

SEYCHELLES



Welcome to Seychelles
Our Home, Your Sanctuary

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Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.



Sanyog Gupta
President - Sales & Marketing

‘We are real voyagers and love varying voyager’s

THE LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTS.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS.

Sanyog Gupta Voyages brings to you finest luxury holidays in Seychelles, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Indulge your passion, arrive in a private jet, travel in a limousine or a yacht, the Opulent Routes Concierge services will weave magic in your holiday experience.

www.sanyog.travel

THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS SEYCHELLES

SEYCHELLES



IT ALL STARTS WITH Allo (Hello)

A thousand miles off the coast of Africa, the 115 islands of the Seychelles are scattered like gemstones across the sparkling Indian Ocean.

With swathes of white sandy beaches fringed by palm trees, a Seychelles holiday is as relaxing as it is beautiful. One of our tailor-made holidays to the Seychelles gets you closer to the people and places that make these islands so special.

The seductive Seychelles offer 360-degree unspoilt beauty. Here you'll find coral atolls and islands carpeted with rich vegetation, dominated by rugged granite mountains.

Winding lanes meander through swaying coconut groves, while crystal waters lap the shore. Its reputation for its pristine, untouched environment won't disappoint.

Here you can catch glimpses of some of the rarest species on earth. Discover the smallest frog, the heaviest tortoise and the Indian Ocean's only flightless bird.

VICTORIA

THE CAPITAL

In the north-east of Mahé, bordered on one side by steep mountain slopes, is the capital of the Republic of the Seychelles. At first glance, it isn't really clear just how important the city is as the country's cultural and administrative centre; there are only two dozen streets, which not only characterises the cosy feel of the city but of the Seychellois way of life itself.

With the spirit of 'Beauty Acts Silently' coursing through the veins of the city, visitors will struggle to find anything in terms of parking garages, neon signs, or showmanship in general; the city only has two traffic lights! That said, with around 25,000 inhabitants, Victoria is still the largest settlement in the Seychelles, and its only city. Its foundation harks back to the French settler period in 1778, before it was later given its name by the British, after Queen Victoria.

These days, this 'backwater' has grown up, with a small, lively market offering fish, fruit and vegetables, restaurants, offices, banks, and shops. At its eastern edge, Victoria opens up onto the harbour and the ocean, containing the Sainte Anne Marine National Park. The New Pier welcomes cruise ships, large freighters, and tankers, serving as the main trading port for the country. In terms of exports, the Seychelles sells spices, vanilla, coconuts, coconut oil, soap, tuna, and cinnamon bark.

The city's surrounding urban area contains numerous amenities and attractions, including the International Airport, the Botanical Gardens, a university, museums, places of worship, offices belonging to tourism companies, airlines, and banks, and finally a cinema and shops.

In terms of its design, the town is mostly dominated by stone and wooden houses from the early 20th century, which paint a colourful picture thanks to their colourful facades, shutters, and balustrades. Walking through the streets past these buildings, you will surely pick up the scent of various exciting spice aromas, often emanating from small grocery stores where you can stock up on supplies.

LUXURY STAYS



North Island Resort

There are very few island resorts like North Island anywhere in the world: beautiful, private, and offering a fully customizable experience. Its signature style combines natural beauty with sheer indulgence—nothing found here is short of unique and exceptional. It's a place for those seeking an unspoiled, spectacular dream island all for themselves.



Six Senses Zil Pasyon, Felicite

Discover the ecological jewel of Seychelles and private-island home to Six Senses Zil Pasyon.

Coral-fringed beaches and massive granite rocks create an air of drama and beauty in this haven of perpetual summer. Step in tune with nature, swim with turtles and enjoy an intimate destination that is a tropical ode to well-being and absolute comfort.

Four Seasons, Desroches Island

Remote and secluded, yet only 35-minute away (by a small plane) from Mahé, the Desroches Island is perfectly placed to provide an experience of “luxury castaway” — courtesy of Four Seasons. The resort offers forty beach suites with private pools and eleven private residence villas. All are set up as an exclusive destination on a pristine tropical island. Edged by fourteen kilometers of white beach, with wild nature in the interior, it's the ultimate desert-island fantasy.





Four Seasons, Mahe

Perfectly appointed, beautifully designed, and distinguished by a great vacation atmosphere, the Four Seasons Resort Seychelles raises the bar for the tropical beach resort luxury. It's a great choice as much for couples as it is for families.



Anantara Maia, Mahe

High above a magnificent beach of opalescent sand lapped by aquamarine water, amongst swaying palms, lies an opulent hideaway that transcends tropical luxury. This specialty spa resort enjoys a truly idyllic setting—offering a perfect escape from modern life's frenetic pace.



Fregate Island Private

Fregate is often listed among the most exclusive private islands in the world. It is designed as a carefree luxury destination. Surrounded by lush greenery, the resort's pool villas are focused on privacy and are positioned to ensure the best views from their infinity pools. The island has seven gorgeous white-sand beaches and if you fancy having one all to yourself, simply flip the 'Beach Occupied' sign as you descend. And every beach is always ready for you, with a cooler box stuffed with iced drinks, towels, and loungers, any time of the day.

Banyan Tree, Mahe

Commanding a majestic view of the Indian Ocean and overlooking one of the most beautiful beaches we've ever visited, the magnificent Banyan Tree Seychelles delivers a refined luxury and top service in a classic, quasi-colonial property surrounded by tropical greenery. With a top-class spa, secluded pool villas, and a great location, the Banyan Tree Seychelles is an excellent choice for couples and honeymooners.



Raffles Seychelles, Praslin

Located on the beautiful north-eastern tip of Praslin, this luxury resort from one of the most respected hotel brands features eighty-six contemporary villas, each with a private outdoor pavilion and plunge pool. The villas are among the most spacious in Seychelles. They are positioned to take advantage of the resort's privileged location, ensuring breathtaking views of the lush green hills, the beach, and the sea off Praslin.

Constance Lemuria, Praslin

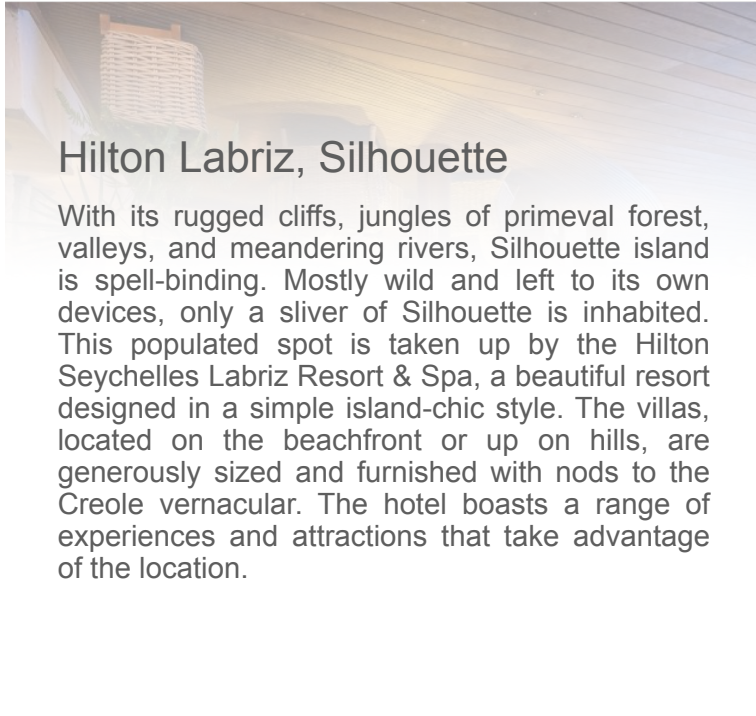
Also located on Praslin, Seychelle's second-largest island, where the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve is located (with the endemic Coco de Mer palms), is the Constance Lemuria Resort. The guest suites of this exclusive property are scattered alongside two pristine beaches, each guest accommodation no farther than fifteen meters from the shore. Constance Lemuria has two three-level swimming pools, access to three beautiful sandy beaches, and its own eighteen-hole championship golf course.





Denis Private Island

Denis Private Island is a self-sufficient, tropical hideaway that will fully connect its guests with nature. Geared towards families with children and proud of its conservationist efforts, this tiny private paradise is covered by a luscious jungle and home to many indigenous bird species, as well as giant tortoises.



Hilton Labriz, Silhouette

With its rugged cliffs, jungles of primeval forest, valleys, and meandering rivers, Silhouette island is spell-binding. Mostly wild and left to its own devices, only a sliver of Silhouette is inhabited. This populated spot is taken up by the Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa, a beautiful resort designed in a simple island-chic style. The villas, located on the beachfront or up on hills, are generously sized and furnished with nods to the Creole vernacular. The hotel boasts a range of experiences and attractions that take advantage of the location.



Constance Ephelia, Mahe

Ephelia is the largest resort in the Seychelles, with 313 rooms and villas, offering many attractions on-site and plenty of activities outside. There are four tennis courts, a squash court, and five shops, and the spa has eighteen treatment rooms. Watersports, yoga lessons, fishing and diving excursions, and even a zip wire are among the attractions. Dining options are varied and attractive, with five restaurants and bars located in the resort or on the two beautiful beaches. There are also several swimming pools placed among the guest rooms.

Maia Luxury Resort, Mahe

With its stunning white sands, sparkling turquoise waters and verdant green hillside, the Seychelles' MAIA Luxury Resort & Spa certainly looks the part of paradise. Occupying a private 30-acre peninsula on Mahé, this hideaway puts a luxurious twist on an all-inclusive getaway.



Le Domaine de L'Orangerie Resort & Spa, La Digue

Becoming one with the landscape is easy at Le Domaine de L'Orangerie Resort & Spa on laid-back La Digue Island. Touting a zen combination of warm wood and cool stone, this contemporary resort is a perfect place to rest your weary head.

Accommodations include 63 private villas mere steps from the gorgeous Anse Severe beach with its glistening sand and rolling ocean waves. The main, lagoon-like infinity pool is large and gorgeous.

Kempinski Baie Lazare, Mahé

Located on the south coast of Mahé, the Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare is nestled in the quiet, secluded bay of the same name. This idyllic location makes Kempinski a fantastic place for diving.

The resort's hill-view rooms offer balconies with vistas of a natural lagoon backed by incredible rock formations, mountains, and a verdant forest. Sea-view rooms are similar but face the ocean, which lies just ahead of the perfectly manicured gardens.





The H Beau Vallon Beach, Mahé

Vacationers flock to The H Resort Beau Vallon Beach for its tranquil waters, pristine beach, and lush forest. The friendly Creole hospitality, healing Sensel Spa treatments, and 100 luxurious suites and villas are added bonuses.

Dhevatara Hotel, Praslin

Dhevatara is the expression of our take of Barefoot Luxury, a new concept to the current trend of a gilded luxury tourism segment. Instead, we believe that high standard of service and respect for Nature can coexist, that the conscious traveler expects an authentic experience, that real luxury is quality time and the chance to take off your shoes and just be yourself. The surrounding lush forests and the Indian Ocean provide the perfect back drop for you to do this. Our ambitious target is simply to provide you with the place and the conditions for harmony to be found and enjoyed. And let Nature do the rest.



Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove, Mahe

Seabirds skim the azure waters of the Indian Ocean, schools of fish flurry just below the surface, and the clear sunlight illuminates the rippling crystal waves. Welcome to the Seychelles, home of the amusingly shaped 'lovenut', the largest seabird colony in the world, and over one thousand species of fish.

Eden Bleu, Mahe

Located alongside the prestige marina of Eden Island and just 3.7 mi away from Seychelles International Airport, Eden Bleu Hotel features an outdoor pool and modern conference and business facilities.

The hotel is within walking distance to the Eden Plaza retail center and commercial precinct where guests can find a variety of shops, a supermarket, a spa and a casino.



Bird Island Seychelles

Bird Island Seychelles - Private Island Villas are self-catering villas nestled among coconut palms of Bird Island's old plantation. The island is a 30-minute flight from Mahe.

The Villas are spread along the western coast of the island and overlooking the natural parkland. The Villas are completely TV and phone free for added relaxation and each bedroom is equipped with a fan, safe, and optional mosquito net. The showers are solar heated.

Cousine Island Seychelles

Cousine Island is an intimate private island in the Seychelles archipelago, accessible via boat transfer or helicopter flight.

The island features French colonial-styled Luxury Villas and one Presidential Villa nestled in the lush endemic vegetation, close to the beach. All villas are individually decorated and equipped with handcrafted furniture. Guests can admire the views from the privacy of their private verandas or relax by the pool.





JA Enchanted, Round Island

Located on a private island off the coast of Mahe, Enchanted Island Resort offers luxury villas nestled in lush local flora on Round Island. It features a swimming pool, spa, fitness facilities and water sports. Free WiFi is available in the villas and public areas.

Enchanted Island Resort can be reached via a 15-minute motorboat transfer from the Mahé jetty and Seychelles International Airport on Mahé is 10 minutes from the jetty.

Savoy Seychelles, Beau Vallon

Located on Beau Vallon Beach, Savoy Resort & Spa offers 2 restaurants, a large 700 sqm outdoor pool and a 24-hour front desk. Central Victoria is a 6-minute drive away. Free WiFi is available.

Culinary cuisine can be enjoyed at Pescado, overlooking the resort's pool while Grand Savoy offers a sumptuous breakfast.



Le Château de feuilles

Located in Baie Sainte Anne, 1 mi from Anse Consolation Beach, Le Château de feuilles provides accommodations with a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool and a bar. Each accommodations at the 5-star hotel has pool views, and guests can enjoy access to a garden and to a terrace. The accommodations offers room service, a concierge service and currency exchange for guests.

Mango House, Mahe

A House with Heritage, Storied & Distinctive; Mango House is nestled deep in the South of Mahé. Directly standing on the oceanfront with direct access to Anse Aux Poules Bleues “Aquarium of wonders”. Mango House is a 30-40 minutes distance by car to and from the Seychelles International airport and approximately 60 minutes from Victoria.

A contemporary and intimate retreat, providing the backdrop to multilayered experiences, creative ingenuity, and expansive views enveloped in the rugged nature of the Seychelles.



Story Seychelles, Mahe

Located in Beau Vallon Beach one of the most luxurious neighbourhoods in the picturesque island of Mahé and only 10 min from Victoria (the capital), 5 min to Morne Seychelles National Park, and 20 to Seychelles International Airport.

Beau Vallon Beach has 3km of white sand beach and turquoise water and it's the only swimmable beach in Mahe all year round.

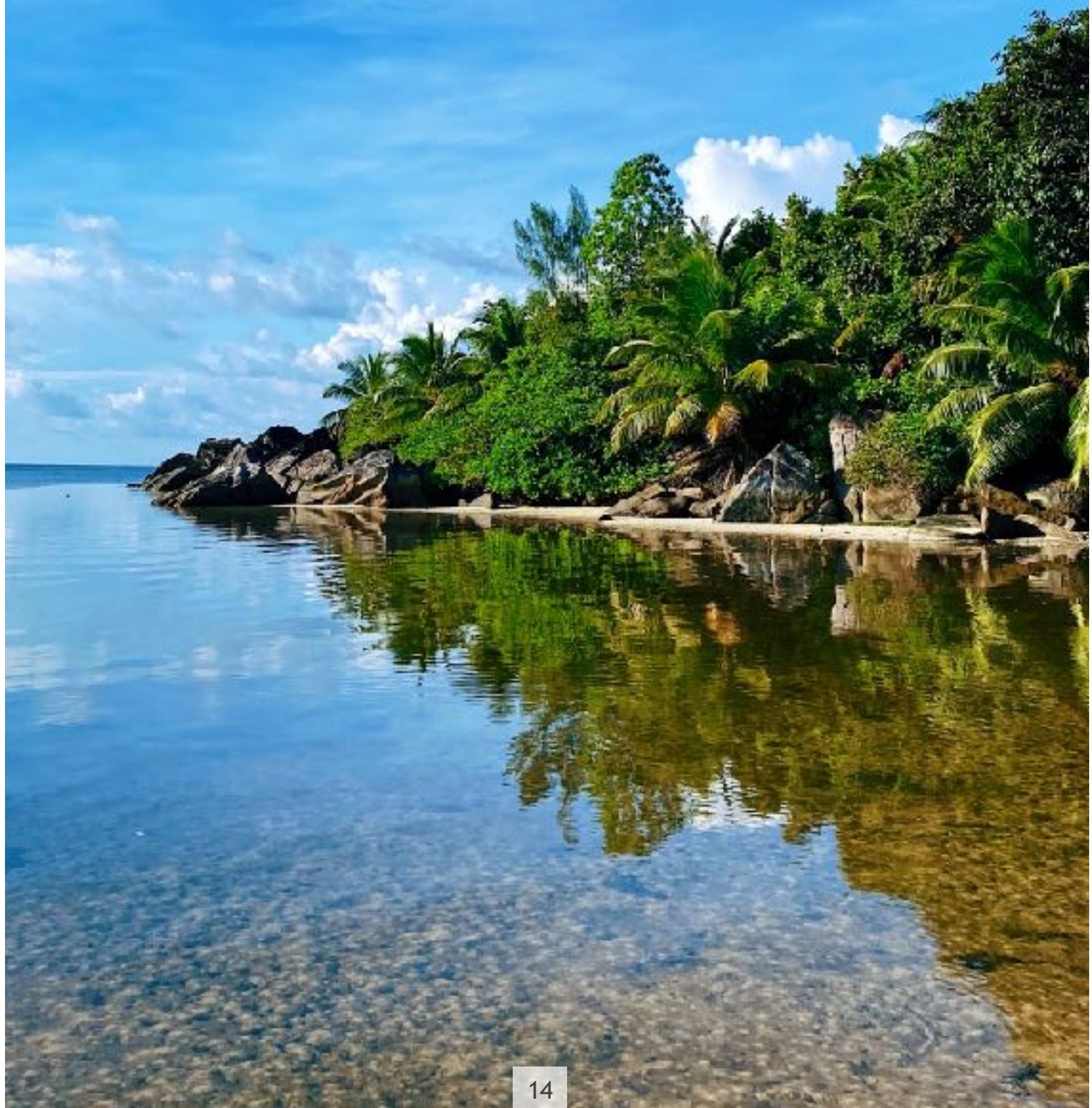
Alphonse Island

The Alphonse group of atolls is considered one of the most pristine, untouched Edens of the world, making it a nature lover's paradise. The magnificent island threesome comprising of Alphonse, St. François and Bijoutier lies in the very heart of the Indian Ocean as part of the Seychelles outer islands.

Beautiful white beaches line the edges of the dense natural forest, interspersed with the remnants of old commercial coconut groves.



THE ISLANDS



Seychelles' 115 islands fall under two distinct groups. The tall granite, Inner Islands cluster mainly within the relatively shallow Seychelles' plateau, 4° south of the equator and roughly 1800 km. distant from the east coast of Africa while the low-lying coralline cays, atolls and reef islands of the Outer Islands lie mainly beyond the plateau up to 10° south of the equator.

These Outer Islands are divided into five groups: the Amirantes group lying 230km distant from Mahé, the Southern Coral Group, Alphonse Group, Farquhar Group and finally the Aldabra Group, some 1150km from Mahé.

There are 43 Inner Islands in all -- 41 granitic and 2 coralline and a total of 72 coralline Outer Islands.

INNER ISLANDS

The Inner Islands which are mostly granitic, cluster mainly around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, forming the cultural and economic hub of Seychelles, as well as the centre of its tourism industry.

Together they are home to the majority of Seychelles' accommodation facilities as well as almost the entire population of the archipelago.

There are 43 Inner islands in total, 41 granitic and 2 coralline.

Below is the list of Inner Islands that would be of interest to you.

Please select accordingly.

Islands with accommodation

Main Islands: Mahé, Praslin, La Digue

Others: Bird Island, Cerf, Chauve Souris, Cousine, Denis Island, Frégate, North Island, Round Island (Praslin), Silhouette and Ste. Anne.

Islands without accommodation

Anonyme, Aride, Conception, Cousin, Curieuse, Félicité, Grande Soeur, Ile Cocos, Long Island, Moyenne, Petite Soeur, Round Island and St. Pierre.

OUTER ISLANDS

The Outer Islands are those situated beyond the Seychelles plateau. They comprise 72 low-lying sand cays and atolls lying anywhere between 230km and 1150km from Mahé.

Less visited than their granitic cousins due to their relative remoteness, these pristine miniature worlds, some little more than sand spits or lonely rocky outcrops, offer untouched habitats for many species of wildlife.

Only one island among the Outer Island groups, namely Alphonse, currently offers accommodation facilities.

It boasts luxuriously appointed lodges as well as unparalleled opportunities for sailing, fishing and diving in places where few have gone before.

Select from list the below:

Aldabra Group: Aldabra Atoll, Assumption, Astove and Cosmoledo Atoll.

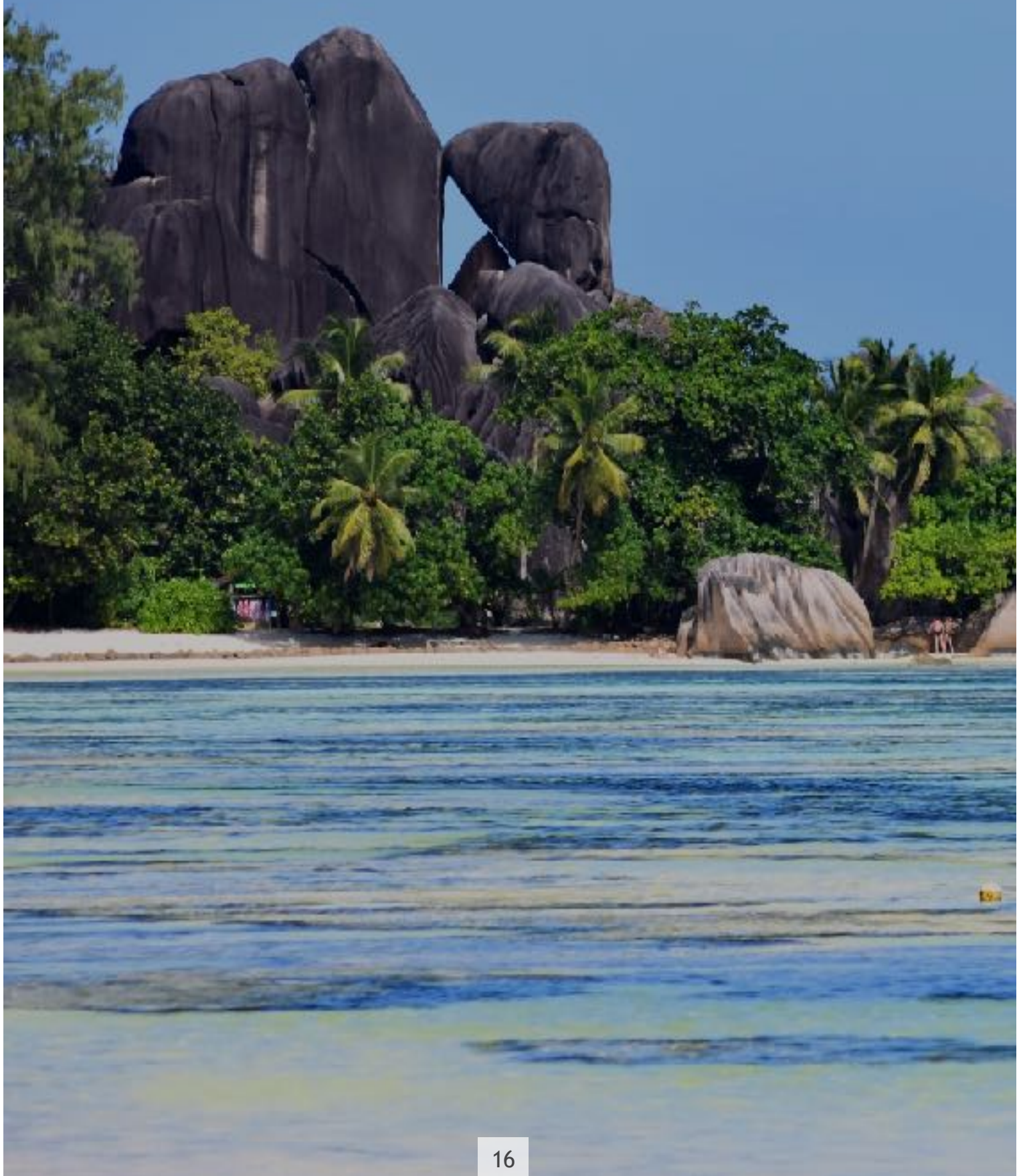
Amirantes Group: African Banks, D'Arros, Desroches, Poivre Atoll, Remire, St. Joseph Atoll.

Southern Coral Group: Coëtivy, Platte.

Alphonse Group: Alphonse, Bijoutier, St François.

Farquhar Group: Farquhar Atoll, Providence Atoll.

EXPLORE



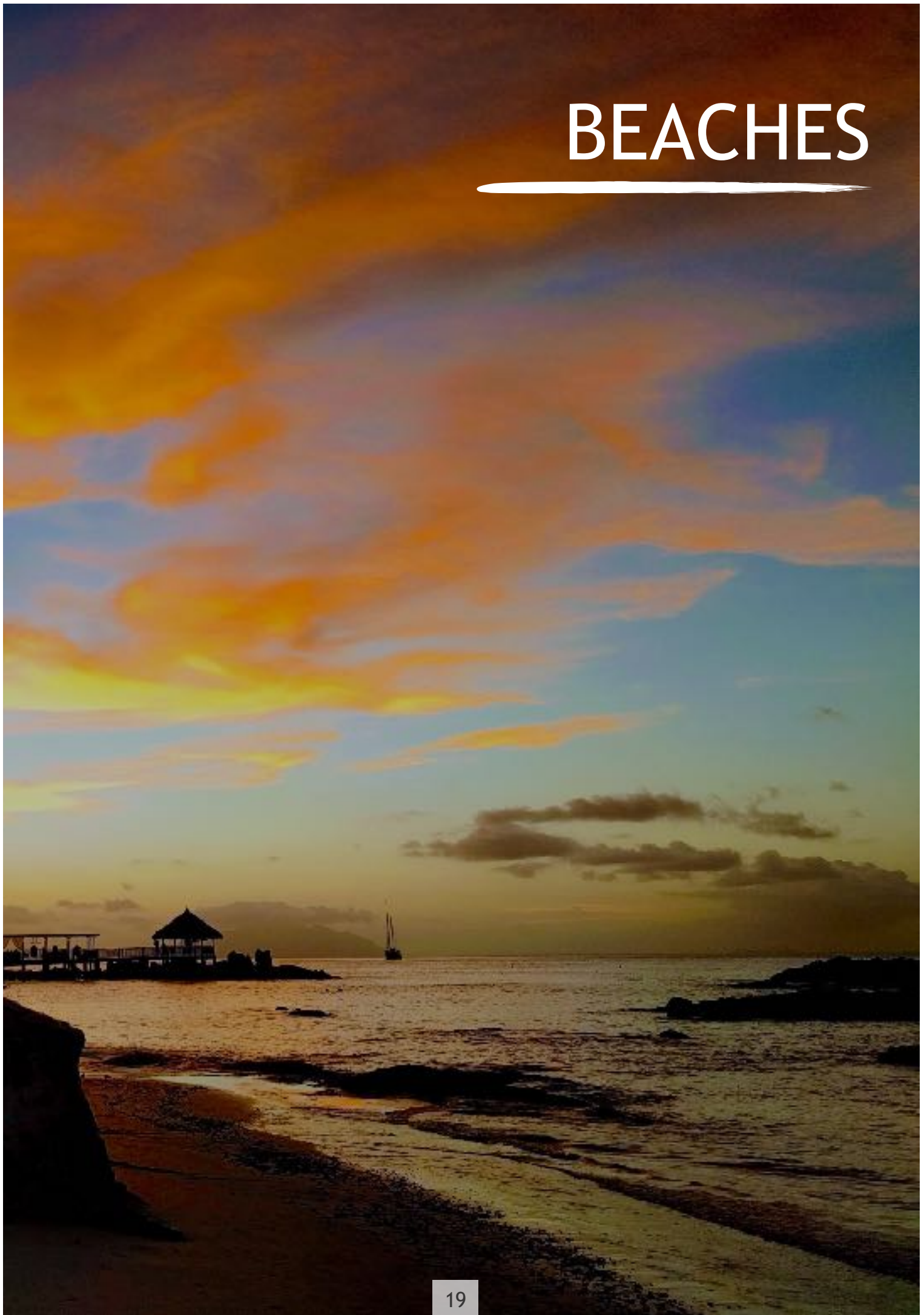
ATTRACTIONS



ACTIVITIES

A full-page background image showing a tropical sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow clouds, transitioning into a deep blue at the top. In the foreground, there is a dark, textured stone wall. Behind the wall, several palm trees are silhouetted against the bright sky. To the left, a portion of a building with a thatched roof is visible. In the middle ground, there are more palm trees and some structures, possibly part of a resort or beach area. The overall mood is serene and tropical.

BEACHES



WALKS & TRAILS



ISLAND HOPPING



SPECIAL



WEDDING & HONEYMOONS



FISHING



Seychelles has some of the richest fishing grounds in the world. The abundance of wahoo, sailfish, dorado, tuna, rainbow runner and trophies such as marlin, make for an unforgettable big-game fishing experience for both the seasoned and novice fisherman alike.

Traditional bottom-fishing produces a dazzling array of grouper, job fish, snappers and emperors, rewarding you with some of the finest tasting fish on offer anywhere in the world.

Seychelles has become the epicenter of salt-water fly-fishing and casting your fly lines on the magnificent shallow flats of the Outer Islands will afford you the chance of landing several energetic silver bonefish to challenge the record books. Blue-water fly-fishing is also becoming increasingly popular, providing the ultimate challenge of landing large pelagic fish on relatively light tackle.



Fishing around the islands

The Inner Islands consist of 41 granitic islands that form a cluster around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, some with peaks rising nearly 1,000m high. Interestingly, there are also two low-lying coral islands, namely Denis Island and Bird Island within the Inner Islands. These islands offer a variety of fishing grounds that are easily reached by Seychelles' fleet of modern fishing craft and whose crew each have their own favorite spots where they will be happy to introduce both the fishing aficionado and novice to the thrills of deep-sea and bottom-fishing.

Fishing Types

Whether you are an experienced sports fisherman or an enthusiastic beginner, you will be thrilled by the opportunities that Seychelles' fish-rich waters offer. Try your hand at big-game fishing and the unforgettable experience of trolling in pristine, azure waters from a range of modern fishing boats. Experienced crew will help you exceed your fishing expectations beyond your imagination. Alternatively, you can try fly-fishing in the shallow waters surrounding the Inner Islands or even practice the art of blue-water fly-fishing.

The Catch

The fishing grounds around the Inner Islands offer both the big-game and fly-fisherman a varied catch that includes the spectacular marlin, sailfish, wahoo, greater barracuda, rainbow runner, milkfish, bonefish, trevally, barracuda and jobfish as well as varieties of bonito and tuna. The bottom-fisherman, meanwhile, can pit his skills against snappers, coral-trouts, seabass and groupers - just a few of the spectacular species to be found around the Inner Islands.

Fishing Tips

It seems that the Seychelles was deliberately designed for all types of fishing are filled. With most islands lying situated outside the cyclone belt, Seychelles allow to engage in fishing throughout the year in a marine area of more than 1.4 million km², with water fish around 115 shimmering Islands archipelago. With such a diversity of choice for fishing, your fishing experience in Seychelles promises to be exceptionally successful.

Fishing Season

Seychelles, fishing is any appreciable throughout the year is divided into specific seasons, each suitable for a more specific type of fishing but remains promising for the experienced as well as for the novice fisherman.

SAILING



Today, Seychelles welcomes a new generation of sailors to its pristine waters to enjoy the myriad treasures that have remained wonderfully intact since the occupants of Arab dhows first wondered at these islands' astonishing beauty.

115 sparkling and diverse isles set like gemstones in an azure sea and offering year-round sailing combines with international and local charter companies that provide a wide selection of specialized craft, both skippered and bareboat, to offer the sailing experience of a lifetime.



Sailing Area

The Seychelles archipelago lies between 4° and 10° south of the Equator in the Indian Ocean and comprises 1,400,000 square km of azure ocean with 115 pristine islands that fall into 2 distinct groups, the Inner and Outer Islands and that lie for the most part, outside the cyclone belt.

The Inner Islands consist of 41 granitic islands that form a cluster around the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, some with peaks rising nearly 1,000m high. Interestingly, there are also 2 low-lying coral islands, namely Denis Island and Bird Island within the Inner Islands.

The remaining 72 low-lying coral islands are known as the Outer Islands and extend mainly in a gleaming arc towards the coast of Africa.

Together, these form 6 distinct island groups: the Inner Islands, the Amirantes, Southern Coral, Alphonse, Farquhar and Aldabra ... all lying between 260 miles and 865 miles from the east African coast.

Sailing around Inner Islands

Enjoy the experience of a lifetime sailing the Seychelles' Inner Islands, where safe moorings and easy sailing distances will open up a world of diversity and breathtaking natural beauty to be explored the way it was intended...under sail.

Sailing around Outer Islands

Journey to Seychelles' sparkling Outer Islands, where precious few have gone before and where you can rise to the challenges of longer sailing distances and few, if any, of the numerous amenities found around the Inner Islands. Here is where true adventure lies, amid the azure world of the open ocean and the turquoise of remote lagoons.

Sailing Tips

It is as if Seychelles was deliberately designed for the recreational sailor. With most islands lying outside the cyclone belt, Seychelles offers year round sailing in calm waters. There is no better way to enjoy a dazzling array of islands than by cruising its pristine waters and exploring the extraordinary bounty of Seychelles at your own pace.

DIVING



Seasons & Conditions

Diving is possible all year round but is governed by an island's position and the prevailing winds. Generally speaking, the best conditions for both the Inner and Outer Islands are in the calm periods, April-May and October-November, when the water temperature can rise to 29°C and offers excellent (up to 30 metres) visibility.

In December and January, the north-west winds blow but conditions remain much the same as in the calm periods, with the exception of greater surface movement and some localised turbidity.

From May to September the winds are stronger and blow south-easterly. Visibility and temperature may thus drop during August with water temperatures of around 25°C. A wet suit of at least 4mm is necessary.

Unlike the Inner Islands, some of the more southerly Outer Islands are close to the cyclone belt, and during these months they can experience extremely rough conditions on occasion.



Dive Types & Depths

With 43 Inner Islands to choose from, variety is the order of the day. All of these northerly islands offer impressive granite reef locations where the sculptured rocks can be covered with soft corals and sponges, and fish life is prolific, due to the archipelago's isolation and also strict conservation rules.

Marine Life

The Inner Islands' marine life reveals an abundance of fish even on shallow inshore reefs and features different types of Butterfly fish and Angel fish, Soldier fish, Squirrel fish and Sweepers among many others. The island reefs are also havens for many invertebrates including Octopus, Spiny Lobster and a plethora of Nudibranchs, such as the Spanish Dancer.

Diving Tips

Seychelles offers year round diving experiences in waters mainly outside the cyclone belt and dive centers around the country cater for novice and experienced divers alike, offering a number of specialised courses.

Divers should bring proof of certification and medical clearance for any medical problem.

Most dive centres offer modern dive equipment rental and service facilities. However, repair facilities for divers' own gear may be limited, subject to availability of specific spare parts.

Certification & Medical

Divers need to bring proof of certification to be allowed to dive. However, those who have lost or forgotten their certification cards or log-books may be allowed to dive with a Dive master to a maximum depth of 12 metres, at the discretion of the dive centre.

Those planning to take a diving course who have had a previous medical problem, should obtain and bring with them a certificate from their doctor indicating that they are fit to dive. Local physicians in Seychelles are able to perform a diving medical if required.





Experiences

Seychelles is so much more than just a beautiful destination with divine, world-beating beaches, clear azure waters and an amazing ecology. You will discover that there's truly surprising diversity to be enjoyed with, literally, a new experience around every corner.

If you're into relaxation and just kicking back and enjoying the down-time, Seychelles has all you'll ever need, from a selection of over 65 beaches on the island of Mahé alone, where to enjoy uncrowded, silver sands framed by some of the oldest granite boulders on earth. Just the place to acquire the special glow of a Seychelles' tan, refreshed by dips into crystal waters or even a snorkel to introduce you to the amazing world just beneath the waves. There is also a host of great excursions and activities to choose from which highlight the many enchanting sights, sounds and experiences of the islands.

Mahé, the principal island, is home to the international airport and Victoria, the world's tiniest capital and is the cultural and economic hub of the nation. Here can be found most of the islands' tourism facilities in the form of the greatest selection of accommodation, cultural and eco-tourism hotspots, great restaurants, bars, café's and casinos as well as dive centres, car, fishing & sailing boat rentals and walks & trails.



But Mahé is just one island among many for you to enjoy because Seychelles is a destination made up of 115 island jewels, each with its own character, secrets and story to tell. Island-hopping between the 16 islands currently offering accommodation is easy too, with scheduled plane and ferry services to suit just about any itinerary. And, wherever you decide to stay, either in a 5-star cocoon of luxury or in any one of a selection of charming small hotels, self-caterings or picturesque Creole guesthouses, you will be met with courteous service and the friendly smile of a people who live in harmony and reassuringly close to their roots.

Your first stop might be Praslin, Seychelles' second largest island where the vegetation is so special it was once seriously believed to be the original site of the Garden of Eden. A few steps into the extraordinary forest known as the Vallée de Mai will show you why. Here, in this ancient forest of towering palms grows the incredible Coco-de-Mer palm which produces fruits that are Nature's exact replica of the female pelvis while one of the world's rarest birds, the Seychelles Black Parrot, flits back and forth in the twilight. After a stroll through this legendary glade you will be ready for a swim at one of the most famous beaches on earth, the achingly beautiful Anse Lazio, just one of many places where you can also enjoy memorable Creole cuisine within sight of the ocean and with your feet in the sand.

La Digue Island is merely a 30 minute ferry ride from Praslin and, as you set foot on this magical island where the main forms of transport are still bicycle and ox-cart, you will feel yourself transported back to yesteryear. Steeped in tradition, La Digue is one of the most popular spots for enjoying a unique, island-style way of life at a wonderfully unhurried pace.

Or, you might wish to follow your imagination to more distant horizons where low-lying coral isles and magnificent atolls have been cast like inviting stepping-stones across the waters of the Indian Ocean. Several romantic island hideaways now boast excellent facilities either in sumptuous resorts offering elegant accommodation amid surrounds of breathtaking natural beauty or in rustic island lodges with homely beachside cottages. All will offer you adventure, great cuisine and the opportunity to experience the very best that unspoiled Nature has to offer.

Seeking adventure on the ocean? Seychelles offers some of the finest sailing on earth with easy sailing distances, safe moorings and myriad islands, near and far, for you to discover.

SAILING THE ARCHIPELAGO



God seems to have designed Seychelles with the sailor in mind! There can be few better ways to explore their hidden coves secret beaches and to savour their enviable tranquility than by sailing or motor yacht.

Seychelles naturally lends itself to travel over water and you can marvel at its stunning natural beauty in exactly the same way as the very first visitors to her shores the intrepid Arab mariners of the 9th century A.D riding the wind on calm ocean waters as the timeless beauty of her isles drifts ever so slowly by.

Sunday: We propose you begin a voyage of discovery around Mahé, principal island of Seychelles and home to the capital, Victoria, the port and international airport.

This imposing, verdant granite island whose topmost peak towers to over 900m boasts over 65 beaches and a cluster of picturesque islands bordering the Step. Anne Marine Park. Sailing around Mahé (18mi by 5mi) will take you on a memorable voyage past the island's scenic northern coastline and L'Ilot islet to famous Beau Vallon with its magnificent strand and wide range of tourism facilities where you may wish to spend the night at anchor or, perhaps, on shore savoring mouthwatering Creole dishes at one of Beau Vallon's many restaurants.

Monday: It's Monday morning in Paradise and time to venture northwards to Silhouette, Seychelles' third largest island. As you leave Beau Vallon Bay behind you and slip out into the azure ocean it might be a good idea to leave a fishing line in the water. The waters surrounding these islands are renowned for their great fishing and there's the chance of having some of the tastiest fish around on your plate for lunch before continuing onwards towards beautiful North Island with its beaches of heart-stopping beauty - a great place to spend the night.

Tuesday: It's time to tear yourself away from North Island's rugged beauty and sail back in the direction of Beau Vallon and then on down Mahé's savagely beautiful west coast where the splendid beaches of Grand Anse, Petit Anse, Takamaka and Intendance await. As you'll experience some difficulty choosing which one is the prettier, it's a good idea to make a stop at each one, enjoy a swim or a snorkel in warm crystal waters or even have a late lunch at a nearby beachside restaurant where seafood delicacies abound.

Wednesday: Leaving Mahé behind you, you head for Praslin, Seychelles' 2nd largest island, 26 miles distant, sailing past the twin island gems of Cousin and Cousine on the way. Once known as Ile des Palmes (Palm Island) on account of its dense coconut groves and lush vegetation, Praslin is home to one of Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the fabulous Vallée de Mai where the wondrous Coco-de-Mer grows high on ancient palms in a primeval valley.

Thursday: It will not be long before you are lured towards the neighboring island of La Digue where, it is said, time stands still and where the traditional ox cart and bicycle are still the main modes of transport. Here, you will find one of the world's most famous - and certainly most-photographed beaches, Anse Source d'Argent, along with relics of another age - a cemetery of the first settlers, a working Calorifer or oven for refining coconut, giant tortoise pen and magnificent Creole mansion.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Wending your way ever northwards, you leave the realm of the granite islands for the glimmering world of the coral isles of Bird and Denis located some 52mi north of Mahé. Here you will be greeted by the sight of seabird colonies, nesting turtles, silver surf and golden sands. These islands are situated on the edge of the shallow Seychelles bank where the ocean plummets to 2000m and where world-beating opportunities for fishing go hand in hand with memorable swimming and snorkeling in super-clear waters and diving where few have ventured.

ROMANCING THE ISLES



Wherever you're staying, you'll probably be lying in even though a beach near you is sure to be hosting a fabulous sunrise, just for you. Either way, you'll be needing breakfast and there's no better way to start the day than ordering a Seychelles fruit breakfast from your hotel reception. Perhaps with a bottle of champagne and some fresh orange juice?

If you haven't already, why not hire a car and take your love on a journey of discovery through Mahé? Make your way to Victoria, allowing your senses to come alive to the sights and sounds of the Seychellois way of life as you stroll the narrow streets. Stop for a delicious cappuccino at the Rendez-vous restaurant, just next to the clock tower, from where you can watch the world go ever so slowly by. Perhaps even buy a souvenir or two or an item of local jewelry from a nearby boutique.



From Victoria, take to the hills on the Sans Souci road, feeling the temperature cool as you wend your way into the mountains on a road that offers so many amazing views. Right at the summit, turn right into the Mission Lodge, a spectacular viewing point over the coast of west Mahé, built on the ruins of an ancient school for slave children.

When you've finished feasting your eyes on the beauty that surrounds you, continue over the hill and down the other side, past the tea plantation and, lower still, one of the finest views of Mahé there is.

When you arrive at the coast road, turn left past the Mahé Beach Hotel until you arrive at the beautiful beach of Grand Anse where you will probably find yourselves alone as you stroll along its golden sands. From there, continue down the coast until you arrive at Anse a La Mouche bay, a great place for a refreshing dip followed by a cool drink at Anchor Café.

An absolute must is Julien's at Anse Soleil, enjoying a long swim in the ocean as it laps against one of the island's most stunning beaches. Take your time, and soak up the ambiance before making your way to table in the early evening to savour the best in seafood cuisine with your feet in the sand.

If you still have energy left, there's a Casino (long trousers for the men, please) on the other side of the island at Beau Vallon for you to try your luck.

Oh, and don't forget to try a shot of Coco D'amour, the delicious local liquor, before bed.

TIGHT LINES IN SEYCHELLES WATERS

A close-up photograph of a fishing rod and reel. The rod is silver with black guides and a black handle. The reel is silver and black. A thin orange line is visible extending from the reel. The background is a vast blue ocean under a clear sky. The text "TIGHT LINES IN SEYCHELLES WATERS" is overlaid in white at the top.

For starters, why not charter any one of the great fishing boats available and head, with its experienced crew, in a south easterly direction until you reach the Turcos Bank which is teeming with the ultimate mixed bag: tuna, jack, dorado, barracuda, streaker, kingfish, sailfish and marlin. You can even stop along the way and try your hand at the local method of fishing - 'palangrotte' or bottom-fishing.

This art of literally, 'fishing off the bottom,' involves baiting a long, weighted line which you then let drift to the ocean floor to a depth of around 50 metres. You'll be surprised at the fish that will take your bait; groupers, bream, rock cod, barracuda, emperors, snappers and shark. This method will bring some of the tastiest fish around to your table. Be sure to ask the crew to filet a freshly caught tuna or bonito for the ultimate sushi platter and wash that down with an ice cold beer as you wait for the next strike.



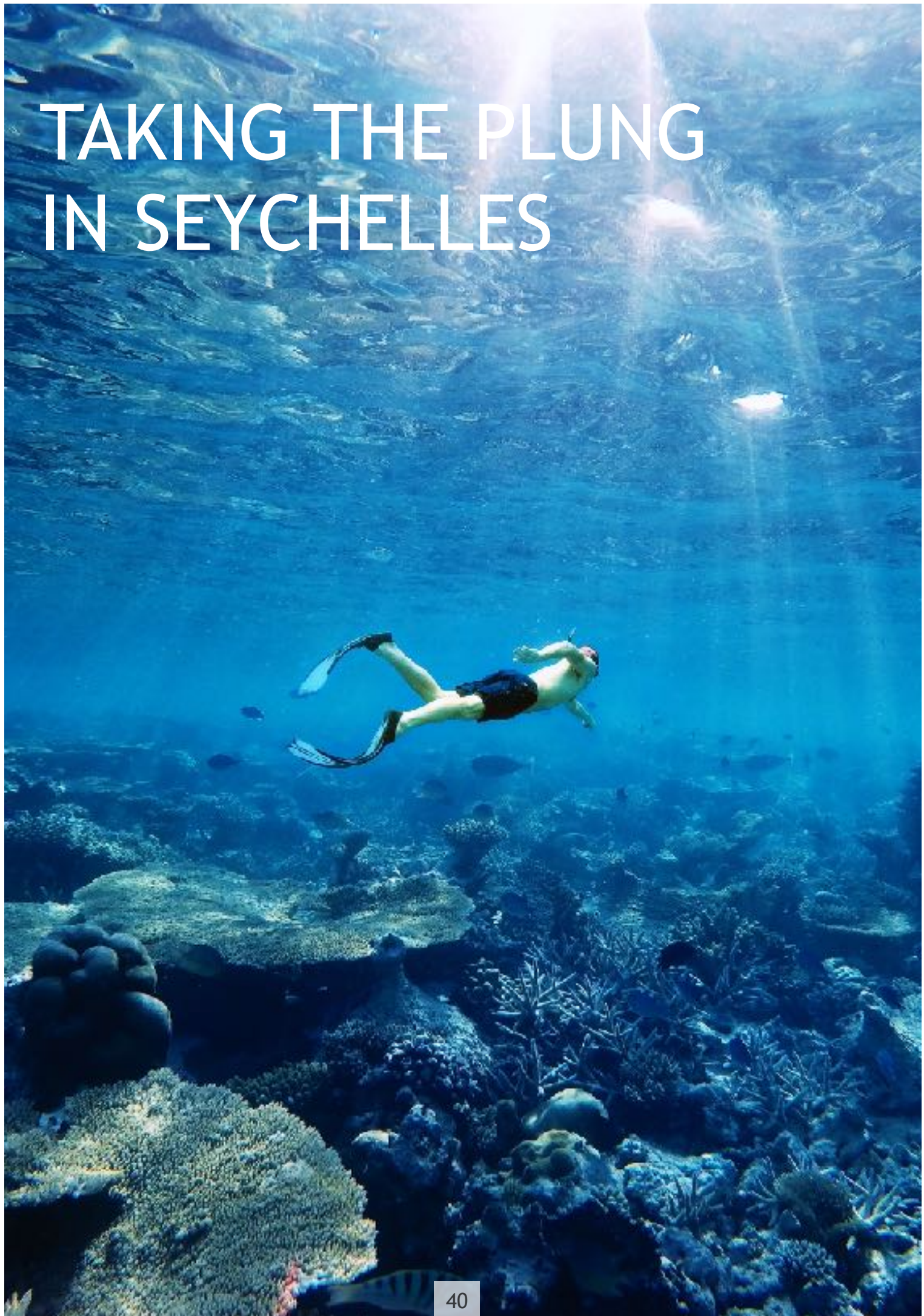
You might even consider picking a spot closer to shore and trying your luck at night fishing for 'bekin' or pick-handled barracuda which is an exciting fish to catch and a delicious one to 'Bar-B-Q'.

The waters around Silhouette Island are especially fish-rich and a great place to fish sailfish when the season is right. There are also some superb bottom-fishing spots in the location. Fishing around Praslin and La Digue promises a good variety of catch with some stunning scenery to boot, or you might wish to head north to the twin coral isles of Denis and Bird which is serious marlin country.

An expedition down to the Amirantes, or beyond to Alphonse, will take you into the remoter, little-fished waters of the Outer Islands where you might even get your name into the record books. The flats of the St. Francois and St. Joseph atolls are also becoming a Mecca for serious fly-fishermen the world over on account of the record bone fish and trevally that have been caught there.

Whatever your compass heading, you'll find excellent fishing in pristine, uncrowded waters where there's still plenty of room for adventure.

TAKING THE PLUNG IN SEYCHELLES



Why not take the plunge with any one of our dive centres and explore the wonders of Seychelles' underwater world, where limpid waters combine with spectacular seascapes and a plethora of marine life forms to thrill both experienced diver and novice alike.

There's a wide choice of dive operators available throughout the islands, both land-based and live-aboard, so, wherever you roam, the chances are you'll be able to dive.

Each dive centre will have its favourite spots based featuring extraordinary scenery, amazing marine life or both combined. Most dive centres are located right on the beachfront from where a short ride in your wonderfully uncrowded dive boat will bring you within reach of a host of diving sites offering unforgettable diving experiences.



A shallow-water expedition into the Ste. Anne marine park, surrounded by the splendour of its encircling islands will introduce you to a whole variety of fish. Turtle rocks, just off the east coast of Mahé, is famous for its stingrays, sharks and soldier fish while the 'Vista' and 'Sunset' rocks to the north-west are host to crayfish, octopus, snapper and scorpion fish.

Advanced divers can look forward to the delights of the famous 'Ennerdale', 'Twin Barges' and 'Dredger' wrecks with their sharks, groupers, rays and pelagics. If drift diving is what you're after then look no further than the 'Lighthouse' known for its coral formations, but also hosting many reef fish with hawksbill turtles and moray eels also often present at this site.

If you're heading to the south of Mahé, then you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to great diving venues such as the magnificent granite topography of the 'Jail House' rock or the beautiful corals of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Some diving operators offer such value added activities as beach bar-b-q's or picnics on some secret beach where to relax and swap stories of some of the best diving around. Others offer the thrill of night dives in welcoming moonlit waters. It's a good idea to combine a dive with such complementary activities which are guaranteed to fill your days and give you the memories of a lifetime.

Live-aboard dive operators give you the opportunity of traveling further afield to Praslin and La Digue. Also to islands with magical names such as Desroches where fabulous canyon and cave dives await or Alphonse, with its drop and profusion of magnificent corals.

Further on still lies the ultimate prize - Aldabra - UNESCO World Heritage Site and largest raised coral atoll on earth. Here, among the giant lagoon's rivers and channels, are diving opportunities galore among some of the most spectacular seascapes and dense populations of marine life on the planet.

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you Travel?







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