



# essential MAURITIUS

Located in the Indian Ocean, 3,000 kms off the east African coast and 330 kms from its nearest neighbour Madagascar. Mauritius boasts 160 km of beautiful coastline surrounded by coral reefs. Inland, thickly wooded volcanic mountain peaks rise to over 800 metres and form a dramatic contrast to the glorious white sandy beaches.

The capital city of Port Louis is situated on the north-western coast of the island. A kaleidoscope of colours, activity, sights, smells and sound; a lively market specialises in hand embroidered linens, stunning Indian fabrics, souvenirs and spices. Drive to the top of La Citadelle and admire the views including the oldest race course in the southern hemisphere.

**Brief history:** Originally discovered by the Arabs in 975AD who left no evidence of their presence. In 1507 the Portuguese rediscovered Mauritius but the island remained uninhabited until the Dutch landed in 1598 and named the island, Mauritius. Attempts to colonise the island failed but sadly, the dodo was hunted to extinction in the process. The French arrived in 1715 and for many years assisted pirates and bounty hunters plunder British ships travelling to and from the eastern spice and silk markets. The British finally gained control of the island in 1810 until 1968, when Mauritius was granted independence. Today Mauritius has little unemployment and a thriving economy, based mainly on sugar, tourism and textiles.

**Climate/when to go:** Mauritius provides an all year-round meetings and incentive destination. The seasons can be divided into the hot/high season from December to April and a cooler/dry season from May until November. Coastal air temperatures range between 22°C in winter and 31°C in summer.

**Population/language/currency:** The population numbers just over 1 million; consisting of Hindus, Muslims, Chinese, Creoles and Europeans. English is the official language. French is widely spoken along with Hindi, Creole and Oriental languages. Currency is the Mauritian rupee.

**Passports/visas/health:** A valid passport plus a return air ticket is required for all visitors to Mauritius. There are no visa or vaccination requirements for UK citizens. There are no endemic diseases in the country and no poisonous insects or dangerous animals.

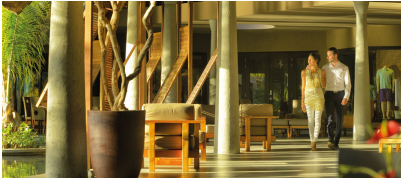
**Time zone:** Mauritius is 4 hours ahead of GMT.

**Flight access:** Mauritius is served by Air Mauritius and British Airways for direct flights from the UK. The average flight time from the UK is 12 hours. Mauritius has good flight access from all European hubs, particularly with Emirates via Dubai.

**Hotel transfer times:** Road transfer to all from the SSR International Airport is one hour to the hotels in the north-west; 45 minutes to those in the south-wets and ten minutes to the Shandrani in the south.



Population:	1,300,000
Area:	1,865 km <sup>2</sup> (65 km by 48 km)
Position:	20° South, 57° East
Capital city:	Port Louis
Languages:	French, English, Creole
Currency:	Mauritian rupee
National day:	12 <sup>th</sup> of March
Republic since:	1992



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## Mauritius with Hosmarkhotels

**Hosmarkhotels represent 8 fabulous Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels on the island, all suited for meetings and incentives.**

**Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury – 5\* deluxe**  
Exclusive 69 suite iconic resort in Grand Baie, suitable for small groups only

**Trou aux Biches Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa – 5\***  
306 suites and 27 villas in a tropical garden oasis close to Grand Baie.

**Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa – 5\***  
280 rooms located in the stunning La Morne peninsula in the south-west.

**Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa – 5\***  
Adjacent to Paradis and offering 178 suites and villas.

**Shandrani Beachcomber Resort & Spa 5\***  
Superb 327 room all-inclusive resort in the unspoilt south of the island.

**Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa – 4\* deluxe**  
Spacious 254 room resort in the north-west close to Grand Baie.

**Le Canonier Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa – 4\***  
Unique peninsula location in the north-west offering 284 rooms.

**Mauricia Beachcomber Resort & Spa – 4\***  
Lively resort in the heart of Grand Baie with 226 rooms.

*A ninth 4 star hotel will open in the Black River area in 2020*

## Top Essential things to do

**Grand Baie:** on the north-west coast – a vibrant village of small art galleries, clothing boutiques; souvenir shops; bars; clubs and restaurants.

**Pamplemousses Royal Botanical Garden:** 15 mins drive from Port Louis - rare indigenous flora and endangered species of giant Aldabra tortoises.

**Black River Gorges National Park:** excellent nature rambles and magnificent scenery.

**Domaine les Pailles:** a gracious estate, 10 mins drive south of Port Louis; ideal for nature lovers, gamblers, gourmets and horse-riders alike.

**Domaine de Chasseur:** a private nature reserve in the heart of Nouvelle France with spectacular views down to the sea. Wild boar, hare, Guinea fowl and monkeys abound.

**Eureka House:** a beautifully restored Creole-style house in Moka.

**Mahebourg:** the former capital of the island has an unspoilt, rural atmosphere. The Naval Museum houses relics from shipwrecks and battles. Craft market.

**Triolet Shivala Hindu Temple:** largest Hindu Temple on the island, built in 1819.

**Horse racing at Port Louis:** experience the thrills on the oldest racecourse in the southern hemisphere – seasonal.

**Quatre Bones:** clothes and textile market

**Casala Wildlife Park:** zip lining & quad biking

## Popular group activities

- Water sports – from luxury catamarans to deep sea fishing and diving
- Exploring the island with fun rallies on land via mini-mokes or on the ocean via catamaran
- Mountain climbing and exploring under the ocean with sub scooters
- Activities in the interior - quad biking, zip cabling
- Golf, horse riding, sailing, sea-carting

- Mauritius Wild Life Trust activities
- Visits to sugar museums and rum distilleries

## DMC recommendations

Mautourco; Connections; Emotions & SummerTimes

## F & B tips/info

Most popular theme dining events:

- Classic white night evening of elegance
- Bollywood at its best Indian evening
- Mauritian fishing village with Segha dancing
- Out of Africa welcome to the jungle experience
- Beach barbecues showcasing the variety of island cuisine – African, Indian, Creole and French
- Pirates in the Indian Ocean evening

Local delicacies you must try:

- Gateaux piments – chilli bites
- Dhol Purri – wheat pancakes served with curry and tomato sauce
- Smoked marlin
- Palm heart salad

## Souvenirs/shopping

- Hand embroidered linens and Indian fabrics
- Clothing – leading high street brands are sold at competitive prices
- Model sail boats and jewellery
- Sugar products including local rum; vanilla & spices
- Mauritian re-cycled glass products

Group Enquiries: Contact Lesley, Nicole and Vikki on 44 (0) 845 475 8781 or [groups@hosmark.com](mailto:groups@hosmark.com)  
*Exceptional hotels for outstanding events* [www.hosmarkhotels.com](http://www.hosmarkhotels.com)

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the hotel representation company

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