

Spellbinding Seychelles

Africa's smallest country by landmass and population is often regarded as its most beautiful. Luxury private resorts are sprinkled across the archipelago of 115 Indian Ocean islands, creating the most tranquil of holidays

The allure of Africa is no stronger than off its east coast, north of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

Myriad magical beaches, coral reefs, nature reserves, mountain rainforests and sand cays make the picture-perfect archipelago home to some of the rarest wildlife, such as the giant Aldabra Tortoise and its national bird, The Seychelles Black Parrot.

Indeed, Seychelles is among the world's leading countries to protect lands for threatened species, allocating 42% of its territory for conservation, with acclaimed success in protecting the flora and fauna of its fragile island ecosystem.

From the hub of Mahé, home to capital Victoria, to the Morne Seychellois National Park

and beaches, including Beau Vallon and Anse Takamaka, the archipelago is a haven for private island luxury resorts, away from the world's thoroughfares.

JA ENCHANTED ISLAND

Awarded the World's Leading Private Island Resort 2019-2022 in the World Travel Awards, JA's Enchanted Island is the smallest of all luxury island resorts in the Seychelles, located in the heart of Saint Anne Marine National Park on Round Island, just a short boat ride from Seychelles International Airport on Mahé.

With only ten enchanting private pool villas, one hilltop villa and two hilltop lodge rooms, authentic Seychellois charm echoes through these classically designed residencies with

French-colonial antiques and spectacular décor.

Between in-villa dining, romantic private beach dinners, Bounty Restaurant or Castaway Bar, the freshest seafood and culinary creations of talented chefs are always on hand.

The resort is a short kayak or paddleboard over to Moyenne island's charming tortoises and birds, or there's a blissful hilltop sanctuary high above the hotel for those days of pure relaxation.

jaresortshotels.com/seychelles

SIX SENSES ZIL PASYON

Located on Félicité Island, a short boat-hop from Praslin Island Airport, this is one of the most secluded private island resorts, on the far eastern extremities of the Seychelles.

Its intimate location and coral-fringed beaches makes Ramos National Park the perfect site for the Ramos Diving Centre, where swimming with turtles and other sealife offers an opportunity to "step in tune with nature".

Spacious one- and two-bedroom villas and jungle-side three-four bedroom residences are surrounded by tropical vegetation, spectacular ocean vistas, private infinity pools, and GEM (Guest Experience Maker) butler service. Creole-inspired cuisine is harvested from the Zil Pasyon garden and

Pictured: The tranquil JA Enchanted Island is located in the Saint Anne Marine National Park on Round Island – with space and time for guests to unwind and embrace nature

Félicité Island waters, and there are exclusive wellness experiences, Spa-ha and sustainability projects to enjoy at the resort.

In 2021, the Six Senses resort produced more than 7,000 kilos of organic herbs, fruits, and vegetables to feed guests and hosts, and there's more to come with a garden renovation close to completion with an aim to increasing food self-sufficiency, while using organic practices and increasing composting output. sixsenses.com/en/resorts/zil-pasyon

DHEVATARA BEACH HOTEL

Amidst glistening turquoise waters, endless sun-kissed sands and lush tropical greenery, this picturesque beachfront retreat features ten individually designed

suites for a bespoke experience. One of the larger islands in the archipelago, Praslin has its own island airport, with crystal clear seas and dense, velvety jungle. The Dhevatara Beach Hotel is known for its deluxe lodgings and culinary cuisine, which makes it one of the most highly sought-after luxury wedding and honeymoon destinations.

Located on the west coast of the island just five minutes from the airport, this five-star boutique hotel offers an ionised infinity pool, direct beachfront access, à la carte restaurant, a signature spa and an abundance of island activities.

Nestled within luscious greenery overlooking the stunning water garden, The Coco Room lounge and restaurant boasts an award-winning chef who cooks

with a fusion of homegrown spices, local herbs and flowers hand-picked from the spellbinding Dhevatara garden.

Welcoming to families, the hotel does have a strict age limit of 12 years to ensure all guests enjoy the most peaceful and relaxing experience. dhevataraseychelles.com

RAFFLES PRASLIN

Also nestled on the magical island of Praslin, Raffles exquisite private pool villa resort is infused with the Seychellois spirit and the legendary 24 hours Raffles Butler service.

Located on the prestigious shores of Anse Takamaka, the resort is the launch point for a myriad of activities and home to natural wonders such as amazing UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In the heart of the island of Praslin, aptly referred to as the mythological and idyllic 'Garden of Eden', are 86 contemporary and luxurious villas, among the most spacious in the Seychelles.

Each villa at Raffles Seychelles features a private outdoor pavilion, plunge pool and balcony.

Raffles Seychelles offers private dining, three restaurants, a sushi room, bar lounge and pool bar, a luxurious spa featuring 12 treatment pavilions, meeting and function rooms for weddings and celebrations, holding up to 70 guests, and a variety of family and kids programs.

Private boat, private helicopter or VIP Transfer options are also available to guests.

raffles.com/seychelles ►



Pictured clockwise from top left: A luxurious room at JA Enchanted Island; activities at Four Seasons; poolside jetty; Eden Island Marina on Mahe; dine-in service at Raffles



FOUR SEASONS SEYCHELLES

Petite Anse, on the west coast of main island Mahé, is home to Four Seasons, with stand-alone villas that feature large sunken bathtubs and private pools, located either by the beach or nestled among the lush tropical hillside. Its Suites either sit proudly on the hillside overlooking Petite Anse Bay or footsteps from the pristine shores of the Indian Ocean and feature outdoor showers, private pools and

a deck and outdoor dining area. Nine Residence Villas are perfect for families, groups of friends and lavish entertaining. Set high on the Resort's hillsides, they offer panoramic ocean views and come with their own infinity pool, kitchen and a personal Residence Host.

Four Seasons island paradise comes with a healthy dose of adrenaline. Lace up your hiking shoes and explore the upland trails, snorkel, surf and sail in pristine blue waters, indulge in

the local culture with a cooking or cocktail class or simply relax at the hilltop Spa. There are also a selection of dining options, offering delicious Creole and Japanese cuisine.

Guests can also contribute to A Petite Anse Reef Restoration Project, rescuing coral fragments in fascinating interactive and educational sessions. fourseasons.com/seychelles

LE MERIDIEN FISHERMANS COVE

Situated at Beau Vallon Beach with three kilometres of sparkling ivory sand on the northwestern tip of Mahé, Fishermans Cove Resort is set amidst lush tropical gardens, with two restaurants and two bars.

Guest rooms and suites have ocean views with private balconies, open-plan bathrooms, while suites feature a separate sitting area for relaxation, complimented with soft and muted shades of décor that allows guests to unwind and calm.

fishermanscove-resort.com ■

