



Mauritius

POP 1.34 MILLION / 230

Includes ➔

Port Louis	48
Central Plateau	57
Grand Baie	69
Flic en Flac	83
Tamarin & Rivière Noire	91
Chamarel	96
Le Morne Peninsula	103
Mahébourg	105
Trou d'Eau Douce	123

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Eureka Table d'Hôte (p60)
- ➔ Le Château Restaurant (p119)
- ➔ Chez Tante Athalie (p83)
- ➔ Palais de Barbizon (p98)
- ➔ Cabanne du Pêcheur (p69)
- ➔ Lambic (p54)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Le Saint Géran (p128)
- ➔ Le Prince Maurice (p128)
- ➔ Lux Le Morne (p104)
- ➔ La Maison d'Été (p129)
- ➔ Le Preskil (p114)

Why Go?

Mark Twain once wrote that 'Mauritius was made first and then heaven, heaven being copied after Mauritius'. For the most part, it's true: Mauritius is rightly famed for its sapphire waters, powder-white beaches and luxury resorts. But there's so much more to Mauritius than the beach when it comes to attractions. There's bird watching and hiking in the forested and mountainous interior or world-class diving and snorkelling. Or there are boat trips to near-perfect islets and excursions to fabulous botanical gardens and colonial plantation houses. Either way, the possibilities can seem endless. And the real Mauritius – a hot curry of different cultures, traffic and quiet fishing villages – is never far away.

Ultimately, Mauritius is the kind of place that rewards even the smallest attempts at exploration. So, if your biggest discovery is the beach butler service at your hotel, then you'll need to plan a second visit!

When to Go

- ➔ Mauritius enjoys a typically tropical climate with year-round heat. The summer months are December to April, when it can be extremely humid, and the cooler winter, such as it is, runs from May to November. Coastal temperatures range between 25°C and 33°C in summer and between 18°C and 24°C in winter. On the plateau it will be some 5°C cooler.
- ➔ Peak cyclone months are January and February, with cyclones possible until April.
- ➔ High season roughly runs from November to April, with a Christmas–New Year peak, although other factors (French school holidays; for example) can also cause spikes in prices and visitor numbers.



Mauritius Highlights

1 Flic en Flac (p83) Diving and snorkelling the best underwater sites of Mauritius.

2 Black River Gorges National Park (p99) Hiking through forested gorges, past waterfalls and looking for endangered birds.

3 Chamarel (p96) Pausing for lunch in this emerging foodie and mountain village.

4 Île aux Aigrettes (p112) Discovering how Mauritius once looked with a boat trip to this beautiful island.

5 Pamplemousses (p81) Exploring a botanical garden, a sugar museum and a fine architectural relic.

6 Tamarin (p91) Searching for whales and dolphins off the west coast.

7 Eureka (p59) Enjoying the best in colonial plantation architecture.

8 Northern Islands (p74) Cruising in a catamaran to beautiful offshore peaks.

9 East-Coast Beaches (p121) Finding your perfect patch of sand along the east coast.