



# Seychelles

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ La Grande Maison (p303)
- ➔ Loutier Coco (p326)
- ➔ Café des Arts (p317)
- ➔ Les Lauriers (p316)
- ➔ Anse Soleil Café (p307)

## Best Places to Sleep

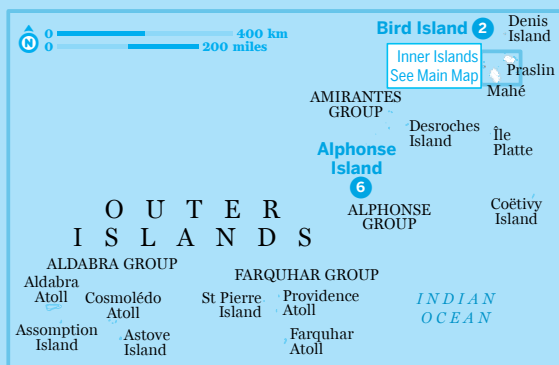
- ➔ Château de Feuilles (p314)
- ➔ Bird Island Lodge (p329)
- ➔ Maia Luxury Resort & Spa (p306)
- ➔ Chalets d'Anse Forban (p301)
- ➔ Anse Takamaka View (p305)

## Why Go?

Close your eyes. And just imagine. You're lazing on a talcum-powder beach lapped by topaz waters and backed by lush hills and big glacié boulders. Brochure material? No, just routine in the Seychelles. With such a dreamlike setting, the Seychelles is unsurprisingly a choice place for newlyweds. But for those looking for more than a suntan or romance, this archipelago offers a number of high-energy distractions. There are jungle and coastal walks, boat excursions, and diving and snorkelling to keep you buzzing. Ecotourism is big – there are marine parks and natural reserves filled with endemic species that are easy to approach. The Seychelles is more affordable than you think. On top of ultra-luxurious options, the country has plenty of self-catering facilities and family-run guesthouses that offer local colour. So if you are suffering from visions of tropical paradise, here is your medicine.

## When to Go

- ➔ From December to March, the trade winds bring warmer, wetter air streams from the northwest. From June to September the southeast trades usher in cooler, drier weather but the winds whip up the waves and you'll want to find protected beaches. The turnaround periods (April to May and October to November), which are normally calm and windless, are ideal. Temperatures range between 24°C and 32°C throughout the year.
- ➔ Rainfall varies considerably from island to island and from year to year. Mahé and Silhouette, the most mountainous islands, get the highest rainfall.
- ➔ Accommodation can be hard to find during the peak seasons from December to January and July to August. The Seychelles lies outside the cyclone zone.



## Seychelles Highlights

**1 Mahé** (p286) Diving and snorkelling among the north coast's dense marine life.

**2 Bird Island** (p329) Living out that stranded-on-a-desert-island fantasy on this secluded outcrop.

**3 Anse Lazio** (p308) Splashing around in the gin-clear waters of this beautiful beach.

**4 Morne Seychellois National Park** (p300) Looking for the smallest frog on earth while exploring forested mountains.

**5 Vallée de Mai** (p308) Hearing yourself say 'Oh, these coconuts are so sexy!'.

**6 Alphonse Island** (p329) Living out your deserted island fantasy on this coral islet.

**7 Anse Cocos** (p321) Spending hours lazing on the near-perfect beach.

**8 Curieuse Island** (p316) Scratching the leathery neck of a giant tortoise.

**9 Anse Volbert** (p308) Enjoying the stretch of white sand and turquoise waters.