

### **ABOUT MAURITIUS**

auritius, known officially as the Republic of Mauritius, is an island nation located off the coast of the African continent in the southwest Indian Ocean. It is a volcanic island of lagoons and palm-fringed beaches with coral reefs surrounding most of the coastline.

Mauritius is situated approximately 2400 kilometers off the South East Coast of Africa. The island covers an area of 1,865 square kilometers or 720 square miles, with 330 kilometers of coastline. Mauritius is 45km in width and 65km in length.

Mauritius is a densely populated island of around 1.2 million people. It has a reputation for stability and racial harmony among its mixed population. Mauritius is known as a plural society where all the ethnic groups present: Hindus, Muslims, Creoles, Chinese and Europeans live in peace and where all the ancestral cultures have been preserved. These features make the island a unique place in the world, and the Mauritians known for their tolerance and kindness towards all people. Most Mauritians are bilingual being equally fluent in French and English. English is the official language, but French and Creole are widely spoken. Oriental languages also form part of the linguistic mosaic. Mauritius has preserved its image as one of Africa's few social and economic success stories, being a sugar and clothing exporter and a center for up market tourism.





### BLUE BAY MARINE PARK MINISTRY OF FISHERIES



Strict Conservation Zone A / Zone A Strictement Conservee
Strict Conservation Zone B / Zone B Strictement Conservee
Conservation Zone / Zone de Conservation
Multiple Use Zone / Zone a Usages Multiples
Swimming Zone / Zone de Baignade
Fishing (Pole & Line Only)
Traffic Lane
Ski Lane
Fringing Reef

### BLUE BAY MARINE PARK

Blue Bay

ound South East of Mauritius, the Blue Bay marine park is framed on one side by a couple of hotels and the runway of our international airport Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Airport.

And sitting comfortably on top of the marine park is 'lle des Deux Cocos', an islet within the lagoon, of 4.22 hectares. An important and very unique network of coral reefs protect this part of the island from the oceanic waves.

The oldest corals are found between 'lle aux Deux Cocos' (where there is a hotel project at Naiade Resorts !!) and the coastline at a depth of 5.5 meters. And more than 50 different species of corals have been identified, out of which more than 80% are alive. The Blue Bay marine park has been proclaimed in 1997 to slow down the constant degradation of the marine environment, a result of urbanisation and tourism development in the area. The Coast Guard at the Marine Park is unfortunately too relaxed and the number of boats at the park will sooner or later damage the corals.

Entrance is free, though you have to pay for the snorkeling boat ride.

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

45 min drive from the hotel Snorkeling gear available on boats Trip lasts around 2 hrs





## **BLUE SAFARI SUBMARINE**

Grand Baie

Iue Safari Submarine is the only operator of real submarines in the Indian Ocean. At 35 metres depth, your dream comes true as you discover the magic of the marine life. You will enjoy a rare and unforgettable experience, travelling in total security and comfort, on board very sophisticated air-conditioned submarines. A unique adventure which should not be missed, whether you are 2 or 90 years old.

The adventure begins upon boarding the surface vessel "Betty of the Mascareignes". It has two ultrasound phones on-board, which provide permanent communication with the submarine. During your 40-minite dive, amongst multicoloured fish, you will discover the beauty of the corals and who knows what surprise awaits you. Our pilots, trained in marine biology, will guide you through your dive.

Viewing the wreck of the "Star of Hope" and its numerous inhabitants, it is always a magical moment! During the descent, the colours change as the infra red rays of the light, are filtered out by the water. At 20 meters depth, red becomes brown, then violet at 30 meters. Yellow becomes green, then blue, after 30 meters. Blue is the dominant colour of the deepest part of your dive.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### STANDARD DIVE

Adult	MUR 3900
Chil (under 12)	MUR 2300
Baby (under 3)	MUR 700
Exclusivity (sole use) 2 hrs and 40 min under water	MUR 25,000

Wedding (sole use) MUR 48,000 2 hrs and 40 min underwater including champagne and a souvenir video

Underwater Lunch MUR 57,000 2hrs and 30 min of which 1hr and 30 min, a lunch at 35 meters of depth (max 2 persons)

Champagne Dive MUR 31,00 2hrs of which 30 min underwater including champagne and canapés. 1hr30 min drive from the hotel. Booking to be made 24hrs in advance.

#### **Contact Information**

Blue Safari Submarine Royal Road Grand Bay Mauritius Tel: (+230) 263 3333 Fax: (+230) 263 3334 Email: bluesaf@intnet.mu



### **BIG GAME FISHING**

La Peche aux Gros

auritius is renowned for being one of the best Big Game fishing destination worldwide. The sea drops to 70m (230ft) just 1 km (<sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub> mile) from the coast, meaning that huge fish are there for the taking 15 minutes from the shore. Its tropical waters are home to blue and black stripe marlin, sharks, tuna, sail fish, bonitos, Wahoo, Dorado and the *bécune*. The most popular season for international anglers is from September to March, but big game fishing is possible year round .

Your experience will be unsurpassed and unique from any fishing excursion you have been on before. Our Catch and release policy ensures that minimal impact is made to the precious marine ecosystems of Mauritius.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Note: All the tackle, rods and other equipment are included in the safari as well as soft drinks. You are welcome to bring your own tackle as it is always nice to catch fish with your dream rod. Change of clothes sun tan lotion factor 20 minimum, Polaroid sunglasses, a good hat and plenty of good humour.

45 min drive from the hotel Booking to be made 24hrs in advance To bring Sun creams and a Hat/cap Trip lasts 5hrs(half day) or 9hrs(Full day) There is a shower and toilet on board Free beverages will be offered during the trip Please note that no lunch is included – please bring your own lunch

#### Contact Information:

Thévenau Residence Tamarin Mauritius Tel: +230 729 9120 E-Mail: domtevno@intnet.mu



# PARASAILING

Various

arasailing is the ideal excursion for those looking for a special sea-air activity.

Parasailing offers you a breathtaking bird's eye view of the beautiful lagoon and beaches of Mauritius, making it one of the best things to do during your vacation in Mauritius.

Mauritius Attractions offers you to enjoy parasailing in several different locations in Mauritius. You can choose to experience water skiing in any of the following locations:

- 1. Grand Baie (Mauritius North West)
- 2. Flic en Flac (Mauritius South West)
- 3. Trou D'eau Douce (Mauritius central East coast)
- 4. Blue Bay (Mauritius South East)

The parasailing begins with a short safety briefing. Then you will be taken by boat to the launch pod where you will later take off and start the parasailing.

Upon arrival to the launch pod, you will be connected with a secured certified harness to the parasail. Only after the ground assistants will check the rig and the flight harness they will signal the boat driver to start the engine and gradually accelerate the boat. You will slowly take off from the launch pod for a flight above the beautiful lagoon.

No steering is actually necessary as the sail follows the course of the boat.

It is also optional to do a "touch and go", which means that on the way down, instead of just reeling back onto the boat, you



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

The total duration of this excursion is of about 45 minutes, including a parasail flight of about 15 minutes.

#### <u>Comments</u>

No particular physical conditions are necessary This attraction is offered from the age of 6 You can enjoy the parasailing every day but Sundays, operating hours: 9:00-16:00 1-2 people can parasail on the same parachute at the same time

light duration: about 15 minutes

Booking to be made 24hrs in advance 45 min or 1hr30 min drive from the hotel depending on places



### UNDER SEA WALKING

Grand Baie

he Underwater Sea Walk is one of the most unique attractions that one must experience when visiting Mauritius. It is a true once in a life time experience for all the non divers out there!

Experience the ultimate sensation where time stops, worries fade away and breathing underwater becomes possible, safe and easy...

Enjoy a safe and fascinating underwater walk on the ocean bed (about 3-4m depth), and witness firsthand the magnificent marine life of Mauritius, the beautiful fauna, corals, and a wide variety of fish, all in their natural habitat. Qualified experienced guides will accompany you along the course of the Underwater Sea Walk guaranteeing your maximum safety. This is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to discover the underwater world from within, and make your fantasies come true.

The Underwater Sea Walk does not require any knowledge of swimming or diving and you are not even required to remove your glasses.

The excursion begins with a motorboat transfer from the center of Grand Baie to a platform situated inside the lagoon at the North of Mauritius. Upon arrival to the platform you will receive a pre departure briefing on the gear, the local marine life, on safety procedures and on the underwater walking trail.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

What to expect? Going for the underwater Sea Walk s like going for an underwater tour inside the reef, walking between corals, seeing variety of fish, and discovering the rich sea life underwater in the crystal clear blue water of the lagoon

#### Comments

Total time of the excursion is approx. one and half hours (walk itself takes about 25 minutes).

The underwater walk is suitable for all people aged from 7 years old.

Wetsuits and soft underwater shoes are available and provided free of charge.

Glasses or contact lenses may be worn during this excursions (you will not get your head wet).

Also possible to organize this excursion for groups of up to 16 participants. Participants do not need to know how to swim

The underwater sea walk is offered several times a day during the following times: 9:00 / 10:30 / 12:00 / 13:30 / 15:00

What to bring: swimming costume and a towel The Underwater Sea Walk is not offered on Sundays.

Lhr 30 min drive from the hotel Booking to be made 24hrs in advance



### SCUBA DIVING

Flic en Flack

auritius, the island of incomparable beauty situated in the Indian Ocean is home to some of the world's most breathtaking coral reefs and marine life ever to be seen. Full with hundreds of bright-colored fish, the underwater world of Mauritius can be deemed a natural wonder.

Both beginners and certified divers can be sure to have safe and enjoyable dives in these perfect conditions. It is exciting to explore and get close to the amazing life at the coral reefs that surround Mauritius.

Scuba divers in Mauritius are spoilt for choice of dive sites. There are numerous dive sites all over the island. Beginners can start at the shallow side of the ocean, whereas experienced divers can head straight for the more adventurous dive sites such as cliffs, caverns, reefs, pinnacles and wrecks.

Each dive becomes a unique experience when looking at colorful fish like the butterfly and soldier fish, large corals, majestic lion fish, giant lobsters, scorpion fish, stone fish, barracudas - and with a bit of luck you will get to see dolphins or water turtles.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Divers must bring their log books and diving qualification certificates.

All divers will be required to fill in a medical and liability form.

Family members of the divers who are not diving can enjoy free boat trips and snorkeling as long as there is enough space on the boat.

#### Best Time for Diving in Mauritius

All year round Mauritius is a very safe and interesting location for a diving holiday.

Even though Mauritius is an evergreen scuba diving destination, the months of summer (November to March) are considered to be the best time for Diving. During the summer season, the warm water attracts an abundance of fish and marine life.

People going for diving during this particular period can easily catch sight of extremely exotic fish, such as the parrot fish, groupers, wrasses, sweetlips, angelfish, sergeant majors, trumpet and clown fish, moray eels, crayfish along with a wide variety of corals, sponges and sea anemones

Booking to be made 24hrs in advance 30min or 1hr drive from the hotel depending on places



### **KITE SURFING**

Le Morne

t is the Southern end of the West coast that offer the best Kite and windsurfing conditions. Beginners and confirmed kiters can enjoy the vastness of the La Prairie / Baie du Cap lagoon, providing a shallow and safe environment and allows downwind glides to Le Morne. (The lagoon of La Prairie is too shallow for windsurfing.)

The Le Morne spot is the winner of all spots of Mauritius. Due to the landscape that strongly boosts the prevailing South-Easterly winds in winter and due to a very specific and local thermal wind in summer, this spot offers ideal conditions 11 months a year (February being the exception.)

The La Preneuse and Flic en Flac spots are adequate essentially for kiters of intermediary to confirmed levels and only when the wind is thermal, from the West or North-West, (i.e. mainly outside winter period.) They are good spots to start and sail downwind to Le Morne.

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

The spot is always crowded, especially on weekends where there are several swimmers in addition to kiters and windsurfers.

Strong currents can take the beginners by surprise and pull them outside the lagoon in seconds.

Rescue outside the lagoon is not an easy task due rough sea conditions and swells.

30 min drive from the hotel Booking to be made 24hrs in advance





## SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

### Chamarel

mmerse yourself in the adventure of a lifetime and swim with dolphins in crystal clear waters. You will get a unique chance to discover the lives of these magnificent marine mammals in their natural aquatic habitat. Swimming with dolphins is an incredibly moving experience which will bring you into contact with strikingly beautiful scenery, unspoiled landscapes and wonderful animals.

You'll plunge into the remarkable world of these marine mammals and come face to face with the dolphins. Unlike many other dolphin facilities that limit a swim with dolphins program to pools or shallow water encounters, we provide the unique opportunity to enter the dolphins' natural environment and enjoy an encounter with the dolphins in open sea. Once you get on board the speed boat, the skipper will brief you on the experience you are about to have and on the day itinerary. Then you will be off for two wonderful hours in the open sea with the dolphins! For convenience, snorkeling equipment is available for you to use onboard the boat (free of charge). Swimming with dolphins offers a rewarding, educational, therapeutic and amazing experience for everyone! The swimming with dolphins is a unique activity done on a speed boat.

Dolphins are one of the most fantastic creatures that live in the ocean. The dolphins are cheerful and playful, and became symbol of intelligence and grace.

Dolphins live in pods of around 20 individuals or more and can be observed swimming casually from Tamarin (on the west coast of Mauritius) on their way to the deep sea off the coast of le Morne peninsula, everyday early in the morning. The Dolphins, the Bottlenose Dolphin and the Spinner Dolphin, have made the west coast of Mauritius a place for them to rest and sleep before going to the deep sea for their daily feeding



#### USEFUL INFORMATION

Note: there is a guarantee of 90% that you will see the Dolphins, but if it dose not happen, there will be no money refund, instead, we will offer you to join a second trip free of charge

Snorkeling equipment is provided for you free of charge

The trip is not recommended for pregnant women

This trip is done on a speed boat

This trips departs from the West Coast from the area of Tamarin

45min drive from the hotel Booking to be made 24hrs in advance Fo bring towels, sun creams etc. Frip lasts about 2hrs



### WATERPARK LEISURE VILLAGE

Belle Mare

he Mauritius Leisure Village Water Park is the ideal destination for those looking for a day full of fun in the sun for the entire family. The Water Park Leisure Village, offers fun pleasure and relaxation for all.

The Water Park is located on the East coast of Mauritius and is the only water park currently operating in Mauritius. The Mauritius water park offers a great entertainment and fun for all ages, and kids are sure to have a wonderful time and plenty to do. In addition to the many attractions, there is a big selection of places to eat, rest and to stock up on souvenirs, all making the water park the perfect excursion for the entire family.

Make sure to check the big wave pool, it is a popular attraction in all seasons, and is so big you can body surf in it! You children are sure to love the water park and enjoy the many spots created just for them, with shallow splash areas, water cannons, leisurely inner-tube ride, waterfalls, lily pads to jump across and so much more. At the Leisure Village Water park you will have a lot of exciting and enjoyable moments sliding on the giant water slides, splashing in the various pools, relaxing in the Jacuzzi, and going on the many attractions of the water park

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Opening hours: Open 7 days a week Opening hours: 10:00 – 17:30

Prices: Price per Adult: 12 Euro Price per Child (ages 3-12): 7 Euro Price per Baby (ages 0-3): Free of charge

1hr 30 min drive from the hotel





### CATAMARAN CRUISE

### Various Locations

atamaran trip in Mauritius is considered to be one of the best attractions in Mauritius. It is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable activities for visitors to Mauritius and a great experience to remember and cherish. You will get to discover the beauty of Mauritius Paradise Island, one of the most beautiful travel destinations in the world with superb coral reefs, crystal clear water, beautiful lagoons, stunning unspoiled beaches and amazing underwater world. Mauritius catamaran cruises make it easy and comfortable to visit beautiful regions of the island during your sea journey. It is also the best way to discover the beauty of Mauritius' surrounding islands. As part of the catamaran cruise you will get to sail along the beaches, see the lagoons, enjoy the stops on the way to snorkel and discover the amazing marine world. Going on any of the catamaran cruises in Mauritius will allow you to widen the scope of exploring Mauritius, and will be a real gratifying experience for the body and the soul.

This cruise is all about sailing through crystal clear waters whilst enjoying breathtaking sceneries and relaxing on the beautiful white sand bank of ile aux cerfs. Along the way at around 11:00, the catamaran makes a stop for you to enjoy snorkeling inside the islands largest lagoon allowing you to enjoy the underwater marine life and swim amongst superb corals and brightly colored tropical fish. After snorkeling the catamaran continues sailing along the beautiful east coast heading to Ile aux cerfs island. A delicious lunch is served onboard. The BBQ lunch which is prepared by the chefs of the Preskil hotel is cooked and served by the Catamaran crew making sure this is one of the best lunches you get to have as part of any catamaran cruise offered in Mauritius. (If you are a vegetarian, please advise us before, so we can ask the chef to cater for specifically for your needs.)

After lunch the catamaran will cruise into the canal between the Isle aux Cerfs and the world class sanctuary of Anahita before dropping you off on the famous white sand bank of Ile aux cerfs.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### <u>Non-stop supply of all drinks is offered throughout</u> :he day including:

Mineral Water, Juices (selection of tropical juices), Soft Drinks (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fanta & Orangina), and a selection of alcoholic beverages: Beers, Rhum, Red Wine, Rose Wine and White Wine.

**Gear onboard:** Snorkeling gear including flippers, mask and tuba as well as the colorful pool noodles is available for you to enjoy.

What to bring: We suggest bringing swimming suit, beach towel, sun cream, cap or hat as well as sun glasses.

45 min drive from the hotel





### SKY DIVING

Riviere du Rempart

Skydiving Adrenaline Pumping Adventure at its absolute best! You will get to experience a 10,000ft skydive in Mauritius paradise island. Enjoy Mauritius' most spectacular scenic flight and the most visually awesome Tandem Skydive you can ever imagine. The flight before the jump offers a complete 360° bird's eye view of Mauritius's awesome coastal, inland and mountain scenery.

The flight before the jump offers a complete 360° bird's eye view of Mauritius's awesome coastal, inland and mountain scenery. When reaching 10,000 feet, the aircraft door will open, and you will get to tandem skydive Harnessed to an experienced qualified Instructor.

Then, in the open air you will experience flying – free falling for about a minute reaching a speed of 200 Km/hour, before the instructor will open the canopy and you will get to slide down in air for about 5 minutes, seeing the beautiful surrounding on your way down until the safe landing.

The take off is done from the magnificent Sugar Fields of Mon Loisir, with views of Mauritius's stunning lagoons and reefs stretching far into the Indian Ocean.

This is your once in a life time chance to fly over the top of one of the most spectacular island paradise's in the World. After the jump you will receive a tandem skydive certificate, so you can remember this great experience for many years to come. Also, for a small additional cost you will receive a DVD recording of your skydive.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

The total duration of the skydive excursion is of about 1 hour, including ground training, 25 minutes flight to 10,000 feet, free fall and parachute flight.

The skydiving operations has all authorization from DCA and the ministry of tourism

All instructors are qualified with required certificates to operate Tandem Skydiving in Mauritius

There is full insurance cover for up to \$1000000 per person

On each flight can go up to 5 people

No age limitation – under the age of 18 parents consent is required

Weight limitation should be between 40kg – 100kg For pregnant women and people suffering from heart problems, Asthma or other physical problems, doctor certificate/approval is required

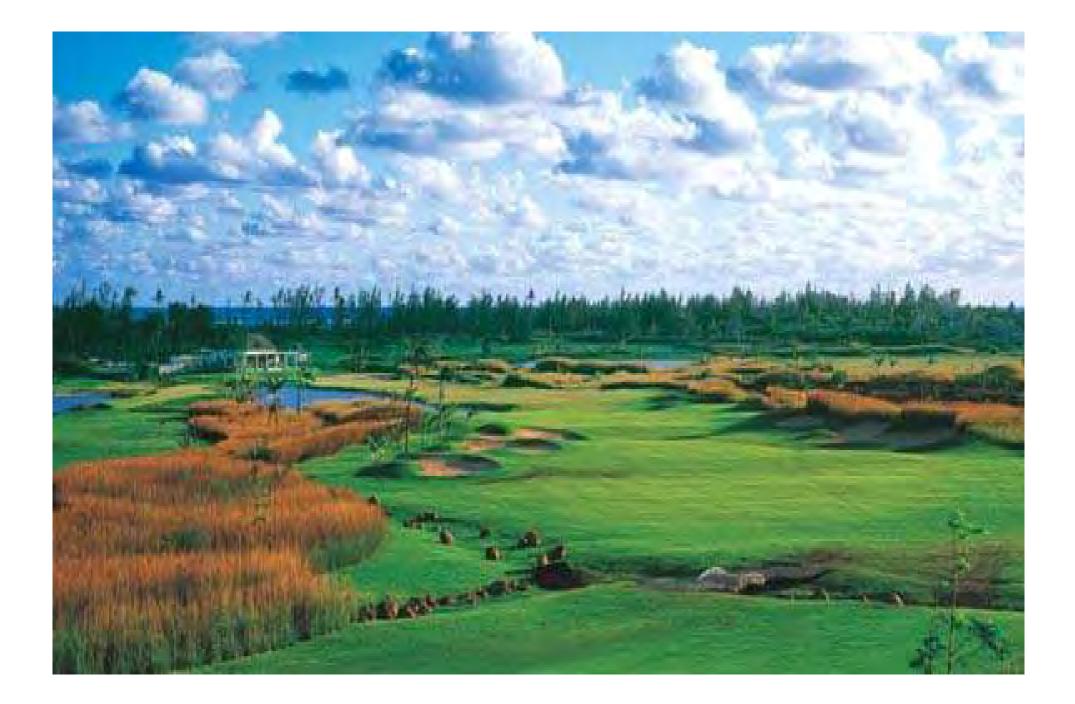
The skydiving is offered everyday from 10:00 – 17:00 Please bring with you suitable footwear - Training shoes or sport shoes are ideal

The full duration of the skydiving excursion is of about 1 hour

Customer can receive a DVD recording of their skydive for additional cost)

All instructor speak English and French

hr45 min drive from the hotel ooking to be made 24hrs in advance



### GOLF Bel Ombre

ny Resort Golf Course needs to provide a challenge for the better player, yet provide a playable and enjoyable experience for the recreational golfer. Le Golf du Château has the right balance and variation in length of holes, width of fairways, green sizes and ultimately the risk and reward element that is crucial on any Championship layout. I hope that you will all enjoy the experience, accept the challenges and reap all the rewards of a golf course, designed with passion, love and attention to detail.

On the extreme South of Mauritius lies the heritage of a colonial past and lifestyle. The 'Domaine de Bel Ombre' reveals, amidst a preserved environment, the majestic 'Château de Bel Ombre', an exceptional 18 hole golf course surrounding a vast natural park and two world class hotels: Heritage Golf & Spa Resort and Le Telfair Golf & Spa Resort..

Bel Ombre... a historic name evoking the grace and the romance of the plantation era, originating from a noble sweetwater fish "the ombre" found in the region.

There are places in this world that seem to relate wonderful memories of a rich past still today: Bel Ombre is such place. Already in the early 18th century, the famous writer Bernardin de Saint-Pierre recorded the birth of magnificent sugar estates across the wild South overlooking the emerald waters of the Bel Ombre lagoon. The reputation of the Domaine de Bel Ombre is attributed to an exceptional man, Charles Telfair, who from 1816 to 1833 substantially enhanced the region with his social, botanical and engineering innovations.

As one of his contemporaries once wrote "the Telfair residence is a gathering place where the hospitality is generous, unrestrained and frank.Where receptions are joyful and all amenities are offered to you." This history is still true for visitors today...



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### **Golf Course**

An 18 holes championship golf Course with 5 different tee options on all holes.

#### 9 holes par 3 golf course

A 9 hole par 3 course ranging in distance from 60 meters to.65 metres is available for all level of golfers

#### **Driving Range**

A double-sided driving range utilising top quality range balls s available from 07.00 to 17.00.

#### **Putting Green**

A large putting green situated between the 18th green and the clubhouse is available for golfers during daylight hours.

#### **Chipping Facilities**

A separate chipping, pitching and bunker practice facility is ocated adjacent to the 9th green.

#### **Pro Shop**

A fully stocked Pro-Shop with both local and international prands is open between 06.30 and 18.30 seven days a week.

#### Bar and Restaurant

The bar is open for drinks service between 07 00 and 19 00, and kitchen operating hours are 10.00am to 18h00. A menu consisting of light meals is available throughout the day.

#### Hire Equipment

Equipment hire for golfing purposes include golf carts, troleys and International branded golf clubs catering for men, women and juniors.

#### Caddies

There are a limited amount of caddies available. Should clients wish to utilise this service, please ensure that you book a caddy in advance when securing your tee-time.



# QUAD BIKING

Valriche

xperience an adventurous Quad Biking activity in the most amazing natural setting! 2 hours of quad-biking excursion in the 4,500 hectares of Yemen natural reserve park. The quad biking trip allows one to discover the safari park whilst observing the wild animals from close in their natural habitat. You will enjoy 2 hours of intense pleasure, appreciating the thrill of riding the quad bike and the charm that prevails in the reserve. This quad biking trip offers the ultimate combination of quad biking trip with a safari exploration. More than a quad bike outing, it is a trip through a real safari where as part of the trip you will have the opportunity to see the many animals inhabiting the park.

The quad bike course takes you up the park heels, down some valleys and across rivers whilst enjoying the breathtaking surrounding and the beauty of the reserve.

You can enjoy this amazing experience as individual or together with your partner - You have a choice between riding a singlesit quad bike suitable for 1 person and a double-sits quad, ideal for 2 passengers. Children under the age of 16 (and above the age of 8) can enjoy this quad biking activity alongside an adult seated on a double quad bike.

The quad biking trip is done in groups led by the park's experienced guides. The guides are there to lead the way, explain about the park, the animals and the flora you will encounter along the way and answer all your questions.

No experience is required to ride the quad bike. The quad bike's controls are very easy to learn and master and within minutes you will feel like an experienced quad bike driver.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

To drive a quad bike you have to be 16 years old or more (between the ages of 13-16 it is possible to join the quad biking trip as a passenger)

What to bring: hat, sun block, sport shoes / closed shoes, recommended also long pants

**Scheduled time of tours** 

Quad or 4 x 4

Morning: 10:00 to 13:00

Afternoon: 14:00 to 17:00

Booking to be made 24hrs in advance 15 min drive from the hotel



### HIKING Black River Gorges

lack River Gorges Natural Park Hike – Half Day hiking including a picnic lunch. Come and experience the true beauty of the nature of Mauritius.

The Black River Gorges is worth visiting for all trekkers, as well as for the pure nature lovers and bird-watchers. The Black River Gorges is the largest national park in Mauritius. Famous for its waterfalls, vistas and hiking, the gorge is in the central highlands, making it cooler than much of the island.

The "Black River Gorges" National park is a national park in the hilly south-western part of Mauritius. The park extends over an area of 6,754 hectares. With the help of the guides, you will discover Mauritius' natural heritage in this unique area which is also the location of one of the rarest forests in the world. It harbors about 311 species of native and endemic flowering plants and 9 species of birds, which are found only in Mauritius.

This hike will take you into the heart of the indigenous forest with many panoramic views. You will also get to a river where you can have a swim.

During the trip you will learn about the natives, the vegetation as well as on the endemic and exotic bird life.

The views you will encounter during this hike are breathtaking: A wide, beautiful gorge (canyon) curving dramatically down between a series of mountains. Beautiful waterfall scampering down the hillside with a range of mountains behind them and many more.

The park protects most of the island's remaining rainforest. Many endemic plants and animals can be found in the park, including the Mauritian flying fox and all of the island's endemic birds: Mauritius kestrel, pink pigeon, Mauritius parakeet, Mauritius cuckoo-shrike, Mauritius bulbul, Mauritius olive white-eye, Mauritius grey white-eye and the Mauritius fody.



#### USEFUL INFORMATION

Trip duration: meeting at 9:00 am and finishing at around 13:00 pm

Water and juice will be provided during the trip

The price also includes a picnic lunch

It is recommended to bring hiking shoes, sun cream and mosquito repellent, spare set of clothes

Region: Mauritius West, Difficulty: Easy

Minimum age requirement: 10 years and above



### HORSERIDING

Riambel

horseback excursion in one of the most beautiful nature rich domains of Mauritius. The horse riding is done in a beautiful private domain spreading over 2000 hectares situated in the south-east of Mauritius. The landscape at that domain is rather mountainous and offers the visitors spectacular panoramic views, indigenous forests, beautiful valleys, sparkling rivers, and encounters with wild animals and endemic birds.

From the domain's peak half of Mauritius can be seen: the central plateaus, Moka mountains range, and also major part of the coastline. Upon your arrival to the domain you will receive a welcome cocktails, followed by safety briefing and basic riding lesson.

As part of your horse riding excursion you will be able to watch kestrel, Mauritian cardinals, Java stag deers (rare deers foud in Mauritius), boars, monkeys and bats as well as rare species of birds like the "Cateau vert" and the "Crescerelle". The horse riding trips are performed every day in the morning or during the afternoon, and are planned carefully according to the riding level of the riders so each rider will be sure to fully enjoy the ride and have memorable moments. The horseback rides last approximately 2 hours and occur in small groups of 7 riders maximum. The horses are "Boerperds." This race of horses from South Africa is considered by experts as the ideal family horse – ideal for quiet rides by non-experienced riders. The nobility of these horses, their presence and their beauty makes for centuries an outstanding companion.



#### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### ncluded in the price:

unch buffet, welcome cocktail, entrance fees to the private grounds, horse riding guidance and drinking water (will be provided during the trip).

Hot showers and refreshing towels are available for the use of visitors (bring spare clothes in case you would like to have shower after the excursion).

Pregnant women and physically challenged person are not authorized to go on this excursion.

The horse riding excursion is suitable from the age of 12 years old. Children with previous riding experience (level of Gallop 3), are accepted from the age of 7.

It is required to wear long trousers, and sport shoes with socks.

Booking to be made 24hrs in advance 10 min drive from the hotel



## SPEED ZIPLINE

**Riviere Des Galets** 

ou will get to discover the beautiful scenery of the "Rivière des Galets", its banks and forests, and its numerous waterfalls hidden amidst banana plantations and sugar-cane fields. The zip lines excursion involves a hint of rekking, bathing in clear waters and especially spectacular glides along zip lines; the longest of them is 250 meters long!

Connected to zip lines you will fly over the river of "Rivière des Galets", above trees and rocks, and discover the beautiful fauna, flora and landscapes of the rain forests of the south of Mauritius, doing so in the most original and exciting way.

As part of this excursion you will get to experience a selection of as many as **13 zip lines** in a total length of about 1.5km of zip lines cables!!! Each zip line, varying in length, height and speed offers you to discover a unique and different landscape. The smallest zip line measures 60 meters while the longest measures 250 meters!!! The altitudes of the zip lines above the ground vary from 20 meters to 40 meters.

This activity is recommended for everyone from the age of 4, is ideal for families and offers a great time and entertainment for all. No previous experience in zip lines is required. Children and adults are surprisingly taken by the excitement and adrenaline that comes naturally when you start flying for the first time. Along the trip there is a nice break by the river, where you can freshen up in the natural clear water pool, enjoy a swim in the river or under the waterfall and dive from the top of rocks into the natural pond.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Ages: From 4 years old Level of difficulty: Easy Duration: Half day – about 3 - 4 hours Departure Time: Offered twice a day at 9:00 and 13:00 What to wear: Clothing and shoes, cap and swimwear Do not forget: Subscreen, mosquito repellent cream

**Do not forget:** Sunscreen, mosquito repellent creat **Maximum group size:** 15 persons Booking to be made 24hrs in advance

15 min drive from the hote



### HORSERACING

Champ de Mars

he Mauritius horse racing club commonly called the Champ de Mars was founded in 1812, making it the oldest horseracing club in the Southern Hemisphere, and one of the oldest in the world.

Thoroughbred horse racing is the most popular sport in Mauritius and the electrifying ambiance on race days, is amazing to feel. Horse racing in Mauritius is a local happening, a lot of people in Mauritius are involved with horse racing, and you can expect to have about 30,000 visitors in each race day.

The horse racing season usually starts in April and ends in late November. With an average of 9 horses per race (some go to a maximum of 12 horses). On average, some 60 horses participate on each racing day.

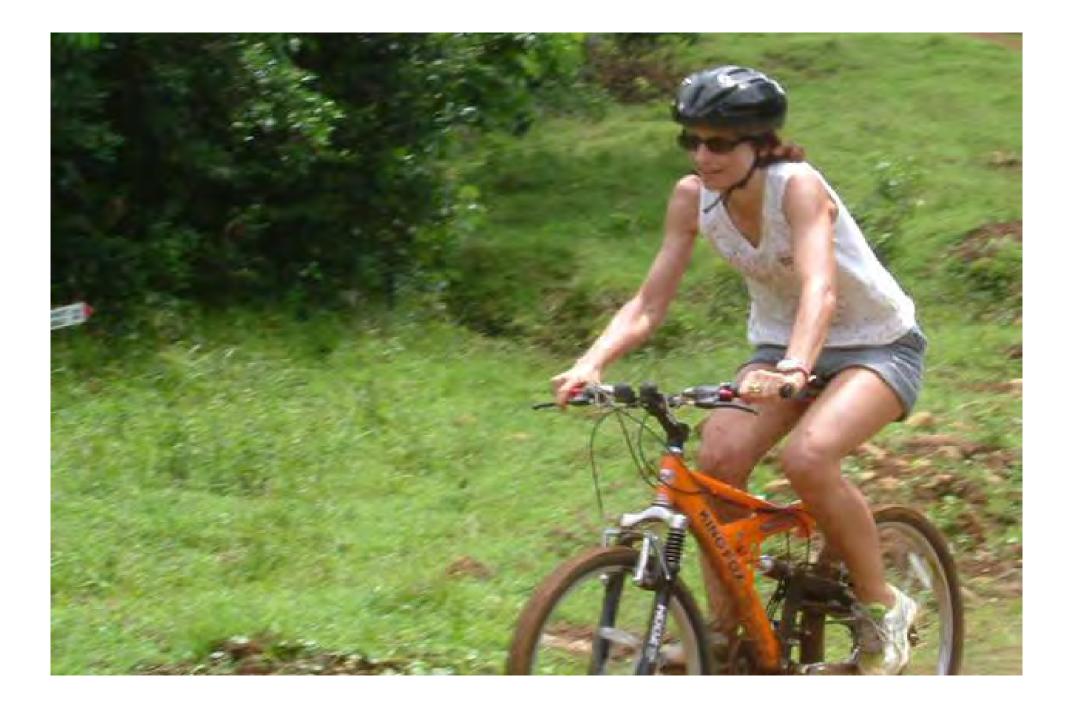
As the most popular sport in Mauritius, a high level of professionalism has been reached in the organization of races over the last decades, thereby boosting competition levels, and creating a unique electrifying atmosphere on each race day at the Champ de Mars.

This is a great tourist attraction to enable visitors to discover in optimal conditions of comfort the experience of a horse racing event in Mauritius



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

There will get to see 8 races during your visit; the last race is at 17:00 Child under 6 years old will enjoy this activity free of charge. The dress code is: Casual Smart (trousers and shirts for men). Wearing formal dress of suits and ties is not required.



### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Chamarel

great way to enjoy your stay in Mauritius is by going on a mountain biking trek. Come and discover a wonderful biking trail from Chamarel down to the coast of Bel Ombre.

This mountain bike trail is of medium difficulty level, with possible "add on" difficulties for those looking for more challenges. This bike trip takes mountain bikers from Chamarel down to the coast at Bel Ombre.

The whole journey down is through lush vegetation, with splendid views over the Southern coastline. The mountain biking trek starts at the village of Chamarel located in the south west of Mauritius, 400m above sea level. The village of Chamarel is surrounded by the Black River gorges park, a protected natural heritage site where the World Wildlife Society has saved several species from extinction like the pink pigeon and the green parrot.

This area is home to two natural wonders - the magnificent Chamarel Falls and the colored earths of Chamarel. The earths are particularly unusual, created by volcanic rocks that cooled at different temperatures.

This mountain biking trip offers off-road and on-road biking, and is accessible to most.

Most of the trip is downhill, passing through the valley of Chamarel among pineapple, sugarcane, banana and coffee plantations.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **Equipment Supplied:**

Pro gear Aluminum Bikes, in few sizes: 15,17,19 and 21 inch Mountain bikes mounted with shimano Alivio and Acera parts, with front suspension (40 MM) and V-Brakes Water bottles, Crash helmets and professional lycra gloves Special gel seat covers

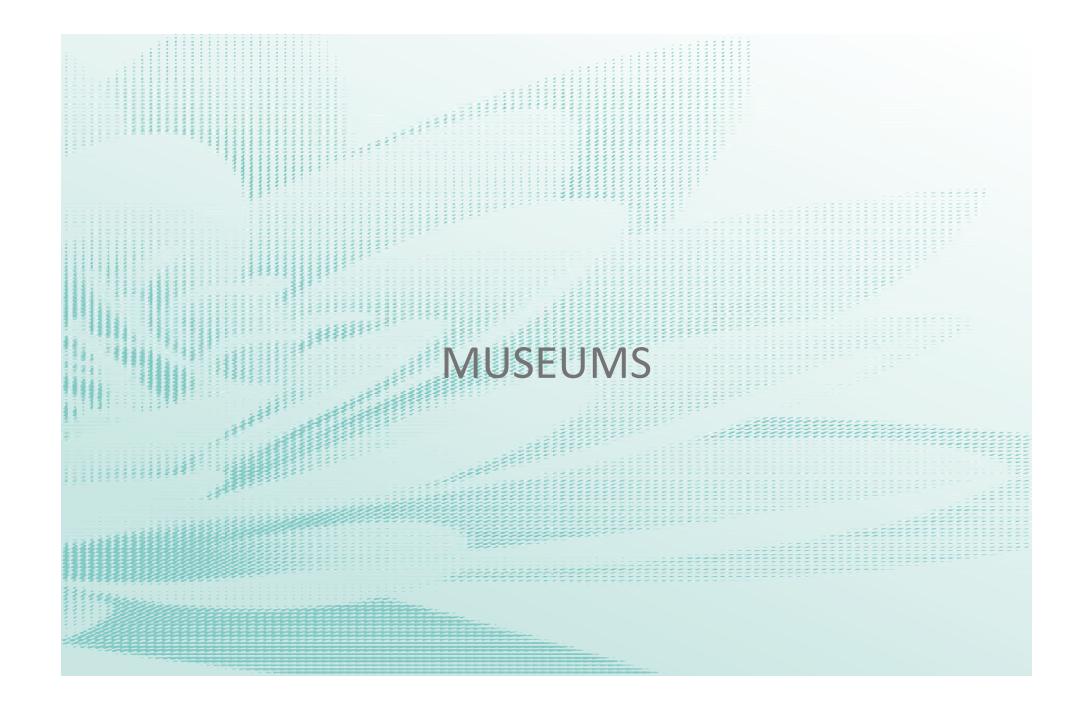
### Comments

Trip duration: meeting at 9:00 am and finishing at around 12:30 pm

Water, juice and snacks will be provided during the trip

It is recommended to bring hiking shoes, sun cream and mosquito repellent and spare set of clothes

Region: Mauritius South-West, Difficulty: Average Minimum age requirement: 10 years and above





## POSTAL MUSEUM

Port Louis

he Mauritius Postal Museum has three permanent galleries. The first gallery sheds light on the postal history of Mauritius. It presents stamps from the colonial period 1847- 1967 and Mauritian stamps issued between 1968 and 1995. The colonial issues include the locally printed classics, the Britannias (1858 -1862) and the Victorians (1860 - 1893) etc. Photographs of old post offices and mail vehicles are exhibited on the walls.

This gallery also houses the Sales Counter/Gift Shop, which offers for sale to the visitor philatelic accessories: stock books, stamp albums, mounts and tweezers; postage stamps; first day covers; and souvenir items.

Special arrangements can be made here for servicing covers. Letters posted at the museum are cancelled with special cachets.

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

1hr15 min drive from the hotel **Address:** Place du Quai, Port Louis, Mauritius

Tel. No.: (230)213 4812 Fax: (230) 212 9640

### Visiting hours:

Monday to Friday: 0900hrs to 1545hrs Saturday: 0900hrs to 1130hrs Sunday & Public Holiday: Closed ENTRANCE FREE





# FREDERICK HENDRIK MUSEUM

he Frederik Hendrik Museum is located on the south-east coast of Mauritius. It is situated at the Vieux Grand Port Historic Site, the cradle of Mauritian History. This is the site of the first human settlement in Mauritius. The Dutch discovered Mauritius in 1598. However, they settled here only in 1638, when the Fort Frederik Hendrik was constructed. The Dutch abandoned the island for good in 1710. The French claimed Mauritius in 1715 and established their government on the same site in 1722. Later, the French moved their administration to Port Louis. However, they developed the site into a military post to assure the security of the bay and the island. Following the transfer of the military post to the newly created town of Mahebourg in 1806, the site was abandoned.

In 1998, the Vieux Grand Port Historic Site was rehabilitated and landscaped to mark the 400th anniversary of the first Dutch landing on Mauritius. It was inaugurated by H.R.H. Prince Maurits Van Oranje-Nassau, descendant of Maurits Van Nassau, stathoulder of the Netherlands, after whom Mauritius was named in 1598.

The Frederik Hendrik Museum was opened on 27 May 1999 by Hon. Joseph Tsang Mang Kin, Minister of Arts and Culture. Initially, it housed a temporary exhibition on the activities of the Dutch in the Indian Ocean, donated by the Dutch Government, on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the first Dutch landing on Mauritius.

Since 1997, the museum received many objects in its collection as a result of the ongoing archaeological excavation work on the site, undertaken by a group of Dutch researchers. Over the years new exhibits, retracing the history of the site, have been added in the museum. The Frederik Hendrik Museum serves as an interpretation centre for the Vieux Grand Port Historic Site.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

50 min drive from the hotel Address: Royal Road, Old Grand Port, Mauritius

Tel No.: (230)634 4319

#### Visiting hours

Monday to Saturday: 0900hrs to 1600hrs Sunday & Public Holiday: Closed **ENTRANCE FREE** 



## NAVAL MUSEUM

Mahebourg

he National History Museum is situated at Mahebourg, in a fine park extending to about 12 acres, on the bank of River La Chaux. It is housed in Chateau Gheude (also known as Maison Robillard), an old French colonial country house built around 1772 and presently listed as a national heritage. It was in a wing of this historic building that the two Commanders of the English and French squadrons, wounded in the Battle of Grand Port in 1810, were given medical treatment side by side. The National History Museum finds its origin in the Naval Relics Museum and the Museum of Historical Souvenirs.

The Naval Relics Museum was set up by the Mauritius Railways in 1934 and was located on the ground floor of the Secretariat Building in Port Louis. In 1941, it came under the purview of the Mauritius Institute. The museum exhibited the objects (canons, mortars, part of hulk, bottles) retrieved from the shipwreck La Magicienne in 1933 and 1934 by H.C.M. Austen, engineer at the Mauritius Railways. The museum was closed in 1942. The Museum of Historical Souvenirs was created by Lady Clifford, wife of Governor Clifford. It was opened in March 1938 and housed in two rooms, on the second floor of the Government House. The collection comprised furniture and ceramics belonging to the East India Company and artefacts donated or loaned to the museum. The museum was closed in 1939 because of the Second World War. The objects were kept in the basement of the Government House while those on loan were returned to their respective owners. After the Second World War, in 1947, Government acquired the Chateau Gheude and in 1948 put it at the disposal of the Mauritius Institute for the setting up of a history museum. Collections of the Naval Relics Museum and the Museum of Historical Souvenirs were then transferred to this historical building which opened its doors to the public on 15 September 1950. The museum displayed mostly naval relics, historical artefacts, artworks and maps. It later became Naval and Historical Museum when a large number of objects from historic shipwrecks, sunk around Mauritius, were added to the collection. In 2000, it was proclaimed a National museum to reflect its new national character



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

45 min drive from the hotel Address: Royal Road, Mahebourg, Mauritius

**Visiting hours:** Monday to Sunday: 0900hrs to 1600hrs Tuesday: Closed **ENTRANCE FREE** 



## NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Port Louis

he Natural History Museum is located on the ground floor of the Mauritius Institute Building, right in front of the Jardin de la Compagnie in the heart of the City of Port Louis. The Mauritius Institute Building, constructed between 1880 and 1884, is listed as a National Heritage. This one-storey building is a partial copy of the Colombo Museum building in Sri Lanka. Its plans were designed by the British architect M. Mann.

The Natural History Museum is the oldest museum of Mauritius and amongst the oldest in southern Africa. In 1826, the naturalists Julien Desjardins and Louis Bouton made a request to Governor Sir Lowry Cole to set up a museum in Mauritius. On 14 October 1842, the Desjardins Museum was opened to the public, in a wing of the old Royal College in Port Louis, where it remained for 42 years.

In 1880, the Mauritius Institute was established by Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen. In 1885, the collection of Desjardins Museum was transferred to the newly erected Mauritius Institute Building. The collection comprised mainly marine fauna and birds from the Mascarene Islands. It formed the basis of the present day Natural History Museum. The museum focused on the systematic collection, study and recording of the fauna and flora of Mauritius and the Mascarene Islands, and over the years developed into a centre of documentation and exchange in the various fields of natural history of the Mascarenes region. In 2000, the Natural History Museum of the Mauritius Institute was proclaimed a National museum.



1hr 15 min drive from the hotel Address: Mauritius Institute Building, ChaussÃf©e, Port Louis, Mauritius

### Visiting Hours:

Monday to Friday: 0900hrs to 1600hrs Saturday: 0900hrs to 1200hrs Wednesday, Sunday & Public Holiday: Closed ENTRANCE FREE





### **BLUE PENNY MUSEUM**

Port Louis

history and art museum situated in Port Louis, the Blue Penny Museum is one of the prime elements of the Mauritian cultural scene. It displays a precious heritage collection about Mauritius and the region. A real voyage in space and time, the museum will take you on the steps of the explorers and the successive occupation of the island, at the cross-road of civilizations from Europe, Africa and Asia. The museum prides itself of the two issues of the famous "Post Office" dating back to 1847 and considered as two of the most precious items of the world philately. The Blue Penny Museum collection also includes a series of treasures: old marine maps, paintings, sculptures, stamps, engravings and old documents that tell about the richness of Mauritian and history and culture. The collection is attractively presented through modern staging techniques, including sounds and light special effects and multimedia screens.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Operation time: from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Last entry at 4.30 p.m) Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Adult: Rs. 150 per person. Children and Students: Rs. 80 (from 7 to 17 years or on presentation of the student's card). Group entrance (+ 10 persons): Rs. 80 /person. Family fare: (1 to 2 parents + 1 to 3 kids): Rs 350. All these fares include VAT.

Duration of the visit: between 30 minutes and 1h30.

Guided visits: multimedia stations, audio guides in French, English, Italian, German and Creole.

1h15 drive from the hotel



### SUGAR MUSEUM

Beau Plan

ising above the sea of green sugar cane fields, like a great ship at anchor, the old Beau Plan sugar mill with its long history, is a true history-maker and teller. It is Situated at Beau Plan, very near to the Botanical Gardens. By following the trail of the Sugar Adventure with over 250 years of history, you can trace the history of the whole country, as in a book – a mixture of faces, the verdant or silvery sugarcane in the countryside and the sunny, colorful customs.

The tour of the old sugar mill transformed into a modern museum lasts about 1:30 hours, at the end of which delightful sugar and rum tastings await the visitor. The adventure starts right here—behind the facade of the factory building—with tales woven around the life story of sugar, for long it has been the main product and activity on Mauritius. You will then visit the enormous factory, its decade-old machines decked with a thousand lights.

A sugarcane hedge leads the way to the fully restored and converted sugar factory. Films evoking the early years of Mauritius appear on giant screens. The factory was used until the 1970s to transport sacks of sugar in the port. Today you can see how the docks used to be and discover their importance to Mauritius.

The Sugar Adventure is for all ages and it has been conceived so as to be of interest for the international visitors, as well as for the locals. Behind such a simple word as "sugar", the Sugar Adventure has attempted to reveal the very soul of Mauritius.



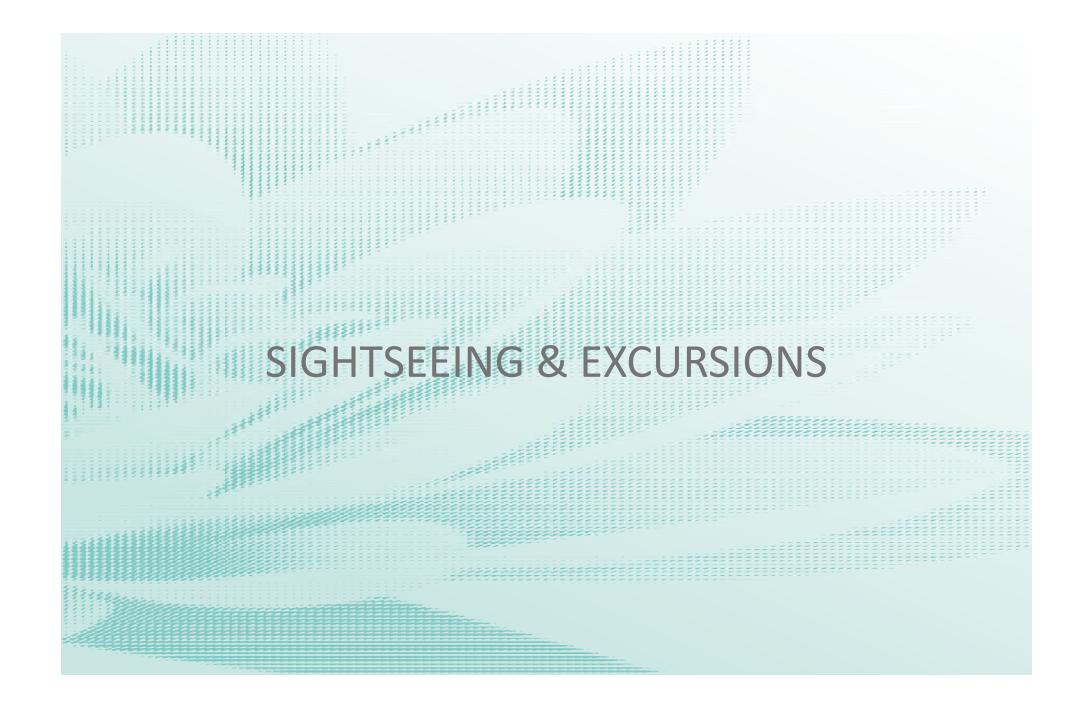
### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

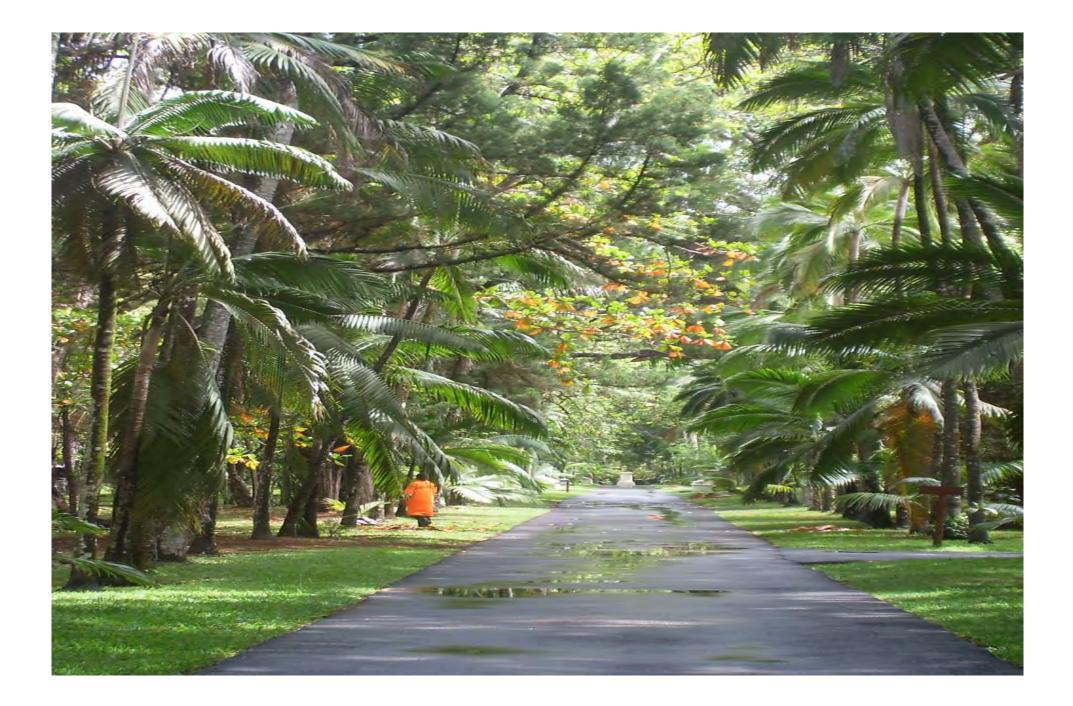
L'Aventure du Sucre welcomes all visitors 7 days a week from 9h00 to 17h00

1h20 min drive from the hotel Public Entrance Fees:

Adult: MUR 350 Child (6-13 years): MUR 175 Student (13-26 years): MUR 175 (on presentation stu dent id)

Contact Information: L'AVENTURE DU SUCRE Beau Plan Pamplemousses Ile Maurice Tel :+ 230 2437900 Fax: + 230 2439699 Email: aventure.sucre@intnet.mu





### PAMPLEMOUSSES BOTANICAL GARDEN

### Pamplemousses

amplemousses Gardens, more formally known as Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Gardens, is one of the most visited attractions in Mauritius. Opened as a private garden by the French governor of Mauritius nearly 300 years ago, the gardens served as a major horticultural research center for the French and British during the colonial period. Today it's home to dozens of varieties of palm trees, as well as medicinal plants, fish ponds, and an amazing collection of Queen Victoria water lilies.

Discover The Garden the spice plants corner; the palms; the aquatic plants; the flowering shrubs and trees; the climbers; the medicinal plants corner; the native plants corner; the avenues; the animals that are encountered; the monuments and other features of interest; the naturalists and botanists who have administered the Garden; the Head of States and other personalities who have planted trees;

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

1hr15 min drive from the hotel **Opening Hours:** Every day: 8:30 to 17:00





### **GRAND BASSIN SACRED LAKE**

**Grand Bassin** 

rand Bassin, Mauritius is a must visit must natural attraction in Mauritius. No Mauritius excursion becomes complete without a trip to Grand Bassin, Mauritius. The main attraction of this picturesque Bassin, apart from its spectacular beauty is its interesting legend. Grand Bassin is a sacred lake in Mauritius that is believed to be filled with the waters of the holy Ganges of India. This Lake is of immense religious significance for the Hindus residing here.

According to the legend, it is believed that the Lord Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism, was traveling around the earth with his wife Parvati, with holy Ganges water balanced on his head, when he saw this deserted, beautiful island and decided to land here. He then spilled some drops of the sacred Ganges River into a crater of an extinct volcano on this island and created a small lake that we now know as Grand Bassin Lake in Mauritius. After that Shiva prophesized that some of the people who at some point of time have lived along the banks of Ganges in India would later on reside on this island and glorify Ganges here as well.

Every year on the day of Maha Sivaratri, that is "Siva's Great Night", Hindu community staying in Mauritius perform a pilgrimage to this site and honor Lord Siva at the temple located near Grand Bassin, Mauritius with offerings. During the pilgrimage to the Ganga Talao, food like bananas and coconut and various aromatic flowers are offered to the Lord Shiva. This day is usually celebrated on the thirteenth day of the dark half of the passage of the moon in the month of Maasi which falls in the February or March month of the year





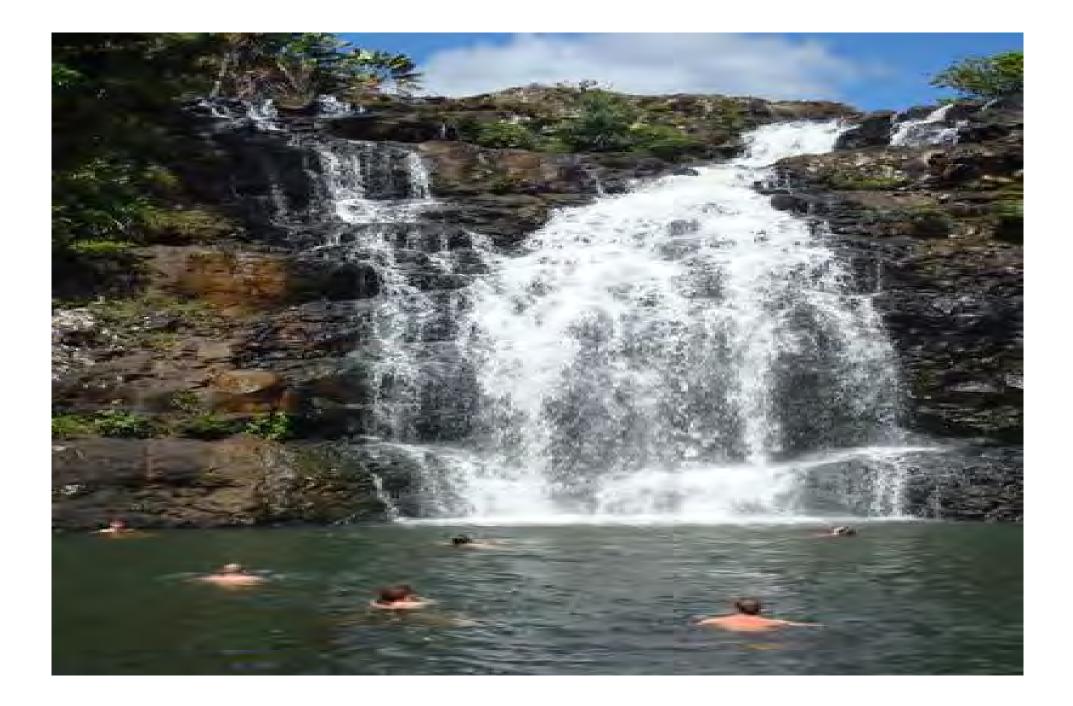
### TROU AUX CERFS

### Curepipe

rou aux Cerfs is a dormant volcano with a well-defined cone and crater. It is 605 m (1,985 ft) high and located in Curepipe, Mauritius. The crater has been alternately described as 300 and 350 meters in diameter, and is 80 meters deep. It is also known as Murr's Volcano.

According to experts, the volcano is lying dormant but could become active at any time within the next thousand years. The crater is only accessible down a steep embankment which is considered dangerous. Water and silt have clogged the crater, making it even less accessible.







# ILE AUX AIGRETTES—NATURAL RESERVE

fter a short crossing on the magnificent bay of Mahébourg, where a lingering air of mystery, a palette of bright colors and the jagged outlines of a breathtaking landscape blend into a magical setting, discover Ile aux Aigrettes, a Nature Reserve anchored at about 800 meters off the south east coast of Mauritius.

The sparkling waters of its beautiful lagoon, the ruins of an old French limekiln and the dense green canopy of the island's forest welcome you to this charming domain where the mistress of the place is none but mother nature. After a short crossing on the magnificent bay of Mahébourg, where a lingering air of mystery, a palette of bright colors and the jagged outlines of a breathtaking landscape blend into a magical setting, discover Ile aux Aigrettes, a Nature Reserve anchored at about 800 meters off the south east coast of Mauritius. The sparkling waters of its beautiful lagoon, the ruins of an old French limekiln and the dense green canopy of the island's forest welcome you to this charming domain where the mistress of the place is none but mother nature. With an expert guide leading the way, walk along the rugged trail in a one and a half hour tour and experience the bubbling renaissance of an island and its inhabitants, a small and unique population made up of rare endemic species of plants endemic to Mauritius; the Ebony forest, once home to the now extinct Dodo; the Aldabran Giant Tortoise brought in to replace the two species of Tortoises that lived on the island and now extinct; the Telfair's Skink, an endangered species of reptiles; a cannon, a set of old buildings and ruins, bearing witness of the French and British presence on the island; a breathtaking view on the Mahebourg bay from e top of a restored generator house and if you're lucky, the Mauritius Kestrel, the only bird of prey of Mauritius saved from extinction.

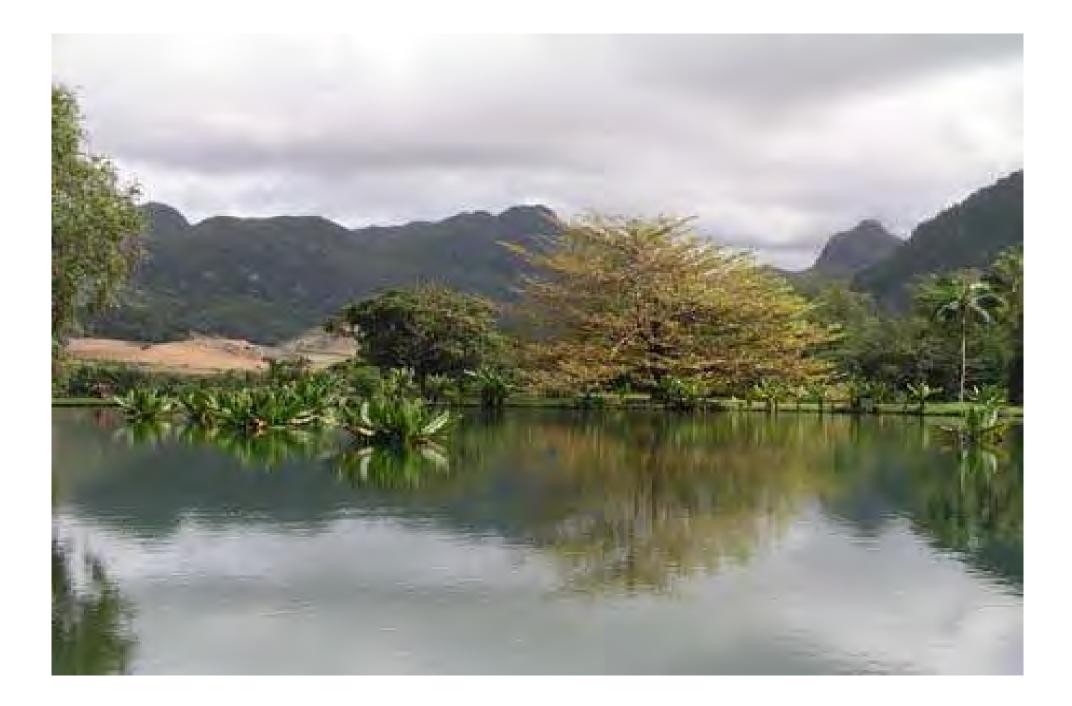


#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

We recommend comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, a cap or hat, mosquito repellent spray, camera, refreshments, and money for the gift shop.

Monday-Friday 9.30 / 10.00 /10.30/13.30/14.00 Saturday 9.30 /10.00 /13.30/ Sunday 9.30/10.00

<u>Contact Information</u> Mauritian Wildlife Foundation IAA Eco Tour MWF Grannum Road Vacoas Mauritius Tel: (+230) 631 2396 Email: mwffund@intnet.mu



# PARK ADVENTURE

hamarel, Mauritius is situated in the southwestern part of Mauritius. The place is a home of natural wonders. Tourists from different parts of the country come here in order to capture the majestic scenic treasures that are possessed by Chamarel. You are going to fall in love with the place and it's magic. Covered with mountain and green valleys, Chamarel gives a visual relief to the visitors who come to this place. Chamarel, Mauritius can be distinguished by its geographic feature which is characterized by its multi colored earth.

Chamarel carries two natural wonders in its possession. These wonders feature the spectacular show of the Chamarel Falls and the multi colored earth that covers the total landmass. Basically, the landmass was formed by the volcanic rocks which cooled down at different temperatures bestowing multiple shades to the surface. The covering land of Chamarel is textured with brilliant patterns which can be seen on the hillsides area. The distinctive layers formed are the most striking feature of Chamerel's surrounding.Village of Chamarel is a best place of excursion for people from different age groups. There are plenty of interesting places to visit and one can simply opt for adventure trips which allow them to explore the village. First and foremost thing that you must see is the gorgeous Chamarel Waterfalls. It can be said without any hesitation that spectators will be amazed to watch the natural beauty of this waterfall. But this is not the only thing to enjoy. Particularly designed for kids, there is a wild adventure park built in Chamarel Village, where minors will get plentiful chance to indulge in outdoor activities.

Similar type of adventure opportunity is available in another interesting site known as seven colored earth in Chamarel.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Children can't go on this excursion alone, only accompanied by an adult

The minimum age to go on enjoy this attractions is 6 years

It is recommended to wear appropriate clothing (comfortable wear / sports wear) and comfortable sport shoes

Before going on any of the tracks you will receive exblanation and demonstration of the safety procedures The adventure park is open every day except Wednesdays. The opening hours are: 09:00 - 16:00

Please note that in order to access the Adventures treetops park, you must pass through the Chamarel 7 Colored earth park. The 7 colored earth park is a natural wonder and much recommended place to visit in Mauritius. The entrance fee to the 7 colored earth park is 100Rs for adult (about 2.5 Euro) and 50Rs for child (about 1.25 Euro), and is paid directly at the entrance to the park



### SEPT CASCADES

Chamarel

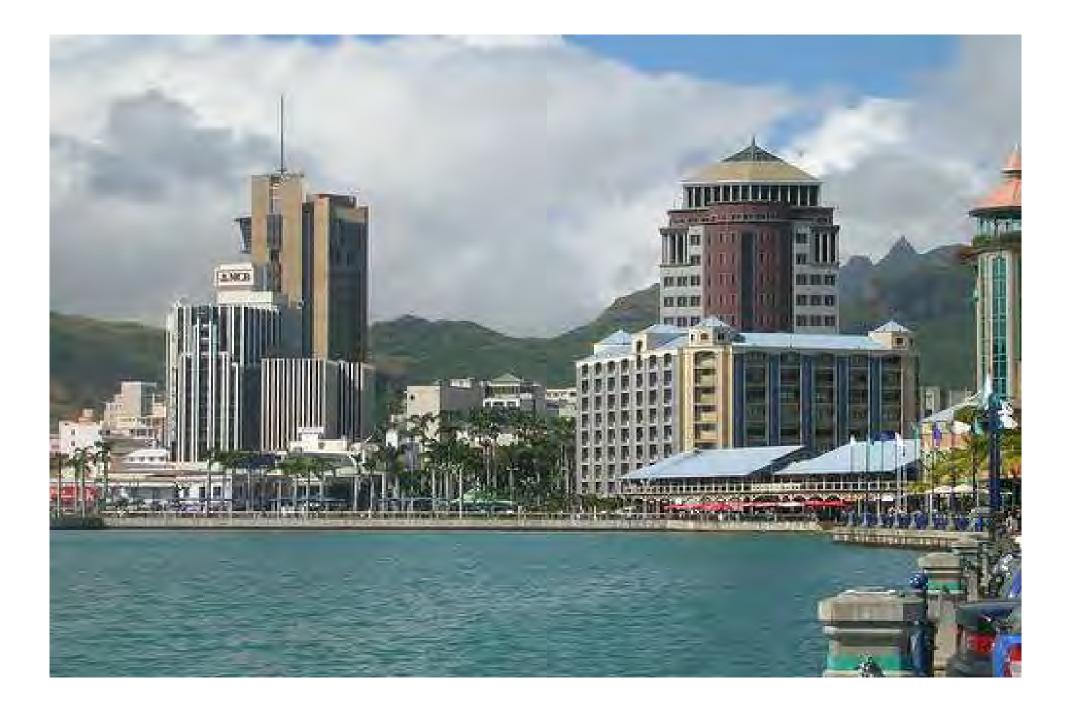


o deep into the indigenous forests of Les Sept Cascades, South West of Mauritius. Literally meaning 'seven waterfalls', Sept Cascades is a favourite amongst locals to go trekking and hiking in the lush greenery. The hike may reveal to be quite challenging in some places.

But after all the huffing and puffing, you will be grateful once you reach the cooling springs and waterfalls.

An adventure-packed outing, preferably done in groups and with a professional guide as they are not many clear trails to follow.





# PORT LOUIS - THE CAPITAL

Port Louis

o see a fascinating cross-section of Mauritian life, visit the lively covered market. Champs de Mars, originally laid out by the French for military parades is now a racecourse. The best high-up views of the racecourse, town and harbour, are from a splendid boulevard called Edward VII Avenue and from Fort Adélaide, a citadel fortified in the time of William IV. South of Port Louis is Le Réduit, French colonial residence of the former Governor-General of Mauritius, set in magnificient gardens. From Port Louis you can drive through the residential townships of Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes and Vacoas Port Louis has conserved many historic and colonial buildings through the years. One of them is a fortification named Fort Adelaide or La Citadelle, built by the British in 1835. The latter dominates the city. From there, one can observe most of the city's architecture. Port Louis is surrounded by a mountain range, called the Port Louis Moka Range. Among its most famous mountains are Le Pouce and Pieter Both which stand about 800 metres from sea level. One of the most popular attractions is the country's national derby called Champ de Mars, which is the oldest race course (1812) in the Indian Ocean and the second oldest in the southern Hemisphere. Other famous destinations include the Police Barracks known as Les Casernes and the Port Louis Waterfront.

The Mauritius Institute, dedicated to the study of the island's flora and fauna, is in Port Louis. Citizens often climb up the Signaux mountain, which is a 3-km track, that leads to over 300 metres high. From there, one can appreciate the landscape of the city. Attractions include the Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis Bazaar, the Mauritian Chinatown and the old Port Louis theatre. The capital has also three museums which are: the Mauritius Natural History Museum, the Blue Penny Museum and the Mauritius Stamp Museum. The biggest and oldest post office in Mauritius is found near the Caudan Waterfront. Situated in the heart of the city, near the State Bank Tower, the Place d'Armes is easily recognizable by its tall palm trees. It is the main entrance to and out of Port Louis.



#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

It is the largest city of the country and main port, which borders the Indian Ocean. It is located in the Port Louis District. The population is 147,688 (2003 census).

Port Louis was already in use as a harbor in 1638. In 1735, under French government, it became the administrative center of Mauritius and a major reprovisioning halt for French ships travelling around the Cape of Good Hope. The Port is named in honour of King Louis XV. The first Governor was Count Bertrand-François Mahé de La Bourdonnais



### DOMAINE ST. AUBIN

St. Aubin

tasting!

visit in the south of the island, genuine region, to liven up your vacation in the island Maurice with the visit of the Domaine de Saint Aubin , site of architectural, historical and play interest. The Domaine de Saint Aubin regroups for a nice visit of about one hour: an ancient residence of colonial architecture dating of 19th century magnificently maintained, a planting of vanilla with explanation itemized on all cycle of its production, video in the support, a conservatory of tropical flowers, Anthuriums between others and a rhumerie with demonstration, of the culture of the sugar cane in the production of agrarian or old rum with, of course, Mauritian hospitality obliges,





### GRAND BAIE Grand Baie

ituated in the Northwest coastline, Grand Baie in Mauritius used to be more of a village consisting of fishermen and their families. However, this Grand Baie in Mauritius was always in the limelight for its exotic beaches, beryl water and the bay that is deeply sheltered.

During the mid 70's, many people who belonged to Grand Baie in Mauritius became rich all of a sudden, due to the sudden hike in the price of sugar. This however, improved the general economic scenario of the infamous Grand Baie in Mauritius. Further, this led to the transformation of Grand Baie in Mauritius from a mere fishing village to a tourist hub, with people from all corners of the world, longing to come here at Grand Baie in Mauritius in an attempt to witness the serene beauty associated with this place and its picturesque sea beaches.





## DOMAINE LES PAILLES

Pailles

ituated just a few minutes from the South of the Capital City, Port Louis, Domaine Les Pailles is easily accessible from the South and the North by the motorway Domaine Les Pailles is a unique reconstruction of an old sugar estate, consisting of an old Sugar Mill, reminiscent of an 18th century sugar estate, a traditional rum distillery, sugar cane plantations, a natural reserve, a leisure and business centre, with five restaurants, conferences and banqueting facilities, a horse riding centre, and a casino.





## HELICOPTER TRIP

Bel Ombre

elicopter Sight-Seeing Tour in Mauritius

Enjoy a unique Exclusive and Private Helicopter tour across Mauritius with its breathtaking beaches and coral islands.

This helicopter tour offers an amazing and fantastic panoramic view of Mauritius from above. It is one of the best things to do in Mauritius and an experience you will cherish forever.

Treat yourself and your friends/family/partners (up to 4 passengers) to a memorable day, which will be one of the highlights of your holiday in Mauritius.

Experience the beauty of the island of Mauritius from above and feast your eyes with enchanting sights of picture post-card transparent lagoons, pristine coastline, undulating sugar cane fields and other spectacular views.

This helicopter tour offers an amazing and fantastic panoramic view of Mauritius from above.

It is one of the best things to do in Mauritius and an experience you will cherish forever. Treat yourself and your friends/family/ partners (up to 4 passengers) to a memorable day, which will be one of the highlights of your holiday in Mauritius. Experience the beauty of the island of Mauritius from above and feast your eyes with enchanting sights of picture post-card transparent lagoons, pristine coastline, undulating sugar cane fields and other spectacular views.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### Advantages of the Exclusive Helicopter tour:

Enjoy an exclusive private helicopter tour for only you and your partners/guests

Enjoy a fully customized tour course according to your wishes

The pilot will personally guide and inform you about Mauritius history, geography and sites of interest as you fly above the fantastic landscapes of Mauritius See the amazing nature Mauritius has to offer from above and explore the deep meandering valleys and the mountains ranges

Enjoy breathtaking views of Mauritius' coastal area and beaches

See the beautiful trees dotting the sandy white beaches of the islands

Explore the islands of Mauritius surrounded by the beautiful coral reefs and the crystal clear blue water Fly over Mauritius' national parks and nature reserves

### **Additional information:**

Please note that you can choose between 30 minutes, 45 minutes and 60 minutes Exclusive helicopter Sight-Seeing tours

The fleet comprises of only modern helicopters, each with a seating capacity of 4 passengers

lobal safety standards



# CHAMAREL COLOURED EARTH

he village of Chamarel in southwest Mauritius is home to two natural wonders - the magnificent Chamarel Falls and the colored earths of Chamarel. The earths are particularly unsual; created by volcanic rocks that cooled at different temperatures, the earths form beautiful patterns of color in the exposed hillsides. And if you mix the colored earth together, they'll eventually settle into separate layers. Sometimes the colors play tricks on you and appear to be shadows.

Close to Black River Gorges National Park, from the village of Case Noyale, a winding road leads to the coloured earths at Chamarel. Over time the weathering and subsequent erosion of volcanic ash has led to the formation of exposed hills complete with contrasting tiers of different shades of red, yellow, green and blue. From the hillside an easy walking trail leads to the beautiful Chamarel waterfalls, cascading hundreds of feet down the side of a cliff.

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

#### Contact Information

La Vallee des Couleurs Mare Anguilles Chamouny Mauritius Tel: (+230) 251 8666 Email: info@lavalleedescouleurs.con





## ILE AUX CERFS ISLAND

Ile Aux Cefs

le aux Cerfs – Mini Eden of Mauritius is one of the important islands which is situated on the eastern coast of Mauritius. This island is very close to the Trou d'Eau Douce which is situated in the Flacq district. Ile aux Cerfs – Mini Eden of Mauritius constitutes of around 100 hectares of land.

Ile aux Cerfs – Mini Eden of Mauritius is famous for its sandy beaches which attract a large number of people. The hotels situated here are of the best standards. They will provide you with all the required facilities. Along with this, they also provide you with facilities for various water sports. This is an important recreational activity here. Because of the various facilities available here around 800 people pay visit to this place every day.





## DOMAINE DE L'ETOILE

Gand Port

auritius is an island with best of tropical landscape and a treat to every visitor. Once the home to extinct dodo bird, Mauritius has enthralling sightseeing attractions. L'Etoile Nature Reserve in Mauritius is one of the finest tourist attractions. The word L'Etoile refers to the 'star'. The name of the reserve itself truly describes the destination.

L'Etoile Nature Reserve in Mauritius has currently entertaining limited number of tourists. If you are planning to take a tour to L'Etoile Nature Reserve, prepare yourself to view the magnificent land covered with green sparkling blanket. Take a thrilling quad bike ride in the reserve. An incredible trip to the L'Etoile natural reserve can stretches to three hours.

L'Etoile Nature Reserve beckons tourists to experience panoramic view over the spectacular tropical landscapes, multicolored birds, deer reserves, coffee and vanilla farms and various beautiful sightseeing around the reserve. Taste finger licking lunch offered in amidst the rustic and green landscape in a lodge.





## SALT PANS IN TAMARIN

Tamarin

hile you cruise on the main road towards Flic en Flac and Le Morne Brabant (West of the island), you will come across the saltpans at the foot of the Black River mountain range.Salt is produced locally and is mainly concentrated in Black River district, the hottest and driest part of the island.Sea water is pumped into large, shallow pans, made of basalt rock and the water left to evaporate. After a few days, the salt residue is then harvested and stored away, ready to be sent to a refining plant.





## DOMAINE YLANG YLANG

Providence

n a beautifully landscaped and remote site at the foot of Anse Jonchée, 15 km from the Airport, is the Domaine de L'Ylang Ylang.Ylang Ylang, 'the flower of flowers' is cultivated on the hillside of the domaine.

The flowers are picked first thing in the morning, before the first rays of the sun and sent to the distillery. As the flowers are heated up in a container of water, the atomatic vapour travels along a network of tubes for condensation. Famous for the distillation and export of delicate perfumes and essential oils, a visit to this exquisite "domaine" will awaken your senses to the the fragrance of geraniums, ylang ylang, lavender and citronella.

If you are into aromatic stuff, this place is worth a visit. Essential oils, massage oils and other aromatherapeutic products are on sale there. Entrance fees apply.





### VERGER DE LABOURDONNAIS

Mapou

n exotic tropical fruit orchard, on a private property which has kept its authentic feel, with the beautiful colonial house, a chapel and 2 tall chimneys made of basalt rocks. The best way to explore this sumptuous orchard, is to take a bicycle (available onsite) and let your senses be your guide. And be seduced by the distinctive smell of citrus fruits and tropical guavas.

Seize the opportunity to taste the tropical fruits, fresh from the gardens: the juicy flesh of paw paws, the unusual taste of jackfruits, our sweet bananas, the different varieties of guavas (goyaves de chine and goyaves de france), grapefruits, custard apples and the sharp taste of passionfruits and pineapples. And take a break to refresh yourself with freshly squeezed juices and home-made sorbets.

There is no entrance fee. Easily accessible from the motorway.

You may want to bring back some pâtes de fruits (preserved fruits) and jams, all delicatedly packed in gift boxes, for your friends and relatives.





## MAISON EUREKA

River of Moka

French colonial period and once belonged to a very well known Mauritian family. The main part of the estate has been turned into a museum, and we offer guided tours through this magnificent colonial house, its lush gardens and down to the cascading river.

As it is our aim to have guests experience an extended glimpse of history, we offer three self catering guesthouses on the premises; situated in the vicinity of our own residence in a quiet corner of the vast gardens and "off the beaten track".

Hosting two adults, all guest houses reflect the famous touch of the past in combination though with modern amenities, well equipped kitchenettes and bathrooms with WC/shower. Breakfast is a part of the arrangement, whereas lunch and dinner can be ordered separately or taken in the restaurants on the premises.

Our guesthouses offer a calm and inspiring atmosphere; it is not by chance that some of Eureka's former owners were poets and writers.

Once the family-seat of the famous Le Clezio Clan, nowadays Eureka House is owned by another well known Mauritian family who lives on its premises and enjoys sharing with their visitors their uniquely beautiful and original environment.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Located on the historical estate of Eureka on the central plateau, our self catering guest houses accommodate up to two guests and a baby; charmingly combining the best from the past and from today's time. Breakfast is included in the arrangement.

- For singles or couples as well as small families, the Eureka guest houses offer a welcoming ambiance on a historical estate.

- The guest houses are equipped with a fully furnished kitchen providing cutlery and crockery for 2.

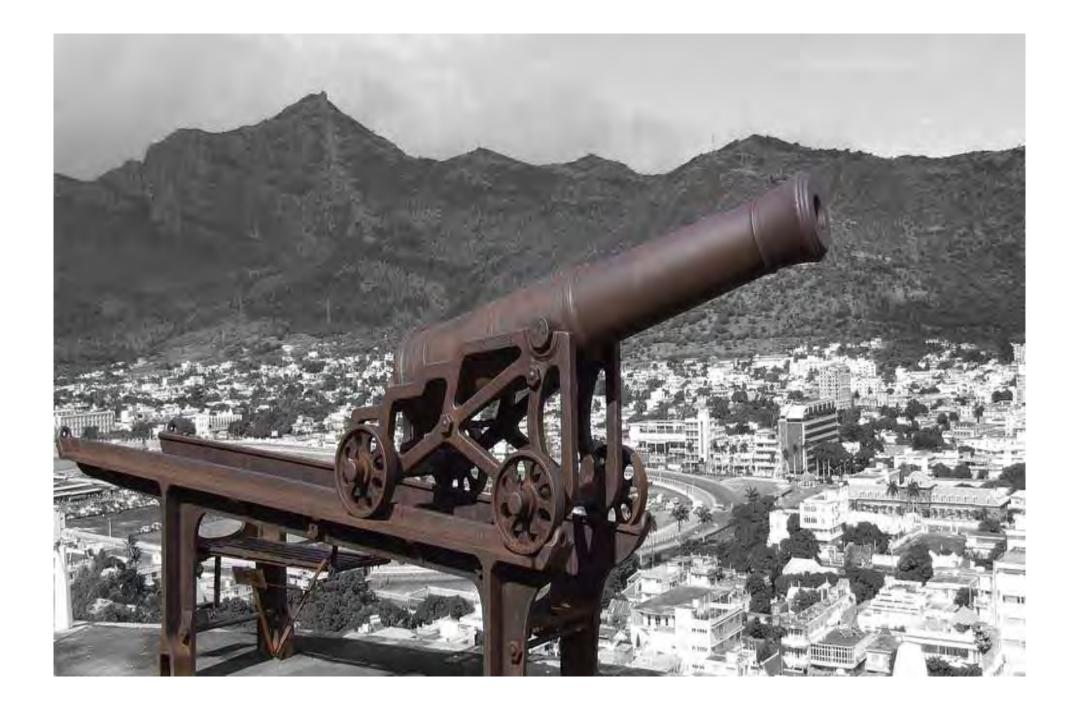
- A baby cot can be provided upon request

- Guests will enjoy the special surroundings on an old family estate which has been turned into a museum. - Guided tours are available through the premises which are vast and adorned with a magnificent garden.

Bathing in the cool and refreshing mountain stream s a delight.

 Breakfast is a part of the arrangement, and guests can also have catering by the restaurants on the premises.

- All 3 guest houses can be rented to accommodate small groups.



## FORT ADELAIDE - LA CITADELLE

Port Louis

amed after the Queen Adelaide, the fort has been built between 1834 and 1840, under the direction of William IV. At 240 ft. above sea level, Fort Adelaide, also known as 'La Citadelle' has fulfilled the strategic purpose of guarding the harbour against enemy attacks and fires that broke in the city.Today, thanks to the efforts by the Municipality to preserve this cultural heritage, it is the only one, out of the four forts built in Port Louis not to end up in ruins.

A ride uphill to Fort Adelaide, will guarantee you a breathtaking view of the city of Port Louis, nestled at the foot of the Port Louis / Moka mountain ranges and stretching towards the harbour. From this vintage point, you will find old buildings standing in juxtaposition to the modern skyscrapers. On your left, is the Champs de Mars, hard to miss for it is the only green patch in the busy city of Port Louis.As you gaze towards the harbour front, the 4 cylinders of the Bulk Sugar Terminal stands proud, facing Le Caudan Waterfront, with the seawater reflecting the warm colours of the buildings.

There is no entrance fee.





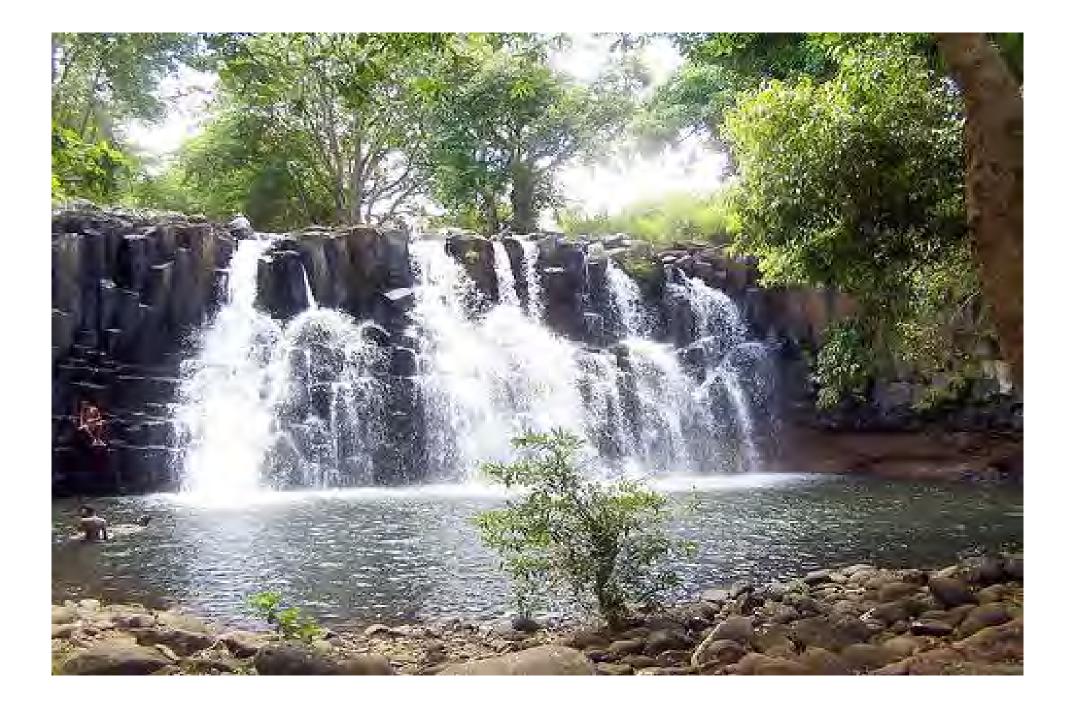
## GRIS GRIS CLIFFS

Souillac

ound on the Southern tip of Mauritius, Gris Gris deserves its name for its gloomy and moody atmosphere, all year round. The only break in the otherwise perfect barrier reefs circling Mauritius occurs in the South. Thus explaining the angry waves which come crashing on the cliffs.

Swimming is strictly prohibited. Yet, it is still a favourite place for many locals to have a picnic and to relax with friends, family and relatives. Kiosks, public toilets and safety ramps have been placed to the convenience of the public. Further down the road is 'La Roche qui pleure', ('The Weeping Rock') and 'Le Souffleur', where crashing waves 'whistle' as they rush into the gaps of the cliffs





## ROCHESTER FALLS

Surinam

ochester Falls are waterfalls on the Savanne River. The Rochester waterfalls are located near the southern coast of Mauritius around 2.5 kilometers from the village of Souillac. This area is full of natural beauties and interesting formations. The organ-pipe shaped basalt columns near the waterfalls and the signs of lava balls revealed from the way are really spectacular.

The water of the Savanne River tumble from 10m height. The constant erosion has fashioned the basalt rock into upright columns of unique shapes. They form a natural sculpture, carved within a hard rock, with angles frayed over time.

The track leading down to the waterfalls is lined with banana, mango and litchi trees and also sugar cane fields, all provide shade from the sun, and create beautiful and peaceful surrounding.

You will get to enjoy the short track leading to the waterfalls and the beautiful surrounding, while admiring the charm of the waterfalls.





## RHUMERIE DE CHAMAREL

Chamarel

n the south west part of Mauritius, in the heart of a fertile valley, lies the Rhumerie de Chamarel. Situated in the vicinity of "The coloured earths of Chamarel", one of Mauritius' most popular tourist attractions, the road leading to the rhumerie is lined with vast plantations of sugar cane growing side by side with pineapples and other tropical fruits.

Exuding an inimitable sense of warmth and authenticity, the Rhumerie welcomes guests for an all-encompassing tourism experience ranging from a guided visit of the distillery and rum tasting to a tasty meal at L'Alchimiste, its own stylish and creative restaurant.

The rum of Chamarel: a high quality "eco-friendly" agricultural rum. Ideally located in an estate protected from the prevailing trade winds, the sugar cane fields are grown in a unique microclimate which provides the natural water required according to the season.

Hand picked daily at dawn, the freshly-harvested sugar cane is transferred in less than four hours to the mills of the rum distillery. Its rapid conveyance and careful selection combined with the process which prevents the sugar from "burning" guarantee the purest juice extracts. The distillery can also pride itself in the quality of its rum., achieved by distilling the fresh, fermented cane juice rather than that obtained from molasses. It is a lengthy process-making used for only 5% of the world's production of high-quality rum.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Rhumerie de Chamarel Royal Road Chamarel Mauritius Tel: (+230) 483 7980 Fax: (+230) 483 7987 Email: info@rhumeriedechamarel.com



## BOIS CHERI TEA FACTORY

Port Louis

ois Chéri is the first tea plantation in Mauritius dates back to 1892. Visiting the Bois Chéri is the second stop in the Mauritian Tea Route (the first stop is the Domaine des Aubineaux). A guide will lead you through the factory and the tea plantation, offering you to discover the history, stories and tales of the Bois Chéri and the importance of tea productions in Mauritius. After the guided tour of the tea factory, you will visit the tea production museum learning more about the history of tea in Mauritius.

The Bois Chéri offers a great panoramic view of the south of the island. Nowadays Bois Chéri produces a new range of flavored teas, green teas and herbal teas. You may taste them during your visit.



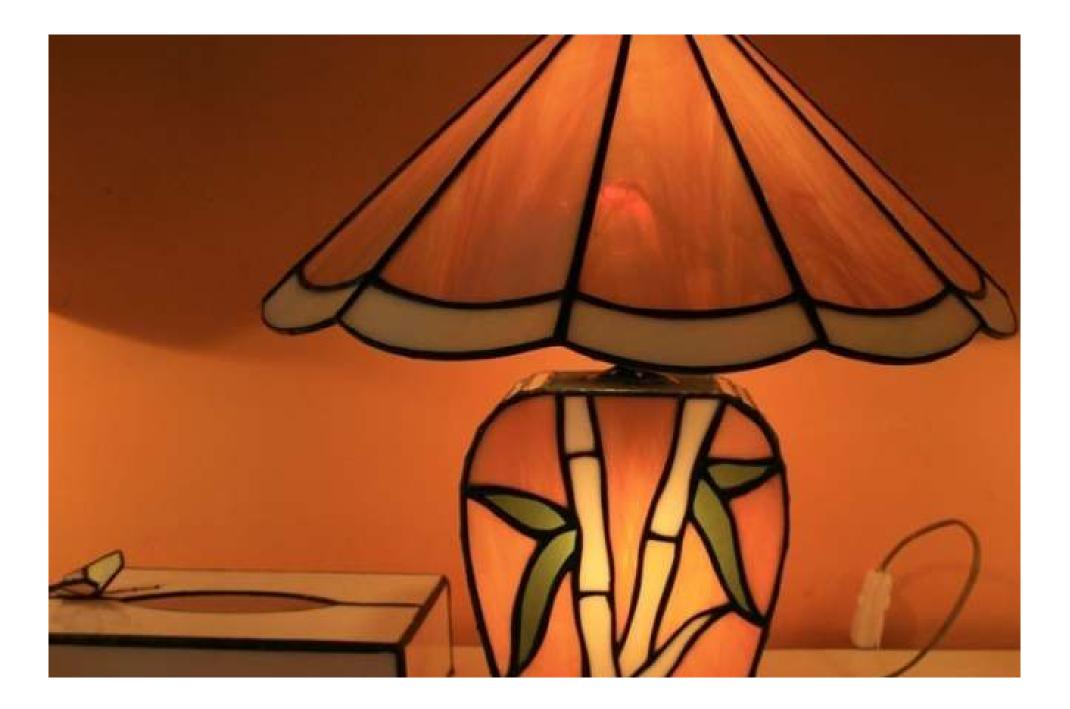
### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Your visit to the Bois Chéri plantation includes: A guided tour of the Bois Cheri tea factory Visit to the tea museum Visit to the tea plantation A tea tasting at the chalet (tea & biscuits)

<u>Opening Hours</u>: Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 16:00 Saturday from 8:30 to 13:30

### Prices:

Price per Adult: 12 Euro Price per Child (ages 3-12): 8 Euro Price per Baby (ages 0-3): Free of charge



## GLASS GALLERY

Phoenix

he Mauritius Glass Gallery... this is where skilled craftsmen challenge the limits of their imagination and creativity!

The exquisite variety of home wares made of 100% recycled glass are to-die-for! Not only are they popular for their very affordable price, durability and decorative edge, above all, it is an environmentally-friendly option! Thanks to a joint initiative with

Phoenix Beer and Phoenix Camp Minerals (Coca-Cola), used bottles and glass are brought to life again at The Mauritius Glass Gallery, where skilful craftsmen use the traditional techniques of glass blowing. Located at Phoenix, on the Central Plateau, it is worth a detour on your way to shopping in Vacoas / Floréal / Curepipe and sightseeing at Trou aux Cerfs.

A nice place to find hand made gifts / souvenirs. They also have shops at the Super-U shopping centre in Grand Baie as well as at the Caudan Waterfront in Port Louis.

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

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## LA VANILLE RESERVE DES MASCAREIGNES

Riviere des Anguilles

ocated 2km from the Rivière des Anguilles, "La Vanille Réserve des Mascareignes" is a zoological park stretching over 6 hectares. The park houses 2000 crocodiles from the Nile (imported from Madagascar) of which half are bred for trading (their skins are used for leather goods and their meat in restaurants). The other half helps towards the pre-

One can safely observe these huge crocodiles (some are 5 or 6 metres long) in the pools. 500 turtles, including Giant Aldabran Turtles can also be spotted.

One of the attractions of the park is the insectarium, filled with over 20 000 species, including butterflies and beetles. This zoological park also boasts a tropical garden consisting of banana trees, giant bamboos and a variety of palm trees.

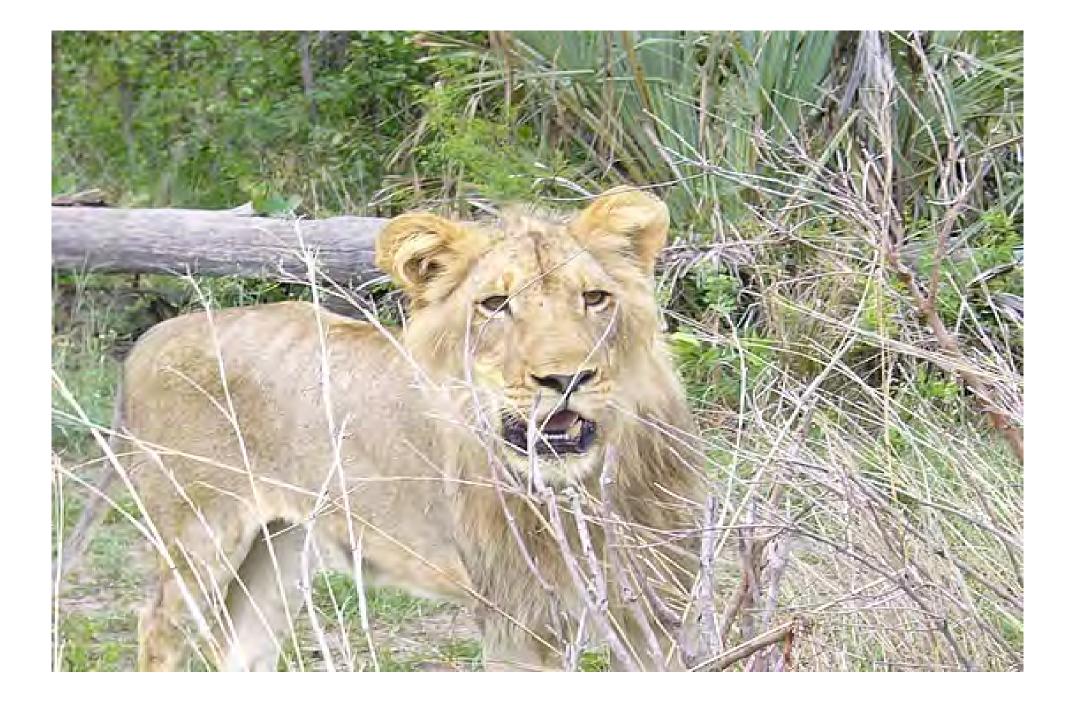


Also features a Restaurant and a Boutique

**Contact Information** 

La Vanille Reserve des Mascareignes Riviere des Anguilles Ile Maurice Mauritius Tel: (+230) 626 2503 Fax: (+230) 626 1442 Email: crocpark@intel.mu





## WALKING WITH LIONS

Cascavelle

he Safari Adventures Mauritius brings to you the first 'Lion encounter' on the island. This exclusive activity is available all over the year at the Casela Nature Leisure Park Mauritius.

This is a unique opportunity available only to the people who are fortunate enough to visit the park at least once in their lifetime. they may feel and study the primitive behavior of the lions and cheetahs and share their "pride" of being in their natural state.

Lions are the second largest members of the cat family. They are the only cats that live in big family groups. Their primary habitat is green plains, savanna and forests. Male lions stay with a pride only as long as they are strong enough to defend their group from other males. A lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away. The life span of a lion in the wild is about 12-18 years. In captivity it is more like 20-30 years



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **Trips Available**

Walks are available in the morning and afternoon. Interaction and viewing activities are available all day.

### Safety

A first aid kit and fresh bottled water is carried on each walk.

### Health Requirements

There are no specific health requirements for the lion adventure. If a guest does have a medical condition such as epilepsy, diabetes, asthma or other health complications please ensure that Safari Adventures is nformed when making your reservation.

### Age Restrictions

The lion adventure does not base itself on actual age but on a height chart of which the minimum height requirement is 1.5 metres. Anyone shorter than this will not be permitted to participate in the walk. The guides' decision is final.

### Language

All walks and interactions can be conducted in both English and French. For other languages guides or translators accompanying the guests will be allowed in for any activity.

### What to wear and bring?

Please remember that all guests will be carrying their own personal items so therefore it is advisable to keep belongings to a minimum. Bottled water is supplied by Safari Adventures so guests do not need to bring their own.



## THE MAURITIUS AQUARIUM

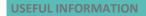
## Pointe aux Piments

he Mauritius Aquarium is located opposite the Beach Colonial Hotel in Pointe aux Piments. This beautiful aquatic space opened its doors to the public in 2004, 7 years after the closure of the Trou-aux-Biches aquarium.

One can admire the 150 marine species found in the pools: fish, invertebrates, turtles, crayfish, sea horses and living coral. It is an impressive sight for anyone. Don't miss out on the shark pit that manages to attract everyone's attention.

This aquarium gives one a unique opportunity to dive into the fish world and that of other marine species whilst staying dry oneself...

The fish are fed everyday at 11.00am, another show to be enjoyed

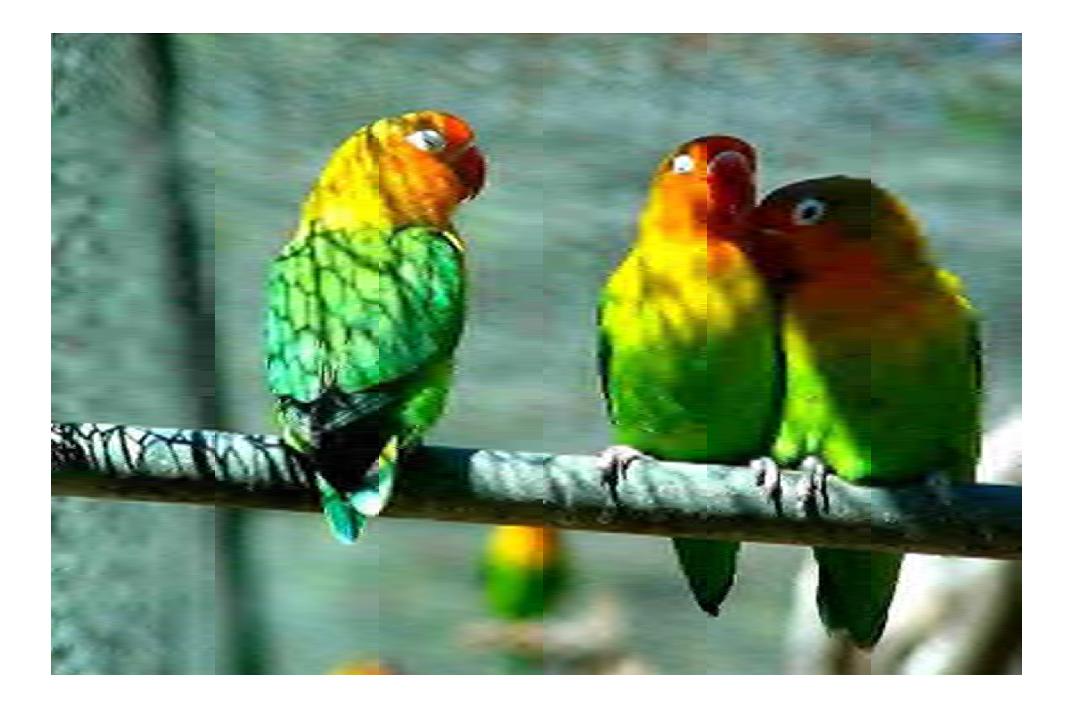


Opening Hours Monday to Saturday – 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday and Public Holidays – 10:00 – 15:00

### **Contact Information**

Mauritius Aquarium Coastal Road Pointe aux Piments Mauritius Tel: (+230) 261 4561 Fax: (+230) 261 5080 Email: info@mauritiusaquarium.com





# CASELA BIRD PARK

Black River Gorges

he Casela Bird Park lies in the Black River Gorges area of Mauritius. It is a major bio diversity hotspot and is rich in varied flora and fauna. The Park is spread over an area of 20 acres. The Casela Baird Park is probably the most famous for the rare Mauritian pink pigeons, though there are around 120 other bird species at the Park.

The vegetation at the Park includes small "yej" trees, as well as seasonal orchids that find an ideal growth environment in the humid, cool climes of the Casela Bird Park. As to the avian life, one might find birds from all over the world at this Park. Apart from the Pink Pigeon, you may also come across kites, kingfishers, orioles, mynahs, bustards and many other kinds of birds. The ponds dotting the Park are a haven for tortoises, fish and many waterbirds that live off the fish. Don't forget to visit the many small streams and waterfalls cascading from the hilly crevices. The Casela Bird Sanctuary is also home to animals like tigers, lemurs, macaques and many kinds of lizards and geckos.

The lush palm trees, the many kinds of tropical plants that are a nesting place for the birds also add to the charms of the Park. With so many bird species from all over the world nesting and breeding in a single spot, Casela is obviously an ornithologist's delight. This however, does not imply that the non-expert cannot visit this paradise on earth and learn about all the wonders of nature. Casela Bird Park is home to 142 species of birds including the lovely long necked Pink Pigeons which until recently were threatened with extinction. The lovely dusky pink birds were donated by the Black River Aviary and can be seen along-side hundreds of other exotics from Asia, Australia, Africa and the Americas. A guide to the park is available at the entrance. The Park covers 25 acres (10 hectares) and sits on the flanks of Rempart Mountain with views of cane clothed countryside rolling down to the west coast. There is a restaurant and snack bar and walks criss-crossing ponds and streams. Down a set of steps beyond the aviaries there is a mini-zoo of tigers, monkeys, lemurs, stag and a lake of graceful flamingos.



### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

A park visit will take approximately 2 hours to complete. You are advised to wear flat shoes and a hat in summer

#### **Opening hours:**

Everyday except the 25th December and the 1st January From 9h00 to 17h00 during May to September

#### **Contact Information**

Casela Nature and Leisure Pa Royal Road Cascavelle Mauritius Tel: (+230) 452 2828 (+230) 727 6076 Fax: (+230) 452 0694





# CAUDAN WATERFRONT

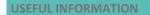
Port Louis

acing the harbour, at the heart of the capital city of Port-Louis., Le Caudan Waterfont has become an essential actor of the vivid tourism and cultural life in Mauritius. With its 170 boutiques, it is a shopper's must. It is also a real melting pot for local artists, tasty cuisine experience and family entertainment while its marina welcomes boats from all over the world

Le Caudan Watefront is a must for shopping. Some 170 shops offer a very wide range of products from sports equipment to jewellery and watches, including books & magazines, body care, known brands in swimming and beach gear as well as plenty of gift possibilities. Mauritian textile, now enjoying a high reputation, reflects in the shopswith the beautiful collections offered by local designers as well as famous international brands.

An incredible variety of culinary experience with exotic flavours for the gastronomes. Those who prefer to have a light meal or choose the fast-food formula will be welcome et the "Food Court" which offers a ragne of various cuisines. A pastry couter and two coffee shops are also available.

Most of the restaurants enjoy a beautiful view over the harbour and the colourful umbrellas of the Food Court add a touch of life to the old historic walls of the Observatory



Le Caudan Waterfront Old Pavillon Street Le Caudan Port Louis

Tel: +230 211 9500 Fax: +230 211 6612

Email: info@caudan.com





# LE BAZAR DE PORT LOUIS

Port Louis

isit the market in Port-Louis (Le Bazar central de Port-Louis), for tablecloths and fabrics, basketwork as well as a wealth of spices. Port-Louis also hosts colourful Indian and Chinese 'boutiques' offering an improbable variety of household articles. T-shirt shopping is a MUST!!, nowhere else will you find such a wide variety of export-quality T-shirts at bargain prices.

The most popular places for these are the markets in Port-Louis and Quatre-Bornes, but you will find T-shirts about anywhere you go. Local craft is also particularly rich, ranging from the shells, bracelets, necklaces, and pagnes which merchants will offer you on the beachfront to the sophisticated ship models you can find in various shops (why, you can even acquire maquettes of Nelson's 'HMS Victory' or of Napoleon's ill-fated 'Le Superbe'). Gold jewelry and gems can also be relatively inexpensive in Mauritius.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

Shopping hours: Monday to Saturday (06:00-18:00) Sunday (06:00-12:00)





## **CLEDOR DIAMONDS**

### Floreal

Cledor our Duty Free Jewellery Shop, opened in the year 2000. Cledor offers a spectacular inventory of polished Diamonds (from Floreal Diamond Cutting, its sister company), exclusive selection of Diamond jewellery, precious stones, gold, pearl and silver jewellery.

Our current lines show a great deal of variety comprising the basic items such as the solitaire rings, diamond studs, diamond pendants, diamond earrings to exotic, elegant designs which are particular to Cledor. Our customers can also choose their diamonds and have them set on various mounts available in yellow, white or bicolour gold.

Throughout the years, Cledor has built up an unconditional dedication to please its customers. Our highly qualified artisans employed and the attention paid to the details are exclusively aimed to satisfy our customers. We offer a personalised and unique customer service. We have created a relationship built on trust and satisfaction.

We constantly challenge ourselves to up coming trends. Our Valuable customers, usually do frequent visits to pick up the most Unusual or Original Piece of jewellery.





## RUISSENAU CREOLE

### **Riviere Noire**

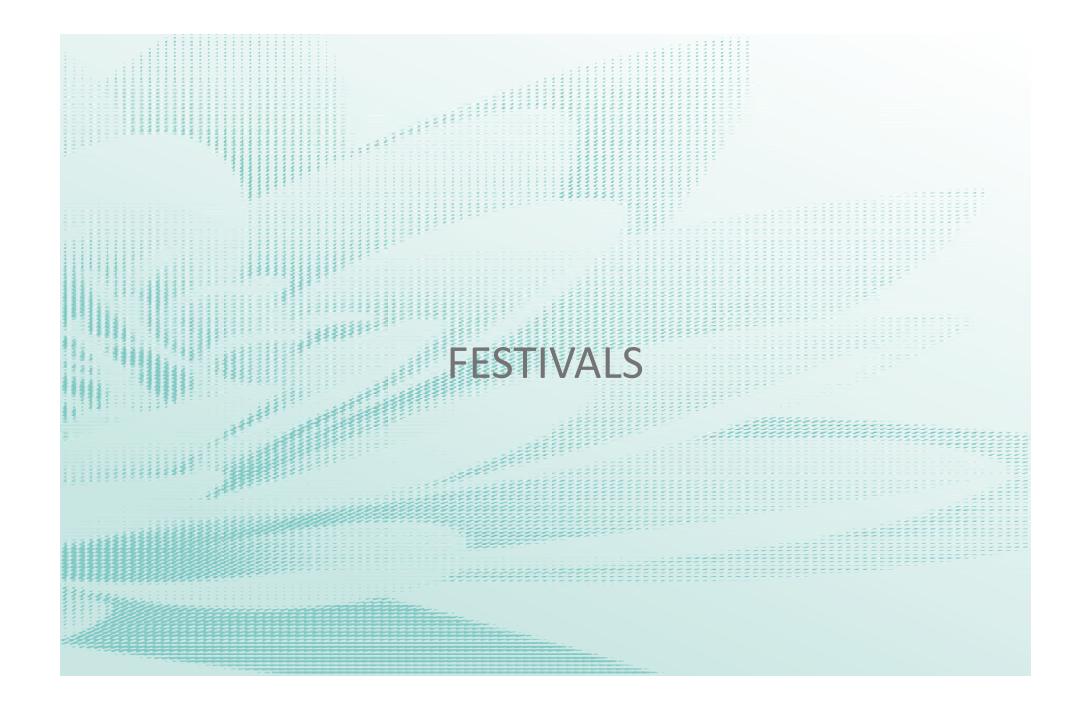
Precious as well as semi precious gems along with gold are absolutely cheap in Mauritius. In Mauritius most of the gold &silver jewelry stores sell items made by local artists. This is the argue why jewelry in Mauritius is more cheaper compared to other European cities. As a result jewelry shopping isn't only famous among tourists but also among locals. In Mauritius there quite a good number of jewelry dealers.

Adamas Diamond Duty Free Boutique being among the most important jewelry stores. There are a number of jewelry stores in Mauritius that trade nontaxable jewelry items. The absence of duty tax makes the pieces more cheaper. This has been exercised to boost shopping in the country by tourists. In Mauritius Adamas Diamond Duty Free Boutique is among the jewelry dealerS that vend duty free jewelry pieces. It's a very significant step taken by the Mauritius government to encourage the country's economy.

**USEFUL INFORMATION** 

9:00am to 4:00pm Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Sat







## MAHA SHIVRATREE FESTIVAL

**Grand Bassin** 

he festival of Maha Shivaratri is celebrated in Mauritius and India but also among other Hindu of the world. Maha Shivaratri in Mauritius is indeed a a major festival for the Hindu community and pilgrims walks towards Grand Bassin ", a natural lake on the central plateau. The pilgrims dressed in white proceed to Grand Bassin carrying bamboo contraption on their shoulders as a sign of sacrifice.on this festival.

Maha Shivratree means the grand night of Shiva. Obviously ceremonies take place on a moonless night during the Krishna Paksha in the hindu month of paigun. Just to clarify the hindi terms, Krishna Paksha means dark fortnight of Palguna (month of February/March) and this is the reason for celebrating Maha Shivratree in February or March.

Maha Shivratree is observed in the honor of the hindu Lord Shiva who was married to Maa Parvati on this particular day.Maha Shivratree is the night where Lord Shiva performed the violent dance of primordial creation, preservation and destruction known as Tandava.





# HOLI FESTIVAL

## Various Locations

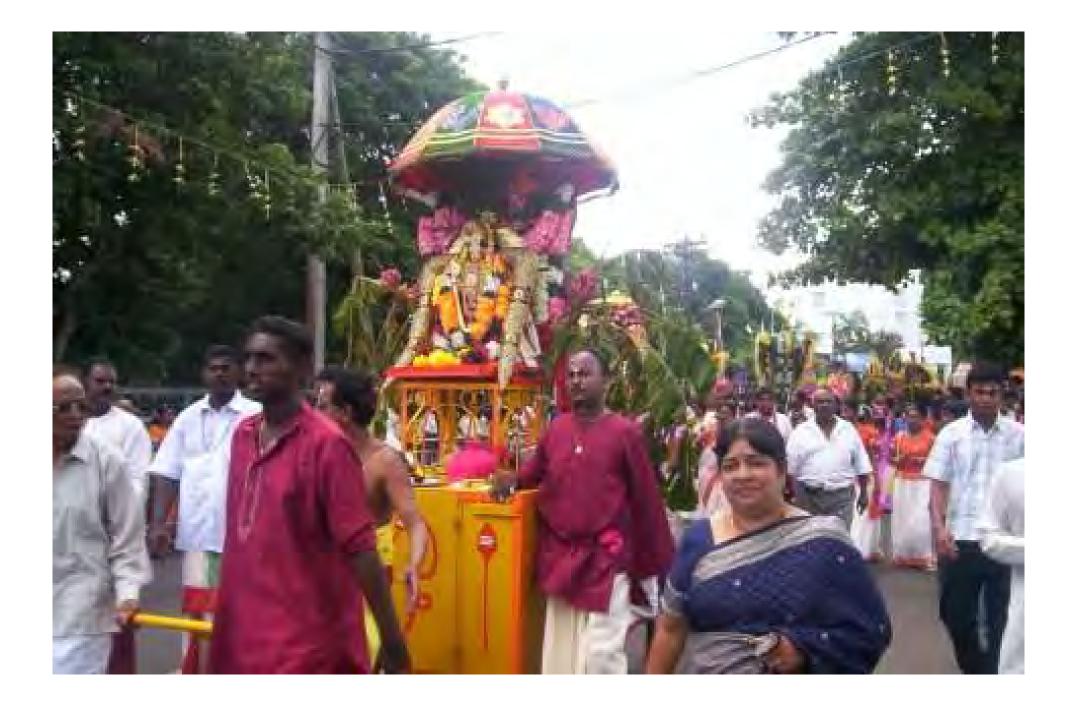
ust as the many other major Hindu festivals, the large Indian majority, (about 63 per cent) celebrate Holi with a lot of enthusiasm in the island of Mauritius.

It is an official holiday in the country and therefore people get all the time to make merry and drench themselves in the spirit of Holi and of course, colour water.

Hindus, here duly perform the tradition of Holika Dahan or lighting of bonfire on the eve of Holi and celebrate the victory of good over evil. Next day people revel and play with colours and drench everybody with water jets called pichkaris. While in the evening they greet each other with tilak and exchange sweets.

Holi is also marked as a Spring Festival when the nature wears its best clothes and fields and flowers are in full bloom.





## CAVADEE FESTIVAL

Various Locations

auritian Tamils celebrate the Thaipoosam Cavadee to demonstrate with dignity and fervour their affection and allegiance to Lord Muruga. The date of the celebration is fixed according to the Tamil calendar and occurs in the months of January and February

Devotees fast for ten whole days before Cavadee. On each of the ten fasting days devotees gather in the temple to offer worship.

On the night preceding the Cavadee celebration devotees prepare their Cavadees. The Cavadee is constructed with sculptured wood and decorated with green leaves (mostly of medicinal value), banana tree bark, V-shaped coconut shoots and flowers of all colours. They vary in shape and form according to the devotees' imagination and dexterity. Some may take the shape of a peacock, others that of a temple but the commonest one is the arch with the shape of a spear protruding in the middle.

At dawn on the tenth day of fasting, the penitents assemble at the temple before moving in procession to the river for the rites of purification. After bathing in the river the penitents change into saffron or crimson-hued loin-cloths worn in the traditional manner. The male devotees do not cover the upper part of the body. Sacred ash is smeared on their forehead, shoulders, joints of arms, wrists, torso and chest.





## DIWALI FESTIVAL

Various Locations

iwali is celebrated with great enthusiasm at Mauritius as this country have great Indian crowd. The Diwali celebrations at Mauritius are as good as in India. The festival of lights- Diwali is celebrated in October/November. Diwali marks the victory of Rama over Ravana and also commemorates Krishna's destruction of the demon Narakasuran. Earthen oil lamps are placed in front of every home turning the island into a fairyland of flickering lights.

Mauritius is a beautiful landmass full of picturesque landscapes and enchanting spots. Mauritius accounts a 63% of Indian majority of which 80% follow Hinduism. Hence, celebration of almost all the Hindu festivals in this island is a common phenomenon. In Mauritius, Diwali celebration is an age-old tradition. Beautiful rows of twinkling candles and lamps of all sorts are lit all over the island to celebrate the return of the hero of the Ramayana, Rama, from his 14 years of exile.

Besides celebrating the victory of good over evil and light over darkness, the little flickering lights also symbolize the beginning of summer. The main day of the festivities is seen as a particularly auspicious day for merchants to make up their accounts and balances for the previous year, to go unburdened into the next. After the morning prayers, Hindus share sweets prepared specially for the occasion with family members, neighbors and friends of any faith, in accordance with the multicultural spirit of Mauritius.





## CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL

China Town - Port Louis

he Chinese New Year's Day or the Spring Festival is the most important festival for the Sino-Mauritian community. This festival is preceded by a thorough cleaning of the home and is characterised by the traditional sharing of wax cakes amongst relatives and friends. On that day firecrackers are lit to chase evil spirits. Special celebrations are held on that day in Port Louis in China town with Chinese Dragons and lion dances.





# EID UL FITR

## Various Locations

f Ramadhan stresses the religious aspect of Islam, Eid-UI-Fitr stresses its social aspect, that is, the importance of giving to the poor and needy as defined by the concept 'asnaf' (categories of people who qualify for the receipt of the religious tax) 10. Hence Eid-UI-Fitr in effect means the celebration following the payment of the obligatory charity called 'fitrah'. It is the festival of charity. The poor, the orphans, the ailing are all remembered.

Muslim festivals are timed according to local sightings of various phases of the moon and the dates given above are approximations. During the lunar month of Ramadan that precedes Eid al-Fitr, Muslims fast during the day and feast at night and normal business patterns may be interrupted. Many restaurants are closed during the day and there may be restrictions on smoking and drinking. Some disruption may continue into Eid al-Fitr itself. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha may last anything from two to 10 days, depending on the region.

