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TOURING

MAURITIUS





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## CLASSIC MAURITIUS — TOURS —

### ABOUT MAURITIUS

With a consistently temperate climate, Mauritius, lying 1,100 miles (2,000km) from Africa's southeastern coast, is the perfect year-round tropical escape.

In the summer months, from November to April, the temperature on the coast varies from 77°F to 92° (25°C - 33°C). From May to October, temperatures can range from 63°F to 66°F (17°C - 19°C) at night and up to 81°F (27°C) during the day.

This combines with pristine azure waters, white-sand beaches and calm oceans to make Mauritius the ultimate in idyllic coastal destinations. But there is more to the island than sunbathing and watersports.

The interior is home to dramatic waterfalls and geographical phenomena and the archipelago features UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites and giant land tortoises.

With a past steeped in Dutch, Chinese and French occupation, there is also a rich history to Mauritius, and influences can be found in the architecture, traditions and delicious Creole cuisine.

### QUICK FACTS:

- Similar to Hawaii, Mauritius is both the name of the largest island and the archipelago of three further islands
- Human impact decimated Mauritius' wildlife, the islands being the world's only home to dodos. But conservation is now protecting and rehabilitating many areas
- Slavery was once one of the islands' primary trades and remnants of this tragic past can still be seen & heard in story
- Though English is the official tongue, Creole-French is widely adopted & the most prolific language
- Diving is superb & an abundance of marine life includes dolphins, turtles, octopus, a spectrum of fish &, at the right time of year, humpback whales

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### PAMPLEMOUSSES BOTANIC GARDEN

The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden, commonly known as the Pamplemousses Botanic Garden, is found in the Northwest of the island, seven miles (11km) from Port Louis, and is one of the most popular attractions in Mauritius.

The famous gardens are home to some 650 species of plants from around the world – including many varieties of palm tree, the giant Victoria Regina water lilies and the exotic Talipot Palm which is said to flower once in its 60-year lifetime. Over 280 years old, the gardens also contain influences and architecture from the era of French occupation, as well as several deer species and several giant tortoises.

### BLACK RIVER GORGES

With over 30 miles (50km) of walking trails and covering 17,000 acres, Black River Gorges National Park is the largest in Mauritius. Home to many species of unique animals and plants found nowhere else in the world, the park also presents expansive, verdant vistas, the island's highest point and several stunning waterfalls, plummeting over the rocky hillside. Many people visit the easily-accessible top of Alexandra Falls, but very few take the opportunity to take the short hike to its base. A guided walk will reveal not only the numerous falls and their secrets, but also the many wonderful creatures of the park.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pamplemousses Garden covers 37 hectares & is wonderful to explore for an hour or two
- A favorite feature is the exquisite lily pond filled with giant waterlilies imported from the Amazon
- Numerous paths throughout the national park are clearly signposted & can be walked at leisure
- Taking a guided walk is advised, allowing you to discover numerous features and sights overlooked by most visitors

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### LE MORNE BRABANT

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Le Morne Brabant is a peninsular island on the south-western tip of the country. Standing 1,825 feet (556m) high, the iconic cliff stands sentinel over the spectacular 'underwater waterfall'. This optical illusion is caused by white sand being drawn through a narrow channel into the deep waters beyond the outlying reef. Le Morne Brabant has a fascinating, sometimes tragic history and was one of the last bastions of the lost Maroon tribe who cast themselves from the clifftop rather than be subjected to slavery. The granite monolith is peppered with caves and the climb to the summit is stunning, winding through forests of rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world.

### CHAMAREL

Chamarel's primary attraction is the geologically curious seven-colored earth, a hillside tinted by numerous mineral deposits, similar to Peru's Rainbow Mountain. There is more to be found at this inland destination and a small traditional distillery invites guests to learn the process of harvesting sugarcane for rum, and of course to sample the result.

Venturing from the village, one can also find Chamarel waterfall, almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty at 272 feet (83m), and cascading into a jungle-strewn gorge.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Learn the heartbreaking tale of the Maroon tribe, now honored in an annual commemoration
- Discover rare plant species & spot numerous vibrant birds
- View the illusion of the underwater waterfall from the summit of Le Morne Brabant
- View the seven-hued soil of Chamarel
- Sample authentic Creole cooking & the delicious local rum
- Hike to Chamarel waterfall along winding forest paths, keeping an eye out for the only living endemic species - the Mauritian fruit bat

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## CLASSIC AQUATIC TOURS

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### SCUBA DIVING

Mauritius is globally-renowned as one of the world's foremost diving locations. Abundant marine life, pristine waters and easily-accessible reefs and dive sites make it a first choice for divers of all abilities. This reputation has led to the establishment of several dive schools, taking divers from their first breaths to advanced dives. All equipment is provided and every experience level is accounted for.

### SAILING

The tropical climate and calm ocean create a sailor's paradise. From small one- or two-person dinghies to luxurious yachts, numerous sailing activities are available, whether you wish to participate or enjoy a fully-crewed cruise. The Mauritian sunset can best be appreciated from the deck of a motor yacht, champagne in hand, the warm evening breeze washing across the skin. For a truly special occasion, a dinner adrift on a luxury launch can be arranged.

### OTHER AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Each resort offers a collection of equipment for guest use. Kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkel sets and more can all be used at any time. For a more adventurous excursion, fishing charters and waterskiing can bring some excitement to a day on the water. The ocean constantly beckons, and properties will be able to offer a wide variety of ways to take the plunge.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mauritius is one of the world's foremost diving destinations
- Numerous professional dive schools cater to divers of all abilities
- Some properties provide sailing dinghies & lessons for guests
- A luxury yacht charter is an incredible way to see the islands from a different perspective
- Resorts provide watersport equipment for all guests, ages & abilities
- Private fishing charters, dive trips, sunset cruises & several other exclusive ocean activities can be arranged

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## CLASSIC CULTURAL TOURS

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### WALKING & CYCLING TOURS

While the beautiful white-sand beaches may possess a magnetism, once you draw yourself away from the picturesque shoreline, you will discover an island of rich culture and diverse landscapes. Guided walking and cycling tours allow visitors to observe daily Mauritian life, learn of the deeper history and immerse in the more cultural side to this idyllic archipelago.

### PORT LOUIS

The fascinating capital of Port Louis has much to offer on a day trip. Exuding the cultural influences of French and Dutch settlers, the city also draws in the Creole culture, founded on the abundant seafood and spices that made Mauritius an integral port of international trade. Wonderful food markets, quaint cafes and pleasant parks add to this melting pot of cultures, with its mix of Hindu and Roman Catholic beliefs echoed in Port Louis' buildings and artwork.

### EXPERIENTIAL IMMERSIONS

There is much about Mauritius that is unique or rarely found elsewhere. A range of immersive experiences and workshops can be indulged in, from learning the intricacies of Creole cooking, taking an art class or dance lesson, exploring firsthand about the islands' centuries-old rum production or taking a traditional weaving workshop to craft your own basket to take home.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- A guided walk through Mauritius forests will uncover sights often missed
- Cycling through local villages reflects another side of the islands
- Take a historical tour through the streets of Port Louis
- Sample delicious cuisine, learn the history & explore local food & craft markets
- Learn how to create delicious Creole dishes
- Discover the traditional arts & crafts of Mauritius

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