

Seychelles

General information on Seychelles

Seychelles lies in the Indian Ocean, 1600kms off the east coast of Africa, between 4 and 10 ° south of the Equator. Amongst the many islands the inner isles are largely granitic and situated on the Seychelles Plateau, Mahe, Praslin and La Digue and their neighbouring islands are the most frequented, offering the widest range of accommodation facilities, Frégate, Bird island and Denis, are a little more isolated and still fall under the inner islands group.

The Outer islands located beyond the Seychelles Plateau; consist of mainly low-lying sand cays and coral atolls. Within this group only Desroches Island offers accommodation at present. Desroches and Alphonse are renowned for flyfishing.

The islands enjoy a pleasant tropical climate year round. The temperature seldom drops below 24 degrees or rises above 33 degrees centigrade. Globally changing climate conditions, however, make it difficult to predict exact weather patterns.

There are two main seasons - Northwest and Southeast trade winds with two short inter-trade wind periods

Southeast trade wind → May to October

- Relatively dry and cool
- Strong wind mainly from the southeast
- Normally moderate to rough seas
- Cloudy at times, though rainfall normally sparse, light and for short periods

Pre-Northwest trade winds→ November

- Relatively warm
- Wind shifts from SE to NW generally light and variable
- Frequent short showers late morning and afternoon

Northwest trade wind (rainy season) → December to March

- Relatively warm and wet, especially in December and January
- Wind mainly from the Northwest
- Rainfall often heavy
- Few thunderstorms may develop

Pre-southeast trade wind → April

- Calm and hot
- Wind shifts from NW to SE, generally light and variable
- Frequent short showers late morning and afternoon.

Seychelles is situated outside the cyclonic belts.

In Seychelles it is safe to swim year round. However it depends on the trade winds as stated above. During the South-east trade winds the north of Mahe normally benefits from the calm seas, the southern part of Mahe then becomes windy and the sea is not as calm. The hotels in the north of Mahe are Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Resort & Casinos, Coral Strand, Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove, The Hilton Northolme, Sunset Beach Hotel, Coco d'Or, Sun Resort.

Hotels in the South of Mahe are: Chalet d' Anse Forbans, Valmer Resort, Banyan Tree Resort, Maia, Le Meridiens Barbarons, Tclub Allamanda and Four Seasons Seychelles.

During the North-west trade winds the sea is calmer in the south on Mahe and not that calm in the northern part of the island.

Important events

The 'SUBIOS Underwater Festival', showcases Seychelles' extraordinary underwater world through a series of film shows, talks and competitions, while the 'Festival Kreol' (a week-long celebration of Creole heritage and traditions) is held in October respectively of each year.

The **Seychelles Sailing Cup**, an international sailing event, is held in January and the International Fishing Competition in March. Further local fishing competitions are held throughout the year.

The **Seychelles International Carnaval de Victoria** the focal point of an annual 'Carnaval des Carnavals' bringing representatives from the world's best carnivals to participate in 3 days of celebration (period in March 2012) alongside cultural groups from the community of nations

The table below summarizes the best times to visit Seychelles for different types of activities.

Activity	Period
Bird-watching	April (breeding season), May - September (nesting of Sooty Terns) October (migration)
Diving	March – May / September - November
Fishing	October - April
Hiking/Walks & Trails	May - September
Sailing	Year-round
Snorkeling	Year-round However there is seaweed on Praslin's North and north-west coast between May and September
Surfing/Windsurfing	May - September

Other useful information

Language

There are three official languages: Creole, English and French.

General information which you can give to your clients:

Excellent reasons to choose Seychelles

1. Two unique world heritage Sites : The Vallee De Mai Garden and Aldabra Atoll
2. Unique Flora and fauna
3. World Class fishing and scuba diving
4. Miles of uncrowned beaches
5. The Friendly, unspoiled charm and smiles of the Seychellois
6. " As described the Island of Love and romance " The perfect spot for wedding and Honeymoon
7. Exotic Cooking with the best recipes

What to pack:

Light clothing for the tropical conditions. It is advisable to carry a change of light clothing for disembarkation when coming from a winter climate

- Be sun smart and bring hat, sunglasses and high UV protection, on a overcast day the tropical sun is strong
- Camera for those memorable moments. It is advisable to bring along some spare batteries particularly if you are intending to island hop or for special digital cameras, batteries for cameras are not readily available and there are no developing facilities for EPS cameras
- Casual eveningwear for dinning and entrance into casinos (Long trousers for men)
- Walking shoes for those adventurous travelers booking guided Walks and trails
- Any medical you may require for treatment of a specific conditions

Payment:

Master card access and Visa cards are widely accepted. ATM facilities are available at major banks on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue.

All transaction can be done in Seychelles local Rupees or the common foreign currencies.

Entry/exit formalities - Visa

There are no visa requirements to enter the Seychelles;

Entry: Documents required for immigration clearance:

- Passport valid on the date of entry and exit
- Return or onward ticket
- Proof of accommodation
- Sufficient funds for the duration of stay

Presentation of all the above documents will grant you a visitor's permit that will be issued upon arrival by the Seychelles department of immigration.

Top Ten beaches of Seychelles

For easy reference we have made a selection of the top ten beaches on the main islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue.

- **Mahe**

Beau Vallon Beach
Intendance
Petit Anse
Port Launay

- **Praslin**

Anse Lazio
Anse Geogette
Cote D' Or

- **La Digue**

Grand Anse
Anse Coco
Anse Source D'argent

The Must Do's on Mahe,

- Walk the town of Victoria (See the town Victoria Map)
- National History Museum
- National Culture centre
- Botanical garden
- Morne Seychellois national park
- Val de prés village (**Vye marmite/The Gran Kaz/The craft Village/Maison de coco**)
- The Créole Institute
- La Marine
- Jardin Du Roi
- Mission Lodge
- Tea Factory
- Beau Vallon Beach
- Art Galleries
- Island excursions
- Creole Restaurants
- Walk and Trails
- Beaches
- Snorkeling

The Must Do's on Praslin,

- Vallee De Mai
- Anse Lazio
- Praslin ocean farm
- Island excursion To : Cousin bird sanctuary/Curieuse Marine park and nature reserve/Aride bird reserve/Walk and trails

The Must Do's on La Digue,

- The Jungle tours
- Oxcart ride
- Remote beaches of Grand Anse, Anse Coco, Anse Source d'Argent
- Colonial Houses
- Island day excursions Grande & petit Soeur, Coco and Marianne island
- L'union estate
- Historical cemetery
- Giant tortoises
- Copra factory
- Vanilla Plantation
- La Digue Veuve special Reserve
- Walks and trails

There are PADI diving centre at the following hotels and places:

Mahe

- Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Underwater Dive Seychelles
- Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Dive Seychelles
- Le Meridiens Barbarons Angel Fish Dive Centre
- Beau Vallon □□Big blue Diver
- Opera House Restaurant, Anse La Mouche Dive Resort Seychelles

Praslin

- Lemuria Resort Boat House
- Paradise Sun Hotel Whitetip divers
- Berjaya Praslin Beach Octopus Diving Centre
- Dream yacht Bleu Marine

La Digue

- La Digue Island Lodge Azura Dive Centre

Other islands

- Desroches island Resort Desroches Dive centre
- Denis Island Lodge Denis Dive Centre
- Fregate island lodge Fregate Dive Centre
- Labriz Silhouette Eco Centre silhouette
- North island Resort Activity Centre
- St Anne Resort St Anne Dive Centre

Accommodation

Seychelles boast a wide range of accommodation facilities ranging from self-catering, guest houses, hotels both large and small and 5-star luxury establishments plus the Exclusive Island Resorts.

There is no international classification at present; however they are categorized according to number of rooms. Hotels offer a variety of rooms from standard to beachfront villas and presidential suites/villas.

5* Resorts + Exclusive island resorts

- Lemuria Resort
- Ephelia Resort
- Banyan Tree Seychelles
- Denis Island - Seychelles
- Desroches Island Resort
- Four Seasons Seychelles -Anse Soleil
- Frégate Island Private
- Hilton Seychelles Northolmes Resort & Spa
- Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa
- Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove
- North Island Resort
- Maia Luxury Resort & Spa
- St Anne Resort
- Round Island - Praslin
- Raffles Praslin Seychelles

4* Resorts

- Le Meridien Barbarons
- Coco De Mer & Black Parrot Suits
- Paradise Sun Hotel
- L'Archipel Hotel
- La Reserve Hotel
- Sunset Beach Hotel
- Acajou Hotel
- Castello Beach Hotel
- Le Duc De Praslin
- Dhevatarra Beach Hotel
- Le Domaine De L'Orangerie
- Kempinski Seychelles Resort

Other touristic establishments are considered as Large and Small Hotels/self catering apartments.

Trust the above information will be useful at the time of reservation.

For reservations contact : info@omarjeeholidays.com

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