

MAURITIUS

Indian Ocean Paradise

12 Days / 11 Nights

Tour Departs Saturday 03 June 2017 - Wednesday 14 June 2017

Tour Cost from: \$5,355.00 per person Twin Share (\$565.00 single supplement)

+ Taxes Approx \$580.00 - Airport taxes/levies are subject to change until fully ticketed

Business Class Available Price on application

Price valid for travel June 2017 and is subject to International Currency Fluctuations until fully ticketed.

Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday 3 June 2017 : Launceston - Melbourne - Perth

Flight Meals & D

After our coach transfer to the Launceston airport, we check in to our flight to Perth (via Melbourne).

Flight VA1365 departs Launceston at 10.20 am, arriving Melbourne 11.20 am.

Flight VA685 departs Melbourne at 1.05 pm, arriving Perth 3.30 pm.

On arrival we are collected from the airport and taken on a city highlights tour of Perth before arriving at our hotel for check in. Tonight we enjoy a delicious buffet dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth.

Day 2 Sunday 4 June 2017: Perth – Mauritius

D

This morning we enjoy a delicious breakfast before our mid morning coach transfer to the Perth Airport.

MK 441 departs Perth at 1.05 pm, arriving Mauritius

We **arrive in the beautiful paradise of Mauritius** late afternoon after our flight from East Coast via Perth with Air Mauritius. Once custom formalities and luggage collection has been completed and our currency has been exchanged we are met and receive assistance from our English speaking guide and our friendly Mauritian ground team. After boarding our coach we enjoy a **brief introduction to Mauritius** as we are transferred to the **beautiful beach front Tamassa Resort** which is surrounded by **magnificent manicured tropical gardens, pools and sheltered turquoise waters**. After check in we are escorted to our well appointed rooms enjoying time to unpack and unwind in our idyllic beach front surrounds. The buffet waits for those still a bit peckish.

LUX Tamassa Beach front Resort: A vibrant 4 star beach front resort set in tropical gardens on white sandy beaches with rustling coconut trees and a cobalt ocean. Located in **Bel Ombre**, in the **South Region of Mauritius**, this beach resort is surrounded by dramatic mountains and dense sugar cane fields. Here, an effervescent zest for life combines with contemporary design to bring the young at heart the perfect spot for fun and relaxation.

Overnight Bel Ombre: LUX Tamassa Beach front Resort – All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 3 Monday 5 June 2017: South East Coast Mahebourg - Half Day Tour

B,L,D

A delicious full buffet breakfast is enjoyed by all before taking off on our leisurely half day morning tour. After boarding our coach we make our way east to the **beautiful seaside port and fishing village of Mahébourg** sitting next to the largest lagoon on Mauritius. There is something relentlessly charming about bite-size Mahébourg (my-boor) which was founded in 1805 and named after the famous French governor Mahé de Labourdonnais. The town was once a busy port, but these days it's something of a backwater, with a small fleet of fishermen. We enjoy a stroll through the **Mahébourg seaside markets "foire de Mahébourg"** where we will find a roaring produce section, rows of tacky bric-a-brac and steaming food stalls. It's the perfect place to try some of the local snacks – gâteaux piments, dhal puris, samousa and chilli bites! We then visit the **H. Rault Biscuit Factory** where the Seneque family have produced unique manioc (cassava) biscuits since 1870 and is now run by the 4th generation of the family. The making and baking is still very traditional and that's the beauty of it, but they have kept developing new (natural) flavours and variants. We also visit the monuments recounting the epic naval battles of the past between the French Navy and the Royal Navy. The Dutch historical museum or **Fredrik Hendriks Museum** in Grand Port recounts the early Dutch settlement of the island. We then travel back to our resort for lunch and a **relaxing afternoon which can be spent lazing poolside with a cocktail or enjoying the many facilities, activities, food and beverages that come complimentary with our "full board" inclusion**. Later in the day we meet for complimentary pre dinner drinks and dinner.

Overnight Bel Ombre: Lux Tamassa Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 4 Tuesday 6 June 2017 : Highlights Chamarel & Sacred Lake - Half Day Tour

B,L,D

After a good night's sleep and delicious breakfast, we depart on our morning **half day excursion and highlights tour**. We take in the **Grand Bassin Statue and Sacred Lake, Macabée Forest, Black River Gorge, Coffee Plantations, Chamarel Waterfalls** and the amazing **Chamarel Coloured Earth**. Later in the day we return to the hotel for lunch for a relaxing afternoon. Later we meet again for complimentary pre dinner drinks and dinner at the resort.

Overnight Bel Ombre: LUX Tamassa Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 5 Wednesday 7 June 2017 : Casela Wildlife Park - Interaction Lions & Cheetah`s.

B,L,D

This morning we depart for our exciting and **life changing experience** as we make our way to Yemen and the **Casela Wildlife and Nature Park to Interact with Lions and Cheetahs**. (**Optional upgrade to "Walk with the Lions") Here with the expertise of Safari Adventures Mauritius we have our **"Lion & Cheetah Encounter"** as we **Interact with Lions and Cheetah's**.

After our amazing interaction we can take a leisurely stroll through the nature bird and wildlife park before **lunch at the Mirador Restaurant** which offers amazing views down through the valley and across to the ocean. After lunch we leave the park and begin our drive back to the resort via the tiny **Notre Dame de Fatima Church and the salt pans of Tamarind**, built during the French colonial period. After arriving back at the resort we enjoy some leisure time before meeting for complimentary pre dinner drinks and dinner.

Overnight Bel Ombre: LUX Tamassa Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

**** Optional at extra cost \$80.00! "Walk with Lions".** We get to walk, pat and take photos up close and study the primitive behaviour of the lions and share their "Pride" of being in their natural state.

Day 6 Thursday 8 June 2017: Free at leisure -

B,L,D

Today is a complete day at leisure to enjoy the complimentary resort facilities or optional activities or touring at own cost. All food and beverage at the resort for the day is included in our "All inclusive" package.

Overnight Bel Ombre: LUX Tamassa Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 7 Friday 9 June 2017: Le Morne Unesco World Heritage Site - West Coast Cruising

B,L,D

After breakfast we depart the resort and make our way through **Le Morne** stopping at the **Matthew Flinders Memorial**. Matthew Flinders had set out from Sydney to complete a survey mission of the Torrens Strait in late September 1803 bound for England aboard his stricken 11 metre vessel the Cumberland with a crew of 10. By early December 1803, the condition of Cumberland was such that a decision was made to call at the island of Mauritius, then a French possession. Flinders was hopeful of obtaining a replacement ship here. Accused of being a spy, he spent six and a half years in detention here. It was not until March 1810 that, mysteriously, his French captor, the Governor of Mauritius, Decaean, agreed to free Flinders. He was finally released from Mauritius on 13 June 1810 and arrived back in England on 24 October. Leaving this monument we travel past the **iconic Le Morne Brabant Unesco World Heritage Site** that symbolises **"Slavery in Mauritius"** and their fight for freedom, their suffering, and their final sacrifices. We stop at the magnificent **Slave Route Memorial**, erected to honour their plight. The surrounding sculptures symbolize the different countries from which the slaves were brought into Mauritius or to which they were sent after transiting via Mauritius. The existing sculptures represents Mozambique, Madagascar, India, China, Malaysia, Haïti & Réunion island. Two sculptures are yet to be added, those of France & Senegal. The Slave Route Monument was inaugurated on the 1st of February 2009 for the 174th anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in Mauritius and is part of the slave route of the Indian Ocean. We then continue up the **West Coast to Rivière Noire** where we begin our **½ Day Catamaran Lunch Cruise**. If one is lucky, numerous dolphins can be seen in the morning playing in the area or catching fish. Then we sail south towards **La Roche Crystal** with its **crystal clear lagoon** while the crew prepares a delicious BBQ on board. After lunch we sail back to Rivière Noire with a cocktail in hand...the beauty and tranquillity of this whole region cannot be missed and will create a wonderful lasting memory. Mid-afternoon we arrive back at the jetty and transfer back to the resort to relax once again. Later we meet for our complimentary pre dinner drinks and dinner.

Overnight Bel Ombre: Lux Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 8 Saturday 10 June 2017: Curepipe - Escale Creole - Eureka House - Grand Gaube

B,L,D

After breakfast we depart the south of the island and begin our drive to the north through the central region taking in the most magnificent views of the Trou aux Cerfs volcanic crater before arriving into Curepipe where we enjoy some retail therapy. Our next stop is for lunch! Welcome to the Escale Creole! We enjoy a unique dining experience in the true sense of Mauritian Creole tradition and share authentic home cooking and the lifestyle of Marie-Christine and her mum Majo. Mum (Majo) is the chef who reigns in gentle authority on the pots and pans simmering since early morning and Marie-Christine is the head of the team which will make us live a true moment of discovery and relaxation in a picturesque setting and an unforgettable atmosphere! This afternoon we stop at the 150 year old Eureka Mansion and Garden. Situated in the fresh and lush climate of central Mauritius, the famous residence "Eureka" was built during the French colonial period and once belonged to a very well known Mauritian family. The main part of the estate has been turned into a museum, and offers us a guided tour through this magnificent colonial house, its lush gardens and down to the cascading river. After leaving Moka we continue up through beautiful Grand Baie which was once called De Bogt Zonder Eyndt (Bay without end) by the Dutch in the 17th Century. We arrive in Grand Gaube and the beautiful LUX Grand Gaube Resort for check in followed by our complimentary drinks and dinner.

Lux Grand Gaube: Just moments away from the quiet fishing village of Grand Gaube and just 10km from Grand Baie on the north coast of Mauritius, this 5 star beach resort is set on one of the most beautiful sites in Mauritius and offers all the leisurely tranquillity of a true island getaway. Enjoy the view overlooking the triple-bay beaches, lagoon and spectacular north islands. Move to the rhythm of island life with local musicians and dancers at the various restaurants and bars.

Overnight Grand Gaube: LUX Grand Gaube Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 9 Sunday 11 June 2017: Grand Baie

B,L,D

Today we enjoy a delightful morning **touring around Grand Baie** which includes a stop at **Cap Malheureux** where take a look inside the **red-roofed Notre Dame Auxiliatrice**. It's worth a quick peek inside for its intricate woodwork and a holy-water basin fashioned out of a giant clamshell. We then visit the **amazing Sugar Museum** which follows the trail of Sugar in Mauritius. Once lusted for as much as gold sugar has enjoyed an extraordinary existence, leaving a profound impression on the history and identity of Mauritius. By following the trail of the Sugar Adventure with over 250 years of history, we can trace the history of the whole country, as in a book – a mixture of faces, the verdant or silvery sugar cane in the countryside and the sunny, colourful customs. Our tour of this modern museum created from the old sugar mill includes displays, audio visual and interactive experiences concluding when we reach the well stocked gift shop. Refreshments can be purchased in the delightful café style restaurant, which has wonderful views of the surrounding landscape and gardens. After leaving the museum we return to our resort for lunch. We then enjoy a free afternoon in **Grand Baie on Sunset Boulevard** or at the **Super U Hypermarket shopping complex**. Later in the day we meet back at the resort for complimentary drinks and dinner.

Overnight Grand Gaube: LUX Grand Gaube Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 10 Monday 12 June 2017: Port Louis – Capital of Mauritius

B,L,D

After another delicious breakfast we depart the resort and travel down into the Mauritian Capital of **Port Louis**. After arriving in Port Louis we enjoy a **cultural highlights tour** of the city before a visit to the **Natural History Museum** of Mauritius where we view skeleton remains of the extinct Dodo Bird. We continue on to the port precinct of **Le Caudan Waterfront**, consisting of boutique shopping, markets, cafés and museums including the Blue Penny Museum which is worth a visit (own cost) for "stamp collecting buffs" as it houses two of the rarest stamps in the world. After leaving Port Louis we experience the grandeur of the 150 year old **Château de Labourdonnais** which is a family home that has welcomed more than three generations of the Wiehe family. Our tour encounters the vast dining room, house pantry revealing the world of the governess, with vintage dinnerware and silverware. Following the back veranda we return to the hallway to find the large living room which contains a stage design highlighting the range of furniture and the decorative trends of the time. The master bedroom, decorated in Victorian style, is the next step before arriving at a screening room and exhibitions halls. After touring the château, we enjoy a drive through the lush gardens and old orchards. Besides endemic plants, the orchards host fifty varieties of hundred-year-old mango trees, spice trees such as nutmeg and clove, as well as several exotic fruit trees such as the pomme jacot, the sapote, the jamalac and the Kythira plum. Further on, large orchards provide fruits such as papayas, mangoes, guavas or passion fruit, which are used in the manufacture of the Labourdonnais product range. During the drive through the gardens, we will have the opportunity to make a stop in a park where giant Aldabra tortoises graze peacefully. We also visit the rum distillery which exemplifies the diversification of the sugar cane industry - since sugar cane culture has been going on for 150 years and still continues, even after the closure of the sugar factory in 1960. It is the pure cane juice that is used in the manufacture of the delicious agricultural rums of the distillery labelled Rhumeur and La Bourdonnais. After our tour we enjoy lunch at the "**La Terrasse**, just two minutes' walk from the Château, is a small café offering a selection of traditional Mauritian dishes as well as more international fare. Our last stop for the day is at the beautiful **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden**, formerly known as Royal Botanical Gardens Pamlemousses. The oldest gardens in the Southern Hemisphere are spread over 37 hectares and were first constructed in 1770. The gardens, for a long time 'ranked third among all the gardens that could be admired over the surface of the globe. While the garden is most famous for its giant water lilies, the garden features spices, ebonies, sugar canes as well as 85 varieties of palms from Central America, Asia, Africa and the islands around the Indian Ocean. Many trees have been planted by world leaders and royalty, including Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Indira Gandhi, François Mitterrand and Robert Mugabe. Later in the day we return back up to Grand Gaube to our resort for a rest before meeting up for complimentary drinks and dinner.

Overnight Grand Gaube: LUX Grand Gaube Beach front Resort - All Inclusive Food & Beverage Menu

Day 11 Tuesday 13 June 2017: Grand Guabe - International Airport**B,L & supper**

This morning we have the option of relaxing at the resort or the option of enjoying some last minute shopping time in Grand Baie (transfers at own cost). Later this afternoon it's a sad farewell as we depart the north and travel back down south to the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport for check in. Our flight departs late evening for our overnight flight back across the Indian Ocean to Perth.

Overnight Flight Air Mauritius. MK 440 departs Mauritius @ 22.40, arriving Perth 9.10 am Wednesday 14th June.

Day 12 Wednesday 14 June 2017 : Perth - Launceston**in-flight Meals**

Our air Mauritius flight arrives back into Perth approximately 9.00 am this morning. Our last chance to purchase duty free before we continue through customs & immigration and check in to our connecting flight to Launceston (via Melbourne).

VA 684 (Virgin Australia) departs Perth @ 11.35 am, arriving Melbourne 5.05 pm

VA 1378 (Virgin Australia) departs Melbourne @ 7.05 pm, arriving Launceston 8.10 pm

We have time to reflect after our amazing time away in Mauritius with McDermott's Coaches.

Tour Highlights:

South East Coastal Village of Mahébourg & Seaside Markets; H. Rault Biscuit Factory; Historic Port Monuments; Fredrik Kendriks Museum; Half Day Highlights of Chamarel – Grand Bassin Statue, Temple & Sacred Lake, Macabée Forest, Black River Gorge, Chamarel Waterfalls & Coloured Earth; Casela Wildlife & Nature Park - "Interaction with the Lions & Cheetahs" or optional extra "Walking with Lions"; Lunch & Scenic Views "Mirador Restaurant; Traditional Salt Pans of Tamarind; Matthew Flinders Memorial; Le Morne Brabant Unesco World Heritage Site & Slave Route Memorial; Catamaran ½ Day Scenic Lunch Cruise West Coast; Trou aux Cerfs Volcanic Crater; Shopping Village of Curepipe; "unique dining experience" at Escale Creole; 150 Year Old Eureka Mansion & Garden; Highlights Grand Baie - Cap Malheureux Red-Roofed Church, Sugar Museum; Shopping Sunset Boulevard & Super U Hypermarket; Highlights of Port Louis - Natural History Museum of Mauritius - skeleton of the extinct Dodo Bird, Colourful Bazaar, Le Caudan Waterfront Precinct; The 150 year old Château de Labourdonnais - (Grand Home, Garden, Orchard, Distillery & Boutique Shop); Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden; & more.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Return Economy Flight Virgin Australia : Launceston /Melbourne /Perth / Melbourne/ Launceston
- Return Economy Flight Air Mauritius Perth - Mauritius - Perth
- 1 night Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth including breakfast & buffet dinner.
- Coach Travel Mauritius
- 9 Nights Luxury Beach front Accommodation
- Full Board Menu All Inclusive Meals & Beverage
- All Entry Fees and Guides as per Itinerary
- English Speaking Guide

Not Included:

- Extra Food & Drink Items listed as such on Menus not marked with ** Full Board Menu Items
- Some Activities offered by Resort at extra cost such as Day Spa, Scuba Diving, Deep-sea Fishing, Speedboat Rides etc.
- Optional - "Walking with Lions" \$80.00

Payment Terms & Details:

Deposit: \$500.00 per person deposit due upon booking.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended on paying deposit

Final Payments: Due no later than Friday 3rd March, 2017.

For more information contact:

McDermott's Coaches

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