



Seychelles Sailing Adventure

Isolated in the Indian Ocean and the only mid-ocean islands of granite formation to be found on earth, the Seychelles archipelago is often mentioned in the same breath as the lost Garden of Eden.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

9 days/8 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Beau Vallon, Mahe

On arrival you will make your way to the hotel today for check in. The day is free for you to explore arguably the island's most famous and popular beach, enjoy great sunset views and dine in one of the many local restaurants. As there is no tour leader on this trip, joining information for embarkation the following day will be explained in a letter (provided to you prior departure or upon check in at the start hotel). If you wish to extend your trip and add extra nights in Mahe (pre and post trip), we can arrange this for you - please contact us for further information and prices.

Day 2: Embark in Victoria

This morning we transfer (approx. 20 mins) from the hotel in Beau Vallon to the Inter-Island Quay in Victoria for embarkation, usually scheduled at 10:30am. After a welcome briefing by the captain and some free time to familiarise ourselves with the boat and its facilities, we sail from Mahé to Round Island, just off the island of Praslin, the second

largest of the inner islands. There will be time for swimming and snorkelling in the afternoon and in the evening we enjoy an introduction to the flavoursome Creole cuisine with a welcome barbecue dinner on board.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 3: Praslin - Vallee de Mai Nature Reserve

This morning we sail towards Praslin, Seychelles' second-largest inhabited island, and disembark at Anse Possession for a visit to the Vallee de Mai Nature Reserve, one of Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Here we enjoy a guided walking tour this forest's eerie pathways beneath its massive canopy, which is home to all six of Seychelles' endemic palms and all four of the endemic screwpines. This ancient forest is also home to the famous Coco de Mer palm with its large, curiously shaped nut (the world's largest seed), which served as the inspiration for General Gordon

of Khartoum to declare he had found the biblical Garden of Eden when he visited Praslin in 1881. Although sightings are rare, these valleys are also inhabited by the endemic Black Parrot, unique to Praslin. After this visit we return on board

for afternoon opportunities to dive, snorkel or enjoy other water sports around the island's breathtaking coastline and reefs.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 4: Digue - Anse Source d'Argent

A morning sail brings the vessel to La Digue, a sleepy community where ox-carts and bicycles still remain the most common mode of transportation throughout the island. Although guided excursions and walks in the island can be arranged on request, it is easy to explore the entire island by bicycle independently. Must-see places include Union Estate, a sprawling network of traditional island activities, including a copra mill, vanilla plantation, shipyard and



Anse Source d'Argent, which is thought to be the most photographed beach on earth for its massive granite boulder formations. East of the island you will also find the Veuve Reserve with its takamaka and Indian almond trees, in which the black Seychelles paradise flycatcher, endemic to La Digue, feeds and nests. Those feeling energetic may also opt for a coastal ride towards the north-west side of La Digue. In the afternoon we return on board for some relaxation,

snorkelling and our evening dinner.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 5: Grande Soeur – Petite Soeur – Coco Island

In the morning the vessel sails north of La Digue towards Grande Soeur and Petite Soeur (the Sisters), two completely uninhabited tropical islands covered by lush vegetation and surrounded by well-preserved coral reefs. The beach situated on the west side of Grande Soeur is, for many people, the most beautiful beach in the Seychelles.

Marine life is exceptionally abundant on the coral reef stretching in front of it: sea turtles resting serenely under the surface, hundreds of tropical fish and, and even small white-tip sharks swimming along the seabed. This is the perfect spot to

enjoy some snorkelling or optional diving and enjoy some close encounters with several species of butterfly fish and surgeon fish (often seen in large schools grazing on the coral beds), puffer fish, parrot fish and angel fish. In the afternoon we head to Coco Island, one of Seychelles' tiny granite jewels bathed by crystal-clear waters to enjoy more snorkelling amid turtles and hundreds of fish above a wealth of coral.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 6: Aride Island Nature Reserve

This morning we sail to Aride Island, the northern most island of the granitic Seychelles hosting one of the most important seabird populations in the Indian Ocean with more breeding species than any other island in Seychelles. Eighteen species of native birds (including five only found in Seychelles) breed on Aride making it one of the world's most important nature reserves. The only human inhabitants are the reserve's staff and no other island is so pristine or uncrowded and yet remains accessible to visitors. On the island we enjoy a nature walk guided by the resident ranger to explore the unique flora and fauna of this place. The trail also leads to a spectacular cliff-top view with the largest frigate bird roost outside of Aldabra. In the afternoon we will sail to Booby Island for some snorkelling and optional diving.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 7: Curieuse

In the morning disembark at Curieuse for a visit of this virtually uninhabited island. From 1833 until the mid 20th century, Curieuse was home to a quarantine station for lepers. Today, only a few old ruins and the doctor house, a French colonial building that dates back to 1870, are left. From Baie Lazare, a 2km elevated boardwalk trail leads over to Anse St. José. Along the way you can observe an expansive mangrove and local fauna including sea snails, geckos, skinks, cardisoma crabs and mudskippers. Unfortunately, in the 1970s large sections of the original forests were

eliminated by fire but since then, massive efforts have taken place to restore the ecological balance of the island. The island's top attractions are without doubt the freely-roaming giant tortoises, which have been relocated from Aldabra

after becoming extinct on this island during the French colonisation in the 18th Century. We enjoy a BBQ lunch on the beach and spend the afternoon snorkelling in turquoise waters, home to a rich array of protected marine life, or simply relaxing on the island's beautiful beach.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 8: Ile Seche – Mahe

After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely sail back towards Mahé, with a last stop at Ile Seche, Just outside of the St Anne National Park, for an opportunity to snorkel or dive in this nationally protected marine park with crystal clear waters and an abundance of marine life. Big groups of snappers, fusiliers as well as bump head parrot fish (up to 20 in one

group), jack fish, white tip reef sharks can usually be spotted. In the evening we enjoy a farewell barbecue before the vessel sails into Port Victoria for an overnight stay.

Meals included: breakfast / lunch / dinner

Day 9: Disembark Mahe – Victoria Botanical Gardens

This morning we disembark in Mahe and end our trip with a visit to Victoria, one of the world's smallest capital cities. With around 25,000 inhabitants, Victoria is still the largest settlement in the Seychelles, and its only city. Its foundation harks back to the French settler period in 1778, before it was later given its name by the British, after Queen Victoria. Victoria has two main centres, one of which revolves around the Clock Tower, a replica of the clock tower at Vauxhall Bridge in London. We include a short visit to its bustling and colourful market, which is particularly lively on a

Saturday morning, with stalls selling fish, spices, and exotic fruits for sale. After lunch we will visit the National Botanical Gardens, where we can get an overview of the different Seychelles flora species, some of which we



would have seen earlier this week on the islands. Some of the beautiful sights on offer include breadfruit, papaya, and nutmeg trees, Indian tamarind, exotic plants and a comprehensive orchid garden with more than 150 different species. Meals included: breakfast

Details

Group Size: Maximum 16

2018 Departures:

February: 23
March: 09, 30
April: 20

2018 Pricing:

CA\$4,555 – twin
CA\$6,075 – single

Prices are shown in CA\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin room or one person in a single room.

Trip Code:

009390 - W20

INCLUDED

- All transportation and listed activities
- 1 night of hotel accommodation and on-board during the cruise
- Services of the crew on-board the ship
- All meals on the ship
- Equipment for snorkelling, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare to Mahe and return
- Meals and drinks not indicated in inclusions
- Optional scuba diving tour and rental of equipment
- Conservation fee of EUR182 payable in cash on arrival (covers landing and entrance fees to nature reserves and national marine parks)
- Travel insurance
- Visas and/or vaccinations, as required
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR NOTES

Island-hopping adventure in one of world's most beautiful archipelagos. Isolated in the Indian Ocean and the only mid-ocean islands of granite formation to be found on earth, the Seychelles archipelago is often mentioned in the same breath as the lost Garden of Eden. Green-covered atolls lapped by warm crystal-clear waters, with pristine beaches, rare flora and fauna that have been cocooned in isolation for millions of years make up a surprisingly diverse destination of striking natural beauty. On this trip we sail aboard a traditional schooner exploring Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, the Seychelles' main islands, but also venture to the smaller satellite uninhabited isles. Each day on board presents a new opportunity to explore isolated bays and coves, protected nature reserves and to snorkel or dive in colourful protected marine parks. Spotting incredibly rare endemic birds, visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Vallée de Mai, or getting up close and personal with a giant tortoise, are just a few of the many special experiences that await on this ultimate tropical islands escapade.

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



The Great Canadian Travel Group Inc.

greatcanadiantravel.com
TOLL FREE 1 800 661.3830



Contact

Winnipeg

164 Marion Street
Winnipeg, MB, Canada
R2H 0T4
Phone: 204.949.0199
Fax: 204.949.0188
Toll Free: 800.661.3830

Edmonton

(formerly Butte Travel Service)
11733 95th St. NW
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T5G 1M1
Phone: 780.477.3561
Fax: 780.477.9871
Toll Free: 800.661.8906



©The Great Canadian Travel Group Ltd.

Prices listed on our website are stated in Canadian Dollars unless otherwise indicated. Tour details, inclusions and prices were valid at the time of publication but are subject to change without notice due to currency fluctuations, tax increases and at the discretion of the supplier(s). Current prices will be re-quoted for you at the time of booking. By air, land or sea, we can take you anywhere – contact us for your quote today!