



head in the clouds?
travel with Tambo

Mobile: 072 264 4966

23 Shingara Sands,
20 Petroy Drive,
Fourways,
Sandton,
2191

VAT# info@travelwithtambo.co.za

Reg: 2022/219531/07

travelwithtambo.co.za

Seychelles – Another World

The Islands

Islands reflect Seychelles' grand diversity, like a great family, both large and small, each one with its own distinct character and personality.

One hundred and fifteen islands scattered across 1,400,000 sq km. of ocean. Every visitor to Seychelles will surely want to visit as many islands as possible during their stay.

The islands fall into two categories: 41 'inner' granitic islands that form the backbone of Seychelles' tourism offerings with their wide suite of services and amenities, most of which are readily accessible through a selection of day trips and excursions, and the remoter 'outer' coral islands where at least an overnight stay is essential.

We will concentrate on the Main Island Mahe, La Digue and Praslin, but please ask about one of the other gorgeous and exclusive islands we can arrange for you.

About Seychelles

Seychelles lies northeast of Madagascar, an archipelago of 115 islands with roughly 98,000 citizens. Seychelles is a melting pot of many cultures which have commingled and coexisted since the first settlement of the islands in 1770. The three main inhabited islands are Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and the official languages are English, French and Seychellois Creole.

History

The Seychelles Archipelago is a group of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean that lie 1000 miles off the coast of East Africa, northeast of Madagascar.

The earliest accounts of these islands are from the 8th century CE when Arab seafarers began to ply the waters of the Indian Ocean, opening up the first, and highly lucrative, trade routes with the east coast of Africa and beyond. Several of the names of Seychelles' islands, such as Aldabra (Arabic for 'the rock') echo an early Arab connection to the Archipelago as do carvings on certain rocks on islands such as Silhouette and Frégate.

Although this Arab presence is undoubted, it is entirely possible that maritime activity around the African continent stretching back some 3000 years BCE may have placed adventurous Egyptian expeditions within sight of the remoter Seychelles islands. The same can be said of the Indonesian seafarers who crossed the Indian Ocean to eventually settle Madagascar between 200 and 500 CE and certainly the massive Chinese Treasure fleet of 1421 had the Seychelles Islands positioned on their charts.

Pirates escaping the European navies used the islands as a base as early as the 17th century CE and following a succession of French expeditions, a settlement was finally established in 1770 and the islands remained in French hands until the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, evolving from these humble beginnings to attain a population of 3500 by the time Seychelles was ceded to Britain under the treaty of Paris in 1814.

Under the British, Seychelles slumbered for the next 161 years as a backwater colony achieving a population of some 7000 by the year 1825. Seychelles achieved independence from Britain in 1976 to become a republic within the Commonwealth. Modern day Seychelles governance takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President of Seychelles is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system.

Culture

The Seychellois are a colourful and harmonious blend of different nationalities from across the globe, all of whom have brought something of their own customs and cultures to create a well-integrated, harmonious, and vibrant modern island state with a distinct culture enriched from many continents. Where other nations live in fear of their neighbours, Seychelles has successfully woven disparate influences into a live-and-let-live philosophy in which harmony has become a way of life.

In Victoria (the world's tiniest capital) a Roman Catholic cathedral sits beside an Anglican cathedral, a Seventh Day Adventist Church, a mosque, a Hindu Temple, and halls of worship for several other denominations.

In terms of religious orientation, French Catholicism has proved the most influential, even surviving British rule and popular Mass and other parish feasts are colourful occasions for Seychellois to dress up in their Sunday best and socialise.

The Creole Language, an adaptation of 17th Century French with other words and expressions coming from Africans and Malagasises, is the lingua franca and has been elevated to national language status, earning the same respect that English and French receive. Today, Creole is a written language as well as spoken, resulting in an outburst of creativity in plays, poetry and prose. The Creole culture is today a major attraction for worldwide visitors who want to experience a unique way of life and is showcased every year by the colourful Festival Creole, an animated tribute to everything Creole including the many distinct forms of Creole music, dance, literature and poetry.

Creole architecture is another important cultural aspect of the islands where the designs of some of the grand old houses with their steep roofs represent an architecture adapted for comfortable

living in the tropics. Houses have many openings to catch the island breezes. Modern architecture attempts to assimilate traditional styles.

Yet another jewel of the cultural crown is cuisine and Creole gastronomy is born of this spectacular fusion of cultures and offers the subtlety and innovation of French cuisine as well as the piquant flavours and exotic culinary combinations of the East across a fascinating spectrum of textures, tastes, colours, and ingredients.

Why you should visit this beautiful location -

Mahe

Victoria, Mahe

Mahé, Seychelles' Main Island, is home to the capital, Victoria; the majority of the population; international airport and hub of the islands' tourism infrastructure.

Mahé's virgin forests cascade down lush mountainsides to more than 60 beaches where, often, the only footprints you will find will be your own.

With its bustling port, Mahé is Seychelles' commercial centre and home to most retail outlets and tourism facilities. Many are concentrated towards the north of the island while the south with its picturesque villages proposes a quieter pace of life.

Victoria is full of history, Creole character and delightful nooks & crannies like the busy market, two cathedrals, Botanical Gardens and Esplanade where you are sure to find that local souvenir.

Despite its timeless charm, Mahé possesses a modern yet discreet infrastructure such as at Eden Island with its elegant marina and mall, casino, bars choice of restaurants and vibrant nightlife.

Mahé offers a wide choice of accommodation options in luxurious, international 5-star resorts, bouquet hotels, well-appointed villas and attractive guesthouses and self-caterings offering great value for money...

...your stepping stones to holiday experience of a lifetime.

La Digue

La Passe, La Digue

La Digue, lying forty kilometres (25 miles) from Mahé and 7 km (3.5 miles) from Praslin is the fourth largest island in the Seychelles after Silhouette.

This granite island receives its visitors mainly by boat at the quaint jetty at La Passe and is a popular destination for holidaymakers wishing for a taste of the traditional.

This is a place where the bicycle still holds sway and where hotels on La Digue are for the most part situated along its west coast while its east coast tends to have a wilder aspect.

Anse la Source d'Argent is among the island's most famous beaches, celebrated for its granite boulders that seem to have been sculpted by a divine hand to adorn a beach of breathtaking beauty.

At the Union Estate, visitors will have the chance to view some of the traditional local industries of times past. Nature lovers will have the opportunity to seek out the rare black paradise flycatcher, once thought to be extinct but now protected in the La Digue Vev Special Reserve which is also home to two rare species of terrapin.

La Digue is also an ideal stepping-stone for the nearby island attractions of Grande and Petit Soeur, Félicité, Coco and Marianne.

Praslin

Baie St Anne, Praslin

Seychelles' second largest island, Praslin, lies 45 kilometers (24 miles) north-east of Mahé and is accessible by Air Seychelles domestic flights in 15 minutes. It is ideally situated for holidaymakers wishing to island hop to a handful of nearby exotic destinations such as Chauve Souris, Cousin, Curieuse, St. Pierre, La Digue and the Aride bird reserve. It is also a haven for nature lovers seeking rare endemic species such as the black parrot for which Praslin is the last habitat or wishing to explore the island's network of footpaths.

Praslin's original name of 'Isle de Palme' bears eloquent testament to its reputation as home to the Vallée de Mai UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of only two places in the world where the famous Coco-de-mer grows wild on palms 40 meters tall and some 200 years old. So impressive is this forest, even today, that it once led General Gordon (of Khartoum) to state his conviction that this was the site of the original Garden of Eden.

The island is divided by a ridge of hills running from east to west, intersected by a road that leads through the Vallée de Mai and possesses some of the most striking beaches of the archipelago such as Anse Lazio, widely acclaimed to be the most beautiful beach on earth.

Praslin, location of one of Seychelles' most prestigious hotels, the five-star Lémuria Resort at Anse Kerlan with its 18-hole golf course, stands at the forefront of Praslin's tourism industry with its rich assortment of hotels and guesthouses.

What to do to fill up your days:

Activities

Seychelles is a haven for world-class activities. It's safe and pristine environment is just the place to treat your family to a once-in-a-lifetime holiday.

First and foremost, Seychelles is not only a playground for lovers of the ocean, but also a treasure trove for every sailor, diver, and fisherman, offering diverse opportunities for enjoyment both above and beneath the waves.

There are numerous diving, sailing, and fishing operators offering tailor-made day trip packages and excursions on boats and yachts.

The spectacular Beau Vallon beach is perfect for an activity-packed day by the sea. It is home to several water sports, which is a wonderful way to enjoy the ocean and explore the hidden nooks and crannies of the coastline. There is also always a chance to participate in a game of football or volleyball on the beach too.

Once believed to be the original site of Eden, Seychelles boasts an incredible diversity of flora and fauna that includes some of the rarest species found anywhere on earth.

With surrounds of tropical indigenous forests and home to free roaming giant land tortoises, hundreds of thousands of tropical birds and a haven for nesting Hawksbill turtles, these nature sanctuaries offer experiences and activities that are once-in-a-lifetime dreams. Conservation-oriented and ethically driven, guests are offered the chance to snorkel with sea turtles, enjoy some close proximity bird watching, witness the hatchlings of hawksbill turtles make their epic journey to the sea and appreciate the protection of gorgeous unspoiled abodes.

Being a melting pot of traditions from all over the world, from its national heritage monuments, museums, and natural wonders to the diversity of its arts and other cultural activities, Seychelles offers an Aladdin's cave of rich experiences for visitors to enjoy.

Dotted with nightclubs and casinos, the nightlife on the three main islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue will never disappoint the free-spirited looking for magical nights out.

The idea of rejuvenating the body, mind and soul may differs from one person to another. So, for those who are looking for the perfect pampering experience, the spas in Seychelles are beautifully crafted. Otherwise, for those who find golf relaxing, they can play their most memorable and picturesque games of golf beneath the swaying palm trees on visually stunning golf courses with dazzling beaches as back drops.

Whatever your tastes and preferences for activities, Seychelles is a treasure chest of varied escapades just waiting to be discovered.

Boat Charters, Rum Distillery's, Snorkelling, Nature Tours

Visas, Safety Measures, and Health Precautions

Climate

Notwithstanding the many uncertainties associated with today's global climate, Seychelles enjoys a year-round, glorious tropical climate and nearly 12 hours of sunlight due to its position just south of the Equator. All but its remotest, southern islands lie well outside the cyclone belt and the climate is such that there are no extremes of weather, with the temperature seldom dropping below 24°C or rising above 32°C.

North-west trade winds blow between the months of October and March when the sea is generally calm and the weather warm and humid, with average winds of 8-12 knots.

Traditionally, in January and February the islands receive their life-sustaining rains, briefly filling the rivers and streams and teasing the vibrant foliage into rainbows of colour. Although this is recognised as Seychelles' traditional rainy season, the rains tend to be less heavy than on, for example, the Indian continent, and may indeed, depending on the year, be very light.

Between the months of May and September the south-east trade winds generally bring drier, cooler weather, and more boisterous and agitated seas - particularly on the south-eastern coasts of the islands, along with wind speeds in the region of 10-20 knots.

Being a tropical island, however, means that, normally brief, tropical downpours can occur at any time of the year.

Seychelles remains a safe and travel worthy destination, ready to welcome you and ensure that you enjoy the holiday of your dreams.

Pre-Travel

Planning your holiday during these uncertain times is not without its challenges, however we would like to make this as much as possible a hassle-free experience for you.

The situation remains very fluid, and it is important that you keep yourself regularly informed/updated on conditions for travel to the Seychelles.

Travel essentials.

The recommended packing list for the Seychelles islands should include important documents, medicine, and suitable clothing.

Essential documents to have on hand would be your passport, travel documents, hotel vouchers, transfer vouchers, all accommodation confirmations, driving licenses, international certificate of

vaccination (not mandatory), health insurance documents, credit card(s), cash and a scuba diving certificate if you have plans to scuba dive.

Driving in the Seychelles

If you intend to drive in the Seychelles, you must be 21 years of age with at least a one-year driving license in order to rent a car, so make sure you bring your national or international driving license.

Exchanging money in the Seychelles?

It is recommended you have some Seychelles rupees upon arrival. There are several ATMs at the airport and at other numerous other points on all three main islands. Alternatively, you may prefer to use a bureau de change.

Clothes and Accessories

It is recommended to have a summery outfit in your hand luggage, as you may want to change upon arrival in the Seychelles. Otherwise, make sure you have packed bathing suits, beach wear, light and comfortable clothing such as shorts, t-shirts, tank-tops, summer clothes etc., hats, sunglasses, at least one smart piece of clothing for evenings, flip-flops and/or sandals, sports shoes and clothes (for hiking and walk trails), water shoes, beach towels, UV bathing shirt (to wear in the ocean), backpack or beach bag, snorkelling equipment, umbrella or rain jacket and finally comfortable and warm clothes for your return flight.

Health and Beauty

Those travelling to the Seychelles, as with any destination should be aware of the possible health risks. There are hospital facilities, private clinic practices and dentists on Mahé, with smaller facilities on the other principal inhabited islands.

Falling ill

Visitors showing symptoms while on holiday are advised to inform the management where they are staying to seek medical advice.

If a visitor tests positive for COVID-19 he/she may undergo isolation or quarantine as per National Health protocols.

SYMPTOMATIC CASES

Symptomatic cases, requiring special medical attention will be cared for in a health managed isolation facility at their own cost.

ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

Mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic cases will be required to undergo isolation at a certified tourism accommodation establishment at their own cost.

Next to sunscreen (recommended SPF 50 or better) and after sun, a first aid kit is a must. It is recommended to have medication to counteract allergies, colds, mosquito bites, diarrhoea, indigestion, pain, and anything to treat chronic problems you may have. Waterproof plasters and disinfectant spray for cuts and grazes may come in handy during your stay, all of which you may want to purchase before you travel. Additionally, verify if your accommodation provides a small hair dryer otherwise you might want to bring one along.

Other recommended items you will no doubt need are power adaptors (British 3-pin system), torch or headlight for biking on La Digue, travel guide, reusable water bottle, sleeping mask, earplugs, charger cables for phones and cameras, a power bank, headphones and camera.

Be Sustainable

Seychelles' immaculate environment is the reason it is considered one of the best destinations around the world. Contribute to the sustainable changes socially, environmentally and economically by using re-usable shopping bags, bringing along your own shampoo and shower gel to avoid opening hotel products. Use sunscreen that will not damage corals and wear long-armed UV shirts to help reduce the amount of sunscreen that ends up in the water.

Lastly, avoid single-use products such as disinfectant wipes or sanitary products. Use re-usable alternatives instead.

Visa

Visitors

Every non-citizen visitor to Seychelles must apply for the digital Travel Authorisation. This is mandatory as per the Immigration Act. This digital form replaces the blue paper form that was previously completed pre-arrival and serves as approval for travel to Seychelles. Seychelles Immigration reserves the right to deny entry on arrival. There are fees associated with this service.

- Required information.
- Valid Passport
- Selfie
- Contact Information
- Trip information
- Airline booking confirmation - you must upload a copy of your airline booking confirmation which clearly shows your arrival and departure dates.
- Accommodation booking confirmation - you must upload your booking confirmation(s) for each location of your stay in Seychelles. This must include the name of the

hotel/guesthouse, boat charter name or name of employer. If you're visiting friends and family, provide a letter of invitation.

- Credit or debit card.

Seychelles is a visa-free country, which means that there are no visa requirements for any persons wishing to travel except for passport holder from Kosovo as Seychelles does not recognize the State of Kosovo therefore entry will not be permitted.

Although a visa is not required to enter Seychelles by other passport holders, visitors should nevertheless have in their possession a valid passport or other travel documents recognized by the government of Seychelles in order to gain entry.

The passport **MUST** be valid for the period of the intended stay until arrival back in the holder's country of origin or residence.

A visitor's permit is issued on arrival in Seychelles to travellers visiting for the purposes of holiday, business, visiting friends or family and who also meet the following criteria:

- is not a prohibited immigrant.
- is not a holder of a valid permit which entitles the holder to reside in Seychelles.
- holds a valid return ticket or ticket for onward travel for the duration of the visit.
- has confirmed accommodation.
- has sufficient funds for the duration of the stay. (minimum of US\$150 or equivalent per day).

All travellers are required to complete immigration procedures when travelling to and from Seychelles. Please click <https://seychelles.govtas.com/> to complete your immigration forms.

Recommended Hotel Brands:

- **Hilton Hotels**
- **Constance Hotels**
- **Four Seasons Hotels**
- **Kempinski Hotels**
- **Beachcomber Resorts**
- **Doubletree By Hilton Hotels**
- **Avani Hotel**
- **Berjaya Hotels**
- **Anantara Maia**
- **Raffles**