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AVIATION TURKEY

Secrets of
Seychelles



Beyond Luxury:

Why Boutique Hotels Are Becoming One of Seychelles' Greatest Tourism Assets

On my latest visit to Seychelles, I deliberately chose a different perspective. Instead of focusing on internationally renowned luxury resorts, I spent much of my time exploring independently owned boutique hotels, charming guesthouses and apartment-style accommodations across the islands.

What I discovered was one of Seychelles' greatest yet often overlooked tourism strengths.

While internationally renowned luxury resorts undoubtedly play an important role in Seychelles' tourism industry, the islands are also home to remarkable boutique properties, many of them family-owned, each with its own identity, architecture and story. Rather than competing through extravagance, these hotels embrace understated elegance, thoughtful design and a genuine sense of place. Inspired by Creole culture, tropical nature and island living, they offer an atmosphere that feels both refined and authentic.

One of the greatest advantages these properties offer is exceptional value. Depending on the season and location, accommodation typically ranges from €150 to €300 per night, often including breakfast or self-catering options. The range is impressively diverse, from beautifully designed hotel rooms to elegant boutique



by Ayşe Akalin

suites and fully equipped apartments featuring a separate bedroom, a cosy living area and a compact kitchen, with some properties even offering a private swimming pool. These options are particularly attractive for longer stays, allowing visitors to enjoy Seychelles at a slower pace while benefiting from spacious accommodation, personalised service and warm Creole hospitality.

While Seychelles may not be the least expensive tropical destination, its appeal lies elsewhere. What truly distinguishes the islands is their unique sense of place—a rare combination of pristine nature, authentic Creole culture, warm hospitality and a relaxed island lifestyle that feels genuine rather than manufactured. Rather than simply offering another tropical holiday, Seychelles delivers an experience shaped by its people, its heritage and the distinctive character of each island. It is this authenticity, together with the diversity of accommodation experiences, that sets Seychelles apart from many other tropical destinations.



Whether nestled along the shoreline or perched gently on lush hillsides overlooking the Indian Ocean, most of these properties are just a short walk or drive from Seychelles' magnificent public beaches, which are freely accessible to everyone. Many also feature swimming pools, tropical gardens and breathtaking panoramic views, creating an experience that feels both exclusive and deeply connected to nature.

For tourism professionals, this is an important reminder that a destination's competitiveness is not defined solely by its luxury brands. A strong and diverse accommodation portfolio creates resilience, attracts different market

segments, extends visitor stays and creates greater value for local communities.

From an aviation perspective, accessibility is equally important. Turkish Airlines continues to play a strategic role in connecting Seychelles with the world through its global hub in Istanbul. The airline currently operates three weekly non-stop flights between Istanbul and Mahé using the Airbus A330-300, with departures from Istanbul on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and return flights from Seychelles on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. These services provide seamless connections to one of the world's largest international route networks, making



A special moment in Seychelles with Vesna Rakic and Amia Jovanovic Desir, during a visit hosted by Tourism Seychelles.

Seychelles more accessible for travellers from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

In addition to Turkish Airlines, the destination is also served by Air Seychelles, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, Air Tanzania, IndiGo, Discover Airlines and Aeroflot, further strengthening Seychelles'

global connectivity and reinforcing its position as one of the Indian Ocean's best-connected island destinations.

This combination of authentic boutique hospitality and strong international air connectivity is one of the reasons why Seychelles continues to stand out as one of the world's most compelling island destinations.





Discovering Mahe and Praslin Aboard Air Seychelles' Iconic Twin Otter

During my stay in Seychelles, I had the opportunity to fly from Mahé to Praslin aboard Air Seychelles' iconic 19-seat De Havilland Twin Otter—on the very same day that Seychelles International Airport celebrated its 55th anniversary.

It was the perfect occasion to experience one of the archipelago's most iconic domestic flights.

The journey began at the small domestic terminal, where the relaxed atmosphere immediately reflects the rhythm of island life. Before boarding, I visited the Payanke Lounge by Air Seychelles for the first time. Having experienced airport lounges around the world, I cannot recall another with such a distinctive combination of apron and Indian Ocean views. Watching aircraft movements against the backdrop of turquoise waters created a memorable start to the journey.

From the terminal, passengers simply walk across the apron to the aircraft—an increasingly rare experience that offers an unusually close connection with both the aircraft and its crew.



Before departure, I had the pleasure of meeting our pilots, Ian and Julio. With no cabin crew on board, the two pilots also become the face of the airline throughout this short journey. Their warm and welcoming approach perfectly reflected the spirit of Air Seychelles.

Although the scheduled flight takes only around 20 minutes, the Mahé–Praslin service is an essential link between two of Seychelles' main islands. Operated several times a day, it is both a practical connection and a remarkable aviation experience.

From the window, the scenery is extraordinary. Turquoise lagoons, granite islands and coral reefs unfold beneath the wings, offering a perspective of the Seychelles that simply cannot be experienced from the ground.



For visitors to the islands, taking at least one domestic flight with Air Seychelles is therefore more than a means of transportation. Seeing the archipelago from above adds another dimension to the journey and turns the flight itself into an integral part of the Seychelles experience.

Connecting the Islands, Connecting Seychelles

As the national carrier of Seychelles, Air Seychelles currently operates a fleet of two Airbus A320neo aircraft on its regional international network and five DHC-6 Twin Otter turboprops supporting essential domestic connectivity, including the busy Mahé-Praslin route. Beyond scheduled passenger services, the airline also plays an important role in charter and air ambulance operations across the islands.

During my visit, we discussed Air Seychelles' international network, which currently spans key destinations including Johannesburg, Mauritius,

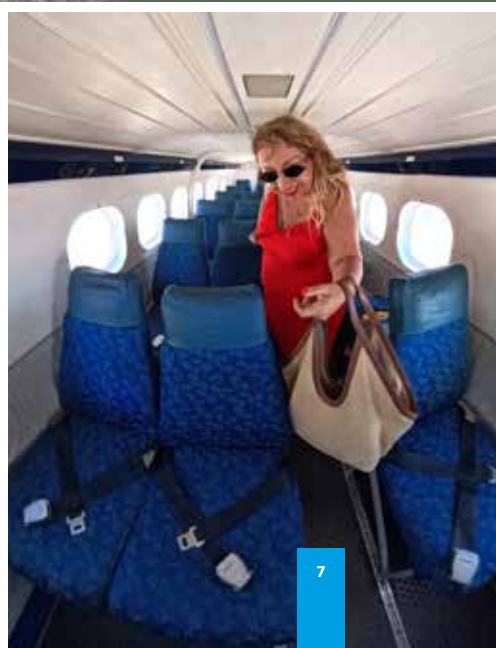
Colombo, Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv. Equally important is the airline's domestic operation, with inter-island connectivity forming the backbone of Seychelles' aviation network and playing a vital role in connecting communities and supporting tourism across the archipelago.

Fleet development was another important topic. Among the longer-term possibilities is the potential introduction of Airbus A321XLR aircraft, which could create new opportunities for Air Seychelles to expand its reach towards Central and Western Europe while offering greater range and operational efficiency.

Having spent many years covering the aviation industry, I particularly enjoy discovering regional operations such as this one. They demonstrate the essential role aviation plays in connecting communities, while also creating experiences that stay with passengers long after landing. Sometimes, the most memorable flights are also the shortest.



Praslin - Anse Lazio Beach





Niva Labriz: A Hidden Paradise on Silhouette Island

My journey to Niva Labriz Seychelles began at Bel Ombre Jetty on Mahé, where the resort's private lounge and reception provide a smooth start to the journey. After check-in, a boat takes guests across the Indian

Ocean to Silhouette Island in approximately 40–45 minutes. Helicopter transfers are also available.

Silhouette is the third-largest of the Seychelles' granitic islands and one of the country's most protected natural environments. More than 90 percent of the island is protected as a national park, with dense rainforest, granite peaks and long stretches of white-sand beach. Niva Labriz is the island's only resort, with

108 villas spread across the beachfront and tropical gardens.

Villas by the Beach and in the Jungle

Niva Labriz offers several villa categories, including Garden Villas, Beach Villas, Jungle Sanctuary Pool Villas and larger Beach and Garden Oasis residences.

During my stay, I particularly enjoyed the connection

between the villa and its tropical surroundings. My private outdoor rain shower was surrounded by greenery, while the bathtub provided a quieter space to relax. One evening, I returned to find it decorated with fresh hibiscus flowers – a simple detail that reflected the care of the team.

The Beach Villas, for example, offer direct access to the sand, Indian Ocean views, a private terrace and an outdoor rain shower.





A Culinary Journey

Dining is another important element of the resort. Niva Labriz brings together Seychellois Creole cuisine and international flavours across its restaurants and bars, including Brasserie Dauban, Sakura, Portobello and Teppanyaki, among others.

The menus make use of fresh local ingredients

while offering a broad choice for different tastes.

For me, however, one particular culinary moment stood out. Chef Darren prepared a freshly baked Turkish simit especially for me. Finding a taste of home in the middle of the Indian Ocean was an unexpected and very thoughtful gesture. Even without pekmez, it came remarkably close to the simit I know from Turkey.

One evening, I returned to my villa to discover the bathtub beautifully decorated with fresh hibiscus flowers. It was a simple gesture, but precisely the kind of detail that stays with you.





Wellness in a Natural Setting

Spa is set within the island's tropical environment and offers a range of treatments designed around relaxation and wellbeing. Guests can also take part in yoga and meditation sessions, including sunrise experiences in nature.

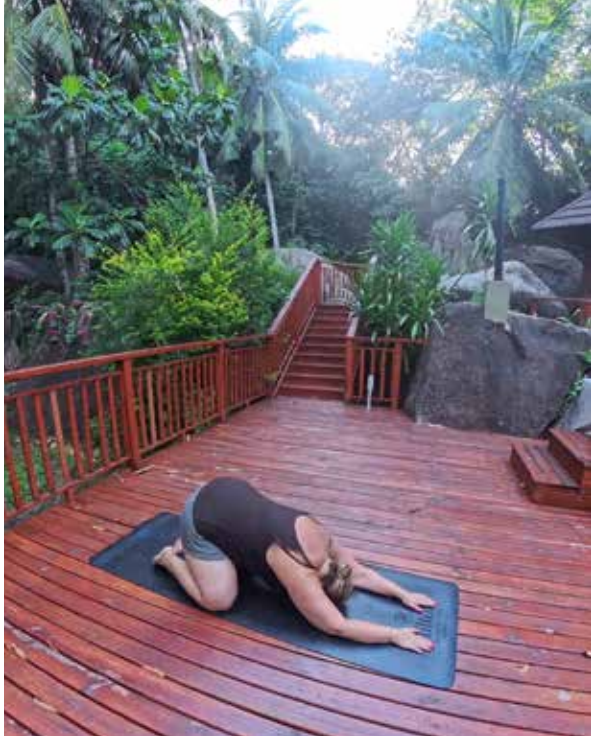
I joined a private yoga and

meditation session during my stay. In a destination surrounded by rainforest and ocean, it was an experience that fitted naturally into the rhythm of the island.

Exploring Silhouette

There is plenty to do beyond the beach. Guests can join guided rainforest hikes, explore the island by





bicycle, snorkel and dive around its reefs, go fishing or take boat excursions to discover secluded coves and neighbouring waters. The resort also offers encounters with Aldabra giant tortoises and conservation experiences, including coral restoration and marine education.

For those interested in the history and culture of the

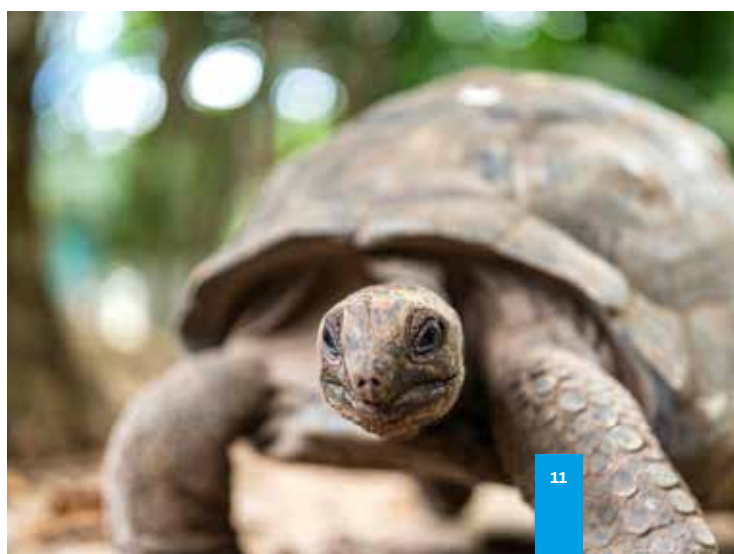
Seychelles, the historic Grann Kaz Plantation House, an organic garden and Creole cooking classes offer another perspective on island life.

I chose to explore the rainforest and spend time on the beach, but what I appreciated most was the variety of experiences available without needing to leave the island.



From Ankara to Silhouette

My stay also included an unexpected reunion. Marc O. Schumacher, Niva Labriz's General Manager, is familiar to many in Ankara's tourism and hospitality community from his time as General Manager of Hilton Ankara. Meeting him again, now on Silhouette Island, was a wonderful reminder of how connected the international hospitality industry can be. Together with Elisa Paglietti, Chef Darren Ferrall and the wider team, Marc created a warm and genuinely welcoming atmosphere throughout my stay.





Vallée des Fruits: Growing Wellness in the Heart of Seychelles

High above the lush landscapes of Mahé, something very different from the Seychelles' traditional tourism experience is taking root. At Vallée des Fruits, the focus is not simply on growing fruit, but on creating a living connection between nature, food, wellness and the future of the islands.

The story began with a personal passion. Marco Kastner started planting trees years before Vallée des Fruits became an agrotourism destination. What began as an individual commitment to nature gradually evolved into a much broader vision, shared with his co-founder, Gvantsa Khizanishvili. Today, their project represents one of Seychelles' most distinctive approaches to sustainable agrotourism.

Located in the hills of Mahé, Vallée des Fruits officially opened to visitors in 2025 and is recognised as Seychelles' first organic fruit agrotourism experience. But calling it simply a plantation does not fully describe what has been created here. The project combines organic cultivation and regenerative practices with biodiversity protection, environmental education, wellness and local food experiences.

More than 40 varieties of tropical fruits are grown across the site, alongside endemic and medicinal plants, herbs and spices. Visitors can encounter familiar fruits such as mango, banana, pineapple, papaya and avocado, as well as more unusual tropical varieties. The emphasis is on working with nature rather than against it, while preserving the biodiversity that makes Seychelles so unique.

For Kastner, however, sustainability extends beyond agriculture. Vallée des Fruits is also about changing the way people think about food and their relationship with the

natural environment. Its philosophy is encapsulated in a simple expression: "Food is Medicine."

This idea becomes tangible through the experience itself. Freshly harvested fruit, local honey and natural ingredients are part of the visit, while guests can also participate in wellness experiences, including yoga and meditation, surrounded by the mountains and forests of Mahé. The setting encourages visitors to slow down, reconnect with nature and experience food not simply as something to consume, but as part of a healthier way of living.

Gvantsa Khizanishvili, whose background includes global health diplomacy and international partnerships, has helped shape the wellness and eco-tourism dimension of the project. Together, she and Kastner have developed Vallée des Fruits around a broader concept of sustainable development—one that brings together environmental protection, healthy living, education and community engagement.

Education is another important part of the vision. The founders want children and young people





to understand where food comes from, why biodiversity matters and how sustainable practices can help protect Seychelles for future generations. Educational activities and workshops form part of the project's wider commitment to connecting people with the land.

There is also a strong local dimension. Vallée des Fruits works with the hospitality sector, offering fresh produce and products that can reach hotels and restaurants, while visitors can also purchase fruits and locally produced items directly at the site. In this way, the project connects agriculture with Seychelles' growing interest in food tourism and authentic local experiences.

The destination is also designed for celebration and gathering. Wellness

activities, educational visits, private events, birthdays and weddings can all take place within the natural surroundings. During my visit, I even came across a wedding taking place there—a fitting reminder that Vallée des Fruits is ultimately about much more than agriculture. It is about creating a place where people can connect, celebrate and experience nature in a meaningful way.

What makes the experience particularly memorable, however, is the passion behind it. Kastner does not speak about sustainability as a trend or a marketing concept. For him, protecting Seychelles' natural heritage is deeply personal. His vision is to create something that can continue to give back—to nature, to the community and to future generations.





White Sands Adventures: Discovering the Wild Side of Seychelles

Seychelles is often imagined through images of white-sand beaches, turquoise waters and luxurious resorts. But beyond its iconic coastline lies another Seychelles: wild, untouched and deeply connected to nature. I discovered this side of Mahé with White Sands Adventures, an experience that took me far beyond the usual sightseeing routes.

Founded in 2019 by Seychellois adventurer Franky Baccus, White Sands Adventures describes itself as Seychelles' first mobile adventure service provider. Its philosophy is built around exploring remote and lesser-known parts of the island through kayaking, hiking, cycling and 4x4 adventures, while keeping sustainability and the preservation of the local environment at the heart of its activities.

My adventure began on the coastal side of Mahé, before heading into the landscape where the real journey was about to begin. After preparing our kayaks, we entered the freshwater wetlands of Takamaka, surrounded by an extraordinary natural environment.



Kayaking through the calm freshwater was one of the most memorable parts of the experience. The landscape changes constantly: mangroves, palms, reeds and coastal vegetation create a rich ecosystem, while the mountains and forest form a dramatic backdrop. The stillness of the water makes the experience particularly special. At times, the reflections of the vegetation create an almost mirror-like landscape.

White Sands Adventures also operates guided kayaking experiences in the Grand Police and Grand Anse wetlands, areas recognised for their high biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems. The Grand Police Wetlands, in particular, are among Mahé's most remarkable remaining wetland environments. National Geographic has highlighted the ecological importance of these areas, noting the dramatic loss of wetlands in Seychelles over the years and the importance of protecting what remains.

For me, the most fascinating part was seeing how quickly the environment transformed. After paddling through freshwater, we eventually reached the ocean, revealing a completely different perspective of Mahé. The transition from tranquil wetlands to the vast Indian Ocean was a reminder of how closely different ecosystems exist alongside one another in Seychelles.

The adventure then continued on land. Leaving the kayaks behind, we headed deeper into the forest, walking along trails surrounded by tropical vegetation. Along the way, nature engaged not only the eyes but also the other senses. The unexpected fragrance of lemongrass filled the air, while wild cinnamon added another distinctive note to the forest experience.

White Sands Adventures is particularly interesting because its experiences are not designed simply around visiting a destination and taking photographs. The company combines exploration with an understanding of the natural environment, introducing visitors to local flora, fauna, ecosystems and landscapes along the way. Its adventure programmes include off-road 4x4 excursions to remote trails, waterfalls and viewpoints, as well as hiking and kayaking experiences.

The final part of my journey was a hike through the forest towards higher ground. Step by step, the landscape opened up until we reached the viewpoint. And there it was: a spectacular panorama stretching towards the coast and the Indian Ocean. It was the perfect ending to an experience that had begun on the coast, continued through freshwater wetlands and mangrove landscapes, and then led deep into the forest.





where to stay

in Mahe

The Seaboards: A Family Heritage Meets the Spirit of Seychelles

Set in Anse La Mouche on the southwest coast of Mahé, The Seaboards Apartments offers an intimate alternative to Seychelles' larger resorts. Opened in 2022, the property combines contemporary apartment-style accommodation with a strong sense of local hospitality.

Its story is closely linked to owner Bertrand Payet, whose family comes from La Digue and has been involved in Seychelles' tourism industry for generations, reportedly reaching the sixth generation. One of La Digue's early tourism families, the Payets have carried this heritage forward to a new generation on Mahé.

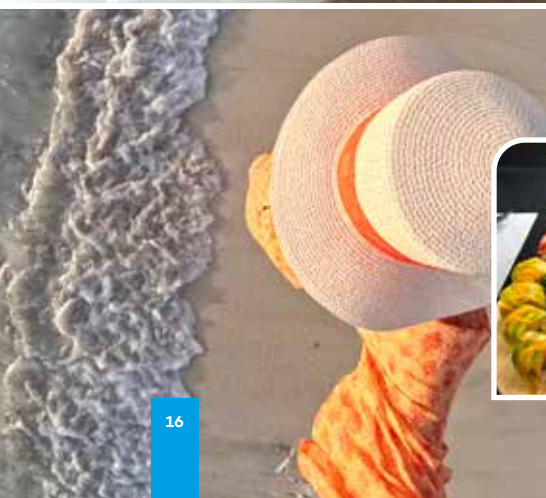
The property features seven apartments and ten rooms, including one- and two-bedroom units with spacious living areas, fully equipped kitchens and private balconies. Guests can also enjoy a swimming pool, housekeeping, concierge services, Wi-Fi and airport transfers.

Just around 200 metres from Anse La Mouche beach, The Seaboards is also within walking distance of restaurants and local amenities, while the nearby main road makes it convenient to explore the island.

From the Kitchen to the Table

Food is an important part of the experience. Bertrand Payet's background in hospitality and culinary operations is reflected in Ezzy Foods Restaurant & Sushi, located at the property. The restaurant offers a mix of local Seychellois and international cuisine, including fresh seafood, grilled fish, octopus and prawn curries.

With its small scale, relaxed setting and family heritage, The Seaboards offers travellers a more personal way to experience Mahé — where contemporary comfort meets generations of Seychellois tourism tradition.





where to stay



Red Palm Luxury Villas: Private Luxury on Mahé

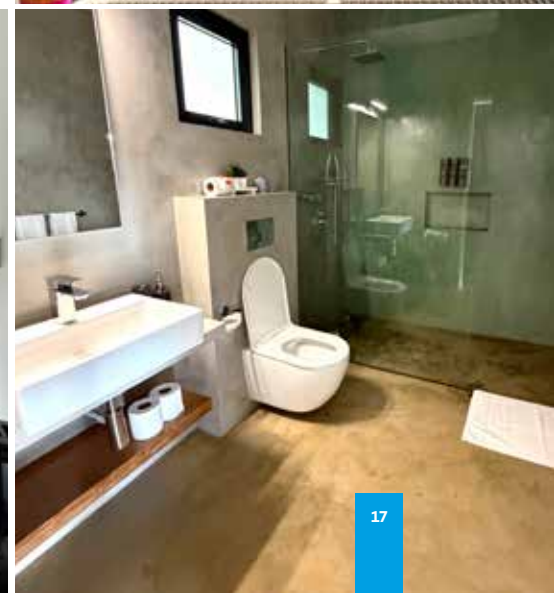
Set on the west coast of Mahé in Baie Lazare, Red Palm Luxury Villas is a new boutique retreat designed for travellers seeking privacy, comfort and independence. Completed in March 2025, the property features just ten freestanding 78-square-metre villas, each offering a private saltwater infinity pool and views across the surrounding mountains, valley and ocean.

Located between the Four Seasons and Kempinski, Red Palm is less than 1.5 kilometres from Anse Soleil and Petite Anse beaches, with restaurants, local takeaways, fruit stalls and fresh seafood markets nearby. A shop and pharmacy are conveniently

located next door.

Each villa combines contemporary design with island-inspired touches and a fully equipped kitchen, making the property ideal for a self-catering experience. Sustainability is also part of the concept, with solar water heaters, water filtration systems and energy-efficient inverter air conditioning.

With its private pools, generous living spaces and peaceful setting, Red Palm offers a more secluded interpretation of the Seychelles experience — where modern luxury meets the freedom of having your own private island retreat.





The Bay Seychelles: An Intimate View of Mahé

Perched above the beautiful Anse La Mouche Bay on Mahé's southwest coast, The Bay Seychelles Boutique Hotel & Apartments offers an intimate stay with spectacular ocean views. With just nine rooms and apartments, the property combines personalised hospitality with a relaxed boutique atmosphere.

The accommodation comprises four Deluxe One-Bedroom Apartments, four King Suites with Ocean View and one King Room with Pool View. Each has its own balcony or private deck, while the infinity pool overlooking the bay provides one of the hotel's defining features.

The hotel is managed by South African couple Kathy and Rehan, whose warm and personal approach is frequently highlighted by guests. Recent reviews particularly praise their hospitality and attention to detail.

At the heart of the property is The Sandbar, the hotel's restaurant and bar, serving fresh local produce, Creole dishes, seafood and international favourites. With its panoramic setting, intimate scale and personal service, The Bay Seychelles offers a peaceful retreat where the ocean, good food and genuine hospitality come together.





where to stay



Villa Kiki: Contemporary Creole Charm on Mahé

Set above Anse La Mouche on the southwest coast of Mahé, Villa Kiki is an intimate boutique property combining contemporary design with a distinctly Seychellois atmosphere. Established in 2017, the property was created as a private oasis, with modern interiors softened by island-inspired touches.

The property offers eight rooms, many with balconies or terraces overlooking the ocean, together with an infinity pool, lush gardens and a relaxed outdoor setting. The combination of sea views, contemporary Creole style and its intimate scale

gives Villa Kiki a distinctive character.

Dining is part of the experience at Sunset Bistro, where guests can enjoy breakfast and dinner in a relaxed atmosphere. The property is also well positioned for exploring Mahé, with Anse La Mouche within walking distance and other beaches and attractions easily accessible by car.

With its spectacular ocean views, infinity pool and personal atmosphere, Villa Kiki offers a stylish yet relaxed way to experience the quieter, more intimate side of Mahé.





where to stay

Pineapple Beach Villas: A Barefoot Escape by the Ocean

Set in a secluded cove on the southwest coast of Mahé, Pineapple Beach Villas offers a relaxed, beachfront experience where guests can truly embrace the island's barefoot lifestyle. The property features eight spacious one-bedroom villas, each with an ocean view, fully equipped kitchen and veranda, just steps from the beach and the swimming pool.

The villas are self-catering, giving guests the freedom to enjoy Seychelles at their own pace, while kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkelling and beach BBQ facilities add to the experience. Daily housekeeping and other services make the stay comfortable without losing its independent character.

One of the property's highlights is Pineapple

Cabana Restaurant, right by the ocean, offering a beautiful setting for enjoying local flavours and relaxed island dining. Pineapple Cabana Restaurant

Creativity is another part of the Pineapple experience. At Pineapple Studio, guests can discover locally produced T-shirts, pareos, beachwear, soaps, crafts and small souvenirs, while the adjacent workshop offers a glimpse into how many of these products are made.

With its beachfront location, intimate villas, ocean activities, restaurant and creative workshops, Pineapple Beach Villas is more than a place to stay — it is a small, self-contained celebration of island life, creativity and the sea.





where to stay



in Mahe



Eden Hills Residence: Your Private Retreat in Mahé

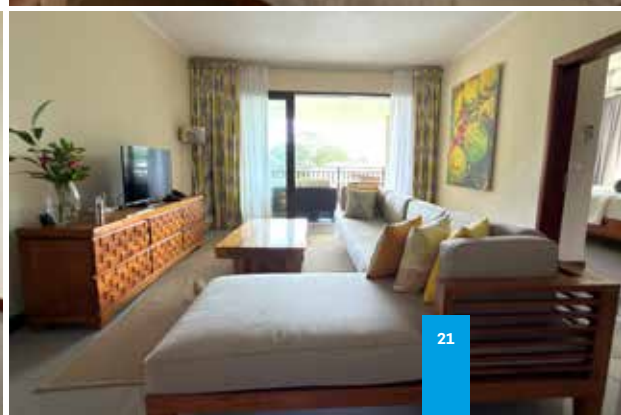
Set in the lush surroundings of Anse Boileau on Mahé, Eden Hills Residence offers a peaceful, home-away-from-home experience with just five spacious self-catering apartments — four two-bedroom apartments and one one-bedroom apartment.

The property features a swimming pool, tropical gardens, private balconies and fully equipped kitchens, providing guests with the freedom and comfort of a private residence. It is

also well suited to weekly, monthly and longer stays.

The residence is hosted by Rachel, who has been welcoming guests for several years and has a strong knowledge of the local area.

With its intimate scale, residential atmosphere and peaceful setting, Eden Hills Residence offers a comfortable base for discovering the quieter and more authentic side of Mahé.





where to stay

Treasure Cove: A Family Hideaway by the Indian Ocean

Set in Bel Ombre on the northwest coast of Mahé, Treasure Cove Hotel & Restaurant is a small family-run boutique hotel overlooking the Indian Ocean. Established around 13 years ago, the hotel is managed by Marie-France MacGregor and her family, giving the property a distinctly personal character.

With just 10 rooms, all featuring ocean views and private balconies, Treasure Cove combines an intimate atmosphere with spectacular views across the bay towards the surrounding islands. An infinity pool and the open-air restaurant overlooking the sea are among its highlights.

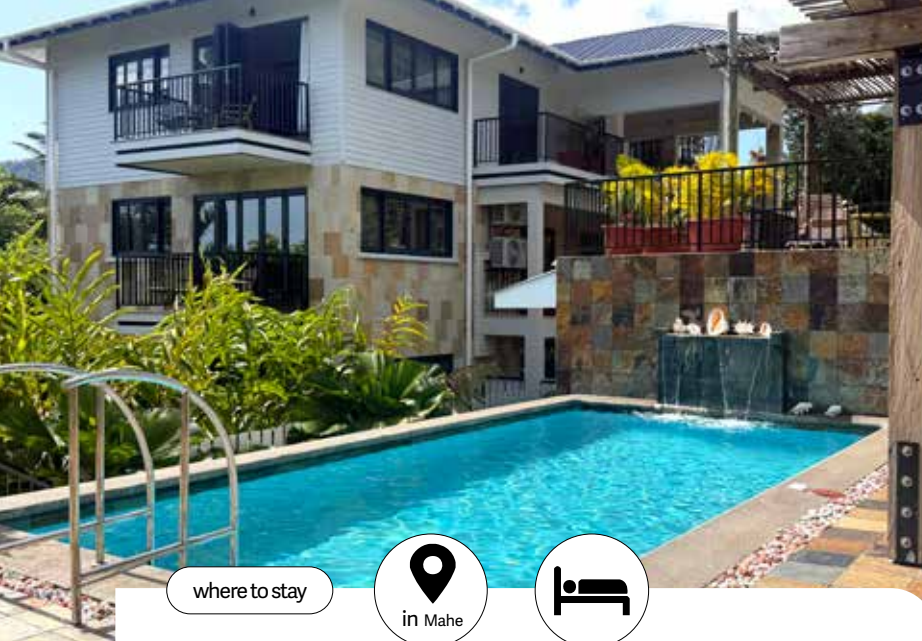
The hotel's restaurant also welcomes non-resident guests, making it

a popular dining spot in the area. Breakfast is available on a bed-and-breakfast basis, while half-board options are also offered. On Fridays and Saturdays, live soft music adds to the relaxed evening atmosphere.

For active travellers, the waters directly in front of the property are suitable for snorkelling, while the area is also known for diving. The hotel is close to walking trails, including the route towards Anse Major, and offers a complimentary shuttle to Beau Vallon, around five minutes away by car.

Treasure Cove also hosts celebrations and meetings for up to around 80 guests, while its proximity to the Bel Ombre jetty makes it convenient for boat and marine excursions.





where to stay



Lodoicea Apartments: A Peaceful Island Escape

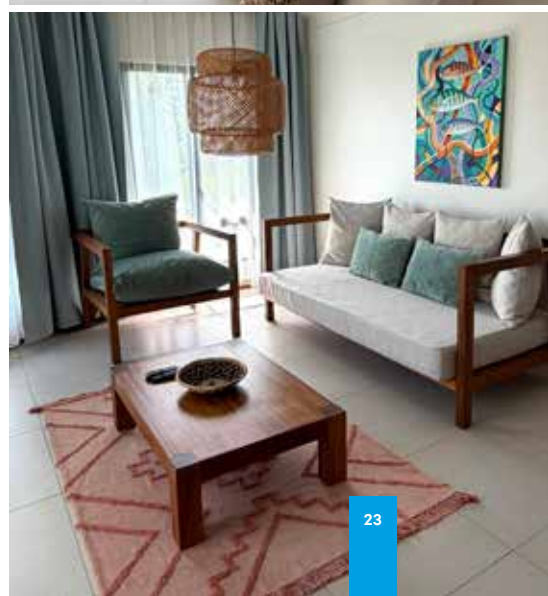
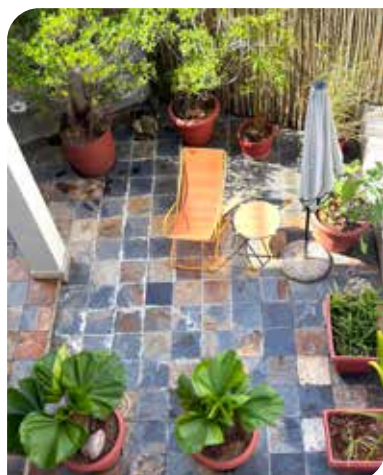
Located in Bel Ombre on Mahé, Lodoicea Apartments is a small self-catering property offering six spacious apartments, with one- and two-bedroom options. Each apartment combines contemporary comfort with a lush tropical garden setting, featuring a fully equipped kitchen, king-size bed, private balcony and air conditioning.

At the heart of the property is a saltwater swimming pool with a waterfall, surrounded by sun loungers and tropical greenery. The peaceful location also provides easy access to

several of Mahé's beautiful beaches, while hiking trails and local shops are nearby.

Designed for guests who value independence, Lodoicea is particularly suited to self-catering and longer stays, while its intimate scale and relaxed atmosphere offer a comfortable base for discovering the northern side of Mahé.

With its tropical garden, private apartments and inviting saltwater pool, Lodoicea offers a quiet and authentic way to experience island life.





where to stay

in Mahe

Alibel Beach Villa: A Little Gem by the Beach

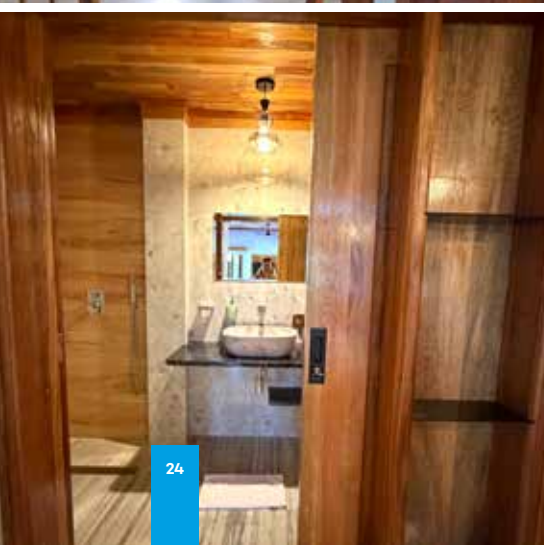
Set in Anse à la Mouche on the southwest coast of Mahé, Alibel Beach Villa is a newly built, intimate property just a short stroll from the beach. With eight rooms, the villa combines modern and traditional Seychellois architecture with a relaxed, home-like atmosphere.

The property features a year-round swimming pool, lush tropical garden and spacious terraces, while the rooms offer garden, pool, mountain or ocean views. The garden is also home to endemic fruit and vegetables, adding a distinctly local touch to

the experience.

Its location is particularly convenient: supermarkets, restaurants, takeaways, a fish shop, local market and bus stop are all within walking distance, while Anse à la Mouche beach is just moments away.

Managed by Salifa and her team, Alibel Beach Villa has received excellent guest feedback for its cleanliness, comfort and attentive service. With its intimate scale, beachfront setting and welcoming atmosphere, it offers a relaxed and authentic way to experience Mahé





where to stay



Blue Lagoon: A Boutique Stay by the Beach

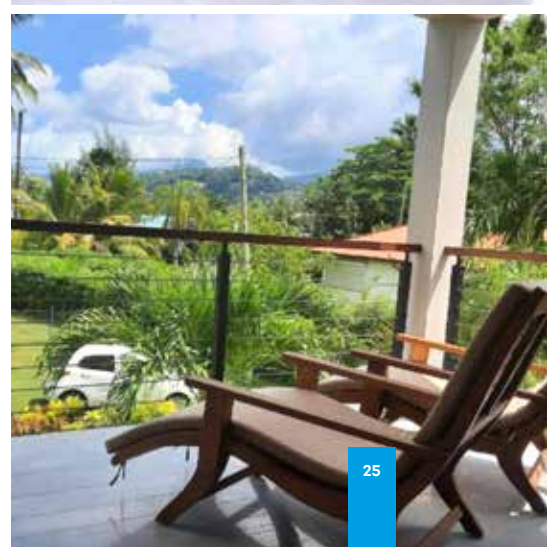
Located in Anse La Mouche on the southwest coast of Mahé, Blue Lagoon is a charming small hotel offering 10 rooms, just around 150 metres from the beach. The property combines modern comfort with a peaceful tropical setting, making it an ideal base for exploring the island.

The spacious rooms feature private balconies or terraces, while the lush tropical garden creates a relaxed atmosphere. Guests can enjoy breakfast and dinner on site, with shops, cafés, restaurants and a bus

stop all within easy walking distance.

The calm waters of Anse La Mouche are particularly suitable for swimming and coastal activities, while a nearby diving school offers opportunities to explore the underwater world.

With its intimate scale, beachside location and peaceful surroundings, Blue Lagoon offers a comfortable and independent way to experience the quieter side of Mahé.





where to stay



Chalets Bougainville: A Quiet Retreat Above the Sea

Set on the southeast coast of Mahé, Chalets Bougainville is a peaceful self-catering retreat surrounded by tropical vegetation and positioned around 50 metres above sea level, with panoramic views across the ocean and Anse Royale Bay. The property has been welcoming guests since 2008 and is operated by Margrit and Joseph, who have been running it for more than 15 years.

The property offers a selection of chalets, studios, apartments and villas, all designed with fully equipped kitchens, private verandas and sea views. An infinity pool blends into the tropical garden, while a small secluded bay

is just a three-minute walk away. Anse Parnel Beach and the Surfers restaurant can also be reached within five minutes on foot.

Its location between Anse Royale and Anse Forbans makes it an excellent base for exploring some of southern Mahé's most beautiful beaches, while nearby shops, a bus stop and local produce stalls add convenience.

With its spectacular views, intimate atmosphere and independence of self-catering accommodation, Chalets Bougainville offers a peaceful escape surrounded by the natural beauty of southern Mahé.



where to stay



Ocean Terrace: Panoramic Views over Anse Royale

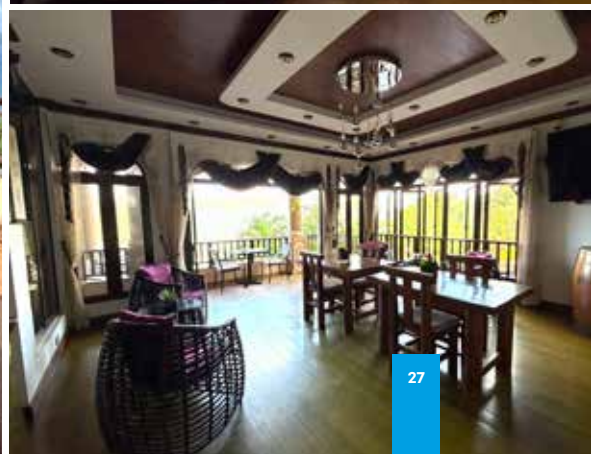
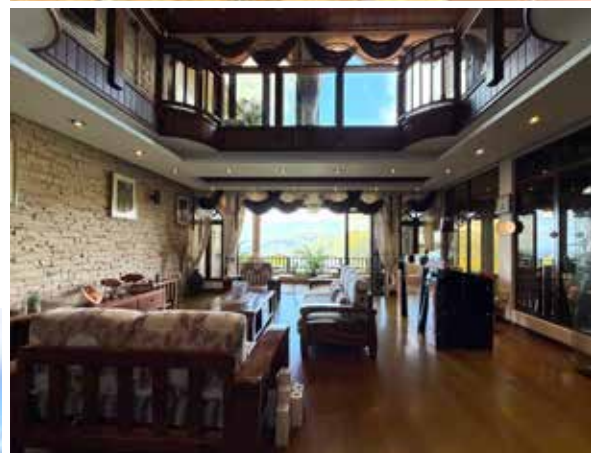
Perched on the hillside above Anse Royale Bay, Ocean Terrace is a Seychellois-owned boutique guesthouse offering spectacular views across the bay and the lush landscapes of Mahé. Located around 800 metres from Anse Royale Beach, the property combines privacy, tranquillity and the comfort of a home away from home.

The accommodation includes Deluxe Rooms, Deluxe Suites and a Deluxe Apartment, all designed with spacious interiors and sea views. The apartment also features a fully equipped kitchenette and private pool access. An outdoor swimming

pool overlooking Anse Royale Bay, a fitness centre, bar and breakfast service complete the experience.

The property is particularly known for its personalised hospitality and spectacular panoramic views. Guests can also receive assistance with car rental, island excursions and planning their activities around Mahé.

With its hillside setting, peaceful atmosphere and sweeping views of the Indian Ocean, Ocean Terrace offers an intimate retreat for travellers looking to experience Mahé from above.





where to stay

in Mahe

Anse La Mouche Villas: Steps from the Sea

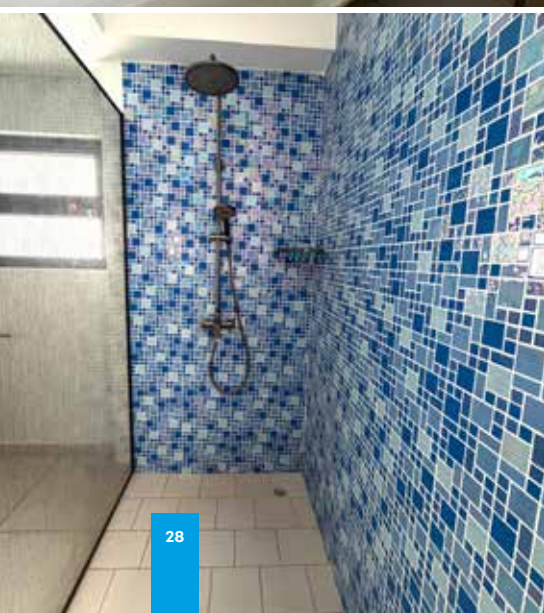
Nestled in the peaceful Anse La Mouche bay on the southwest coast of Mahé, Anse La Mouche Villas offers eight stylish self-catering apartments just around 100 metres from the beach. Recently renovated, the property combines modern interiors with the relaxed atmosphere of a small island residence.

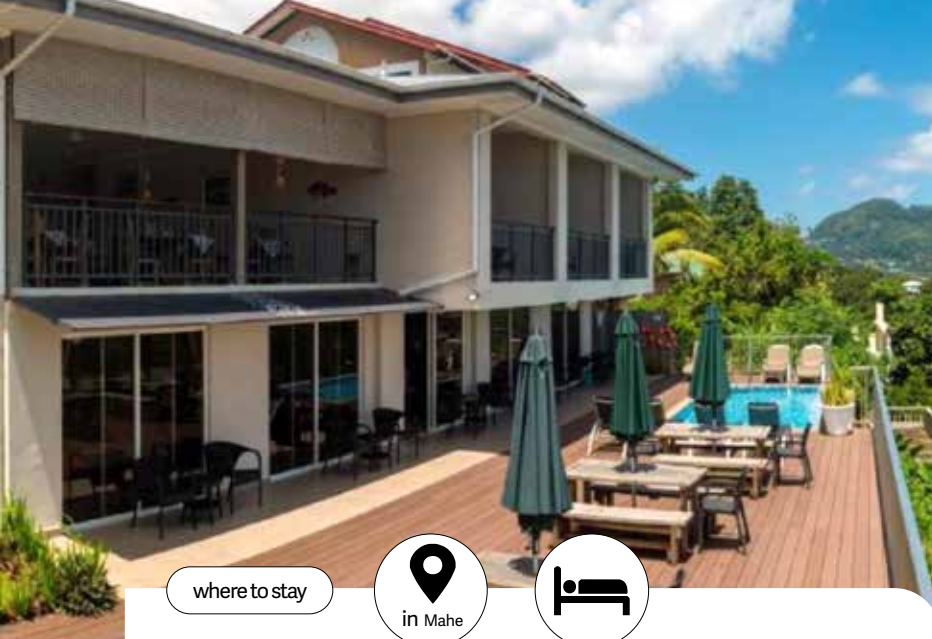
Each apartment is designed for independent stays, while a communal swimming pool and garden provide a relaxing space between beach outings. The calm, shallow waters of Anse La Mouche are ideal for swimming

and enjoying spectacular sunsets.

The location is particularly convenient, with restaurants, takeaways, grocery stores, a bus stop and other local services within walking distance. Several of Mahé's southern beaches can also be reached within a short drive.

With its intimate scale, contemporary design and proximity to the sea, Anse La Mouche Villas offers a simple and comfortable base for experiencing the quieter side of Mahé.





where to stay



The Ridge Residence: A View from Above

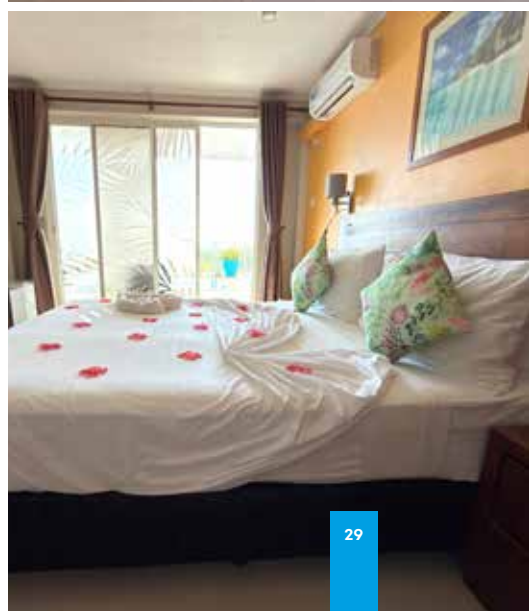
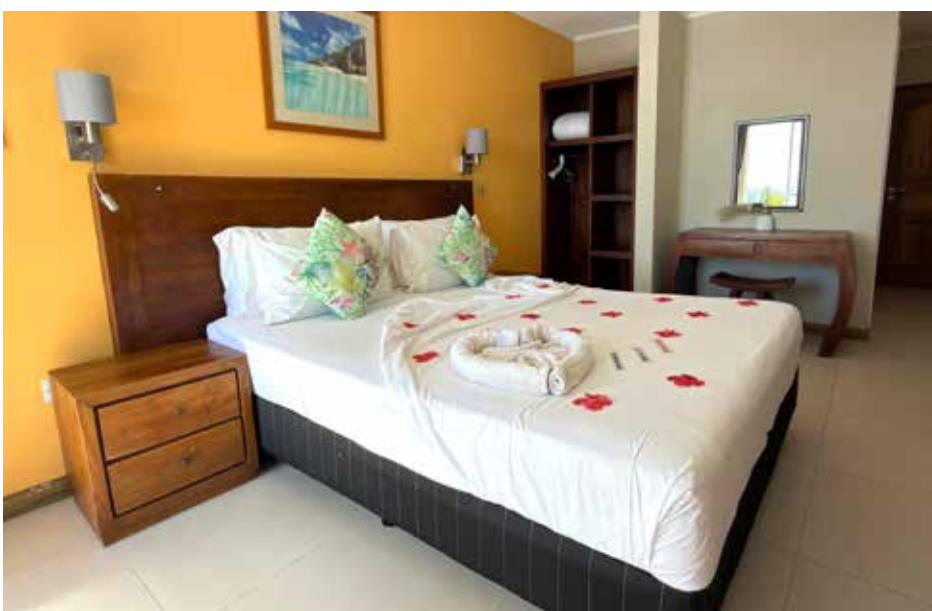
Set on a ridge in La Louise overlooking the eastern coast of Mahé, The Ridge Residence offers a peaceful guesthouse experience surrounded by greenery, with panoramic views towards the ocean. The property features 12 comfortable rooms, each equipped with air conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV and modern en-suite facilities.

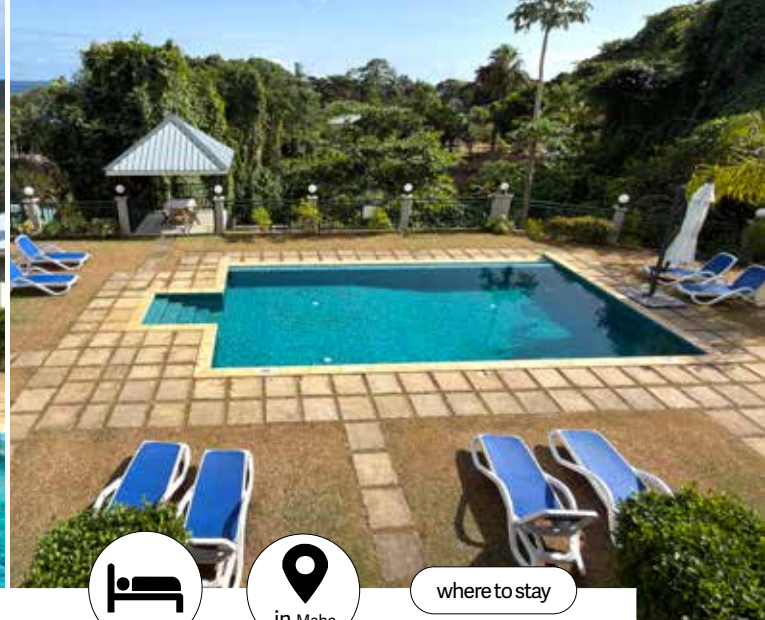
A communal infinity pool provides a relaxing spot to enjoy the surrounding views, while the on-site restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Shops and restaurants are within walking

distance, and the property is only around 10 minutes from Victoria and 15–20 minutes from Seychelles International Airport by car.

The Ridge Residence also offers daily housekeeping, laundry, airport transfers, car rental and excursions, making it a practical base for exploring Mahé.

With its elevated position, peaceful atmosphere and sweeping views, The Ridge Residence offers a comfortable retreat away from the bustle, yet within easy reach of Victoria and the island's main attractions.





where to stay

in Mahe

Bambous River Lodge: Between River and Sea

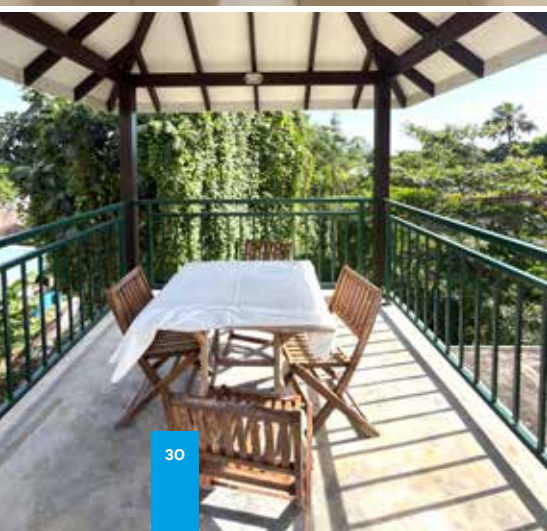
Set on the banks of the Bambous River in Bel Ombre, on the north coast of Mahé, Bambous River Lodge offers a peaceful stay surrounded by tropical greenery, with views towards the sea and Silhouette Island.

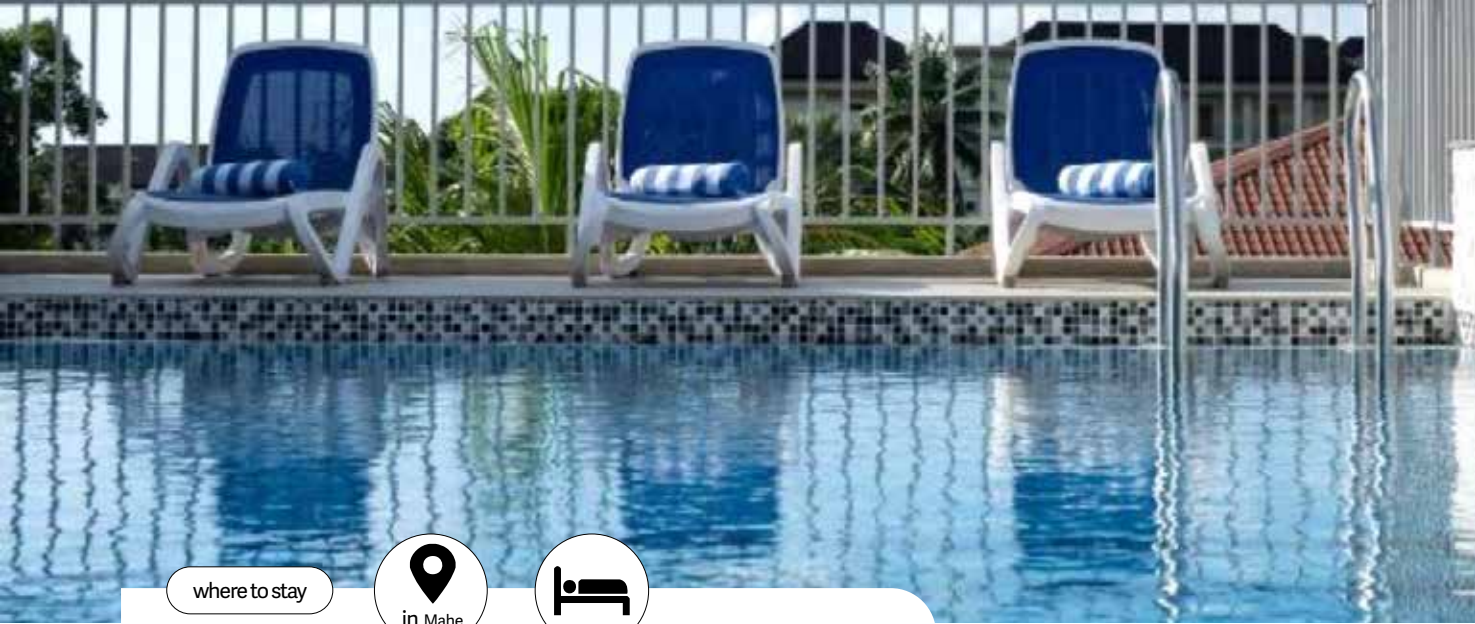
The property features seven spacious self-catering units: four one-bedroom studios, two two-bedroom apartments and a detached two-bedroom villa. All accommodation includes a fully equipped kitchen, living area and private veranda, making the lodge particularly suitable for

independent and longer stays.

A swimming pool, gazebo and barbecue area provide space to relax, while the lodge is close to Marie Laure Beach and within a few minutes' walk of the famous Beau Vallon Beach. Daily housekeeping, laundry facilities, airport transfers and car rental arrangements are also available.

With its combination of river, tropical surroundings, spacious apartments and easy access to Beau Vallon, Bambous River Lodge offers a relaxed base for discovering the northern side of Mahé.





where to stay



Voilà Beau Vallon: Creole Comfort by the Beach

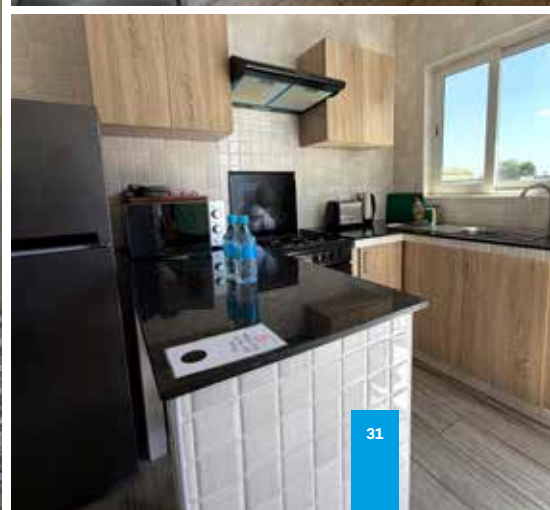
Located in the heart of Beau Vallon, Voilà Beau Vallon is a boutique-style aparthotel combining contemporary comfort with a relaxed Creole atmosphere. The property offers 16 Deluxe Rooms and one spacious two-bedroom suite, with private balconies or terraces and convenient kitchenettes.

One of its highlights is the rooftop swimming pool and sun terrace, offering a peaceful place to relax after a day exploring Mahé. The on-site restaurant

serves breakfast, while shops, bars and restaurants are all within easy walking distance.

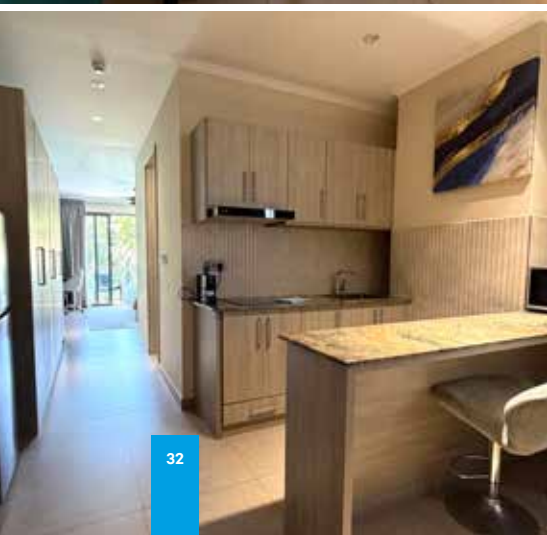
The famous Beau Vallon Beach is around a six-minute walk away, making the property particularly convenient for guests who want to combine beach time with easy access to local dining and island life.

With its spacious accommodation, rooftop pool and central location, Voilà Beau Vallon offers a comfortable base for experiencing one of Mahé's most vibrant coastal areas.





where to stay



Thalassa Seychelles: Modern Comfort in Beau Vallon

Located in Beau Vallon, Thalassa Seychelles is a modern apartment-style property that opened its doors in November 2023. Designed around spacious self-catering accommodation, it offers a comfortable and practical base for travellers wanting to stay close to one of Mahé's most popular beaches.

Beau Vallon Beach is just a five-to seven-minute walk away, while restaurants, bars and local services are also within easy reach. A supermarket and a multi-cuisine food outlet are conveniently located in the same building, adding to the

property's appeal for longer and independent stays.

The apartments feature fully equipped kitchens, living areas, balconies and air conditioning, while the property also provides free Wi-Fi, parking, airport transfers and a restaurant serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner.

With its new facilities, generous apartments and excellent location, Thalassa Seychelles offers a contemporary and convenient way to experience the vibrant Beau Vallon area.





L'Habitation Cerf Island: A Home, an Island and a Different Way of Life

Just ten minutes by boat from Mahé, Cerf Island offers a very different rhythm of life. Set within the Sainte Anne Marine Park, this small, lush island feels wonderfully removed from the world, yet remains close enough to Mahé to make it surprisingly accessible. There are fewer than 50 homes on the island and only a small number of places to stay, giving Cerf an intimate character that is increasingly difficult to find in the Seychelles.

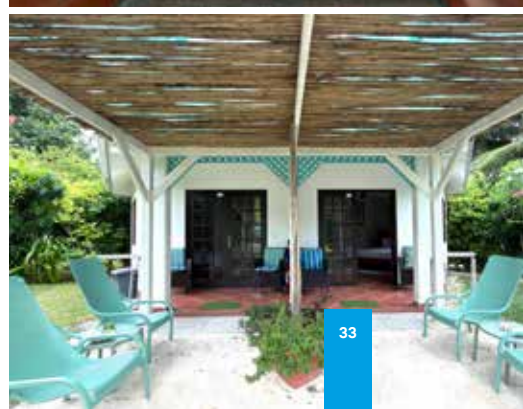
Among its small collection of accommodations is L'Habitation Cerf Island, a property whose story is closely connected to the island itself. After spending 16 years in the UK, Delta Horner and her husband decided to move to tiny Cerf Island with their young children. What began as their family home gradually evolved into a boutique hotel, welcoming its first guests in 2000.

That personal history remains part of the character of L'Habitation. Rather than feeling like a large, purpose-built resort, the property has the atmosphere of a lived-in island home. Its main building reflects the style of a traditional colonial plantation house, surrounded by tropical gardens and opening towards the sea. A swimming

pool, beachfront setting and relaxed restaurant complete the picture, while the proximity of the water and coral reefs makes the property a natural base for exploring the marine environment around Cerf.

Today, L'Habitation features 12 rooms, two suites and a family bungalow. The scale is deliberately intimate, allowing the experience to remain personal and unhurried. Days here are less about filling an itinerary and more about enjoying the simple pleasures of island life: a slow breakfast, time by the water, a swim, a boat trip or simply watching the changing colours of the Indian Ocean.

Cerf Island itself is part of what makes the stay distinctive. Accommodation remains limited compared with the larger islands of the Seychelles. Alongside L'Habitation, the island is home to Cerf Island Resort, with 24 private villas, while Fairy-Tern Chalets offers a much smaller, self-catering alternative. Together, they reflect the understated scale of tourism on Cerf, where the emphasis is on nature, privacy and proximity to the sea rather than large-scale resort development. There is also something liberating about the island's simplicity. Cerf has no paved roads, and movement between the island and Mahé is naturally shaped by the sea. The journey itself becomes part of the experience: leaving the main island behind, crossing the turquoise waters and arriving somewhere that feels distinctly quieter.





Seychelles at 50: A Journey Beyond Paradise

In 2026, Seychelles marked a milestone that goes far beyond a national anniversary. Fifty years after gaining independence on 29 June 1976, the island nation celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a series of events that brought together its history, culture, people and vision for the future.

Being in Seychelles during this special period offered an opportunity to experience the country beyond its familiar

image of beaches and turquoise waters. The 50th anniversary celebrations were as much about the Seychellois people and their identity as they were about commemorating five decades of independence.

The Jubilee programme brought together cultural events, exhibitions, local products, music, food and community activities. At the Jubilee Expo in Roche Caiman, visitors could discover the country's creative industries, agriculture, technology, local businesses and other sectors contributing to Seychelles today. The celebrations reflected a country that is small in size but increasingly confident in defining its own identity and future.

Local Food Fest: Seychelles on a Plate

If the Golden Jubilee celebrations offered a window into the history and identity of Seychelles, the Local Food Fest provided perhaps one of the most enjoyable ways to taste it. The four-day festival brought together Seychellois cuisine, local producers, hospitality businesses, musicians, craftsmen and the wider community. It was the biggest edition of the event to date and, for the first time, the festival was extended to four days.

The concept was simple but powerful: put local food at the centre of the celebration. Traditional

Creole dishes, street food, fresh island produce and locally crafted beverages created a lively setting where visitors could discover the flavours that have evolved from Seychelles' multicultural heritage.

Seychellois cuisine reflects the islands' history. African, French, Indian and other influences have come together over generations, while the surrounding ocean and tropical environment have naturally shaped the ingredients used in everyday cooking. Fish, seafood, spices, coconut, fruit and locally grown produce are all part of this culinary identity.

What made the festival





particularly interesting was that it was not presented simply as a food market. Food became a way of telling the story of Seychelles. Local businesses and tourism stakeholders came together with communities, while music, craftsmanship and cultural traditions added another dimension to the experience.

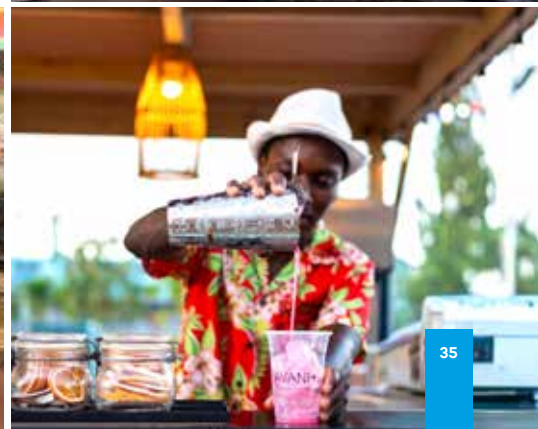
The setting at Roche Caiman also formed part of a wider Tourism Village created for the Jubilee celebrations, bringing together cuisine, crafts, music and local traditions. In this environment, visitors could



see how gastronomy connects naturally with tourism and cultural identity.

For Seychelles, initiatives such as Local Food Fest are also important because they create opportunities for local producers, restaurants, hotels and small businesses to participate directly in tourism. The experience becomes more authentic for visitors while a greater share of the tourism story is created and represented locally.

After spending time at the festival, one thing becomes clear: to understand Seychelles, it is worth stepping away from the beach for a while. A plate of Creole food, a local ingredient, a conversation with a producer or the sound of traditional music can reveal another side of the islands.





HH Farm: A Taste of Seychelles' Living Heritage

Seychelles is often associated with turquoise waters, white-sand beaches and lush tropical landscapes. Yet, some of the most authentic stories of the islands are found away from the coast, in places where local traditions are

still part of everyday life. HH Farm, in Val Dan d'Or on Mahé, is one of these special places.

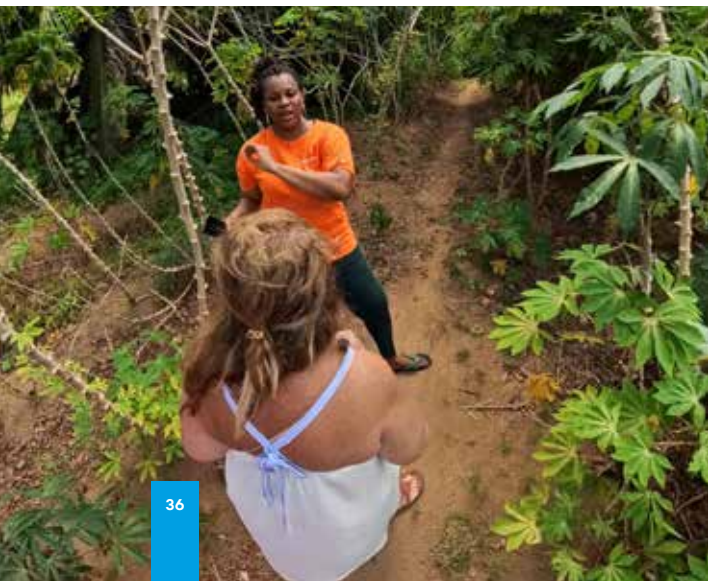
Our visit to the farm offered us the chance to discover one of Seychelles' most important traditional crops: cassava. More than simply an agricultural product, cassava has been part of Seychellois food culture since the 18th century. Introduced to the islands in the 1770s, it gradually became a staple

and was used in a variety of traditional dishes and products.

At HH Farm, this heritage is kept alive through traditional methods passed down through generations. The experience begins in the cassava fields, where we learned about the cultivation and harvesting of the root. The freshly harvested cassava is then carefully washed, peeled and grated. One of the most fascinating parts of

the process is removing its moisture: the grated cassava is placed in a coarse bag and pressed under a heavy stone, weighing around 50 kilograms, and left overnight. By the following morning, it has transformed into a coarse powder ready to be used in different local preparations.

But our visit was not simply about watching. We had the opportunity to get involved and experience the process ourselves, including making





cassava cake. Working with a humble ingredient and seeing how it is transformed into something so delicious offered a very different perspective on Seychellois cuisine. It was hands-on, simple and, most importantly, a lot of fun.

Cassava is remarkably versatile in Seychelles. It is traditionally used to make galet, a popular cassava biscuit, as well as koudpwen, magari, penpen and different types of cakes. At HH Farm, visitors can also experience the traditional preparation of galet and taste locally produced teas, jams and juices.

What makes HH Farm particularly meaningful is its commitment to keeping local food traditions alive while encouraging local production. The farm's work reflects a wider effort to preserve Seychellois agricultural heritage, reduce waste and make greater use of locally grown ingredients. Even the parts of the cassava left after grating can be used in traditional preparations such as magari, ensuring that very little goes to waste.

For me, the most memorable part of the experience was the connection between

the land, the people and the food. Making cassava cake was not simply a cooking activity; it was a way of stepping into a tradition that has been part of Seychelles for generations.

HH Farm reminds us that discovering a destination is not only about seeing its most beautiful landscapes. Sometimes, the most genuine taste of a country comes from getting your hands dirty, learning an old recipe and sharing food that carries a story.

And in Seychelles, that story begins with a simple cassava root.





Seyramics: Seychelles in Clay

In the north of Mahé, Seyramics turns the natural beauty of Seychelles into handcrafted ceramic art. Founded by Seychellois artist Zara Albert, the studio began in 2019, growing from a personal passion for pottery into a creative space now shared with her sister and another local artist.

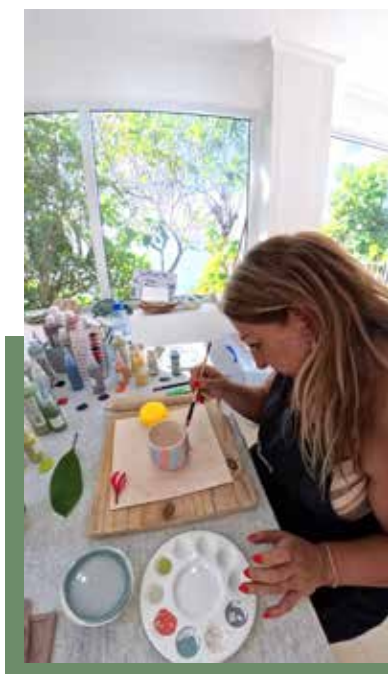
After receiving ceramic training in Singapore,

Zara developed a distinctive style inspired by the islands' flora, fauna and ocean. From tableware and sculptural pieces to porcelain jewellery, soap dispensers and tea-light holders, each creation combines functionality with a strong sense of place. The Sirene Collection, inspired by the movement of Seychelles' waves during the pandemic, is one example of how the islands continue to shape her work.

Seyramics has also collaborated with

hotels, including Mango House, producing 1,500 ceramic pieces for Ingrid Saurer cosmetic products in just four months.

Today, the studio is increasingly focused on workshops, offering visitors the chance to experience ceramics themselves. We joined one during our visit—and it was great fun. The best part? Waiting for the pieces to come out of the kiln and discovering, two days later, what our own little pieces of Seychelles had become.





Michael Adams: Painting the Spirit of Seychelles

Meeting Michael Adams, one of Seychelles' most celebrated artists, was one of the most memorable moments of my journey. For more than five decades, Adams has translated the colours, landscapes, people and everyday life of Seychelles into vibrant works of art, developing a distinctive style that has become closely associated with the islands.

Born in Malaysia, Adams studied art in England before travelling extensively and eventually settling in Seychelles in 1972. Together with his wife Heather, he established his home and studio in the south of Mahé, where the natural beauty and Creole character of the islands became the main

inspiration for his work.

Through his colourful watercolours, paintings and silkscreen prints, Adams has created a visual record of Seychelles that goes far beyond traditional landscape painting. His work captures the atmosphere and personality of the islands, from lush tropical vegetation and turquoise waters to local people and everyday scenes.

What made meeting him particularly special for me was discovering his long-standing connection with Türkiye. Years ago, Adams created commissioned works for Robinson Club Hotels in Turkey, adding an unexpected and very personal link between his artistic journey and my own country. Learning that an artist whose work has become so strongly identified with Seychelles had also travelled through and portrayed aspects of Türkiye made our meeting even more meaningful.

In recognition of his contribution to the arts in Seychelles, Adams was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2001. Today, his work continues to be exhibited and collected internationally.

Michael's artistic legacy is also carried forward by his two children, Tristan and Alyssa Adams. Both were born in Seychelles, studied in England and are now artists living and working in Seychelles. They continue to create in the family's botanical garden and exhibit their watercolours, prints and other works at the Michael Adams Gallery, which is located in the family home.

For me, meeting Michael Adams was much more than meeting a renowned artist. It was a chance to discover the story behind the colours and images that have helped define the visual soul of Seychelles and to find, unexpectedly, a beautiful connection with Türkiye. It was truly an honour.

