



North Island Full Day Excursions

North Island | Full Day Excursions

Valid until 22 December 2015

€ 3 500 (Euros) per excursion

Explore Praslin

Explore pirate history and the pristine forests of the Vallée de Mai (World Heritage Site)

Discover La Digue

A slice of laid-back island life: bicycles and postcard-perfect beaches

A Day on Mahé

Colourful markets and Creole culture

Big Game Fishing

Fish the drop-off for wahoo, sailfish and tuna

Advanced Wreck Diving

Dive wrecks which have undergone a sea-change to become havens for marine life

Beginners' Diving at Praslin

The perfect place to complete your PADI open water dive course

Golf

Play 18-holes on Praslin's unique PGA-approved coastal course

Cousin and Aride (Monday to Friday only)

Small rocky islands which are home to huge colonies of roosting and nesting seabirds

explore praslin



A full-day excursion to explore Praslin, the second-largest island in Seychelles. An island with a long pirate and spice trade history, as well as exceptional natural riches. The Vallée de Mai is an ecological site of such importance that it has been given UNESCO World Heritage Site status and its pristine native forest was once thought to be the biblical Garden of Eden. Leafy trails wind through the unspoilt tropical forest, giving you the chance to spot rare indigenous birds such as the Seychelles bulbul and black parrot, as well as encounter the semi-legendary coco de mer tree. There is no better spot for lunch than the stunning Anse Lazio beach, with its tranquil lagoon that is perfect for swimming and snorkelling. Other attractions on Praslin include art galleries, a black pearl breeding centre and fragrant vanilla orchards.

The day ends with a leisurely sunset cruise back to North Island in time for dinner. The day can be customised to your specific wishes with a number of choices of lunchtime restaurants and other activities. Sailing time from North Island to Praslin is around 1hr 30 mins each way.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 08:00** Depart North Island for Praslin (1 hr 30 mins boat ride)
Breakfast served on board
- 09:30** Arrive at Praslin jetty
Depart via taxi/Masons to Vallée de Mai National Park (15 mins)
- 09:45** Arrive Vallée de Mai National Park
Commence guided walk / self-guided walk (1 – 2 hours)
- 12:00** Depart Vallée de Mai to Anse Lazio (30 mins)
- 12:30** Lunch at one of the three restaurants at Anse Lazio (North Island recommends Bonbon Plume)
- 14:00** Options for the afternoon (at your discretion) include one or more of the following:
- Swimming, snorkelling and sunbathing on Anse Lazio
 - Anse Volbare (Côte d'Or) excursion to visit art galleries and/or a traditional medicine garden
 - Visit Black Pearl Ltd to learn about cultivation and/or to purchase black pearls
 - Coastal drive to St Marie's Point Belvoir
- 17:00** Depart Praslin for North Island
Sunset drinks and snacks on board as required
- 18:30** Arrive back at North Island

discover la digue



The fourth-largest island in Seychelles, La Digue marches to a delightfully different drumbeat. This laid-back spot only recently saw the first motor vehicles arrive – most people still get around its narrow lanes and tracks by bicycle. First occupied in 1798 by early French settlers, you could be forgiven for thinking that not much has changed in the centuries since then. The iconic granite boulders that frame Anse Source d'Argent make this one of the most photogenic beaches in the world, and an afternoon of leisurely island-hopping can also include a dip in the warm turquoise waters of Anse Cocos before your sunset cruise back to North Island.

This is a leisurely outing that helps you connect with the rhythms of a calmer way of life. Sailing time from North Island to La Digue is around 1 hr 15 mins each way, depending on sea conditions.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 08:00** Depart North Island for La Digue (1 hr 15 mins boat ride)
Breakfast served on board
- 09:30** Arrive at La Digue
Travel via oxcart or bicycle to Source d'Argent viewpoint
Continue to visit the other beaches on the island, e.g. Anse Volbert / visit a vanilla plantation if interested / relax and enjoy Source d'Argent beach
- 09:45** Lunch at Domaine de l'Orangerie restaurant
- 12:00** Depart La Digue for island hopping and snorkelling
Cruise past Grande Soeur and Petite Soeur Islands and then around Félicité for a view of the other side of La Digue.
A swimming stop in Anse Cocos bay, then float past Petite Anse and Grande Anse.
- 12:30** Start making your way back to North Island
Sunset drinks and snacks on board
- 18:30** Arrive back at North Island

the magic of mahé



Mahé is home to Seychelles' capital, Victoria, which is one of the world's smallest. Despite its diminutive size, it makes for a rewarding destination. Guided walking tours of Victoria reveal the vibrant Creole character of the islands, best illustrated in the colourful, bustling Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke market where you can stock up on Seychellois delicacies such as fiery chilli sauce and shark chutney, both of which pack quite a bite. Seychelles history reads like a particularly imaginative story book with tales of pirates, plantations and pioneers, and is brought to life at the National Museum. Keep a lookout too for the replica of London's famous Big Ben clock tower.

Tea tasting at The Tea Factory is a Mahé institution, or for something a little stronger, drop in at the Takamaka Bay rum distillery, home of Seychelles' national spirit. The drive through the mountains to Beau Vallon for lunch at the Savoy is particularly scenic and the beaches of Mahé are the perfect place to while away an afternoon island-style, before returning to North Island as the sunset lights up the waves.

The many different leisure activities on Mahé give you several options for customising this excursion. Sailing time from North Island to Mahé is around one hour in each direction.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 09:00** Depart North Island for Mahé (1 hr boat ride)
Breakfast served on board
- 10:00** Arrive at Eden Island
Continue via taxi / Masons transfer to centre of Victoria (30 mins)
- 10:30** Cultural walking tour – Clock Tower, Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke market and curio shops, National Museum (1 hr)
- 12:00** Continue to Takamaka Bay rum distillery for rum tasting or tea tasting at the plantation
- 13:00** Scenic drive to Beau Vallon, where you can lunch at the Savoy (or another restaurant of your choice)
- 14:30** Swim and/or enjoy motorised water sports for the afternoon
- 17:30** Depart Mahé for North Island via Silhouette Island
Sunset drinks served on board
- 18:30** Arrive back at North Island

big game fishing



Seychelles' location in the Indian Ocean, within striking distance of the drop-off into the abyssal depths, means that it is a fisherman's paradise. This spot, near Desroches Island, is renowned as a big game fishing location and has seen many people land truly impressive tuna, sailfish, wahoo and jobfish, as well as a variety of snapper, wrasse and grouper.

Fishing the drop-off is an exciting and authentic way to ensure that your on-board lunch begins memorably, with the freshest sashimi you'll ever taste. In keeping with the Noah's Ark philosophy of island conservation, we also recognise the importance of preserving reef habitats and therefore we do not consume reef species or any other endangered marine life.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 05:30** Depart North Island for the drop-off (2 hr boat ride)
- 07:30** Arrive at the drop-off for approximately four hours of fishing (sea conditions permitting)
- 12:00** Lunch served on board
- 13:00** Leave the drop-off for North Island
- 15:00** Arrive back at North Island

advanced wreck diving



To the north of Mahé lie two slowly rusting wrecks, which are being reclaimed by ocean wildlife and becoming impressive artificial reefs, combining the thrill and mystery of wreck diving with the wonders of marine life forms. The *RFA Ennerdale* tanker ran aground in 1970, and had to be destroyed with explosives dropped by helicopter to prevent oil escaping and damaging fragile marine ecosystems. She lies at a maximum depth of 30 metres and despite the double traumas she suffered, the ghostly pilothouse and impressive bronze propellers remain intact and can be safely explored. The *Aldebaran* was confiscated after being caught fishing illegally in Seychelles waters, and later scuttled. She lies slightly deeper, at around 40 metres.

Both wrecks are festooned with life – moray eels, lionfish, jacks and a number of shark species can all be seen at both locations. While this diving excursion is not for novice divers, it offers you a wonderful historical and natural experience to more experienced divers – as well as the opportunity to relax over a delicious brunch on board between dives.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 08:00** Depart North Island to first dive site north of Mahé (1 hr boat ride)
Breakfast served on board
- 09:00** Arrive at *Aldebaran* wreck (long liner)
- 09:15** Drop down after 'gear on' and briefing
- 09:50** Surface
- 10:10** Ready after 'gear off'
- 10:30** Snacks served on-board while cruising to second dive site
- 12:00** Arrive at *RFA Ennerdale* wreck (stern section)
- 12:15** Drop down after 'gear on' and briefing
- 12:45** Surface - ready after 'gear off'
- 13:00** Depart for North Island
Light lunch served on board
- 14:00** Arrive back at North Island

beginners' diving | praslin



The perfect way to complete your PADI Open Water Diver course... Praslin boasts an array of dive sites less than 20 metres deep, making them ideal for the less experienced diver. Praslin is justly renowned for its underwater granitic rock formations which offer shelter to a vast range of colourful marine life, from tiny shrimp and gobi to larger ocean denizens such as stingrays, turtles and even huge whale sharks (depending on season).

In between dives, the boat provides the perfect floating relaxation zone where you can enjoy the best of North Island's outside catering, and discuss sightings and techniques with our qualified and experienced dive masters.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

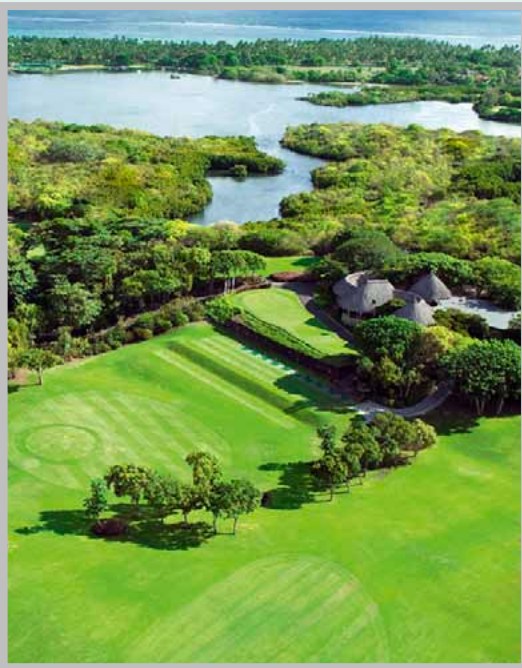
- 08:00** Depart North Island for the first dive site near Praslin (1 hr 30 mins boat ride)
Breakfast served on board
- 09:30** Arrive at first dive spot: St. Pierre
- 10:00** Drop down after 'gear on' and briefing
- 10:30** Surface
- 10:45** Ready after 'gear off'
- 10:45** Snacks served on board while cruising to the second dive site
- 11:20** Arrive at second dive site: Coral Gardens
- 11:55** Drop down after 'gear on' and briefing
- 12:10** Surface - ready after 'gear off'
- 12:10** Depart for North Island
Light lunch served on board
- 13:40** Arrive back at North Island

NB Dive sites subject to change, based on prevailing weather and sea conditions, to ensure safety and correct depths for beginner divers.

golf



Constance Lemuria on Praslin is home to one of the most unique PGA-approved 18-hole golf courses in the world. Balmy weather and sea breezes combine with immaculate greens and arresting views of no less than three of the island's beaches. Enjoy a full breakfast on board en route to Praslin to help you play your best round when you tee off, and relax afterwards at the Clubhouse before setting off across the waves back to North Island.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate):

- 08:00** Depart North Island for Praslin
Breakfast served on-board
- 09:30** Arrive at Praslin and transfer to Constance Lemuria
- 10:00** Tee off
- 14:30** Drinks at the Clubhouse
- 15:30** Depart for North Island
Light lunch served on board
- 17:00** Arrive back at North Island

cousin & aride islands



These two small islands are crucial seabird sanctuaries and as such have protected Special Reserve status. They provide an unforgettable day trip for bird-watching enthusiasts, with over a million seabirds nesting there each year. A variety of habitats from mangroves to rocky outcrops have been rehabilitated by conservationists to facilitate the return of vast flocks of seabirds. Highlights include noddy and roseate terns, frigate birds and a number of endemic Seychelles specials.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY (all times are approximate): (Monday – Friday only; closed on public holidays)

- 08:00 Depart North Island for Cousin
Breakfast served on board
- 10:15 Arrive at Cousin
Explore island
- 10:30 Depart Cousin for Aride
- 12:00 Arrive at Aride
Explore Aride
- 13:30 Depart for Aride for North Island
Lunch served on board during the cruise
- 15:30 Arrive back at North Island

