

Regional Transport

CONTENTS

Getting There & Away	318
Entering the Country	318
Air	318
Sea	321
Transport Around the Region	321
Air	321
Sea	322

GETTING THERE & AWAY

ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Mauritius

When entering Mauritius you must have a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry, a visa for Mauritius (if necessary; see p157) and a proof of departure, like an outbound ticket (together with a visa if necessary for your next port of call).

Immigration authorities will also require that you know the name, address and phone number of the place where you are staying in Mauritius (if you don't know just give them the name of any large hotel in this book). You will also be asked about the countries you've visited in the last six months, and if you've been to certain 'red-flag' countries, like several nations in Southeast Asia, the government may contact you during your stay to enquire about your health. They may also grill you on your finances, especially if you are staying more than the standard two weeks; possession of a valid credit card is usually fine.

Réunion

As Réunion is a department of France, the formalities for entering the country are al-

most the same as those for entering mainland France, bar a few exceptions (see p264 for details on visa requirements). All visitors must possess a passport valid for at least three months from the date of entry, a visa (if required) and a return or onward ticket (plus a visa if necessary for your next destination).

Seychelles

'Titres de séjour' (a kind of tourist card/visa) of up to three months is issued free for all tourists on arrival. You just need to present a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry and a return or onward ticket (with a visa for your next destination if required). Immigration officers will also require that you mention the name, address and phone number of the place where you are staying in the Seychelles (if you don't know just give them the name of any large hotel in this book). You may also be asked for evidence of sufficient funds to cover you during your stay; possession of a valid credit card is usually fine. For more information on visas, see p315.

AIR

Expensive flights have always been the biggest deterrent to travellers interested in visiting this region, but this is gradually changing due to increased competition. Return flights from Europe to either of the three destinations at certain times of the year for less than €700? Yes, it's possible.

You can also buy a package deal that includes flight and hotel accommodation. This can actually work out cheaper than just buying a return scheduled flight, and as you're totally free to ditch the hotel after a few days and travel around yourself, this is an option you should consider.

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

The principal hubs for airlines flying to this region are Paris, Dubai and London.

Airlines

Aeroflot (airline code SU; 🇷🇺 in Mauritius 211 9200; www.aerogroup.biz)

Air Austral (airline code UU; 🇦🇺 in Mauritius 202 6677, in Réunion 0825 013012, in Seychelles 323262; www.air-austral.com)

Air France (airline code AF; 🇫🇷 in Mauritius 202 6747, in Réunion 0820 820820, in Seychelles 297180; www.airfrance.com)

Air Madagascar (airline code MD; 🇲🇺 in Mauritius 203 2150, in Réunion 0892 68 00 14; www.airmadagascar.com)

Air Mauritius (airline code MK; 🇲🇺 in Mauritius 207 7070, in Réunion 0262 94 83 83, in Seychelles 297000; www.airmauritius.com)

Air Seychelles (airline code HM; 🇲🇺 in Mauritius 202 6727, in Seychelles 381000; www.airseychelles.com)

British Airways (airline code BA; 🇬🇧 in Mauritius 202 8000; www.britishairways.com)

Cathay Pacific (airline code CX; 🇭🇰 in Mauritius 212 4044; www.cathaypacific.com)

Condor (airline code DE; 🇩🇪 in Mauritius 208 4802, in Seychelles 322642; www.condor.com)

Corsairfly (airline code SS; 🇨🇮 in Réunion 0820 042042; www.corsairfly.com)

Emirates (airline code EK; 🇦🇪 in Mauritius 204 7700, in Seychelles 292700; www.emirates.com)

Kenya Airways (airline code KQ; 🇰🇪 in Seychelles 322989; www.kenya-airways.com)

Qatar Airways (airline code QR; 🇶🇦 in Seychelles 224518; www.qatarairways.com)

South African Airways (airline code SA; 🇿🇦 in Mauritius 208 6820; www.flysaa.com)

Virgin Atlantic (airline code VS; Mauritius only; 🇬🇧 in Mauritius 206 0900; www.virginatlantic.com)

Tickets

The main point to remember when buying your air ticket is to start early. Mauritius, Réunion and the Seychelles are popular destinations and some flights are booked months in advance. Somewhat paradoxically, it's also worth looking last minute as that's when other good bargains sometimes become available; however, this can never be guaranteed of course.

If you are after a simple return ticket within fairly fixed dates, then it's easy to book online. Some of the better international online ticket websites include the following:

Ebookers (www.ebookers.com)

Expedia (www.expedia.com)

Flight Centre International (www.flightcentre.com)

Flights.com (www.flights.com)

STA (www.sta.com)

Travelocity (www.travelocity.com)

INTERCONTINENTAL TICKETS

It is possible to include Mauritius, Réunion and the Seychelles as part of a Round-the-World (RTW) ticket. These can be bought through one of the three big airline alliances (Oneworld, Sky Team and Star Alliance) or through a travel agent. RTW tickets put together by travel agents tend to be more expensive but allow you to devise your own itinerary. In general RTW tickets are valid for up to one year and are calculated on the basis of either the number of continents or the distance covered.

Online ticket websites for intercontinental tickets:

Airbrokers (www.airbrokers.com)

Airtreks.com (www.airtreks.com)

Oneworld (www.oneworld.com)

Sky Team (www.skyteam.com)

Star Alliance (www.staralliance.com)

Africa

You can fly to Mauritius direct from a number of cities in Africa, including Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban (South Africa), Antananarivo (Tananarive; Madagascar) and Nairobi (Kenya). Airlines serving these routes include Air Mauritius, Air Madagascar and South African Airways (SAA).

The Seychelles is not particularly well connected with Africa. The only direct flights are to and from Johannesburg and Nairobi with Air Seychelles and Kenya Airways.

Réunion can be reached direct from Johannesburg, Madagascar, Comoros and Mayotte with Air Austral and Air Madagascar.

Rennies Travel (www.renniestravel.com) and **STA Travel** (www.statravel.co.za) have offices throughout southern Africa. Check their websites for branch locations.

Australia

Air Austral flies direct from Sydney to Réunion, while Air Mauritius operates reasonably competitively priced direct flights from Melbourne and Perth to Mauritius. For the Seychelles, you can fly with Air Mauritius (via Mauritius) or Air Austral (via Réunion); another option is to fly via Singapore or Dubai. Two well-known agencies for discount fares with offices nationwide are **STA Travel** (🇺🇦 134