

Adventurous R&R

Few destinations combine relaxation and adventure quite as naturally as Mauritius and Réunion

Although they sit within the same stretch of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius and Réunion offer quite different experiences. Mauritius is the quintessential luxury escape, where exceptional resorts, white-sand beaches and warm lagoons provide the setting for slow, restorative days. Réunion, meanwhile, is shaped by mountains and volcanoes, appealing to travellers who prefer their island holidays with a little more exploration.

Below: Île aux Cerfs is a quite stunning, privately owned island off the east coast of Mauritius known for its white sandy beaches and turquoise lagoon

MAURITIUS: REFINED ISLAND LUXURY
Mauritius has built its reputation on beautiful beaches and outstanding resorts, but its character extends far beyond the shoreline. Centuries of migration have created a fascinating cultural blend, reflected in the island's architecture, markets, music and cuisine. Indian, African, Chinese, French, and Creole influences can all be found across the island, giving Mauritius a personality that feels considerably richer than its postcard image suggests.
For a classic luxury stay, One&Only Le Saint Géran occupies a privileged position on a private peninsula on the island's east coast. Its setting combines

ocean frontage with calmer lagoon waters, while spacious accommodation, sophisticated dining and an extensive wellness offering make it particularly suited to travellers seeking a resort experience with few compromises.
Another standout is Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita, where private villas, pools and tropical gardens create an especially secluded atmosphere. Guests have access to a private beach on Île aux Cerfs, as well as golf, watersports, spa treatments and a selection of restaurants. The resort also provides an excellent base for discovering the quieter eastern side of the island.
Away from the beach, Mauritius has plenty to occupy

curious travellers. Visit the historic botanical gardens at Pamplemousses, explore the colourful landscapes around Chamarel or hike through the forests of Black River Gorges National Park. In the southwest, Le Morne Brabant rises dramatically above the coastline and has become one of the island's defining landmarks.
The sea, naturally, remains central to the Mauritian experience. Private sailing trips, snorkelling, diving and dolphin encounters provide opportunities to explore the waters beyond the resort. For something particularly memorable, charter a yacht for the day and watch the coastline change from the water.
Above all, Mauritius is a destination that rewards taking your time. A leisurely breakfast, several hours beside the lagoon, an afternoon treatment and dinner overlooking the ocean can be every bit as satisfying as a packed itinerary.
mauritiushow.com



RÉUNION: THE ISLAND OF DISCOVERY
Réunion offers an entirely different proposition. As a French overseas department, it combines European infrastructure with a distinctly Creole identity, while its extraordinary topography makes it one of the most fascinating islands in the region.
Its interior is dominated by volcanic peaks, enormous natural amphitheatres and rugged valleys. The island's three great cirques – Mafate, Salazie and Cilaos – are among its most spectacular landscapes. Hiking is the best way to experience them, although helicopter excursions provide an unforgettable alternative for those who want to appreciate their scale from above.
The island's volcanic character reaches its most dramatic expression at Piton de la Fournaise. One of the planet's active volcanoes, it has helped create the otherworldly scenery of the surrounding highlands. Depending on conditions, visitors can explore the area on foot with a guide and discover lava fields, volcanic formations and vast open landscapes.
Réunion's appeal is not confined to the mountains.

The western coastline is home to protected lagoons where visitors can swim and snorkel, while the island's multicultural heritage is particularly evident at the dining table. French culinary techniques meet Creole traditions and ingredients, producing a food scene that is one of the destination's most underrated, yet appealing attractions.
Accommodation also reflects the island's different character. Rather than focusing exclusively on huge beachfront resorts,

Réunion offers boutique hotels, intimate properties and mountain retreats that work as bases for exploration. The experience is less about remaining within the resort and more about venturing beyond it.
That contrast makes a twin-island journey particularly compelling. Mauritius provides the polished glamour of a traditional Indian Ocean resort holiday, while Réunion adds movement, landscape and discovery. For the luxury traveller, experiencing both

Above: Mauritius makes for the perfect romantic getaway
Below: The idyllic village of Flic en Flac boasts several luxury hotels, against the backdrop of Tourelle du Tamarin
creates a more complete picture of this extraordinary corner of the world: Mauritius for beautifully executed relaxation, Réunion for dramatic adventure, and both for an Indian Ocean journey that extends well beyond the beach.
en.reunion ■

