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Welcome to Mauritius

Bienvenu and welcome to Mauritius!

Friendly, inviting and relentlessly beautiful – welcome to Mauritius! Beaches, temples, lagoons, rainforests, reefs, waterfalls, shopping, dining... Mauritius has it all. For the adventurous and active, the array of options is endless; from scuba diving and snorkelling to sailing and deep sea fishing, or water-skiing and parasailing, kite surfing and yoga, quad biking and horse riding – you name it, Mauritius has got it.

HISTORY

Mauritius was a Dutch colony in the 1600's until it was occupied by the French in the 1700's and then it became a British Colony in the 1800's. It gained independence from Britain in the late 1960's after almost 200 years, and finally became a Republic in 1992.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Due to its multicultural diversity, Mauritius boasts a number of spoken languages. With immigrants from Africa, India, France, the UK and China, there is a vast mixture of cultures, languages and traditions. Both English and French are generally accepted as the official languages (with French being the most dominant), and Creole being the most commonly used language on the street.

CLIMATE

The island is blessed with a tropical climate and is a fantastic year-round destination. Temperatures range from the low to mid-20s°C in the cooler months (April to October), up to

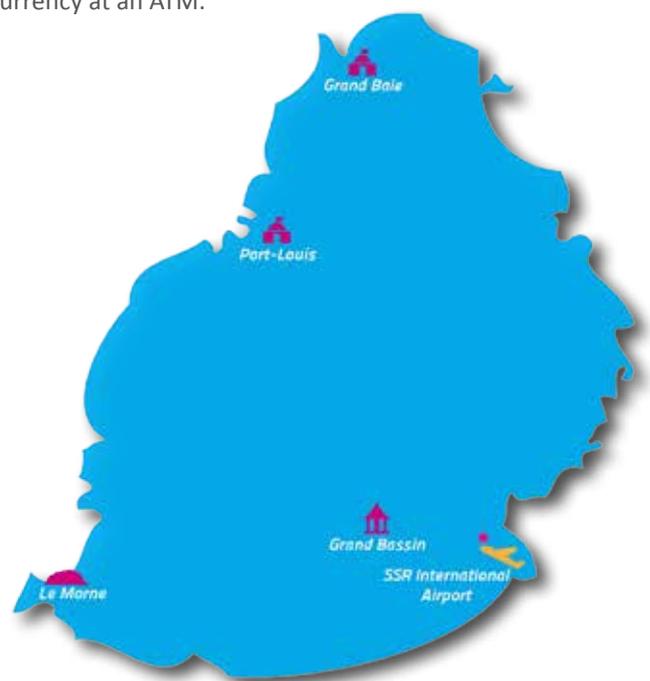
the late 20s°C and early 30s°C during the gorgeous summer months from November to March.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Mauritius is 2 hours ahead of South Africa

CURRENCY

The monetary unit is the Mauritian Rupee (Rs) which is divided into 100 cents. Major currencies such as US Dollars and Euros, and even South African Rands, are accepted in most hotels and by many vendors. You don't need to schlepp to get forex before you travel to Mauritius, you can literally convert Rands to Rupees on arrival at the airport or simply draw local currency at an ATM.



WHAT TO DO IN MAURITIUS

Mauritius has an impressive array of activities available – from exhilarating zip lining to cultural temple visits. Of course, it's also very important to factor in plenty of time to soak up the sun around your hotel pool. If you are looking for more than the beach, look at what is in store for you:

- Deep Sea Fishing
- Spa & Wellbeing
- Golf
- Shopping
- Scuba Diving and Snorkelling
- Nightlife

WHAT TO PACK

- As a guide, the maximum weight for checked luggage is 20kg in economy class and 30kg in business class
- Your hand-luggage should not weigh more than 6kg and needs to be small and compact
- Take along your best beach and casual wear, perfect for the day
- The dress-code for dinner is usually smart casual and gents are required to wear long trousers
- Sunglasses and suntan lotion are a must
- Don't forget any medication that you might need, and be sure to pack it in your hand luggage
- Chargers for all your devices (it's a good idea to take along a few movies on a tablet or something similar as the English TV channels in your hotel may be limited)
- Swimming shoes and goggles
- Mosquito repellent
- A hat or cap
- And for whatever you leave behind, take it as an opportunity for some retail therapy. Mauritius is a living and working island so you will be able to get most things you might need. In fact, you won't regret a trip to the shops or markets.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Pack a change of clothing in your hand luggage in case of baggage delays (and a spare cozzie so at least you can have a swim when you get to your resort)
- Clothing creases less if rolled in a sausage shape when packed – so roll, don't fold
- No sharp objects are permitted in your hand luggage (yes, tweezers are sharp!)
- Travel insurance is a must. If you can't afford it, you can't afford to travel!
- Travelling with kids – please check that you have all the relevant documents including unabridged Birth Certificates.
- Put electronics, medication, toothbrushes and jewellery in your carry-on bag
- It's often a good idea to let your bank or credit card company know that you're going overseas
- Be patient, be flexible, be spontaneous and have the best time ever



DID YOU KNOW

- Because of its small size, Mauritius is the most densely populated country in Africa (approximately 1.3 million people)
- Even though it has been extinct for 350 years, the Dodo is the national bird of Mauritius
- The capital city of Mauritius is Port Louis
- The island is only 65km long by 45km wide

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