

SEYCHELLES 2024/2025

SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE

Prices valid Nov.1st 2024 until October 31st,
2025





DAY 2

CURIEUSE

CURIEUSE

- Escorted walking tour, duration approximately 1,5hrs
Zodiac to shore: wet landing
- Landing, conservation and visiting fees are included in our cruise fare

Lying about one mile to the north-east of Praslin, this island of **about 2 miles long** was first given the name **Ile Rouge** on account of its **red earth**. As part of the Marine Park the island is strictly protected and only a few families live there. Like Praslin, **Curieuse** is home to the **Coco-de-Mer palm**. The island has a wild population of about **250 Giant Tortoises**, brought over from Aldabra in the 1980s and a breeding scheme has been in place there for several years. Curieuse was once a **leper colony**, and the ruins of the houses can still be seen. There is also a large, restored **colonial villa**, known as the **Doctor's House**, where the island doctor lived in the 1870s. Nature trails wind their way across the island, notably through the extensive swamps, home to **eight different species of mangrove**.

Please Note: Tour involves a moderate amount of physical activity such as walking over an uneven surface, climbing stairs or steep terrain. Not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Much of the tour is on foot; comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Temperature or humidity can be high, take sun block protection, hat, **repellent**, sunglasses and water with you. Guests who cannot join the walking tour can be transferred by zodiac to our beach and barbecue area until met with the rest of the group.



DAY 3

COUSIN, ANSE LAZIO

COUSIN

- Escorted walking tour by a local ranger, duration approximately 1,5hrs
Zodiac to shore by the local rangers: wet landing
- Landing, conservation and visiting fees are included in our cruise fare

Cousin Island is a granitic island covering **27 hectares** and lies approximately 2km from Praslin Island. It became the **world's first internationally owned-reserve** when it was purchased in 1968 by the **International Council for the Protection of Birds (ICBP)**, now Birdlife International. The objective was to save the last remaining population of the Seychelles warblers.

First made into a Nature Reserve in 1968 it was afforded further protection when it was designated a Special Reserve in 1974. It is not only significant **for sea birds** and **endemic land birds** but is also the most important **breeding site for Hawksbill turtles** in the Western Indian Ocean. The reserve is managed solely by local staff and benefits local communities on the neighboring Praslin Island through eco-tourism. Today, Cousin is managed by Nature Seychelles. Conservation activities include monitoring of the island's biodiversity, research, re-introduction of endangered species such as the **Seychelles Magpie Robin**.

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DAY 4

ARIDE – ST PIERRE - PRASLIN

ARIDE

- Escorted walking tour by a local ranger, duration approximately 1,5hrs
- Zodiac by local rangers to shore: wet landing
- Landing, conservation and visiting fees are included in our cruise fare

A visit to **Aride** Island is an essential part of the itinerary for any visitor to Seychelles to discover **what the islands were like 250 years ago** before human settlement. Aride hosts 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. The island is managed as a nature reserve by the Island Conservation Society of Seychelles and the only human inhabitants are the reserve's staff, including the Island Manager, Conservation Officer and rangers. Aride Island hosts thousands of breeding seabirds each year, especially during the southeast monsoon and land birds that breed year round. Aride is also an island where **native plants** find fertile soil for growth. Because of this, it plays a very important role in the conservation of Seychelles wildlife both terrestrial and marine (with a 200m of protected area from the coastline).

Please Note: The escorted tour is easy to moderate. Much of the tour is on foot; comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Temperature or humidity can be high, take sun block protection, hat, **repellent**, sunglasses and water with you.

Aride is often closed for a visit during the South East Trade winds (May to September as an average), it may also close at short notice during strong surf or during various bird nesting seasons.



DAY 5

PRASLIN – FELICITE

PRASLIN

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours
- Includes: Private Bus/ licensed local Guide/Entry fee/refreshment
- **Per Person: Euro 95**

The tour combines **Praslin's World Heritage Site**, the **Vallee De Mai Nature Reserve**, and **Cote D' Or Beach**, one of the most beautiful beaches in the Seychelles, if not the world. Discover the original **Garden of Eden** -the Vallee De Mai -home of the **unique coco de mer** (double coconut), bearing the largest nut in the plant kingdom. The rare **Black Parrot** also haunts the Reserve feeding on the abundant fruit. This World Heritage Site is a magical forest, thick with wild tropical vegetation, and many species of rare, endemic palms. Refreshments are served at Cote D' Or Beach where time is allocated for swimming, relaxing or simply strolling on the beach.

Please Note: The tour is easy to moderate. A part of the tour is on foot; comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Temperature or humidity can be high, take sun block protection, hat, **repellent**, sunglasses and water with you. The tour includes time at the beach, take your swimsuit, flip flops and a towel.



DAY 6

LA DIGUE

LA DIGUE

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Including: Drive on camionette exclusively for our guests/a licensed local Guide/Entry fee
- **Per Person: Euro 74**

Experience the **Old World beauty and charm of the Seychelles** during an orientation tour of the **picturesque La Digue**, one of the prettiest islands in the Seychelles. On our scenic drive from La Passe Harbor to L' Union Estate you will daily life to be punctuated by ox carts and a relaxed pace. Upon arrival at **L' Union Estate** you will see its old **Creole house** and **coconut factory**: a reminder of how life was on the island many years ago. We continue to **La Digue's famous beaches**, which are considered to be amongst the finest in the world, especially **Anse Source d' Argent**, a bather's paradise and photographer's dream. For centuries, the soft white sands and dramatic granite boulders have enchanted visitors to the island. Along the way you may catch a glimpse of **La Digue's paradise flycatcher**, a bird with a distinctive black plumage.

Please Note: The tour is easy to moderate. A part of the tour is on foot; comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Temperature or humidity can be high, take sun block protection, hat, **repellent**, sunglasses and water with you. The tour includes time at the beach, take your swimsuit, flip flops and a towel.



DAY 7

MOYENNE

MOYENNE

- Escorted walking tour, duration approximately 1,15 hrs
Zodiac to shore: wet landing
- Landing, conservation and visiting fees are included in our cruise fare

Brendon Grimshaw purchased the island for £10,000 in 1962 and set about making the island habitable. He did this with the help of one other man, Rene Antoine Lafortune. They operated the island as a nature reserve, roam the island, dine at the "Jolly Roger" restaurant and relax on the beach. Grimshaw and his friend planted sixteen thousand trees, built 4.8 kilometers of nature paths, brought and bred giant tortoises, creating an island of incredible beauty now worth 34 million Euros. There were rumors that pirate treasure is buried on the island. Grimshaw made two major digs and found some evidence of man-made hiding places, but no gold or other treasure has been found as of yet.

After 20 years of persistence, Grimshaw and his assistant Lafortune achieved their goal of making Moyenne Island a National Park in its own right, separate to that of the Ste. Anne marine park. Now known as the Moyenne Island National Park, it harbors more species per square foot than any other part of the world.

Grimshaw died in Victoria, Mahe, in July 2012 and is buried on the island.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Our curated tours are prearranged, therefore **we kindly ask you to pre-book your tours marked with “prebooking required” at least 10 days before your cruise.** No prepayment is required, but please note that pre-bookings will be binding. Prices are valid for a minimum of 14 guests; for smaller groups, a 10% surcharge may occur depending on the tour. Cancellation fees apply for cancellations received less than 48hrs before each tour.

REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety small groups and are led by licensed local guides. Operation and prices require a minimum of 8-10 guests as per tour .

Aride island is often closed by local authorities at short notice during strong surf, is closed during Southeast Trade winds, and during various bird nesting seasons (from May to September as a guideline). During this time, weather permitting, Variety Cruises Captain will be calling at equally beautiful locales, visiting Cote D’Or or Anse Georgette as per weather conditions.

Most tours are quite active and require good physical condition. We recommend comfortable shoes, sun tan lotion, repellent, a hat and water. Protect your valuables from getting wet during zodiac rides.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

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