

Seychelles



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Made up of 115 islands and set 1,000 miles off the east African coast, the Seychelles is a country of diverse and dramatic natural beauty. Pristine beaches make the Seychelles a perfect retreat for everyone from locals looking for a break from the bustle of Africa's larger cities to travelers seeking a leisurely spot for a few days of relaxation after time on safari.

The warm Indian Ocean waters welcome visitors and water activities such as stand-up paddle boarding, deep-sea fishing, world-class diving and snorkeling abound.

Visit different islands to experience the diversity in flora and fauna, discover the country's UNESCO Heritage Sites, and learn about critical conservation efforts ensuring the area is protected for future generations.

VISAS

A free tourist visa is issued upon arrival for US passport holders traveling to the Seychelles. Please refer to your Pre-Travel Checklist and itinerary for details. If you are not a US passport holder your entry requirements may vary; please contact your local government office for entry requirements.

CURRENCY

The Seychelles rupee (code: SRC) is the currency of the Seychelles.

In cities and larger towns, ATMs often are the best option for obtaining local currency at the most favorable rate of exchange. Most banks are open during the day Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. ATMs dispensing local currency are also found in most popular tourist spots. Most larger hotels, restaurants and shops also accept credit cards.

LANGUAGE

The Seychelles has three official languages: Creole, English and French. Seychelles Creole is a French-based creole language and is the most commonly spoken language in the country. However, because of years of British rule, English is also widely spoken, especially in popular tourist spots.

PERSONAL SAFETY

It's sensible to take the same precautions in the Seychelles as you would in any international destination. Never leave luggage unattended. Store your valuables in your in-room safe or the hotel's safety deposit box. Do not walk around looking like a tourist, keep your camera concealed and do not walk around with large amounts of cash.

RECOMMENDED READING

- * *Birds of the Seychelles* by Adrian Skerret and Ian Bullock (Princeton University Press).
- * *Hard Times in Paradise* by William McAteer (Pristine), a fascinating history of the Seychelles from 1827-1919.



JUST FOR FUN

- * According to local legend, anybody who eats breadfruit in Seychelles is sure to return. Breadfruit is served in a variety of ways. (One of the best ways is to have it grilled!)
- * Vanilla is cultivated on the islands. Growing as a creeping vine that clings to a host tree, each flower must be hand pollinated. Later, the long, bean-shaped pods are picked by hand and dried in the sun for four months.
- * Ian Fleming, the author of the famous James Bond novels and short stories, came to the Seychelles islands in 1958 to find inspiration for the next chapter in the spy saga (*For Your Eyes Only*) and ended up naming one of his characters, Milton Krest, after a tonic and ginger beverage that he tasted during his stay.
- * The native Coco de mer, also known as the sea coconut or double coconut, produces the heaviest and largest seed in the world (up to 33 pounds).

WEATHER

The Seychelle islands are truly a paradise, where you can enjoy warm, tropical weather year-round. There can be slight seasonal changes throughout the year due to the prevailing winds in the area. Northwest trade winds keep the islands rainy and hot from November through March. When the southeast trade winds begin arriving in April, until their departure in October, the country experiences a dryer and slightly cooler season.

Seychelles *Average temperatures													
Temp.		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mahe	°F	73/86	77/88	77/88	75/90	77/88	75/84	73/82	73/84	75/81	75/82	73/86	73/86
Mahe	°C	23/30	25/31	25/31	24/32	25/31	24/29	23/28	23/29	24/27	24/28	23/30	23/30
*Average rainfall													
Rain		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mahe	in	16	10	8	7	6	5	4	5	7	7	8	12
Mahe	mm	405	250	200	185	160	115	90	120	165	180	190	305