

WELCOME TO

Mauritius

YOUR PASSPORT



TO OUR ISLAND

A wide-angle photograph of a tropical coastline. The foreground is dominated by clear, turquoise water with visible ripples. In the middle ground, a small white boat with a canopy is on the water. To the left, a small, rocky island with some greenery is visible. In the background, a large, prominent mountain with a flat top rises from the sea. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few scattered white clouds.

BEAUTIFUL, WELCOMING, GENEROUS,  
SURPRISING, COLOURFUL, SUNNY. . . AND,  
HOPEFULLY, UNFORGETTABLE!

*Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius, a fascinating island will enchant you with its natural beauty and make your stay memorable. Known for its pristine beaches and clear turquoise lagoons, the multifaceted island has so much to offer. You can indulge in a variety of activities such as golfing, diving, windsurfing, hiking, horse riding and canyoning, among others.*

*Come experience sheer luxury and discover the true meaning of beauty – a unique experience that will compel you to return to the Mauritius shores time and time again.*



## GENERAL INFORMATION

---

From the north's incredible variety of beaches with stunning coves and lagoons, to the south's volcanic landscape of the Chamarel Seven Coloured Earths, visitors can indulge in all four corners of Mauritius by Escaping, Enlivening, Enjoying and Exploring.

A Republic spanning **2 000Km<sup>2</sup>**

**Luxurious lagoons**

1.2 million inhabitants

Traditional, homely and sophisticated cuisines

Choice of activities

Endemic forests

Refined luxury hotels

French, English, Creole, Hindi, Chinese

**European,  
African and Asian roots**

An ideal couple's escapade



# MELTING POT

*Mauritius is like a world in one country, bringing together a wide range of cultures and ethnicities. This fantastic mosaic of cultures and traditions make Mauritius unique as it is one of the few places in the world where you will come across such a confluence of major religions and cultures coexisting harmoniously close to each other. There is a sense of pride and unity in being Mauritian though culture and customs vary.*



# HERITAGE



*Just off the coast of Le Morne mountain lies what appears to be a vast subaquatic cascade. It is in fact a trick of the eye, caused by the formation of sand and silt on the ocean floor. The mountain of Le Morne is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a commemorative landmark of the harsh slavery period in Mauritius.*



*Geet Gawai is a pre wedding ceremony that combines rituals, prayers, songs, music and dance. It is performed by the Bhojpuri speaking communities in Mauritius who have Indian descent. In 2016 Geet Gawai was added to the Unesco's Intangible cultural Heritage list. The Geet Gawai arrived with the indentured labourers from India. The traditional practice takes place at the home of the bride or groom and involves female family members. Geet Gawai is an expression of community identity and collective cultural memory. Geet Gawai forms part of the cultural heritage of Mauritius . It has been orally passed on from one generation to another and the women folk have played a key role in keeping this cultural tradition alive.*



*There are two WORLD HERITAGE sites in Mauritius. The second one is the Aapravasi Ghat. Classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO, Aapravasi Ghat (Immigration Depot in Hindi), honours the thousands of indentured labourers who arrived from India after the abolition of slavery and who finally settled on the island. This is the place where the immigrants first landed.*



*Sega music and dance which originated in the time of slavery is a big part of the rich history and culture of the island's nation. Originally sung by men and women slaves whose soul had remained sensitive to music, the sega is nowadays a folk song which has integrated itself within the Mauritian folklore. In 2014, Mauritius sega has been declared a Unesco intangible cultural Heritage of Humanity.*

*Sega preserves the uniqueness and cultural richness of the local music of Mauritius. Along the coastal fishing villages , the traditional instruments such as Ravanne, Triangle , the maravanne are still being used to create the wonderfully upbeat sounds of sega. Sega centres on tales of the heart or depiction of daily Mauritian life . The sega music and dance is exquisitely vibrant and colourful. It is a form of entertainment that is an absolute pleasure to witness. It is a dance of celebration making an appearance at every special occasion.*



An aerial photograph of a coastal road curving along a cliffside. The road is paved and has a white dashed line down the center. Several cars are visible on the road. The cliffside is rocky and has some green vegetation. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with varying shades of green and blue. The text "TOP 10 PLACES" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, serif font.

# TOP 10 PLACES



# PORT LOUIS

*Port Louis, the cosmopolitan capital city of Mauritius was founded in 1735 by the French governor and pioneer Bertrand-François Mahé de La Bourdonnais. Located on the Northwest Coast, Port Louis is the administrative and business capital of the island.*





## PLACES TO VISIT

*Le Caudan Waterfront*

*Central Market*

*Moslem Area*

*China Town*

*Natural History Museum*

*Blue Penny Museum*

*Aapnawasi Ghat (UNESCO World Heritage)*

*The Citadel*

*Kaylasson Temple*

*Marie Reine de la Paix*

*Father Laval's Vault*

*Chinese Pagodas*





### *Pamplemousses Botanical Garden*

*The Pamplemousses Botanical Garden was created in 1767 by Pierre Parure, superintendent of the Island of France (Mauritius) and of Bourbon (La Reunion), and his apprentice and successor, Nicolas Céré, ended the work. The garden extends over an area of about 26 hectares and it is a habitat for more than 500 species of plants. It is well known by botanists of the entire world thanks to the most important collection of local and exotic plants that grow there, like the giant "Victoria regia" and over 80 species of palms. The "talipot" or "coryphe parasol" is interesting because of the legend according to which the plant blossoms only after 60 years, just once before dying.*

*Eureka “the Kreol house”*

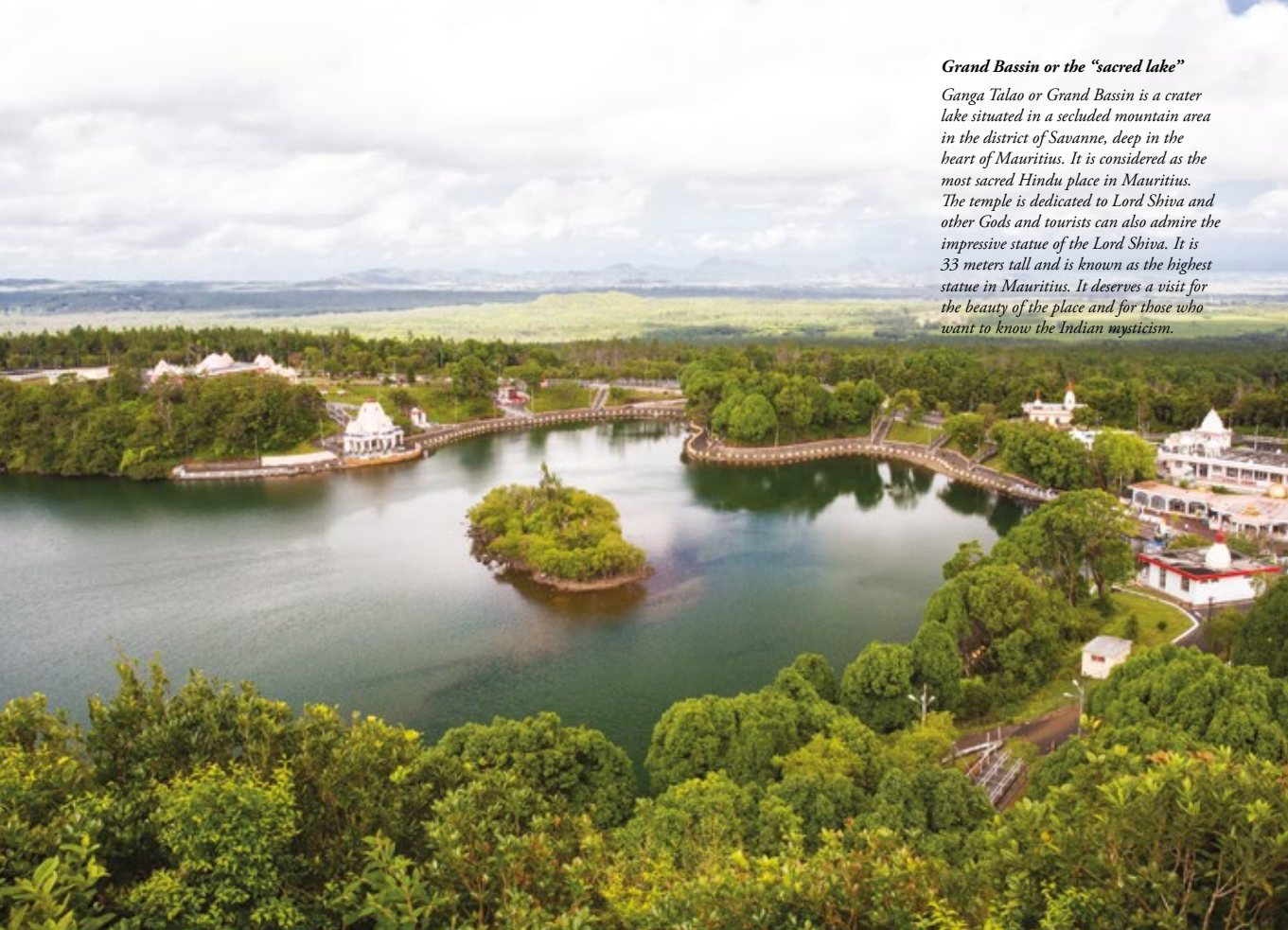
*Ancient colonial house build in 1830 in the middle of a beautiful park delimited by the waterfalls of the Rivière of Moka on the one side and by the Ory Mountain on the other side. Jacky De Maroussem has succeeded with his patience and attention to detail to make it one of the main points in the course of your tour to discover Mauritiuis. In the Creole house you will be surrounded by the rhythms, smells and tastes of the colonial period. The restaurant “table d’hôte” is recommended for a great meal.*





### *Chamarel "coloured earth"*

*From the village of Casa Noyale, one starts on a twisted and narrow path for about 10 minutes before arriving in front of this wonder hillock with the many colored undulations of the ground from red to blue to green. Along the way, on your right, you can admire the stupendous Chamarel Falls that burst with strength out of a thick vegetation. We recommend that the visit occurs during the first hours of the morning.*



### ***Grand Bassin or the “sacred lake”***

*Ganga Talao or Grand Bassin is a crater lake situated in a secluded mountain area in the district of Savanne, deep in the heart of Mauritius. It is considered as the most sacred Hindu place in Mauritius. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and other Gods and tourists can also admire the impressive statue of the Lord Shiva. It is 33 meters tall and is known as the highest statue in Mauritius. It deserves a visit for the beauty of the place and for those who want to know the Indian mysticism.*

## Casela Nature Park

Discover a park of 14 hectares and offering a home to 1,500 birds, lions, zebras, giant tortoises, monkeys and many other animals. Visit the endemic dry forest with old trees like the Black Ebony and let your children have fun at the petting farm or at the fishing ponds. Enjoy the natural beauty of Mauritius by Quad, Jeep, Segway, hanging on the cables of the Canyon Swing or by going on an adventurous hiking tour with several ziplines including the longest zipline in the Indian Ocean, hanging bridges and many other surprises, or go for a walk with lions. This is a unique opportunity to meet, touch and walk with the lions, tigers and cheetahs! Watch them playing, eating and climbing on trees.





*La Vanille Nature Park is an unforgettable experience at the heart of a tropical forest, where you walk amongst more than 700 tortoises who live in semi-liberty in an environment which was designed for them. We also host a multitude of animals such as hundreds of Nile Crocodile, lemurs, iguanas, bats, deer, geckos, wild boars among others. Discover with our guides, our conservation projects, spanning over the last 25 years as well as our other activities.*





*La Route du Thé, du Rhum et de la Vanille is a unique and charming excursion combining history, culture and gastronomy. This itinerary going through Le Domaine des Aubineaux, Le Domaine de Bois Chéri and Le Domaine de Saint Aubin makes one discover the world of tea, sugar, rum, vanilla and essential oils.*

*This excursion includes lunch in the restaurant of the domain of your choice.*



### *Ile aux Cerfs*

*It is a splendid island on the east coast, 20 minutes by boat from Trou d'Eau Douce, equipped for aquatic sports and for diving. To those who like the calm, we recommend to go away from the main landing and to venture and discover more lonely beaches.*



*There are several spectacular waterfalls in Mauritius, and each of them are equally beautiful than the other. Blessed with luxuriant vegetation and fertile soils, the waterfalls in Mauritius are sanctuaries of relaxation and a way to connect with nature. Most of the waterfalls are found in isolated and serene places, and paths to reach them can be quite challenging.*

# TOP 10 BEACHES



# SPAS & WELLNESS

*Mauritius offers world-class spa services that will set you off on another journey of the senses. Our spas are now regarded as a 'must do' excursion on any tourist itinerary. The island's mix of cultures also inspires an eclectic blend of therapies, with visitors able to choose from a range of treatments.*



# DINING

*The cuisine of Mauritius brings together influences from the various origins of the Mauritian population. It is a melting pot of diverse flavours. The most popular are seafood dishes, French cuisine but creole, Chinese and Indian influences make their way into the Mauritian table as well.*



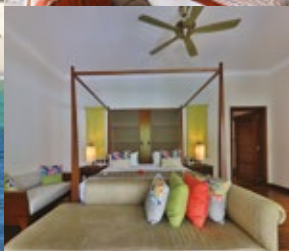
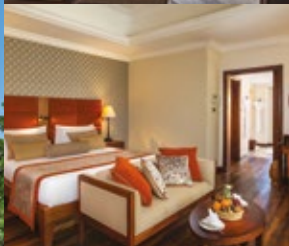


*Outdoor markets are also very popular for taste of local snacks and savouries like dholl puri, gateau piments, dimsum . A range of fine dining restaurants across the island will tantalise your taste buds. There is truly something for everyone here with regards to the different cuisines available.*



# ACCOMMODATION

*Mauritius has accommodations to suit the needs of any traveler. Options range from small to medium-sized hotels to luxury resorts, private villas, world class hotels around the island's coasts.*





# WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

A bride and groom are captured in a romantic moment as they glide on a zipline over a dense, vibrant green forest. The groom, dressed in a dark suit, is leaning forward, holding the bride's hand. The bride, in a white wedding dress, is looking back towards him. The background is a thick canopy of trees, with sunlight filtering through, creating a warm and natural atmosphere.

*Mauritius is widely acknowledged to be among the top five global destinations for weddings and honeymoons, and what differentiates it - aside from its stunning setting and the extraordinary selection of resorts in which to hold a ceremony or make a honeymoon truly memorable - is its attention to detail. Couples choose Mauritius over other tropical islands because they know they're guaranteed a level of professionalism and the quality of service that is rarely seen elsewhere.*



### **Wonderful Weddings**

*Getting married in paradise, on the beach at sunset or in the midst of tropical nature surrounded with flowers and waterfalls have always been the dream of many couples. Mauritius figures among the five top wedding and honeymoon destinations in the world.*

### **Heavenly Honeymoons**

*Whether they are searching for an exclusive private retreat, a high-end destination spa in which to pamper themselves for fortnight, or somewhere to party the night away, Mauritius has something to suit every type of newlywed.*

*There are over 100 hotels and resorts on the island, the majority of which reside in the four-five or four-five star plus bracket, so couples won't be short of choice when it comes to selecting a special to celebrate their union.*



An aerial photograph of a vibrant turquoise ocean with white-capped waves. In the upper left, a yellow and black kite surfer is visible. In the lower right, a windsurfer is gliding across the water, leaving a white wake. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the energy of water sports.

# WATERSPORTS

*Kite Surf Mauritius is recognized worldwide for its kite surfing and windsurfing spots such as Le Morne. This activity has become increasingly popular over the years, and several Kite centres operate around the island. The best season for the practice of Kitesurf is from June to September. Mauritius also hosts major international kite competitions each year such as the Kitesurf Pro and the Kite Jam.*



## Must-dos

**Blue Safari Submarine**  
Grand Bay

**Fun Adventure Mauritius**  
Black River

**Yemaya Adventure**  
Calodyne

**Yoaneyé kite**  
Le Morne

**Dolphin watch**  
Black River

**Big-game fishing**  
Black River



# LAND SPORTS

## *Golf*

*From the million annual visitors Mauritius currently records, 60,000 of these are golfers. The island offers professionals, passionate amateurs and beginners no less than ten 18-hole courses and three 9-hole courses in perfect conditions for the game. Set in spectacular sites and wonderful natural environments, designed for championships by renowned golfers such as Peter Matkovich, Peter Allis, Rodney Wright, many of these courses count among the most beautiful worldwide and are sought out for the original challenges and unique experiences they provide.*

# THE MOST ATTRACTIVE TRAILS

*Being of volcanic origin, our island is home to several breathtaking summits and valleys to explore on foot. The hiking trails will leave you speechless and will eventually reward you with some of the most scenic land and seascapes, with an amazing feeling of accomplishment.*





## Must-dos

**Le Morne Brabant**  
Black river Gorges

**Black river Gorges**  
Black river

**Macchabée Forest**  
Black river

**Le Pouce,**  
Moka

**Domaine de l'étoile**  
Sébastopaul

**Ferney Trail**  
Ferney

**Piton de la Petite Rivière Noire**  
Black river

**7 Cascade & Tamarine fall**  
Henrietta

# EVENTS

*Regattas are an opportunity to discover the traditions and folklore of fishing villages where pirogues compete in a race. Fishermen demonstrate their skills against other fishermen of the island by steering their boat to victory. Boats are very colourfully dressed with most beautiful sails. Crowds gather along the beaches to encourage the participants of regattas*







*The 26th year of the World Travel Awards was held in Mauritius on the 1st of June 2019. WTA objective is to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries. Mauritius reaped several awards at the gala Night ceremony, among which the Indian Ocean's leading destination.*



*Diwali is the festival of lights which is celebrated by Hindus during the month of October or November. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. During the festival houses are brightly illuminated and sweets are distributed among relatives and friends.*



*Horse racing in Mauritius is very popular among the locals. Races are held at the Champ de Mars, the second oldest racecourse in the world and the oldest in the Southern Hemisphere. Horse racing season starts from the month of April to end in December of every year with the International Jockey's day.*

*The Afrasia Bank Mauritius open has been held in Mauritius since 2015. It is the only world wide tri-sanctioned tournament endorsed by the European, sunshine and Asian tours. This year, Heritage resorts will host the fifth edition of the Afrasia Bank Mauritius open from 5th to 8th December 2019, where 156 of the world's top golf professionals will be competing for the 1 million Euro prize fund.*



*On the cultural scenes, Festival International Kreol is a major annual event, culminating with the most important creole musical concert attracting more than 100,000 spectators. Usually held October or November it depicts different themes to showcase the authenticity of the creole culture through local music, arts, language and cuisine.*

# SHOPPING

*Between its traditional marketplaces - where bargaining is almost a ritual - are upscale shopping malls and great shopping opportunities all over the country. Local shops, international stores and luxury brand boutiques can answer every wish of a cosmopolitan clientele with a varied range of products.*



## **Typical souvenirs**

*Tea, sugar, vanilla, rum, spices, local sweet treats, toys, dodo bird figurines and plush toys, ship models, silver and gold jewellery, tropical pareos and beach towels are available for purchase. All products are manufactured under the national label « Made in Moris ».*



# RODRIGUES ISLAND

*Rodrigues island is a tiny little jewel with an area of 108 sq km of the north east coast of Mauritius, with a population of around 38,000 people. Of volcanic origin, it owes its name to the portuguese ships' pilot, Diego Rodrigues, who discovered it in February 1528. The island prides itself of its silky beaches, its gorgeous uneven topography, the natural politeness of its inhabitants, its scrumptious gastronomy and its landmarks, as well as its sea activities. Interestingly, Rodrigues also has a vast limestone plain with beautiful show caves.*





### **Sports and Leisure**

The topology of the island lends itself to a number of nature discovery opportunities, namely through trekking excursions, mountain-bike hikes, nautical activities and cave exploration. The undersea world uncovers its secrets to divers and fishermen. Surf, kite surf and windsurf enthusiasts will find there an unparalleled haven whilst the steep-sided ravines attract ornithologists as well as nature lovers.



### **Fauna & Flora**

Rodrigues used to be home to a member of unique birds of which the solitaire (*Pezophaps solitaria*), now extinct, is most famous. The Rodrigues Fody (*Foudia flavicans*), the Rodrigues Warbler (*Acrocephalus rodericanus*) and seabirds such as terns are protected species living peacefully in natural reserves and on the islets in the lagoon. A sanctuary for reptiles such as the Giant Tortoise and the Gecko, Rodrigues also has an endemic mammal, the Golden Fruit Bat (*Pteropus rodericensis*). The protection of the flora has become a priority. Huge effort is being invested in the conservation, restoration and recreation of the pristine natural ecosystem of the island. Critically, rare and endangered plants like the 'café marron' (*Rasmonia rodriguesii*), are receiving special attention and monitoring.

### **People and Culture**

Rodrigues Island is also renowned for its authenticity- which makes the uniqueness of this anti-stress island. Authentically Creole, the Rodriguan culture is vibrant through the music, dances and cuisine of its people. The music is a sweet blend of European melodies and African rhythms; the 'sega tambour' is the folk dance of Rodrigues. The population mainly lives off fishing, farm produce handicraft and more recently, tourism. Women play an active part in the economic life of the island. The people – 96% of whom are Christian – live a naturally harmonious life.





[www.tourism-mauritius.mu](http://www.tourism-mauritius.mu)