-style), and *dhol puri*. These can be hosted in the villa's kitchen under the direction of a



Shanti Maurice Resort & Spa.

qualified chef. To see historical sites like the Le Morne Brabant Mountain (a UNESCO World Heritage site) or to visit the southern markets, where you may purchase fresh produce, spices, and handicrafts, private tours can be organised.

In Mauritius, a lot of remote luxury villas are built with sustainability in mind. Villas are frequently built using eco-friendly materials and outfitted with energy-saving features like rainwater harvesting systems and solar panels. The cooks at the villas frequently purchase fresh ingredients from nearby farms and organic shops, emphasising the usage of organic cuisine. Numerous villas are located in eco-friendly communities or nature reserves that support the preservation of Mauritius's distinctive ecosystems.

Sustainability is incorporated into the design of several of Mauritius's remote luxury houses. Sustainable building materials and energy-efficient features like solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems are common features of villas. The villas place a strong emphasis on using organic cuisine, and the cooks frequently purchase fresh items from nearby organic markets and farms. A large number of villas are located in eco-friendly developments or natural reserves that help preserve Mauritius's distinctive ecosystems.

Mauritius's remote luxury villas combine seclusion, comfort, and the splendour of the natural world. They reflect the increasing demand of tourists to engage in customised experiences. These villas satisfy all the requirements of exclusivity and elegance, whether you're a high-net-worth individual wanting the utmost seclusion, a family seeking quality time away from crowds, or a couple seeking a romantic getaway.

Luxury Villas in Mauritius

Tucked away on the untouched southern coast of Mauritius, Shanti Maurice Resort & Spa is an intimate luxury resort spread across 36 acres of lush tropical gardens and powder-white beaches. Their private pool villas with dedicated butler service redefine the art of personalised luxury.

Private Villas at LUX Le Morne: Although LUX is a part of a bigger resort, it offers private, stand-alone villas that offer the utmost privacy along with access to the resort's facilities.

Heritage The Villas: Situated inside the Heritage Bel Ombre estate, these villas offer a combination of privacy and access to the five-star amenities offered by the estate.

Private Homes at Anahita Golf & Spa Resort: They offer private residences and villas with upscale facilities and seclusion, albeit in a slightly more resort-like setting.

Villa Hibiscus at St. Regis: The private villas provide luxurious living with the privacy of a villa experience for individuals looking for isolation within a larger resort setting.



Air Seychelles operates flights between Seychelles and Mauritius four times a week. Visit: www.airseychelles.com for more information



Selamat Datang - Kuala Lumpur

WORDS: SUGATO TRIPATHY

'S*elamat Datang*' is probably the first word you will see while entering the impressive Kuala Lumpur Airport. Translating to 'welcome', it is the symbolic precursor to the impeccable Malaysian hospitality one experiences in this diverse modern country. Kuala Lumpur is a melting pot of culture with a beautiful amalgamation of space-age cityscapes sharing the limelight with ostentatious Islamic minarets, ancient Hindu temples and ornate Chinese shrines! The capital city is the largest urban area of the country and serves as the hub of culture, commerce and transport. Interestingly, the city's name is derived from a Malay word referring to a 'muddy estuary' as it sits on the confluence of the Kelang and Gombak rivers. Kuala Lumpur was under British occupation for more than 150 years until the Japanese occupation during World War II, and faced subsequent insurgencies from 1948-60. The vibrant metropolis is a blend of Art Deco buildings interspersed with modern-day structures, making it a fascinating city to walk around and absorb the surroundings. Kuala Lumpur has plenty to offer in terms of varied tourist attractions. As one guidebook puts it, the city does a spectacular job of packing everything in.



Petronas Twin Towers – the shining icons of Kuala Lumpur's skyline.

→ Tour the city's rich art scene

Kuala Lumpur has never got the recognition it deserves for nurturing a rich artistic tapestry. It is a significant hub for modern and contemporary art in Southeast Asia. It's a city abounding with museums and art galleries, each with a distinctive persona. The National Art Gallery is one of the major art institutions of the city and houses more than 2,500 works spanning traditional, modern and contemporary art. The quirky, privately run museum UR-MU is one of its kind and encourages visitors to deeply reflect on social, cultural and technological changes through their thought-provoking interactive installations. Wei-Ling Gallery is a commercial Malaysian contemporary art gallery which strives to convey stories through the arts of individual talents and thematic group exhibitions. To see the largest collection of Islamic art in South East Asia, visit the Islamic Arts Museum. Here, more than 7,000 art pieces tell the story of the Islamic artistic journey.



The National Art Gallery is one of the major art institutions.



A lush green KL Forest Eco Park.

→ A refreshing escape from the city

Located an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur, is a cool mountain resort noted for its casinos, theme parks, shopping, and breathtaking views of the rainforest. Genting Highlands, perched 1,800 metres above sea level, provides a welcome respite from the city's heat. The Awana SkyWay is one of the most spectacular ways to go to Genting Highlands, flying for 10 minutes above a lush green canopy and undulating mist-covered hills. Along the journey, you may see the spectacular pagoda of the Chin Swee Caves Temple situated on the mountainside, and on clear days, panoramic vistas spread far beyond the lowlands.

The cable cars depart from Awana Station in the middle of the slope and climb to the SkyAvenue station at the summit, where you are greeted by crisp mountain air. Genting provides a world of attractions at the top, including its famous casinos and colourful shopping malls, as well as the enormous Genting SkyWorlds amusement park, indoor entertainment centres, and a diverse dining option. Whether you're there for the views, the thrill rides, or the nightlife, the journey itself is worth taking.

← Experience nature in the centre of Kuala Lumpur

Forest Eco Park (earlier known as Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve) is spread across 9 hectares in the heart of the bustling metropolis. It has a stunning 200 metres canopy walk that provides aerial views of the lush green forest. The experience of walking over the treetops is surreal. The park offers several short hiking trails, walking paths and picnic areas. It is easily accessible due to its central location and is also home to several varieties of rare and endangered flora.

Around 15 minutes away from the park lies Tamam Burung, often referred to as the KL Bird Sanctuary. A part of the Perdana Botanical Gardens, it is a haven for more than 3,000 birds and animals. Spread across an area of almost 21 acres, it is the largest covered bird sanctuary in the world and includes several species of migratory birds as well.



Cable car ride from Kuala Lumpur's foothills to the cool heights of Genting Highlands.



Suria KLCC Mall, where luxury meets lifestyle.

↑ Get a bird's-eye view of the city from the iconic Petronas Twin Towers

Despite being in existence for 27 years, this mind-boggling structure is still the most famous tourist attraction of Kuala Lumpur. Almost all the slots for the tour are booked online, at least a week in advance! The twin towers held the moniker for the world's tallest building until 2004 (Taipei 101, Taiwan, surpassed for the next six years before Burj Khalifa, Dubai earned the coveted distinction!). However, the sky bridge, which connects the two towers on the 41st and 42nd floors, is still the highest of its kind in the world. A fascinating fact about these towers is that they are heavily influenced by Islamic art and culture, with floor plans following geometric patterns and motifs being prominent in the detailed exteriors. The view of the city from the 86th-floor observation deck, especially during sunset, is mesmerising.

The 50-acre KLCC Park in front of the towers is the perfect place to get some splendid shots of the twin towers. Consisting of lovely walkways around a small man-made lake, it also has an illuminated musical water fountain show in the evenings.

Few locals and travellers argue that the KL Tower (also called Menara Kuala Lumpur) offers even more sweeping views of the city. It is one of the world's tallest freestanding towers. There are two decks to try – the indoor observation deck and the outdoor sky deck.

↓ Experience diverse cultures in one destination

Though the population is mainly Islamic, Kuala Lumpur has vivid representations of other religions through ancient mosques, venerable temples and stately churches.

The Sultan Abdul Samad Jamek Mosque, on the confluence of two rivers, lights up beautifully at night and serves as the original centre of Islamic worship until the establishment of the National Mosque in 1965. This onion-domed structure is inspired by Moorish architectural style, made up of bright marbles with intricate carvings, arched windows, and clock towers. Considered the first brick mosque of Malaysia, it holds significant relevance among the Islamic populace.

Another must-visit place of worship is Masjid Negara, the National Mosque of Malaysia. It was built as a symbol of Malaysia's independence and to honour the vibrant Muslim community. This unique steel mosque exudes an aura of palatial grandeur and is one of the finest examples of modern Muslim architecture in Southeast Asia.

A short drive away from Kuala Lumpur is a 400-million-year-old mogote called Batu Caves – a spectacular series of caves housing Hindu shrines in a rugged limestone hill. This complex in the Gombak district is dedicated to Lord Murugan. A gigantic statue of the lord guards the entrance. There are three major caves – Cathedral Cave, Art Gallery Cave and Museum Cave with several temples and shrines inside them. The rainbow coloured 270+ steps up the hill is an added attraction for the tourists.

Another revered temple in Kuala Lumpur is the Sri Mahamariamman Temple. Located in Jalan Bandar, it is the oldest Hindu temple in Malaysia and was established way back in 1873. It served as the major centre of worship for early Indian immigrants.

One of the largest and oldest Chinese temples in South East Asia is Thean Hou. It is probably the only religious place in Kuala Lumpur that has a spectacular vantage point offering sweeping views of the city. The bedazzling multi-storey structure with its lantern-lined paths, mosaic dragons and phoenixes adheres to the typical Chinese architectural style with a mix of Buddhist and Taoist influences.



Majestic domes and peaceful vibes at Jamek Mosque.

→ Titillate your taste buds with authentic Asian Street Food

The Jalan Alor Food Street is considered to be one of the busiest food lanes in the world. The 500 metres long stretch serves a smorgasbord of Asian cuisines – from grilled satay to spicy noodles and a plethora of seafood options. Another similar and more popular area is the Petaling Street Market, with food stalls and open-air grills dominating the busy scenes. Some authentic must try dishes are Bak kwa (sweet barbecued jerky), Asam laksa (spicy and sour noodle soup), Ikan bakar (barbequed fish), Char kuay teow (rice noodles with shrimp, bean sprouts, chives, egg), Nasi lemak (rice cooked in coconut milk), Bak kut the (tender pork in broth and spices) and Hokkien mee (thick egg noodles). You can also try Pudu Food Street near the Bukit Bintang area for authentic Malay street food. It is visited more by the locals than tourists.

The best way to get around the city is the impressive rail network or by using radio taxi services like Grab (widely used in Malaysia). The city is also very walkable with clean, wide pavements and walking paths. Kuala Lumpur is dynamic, multicultural and diverse, and a first-time visitor will have to factor in enough time to truly understand and experience the city's soul.



Authentic Malaysian fish delight.



Tourist buses outside Malaysian Royal Palace (Istana Negara).

Factfile

Best time to visit: November to May

Where to stay: The capital city, as expected, has a myriad of accommodation options. Apart from the usual chain hotels, budget hunters can explore MoMo's Kuala Lumpur (starting \$30 USD per night). Tourists with an affinity for design aesthetics can check The RuMa (from \$130 USD per night). The Banyan Tree (\$210 USD per night) is in the heart of the commercial hub and caters to the luxury-seeking traveller.

Where to eat: Try the signature sliced barbeque pork cheek and deep-fried spring chicken at the CWZJ Cuisine in Jalan Kuchai Lama.

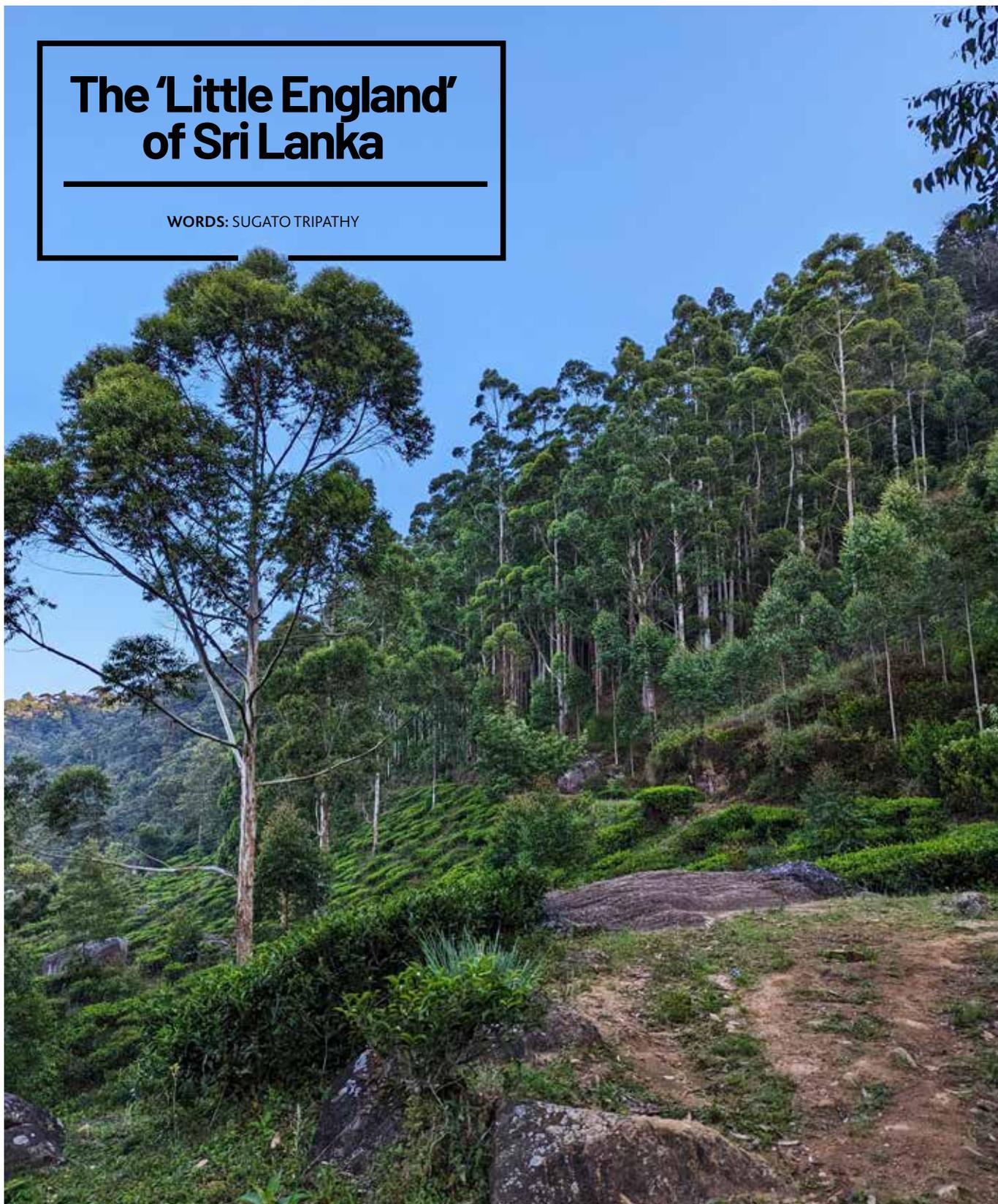
The Singh Chapati House in Brickfields serves authentic Indian dishes. A must try is the Malaysia Boleh Pizza in The Curiosity Iron River in Pudu and the tender beef opor stew in Bijan near Bukit Bintang. For food with views, head to Troika Sky Dining in KLCC and choose any of the four restaurants – Fuego, Strato, Mr. Chews Chino Latino Bar and Fritz.



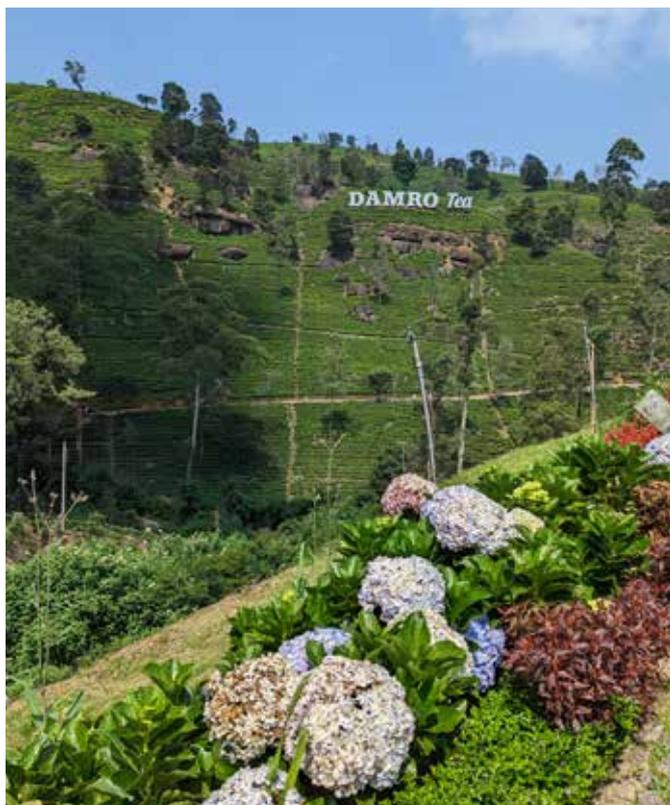
Air Seychelles operates flights between Seychelles and Colombo two times a week, with connections to Kuala Lumpur with Sri Lankan Airlines. Visit: www.airseychelles.com for more information

The 'Little England' of Sri Lanka

WORDS: SUGATO TRIPATHY



A scenic trek leading to the misty beauty of Lover's Leap waterfalls.



Vast tea gardens of Damro Estate, a scenic highlight of Nuwara Eliya.

Sloping green tea gardens and colonial-style bungalows come into view as one enters this sleepy town. Clouds hang like a veil over the surrounding towering hills. The feeling of an English county is complete when horses and ponies are seen running on grasslands and on the fringes of Gregory Lake. This is Nuwara Eliya, an erstwhile British settlement still manifesting much of its old-world charm. This genteel town used to be the beau ideal of escapades for the British and Scottish tea estate pioneers. Colonial era bungalows, Tudor-style hotels, perfect manicured gardens and hedgerows, a beautiful man-made lake and a high altitude racecourse aptly remind us of the bygone British era. Though Sri Lanka gained independence 77 years ago (1948), Nuwara Eliya remained preserved primarily due to its tea estate business and earned the moniker of Little England.

The Backstory

Situated at an altitude of more than 1,829 metres (6,000 feet) above sea level, Nuwara Eliya was largely unpopulated until the island's colonisation. The former rulers in the predominantly agro-based economy of the country didn't focus much on this part of the world owing to the inhospitable terrain for fruitful agricultural activities. The British found this place to their liking after experiencing the hot and humid climate of Colombo. They reminisced about their home country, Nuwara Eliya's verdant mountains, cascading waterfalls, ambient weather and expansive plains and started building houses there. Just around 5 hours from Colombo, it provided the

perfect relief to the westerners and their families. Samuel Baker, an English explorer, officer and naturalist, is credited with the establishment of Nuwara Eliya. With an attempt to replicate life in England, the colonisers, over the years, built holiday homes, bungalows, lakes, parks, clubs, trout streams, a golf course and even a race course!

Tea County

It was a matter of time before the British, with their panache for identifying perfect locations for beverage cultivation, zeroed in on Nuwara Eliya. The initial experiment with coffee plantations eventually made way for vast swathes of tea estates. With the advancement of technology in tea processing, many British and Scottish businessmen set up shop here. The ambient climate and topography aided tea cultivation, and Nuwara Eliya became one of the prominent tea growing regions in Sri Lanka. Today, the region is considered to produce some of the finest tea in the world. One of the most beautiful plantations here is the Pedro Estate. The trek to the famous Lover's Leap waterfall passes through these plantations. The path gives uninterrupted views of the picturesque town nestled in the lap of nature. Visit the estate factory to know the process of tea manufacturing, grading and packaging. Another prominent tea estate open to visitors is the Damro Labookellie Tea Centre. Earlier known as Mackwoods Labookellie Tea Centre, it is one of the oldest ones in the region. The tea garden lounge at this factory is a plush affair with ornate decorations replete with teak furniture, glass walls and artistic interior design. Having a freshly prepared cup of tea overlooking the tranquil tea gardens is a beautiful experience. It also serves as a retail store for visitors to pick up the choicest tea packs straight from the factory.



The charming town of Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka's central highlands.



Gorgeous waterfalls cascading along sheer rock faces atop the mountains.

Natural waterfalls, man-made lakes and idyllic parks

Due to its impeccable natural terrain, the region of Nuwara Eliya is blessed with gorgeous waterfalls lining sheer rock faces at the top of the mountains. The Lover's Leap Waterfall is a short trek above the town and is steeped in legend of two lovers jumping off the cliff to be united afterlife. Poignant as it may seem, the short trek through the carpeted tea estates rolling down the undulating hills will make you forget the story. Another short trek from the city is the picturesque Glen Falls, surrounded by thick shrubbery. However, there are several more unfettered spectacular waterfalls around Nuwara Eliya (all within two hours' drive). Rawana Ella Falls, Devon Falls, Bomburu Ella Falls and Ramboda Falls are a few of the must-visit spots when in Nuwara Eliya.

Gregory Lake is the most popular spot for tourists and locals alike. It was created in 1873 by the Governor of the region, Sir William Gregory, for the purpose of power generation, fishing, boating, water sports and leisure. Spread across a stupendous area of 84 acres, it has several paved walkways along its banks. Swan-shaped paddle boats, pony rides and food stalls are ubiquitous around the place. Adjacent to the lake is the Nuwara Eliya Racecourse, where the first horse race of Sri Lanka was held in 1875. Interestingly, this was to emulate the famous Ascot Races in England. A stone's throw away from the course is the 25-acre Victoria Park, named after Queen Victoria, another testament to the efforts of the colonisers to mimic their home country. This is a lush green park with a variety of rare endemic flora and a plethora of avian residents. It's impeccably maintained, and its flowers are in full bloom from March-May and then from August to September.

An Ode to Hindu mythology

India and Sri Lanka, apart from the waters of the Indian Ocean, share many things in common. The culture, tradition and food overlap in many parameters. The epic tale of Ramayana from ancient India has had a strong influence on South and Southeast Asia. As per the colossal Sanskrit saga, the King of Sri Lanka had kidnapped Queen Sita from India and kept her imprisoned in Ashok Vatika (garden) in Nuwara Eliya. The Seetha Amman Temple, located by a small, beautiful stream, is believed to be the exact place where Queen Sita was kept, making it the only temple in the world where she is worshipped. As per the Ramayana, King Rama sent his emissary Hanuman to Sri Lanka to persuade King Ravana to release his wife. Associated legends of a monkey God's (Hanuman) foot imprints on the nearby rocks are revered by the Hindu community. Tourists from India who follow Hinduism consider this place extremely sacred, and thus it is a part of all itineraries of tour companies.

Irrespective of you being able to experience all that Nuwara Eliya has to offer during your travels, be sure to wake up at sunrise and watch the rays seep in through the misty mountain ranges. A vantage point from any hotel's rooftop will give a soothing view of the colonial town. Nuwara Eliya is unlike anything you will encounter in other parts of this vast tropical island country. It is truly a lasting tribute to the vestiges of Sri Lanka's colonial past.



The historic Seetha Amman Temple.



Sunrise over Nuwara Eliya.

Factfile

Best time to visit: February to April

Where to stay

The Grand Hotel, the Golden Ridge Hotel and The Bellwood Manor are the high-end properties in Nuwara Eliya offering a premium luxury stay experience. Araliya Red and Araliya Green Hills hotels are at the lower end of the price spectrum and are known for their impeccable hospitality.

What to eat & drink

Experience the colonial charm of the region with a cup of its famous Black Tea at Tea Lounge, which also serves Italian and Swiss affairs along with fusion grills. A must try is Themparadu, an open-air restaurant in the heart of the city serving Italian and Sri Lankan dishes with views of Victoria Park. There are also two cuisine-specific popular restaurants in Grand Indian and Grand Thai, both part of the luxurious Grand Hotel property.



Air Seychelles operates flights between Seychelles and Colombo two times a week. Visit: www.airseychelles.com for more information

Joys of a green Christmas

WORDS: AMELIA FRANCIS

Growing up in the Seychelles, Christmas was not about snowflakes or fireplaces. Our Christmases were warm, salty, and golden, with carols playing from open windows, families gathering beneath frangipani trees, and the aroma of cinnamon and fresh-cut fruit floating through the air. It's always been a joyful season for us, but we've begun to reconsider how we celebrate it – why simplicity and sustainability are more important than ever.

These past several years, we've been more aware of the influence our vacation habits might have on the environment, particularly in a place as sensitive and lovely as our islands. That's why we've made tiny but significant changes, such as choosing to celebrate Christmas in a way that respects rather than burdens our natural environment.



A Christmas walk through Morne Blanc – scenic, peaceful, and full of joy.



Eco-friendly Christmas gifts made from nature's bounty.

We are no longer in a rush to buy fresh décor. Instead, we look around. Seashells collected on afternoon walks, driftwood polished by the tide, and even star-shaped leaves and dried palm fronds form the heart of our holiday decor. With a little imagination, these natural accents add warmth and a sense of island character that store-bought products cannot match.

Gifting has also evolved into a more intimate experience. We have traded mass-produced items for homemade and locally sourced gems, such as bottled coconut oil, Praslin vanilla pods, traditional banana bread wrapped in fabric, and a handmade ornament. More frequently, we provide experiences: a boat excursion to a peaceful beach, a walk through Morne Blanc or simply a day spent together without phones or interruptions. These are the types of gifts that create memories – and do not wind up in a landfill.

Even the present wrapping has evolved in our household. Gone are the glossy, sparkly papers and plastic ribbons. Instead, we use old newspapers, vivid magazine pages, or fabric offcuts wrapped with twine or ribbon.

They are stunning in their own right and convey a message: we can celebrate in style without generating garbage.

During the holidays, it's easy to feel pressured to spend more, decorate more, and do more. But we have discovered that the contrary offers the most peace. A calm evening with candles. A barefoot Christmas supper by the seaside. The laughing of family members playing cards on the balcony. These are the moments we treasure – and they cost nothing.

Every day in the Seychelles, we are graced with nature's richness. Christmas provides an opportunity to express thanks for it – to slow down, give gently, and rejoice with heart. A green Christmas is not about being perfect or going without. It's about reconnecting with what matters: love, presence, and the beauty that already exists around us.

In the end, it is not the snow or the bright things that make Christmas unique. We lend an island-style feel to it.

Johannesburg to Seychelles

Paradise is only hours away.

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

Flights bookable on airseychelles.com



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Inside Air Seychelles

News and information



Travel facts
Air Seychelles news
Route network and fleet
Air Seychelles global offices

Important Information

Airport

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

Information

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

Time

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

Electric supply

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

Language

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

Currency

The Seychelles Rupee. There is no restriction on the import and export of domestic and foreign currency in the country. However, anything over SCR 50,000 or foreign currency equivalent in any form should be declared on arrival or departure. Banks and Bureaux de Change are authorised dealers in foreign currency.

Credit cards

Most credit cards and travellers' cheques are accepted.

Banking

Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 0830hrs-1430hrs. Saturday 0830hrs-1100hrs

Public holidays 2025

• New Year Holiday	1 Jan
• Good Friday	18 April
• Easter Sunday	20 April

• Easter Monday	21 April
• Labour Day	1 May
• Constitution Day	18 June
• Corpus Christi	19 June
• National Day	29 June
• Assumption Day	15 Aug
• All Saints Day	1 Nov
• Immaculate Conception	8 Dec
• Christmas Day	25 Dec

Passport requirement

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

Visa requirement

Visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder. A copy of valid return ticket and

proof of confirmed accommodation is required. www.ics.gov.sc

Ground transport

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

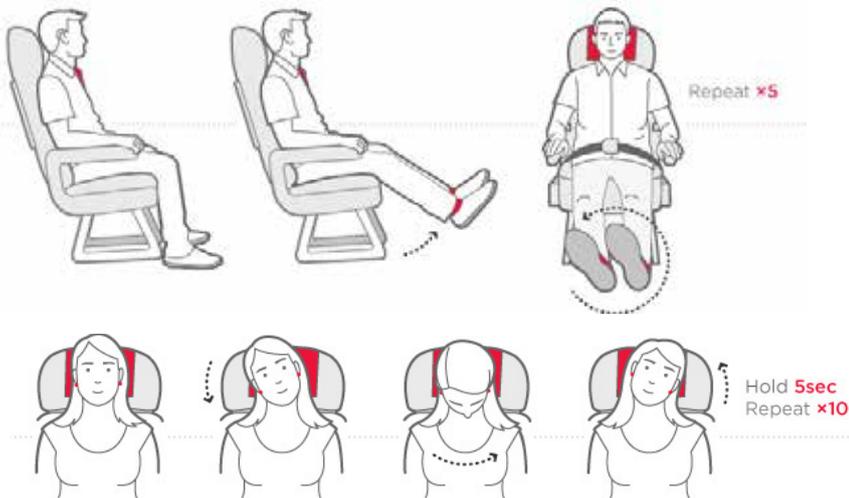
Taxi service

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

Tourist information office

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

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



Seychelles Travel Authorization (STA)

- In compliance with the local immigration Act, all travellers must apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization through seychelles.govtas.com
- STA paperwork is necessary for travel and must be shown at the check-in counter.
- The approval process can take up to 24 hours, therefore request the paperwork at least 72 hours before the travel date.
- If the approved STA document is not produced, the airline may refuse to embark passengers to Seychelles.
- All travellers are encouraged to have travel insurance that covers the duration of their stay in Seychelles.

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.

Singapore

Melbourne

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Sydney

Delhi

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Revitalising the Caiman Estate Wetland

In a significant step towards environmental conservation, Air Seychelles has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment (MACCE) to restore and protect the vital Caiman Estate Wetland, located in Anse Boileau. This collaborative effort reflects the airline's commitment to environmental sustainability and its dedication to preserving the unique ecosystems of Seychelles.

The partnership commenced on 17 April 2025 when Air Seychelles officially adopted the wetland through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MACCE. This strategic alliance is part of the airline's ongoing initiatives to promote ecological awareness and sustainable practices within the Seychelles community.

In a meaningful gesture to commemorate World Mangroves Day on 26 July 2025, Air Seychelles and MACCE organised a comprehensive mangrove planting activity. The event saw dedicated volunteers and environmental experts planting a variety of mangrove species along the wetland's shoreline, aiming to bolster biodiversity, safeguard coastal areas from erosion, and enhance carbon sequestration.

The Caiman Estate Wetland is a vital habitat for numerous flora and fauna, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and providing natural protection against climate change impacts. Through these efforts, Air Seychelles hopes to inspire greater environmental consciousness among its passengers, partners, and the wider community, highlighting the importance of safeguarding Seychelles' precious natural heritage.

Multiple Wins at the 32nd World Travel Awards

Air Seychelles, the flagship carrier of the Seychelles, proudly announces its outstanding achievements at the 32nd World Travel Awards held on 28 June 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Recognised for excellence across various categories, Air Seychelles has been distinguished as the:

- Indian Ocean's Leading Airline 2025
- Indian Ocean's Leading Airline – Economy Class 2025 and
- Indian Ocean's Leading Cabin Crew 2025

The World Travel Awards, established in 1993, is widely regarded as the most prestigious accolade in the global travel, tourism, and hospitality industries. Celebrating industry excellence through regional and global ceremonies, the awards are a comprehensive recognition of innovation, service quality, and leadership across all sectors of the travel industry.

The awards ceremony, attended by prominent tourism and hospitality leaders, industry insiders, and media representatives from across Africa and beyond, underscored the region's commitment to excellence and sustainable travel practices.

Sandy Benoiton, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles, expressed pride and gratitude for the recognition. He said, "We are truly honoured to receive these prestigious awards, which underscore our dedication to delivering world-class service and pioneering innovation in the airline industry.

These achievements reflect the hard work of our talented team and our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences for our passengers. We are proud to serve as ambassadors of Seychelles' natural beauty and warm hospitality to the world."

As the Indian Ocean's Leading Airline and recipient of accolades for our economy class and cabin crew, Air Seychelles continues to set the standard for service excellence and regional leadership. These awards inspire us to push further in our pursuit of excellence and to serve our passengers with even greater dedication.

For more information about Air Seychelles and its award-winning services, please visit www.airseychelles.com



World Travel Awards 2025



WINNER

Indian Ocean's Leading Airline
Indian Ocean's Leading Airline - Economy Class
Indian Ocean's Leading Airline Cabin Crew



Our Network

International Network



Disclaimer: Actual flight paths depends on the weather, government approval or other operational factors. The flight routes depicted on this map are for illustrative purposes only.

MAP KEYS

- Air Seychelles Flights
- - - Air Seychelles Seasonal or Charter Route
- Air Seychelles Codeshares
- Air Seychelles Interline Partner

CODESHARE PARTNERS



INTERLINE PARTNERS



Codeshare Airlines Network (India)



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, providing guests a bird's eye view of the Seychelles inner islands.



Airbus A320-200neo

Aircraft: 2
 Length: 37.57m
 Wingspan: 34.09m
 Passenger capacity: 168
 Cruising speed: 840km/h
 Cruising altitude: 37,000ft

Air Seychelles Domestic Network



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

seyStream

in-flight entertainment



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

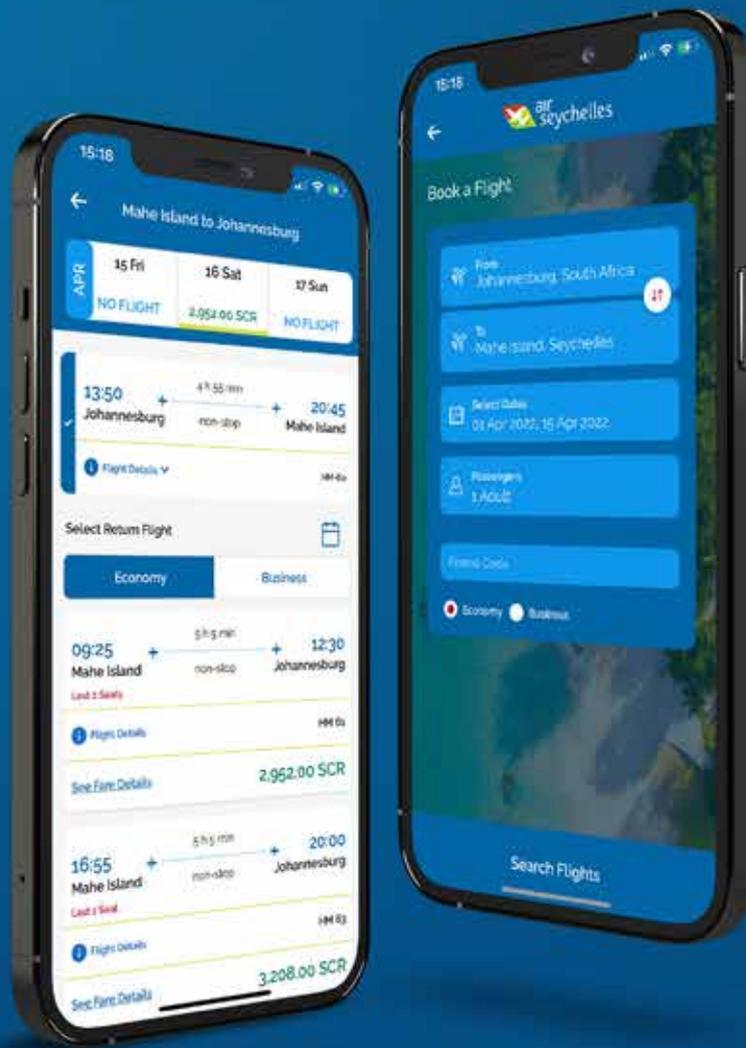
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- 2 Enable the WiFi function.
- 3 Select '**seyStream**' network and connect.

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

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

Air Seychelles global offices

<p>India</p>		<p>Capital: New Delhi Languages: Hindi, English Currency: Indian Rupee Area: 3,287,590 km² Population: 1,451,000,000 (2024) 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>Israel</p>		<p>Capital: Jerusalem Language: Hebrew Currency: Israel Shekel Area: 20,770 km² Population: 9,400,000 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Tel Aviv</p>	<p>AIRLINES GSA 3 Gilboa St Airport City 7019900 Tel Aviv Tel: +972 3 5160598 Email: res@airseychelles.co.il</p>
<p>La Réunion</p>		<p>Capital: Saint-Denis Language: French Currency: Euro Area: 2,512 km² Population: 885,700 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Saint-Denis</p>	<p>Rogers Aviation (Mauritius) Ltd The Gardens Bagatelle Office Park Moka, Mauritius Tel: +230 2026671 Email: salim.mohungoo@rogers-aviation.com</p>
<p>Mauritius</p>		<p>Capital: Port Louis Languages: French, English, Creole Currency: Rupees Area: 2,040 km² Population: 1,260,000 (2024) 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>Seychelles</p>		<p>Capital: Victoria Languages: Seychellois Creole, English Currency: Seychelles Rupee Area: 456 km² Population: 130,418 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Mahé & Praslin</p>	<p>Air Seychelles Ltd Seychelles International Airport PO Box 386 Mahé Tel: +248 4391000 Email: callcentre@airseychelles.com</p>
<p>South Africa</p>		<p>Capital: Pretoria Languages: English, Afrikaans (11 official languages) Currency: South African Rand Area: 1,221,037 km² Population: 63,000,000 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Johannesburg</p>	<p>Rogers Aviation Bedfordview Office Park, Bedfordview Johannesburg Tel: +27 11 326 4440 Email: airseychelles@rogers-aviation.co.za Reservations2@rogers-aviation.co.za benjaminc@rogers-aviation.co.za</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p>		<p>Capital: Colombo Languages: Sinhala, Tamil Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee Area: 65,610 km² Population: 23,100,000 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Colombo</p>	<p>Air Park (Pvt) Ltd 4th floor, Lakshman's Building, 321-4/1 Galle – Colombo Rd, Colombo 00300 Sri Lanka Tel: +94 (0) 11 237 2870 Email: airseychelles@airpark.aero</p>
<p>United Arab Emirates</p>		<p>Capital: Abu Dhabi Language: Arabic Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham Area: 972 km² Population: 12,500,000 (2024) Air Seychelles destination: Abu Dhabi</p>	<p>Sharaf Travels LLC Al Reem Plaza, Electra St. Tel: Abu Dhabi, +971 2 67 70 678 Email: hmauh.res@sharaftravel.com Sharaf Travel Building, Khalid Bin Al Waleed St. Tel: Dubai, +971 4 40 60 511 Email: hmdxb.res@sharaftravel.com</p>



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Local Calls & SMS
SCR888/ \$65/ €62
Valid for 21 Days

MyStay 40GB

40GB

Unlimited
Local Calls & SMS
SCR1,388/ \$95/ €85
Valid for 21 Days

MyStay 60GB

60GB

Unlimited
Local Calls & SMS
SCR1,888/ \$145/ €140
Valid for 21 Days

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