

# WE-CHAT

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MORE ISLAND

## THE ISLAND OF

# Perpetual Summer

Set against the soothing blue of the Indian Ocean and with only granite boulders or the occasional cluster of palm trees breaking the long runs of powder-soft beaches, the islands of the Seychelles Archipelago are hard to beat as a beach holiday destination. And it's not just the postcard-perfect beaches that sit among the world's finest; with a scattering of award-winning resorts and super-stylish villas, a Seychelles holiday affords you the chance to live out your tropical island fantasy in pure, world-class luxury. Imagine waking up in your magnificent suite and contemplating the day ahead: breakfast served on your private sundeck, a stroll along the beach, a massage at the spa, and then head off for some snorkelling or diving - the chances are you won't even have to swim far as most of the islands are ringed by shallow reefs, so in a couple of fin flicks you'll be surrounded by clouds of colourful fish and possibly a turtle or two. And to finish off the day, what better than sunset cocktails and dinner at the ocean's edge.



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In Seychelles, you can relax by the pool, sip on cocktails and be pampered all day, but there are many other adventures to enjoy outside the resorts:

**Praslin Island.** Praslin is home to fantastic beaches (ranked amongst the world's best) and intimate hotels and resorts. Soak up the sun in style while you keep a sun-glassed eye out for the very rare bird species that dwell on Praslin, including the Seychelles bulbul and the black parrot. Praslin National Park in the island's south contains the spectacular palm forest of Vallée de Mai. Divers will love the ancient coral reefs off Praslin's shores.

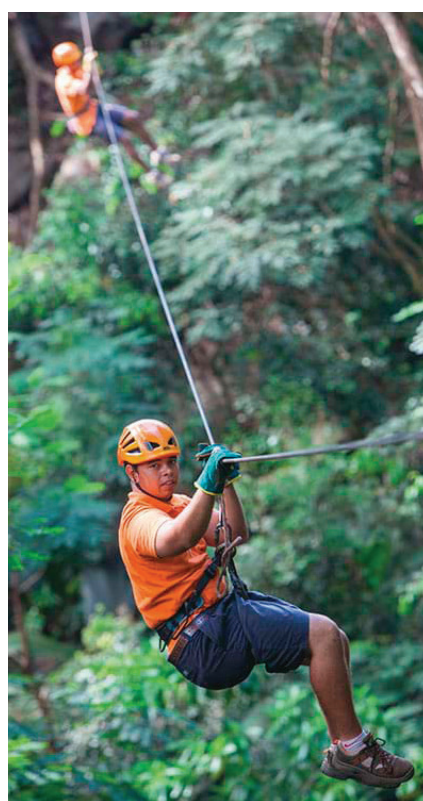
### Scuba dive and discover the local marine life.

Perhaps one of the most alluring characteristics of the Seychelles is the clear turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean which surround the islands. The stunning topography of expansive reefs, walls, pinnacles, drop offs, wrecks and canyons make for one of the most diverse marine environments around, teaming with both fish and coral life.

**Port Glaud Waterfall.** Port Glaud is home to one of the best snorkelling sites in the Seychelles, but what you won't see from the road is the waterfall. When you reach the waterfall, you'll be rewarded with a stunning view and cool water to swim in. The waterfall pool is surrounded by large granitic boulders, which are a great place to stop and take a rest, have a picnic or just take in the great view.

**Vallée de Mai.** A visit to the Vallée de Mai makes it easy to see why Praslin was originally thought to be the real garden of Eden. A pristine natural rainforest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it really is one not to miss. The Vallée de Mai is famous for the Coco De Mer, the world's largest nut. Once thought to have grown in an underwater forest (hence the name), their old botanical moniker is Lodoicea callipyge, with the callipyge being Greek for 'beautiful rump'. That sums up their appearance perfectly! The Vallée de Mai is also home to the Black Parrot and many other indigenous species.

**The Eagle's Nest.** If you're looking for that perfect picture, then consider a hike up Eagle's Nest Mountain, the highest point on La Digue, at 333m above sea level. The best time to head up is the early evening, so you can watch the captivating sunsets on view. There's also a small restaurant up there that serves simple but fresh, delicious Creole food. Visit La Digue's coconut plantation Visitors to L'Union estate, one part of the Seychelles where coconut production is sustainable and managed, will see an ox-powered oil extraction machine, the cemetery of the original settlers.



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