

## BEACHES IN MAURITIUS

A guide trip at beaches of Mauritius Island

The east coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean islands have fabulous tropical beaches; some surprisingly empty, untouched and natural.

The fine coral sand beaches of Mauritius with its beaches of border warm turquoise seas teeming with fish. Here the offshore reefs will delight divers and smokeless.

The topic of beaches of Mauritius is to help those visitors where a beach is a vital part of a perfect holiday. Of course, choosing a beach is much like choosing your favourite dish: "it's all a matter of taste". We try to describe the beaches as objectively as possible and hope that you will come back to these pages when you have sampled a beach to place your comment or vote on its merits.

Many of Mauritius' best beaches seem to the visitor to be reserved by five and four star hotels. However, our laws have there is a law that states, "That all beaches in the country are public". This said, it is not always easy to access them and some have to approach via a boat and would find no public facilities available when you got there.

We start your island beach tour on the next page and reay about the many wonderful beaches.

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Beaches of Mauritius: Balaclava or Turtle Bay

Turtle Bay was the first Marine National Park on Mauritius. It's beach on the border of the lagoon welcomes you to sunbathe or to enjoy candlelight dinner, with your feet in the sand.

The beach of the bay is generally referred to as Balaclava. The beach and bay is shared by three hotel resorts namely; Maritim Hotel, La Plantation and The Oberoi Mauritius. The beach is split by a river "Citron" with Maritim on one side and La Plantation and The Oberoi Mauritius on the other side.

The idyllic Balaclava beach on Turtle Bay is of typically coral white sand and amazing turquoise water. Turtle Bay beach

guarantees total relaxation, first-class facilities and excellent swimming.

As the beach is some limited for the local population, as its mainly the hotel guests and the few privet residents that have direct access to the beach, it creates a romantic atmosphere. This make Balaclava holidays a popular choice for wedding and honeymoon holidays. Considering the intimacy and size; The Oberoi Mauritius is the perfect choice for weddings and honeymooners.

For families on holiday at Balaclava; Maritim Hotel, La Plantation Hotel is the more preferred hotels and choosing between them is a matter of preference.

However, from both hotels, visitors can experience wonderful conditions for snorkelling, scuba diving with colourful coral reefs and a PADI approved dive school.

Anyone who looks for a change of beach, just a few minutes walk along coast line another wonderful beach front appears part in front of Le Meridien Hotel.

Beaches of Mauritius: Pointe aux Piments beach (Point of Chillies)

This coast area is famous for its underwater scenery and this is the reason it is recommended to take a dive trip there with Easy Dive at Le Meridien Resort Mauritius.

The beach stretches some 800 metres of white sandy beach boarding the beautifully landscaped gardens of Le Meridien resort. This hotel has the settings for the perfect leisure resort.

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Beaches of Mauritius: Trou aux Biches beach (Deer Watering Hole)

Some would consider this beach, on the north west of the island, the best of Mauritius considering sand quality, weather conditions, and available facilities not to mention the gorgeous sunsets. The beach is at least 2 km long, with white coral sand.

It has beach villas, bungalows, an excellent little hotel and public access at the south end, the Trou aux Biches resort hotel occupying much of the rest, with a few more establishments at the inferior and rocky north end. The little hotel is called the Le Sakoa Hotel and is especially good value throughout the season. However, should you wish to stay at this hotel plan well in advance, as you are not the only one to have discovered the best kept secret in the village: one of the 14 spacious standard rooms.

Beaches of Mauritius: Mont Choisy beach

The stretch from Trou aux Biches to the Club Med at Pointe aux Canoniers, towards Grand Bay, is named Mont Choisy. This is the largest and longest public beach in Mauritius. Its white band of coral sand, almost 2 kilometres long, curves along its turquoise bay and the dense filao trees offer the beach visitor its soothing shade when the scorching sun has taken its toll on your skin. The south end of this popular beach is home to a couple of charming and affordable hotels including Coralia Club Mont Choisy close enough to the tourists hub of Grand Bay to be accessible by bike, car or public transport but far enough to enjoy peace of mind.

In other words, this beach is one of the most popular beaches on the island, offering facilities for safe bathing, sailing, windsurfing and water-skiing.

Eventually the coastline curves into Grand Bay itself, the main centre for yachting, water-skiing, windsurfing and many other sports. You find many small beach spots with a couple of small hotels on the west side of the bay and some well-known hotel properties on the East side. A well kept secret from most tourists, who have stayed in Grand Bay, is La Cuvette.

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#### Beaches of Mauritius: La Cuvette beach

Just 100 meters from Veranda Hotel (Veranda Resorts) you will find the beach "La Cuvette", a really nice spot. La Cuvette is small as it is less than 200 metres long, separated by a stone setting for the first part which makes it very suitable for small children and for the other, it is the playground for the teenagers and the adults.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Péreybère beach

This beach is a real pearl situated in a charming little cove midway between Grand Baie and Cap Malheureux. The sand is like baby powder and the deep, clear water makes it one of the very best bathing places on the whole island. Pereybere is considered the backpackers paradise due to the many small apartment complexes, restaurants and bars. There you also find a couple of small hotels such as Cot d'Azur hotel and Hibiscus hotel.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Coin de Mire beach

Enjoying a day on Coin de Mire beach, it is a bit like taking a step back to the old time. Overlooking the spectacular lagoon of Bain Boeuf, with a back drop from the costal road you find yourself cut of from reality. On the other side of the road the little charming tourist hotel Coin de Mire hotel is found.

The guests of the hotel can, besides sun bathing, enjoy the local scene of the village children playing in the water and jumping from the small jetty, which is part of the landing station for the fishermen. The white sand beach offers a view of the splendid tropical sunsets with the distinct silhouette of Coin de Mire Island in the background.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Cap Malheureux beach

This is a fishing village in the extreme north, with a magnificent view of Flat Island, Round Island and Gunner's Quoin (Coin de Mire), which are islands of volcanic origin, rising from the light-green sea.

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#### Beaches of Mauritius: Grand Gaube

Further along the coast is another charming fishing village where fishermen have earned a well-deserved reputation for their skill in the making of sailing craft and deep-sea fishing. The public beach is small but has recently been upgraded along with the whole village making a visit worth your while. Paul and Virginie hotel, which also features a small beach, blends perfectly in the village.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Belle Mare beach

This beach is one of the favourite seaside resorts, especially in the hotter months, because of the fresh prevailing winds that blow almost all year round from the sea.

Here a beautiful white sandy beach with fine bathing is found. The coast, with its white strip of sand, connects Palmar beach and Trou d'Eau Douce, then stretches out idly to île aux Cerfs and the eastern coastal road.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Palmar Beach

Palmar is the projection of Belle Mare beach. It is one of the rare beaches to have escaped heavy hotel development up to now. However, the authorities have recently allocated large parts of this area to hotel developers. It is therefore expected that the whole landscape in that area will undergo a profound change in the next few years. However, two spots have been declared Public Beach and they are absolutely marvellous. The blue turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean blend admirably into the simple white stretch of beach of these two spared spots. Both are preserved from any development and have thus kept their authentic charm of yesteryear.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Roches Noires and Poste Lafayette beach

Roches Noires and Poste Lafayette beaches are somewhat reminiscent of the turbulent southern seas of Mauritius. Here the reef is only some metres away from the beach making swimming a risky endeavour. However, the lashing waves create a permanent white froth over the dark rocks bordering most of the coast at these spots. The view is spectacular and the cool breeze makes of these beach areas excellent summer spots for enjoying a healthy and energising holiday.

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Beaches of Mauritius: Trou d'Eau Douce

Description of Trou d'Eau Douce are beeing updated.

Beaches of Mauritius: Ile Aux Cerfs (Stag or Deer) Island) beach

As one of the most publicised beach of Mauritius, Ile aux Cerfs lies a short boat ride away from the main coast line, on the Eastern tip of Mauritius. As the beach/Island is featured on most tourist publications, it has become a tourist haven. The island features an 18-hole championship golf course designed by world Champion Golfer Bernhard Langer. The whole island is managed by the neighbouring Touessrok Hotel.

The island, featuring splendid tropical vegetation and encircled by wonderful beaches, can only be reached by boat. The small fishing village of Trou d'eau Douce is the closest point of embarkation.

The island is equipped with a bar, restaurants and shops, as well as water sport facilities including parasailing and windsurfing.

The trip clockwise to the South East coast of Mauritius will eventually take you past Mahébourg Village, the old capital of Mauritius. From there, and following the coastline, will get you past Le Preskil Beach Resort with its own white beach facing one of the most spectacular lagoons of Mauritius. Further on il the same line is Pointe d'Esny, a long white sandy beach with its string of villas and guest houses. No hotels here and the end of Pointe d'Esny beach leads you into Blue Bay.

Beaches of Mauritius: Blue Bay

In a semicircle of Filao trees lies one of the finest bathing spots on the island. Situated on the southeast coast, not far from Mahébourg, Blue Bay offers a fine stretch of white sandy beach, and a deep, clear, light-blue natural bathing pool. There is also scope for yachting and windsurfing. Blue Bay is part of a conserved and protected marine park where Blue Lagoon Hotel offers daily glass bottom boat trips to their guests. The coral garden there, is probably the most &ldquo;snorkelled&rdquo; spot of Mauritius.

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#### Beaches of Mauritius: Bel Ombre beach

The Southern coast is not known for its beaches however; a couple of resorts such as The Telfair Resort and Spa are perfectly situated as one of Mauritius's best kept secrets, the former sugar estate of Bel Ombre. The beach faces the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean and the Resort the green slopes of a new championship golf course at the foot of a mountain. The nearby waters of Citrus River (Rivière Citron) contribute considerably to its charm.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Le Morne beach

On the Southwest of the island of Mauritius Berjaya Le Morne Beach Resort and Casinos is set in a fragrant tropical garden on a 3km long beach, facing the irresistible blue tones of the Indian Ocean layers. Enjoying time in the lagoon offers more than romantic sunsets, snorkelling and excellent diving &ndash; just swing is an experience with a spectacular rises of &ldquo;Le Morne&rdquo; mountain. For the wind and kite surfer the public beach, next to Indian Resort (Apavou), are without a doubt one of the best spots to test your skills. Should you need some help the Mistral Surf Club, at Indian Resort, have the international expertise to get off to the right start.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Tamarin beach

Lying in the shadow of the Rivière Noire Mountains; Tamarin has a fine lagoon which is split in two by the Rivière Noire (Black River). The bathing at this point is a big attraction, and amenities for surfing in the big ocean swells are available.

Tamarin area is more than a famous surf spot and was a legendary hippie destination in the sixties. Guests of Tamarin Hotel and Sands Resort, both facing the bay are offered an exceptional sea ballet performed by the Tamarin Dolphins.

#### Beaches of Mauritius: Flic en Flac beach

The beach of Flic en Flac, offers an easy access with a long public stretch of powdered white sand and calm, shallow, reef-protected water, backed by the ubiquitous Filao trees, which offer shade for a picnic. The surrounding area may have become overdeveloped to some but does, at least, offer the humble independent traveller a variety of apartments, small hotels (Klondike Hotel, Villas Caroline Hotel and Manisa Hotel), shops, bars and restaurants at budget prices. Well renowned hotel resorts (Taj Exotica Resort Mauritius, Sofitel Imperial Mauritius and Hilton Resort Mauritius) are also found in the same line, which lies side by side down towards the Tamarin bay.

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