

silhouette

Inflight magazine of Air Seychelles • April-June 2021



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Dear Guests, Welcome aboard!

Over the past three months, due to extended closure of borders across the airline's network, Air Seychelles operated cargo, repatriation and charter flights on demand. Despite the unprecedented operating environment, even when working from home, we remained determined to fly the Creole Spirit high.

Behind the scenes, apart from working with key stakeholders to prepare for the reopening of Seychelles, various prospects were also analysed within the region, ensuring the airline seizes the right opportunity when the markets bounce back.

In fact, with Seychelles open to all visitors across the globe, I am pleased to announce that the beautiful colours of the Air Seychelles livery is also back in the sky.

Since 26 March 2021, the airline has been operating a new weekly seasonal service from Dubai International Airport to the Seychelles, conveniently timed on Fridays and Saturdays. Planned until 29 May 2021, the flight provides UAE travellers a full week of complete relaxation and adventure in the Seychelles.

After one year of absence on the route, on 8 April 2021, the Seychelles flag carrier also resumed commercial passenger services to Mumbai. The flights, scheduled twice a week, enables business and leisure travellers to book a short or extended holiday in the Seychelles.

Regardless of vaccination status, all visitors are welcome into the Seychelles with no quarantine upon arrival and only a negative PCR test certificate conducted 72 hours prior to travelling is required.

Great news indeed, and together with our crew and ground services team, we are all excited to welcome you back onboard. Remember, as the situation remains dynamic, wear your mask at all times when travelling with Air Seychelles as your safety is of paramount importance to us.

Thank you for choosing to fly with Air Seychelles and have a great trip.



Remco Althuis
Chief Executive Officer



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**Flying the
Creole Spirit
high.**

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White sandy Baie Lazare beach, Mahé.
Photo © SHUTTERSTOCK

silhouette

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seyStream

in-flight entertainment



This aircraft is equipped with **seyStream** wireless in-flight entertainment system which can only be accessed on your personal device (*smartphone, tablet or laptop*).

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- 3 Select '**seyStream**' network and connect.

*The automatic pop-up will re-direct you to a browser and **seyStream** will be ready for use. If the pop-up does not appear automatically, type in '**airfi.aero**' in your preferred browser.

As per the airline regulation, **seyStream** will not be accessible during taxi, take-off and landing or as advised by the cabin crew.

Gadgets in 2021



Samsung Smart Monitor M7 series

This new ultra-HD display from Samsung ticks every box. The M7 is essentially a hybrid between a monitor for a Mac or PC and a Smart TV. It connects to a laptop via a single USB-C cable, which will power it too; there's no need to plug it into the wall. At night it can pull a stream from your smartphone via Wi-Fi or access your streaming service of choice via the built-in Smart Hub software.

The M7 comes with a TV remote too and built-in speakers for some reasonable sound (though you might want to add a soundbar to the equation). **Price:** From USD 550.00



Grado GT220 wireless earbuds

The GT220 wireless earbuds from the Brooklyn-based, family-run Grado makes the most out of your music. The earbuds handle the big bassy electronic beats of Run the Jewels

just as well as they delicate, breathy vocals of Nick Hakim. All the highs and lows have room to be heard.

Half the reason they sound so good is down to the fit. The earbuds twist into place with ease and sit there comfortably for hours, without any danger of falling out. There's six hours of listening time between charges and another 30 hours of charge held in the case. There are plenty of extra features too, like wireless charging, touch controls and a degree of waterproofing. **Price:** From USD 345.00



The world's most advanced health wearable Withings ScanWatch

ScanWatch is the first hybrid smartwatch to continuously scan vital parameters to detect heart health conditions and help improve overall fitness.

By proactively scanning your heart, ScanWatch monitors heartbeat and lets you know if any irregular rhythm or rate is detected.

The ScanWatch's traditional clock face hides some of the most advanced technology. The medical grade ECG and oximeter take continual readings to provide a measure of the health of your heart and respiratory system. It's looking for signals that might suggest you suffer from arrhythmia or apnoea, conditions that for a large number of people go undiagnosed.

The automatic activity detection onboard, spots what type of exercise you're doing and GPS to log the routes you take. The watch is water resistant up to 50 metres deep.

Its battery life will last around 30 days between charges. It also has a vibrating, silent alarm. **Price:** From USD 285.00

The future of health is on your wrist

Measure your blood oxygen level with a revolutionary new sensor and app. Take an ECG anytime, anywhere. See your fitness metrics at a glance with the enhanced Always – On Retina display. With Apple Watch Series 6 on your wrist, a healthier more active, more connected life is within reach.

Your blood oxygen level is a key indicator of your overall wellness. It can help you understand how well your body is absorbing oxygen and the amount of oxygen delivered to your body, You can take on-demand readings of your oxygen as well as background readings day and night.



With the ECG app, Apple Watch Series 6 is capable of generating an ECG similar to a single-lead electrocardiogram. It's a momentous achievement for a wearable device that can provide critical data for doctors and peace of mind for you.

The new Sleep app helps you establish a regular bedtime routine and keep track of your sleep trends night after night.

When it comes to staying fit, knowledge is power. Get inspiration to keep moving and track your workout metrics more precisely than ever – in the water, at the gym, or out on the road. Series 6 is Apple Watch at its best to help you be your best. **Price:** From USD 379.00

Apple AirPods Pro

AirPods Pro have been designed to deliver Active Noise Cancellation for immersive sound, transparency mode so you can hear your surroundings, and a customisable fit for all-day comfort. Just like AirPods, AirPods Pro connect magically to your iPhone or Apple Watch. And they're ready to use right out of the case.



Incredibly light noise-cancelling headphones, AirPods Pro block out your environment so you can focus on what you're listening to. AirPods Pro use two microphones, an outward-facing microphone and an inward-facing microphone, to create superior noise cancellation.

Sound quality has stepped up a notch offering something that's more balanced. A custom-built high-excursion, low-distortion driver delivers powerful bass. A super efficient high dynamic range amplifier produces pure, incredibly clear sound while also extending battery life. And Adaptive EQ automatically tunes music to suit the shape of your ear for a rich, consistent listening experience. **Price:** From USD 350.00



Zoom for Home – DTEN ME

If the 'new normal' means more time chatting to colleagues and family online, then you've no doubt got used to making calls via the video conferencing app Zoom. It seems to work perfectly well on laptops and mobiles, but Zoom has other ideas. They've seen fit to release a giant 27-inch touchscreen device purely to make Zoom calls easier.

It includes three wide-angle cameras for high-resolution video calls, an eight-microphone array for clearer audio and can be used independently of any other device as well as a second monitor.

Price: From USD 600.00

Fitbit Charge 4

As well as a new touchscreen, GPS and NFC as standard, the new Fitbit Charge 4 comes with a special trick up its sleeve (or yours given it's a wrist-mounted wearable).

By tweaking its software, Fitbit now uses its pulse monitoring hardware to keep an eye on the volume of oxygen in your blood. There's not a lot of use in this in the gym – unless you train at the top of a mountain where the air's a bit thinner – but the reading can be useful in diagnosing sleep apnoea, a condition where people stop breathing in the middle of the night.

Price: From USD 150.00





Twenty years of island conservation

WORDS: ADRIAN SKERRETT

Twenty years ago, a small group of committed individuals came together to form a new conservation organisation dedicated to protecting the outer islands of Seychelles. This group had little or no funds but huge ambitions to create a network of conservation centres across the islands. This was the beginning of Island Conservation Society.

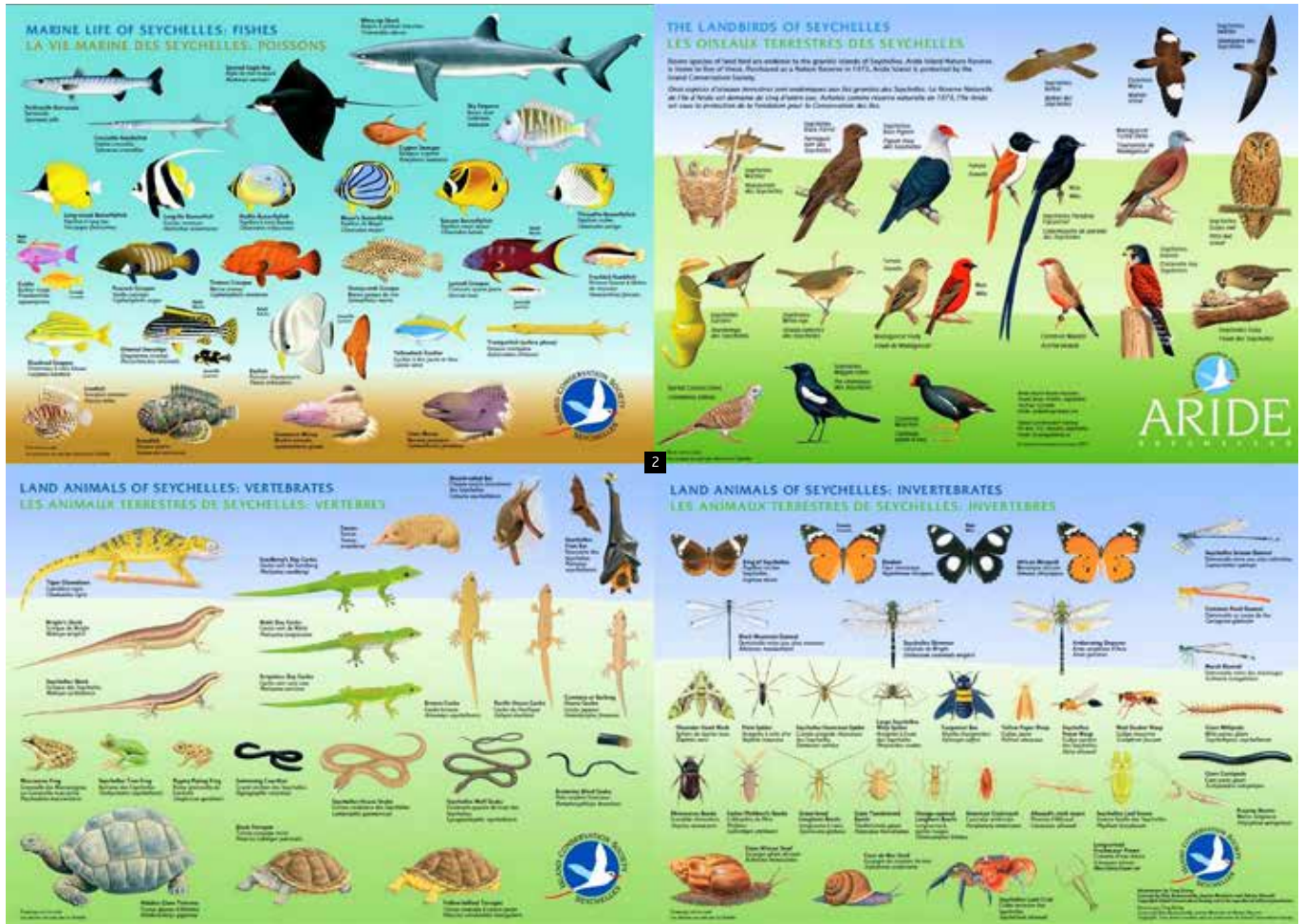
In 2001, apart from the World Heritage Site of Aldabra, there had never been any sustained conservation endeavours on the more remote islands of Seychelles. Many were heavily degraded after nearly two centuries of human settlement. Now the new industry of tourism was replacing the old agricultural way of life. There was an opportunity to rate the environment not as an asset to be exploited to exhaustion, but one with a greater economic value when cherished and protected.

On 10 April 2001, Island Conservation Society (ICS) was created. An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed with Islands Development Company (IDC), the Seychelles government parastatal managers of the outer islands. This established a long-term basis for cooperation and assistance between the parties to conserve, restore and enhance island ecosystems and their associated marine environment.

ICS developed a partnership model, registering 12 foundations with representatives on their boards from all sides, including ICS, investors in the islands, IDC and the Ministry of Environment. The driving force

of the foundations is conservation funded by responsible ecotourism. Endowment funds have been established to pay for environmental work on each island, with money coming from a conservation levy on guests, landing fees from visitors, environmental tours and donations. Under this model businessmen, scientists and government representatives are brought together to contribute their expertise towards achieving common goals. In 2012, at an international forum convened in South Africa, this ICS model for the outer islands with focus on conservation was described as 'exemplary'.

One year after the birth of ICS, as Founding Chairman, I met with representatives of Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) of UK, owners of Aride Island, the largest nature reserve of the granitic islands of Seychelles. We proposed that ICS should take over management of Aride. Despite being such a young organisation, RSWT were persuaded that ICS had the expertise to manage and safeguard the island. A trial management by ICS was agreed with a long list of conservation and



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management targets to be achieved. In 2007, after successful completion of these targets, the freehold was granted to ICS.

Aride is one of the most important seabird colonies in the Indian Ocean, with around half a million birds of up to 10 species. These include the world's largest populations of Tropical Shearwater and Lesser Noddy and Seychelles largest population of Roseate Tern (of race *arideensis*, named after the island). There is a spectacular roost of thousands of non-breeding frigatebirds of two species. There are five endemic land birds including the world's largest population of Seychelles Warbler. Aride also supports a range of endemic reptiles, including exceptional densities of Wright's Skink and Seychelles Skink. About 30 Hawksbill and a few Green Turtles nest annually along the beach crest. Seychelles Whip Spider and Giant Millipede are prominent among the invertebrates, while the water stick-insect *Ranatra grandocula* is endemic to Seychelles and the spider *Aridella bowleri* is known only from Aride. Of more than 100 plant species recorded at Aride, most significant is Wright's Gardenia, an elegant small tree with over 1,000 individuals. Although introduced to other Seychelles islands, this is the world's only naturally-occurring and self-sustaining population.

Meanwhile, conservation work in the outer islands began in earnest. The first major project was led by founding trustee Gerard Rocamora

and funded by the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial with a total budget €1,000,000. Major achievements were the eradication of rats on many islands including several at Cosmoledo Atoll. Cats and other alien species were eradicated, Seychelles White-eyes were introduced to North and terrapins introduced to both North and Aride Islands. Habitats were restored with thousands of native trees planted, alien species removed and important Management Plans produced.

Over the years, ICS has established conservation centres on four other islands. Major conservation projects are continually being built by staff at the ICS head office at Pointe Larue on Mahé. Twelve foundations have been registered as partnerships for conservation on 12 islands or island groups, to be activated when funding becomes available.

The first Island Conservation Centre in the outer islands of Seychelles was established at Alphonse Atoll in 2007, 400 kilometres southwest of Victoria. It is famous for world class fly-fishing and game fishing. There are feeding grounds for migrant waders and Black-naped Terns breed on neighbouring St. François. Migrant and vagrant birds are frequently recorded including several species recorded nowhere else in Seychelles.

The St. François lagoon ecosystem holds high densities of crustaceans and sea cucumbers and fish including large numbers of sharks of species now scarce in Seychelles due to over-fishing. This is one of the most important



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foraging areas for immature turtles in the western Indian Ocean, and a world-class fly-fishing site. Offshore waters provide rich seabird and cetacean feeding grounds and support good populations of pelagic and reef wall predators such as tuna, marlin and sailfish.

In 2008, a centre was opened at Desroches, the largest island in the Amirantes, 230 kilometres southwest of Victoria. The eastern end is being restored by removing alien species and replanting with native broadleaf trees. This will help restore the biodiversity of the island and create habitats for species to be introduced elsewhere on the island. Since the establishment of a Conservation Centre, turtle populations have shown signs of increase. The Tortoise Sanctuary hosts Aldabra Giant Tortoises and there is a Discovery Centre featuring information on Seychelles history and natural history.

In 2011, Silhouette Island Conservation Centre was opened. Silhouette is the third largest island of the granitic group and the fifth largest in Seychelles as a whole, yet the human impact is much less significant than elsewhere. Mount Dauban rises to 740 metres and is the second highest summit in Seychelles. About 93 percent of the island has been declared as a National Park. About one-third of the almost 200 species of plants recorded at Silhouette are Seychelles endemics including several

endemic plants to the island. Particularly noteworthy are two endemic and Critically Endangered plants, *Bwakoulev Silwet* and *Bouskiya*. One of the world's most endangered animals, the Sheath-tailed Bat has its last stronghold on Silhouette. The Seychelles Fruit Bat is also present in large numbers and there is a significant Hawksbill nesting population. There are two endangered amphibians: Seychelles Palm frog (unique to Silhouette) and Thomasset's frog (restricted to Silhouette and Mahé).

A native plants trail has been created by ICS and forest restoration is expected to benefit native fauna including land birds, invertebrates, and bats. ICS conducts monitoring programmes and turtle patrols, in which guests of Labriz Resort participate. Mountain hikes, bat observation nights and nature talks are also conducted.

Farquhar Island Conservation Centre opened in 2014 at Farquhar Atoll, 770 kilometres south of Victoria, the largest true atoll of Seychelles. Today, commercial copra production on the island has ceased and tourism, especially fly-fishing, has been identified as a replacement source of income for the atoll. The uninhabited islands of Farquhar and surrounding waters form an Important Bird Area. Goëlettes is the most notable island, with a huge seasonal colony of about 200,000 – 400,000 pairs of Sooty Tern, about 10,000 pairs of Brown Noddy and smaller



4



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numbers of Lesser Noddy and Roseate Tern. Black-naped Tern also breed here, a discovery made by ICS. There is a huge population of Red-footed Boobies, including white-tailed brown morph, which breeds nowhere else in Seychelles. The abundance of some grouper species is enormous, up to 30 that of the granitics. In particular, the density of Napoleon Wrasse is phenomenal, possibly the highest in the world. Offshore, at certain times of year, there are spawning aggregations of thousands of Camouflage Grouper and Brown-marbled Grouper. This is in sharp contrast to other parts of the world where many aggregations have totally collapsed.

ICS has also produced a range of material and books including *Outer Islands of Seychelles* published by Camerapix Publishers International Limited-. There are ambitious plans to open a centre covering Astove and Cosmoledo Atolls in the Aldabra Group. It is hoped one day these atolls can be restored to their former glory and become miniature versions of Aldabra, easing tourism pressure on the World Heritage Site and strengthening the biodiversity of the group. It is also hoped to open an educational centre at Marie Louise in the Amirantes, giving local schoolchildren the opportunity to join ICS Conservation Officers and participate directly in their daily conservation work. It is hoped this will instil pride in children for the wonderful nature of their country and an appreciation of the value of protecting and preserving the heritage of Seychelles for future generations. 🌿



1. Aride island is the flagship nature reserve of ICS.
2. ICS has produced a range of identification charts to the wildlife of Seychelles.
3. Masked Booby, nesting at Cosmoledo.
4. An ICS Conservation Officer tags a nesting turtle.
5. The rarest bat in the world, the Sheath-tailed Bat. Its last stronghold is on Silhouette island.
6. Aerial view of St. François.
7. A view of display at the Desroches Discovery Centre.
8. A map to show the ICS network of conservation centres created during the last 20 years and potential future sites.
9. Trustees of ICS gather at a local restaurant for their first AGM.



Dubai's 'magnificent seven' theme parks

There are many attractions for the visitor in the vibrant city of Dubai. Among them, a number of spectacular theme parks offer a range of activities for young and old, tourists and locals alike. **Silhouette** reviews seven of the most fascinating which you must surely visit on your next holiday to Dubai.

1. Aquaventure Waterpark

Location: Atlantis, The Palm, Jumeirah

The largest and most popular water theme park in Dubai features a variety of marine and entertainment attractions, as well as 17 hectares of waterscape amusement at Aquaventure Waterpark, all within a 46 hectares site.

It is home to one of the largest open-air marine habitats in the world, with more than 65,000 marine animals in lagoons and displays including The Lost Chambers Aquarium, a maze of underwater corridors and passageways providing a journey through the ancient city of Atlantis.

The Ziggurat is the centrepiece of the Aquaventure Waterpark, reaching 30 metres into the sky and visible from the fronds of The Palm as well as from Dubai's mainland. The Mesopotamian-styled tower features seven heart-pumping waterslides including the Leap of Faith, with its daring 27.5 metres near-vertical drop, propelling body surfers through a clear acrylic tunnel submerged in a shark-filled lagoon and ultimately out into the sunshine and plunge pool below.

This award-winning theme park continues to wow guests and gives them the chance to discover something new. It provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to swim with real sharks and stingrays and learn more about one of nature's most graceful mammals.



2. Ski Dubai

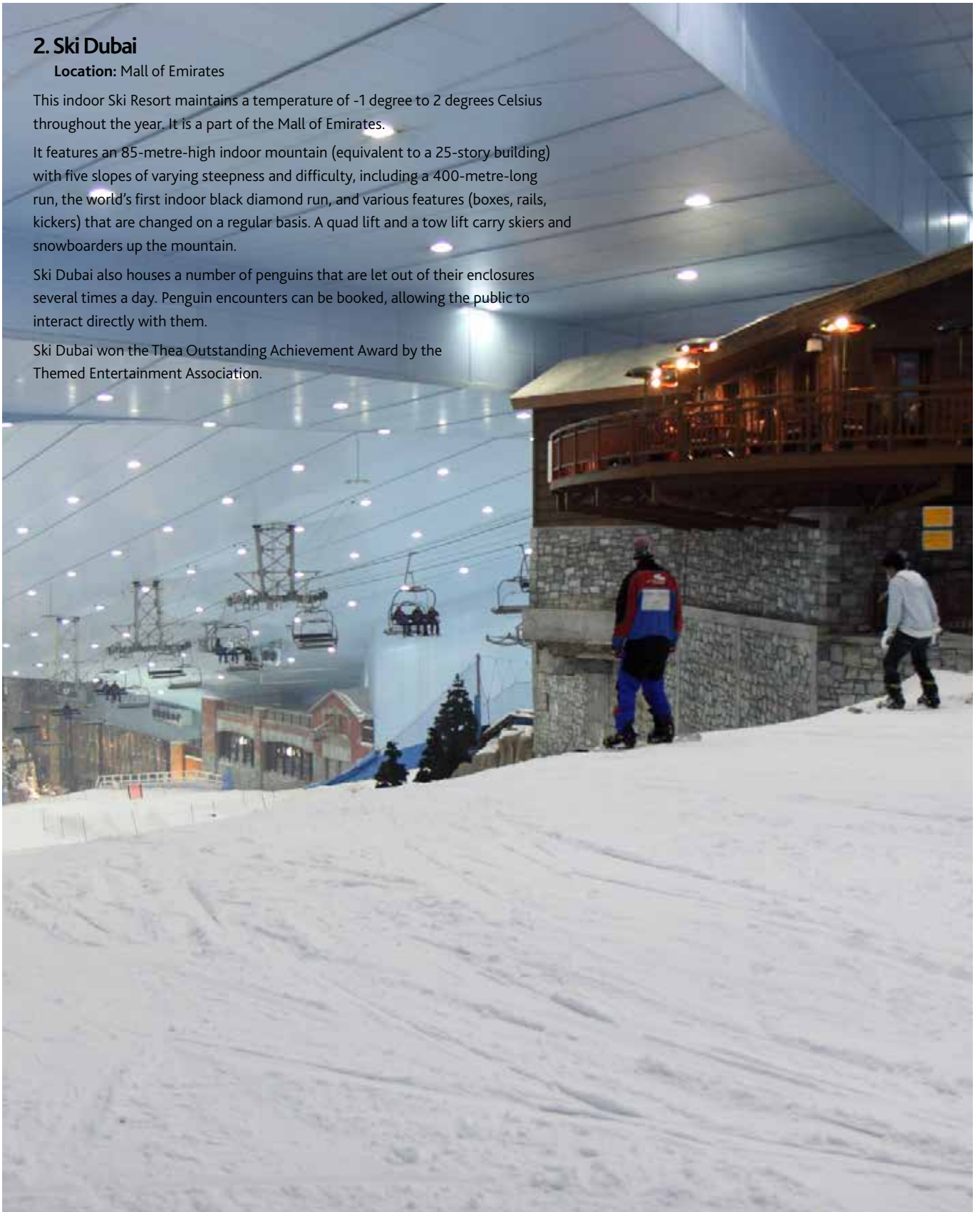
Location: Mall of Emirates

This indoor Ski Resort maintains a temperature of -1 degree to 2 degrees Celsius throughout the year. It is a part of the Mall of Emirates.

It features an 85-metre-high indoor mountain (equivalent to a 25-story building) with five slopes of varying steepness and difficulty, including a 400-metre-long run, the world's first indoor black diamond run, and various features (boxes, rails, kickers) that are changed on a regular basis. A quad lift and a tow lift carry skiers and snowboarders up the mountain.

Ski Dubai also houses a number of penguins that are let out of their enclosures several times a day. Penguin encounters can be booked, allowing the public to interact directly with them.

Ski Dubai won the Thea Outstanding Achievement Award by the Themed Entertainment Association.



3. Wild Wadi Waterpark

Location: Jumeirah next to Burj Al Arab and Jumeirah Beach Hotel

The Wild Wadi Waterpark is a leisurely half-hour drive from the city centre and Dubai International Airport.

The Waterpark is designed around a tale from Arabian folklore featuring Juha and his seafaring friend, Sinbad the Sailor. The main attractions include eight gravity-defying Master Blasters that operate on a series of high-powered water jets, taking guests on an aquatic roller coaster ride.

Wild Wadi offers no less than 24 waterslides, upward streams and the most intense wild water rides. Breaker's Bay, one of the region's largest wave pools is also found here and is fringed by a bank of palm trees. An interactive play structure aimed at younger children, Juha's Dhow and Lagoon, contains more than 100 games including five vibrant and colourful body slides, a huge dumping bucket of water, a pair of fully-enclosed racing slides and water guns.

For the ultimate adrenaline rush, test your mettle against Jumeirah Sceirah. Drop through the trap door from a height of 32 metres into the waiting water tunnel and race down the slide at 80 kilometres per hour.

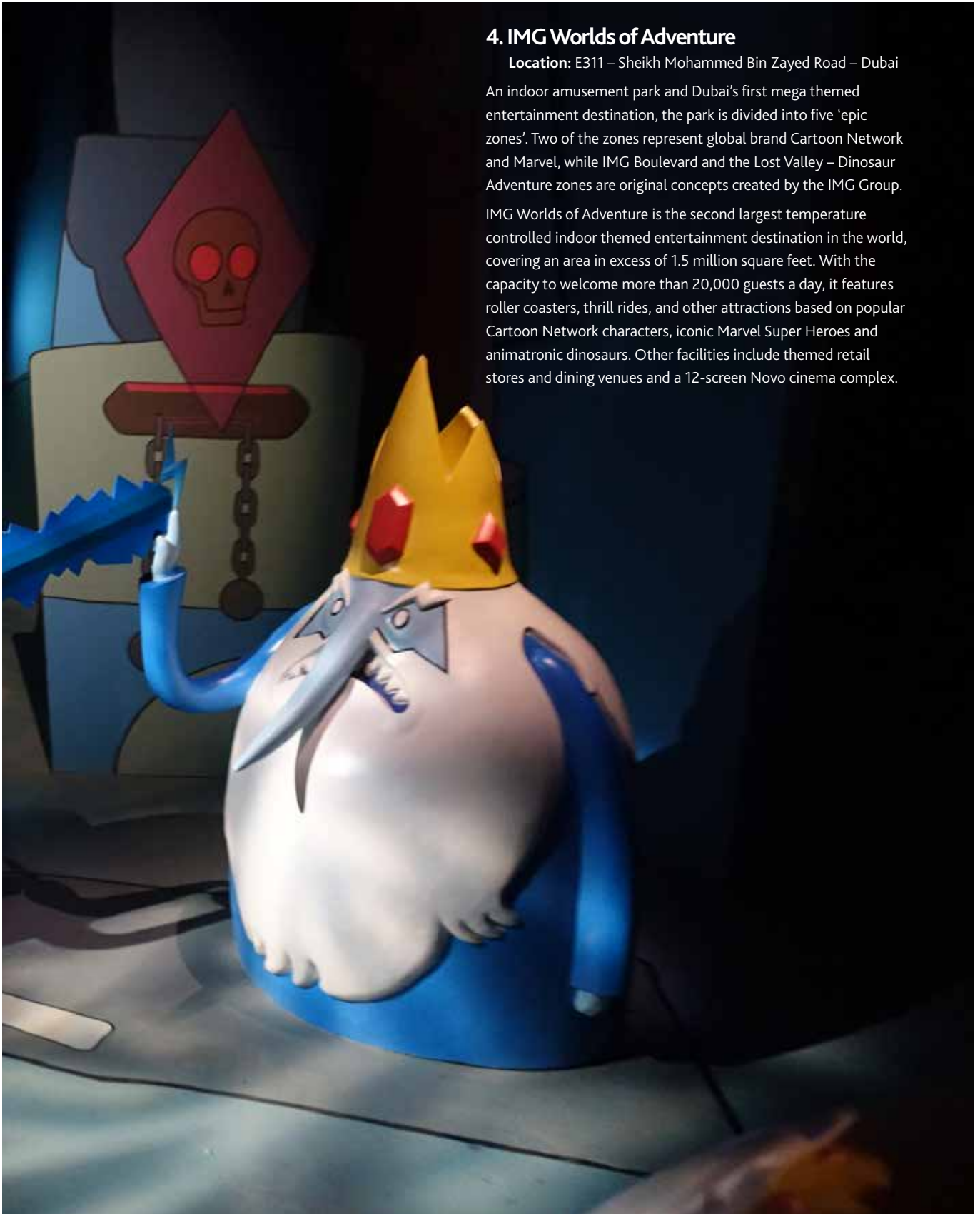


4. IMG Worlds of Adventure

Location: E311 – Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road – Dubai

An indoor amusement park and Dubai's first mega themed entertainment destination, the park is divided into five 'epic zones'. Two of the zones represent global brand Cartoon Network and Marvel, while IMG Boulevard and the Lost Valley – Dinosaur Adventure zones are original concepts created by the IMG Group.

IMG Worlds of Adventure is the second largest temperature controlled indoor themed entertainment destination in the world, covering an area in excess of 1.5 million square feet. With the capacity to welcome more than 20,000 guests a day, it features roller coasters, thrill rides, and other attractions based on popular Cartoon Network characters, iconic Marvel Super Heroes and animatronic dinosaurs. Other facilities include themed retail stores and dining venues and a 12-screen Novo cinema complex.

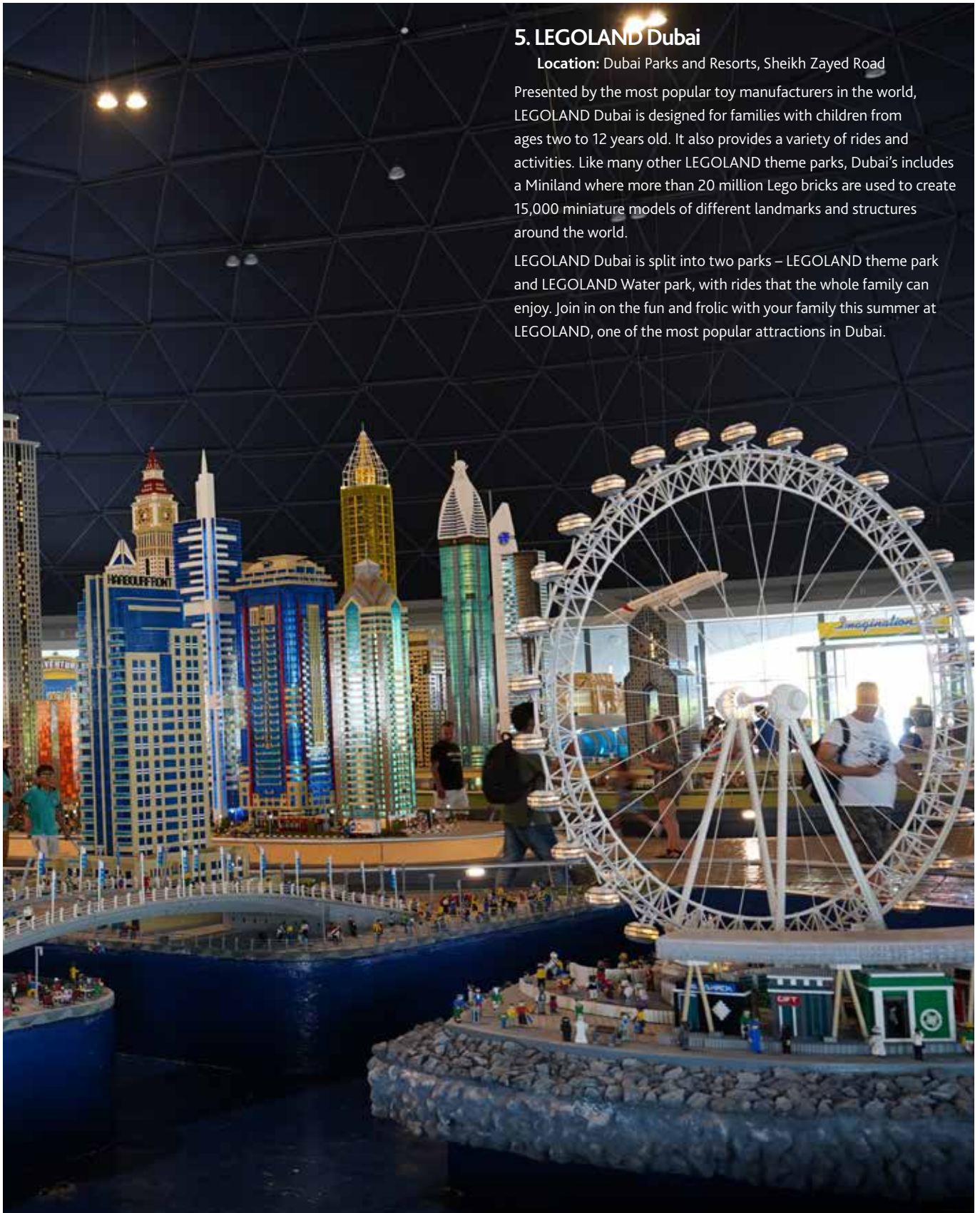


5. LEGOLAND Dubai

Location: Dubai Parks and Resorts, Sheikh Zayed Road

Presented by the most popular toy manufacturers in the world, LEGOLAND Dubai is designed for families with children from ages two to 12 years old. It also provides a variety of rides and activities. Like many other LEGOLAND theme parks, Dubai's includes a Miniland where more than 20 million Lego bricks are used to create 15,000 miniature models of different landmarks and structures around the world.

LEGOLAND Dubai is split into two parks – LEGOLAND theme park and LEGOLAND Water park, with rides that the whole family can enjoy. Join in on the fun and frolic with your family this summer at LEGOLAND, one of the most popular attractions in Dubai.



6. Motiongate Dubai

Location: Dubai Parks and Resorts, Sheikh Zayed Road

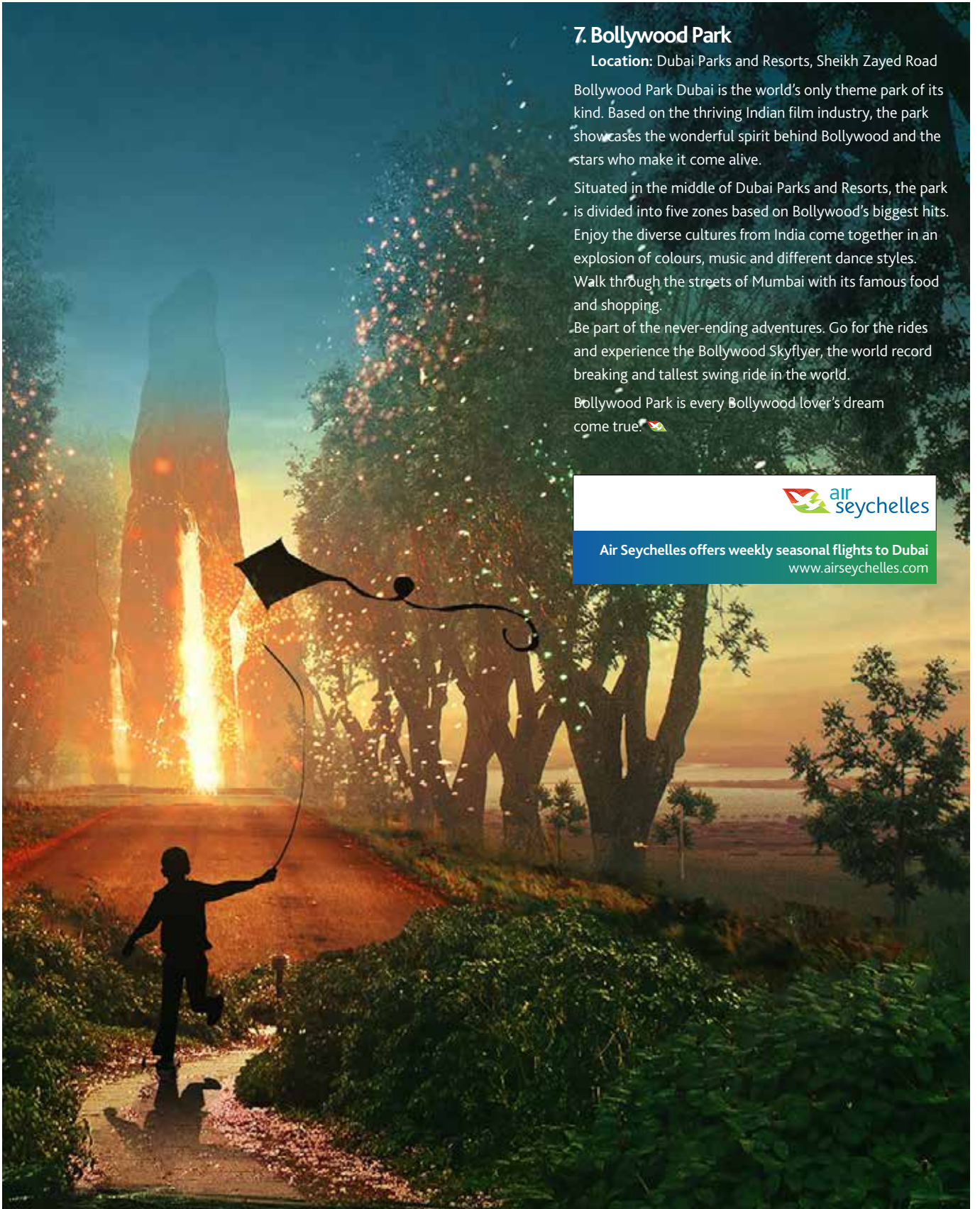
Begin your journey into the world of film in Studio Central at Motiongate Dubai. Revisit the Golden Age of Hollywood at the real-life movie sets of New York City. Get behind the scenes and discover the illusion of filmmaking, theatrical opening shows and the characteristic executive offices of a working movie studio.

Move into the adventurous world of Columbia Pictures and hang on tight as you embark on a high-speed chase, *Green Hornet* style. Join the *Ghostbusters* in a paranormal battle to save New York City or take on the Lycans with vampire warrior Selene in the supernatural universe of the *Underworld* to discover an action-packed land with seven attractions, including a family water ride, coasters and interactive shows where ghosts roam, zombies rule and meatballs fall from the sky.

Venture into the fantasy world of *The Smurfs*, where fairytale mushroom-top houses capture imaginations and a colony of friendly blue Smurfs await at every corner. The village of the internationally beloved Smurfs offers five immersive attractions including interactive play zones, exciting family rides and a charming theatre show for all generations to enjoy.

Experience the magic of Dreamworks by joining the *Furious Five* on an epic martial arts escapade and explore four unique lands based on the blockbuster classics: *Kung Fu Panda*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Madagascar*, and *Shrek* – all entirely indoors!





7. Bollywood Park

Location: Dubai Parks and Resorts, Sheikh Zayed Road

Bollywood Park Dubai is the world's only theme park of its kind. Based on the thriving Indian film industry, the park showcases the wonderful spirit behind Bollywood and the stars who make it come alive.

Situated in the middle of Dubai Parks and Resorts, the park is divided into five zones based on Bollywood's biggest hits. Enjoy the diverse cultures from India come together in an explosion of colours, music and different dance styles.

Walk through the streets of Mumbai with its famous food and shopping.

Be part of the never-ending adventures. Go for the rides and experience the Bollywood Skyflyer, the world record breaking and tallest swing ride in the world.

Bollywood Park is every Bollywood lover's dream come true. 🇮🇳



Air Seychelles offers weekly seasonal flights to Dubai
www.airseychelles.com

Israel

a land of natural wonders

WORDS: PETER HOLTHUSEN







1. The critically endangered Nubian ibex (*Capra nubiana*).
2. The saline-rich waters of the Dead Sea.
3. Cactus Garden near the Shrine of the Bab.
4. The barren wilderness of the Judean desert.
5. David Falls in the Ein Gedi National Reserve.
6. Masada, a flat plateau on top of an isolated rock cliff above the Dead Sea.
7. Israel's iconic national bird, the Eurasian hoopoe (*Upupa epops*).

Israel has always been an alluring destination for discerning travellers. From biblical times to the present day, this spectacular slice of the Holy Land in the heart of the Middle East has long attracted visitors. Its unique geography has shaped its culture and its landscape, from the breathtaking Negev and Judean deserts, to the Red Sea resort of Eilat, to the bucolic Golan mountains.

There are very few regions in the world which can boast of so great a variety of flora and fauna within such a small geographical area. The main reason for this wealth of abundance is that Israel forms almost the only land bridge between the Mediterranean and the Arabian deserts, and is therefore extensively used by many migratory birds on their way south to Africa in the autumn and back north again to Europe and Asia in the spring.

In a country as sunny as Israel, there's no excuse for sequestering yourself indoors. While the cities offer endless options for what to see and do, it is always nice to take a city break and venture out into the great outdoors! Israel delivers a range of diverse options given its contrasting landscapes, so pack your bag, grab your walking shoes, and venture out to discover its abundant wildlife, admire its spectacular scenery and explore its natural wonders.

Hikes through the Ein Gedi National Park, a lush oasis set between the harsh, searing beauty of the Judean desert and the sterile Dead Sea, reveal ancient ruins, cool springs, and an abundance of desert flora and fauna.

Ein Gedi, literally 'spring of the kid' (young goat), is one of Israel's premier nature reserves, located west of the Dead Sea, near Masada and the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered between 1946 and 1947. Ein Gedi is the biggest oasis in Israel and while it is not too far from Jerusalem, it feels worlds away and is one of the most popular escape spots for locals and tourists who flock to take advantage of the reserve, its botanical gardens, springs, flowing brooks and waterfalls.

The reserve is a sanctuary for many types of plant, bird and animal species. The vegetation includes plants and trees from the desert, tropical, Mediterranean, and steppe regions, such as sodom apple, acacia, jujube, and poplar. The many species of resident birds, include the little green bee-eater, spur-winged plover, collared pratincole, and Israel's iconic national bird, the hoopoe, which are supplemented by over 200 additional species during the annual migration



periods in the spring and autumn. Mammal species include the critically endangered Nubian ibex and the rock hyrax.

The tortured topography of Timna Park, near the Red Sea resort of Eilat, is one of the most beautiful corners of the Negev. Raw and rugged desert scenery at its best, the landscapes here have a visceral quality, which enchants all who visit, with towering cliffs and wind eroded boulders, seemingly cast adrift between vast tracts of multi-hued sand.

Located in southern Israel, approximately 30.5 kilometres (19 miles) north of the Gulf of Aqaba, the area is rich in copper ore and has been mined here since the fifth millennium BCE. Recent archaeological excavations in the region indicated that the mines in the Timna Valley were probably part of the ancient Kingdom of Edom and worked by the Edomites, described as biblical foes of the Israelites, during the 10th century BCE, the period of King Solomon.

One of the largest attractions in the south of the country, the park, which is set in a beautifully majestic desert landscape, has an amazing history and geology, and a number of rather unexpected activities too, including those on the lake (yes, a lake in the desert!). Timna Park covers about 15,000 acres in a horseshoe-shaped valley encircled by steep cliffs, with Mount Timna in the centre, the world's first ever copper mine, rising 447 metres (1,486 feet) above the surrounding valley.

The most striking and well-known formation in the Timna Park are King Solomon's Pillars. The pillars are natural

structures that were formed by centuries of water erosion through fractures in the sandstone cliffs until it became a series of distinct, pillar-shaped structures. Today, the pillars serve as a backdrop for evening concerts and dance performances in the park during the summer.

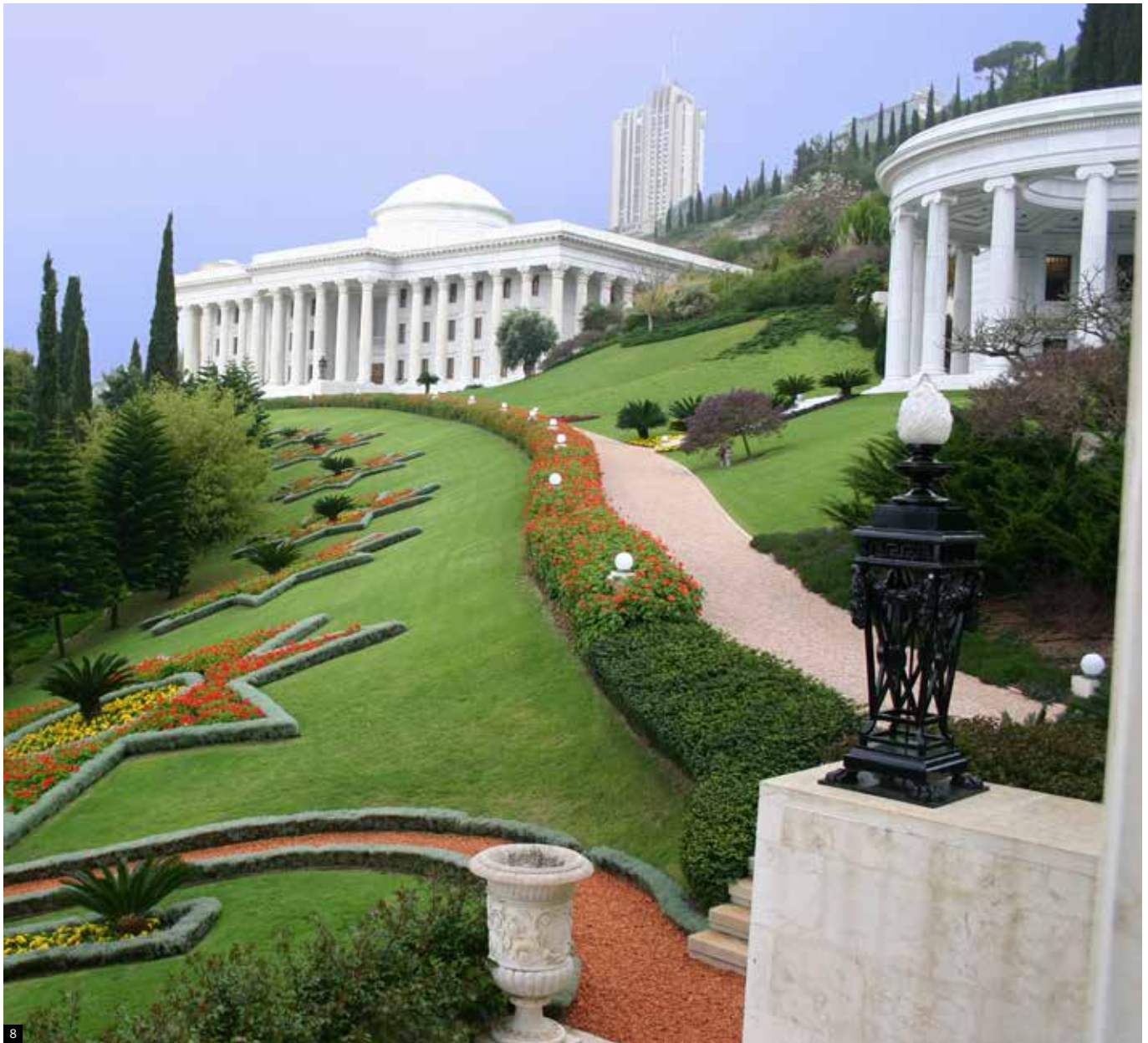
Another imposing rock formation is The Mushroom, which is an unusual monolithic, mushroom-shaped, red sandstone pillar known as a 'hoodoo'. The mushroom shape was caused by wind, humidity, and water erosion over centuries, and is surrounded by copper ore smelting sites from between the 14th and 12th centuries BCE.

Along the western cliff of the valley, you will find a series of natural arches, which were also formed by erosion, but they are not as rare as King Solomon's Pillars and The Mushroom, for very similar geological structures can be found elsewhere in the world, such as those located in the United States within the famous Arches National Park in Utah.

The fascinating geological formations at Rosh HaNikra, and the neighbouring kibbutz are another must-see visitor attraction. Located on the border between Israel and Lebanon, in the far north-western corner of the country, in the Western Galilee, this spectacular natural wonder is the only point in Israel where the Mediterranean Sea meets the mountains. It is a white chalk cliff face which opens up into a labyrinth of beautiful grottos and cavernous tunnels.

For many years, the only access to the grottos was from the sea and the native swimmers and divers were the only ones capable of visiting the site. The 400 metre (440 yards) long tunnel dug in 1968 between the grottos and slightly above sea level allowed easier access, and soon after a cable car was built to take visitors down from the top of the cliff to the tunnels, which branch off in various directions with some interconnecting segments. The exhilarating cable car ride, which is the shortest and steepest in the world, takes visitors 70 metres (230 feet) down the cliff face at a 60-degree gradient.

A short walk at the base of the cliff reveals the grottos, which are actually marine caves, created by a series of subterranean tremors which cracked the soft chalk rock to form them.



8

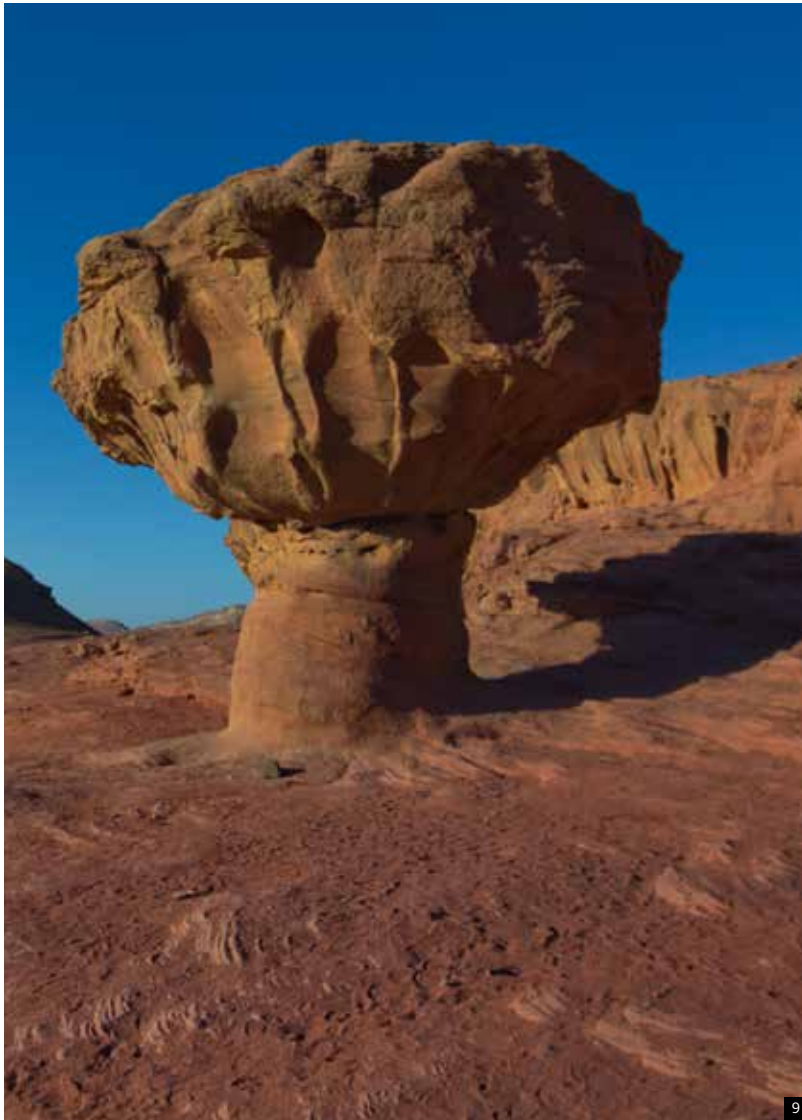
Visitors can explore these incredible formations for themselves, following trails throughout the year. You can also explore the site in the comfort of a unique audio-visual presentation, where the sea, the mountains and what's within them are revealed to visitors in their magnificent splendour.

While up north, be sure to stop in Haifa and visit the Bahá'í Gardens, which is possibly the most distinct tourist attraction in this historic Israeli port city and is very likely the most visited too. Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists and locals alike flock to the Bahá'í Gardens.

Also known as the 'Hanging Gardens of Haifa', the garden terraces are located around the Shrine of the Báb on Mount Carmel, where the remains of Báb, founder of the Bábí Faith and forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh in the Bahá'í Faith are buried.

A UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site, the Bahá'í Gardens can be divided into three sections: The lower section

8. The Arc Gardens behind the Shrine of the Bab on Mount Carmel.
9. The Mushroom – a strange monolithic, mushroom-shaped, red sandstone pillar.
10. King Solomon's Pillars are the most striking and well-known formation in the Timna Park.



9

– opening up to the German Colony; the middle section – the gardens around the gold-capped Shrine of the Báb; the upper section – just off the vibrant Louis Promenade and the main gate where the tours start.

The Bahá'í Gardens reach close to a kilometre in length from the lowest gate at the German Colony to the main gate, way up top, encompass 19 terraces of flowers, small trees, water fountains and pools and a number of small sculptures, all set within nine concentric circles. To the sides of the gardens are wooded areas planted to attract wildlife and cut down on urban noise. The 200,000 square metres of land were designed by the distinguished Iranian-American architect Fariborz Sahba and funded by donations made only by Bahá'ís, the world over.

Those who prefer their adventure at sea level – or beneath it, can take to the Mediterranean for a sail along the coast, the saline-rich Dead Sea, for a buoyant swim, or the crystal clear waters of the Red Sea to explore the numerous coral reefs and spectacular dive sites that surround the happy, vibrant vacation city of Eilat.

The Dead Sea has attracted visitors from around the world for thousands of years, and is perhaps one of Israel's most notable natural wonders. It was one of the world's first health resorts (for Herod the Great), and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of salt-based products, from asphalt for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilisers.

This immense endorheic lake is bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the west, and lies in the great depression of the magnificent Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary is the Jordan River. Its shimmering surface and shores are 430.5 metres (1,412 feet) below sea level, making it Earth's lowest elevation on land. It is 304 metres (997 feet) deep, the deepest hypersaline lake in the world.

With its abundance of natural wonders, Israel is a fascinatingly beautiful and beguiling nation quite unlike anywhere else on Earth, a country whose history and culture can be heard in the whispering of the wind along the hallowed walls of its iconic landmarks, where every stone tells a wondrous story of its long and tumultuous past. 🌍



10



Air Seychelles offers three weekly flights to Tel Aviv
www.airseychelles.com

Semi-Sub Seychelles

An extraordinary experience of the underwater world.

WORDS: GLYNN BURRIDGE





Seychelles has earned a justifiably excellent reputation as one of the world's finest tourism destinations on account of its serenely beautiful and pristine environment, jealously protected over many decades to ensure that its sustainability remains intact for future generations of locals and tourists alike.

One added dimension of the Seychelles holiday experience is that of its many wonders beneath the waves: Vibrant marine life; vast seascapes and coral formations that, until now, have only been accessible to divers and snorkellers, who are nonetheless limited in terms of what they can hope to see in a single dive or sortie.

Today, thanks to the recent arrival of a gleaming, new, semi-submersible capable of taking passengers on longer and more varied excursions, the many secrets and magnificence of the ocean are available to a wider audience with no need for complicated equipment, crowded diving boats and tight dive schedules.

Nine-and-a-half metres in length by two-and-a-half metres in width and powered by a 57Hp Yanmar engine, Semi-Sub Seychelles is manufactured by Agena Marin in Croatia and licensed to carry

12 passengers and two crew, with an operating distance usually within 3.219 kilometres (2 miles) from shore.

SemiSUBMARINE 12 Pax is designed and built in conformity with the requirements of the "C" design category. The "C" design category relates to boats operating in coastal waters and large bays and lakes with winds to Force 6, up to 27 knots and significant seas 2.1 metres high.

According to owner Roy Assaf, security always comes first and because the experience he offers is ideally suited to families and persons of all ages, he goes to extraordinary lengths to ensure that this delightful experience is also safe and secure.

Firstly, the operations centre and boat location, conveniently situated at Eden Island facing the Ste Anne Marine National Park has been chosen to make embarkation easily accessible to all irrespective of age and physical condition. The boat flooring is covered with special anti-slip material and we ask the customers to keep their shoes on so the risk of slipping is minimised. Handrails are everywhere on the boat, including on the staircase that leads to the underwater cabin. Meanwhile, the inside cabin is made entirely from



fibreglass and has no furniture in it making it convenient to disinfect all contact surfaces and glass panels for each and every trip. Although the boat is equipped with life jackets for all its passengers, we get the children to put on life jackets before the trip as they tend to get overexcited and start running on the dock.

As a former diver, my own experience aboard the Semi-Sub, which as its name suggests, rests half-in and half-out of the water and does not totally submerge, was a revelation. My adventure began at the Eden Island quay where I was cordially received by the operations team who explained the nature of the one-hour expedition and the safety features aboard the vessel. Once all the 12 passengers were assembled we proceeded to the Semi-Sub and took our positions on deck for the preliminary cruise to the viewing point, a mile or so into the Ste Anne National Park. Emitting only a dull hum, the sub then made its way out to sea and to the awaiting adventure.

Arriving at the selected viewing point for that day, we were then invited to take our seats via a staircase leading down to the air-conditioned, underwater observatory 1.5 metres below with seating opposite the glass viewing panels that suddenly allowed an extravagant view of the ocean floor.

Children giggled excitedly at the sight that now greeted them: Fiery-coloured reef fish pirouetting playfully about a coral head while a shoal of larger fish were clearly visible in the distance. Suddenly, the form of a Platax or Batfish appeared right against the porthole, its gentle eyes bulging with curiosity at the sight of passengers staring back at him.

"Mummy!" cried one child, clearly overcome with excitement, "I think it wants to join us inside!"

The Platax and some accompanying friends kept company with us for much of the trip, joined occasionally by other species of coral fish, all clearly visible as if in some moving



aquarium while the dark shapes of larger fish (and apparently sometimes even turtles) could be seen milling in the background.

With cameras happily clicking and video cameras whirring to capture this underwater extravaganza, we moved from site to site, each one possessing its own surprises and delights, reminding me that, as a diver, one could never hope to cover this much terrain and take in so much diversity on one single dive. In the sub, one can easily navigate from place to place while the crew on deck keep watch for any schools of dolphins that might be out for a morning stroll. The crew even have a customised fish chart to illustrate exactly what fish you are seeing.

It is precisely this type of versatility that makes the Semi-Sub experience a winner via its ability to insulate its passengers from the elements and from the hassles that inevitably accompany even the most routine dives, while allowing them to view, from the safety of their cabin, a huge variety of underwater spectacles.

An ideal adventure for those waiting for a flight connection or with an extra hour on their hands in their day's programme, Semi-Sub ticks all the boxes for a memorable day out for all the family on the ocean.

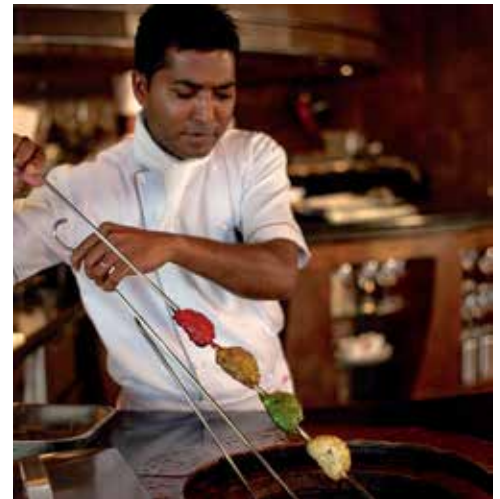
You simply can't beat that! 🌴



A culinary journey on Île Maurice

For many travellers to Mauritius it's the white-sand beaches that are the highlight. Others come to seek out the colourful coalescence of cultures that the island has to offer, and many want high adventure on the sparkling seas and lofty peaks. But if you're looking for an enigmatic taste of the Indian Ocean, you're in luck. For these fine-dining destinations will ensure you won't go hungry ...

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES



Safran

The Indian community is a vibrant thread in the cultural tapestry of Mauritius, and the cuisine of the sub-continent is celebrated in fine fashion at Safran, in the heart of Shangri-La's Le Touessrok Resort & Spa.

Here acclaimed chef Ramesh Bundi offers an inspired menu of modern Indian cuisine fused with local influences. Bundi hails from Hospet in southern India, and has cooked worldwide, across both traditional and contemporary Indian cuisines, and trained alongside Michelin-starred Indian chefs in London.

His travels, alongside the flavours of both his native India and adopted home, inform the menu of contemporary Indian plates on offer at Safran.

Signature dishes include the wonderful spiced tandoori salmon, marinated with herbs and old-fashioned mustard, lightly smoked with black cardamom, star anise and served with fennel mayonnaise dip. *Ajwaini jingha* sees char-grilled prawns infused with carom seeds and rose water, served with a chili and mango chutney. There's also the classic plate of chicken dum biryani; a combination of chicken and basmati rice with Indian spices, covered and slow baked in the oven, and served with raita. And if you simply can't decide?

"Safran has recently launched a five-course degustation menu, where guests can indulge in the multiple flavours that the restaurant has to offer, in small portions," says Bundi.

www.shangri-la.com/mauritius



Le Barachois

While many island restaurants tout their beachfront location, Le Barachois – at the east coast resort of Constance Le Prince Maurice – looks the other way; west away from the sea and out across lush mangrove forests. Here on the calm waters of the lagoon, meandering wooden walkways lead to tables laid atop floating pontoons that offer an entirely unique dining experience. And while the setting and service are without fault, the cuisine is equally impressive.

That is due to the talents of Executive Chef Michael Scioli and Sous Chef Guillano Dubois, pillars of the island’s culinary scene, who collaborate on the menu’s inventive expression of cuisine from both Mauritius and the Indian Ocean. Unsurprisingly, seafood is the star of the menu, with the likes of seared albacore tuna, enlivened by ponzu sauce, and organic shrimps from Madagascar pan-fried with ginger and chilli, then flambéed with local rum. The fertile fields of the island are equally celebrated: Fresh produce comes from the hotel’s own vegetable gardens, while innovative salads turn to local coconut heart, dressed with the bright punch of pomegranate seeds.

Aside from setting the scene for diners the placid waters of the mangrove forest are also home to some of the best fly-fishing in Mauritius, and resident guests have the unique opportunity to cast a line in the afternoon and have the chefs prepare their catch for dinner. Whether it’s barracuda, carangue and guil pavé on the menu that night? Well, that’s up to you!

www.constancehotels.com

Garden

Location, location, location. The golden rule of real estate applies just as easily to fine dining, and at La Maison d' Été you'll find finely-crafted plates in an unforgettable setting.

While the Beach restaurant offers wonderful sea views, it's in the intimate Garden restaurant – all wicker furniture, hardwood pillars and lush gardens – that you'll enjoy some of the hotel's signature cuisines.

The menu is proudly Mauritian, with a contemporary flourish. Look forward to *dorado tartare* with pink peppercorns and vanilla, or perhaps a mille-feuille of local crab balanced by piquant green apple. Another signature is the *tuna tataki* with soy sauce and sesame. For special occasions a romantic table on the seafront can be arranged, while the summer beach barbecues are a hit with both locals and tourists.

Last, but certainly not least, you can dine out with a clear conscience. La Maison d'Été has a long track record of working in partnership with local fishermen, and does their bit towards eliminating ocean plastic with their policy of not offering plastic bottles, containers or straws.

<https://newmarkhotels.com/places/hotels/la-maison-dete/>





Sea. Fire. Salt

Opened in late-2019 on Le Chaland beach, in the quieter south-east corner of Mauritius, Anantara Iko Mauritius is the first hotel on the island for this global hotel group. Anantara is known worldwide for their impressive culinary experiences, and their flagship restaurant here is no exception.

“The emphasis here is on the freshest seafood and fish, [with] local catches of the day being the focus and using basic and natural, but authentic cooking techniques to enhance the flavours,” explains Chef Warren Domah. “Local fishermen bring baskets of crab and rock lobster to the restaurant daily.”

Alongside the glorious sea views from the open-air restaurant, that takes care of the ‘Sea’. Fire comes courtesy of the live-fire cooking stations; with dramatic flambé and liquid smoke displays adding an element of culinary theatre to the experience. Counter-style seating offers a front-row seat to the action, or opt for al fresco table overlooking the beach. Salt comes in myriad forms, from the selection of salts from around the world that accompany each dish, to the use of Himalayan salt blocks to sear prime cuts of Black Angus steak.

www.anantara.com/en/iko-mauritius/restaurants/sea-fire-salt





La Table du Château

While the historic Domaine de Labourdonnais is a popular destination in its own right – the estate dates back to the 1800s, and is filled with heritage to discover – it’s also renowned for hosting one of the island’s finest culinary adventures.

Under Chef-Patron Fabio de Poli, La Table du Château offers a contemporary expression of Mauritian fine dining, combining global technique and trend with enigmatic local ingredients.

“The menu is designed to reflect the Mauritian gastronomy with a touch of creativity and a specific emphasis on freshness and food provenance, using seasonal fruits and vegetables from the Orchard,” explains de Poli.

Flavours and ingredients run from the little-known bael fruit – also known as *Aegle marmelos* – that grows in the Domaine, through to purple arouille, local vanilla and flavour-packed Zanzli bananas. They all come together beautifully on the plate, and in a superbly elegant setting, with tables set out in the gardens offering memorable views of the domaine as well as the historic château.

domainedelabourdonnais.com





La Ravanne

For many visitors to Mauritius it's the beachfront dining, toes wiggling in the warm coral sands, that offers the quintessential island experience. In the south-west of the island, at Paradis Beachcomber Resort & Spa, a meal at La Ravanne delivers all the coastal culinary charm you could ask for.

La Ravanne celebrates the island's Creole culture through cuisine, with a menu that is proudly focused on Mauritian specialties. Think fragrant chicken and prawn curry, or a family-style Mauritian feast with an array of dishes to discover. Local flavours run true here, with most fresh produce ordered from local vegetable producers and farmers, with fish and seafood purchased from local fishermen.

And, as it's named for the large tambourine-like instrument that is central to the sega music culture of Mauritius, La Ravanne fittingly hosts sega performances throughout the week.

www.beachcomber-hotels.com

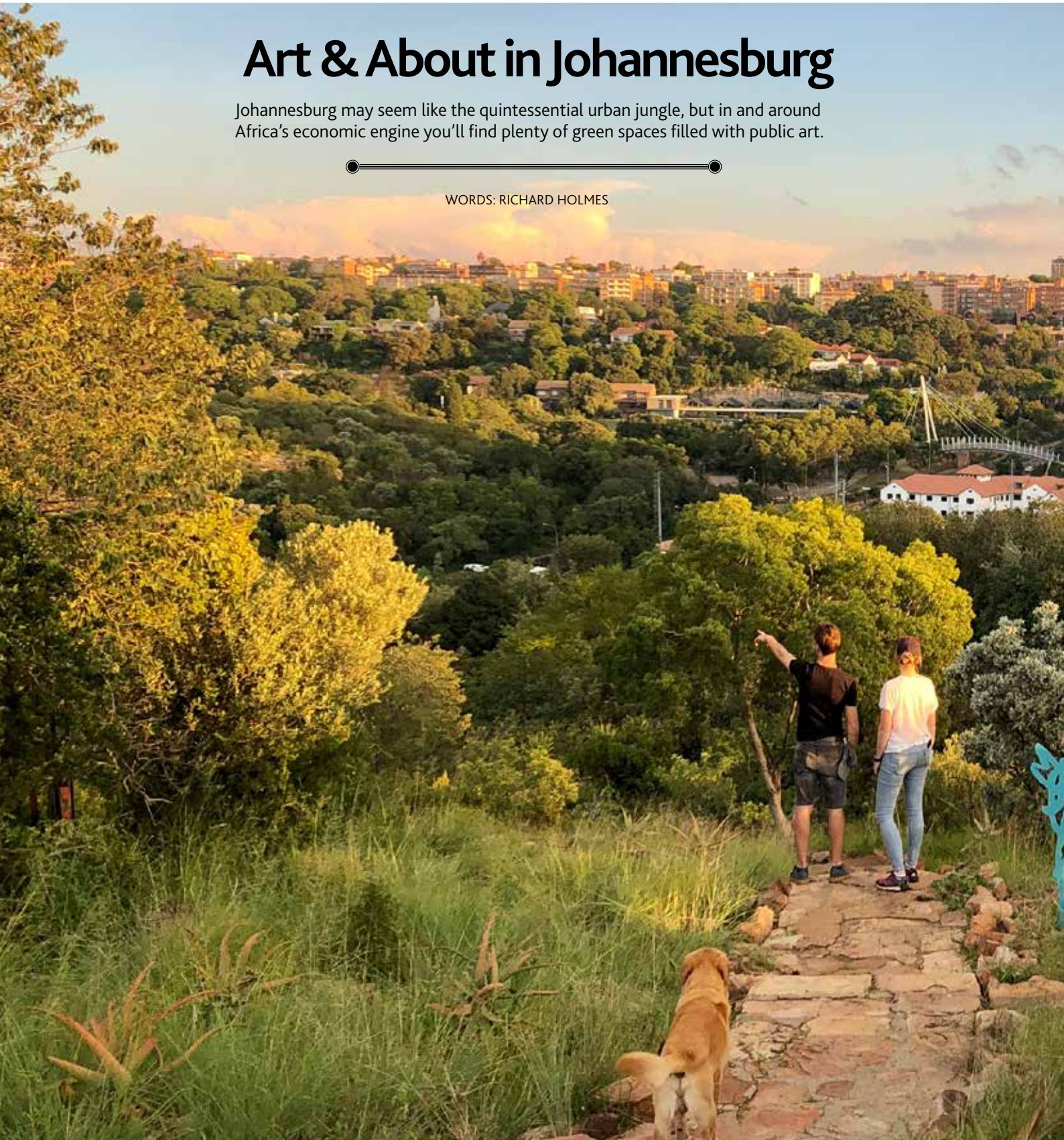


Flight information: www.airseychelles.com

Art & About in Johannesburg

Johannesburg may seem like the quintessential urban jungle, but in and around Africa's economic engine you'll find plenty of green spaces filled with public art.

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES







It began in 2014, with a dog named Pablo. Pablo needed to be walked, but when artist James Delaney looked out of his window at the park known as The Wilds, he inevitably drove elsewhere. Back then The Wilds lived up to its name; a 40-acre warren overgrown with bushes, where paths were unkempt and locals feared to explore far beyond the gates.

So Delaney decided to make a change, by starting small. On his weekend walks with Pablo he'd take along pruning clippers, trimming branches that had fallen on pathways and cutting away the dense foliage to let sunlight wash in. The light made the park feel safer, and the clear paths encouraged more visitors. Inspired by the volunteer-driven regeneration of New York's Central Park, Delaney encouraged others to join in, and with a small exhibition of in situ owl sculptures he found visitors flocking to get involved.

Three years later The Wilds were once again showing signs of life. More volunteers joined, the city authorities pledged resources and The Wilds was transformed into an urban garden again.



Today, the change is nothing short of remarkable. From an abandoned urban wasteland, to date more than 2,000 volunteers have contributed their sweat and energy to improving this remarkable corner of Houghton. In excess of South African Rands one million in donations and fundraising has been collected to spend on infrastructural improvements, and the Friends of The Wilds group now counts more than 4,000 members.

But it's the art, as much as the glorious green garden that draws in both locals and visitors to visit The Wilds.

Local mosaic artists have decorated the park's drinking fountains, now repaired after being dry for decades, while artist Gordon Froud created a sculpture installation of orange beacons in the East Wilds.



But it's the animal artwork of Delaney that has created the biggest stir amongst visitors to the park. Delaney has exhibited in Johannesburg, Philadelphia and New York, and has so far installed a menagerie of more than 100 sculptures across The Wilds. They are particularly striking for their unique artistic approach, of metal cut-out sculptures based on Delaney's signature charcoal sketches.

Today, much of the joy in wandering The Wilds is a chance encounter with the works Delaney has scattered across the park. Along your walk you might bump into a family of red kudu, perhaps a klipspringer or duiker. Monkeys abound, and there is even a rare pangolin to be spotted if you keep your eyes open. But the most talked about inhabitant is certainly the pink and yellow giraffe that stands ponderously on Giraffe Lawn. Surrounded by picnicking families and curious visitors,

this life-size sculpture is clearly visible from the roadway that bisects the park, a towering lighthouse calling visitors to come in, walk, and rediscover The Wilds now that they have been tamed.

While Delaney has revelled in creating an urban wilderness for locals and travellers to discover, sculptor Anton Smit journeys into the mystery of the human form.

Working largely in the media of metal and stone Smit has for decades been a powerful force in South African art. Through his extended career he has exhibited in all of South Africa's leading galleries, and had his work admired from Rome to Singapore, and Amsterdam to New York, where a striking public installation graced Grand Central Station.

But it's his own sculpture garden, which opened in 2003, that is perhaps the most charming destination to discover the sculptor's monumental body of work.



Smit's three-hectare Sculpture Park is set on a high plateau overlooking the Bronkhorstspruit Dam Nature Reserve, and is far and away the cultural highlight of this quiet corner of Gauteng province. Situated less than an hour from OR Tambo International Airport, it's an ideal day-trip for fleeting visitors and a popular outing for art-loving locals.

Smit is most famous for his unique perspective on the human form, which often emerges as a fractured and fragmented vision made permanent in bronze and stone. Across the Sculpture Park visitors can admire and engage with these thought-provoking works, from stand-alone statues to the monumental 'Wall of Revelations'.

"It doesn't represent the narrative or try to tell the interwoven stories of Revelations or pretend to issue any prophetic warning," explains Smit. "Rather, it deals thematically with the emotional impact of Revelations on the human race, all the spiritual drama wrought by so much upheaval."

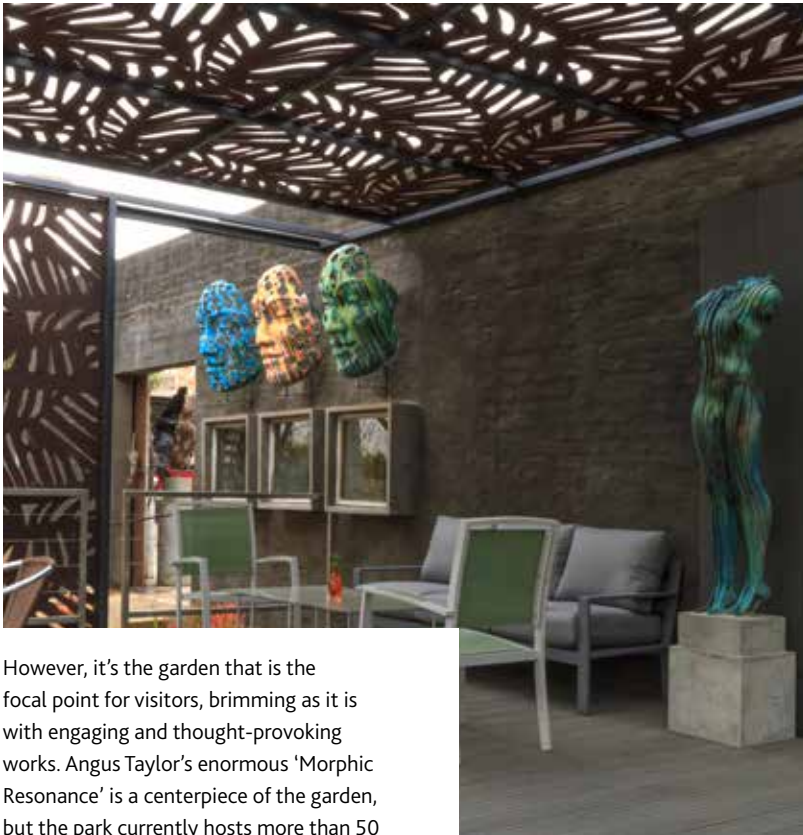


With dozens of works carefully placed amid natural rock formations, succulent gardens and manicured lawns, it's a wonderful space to while away a few hours. The on-site gallery also offers a range of Smit's work for sale, while the Art Café dishes up a compact menu of light meals and drinks.

To the west of Johannesburg, the Nirox Foundation has become a creative crucible for a diverse selection of South Africa's most acclaimed contemporary artists, providing a range of open-air and under-cover spaces that have hosted more than 300 groundbreaking installations since the Foundation was formed in 2006.

Situated in the Cradle of Humankind, a World Heritage Site, the Foundation's sprawling 30-hectare sculpture garden rests on the Blaauwbankspruit River and adjoins the 1000-hectare Kkatlhamphi Private Nature Reserve, a wilderness of riverine forests and golden Highveld grasslands populated by antelope and birdlife.





However, it's the garden that is the focal point for visitors, brimming as it is with engaging and thought-provoking works. Angus Taylor's enormous 'Morphic Resonance' is a centerpiece of the garden, but the park currently hosts more than 50 permanent and long-term installations, with at least one large curated exhibition on the roster each year.

Much of the park's new work comes courtesy of an innovative residency programme, which sees global artists living



at the residence within the Park, becoming enmeshed in the cultural life of the city and, on departure, leaving behind an artwork.

The permanent and temporary exhibits are usually complemented by a diverse programme of workshops, concerts and live art exhibitions, and while COVID-19 has brought many of those to a temporary halt the November 2020 opening of the Park's exciting new restaurant has brought yet another reason to visit.

'And then there was fire' bills itself as a wood-fired grill and tapas café, with a beguiling menu that wanders from hearty prime cuts of grass-feed beef to globally-inspired small plates.

With tables spilling out onto a shaded terrace, surrounded by green lawns and inspiring artworks, there are perhaps few better places to escape the hustle of the city for a few hours, and to fill both body and soul. 🌿



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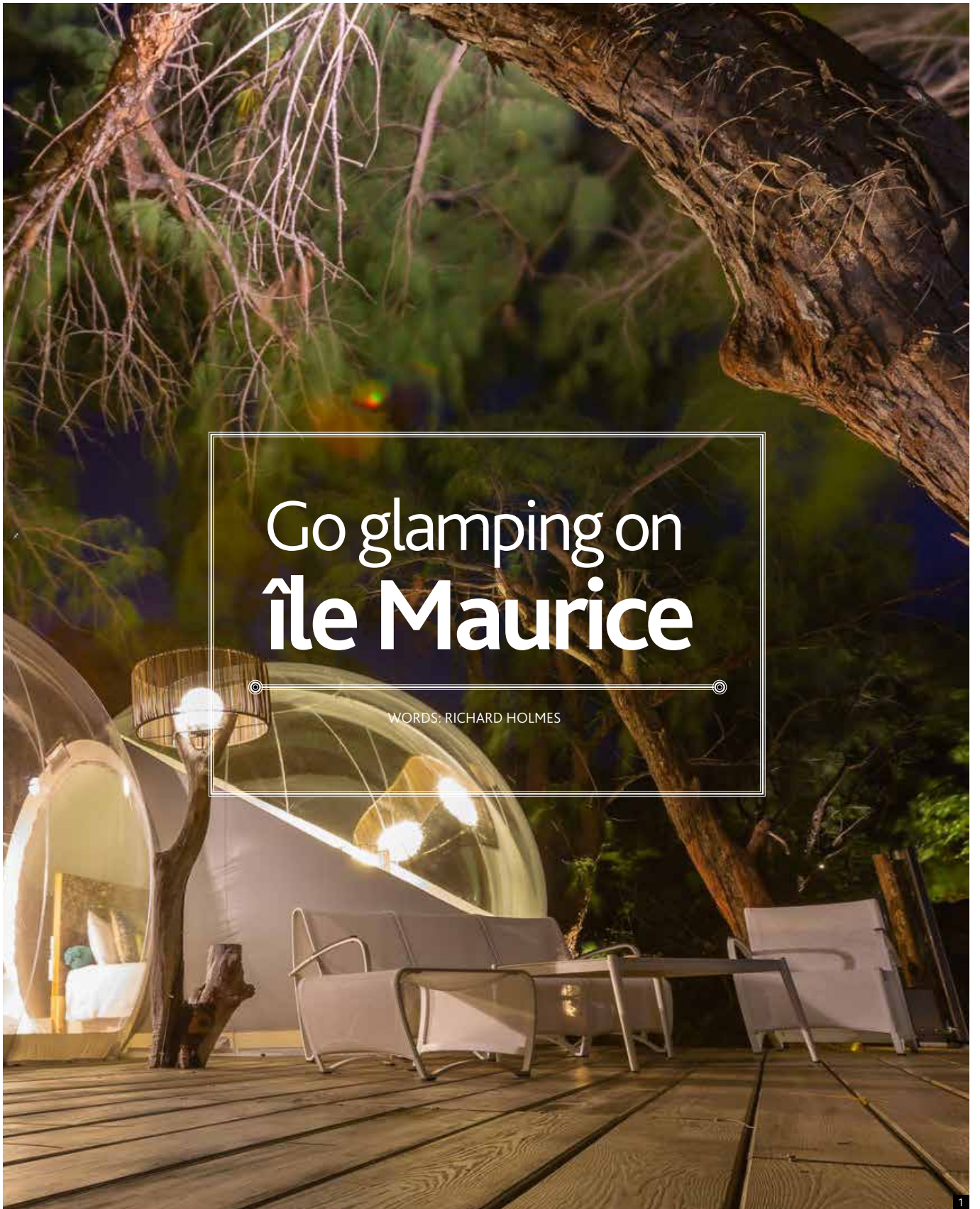
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Go glamping on île Maurice

WORDS: RICHARD HOLMES





For adventurous travellers under-canvas comfort is adding a new dimension to a holiday on Mauritius. Welcome to the brave new world of island glamping...

The island of Mauritius is as famous for its turquoise seas and sparkling beaches as the upscale resorts that encircle the island like a necklace of luxury pearls. With a willing credit card there's almost no limit to the five-star – and more – comforts on offer at the island's myriad chic resorts.

But not all travellers are jetting off in search of luxury. A key trend to emerge from this pandemic-affected year is the growing desire for authenticity and local immersion when we travel. We want to slow down. We want simplicity. We want to be outdoors, with plenty of space for social distancing and fresh air. We want unique experiences that remind us of the magic of travel. And for many travellers 'glamping' ticks all the right boxes.

Glamping – or glamorous camping – has been a growing trend for more than a decade, tapping into a growing desire to explore the great outdoors without sacrificing too many of the comforts of a hotel stay. And Mauritius is certainly not being left behind when it comes to offering glamping experiences immersed in nature.

Perhaps the most striking glamping opportunity on the island is the innovative Bubble Lodge on Île aux Cerfs that lies in the coral-fringed lagoon off the east coast of the island. Surrounded by towering banyan trees, mangroves and lush coastal forest, the three transparent dome-shaped suites offer some of the island's most unique accommodation. Aside from the unforgettable accommodation, guests enjoy unique access to La Flibuste private beach as well as a range of free activities, including kayaking, fishing and hiking. Tea tastings and visits to the nearby Bois Chéri tea estate on the mainland can also be arranged.

In the south of Mauritius, Chazal Ecotourism offers a handful of tented suites, both strung out along the riverbanks or overlooking lush tropical gardens. The accommodation is comfortable, rather than luxurious, and the focus is firmly on guests getting out to experience the adrenalin-pumping range of activities on offer.

Alongside wandering in Saint Romain Park and marvelling at Alexandra Falls, you can tackle the 1.5-kilometre zip-line adventure flying across La Rivière des Galets, or go on canyoning expeditions to brave the waters of one of the largest rivers in southern Mauritius.

But the pioneer of the glamping trend in Mauritius is the Otentic Eco-tent Experience on the east coast of the island.

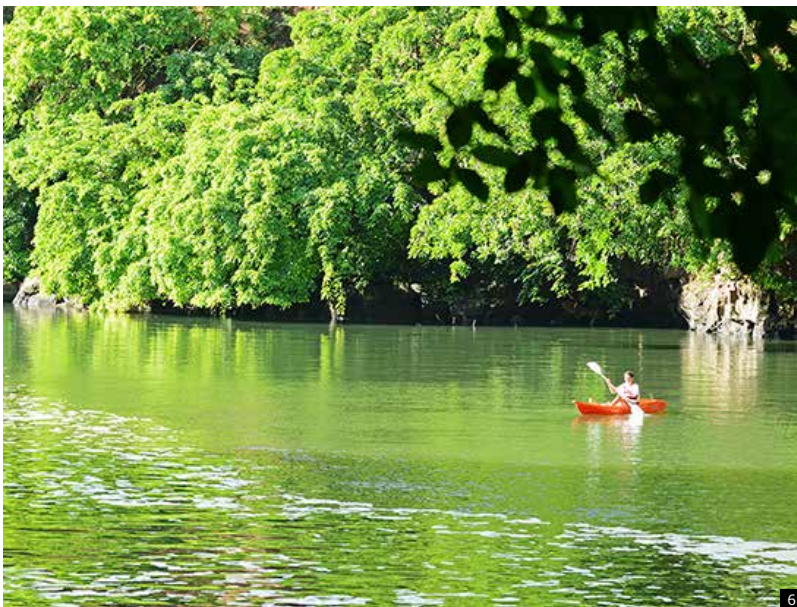


5

- 1-3. The dome-shaped suites of Bubble Lodge on île aux Cerfs offer great under canvas comforts.
- 4&5. Chazal Ecotourism offers a handful of tented suites that are strung out along the riverbanks or overlooking lush tropical gardens.
- 6. Guests enjoy a range of free activities including, kayaking, fishing and hiking.
- 7&8. Otentic River Lodge offers 12 family tents – safari-style canvas with rustic décor set on raised wooden platforms.



7



6



8



Located on the fringe of the small village of Deux Freres, Otentic's River Lodge offers 12 family tents – safari-style canvas, set on raised wooden platforms – each offering a double bed and two singles to accommodate four people. Throughout River Lodge the décor is comfortably rustic, with upcycled materials celebrating the island's rich history. Much of the tents were built using reclaimed wood from the island's original colonial-era houses, while wooden pallets, sifting trays and vegetable boxes – as used at local markets – lend a sense of authenticity to the space.

But this rustic eco-friendly approach certainly doesn't mean you'll want for comfort.

"There are a lot of little twists that we added to the furniture inside the tent," explains Julien Gufflet, who co-founded Otentic in 2012. "We wanted to have very good linen, so there's no compromise there. All the tents are equipped with solar heaters for hot water, and we have a photovoltaic system that provides electricity. We wanted to give the lodge this ecological touch, with a little bit of good design included."

“
Guests can choose between excursions as varied as kayaking through the mangrove forests.”

9&10. Gardener at the Mountain Lodge extensive organic vegetable garden.

11&12. Enjoy dramatic views out over the surrounding coastline just a few kilometres distant at the Otentic's Mountain Lodge.

It's not all about the lodge though. This corner of the east coast is a hotspot for travellers to Mauritius, and guests can choose between excursions as varied as kayaking through the mangrove forests or enjoying rum tastings at iconic island distilleries.

Kayaks are also available for the easy 500-metre paddle upstream to the Grand River South East waterfall. The cascades are one of the highlights of this, the longest river in Mauritius, and these stunning waterfalls are a popular destination for day-trippers.

The stunning white sand beaches of Îlot Mangenie and Île aux Cerfs – the 'island of deer' – are just 30 minutes away by boat, with a complimentary shuttle boat leaving from the lodge each morning for guests wanting to while away a day on the sands. If you'd rather stay on dry land, mountain bikes are available to explore the trails that roll between sugarcane, rivers and mountains. The colourful tourist hub of Trou d'Eau Douce is just a 30-minute cycle ride away.

While River Lodge is a great option for families and those looking to fill their days with island adventures, Otentic's Mountain Lodge nearby takes a more laid-back approach to island life. Pitched at 600-metres above sea level in the lush Bambous Virieux valley, the six under-canvas rooms of Mountain Lodge are an idyllic escape for travellers needing to slow down.

"The Mountain Lodge is for nature lovers and people who want to disconnect from civilisation," says Gufflet.

The lodge is entirely off-grid: Natural spring water flows from the taps in the en-suite bathrooms, and the lodge is powered entirely by solar energy.

"We wanted to make our guests realise that it is possible to have a lodge working only with elements that nature gives us," explains Gufflet, who says that the long-term plan is for the lodge to be entirely self-sufficient, with extensive organic vegetable gardens supplying everything that the kitchens require.





11



12

Though conveniently located for exploring further afield, the ethos here is to rest and recharge. Admire the dramatic views out over the surrounding coastline just a few kilometres distant. Lend a hand in the vegetable gardens if you feel the urge. But a stay at Otentic Mountain Lodge is all about reconnecting with loved ones, or yourself, and disconnecting from the world at large.

There is no mobile coverage in the valley, no Internet access and no Wi-Fi. However, you're not totally cast away. A twice daily free shuttle links guests with the riverside lodge, allowing guests to enjoy kayaking and boat trips to Île aux Cerfs.

However you choose to spend your days here, it's far removed from the glamorous island resorts that Mauritius is most famous for.

"Here we are able to spend more time with our guests than in a five-star resort," explains Gufflet. "It's more personal, more memorable. And I think that's the kind of travel we will need in future." 🌿



Flight information: www.airseychelles.com





Bhopal

A quiet, understated gem

WORDS: CHRISTINE PEMBERTON



1. To explore the park you can rent bicycles or self-drive your own car or stroll along.
2. Often termed as the pride of Bhopal, Van Vihar National Park is home to the white tiger.
3. Ariel view Taj-ul-Masajid, the largest mosque in India.
4. Non-dangerous species such as the four-horned antelope roam around freely.
- 5-7. The Tribal Museum in Bhopal has a unique collection of artefacts from some of the major tribes in the state.

Bhopal, the City of Lakes, is one of India's under-rated gems. The capital of the huge central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal is one of India's greenest and cleanest cities.

Prior to 1947, Bhopal was the second largest Muslim princely state in the Indian sub-continent, before the merger of the states into what would become modern-day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. With the integration of the princely states at independence, all of the states had their own fascinating history and legacy that they took with them into their new country, but few could match that of Bhopal. Uniquely women ruled Bhopal for over 100 years. This was not only in a Muslim state, but even more so in the 19th century, a situation virtually unheard of then. There were four Begums who ruled between 1819 and 1926, veiled, hidden from view, but fully in control of their vast territory.

Befitting its Islamic past, Bhopal is also home to the Taj-ul-Masajid, the largest mosque in India and one of the largest in Asia. The construction of the mosque is an epic story all to itself: Work was started by Nawab Shah Jahan Begum in the mid 19th century, and continued by her daughter Sultan Jahan Begum, but then funds ran out. And there things stopped, until construction was resumed in



1971, well over 100 years later, and the mosque was finally completed in 1985. Quite a saga, covering the reigns of the Begums, the 1857 war against the British, Independence and post-Independence.

Madhya Pradesh is home to vast swathes of jungle, and is rich in wildlife – this is Kipling country, after all, the land that inspired the *Jungle Book*, and still living in and around the forests are many tribal communities. There are dozens of tribes in the state, some of them classified as vulnerable, due to their declining population. With their own languages and customs, distinct traditions and architecture, the tribes are an important part of the cultural identity of the state.

Which is why the stunning Tribal Museum in Bhopal is an absolute must-see.

This extraordinary collection of artefacts from some of the major tribes in the state is truly world class. It is an immersive journey, as you explore brightly lit, brightly coloured rooms, some of them with high, soaring ceilings. There are mock-ups of huts, which you can wander in and out of, looking at the different utensils and furniture inside. It's as though you are in a real-life village, as you walk past painted homes, and look at vessels and farming implements, baskets and wooden carved statues. There are detailed panels explaining the traditions and legends of each tribe. You learn about marriage customs, and tribal religions, about beliefs and legends, about games and music. There is colour everywhere. Exhibits hang from the



ceiling, you clamber up and down. It is truly a fun way to learn about different cultures, with museum staff who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the tribal art and artefacts on display.

It bears repeating – the Tribal Museum is absolutely not to be missed.

When I was advised to visit Bhopal Zoo, my initial reaction was “Er, no thanks”. Regardless of where you stand on the issue of zoos, why on earth would you go see animals in cages when the jungles are just a few hours’ drive away? Ah.

How wrong can you be?

The word ‘zoo’ is a complete misnomer. It is not a zoo at all, in the conventional sense of the word, but rather a National Park, inside the city limits.

Van Vihar National Park (as it is called) is quite extraordinary, and with free-roaming animals and flocks of birds over the lake, it is as though you are in the jungle. Non-dangerous species such as cheetal, langur, sambar, rhesus macaque, hare, porcupine, wild boar, four-horned antelope, nilgai and blackbuck roam around freely, whilst the carnivores and the more dangerous creatures, including tiger, leopard, bear, jackals, and crocodiles are in huge



enclosures, behind moats and with acres of space to roam. Try and visit Van Vihar in the early morning. You will meet local Bhopalis out running, cycling and walking in their beloved 'zoo'. There is a wide road running through Van Vihar and to watch early morning joggers avoid a wild boar foraging peacefully for food is quite a sight. You can rent bicycles to explore the park, or you can self-drive your own car – but why would you drive, when you can stroll along and be startled by a nilgai chomping calmly away next to you?

Clean, quiet. A café. Amazing wildlife on offer. Birds skimming over the lake. Youngsters cycling happily along. There is no better way to start a Bhopal day.

Bhopal – a quiet, understated gem. 🌿



Air Seychelles offers two weekly flights to Mumbai
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Terms & Conditions apply. Economy Class guests can access the lounge at our published rate of USD45. *Please confirm your eligibility with your frequent flyer program.







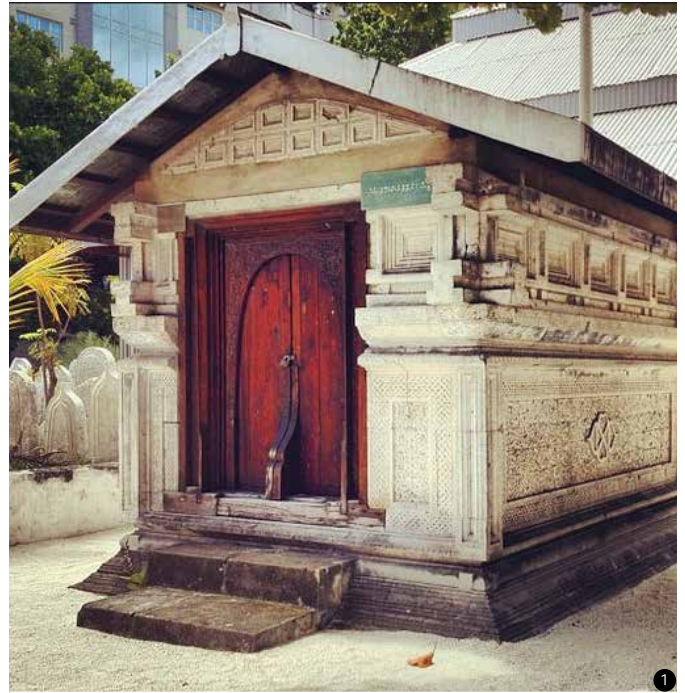
The ancient arts and crafts of the
Maldives

Historically, Maldivians have displayed extremely high standards of craftsmanship, especially in boat building. Their stone carving was also justly famous throughout the region, though the art form was sadly lost during the 20th century. **Silhouette** finds out what is available today.

A wide variety of arts and crafts, many catering for the tourist trade, is still practised in the Maldives. There are still pockets of important Maldivian culture to be found if you know where to look. Arts and crafts are readily available in the tourist shops and inhabited islands near the resorts, but bargaining is an essential part of the ritual.

Whether hunting for souvenirs or not, the green and pleasant capital, Malé, is worth exploring. The streets in the residential areas are shaded with trees, at places forming an arch overhead. There is much to see: The fish market and the local market at the northern waterfront, the new harbour in the south-west corner, and the 400-year-old Friday Mosque are all well worth a visit. A stroll around the residential areas or shopping streets will provide an insight into the life and livelihood of the residents of the capital. Or one can simply sit down and relax at one of the small parks dotted around the capital and just observe the pace of life.

There are more than 40 mosques scattered around Malé, some little more than a coral room with an iron roof. The oldest is the Hukuru Miskiy, famed for its intricate stone carvings. One long panel, carved in the 13th century, commemorates the introduction of Islam to the Maldives, while outside a graveyard holds the tomb of Abu Al Barakat and the tombstones of former sultans.



1. Malé Friday Mosque or the Malé Hukuru Miskiy, one of the oldest mosques built in 1658.
2. Entertaining guests, playing the *Bodu Beru* Drums.





Wooden lacquered boxes

These hand-carved lacquered boxes *liye laajehun* are produced on Thulhaadhoo Island on Baa Atoll, an atoll more famously known as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Made from local funa (Alexandrian laurel), they come in various sizes and shapes, from small pillboxes to large round plates with oval lids (*maaloodh foshi*), used for family feasts on religious festivals. Elegant vases, lacquered in strands of red, black, and yellow resin and delicately carved with flowing patterns, are also popular.

If you have time, look for a guide who will take you to a workshop for a demonstration and will take you through the process.

Mat Weaving

Throughout the archipelago women weave beautiful and detailed reed mats. Perhaps the most impressive is the *thundukunaa*, which ranges in size from a place mat to a mattress.

The women of *Gaafu Dhaalu* Gahdhoo are perhaps the most skilled producers of this prominent symbol of Maldivian craftsmanship. Locally grown reeds are dried in the sun and stained with natural dyes which vary from fawn to black. Woven on a handloom, their intricate, abstract designs vary according to the talent and imagination of the weaver.

The practice of making Maldivian traditional mats is handed down from generation to generation –mostly from mother to daughter. Traditionally used for sleeping, sitting on or praying, *thundukunaa* is still gifted to visiting dignitaries as a memento of their visit.

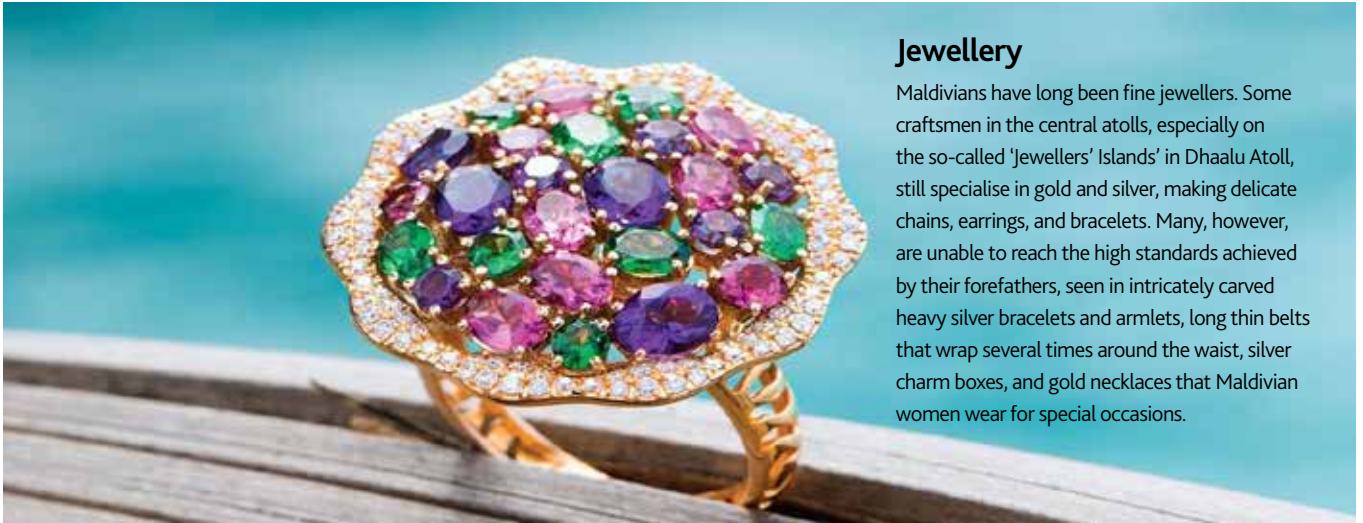


Musical instruments

The most common instrument is the *Bodu Beru* drum, made from a hollowed coconut trunk and is similar to island drums across the world. Originally, drum heads were covered on each end with a skin of manta ray or shark stomach. Now they are generally made of goat skins.

These drums are widely played everywhere in the Maldives and can often be heard from far away, from island to island. With rhythmic and pounding beat, the *Bodu Beru* music is an invitation to dance.

Most of Maldives resorts organise a Maldivian night with local food and *Bodu Beru* songs.



Jewellery

Maldivians have long been fine jewellers. Some craftsmen in the central atolls, especially on the so-called 'Jewellers' Islands' in Dhaalu Atoll, still specialise in gold and silver, making delicate chains, earrings, and bracelets. Many, however, are unable to reach the high standards achieved by their forefathers, seen in intricately carved heavy silver bracelets and armlets, long thin belts that wrap several times around the waist, silver charm boxes, and gold necklaces that Maldivian women wear for special occasions.

Traditional clothing

Most men wear the *mundu* (sarong) and shirt while women wear the *libaas*, a long-sleeved, brightly coloured dress with an embroidered collar made from silver and gold thread. This is worn tight across the arms and chest and loose around the hips over a black underskirt called a *kandiki*. Some of the older women still wear the traditional *feyli*, a heavy, white cotton sarong woven with brown and black strands.

Only a few people still know how to weave the *feyli*, however. Most live on Eydhafushi Island in Baa Atoll, which was once the main centre of *feyli* production. More recently Maldivians have taken to brightly coloured polyester prints which are cheaper and easier to wash but perhaps less healthy in the tropical climate. Island tailors make clothes for the local market while tailors along every street of the capital are eager to create your own personal design. Since tourism has invaded the islands, cheap cotton T-shirts can be emblazoned with a personal motif as well as a typical Maldivian scene.



Boat building

Boats are central to Maldivian life, essential for earning a living collecting wood and coconuts from other islands and for travel. Almost every family has a small boat, and richer families have several.

The caravel-styled boats known as *dhoanis* used by the Maldivians resemble sleek Arab dhows. Made from coconut and local hardwood, the boats are long and slender, with elegant curving prows. They are made by local carpenters, *maavadins*, highly respected members of the community. It takes a team of four or five carpenters about 40 days to build the standard family *dhoani* measuring 10 metres.

Imported hardwoods from Malaysia has replaced coconut wood and result in a stronger, more seaworthy boat. In the tropical climate and reef-strewn seas of Maldives, the boats should last at least 20 years.

These *dhoanis* serve an important purpose and their arrival at any island is greeted with enthusiasm and interest. Some travel as far as Sri Lanka and India. 🌴

Inside Air Seychelles

News and information



Inside Air Seychelles

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Our fleet

Travel tips



WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO DUBAI

Air Seychelles is operating weekly flights from Seychelles to Dubai International Airport (DXB) on a temporary basis between 26 March and 29 May 2021.

The first flight departed Seychelles International Airport on Friday, 26 March 2021 in the morning and returned from DXB the next day on Saturday, 27 March 2021. From 2 April 2021 the flight schedule on Fridays includes an afternoon departure from Seychelles.



To provide business and leisure travellers a full week in Dubai, the returning flight from DXB will operate on Saturday mornings, arriving back to the island around midday.

The flights are on sale at the airline's sales offices in Mahé and Praslin, via airseychelles.com, by contacting the call centre on +249 4391000 or through travel agents.

Economy Class travellers can take advantage of the attractive fares starting from SCR4,999 with two pieces of baggage allowance weighing up to 20 kilogrammes per bag. For Business Class travellers, fares start from SCR16,100 with two pieces of baggage up to 30 kilogrammes each. All fares are inclusive of taxes.

All travellers arriving into Dubai and the Seychelles must hold a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate taken no more than 72 hours before departure. Travellers to the Seychelles must also complete the mandatory Health Travel Authorisation upon receipt of the negative PCR test certificate at seychelles.govtas.com.

The flight schedule from Seychelles to Dubai International Airport, Terminal 3 between 2 April and 28 May 2021 is as follows:

Flight	Origin	Destination	Depart	Arrive	Day
HM016	Seychelles	Dubai	1445hrs	1915hrs	Friday
HM015	Dubai	Seychelles	0800hrs	1230hrs	Saturday

AIR SEYCHELLES TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO MUMBAI



Effective Wednesday, 7 April 2021, Air Seychelles will resume passenger flights from Seychelles to India's largest city and financial centre, Mumbai after one year of absence on the route.

The twice weekly flights, to be operated by the airline's A320neo aircraft with 154 Economy and 12 Business Class seats, follows the air bubble agreement between India and the Seychelles allowing the two countries to operate commercial passenger services.

The flights will depart Seychelles International Airport in the late evening on Wednesdays and Saturdays and will arrive in Mumbai in the early morning hours, allowing travellers the opportunity to easily connect to their onward domestic flights.

The returning flights scheduled from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will operate on Thursdays and Saturdays, with early

morning arrival in the Seychelles to provide visitors from India a full day to plan their activities on the island.

In line with the COVID-19 measures, travellers to Mumbai must hold a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate taken no more than 72 hours before departure, in addition to self-reporting on the airsuvidha portal and undergoing 14 days home quarantine. As each city may have specific entry requirements, travellers with onward domestic connections are requested to verify the guidelines of their final destination prior to departure.

Indian nationals including nationals of Nepal or Bhutan holding a valid visa of the destination country are permitted to travel on these flights subject to no travel restriction at country of destination.

For those travelling to the Seychelles, apart from holding a negative PCR test certificate prior to departure, the mandatory Health Travel Authorisation at seychelles.govtas.com must also be completed. Flight tickets are on sale via airseychelles.com and through travel agents.

The flight schedule from Seychelles to Mumbai effective 7 April 2021 is as follows:

Flight	Origin	Destination	Depart	Arrive	Day
HM260	Seychelles	Mumbai	2210hrs	0415hrs	Wednesdays and Saturdays
HM261	Mumbai	Seychelles	0515hrs	0810hrs	Thursday and Sundays

*All flights will be subjected to the approval of the government including regulatory approval as well as that of the health authorities at each destination. Times shared on the schedule are the local time at each destination.

Before You Travel

Due to the unprecedented events surrounding COVID-19, your travel plans may be delayed or cancelled at any given time.

Before you travel:

- Ensure your flight is still operating as scheduled.
- Proceed with PCR testing upon receiving confirmation of your flight.
- Pay attention to the latest COVID-19 entry requirements at your country of final destination.
- Adhere to all safety measures at the airport and on board the aircraft.

Contact your travel agency or the airlines' Call Centre via email at callcentre@airseychelles.com or contact **+248 439 1000** for more information.



International Network



MAP KEY

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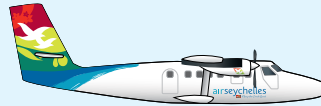
Our Fleet

The airline now operates the youngest fleet of A320neo aircraft.

On its domestic network, the airline owns and operates five DHC6-400 aircraft and offers over 350 weekly scheduled services between Mahé and Praslin, as well as charter flights to other islands within the Seychelles archipelago. Air Seychelles also offers a 30 minute scenic flight product on a daily basis providing guests a bird's eye view of the Seychelles inner islands. The scenic flight can be booked up to 24 hours prior to departure.



Airbus A320-200neo
Aircraft: 2
Length: 37.57m
Wingspan: 34.09m
Passenger capacity: 168
Cruising speed: 840km/h
Cruising altitude: 37,000ft



Dhc-6 Twin Otter-400 Series
Aircraft: 5
Length: 15.80m
Wingspan: 19.80m
Passenger capacity: 19
Cruising speed: 260km/h
Cruising altitude: 10,000ft

Domestic Network



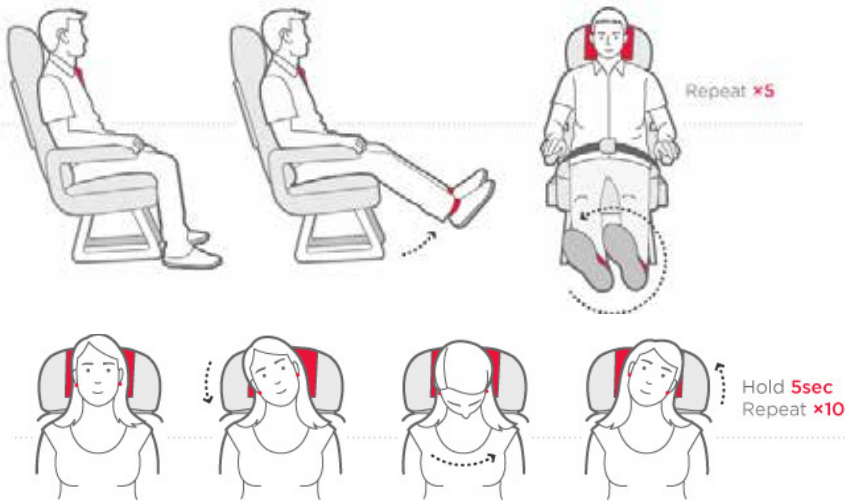
Air Seychelles global offices

<p>India</p> 	<p>Capital: New Delhi Languages: Hindi, English Currency: Indian Rupee Area: 3,287,590 km² Population: 1,263,830,000 Air Seychelles destination: Mumbai</p>	<p>Bird Group LTD 204, 2nd Floor A Wing Kanakia Wall Street 400093 Mumbai Tel: +91 959 4013686 Email: hmsales@bird.travel hmres@bird.travel</p>
<p>Israel</p> 	<p>Capital: Tel Aviv Language: Hebrew Currency: Israel Shekel Area: 20,770 km² Population: 9,085,610 Air Seychelles destination: Tel Aviv</p>	<p>AIRLINES GSA 3 Gilboa St Airport City 7019900 Tel Aviv Tel: +972 3 5160598 Email: airlines-gsa.com</p>
<p>Mauritius</p> 	<p>Capital: Port Louis Languages: French, English, Creole Currency: Rupees Area: 2,040 km² Population: 1,243,000 Air Seychelles destination: Port Louis</p>	<p>Rogers Aviation (Mauritius) Ltd. The Gardens Bagatelle Office Park Moka, Mauritius Tel: +230 2026697 Email: salim.mohungoo@rogers-aviation.com</p>
<p>Seychelles</p> 	<p>Capital: Victoria Languages: Seychellois Creole, English Currency: Seychelles Rupee Area: 456 km² Population: 95,235 Air Seychelles destination: Mahé & Praslin</p>	<p>Air Seychelles Ltd Seychelles International Airport P.O. Box 386 Mahé Tel: +248 4391000 Email: callcentre@airseychelles.com</p>
<p>South Africa</p> 	<p>Capital: Pretoria Languages: English, Afrikaans (11 official languages) Currency: South African Rand Area: 1,221,037 km² Population: 45,919,000 Air Seychelles destination: Johannesburg</p>	<p>Border Air Pty Ltd. 280 Oak Avenue Ferndale Randburg 2194 Gauteng Tel: +27 11 3264440/+27 83 3871698 Email: reservations@border-air.co.za helena@border-air.co.za</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<p>Airport Seychelles International Airport is the main airport on the main island of Mahé. There are two terminals for International and Domestic.</p>	<p>Currency The Seychelles Rupee. There is no restriction on the import and export of domestic and foreign currency in the country. However, anything over USD 10,000 should be declared on arrival or departure. Banks and Bureaux de Change are authorised dealers in foreign currency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberation Day (5 June) • Corpus Christi (3 June) • Constitution Day (18 June) • National Day (29 June) • Assumption Day – festival on La Digue (15 August) • All Saints Day (1 November) • Immaculate Conception (8 December) • Christmas Day (25 December). 	<p>Ground transport Driving in Seychelles is on the left side of the road. You can rent cars on Mahé and Praslin. There are several car hire counters outside the arrivals hall at Mahé International Airport.</p>
<p>Information There is a tourist information/hotel booking desk in Arrivals. There are ATMs, a Bank and a Bureau de Change at the airport.</p>	<p>Credit cards Most credit cards and travellers' cheques are accepted.</p>	<p>Passport requirement Valid passports or other travel documents recognised by Seychelles are required for entry into Seychelles. The passport MUST be valid for the period of the intended stay.</p>	<p>Taxi service Taxi service is safe and reliable and you can get one from the International Airport or call for one from your hotel.</p>
<p>Time Seychelles is four hours ahead of GMT and three hours ahead of Central European Time.</p>	<p>Banking Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 0800hrs-1400hrs.</p>	<p>Visa requirement Visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder. Re-confirm before travel. www.ics.gov.sc</p>	<p>Tourist information office The Seychelles Tourist Office is located in Independence House, Victoria, Mahé.</p>
<p>Electric supply The power sockets are of type G. The standard voltage is 240 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.</p>	<p>Public holidays 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year (1 January) • Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday (2, 4 & 5 April) • Labour Day (1 May) 		
<p>Language Creole, English and French are the official languages of the Seychelles.</p>			

These simple exercises will help to relieve the tiredness and stiffness associated with flying. Check with your doctor first if you have any health conditions which might be adversely affected by exercise.



- Shoulder circles**
- Sit tall and move forward in your seat.
 - Bring your shoulders up towards your ears, then circle back downwards.
 - Reverse the exercise by lifting your shoulders towards your ears and drop them back.

- Neck rolls**
- Sit back in your seat and flatten the headrest.
 - Gently and slowly roll your neck to one side, then back through the centre towards the other side.
 - Try keeping the back of your neck extended.

- Sit up straight**
- Place the pillow at the hollow of your back.
 - Sit tall in your seat to avoid compressing your spine.
 - Do not cross your legs. Instead, try to sit with your weight evenly balanced.

- Ankle circles**
- Sit tall in your seat, and place the pillow under your thigh, just above the knee.
 - Keep your weight even as you circle your foot around, keeping the whole foot as still as possible.

Seychelles reopens its borders to visitors from across the globe except those coming directly from South Africa.

All visitors are required to present a negative PCR test taken 72 hours prior to departure and stay in certified accommodations.

There will be no quarantine requirement nor restriction on movement upon entry into Seychelles.

Visitors have to adhere to public health measures, which include the wearing of faces masks and social distancing in public, regular sanitisation or washing of hands. The new measures also give visitors access to all communal area within the hotel premises inclusive of bars, swimming pools, spas and Kid's club.

The best way to Island hop



Make more of your holiday with a trip to Praslin. On the short 15 minutes flight from Mahé, you can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Seychelles beautiful inner islands.

With over 20 daily departures, getting there and back has never been easier.

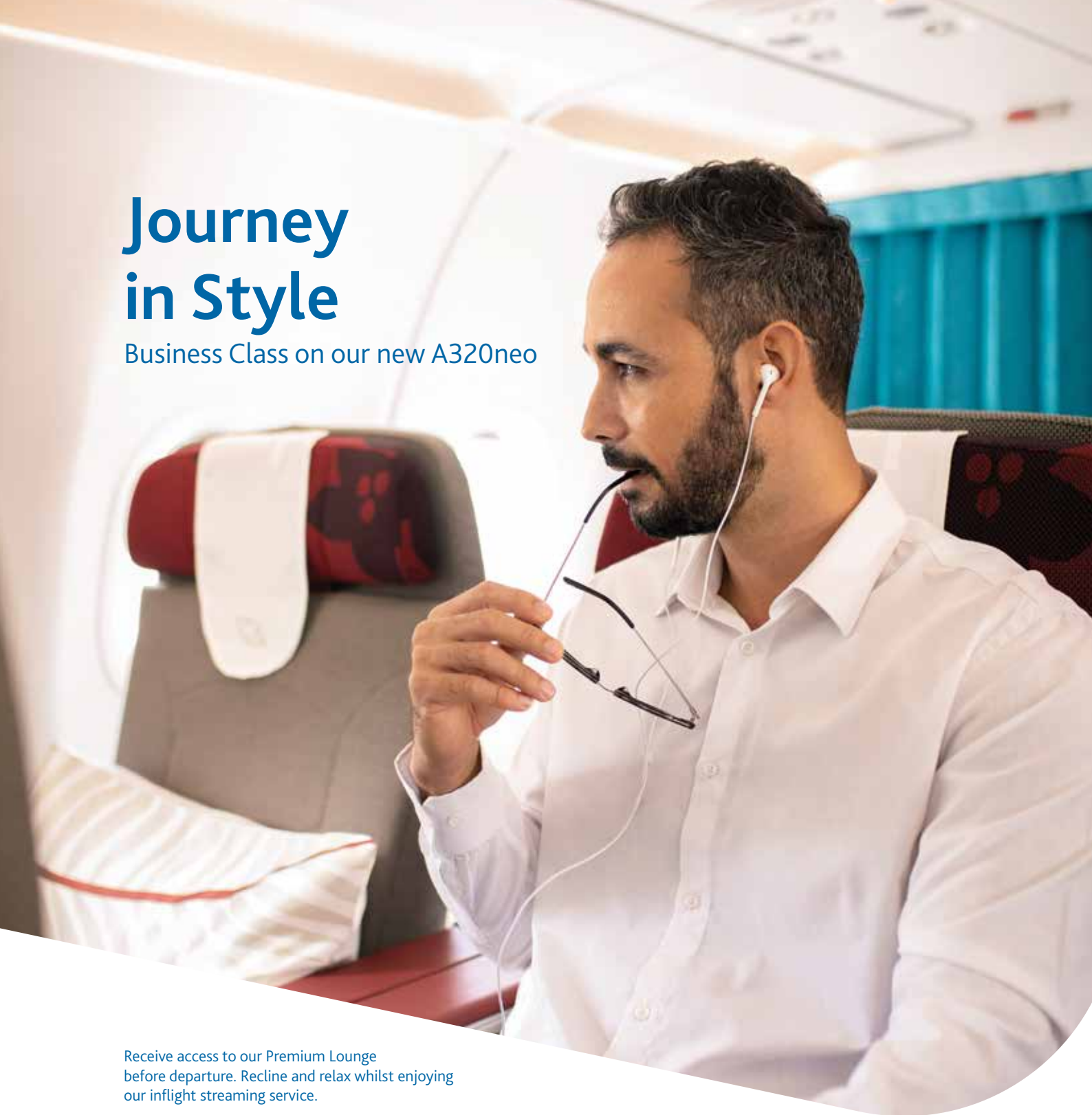
Charter services are also available.



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Business Class on our new A320neo



Receive access to our Premium Lounge before departure. Recline and relax whilst enjoying our inflight streaming service.

Savour a blend of Seychelles and internationally-inspired dishes from our à la carte menu and experience the convenience of our Dine on Demand service.

Discover the best of the Seychelles



Enjoy a bird's eye view of the Seychelles islands with the Air Seychelles scenic flight.

The Seychelles islands, a living museum of nature and a sanctuary for some of the rarest species of flora and fauna on earth. Let us take you to the sky and see places not accessible by foot.

Discover magnificent boulders, lush tropical greens of the mountains or simply be amazed with long strings of beaches and crystal clear blue seas on our 30 minutes scenic flight to the North or South of Mahé.

For more information, please email hmcharters@airseychelles.com or call **+248 439 1000**.



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