



**emeco**  
*holidays*

# Your guide to the world



Complimentary Issue

# Fly **EGYPTAIR's** Newest Fleet and Enjoy The Utmost Levels of Comfort, Entertainment & Exclusivity



Synergy

Enjoy **Full Flat Bed** seats in business class & **Personal Screens** in all classes.



[facebook.com/flyegyptair](https://facebook.com/flyegyptair)




[twitter.com/flyegyptair](https://twitter.com/flyegyptair)

[egyptair.com](https://egyptair.com)

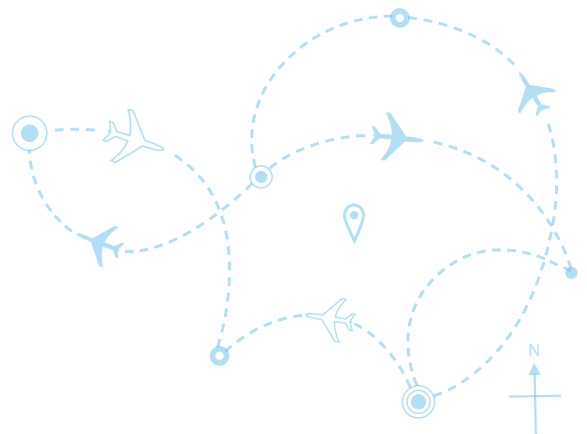


**EGYPTAIR**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



Your guide to the world.



LUXURY	COLLECTIONS	LIFESTYLE/BOUTIQUE	SIGNATURE	SELECT SERVICE	EXTENDED STAY
 The Ritz-Carlton® Hotels Collection LLC   BVLGARI HOTELS AND RESORTS   JW MARRIOTT	 AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION	 EDITION   RENAISSANCE HOTELS   AC HOTELS	 MARRIOTT HOTELS & RESORTS	 SPRINGHILL SUITES by Marriott   COURTYARD by Marriott   FAIRFIELD INN by Marriott	 RESIDENCE INN by Marriott   TOWNEPLACE SUITES by Marriott   MARRIOTT EXECUTIVE APARTMENTS

Marriott International is a leading lodging company with more than 3,700 properties located in over 70 countries and territories. Through an ever-evolving portfolio of innovative and award winning brands, Marriott can meet virtually any travel need or niche for business or leisure, from weekend getaways to extended stays. And whether guests seek a luxurious deluxe hotel or sheer value accommodations, Marriott hotel brands adhere to a tradition of attentive guest care, exceptional amenities and in-depth local knowledge to ensure our guests stays are not just comfortable, but always memorable.

The spirit to serve, the Marriott Philosophy.

At Marriott International, our enduring commitment to service sets us apart. This can be seen throughout the entire organization and across all brands.

Our philosophy has four simple tenets:

- Attention to detail
- Care for associates
- Care for the customer
- Care for the community where Marriott properties are located.

The three ways to book Marriott / reservation options:

- GDS (EM)
- Toll Free number in Egypt: 0800 00000 70
- [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)





Dear Traveller...

We hope this guide inspires you to explore the world and make life-long memories as you discover new and exciting holiday experiences...

**Happy trails!**

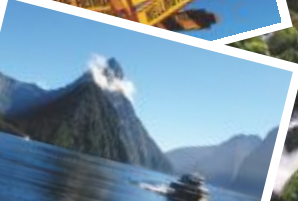
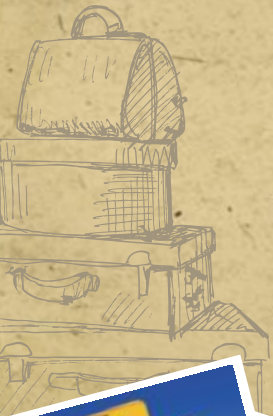


**Elhamy El Zayat**  
Chairman & CEO Emeco Travel



"What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas!"  
**Karim El Minabawy**  
President Emeco Travel

**Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the places and moments that take our breath away.**





# emeco holidays

Contact our team at Emeco Holidays for expert help, travel advice & bookings...

☎ (02) 27736272  
☎ (02) 25774646

5, Talaat Harb Street,  
Downtown, Cairo

info@emecoholidays.com  
www.emecoholidays.com

**Iman**  
Maurice

**Shaimaa**  
Abdo

**Safaa**  
Fawzy

**Viola**  
Francis

**Inji**  
El Bakri

**Haitham**  
Fathy





# Welcome to our world of travel...



Dear Traveller,

Welcome to Emeco Holidays Guide to the World ... find out what's fun, what's beautiful, what's romantic, what's relaxing and what is simply unforgettable throughout the world of travel.

Seeing and experiencing new countries no matter where they are changes how we look at life, travel is a classroom without walls, go with a smile, a little patience and a whole lot of curiosity and remember that we are the ones with the strange customs visiting someone else's country!

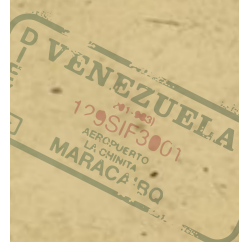
I hope you enjoy reading this special edition. I'd like to thank our editor, Susan Milbank, an Australian living in Egypt, for her vision, commitment and dedicated research, the reason a project of this size made it from concept to print.

Read on ... see where you've been and where you'd like to go next, there's a big wide world out there just waiting to be discovered by you and here at Emeco Holidays we look forward to making your journeys possible.

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only one page.”

Happy holidays,

Maged Shenouda  
Managing Director - Emeco Holidays



# Travel documents...

## Passports & Visas

In addition to a valid passport, most countries listed in this guide require Egyptian citizens to obtain entry visas before they travel. Emeco Holidays can provide the necessary information required regarding obtaining visas.

Additional online visa information is available at: [www.visahq.com](http://www.visahq.com)

## Request information

Email your questions to: [visa@emeco.com](mailto:visa@emeco.com)

## Special thanks...

To all who have helped in making this book a reality. Thanks to Cynthy for her time, effort and skill in research and writing, to Pauline for her knowledge of Asia and the United Kingdom and to Bilo, Tamer and Millie, who without their endless support and patience this book would still be just an idea. Special appreciation goes to Doaa and "Outlook" for their help, support and printing expertise.

## An important note to readers...

Though every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the information contained in this guide, it may change at any time for many reasons, including market forces, political and economical conditions, nature and weather. Readers should be sure to check ahead for confirmation or information when making any travel plans.

Emeco Holidays shall not be held responsible for any travel conditions experienced by readers resulting from changes in information provided in this guide.

Copyright by Emeco Travel. All rights reserved. No portion of this guide may be reproduced mechanically, electronically, or by any other means, including photocopying, without the written permission of Emeco Travel.





# Your guide to the world

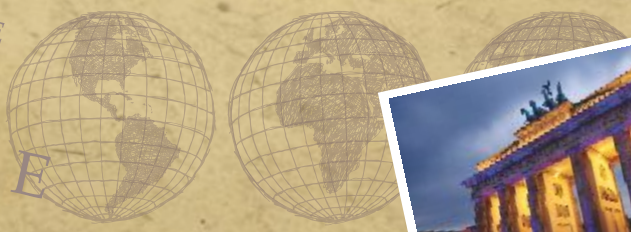


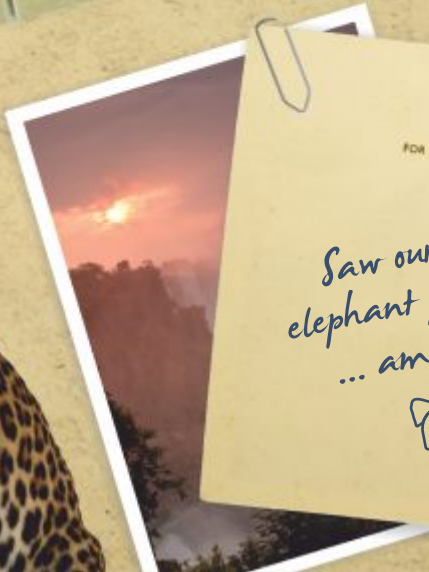
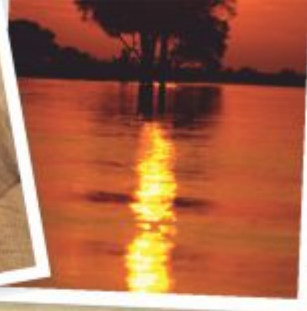
## Contents...

- Africa ..... ● 8
- Asia ..... ● 30
- Australia & New Zealand ..... ● 76
- The Caribbean ..... ● 100
- Europe ..... ● 110
- Middle East ..... ● 172
- Pacific Islands ..... ● 186
- South & Central America ..... ● 196
- USA & Canada ..... ● 220



**(02) 27736272 - 25774646**  
 Email us at: [info@emecoholidays.com](mailto:info@emecoholidays.com)  
 5, Talaat Harb Street, Downtown, Cairo  
[www.emecoholidays.com](http://www.emecoholidays.com)





POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Saw our first elephant yesterday ... amazing!



GUARANTEED REAL PHOTOGRAPH

Mrs. M. Salama  
25, Heliopolis Street  
Heliopolis  
Egypt



# Africa





# AFRICAN ADVENTURES ...

## Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Where the wonders of nature meet the essence of Africa.

If it's a true African experience that you're after then any one of these amazing countries is the way to go. You can access the magnificent Victoria Falls from just about any of them, plan your trip and map your 'African Adventure' well, combining countries is a good idea. The wildlife and landscape that this area of Africa offers is totally unique and in many cases quite unspoilt, the sunsets can leave you breathless with their timeless beauty. That once in a lifetime adventure that you've been looking for is right here, don't miss it.



africa



### Life changing experiences...

#### Botswana

**Chobe National Park** A must see, this park is teeming with wildlife and offers the essence of an African safari. Stay in one of the many luxurious safari lodges available, and watch the hippos, crocodiles, buffalos, elephants and more along the banks of the beautiful Chobe River, life changing is an understatement, keep your camera batteries well charged!

**Okavango Delta** This unique area is the heart of the African wilderness, a fascinating environment that is unspoilt and breathtakingly beautiful. With its extensive wetlands, the Okavango is the largest inland delta in the world and game viewing is guaranteed all year round. Wilderness camps and lodges are the way to go, safe, comfortable, small and intimate they offer an unforgettable view of one of Africa's most pristine wildlife areas.

#### Tanzania

**Mt. Kilimanjaro** One of the world's most accessible high mountain summits at 5896m, with an experienced guide, some preparation and a little healthy determination most climbers can reach the top. A memorable adventure worth taking, not only are the views amazing, the mountain's slopes go from tropical rainforest to arctic snow. If trekking uphill is not your passion, exploring the

base and just gazing up at this incredible snow topped mountain is truly a sight to behold.

**The Serengeti Migration** The world's largest animal migration, beginning in June millions of wildebeest, antelopes and zebras migrate north in search of food and water. Named the "greatest wildlife show on earth" it is an amazing sight. Although their path is controlled by nature, try to catch the crossing of the famous Grumeti River, it's well worth staying in a camp or lodge to experience this amazing natural phenomenon.



**Exotic Zanzibar** Wander through Stone Town, the cultural heart of Zanzibar, with its winding alleys, bustling bazaars and markets, the city offers a glimpse of the Island's rich history where India, Africa and Arabia came together to create this melting pot of influences. The island offers excellent diving opportunities and with over 25 beaches to choose from, the brilliant white sands and warm turquoise waters are the perfect place to relax after a day of sightseeing.



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Currency

Botswana Pula (BWP)  
Tanzanian Shilling (TZS)  
Zambian Kwacha (ZMK)  
Zimbabwean Dollar (ZWD)

#### Time zone

Botswana GMT +2 (CAT)  
Tanzania GMT +3 (EAT)  
Zambia GMT +2 (CAT)  
Zimbabwe GMT +2 (CAT)

### Did you know?

"Pula" in Botswana's Setswana language is the name of their currency, it also means rain.

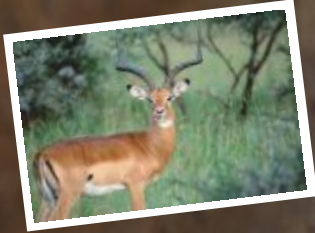
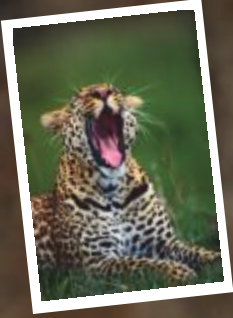
The horns and shaggy mane led to the Afrikaans name of 'wild beast' or 'wildebeest'.

Wildebeest sleep in rows on the ground.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the 4th highest freestanding mountain in the world and the highest peak in Africa. It rises at 5895m above sea level.

The Swahili word for lion is 'simba', it also means king, strong, and aggressive.





## Tipping

**Botswana** Safari tipping etiquette is important. Guides: \$10 per guest per day in a shared vehicle, double if a private vehicle. Trackers, valets, etc: \$5 per guest per day. General staff, cleaners, cooks, waiters, etc: \$5 per guest per day. Tips are normally given at the end of the stay and envelopes are normally available for this purpose.

**Tanzania** Tipping is not expected outside of touristic areas but is appreciated and should be given if service is good. Safari tipping is important. For drivers and/or guides \$10 per day is reasonable. For servers in lodges etc \$5-10 per day is reasonable. Porters \$1-2 per bag.

**Zambia** Tipping is not encouraged and is considered illegal but it is still widely practiced and usually accepted if offered. Safari guides do not expect tips but will accept them if offered, usually given at the end of the stay. Best to go with your instincts re tipping whilst in Zambia.

**Zimbabwe** Service charge is usually included in the bill in Zimbabwe, if not add a 10% tip for good service. Porters \$1-2 per bag, hotel housekeeping \$2-3 per day. Safari tips are important, consider between \$5-10 to guides, drivers etc., per person per day. Taxis, \$3-5 for the journey depending on distance and service.

# AFRICAN ADVENTURES ...

## Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe



africa



### Life changing experiences...

#### Zambia

**Wildlife & Wilderness** This large, landlocked country offers some of the best African experiences around. Home to the legendary "walking safari", originated in South Luangwa National Park, many lodges and camps offer excellent guided tours with special up close and personal encounters with wildlife. Hippos, crocs, zebras, impalas and spectacular bird life are just a few of the sights. Known as the real Africa, Zambia has a raw edge to it that just makes it all that more special.

**Victoria Falls** An awe inspiring sight of pure beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe. The local name for the falls is "Mosi-oa-Tunya", meaning the "Smoke that Thunders". The columns of spray and mist can be seen from afar, but nothing beats a close up view in peak season of 546 million cubic meters of water plummeting every minute into a gorge 100 meters below. Stay in nearby Livingstone, enjoy this historical town and take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi, an awe inspiring and memorable experience.

**Adventure at the Falls** If adrenalin pumping activities are your passion then your choices are endless here...try bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls bridge or abseiling and even hang-gliding, helicopter flights are available too and some of the best whitewater rafting you'll find anywhere!



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

**Botswana's** weather is hot and dry for most of the year with a rainy season that can be a little unpredictable, running through the hot summer months from October/November through to March/April. May generally marks the beginning of winter, with clear sunny days and cold nights. The dry winter season from April to October is the best time to see game animals.

**Tanzania** lies close to the equator so seasonal variations in temperatures are not very extreme. The weather is dry and pleasant between June and September but can be late for the major wildlife attractions in the Serengeti, the wildebeest migration usually begins during the wet season and culminates in the famous river crossings in July. The coastal areas can be quite warm and have relatively high humidity, with average island temperatures between 27-29°C.

**Zambia** has a mild tropical climate and is warm nearly all year round, it does have three separate seasons though, May to August is cool and dry, September to November is hot and dry, while December to April is hot and wet. Safaris are available all year around, Victoria Falls is most impressive toward the end of the rainy season in April, although viewing the entire scope of the falls is better when the water is lowest at

the end of November. Game viewing is best in the dry months of June through October.

**Zimbabwe** generally has a moderate and pleasant climate, summer temperatures from November through to April with hot sunny days between 30-35°C. Winter starts around May and goes through to October, it can be considered quite cold. Rain is most prevalent in the summer. Best times to view wildlife is at the end of the dry winter season around September and October.

### Did you know?

An elephant's trunk has about 150,000 muscles and no bones, they can hold around 15 litres of water in their trunks at one time.

Cheetahs can reach speeds of 110kph with maximum strides of up to 6 and 7m in length.

The name "hippopotamus" comes from two Greek words that mean "river horse".

A hippopotamus is born underwater. The mother helps her baby to the surface to breathe.



**EGYPTAIR**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

fly to more than 17 African destinations

egyptair.com

# AFRICAN ADVENTURES ...

## Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe



### Life changing experiences...

#### Zimbabwe

**Hwange National Park** The largest reserve in Zimbabwe, Hwange boasts more than 100 different animal species and over 400 species of birds, if that isn't enough it's also famous for being home to 30,000 elephants. The local lodges offer walking and game drives that allow you the opportunity to see giraffes, rhinos, lions, leopards, hyena, buffalos and so many other species. The colourful carpet of seasonal wild flowers that appear with the first rains give a richness to the already abundant sights that this part of Africa has to offer.



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Transportation

**Botswana** Most tourists will be associated with a safari tour whilst in Botswana and find taking any public transport unnecessary, however, there is a fairly good train network that offers an interesting way to see the country, best not to be in a crowded carriage. Buses are a little unreliable but can be used. Taxis are available in limited numbers in Gaborone and Francistown, shared taxi services are common. Private car rental is popular in Botswana, although can be quite expensive.

**Tanzania** As with many African countries public transport should be used with some caution, the Scandinavia Express Service runs buses in and around the

country, check with your hotel on reliability and schedules. Mini buses ("dalla-dallas") are a cheap way to get about but not for the faint at heart. Taxis are available, choose wisely and discuss the price before setting off. The ferry service between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar is regular and reliable.

**Zambia** Organized tours and safaris will offer the most comfortable form of transportation. Zambian buses are quite good, although they can get crowded, and distances can be quite long. Minibuses run on the shorter routes. Taxis are readily available in the town of Livingstone, negotiate the price, some taxis will be happy to arrange for half day or full day rates if needed.

**Zimbabwe** Blue Arrow Bus Company operates a luxury coach service throughout Zimbabwe that is recommended for tourists, train travel is not as well maintained nor serviced, minibus travel is also not very highly recommended. Taxis are available and quite often used to visit Livingstone in Zambia and the Victoria Falls, they can be called from your hotel or found in major tourist sites.

#### Health & Security

Some African countries do have a prevalence of Malaria and Yellow Fever, make sure to check with the relevant Embassies regarding any

required vaccinations, certificates or recommended preventive medicine.

As with many places in Africa and around the world it is always best to check on local advice regarding security and safety for tourists preferably before planning the trip.

#### Language

**Botswana** English (official) & Setswana (local)

**Tanzania** English (de facto official) and Swahili (National)

**Zambia** English (official) and Nyanja (local)

**Zimbabwe** English, Shona & Ndebele (all official)

### Did you know?

A giraffe can go longer without water than a camel.

Elephants have a great sense of smell and hearing but do not see very clearly after a distance of more than 18 meters.

The heart of a giraffe's is approximately 50cm long, weighs about 10kg and can pump 60 liters of blood per minute!

A giraffe only has 7 vertebrae in a neck that can be 5 feet long.



**EGYPTAIR**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

fly to more than 17 African destinations

egyptair.com






# emeco

## holidays

### Experience Africa packages...

- 
**Kenya Wildlife Safari**  
 8 days - Nairobi, Masai Mara, Lake Nakuru, Amboseli, Tsavo
- 
**Moroccan Spice**  
 8 days - Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Fes, Marrakesh
- 
**South Africa Family Adventure**  
 15 days - Johannesburg, Hazyview, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Durban, Drakensberg, East London, Port Elizabeth, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Cape Town
- 
**A Taste of Tunisia**  
 8 days - Hammamet, Sousse, Sidi Bou Said, Gammarth

All tours and packages can be customized and tailor made to meet your specific interests. Contact us at Emeco Holidays for a detailed itinerary and quotation, according to season, length of stay, package destinations, requested hotels and number of persons.

☎ (02) 27736272 - 25774646  
 ✉ Email us at: [info@emecoholidays.com](mailto:info@emecoholidays.com)  
 5, Talaat Harb Street, Downtown, Cairo  
[www.emecoholidays.com](http://www.emecoholidays.com)





● **Shopping hours**

● Mon to Fri: 9am - 5pm  
● (closed for lunch 1-2 pm)  
● Some are open on Saturdays

● **Tipping**

● Restaurants 10%  
● Guides \$10-20 /day  
● Drivers \$5/day  
● Porters \$1  
● Housekeeping \$1/day  
● Taxis \$1 or small change  
●



**Transportation**

The green and yellow "City Hopper" bus in Nairobi is the most reliable and cleanest bus company in operation, avoid the Matatus (microbuses). Taxis are available, best to take them from your hotel but they can be found at taxi stands, some fare negotiations may be required.

# Kenya



## Home to awe inspiring nature and wildlife...

Kenyan safaris are the most amazing, enlightening and touching experiences you can imagine. The Masai Mara Game Reserve and Tsavo National Park are the jewels of Kenya's wildlife viewing. So much to see and do, all with the safety of experienced guides who will introduce you to the incredible world of animals in the wild... visiting a city zoo pales in comparison once you've experienced the wildlife here. The beauty of the Kenya is awe inspiring, from the highlands to the coast, the lakes and rivers, the tropical forests and the beaches of Mombasa, the country is truly breathtaking.



### Life changing experiences...

**Masai Mara Game Reserve** Experience the annual wildebeest migration from the Serengeti, arriving in Kenya between July & August until October. Over a million animals, wildebeest, gazelle, zebras and more gather and make the trek, braving the rule of the wild in their annual quest to find new pastures. Hippos and large crocodile lay in wait for a meal as they cross the Mara River, the final obstacle on their trek. A sight to behold, and an experience to remember.

**Visit Mombasa** Kenya's second largest city offers a diverse cultural experience, former Portuguese, Arab and British settlers all left a lasting influence on the city's food, architecture, and people. The exotic beaches of north and south Mombasa are some of the best in Africa and possibly the world, with diverse marine life, world class hotels and friendly people, it is certainly a destination not to be missed.

**Underwater safaris!** Kenya's east coast is becoming increasingly popular as a dive destination, catch sight of a green sea turtle or if you're very lucky see the whale sharks, the gentle giants of the sea. There are a number of excellent dive sites, well worth a visit if you are a dive enthusiast.



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

Hottest months are December to March, coastal areas are tropical with high humidity in April & May. Nairobi has a pleasant climate throughout the year, temperatures are higher at Lake Victoria with high rainfall. Winter, June and July can be quite cool, layered clothing is advised.

**Stay at a Luxury Safari Lodge** Tsavo National Park's massive area and wide range of landscapes makes this an ideal place for a varied wildlife safari. See the open plains, well known for its elephant herds, and ideal for finding lion, impala, kudu and possibly rhinos, buffalo & giraffe are often found as well. Visit Mzima Springs and you might catch a glimpse of hippos swimming from the underwater observatory.

**Shopping** A wealth of fabulous gifts, souvenirs, artifacts, jewellery, semi precious stones, beads, beautiful fabric wraps and wood carvings are all available here and represent the cultural side of Kenya. Nairobi, the "safari capital", has many open markets around the city. The Masai Market brings arts and crafts from all over to one single venue for you to bargain for, well worth having a look.

#### Best time to go

Main tourist season is January to February, hot and driest weather is during June to October with the Wildebeest migration.

#### Language

English is the official language, Swahili is the national language.

#### Time zone

GMT + 3

#### Currency

Kenyan Shilling, Ksh.

**Did you know?**

Kenya gained independence from the British in 1962 and became a self governing republic in 1964.

Hippos can run over 20kph, if you're being chased by one run side to side, they can't turn well but in a straight race they'll catch you quickly!

There are over 40 tribes in Kenya, each has its own language, style of dress and traditional foods.

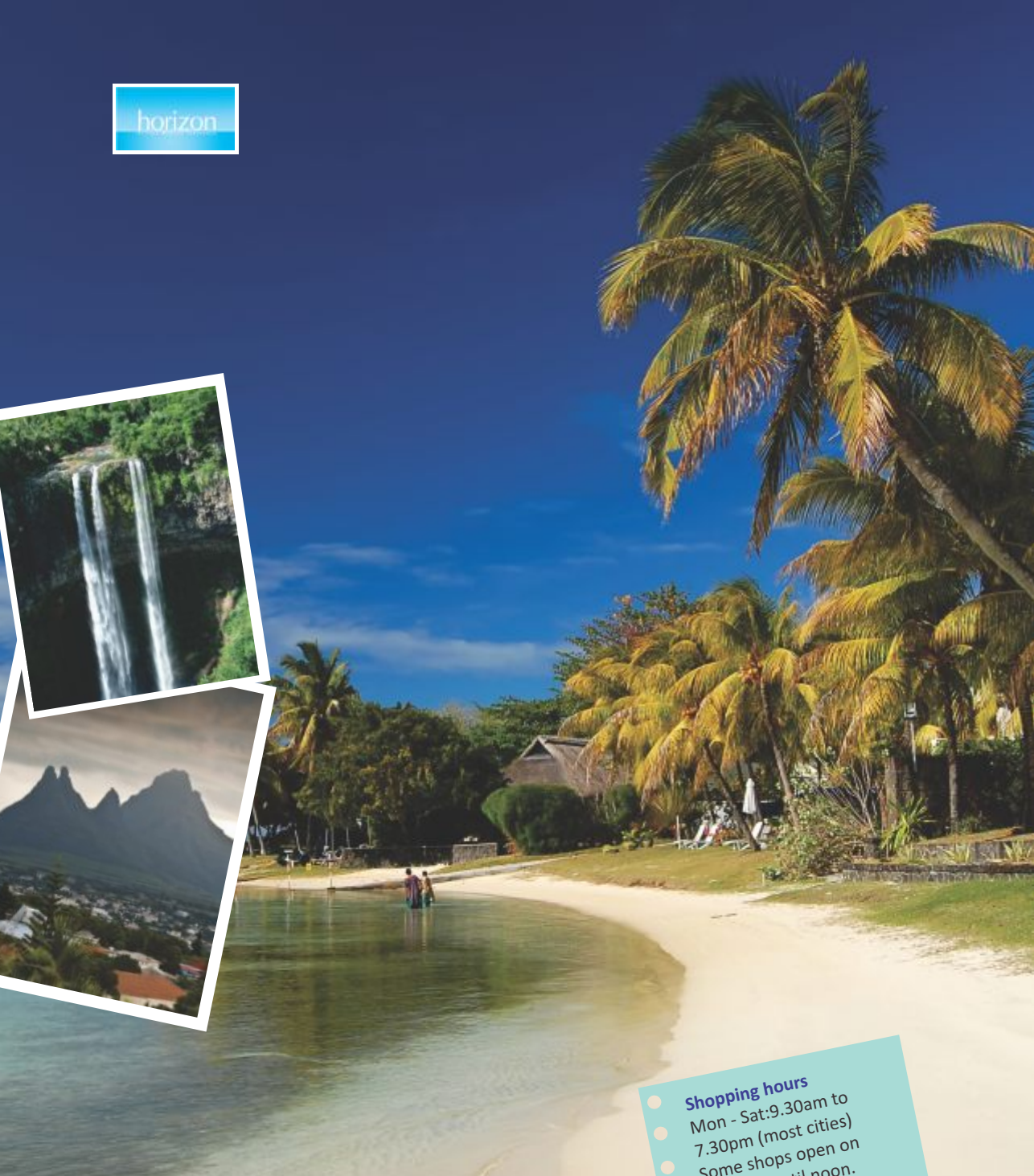
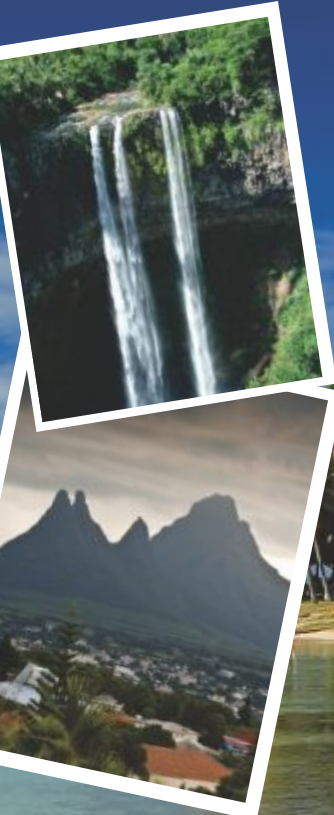


**EGYPTAIR**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Fly Daily to Nairobi

egyptair.com



### Transportation

Buses and taxis are popular forms of transport in Mauritius, buses can get a little crowded but worth the experience! Try to avoid the rush hour, traffic jams are popular and the roads outside of the city and towns can be a little rough. Taxis do not operate on meters so make sure you agree on the price before starting out. Hiring a car is popular in Mauritius, note that they drive on the left.

- **Shopping hours**
- Mon - Sat: 9.30am to 7.30pm (most cities)
- Some shops open on Sundays until noon.
- **Tipping**
- Not compulsory, but can be appreciated due to the low salaries, there are no strict rules here, it's recommended to tip according to the service given.



# Mauritius



## An exotic and fascinating island paradise!

Famed for white sandy beaches, lagoons and turquoise seas that stretch around the island and an almost unlimited number of things to see and do, Mauritius sets the scene for an unforgettable holiday experience. Spend your days on an idyllic beach, sample the colorful and varied restaurants and nightlife, visit historical sites or enjoy the hustle and bustle in the larger cities and shop the markets. The island is a multi-cultural mix, with warm and welcoming people that will keep you enchanted for your entire stay. It's one of those holiday destinations that might just have to be visited again next year!



### Life changing experiences...

**Drive the Island** Rental cars are easily available on Mauritius, try a different beach every day, there are many to enjoy at your own pace. The island is not too big and the central areas have lots to offer, roads can be rather rough in some areas and signs are challenging but if it's a little independence and adventure that you're looking for then this is the way to go.

**Visit Port Louis** The capital and main port of Mauritius. This lively city has lots to see and do, take a walk and you'll find plenty of character with fine colonial architecture and past elegance. Enjoy the food, the restaurants here offer a wonderful variety of food to choose from and if nightlife is on your holiday list this is the place to be.

**Explore the sea** Snorkel or take a glass bottom boat out to see the fish and coral in Blue Bay, the only marine park in Mauritius. Diving enthusiasts will enjoy fabulous coral reefs with a huge range of underwater treasures, the seas here in Mauritius never fail to surprise. If fishing is your passion charter a boat, deep sea fishing is very popular in these special waters.

**Sail the sea** Take a trip on the "Isla Mauritia", an historical double mast Spanish schooner built in 1852, she sails on Wednesdays and Saturdays (best to



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

Summer and the hottest time of the year is between December and March, average temperature is 30°C, note that cyclones do occur during this period, it can be a little humid and rainy. For a cooler holiday, August and September have an average temperature of 24°-26°C, it can get cooler at night,

check and book in advance) and will take you for a full day's sailing, swimming and snorkelling, take your camera and enjoy the trip.

**Waterfalls and more** Venture inland and discover a tropical world of amazing waterfalls, canyons and rivers. The famous Chamarel Falls, a 95m waterfall, is impressive to say the least. If you are an adventurer at heart then try the single 90m abseil into the pool below, something to tell your friends when you get home!

**Shop the Island** Visit the busy, bustling Central Market in Port Louis, take your bargaining skills with you, you'll need them. Wander around La Caudan Waterfront, plenty of shops, restaurants and entertainment. Take a short trip to Curepipe, located in the central plateau, this inland city is famous for its clothes, shopping and rain!

16°-18°C. Layered clothing recommended. The weather is usually sunny but it can rain, short showers can offer a pleasant change from the sun.

**Best time to go** Between September and November.

**Language** French or English and Oriental languages.

**Currency** Rupee

**Time zone** GMT+ 4



### Did you know?

The island was first discovered by the Arabs around the 10th Century, who named it Dina Harobi, then later by the Portuguese in the early 1500's, followed by the Dutch, the French & the English.

The national animal of Mauritius is the Dodo bird, which is now extinct. The bird was brutally hunted by the early settlers as it provided good meat and was easy to hunt.

The word "dodo" is slang for "a dull-witted, slow-reacting person."



#### Free travel insurance

Buy your ticket with DC card and Enjoy a complementary travel accident insurance up to 300,000\$ USD, you also covered against

- Flight delay up to 600\$ USD.
- Baggage delay up to 750\$ USD.
- Baggage loss up to 1,500\$ USD.



### **Transportation**

There are train and bus services between the main cities, both of which are recommended. City taxis provide the main transport as distances between attractions are relatively small, most are walkable within cities such as Marrakesh. Make sure to negotiate the fare before you begin, an important point to remember. Use "Small" taxis to travel shorter distances around the cities. If you don't mind sharing then try a "Grand Taxi" when taking trips outside of the cities, they take more than one passenger and can be convenient, make sure to bargain for your chosen destination.

# Morocco

## Exotic, romantic and beautiful...

Morocco has a captivating ancient history, a strong sense of culture and a diversity of landscape from the blue water and sandy beaches of the coast, to the contrasting white burning sands of the desert. Green fertile valleys lay in between, rising to the beautiful and often snow capped Atlas Mountains. There's fascinating architecture in all the towns and cities, with a growing modern identity that still allows you to enjoy all the charm of days gone by, a time that is firmly woven into the fabric of life in Morocco.



### Life changing experiences...

**Marrakesh** Known as the "pink city", the very name conjures up the romance of travel. Head for Djemaa El Fna square in the old city, grab a café seat on the perimeter at sundown and watch the whole scene unfold as snake charmers, henna women, acrobats and astrologers arrive and settle in their spots for the night's entertainment, storytellers begin their tales and restaurants sell everything that can be barbecued and more. A heady, spicy aroma fills the air, try a Moroccan "tangine" at one of the many restaurants as you explore the puzzle of alleyways that open up before you.

**Marrakesh Retail Therapy** Look for quality leather goods, handbags, shoes and jackets, Moroccan galabeyas are popular and good quality. Enjoy the atmosphere in the souk, and bargain for the right price, plenty of local treasures to be found, those famous Moroccan designs are charming and well worth taking home.

**Casablanca** "Here's looking at you kid", you can't visit this city and not think of the movie! Visit the famous "Rick's Café", see the architectural splendour of the Hussein II Mosque, this modern city is growing but reminders of the romantic past are ever present!

**Tangier** Vibrant, colourful and bustling, this port city offers an amazing mix of



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

Varies according to region, the north coast enjoys a warm Mediterranean climate whilst inland is hotter and drier, temperatures can reach the high 30's, and even higher in the south eastern Sahara region during summer, it can also get very cold in winter. The Atlantic coast is milder in

old and new. Visit the medina in the old part of Tangiers, or spend your time people watching in Grand Socco Square. Try the Place de France in the heart of 'ville nouvelle', sip on a tea and enjoy the sea view. Wherever you are in Tangier there are sites to see, plenty of shopping and delicious food to sample.

**Atlas Mountains** The land of the Berbers, take a breathtaking trip through high mountain villages, green fertile plains and beautiful valleys, lush pastures, cherry and walnut orchards with the ever present ruggedness of these huge stark ranges dropping down to the Sahara and beyond. Experience the Berber hospitality, find wonderful handmade carpets and fine silver in the very basic village shops. Try skiing in winter, yet another popular attraction on this grand monument of nature, well worth a visit.

winter but does have higher rainfall. In general July is the hottest and driest month, January is the coolest, and November is the wettest, pleasant weather for visiting most of the year.

#### Best time to go

Best times are spring, mid-March to May, before it becomes very hot over summer months, or during autumn, September to early November. From November to July the Atlas Mountains are snow capped and skiing is popular.

#### Shopping hours

Mon-Thu: 9-12pm, 3.30-7pm  
Fri: 9 to 11am, 3.30 to 7pm  
Stores are open on Saturdays & markets 7 days a week.

#### Tipping

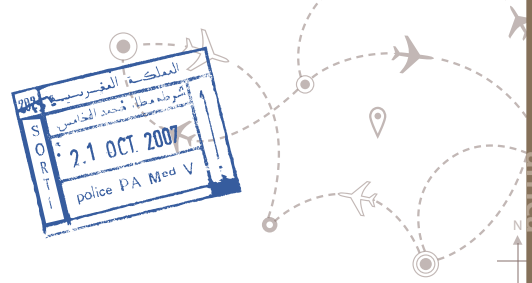
Expected throughout Morocco, tip a waiter in a café 1-2 Dirhams, a waiter in a restaurant 5-10 Dirhams, and porters 5 Dirhams.

#### Time zone GMT +0

#### Currency Moroccan Dirham

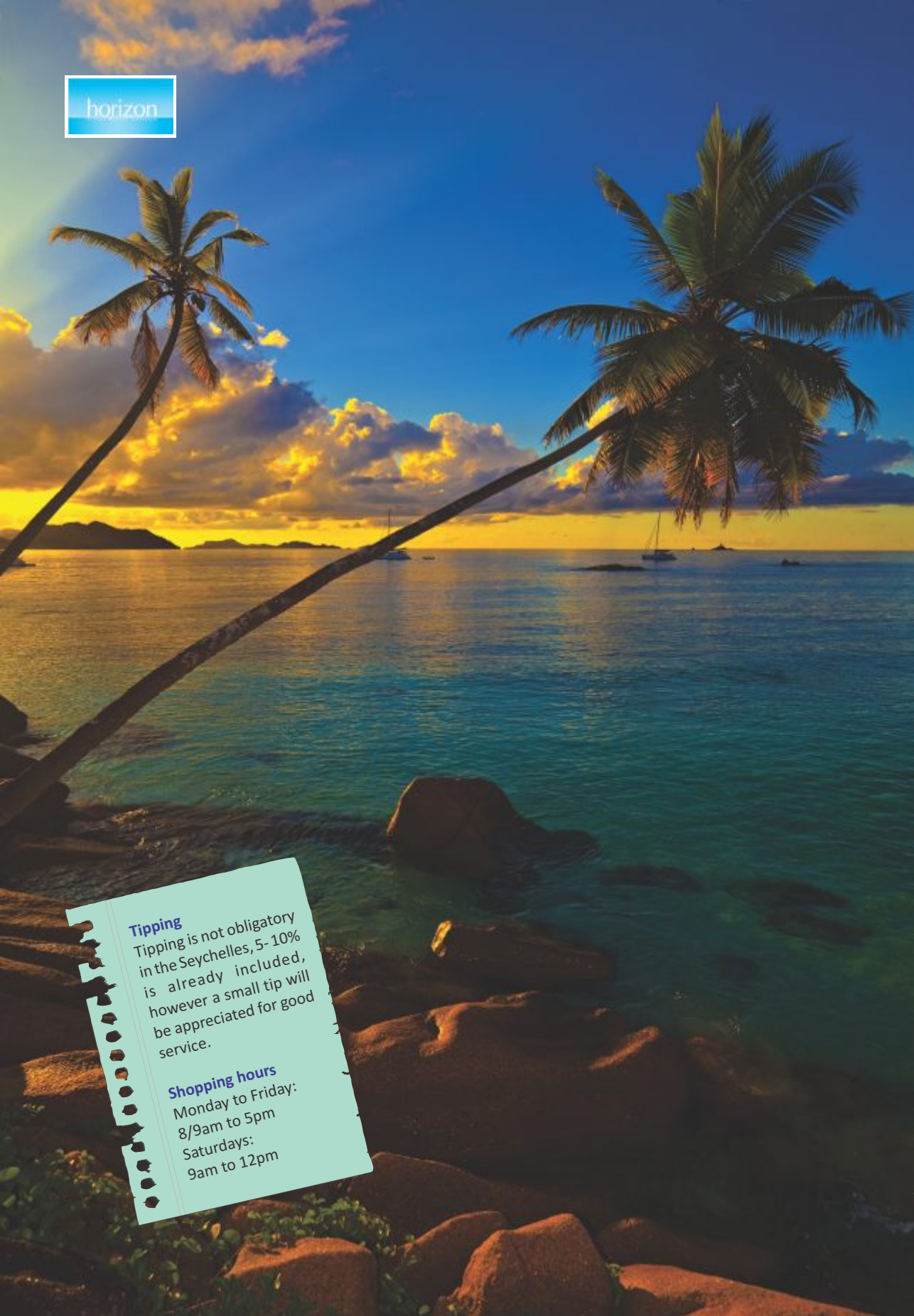
#### Language

Arabic is the official language, French and English is widely spoken.



africa





**Tipping**

Tipping is not obligatory in the Seychelles, 5-10% is already included, however a small tip will be appreciated for good service.

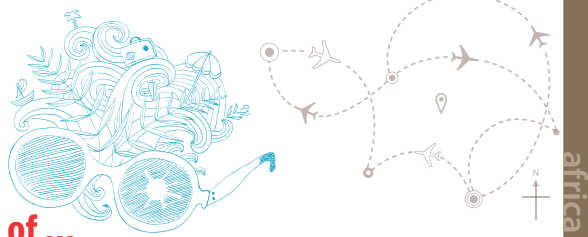
**Shopping hours**

Monday to Friday:  
8/9am to 5pm

Saturdays:  
9am to 12pm



# Seychelles



## Discover what dreams are really made of ...

Pristine white sands, bright turquoise waters, warm sunny days all with a backdrop of lush green mountains. With a total of 115 islands, accommodation can be found on 16 of them and of those three are the main Islands, Mahé, La Digue and Praslin. The diversity of the Seychelles is endless, from beaches with natural wonders above and below the waves to jungles and national parks offering breathtaking scenery and a some of the rarest flora and fauna found on earth. Add to this mix the traditional Creole houses and delicious cuisine, markets and local artists, nightlife and entertainment for all ages and you will have the definition of a holiday paradise!



### Life changing experiences...

**Start at Mahé** The largest island in the Seychelles. Visit the local market in the capital Victoria, a busy and bustling food market full of interesting sights, sounds, smells and tastes, or for a change of pace spend an hour or two in the Botanical Gardens, see the famous 'Coco de Mer' trees and feed the giant tortoise. Take a beach break and head to the famous Beau Vallon beach in the northwest, with an interesting market just over the road. Plenty to see, plenty to do.

**Praslin** The second largest island in the Seychelles features the superb Vallée de Mai, a tropical glade with towering palms, rare and exotic birds and home to the legendary double nutted Coco de Mer palm. Don't miss the beautiful beaches of Anse Lazio and Anse Georgette, both on the top 10 list of the world's best beaches in recent years. Simply paradise on earth.

**La Digue Island** A short boat ride from Praslin, La Digue is a slow paced, laid back island, if it's relaxation you're looking for, this is the place to be. One of the most photographed islands in the Seychelles, it is home to the Anse Source d'Argent, a beautiful beach famous for its stunning white sands and giant boulders on and around the beach, truly breathtaking.



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

Always warm, without weather extremes, average temperatures range between 24 and 32°C. From October to March the sea is generally calm and the weather warm and humid. January and February are the wetter months. May to September are drier and cooler, seas can be less calm towards the end of this period.

#### Best time to go

An all year round destination. October to November and March to April are the most pleasant.

#### Language

Creole, English & French.

#### Currency

Seychelles Rupee - SR

#### Time zone

GMT + 4

#### Transportation

A public bus system is available on Mahé and Praslin, not as punctual as it could be it is still a cheap way to get around the islands. Taxis are available and can be taken from the street or taxi stands, it should be noted that renting a car can be cheaper than taxi. La Digue does not have public transport, there are a few cars but ox carts are the most popular form of transport, well recommended!



### Did you know?

The Seychelles are scattered over an area of 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> in the Indian Ocean.

The Seychelles were under French administration for 44 years and under British administration for 162 years.

Victoria is one of the smallest capitals in the world, it can be easily covered by foot in less than a day.

The main source of income in Seychelles is tourism followed by tuna fishing and canning.



**For Nature Lovers** Take the time to explore, these islands are home to some of the rarest species of wildlife and plant life in the world, they are literally a living museum of natural history. Unique species such as the fabulous Coco de Mer, the jellyfish tree, the smallest frog and the largest land tortoises to name just a few.

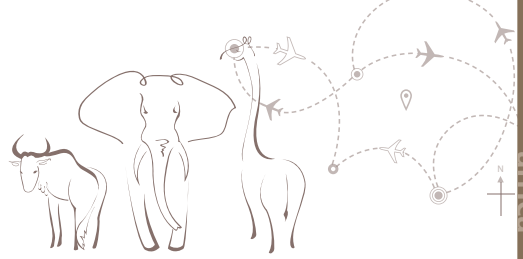
PLATINUM MASTERCARD®

GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD  
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE  
IN THE WORLD





# South Africa



## A country that simply has it all!

From fabulous wildlife and world famous game parks to beautiful beaches, delicious cuisine, incredible wines, luxury hotels and shopping choices to challenge any shopaholic, South Africa is an amazing country. With 11 national languages, a colonialist legacy that brought Afrikaners, the English and the Indians, the country offers a wonderfully diverse cultural scene. There is so much to do and see, it's the perfect destination for anyone looking for a truly complete holiday experience.



### Life changing experiences...

**Capetown** With its majestic backdrop of Table Mountain this cosmopolitan city has just about everything, beautiful beaches, an amazing blend of architectural styles and culture, fabulous cuisine, great nightlife and shopping. Try some of the city's sightseeing tours available, the hop-on-hop-off "Red Bus" is popular, there's so much to see you cannot fail to enjoy this wonderful city.

**Table Mountain** Catching the famous cable car to the top is a must! Starting at just over 350m above sea level the cable car will take you to the upper station at around 1000m, the views are spectacular and hard to beat. Check the weather for clouds and wind, best times are usually early morning or late afternoon. Well worth it!

**Constantia Wine Route** If a good wine is on your holiday list then take a trip just 20 minutes outside of Capetown. Tastings and quality restaurants for lunch or dinner are available, as well as excellent overnight accommodation. This whole area is breathtakingly beautiful with "Groot Constantia" the first and finest example of Dutch architecture furnished with most exquisite antiques. Harvest season for the grapes is between January and April, the vineyards are at their most beautiful from October to December.

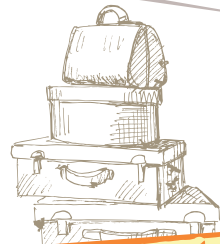
**Kruger National Park** The largest game reserve in South Africa, Kruger is home to the "Big Five"; lions, leopards, elephants, cape buffaloes and black rhinos, plus cheetahs, wildebeest, giraffes, antelope,

impala and more. Southern Kruger is the most popular and has the highest animal concentration, plenty of comfortable lodges and camps to choose from, an unforgettable adventure, don't forget your camera.

**Elephant Safari** Ride, walk, feed and watch these magnificent animals, the Addo Elephant Park at Eastern Cape offers day safaris from Port Elizabeth, or overnight and extended lodge holidays. The park is full of wildlife and offers a unique opportunity to get up close and personal.

**The Garden Route** This famous route just about has it all, tall forests, mountains, stunning lakes, caves, breathtaking wild flowers to delight the eyes, golden beaches, whale and dolphin watching, ostrich farms... the list is almost endless. Take the time to do this well known tour, each attraction along the way is impressive on its own, together they enhance the true beauty and diversity of South Africa.

**Cage Diving with Sharks** These much maligned and endangered giants of the sea are a sight to behold in their own habitat. The Gansbaai area is home to Dyer Island, a breeding colony for Jackass Penguins and Cape Fur Seals and feeding ground for the Great White Shark. May through October is the best time to visit, well worth the trip to see and experience nature at its very best.



### Did you know?

The world's first heart transplant was done in South Africa in 1967 by Dr Chris Barnard.

South Africa is the top ranking gold producing country in the world and has 80% of the world's platinum reserves.

**PLATINUM MASTERCARD®**  
GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD  
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE  
IN THE WORLD







## Facts for the traveller...

### Transportation

Public transport in South Africa is not reliable or efficient and can be quite unsafe, not really recommended. Taxis are the best form of public transport, they are metered and are available at taxi stands or from your hotel, they can be expensive though. Take the shuttle bus to and from the airport where possible to avoid overpriced taxis. The open top "Hop On Hop Off" bus in Capetown is an excellent way to get around. Car hire is very popular and worthwhile if you want to travel at your own pace.

### Weather

Being in the Southern Hemisphere the seasons are the opposite, and yes you can spend Christmas on the beach! South Africa is famous for its sunshine and is a relatively dry country, with the winter months being the driest. Average temperatures range between lows of 17°C and highs of 38°C degrees in some

areas. The South Coast is the most pleasant weather-wise, but can be a little windy.

### Best time to go

Anytime throughout the year with Spring and autumn being ideal. Spring is recommended for vast areas of colourful wildflowers.

### Shopping hours

Mon to Fri: 9am - 5/6pm  
Sat: 9am - 1pm  
(to 5pm in urban areas)  
Sun: 10am - 3/4pm  
(in urban areas)

### Language

English mainly, plus Afrikaans and many diverse local languages.

### Currency Rand

**Time zone** GMT + 2

### Tipping

Restaurants 10-15% if not already added.  
Tour guides & drivers R10 to 15 per person/day.  
Porters R5 - 10 per bag.  
Taxis 10%.



### Did you know?

Two Nobel Peace prize winners, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have houses in the same street in Soweto.

South Africa is ranked number one in the world for its floral kingdom.



### Access to Airport lounges

our own lounges are located world wide and even in Egypt, they are exclusively for the use of Diners Club members, regardless of the class of travel.



انفاذ الحيرة  
ففت في ال  
وعلاقر  
وعراست  
ناد عير  
محماله  
بابا  
فلناه



# Tunisia



## Inspiring, rich and colourful...

From historic souks and architectural ruins to the modern cosmopolitan capital, Tunisia offers a wide variety of sights for the visitor, including some of the best palm fringed beaches and turquoise waters in the Mediterranean. The 'French Riviera' atmosphere of cafés and markets create a comfortable and exciting transition from the new to the old in a just a few steps. The ruggedly beautiful North Coast is just the place to soak up the sun and indulge in a few water sports before venturing inland to enjoy the rich cultural heritage that is unique to this land.



### Life changing experiences...

**Tunis** A vibrant yet laid back capital city with a mixture of Mediterranean, Arab and African traditions, where old Arab medina meets French Colonial 'Ville Nouvelle'. Explore the winding maze of alleys and souks in the historical and spiritual heart of Tunis, where all paths seem to lead to the historical 8th century Zeytouna Mosque. Enjoy the restaurants and cafés surrounded by both historic and contemporary life, this city is one of exciting contrasts, immerse yourself in the atmosphere and you cannot fail to enjoy this special place.

**A little history** Take the time to visit the Bardo Museum, a few kilometers out of the city. Housed in the former residence of the Husseinite beys and originally built in the 13th century, the museum holds a huge and very comprehensive collection of Roman mosaics, statues, figurines and other remains of this historical area.

**Central Tunisia** Ride the famous Red Lizard Train, originally built by the French to transport rich phosphate deposits, the journey along the Seldja Gorge and beyond takes you through some of the weirdest rock formations you'll see in Tunisia. A relaxing couple of hours to be had through a rugged and fascinating landscape.



### Facts for the traveller...

#### Weather

A mixture of Mediterranean and African climates, hot dry summers and mild winters. Hotter in the southern desert areas, with very brief rains. Spring time being the best time to visit in general with summer being the ultimate beach season and can get quite crowded. Desert travel is best during the winter months.

#### Transportation

Taxi fares are relatively cheap and they are all metered, trams and buses operate within Tunis city and suburbs. The train system is well run but not extensive, touristic sights are well covered though.

#### Time zone

GMT +1

**Cape Bon Peninsula** One of Tunisia's best known resort areas the Peninsula is home to the beautiful beach resorts of Hammamet and Nabeul. When you're not stretched out on the beach a walk around the walled medina, a visit to the Kasbah and the lively market is a must. This area also offers the historic ruins of Carthage and Kerkouane.

#### Languages

French, Arabic, English, German

#### Tipping

Tips are always appreciated and generally expected.

#### Currency

Tunisian Dinar

#### Shopping hours

Summer : Mon to Fri: 7.30am to 1pm & 5pm to 10pm

Winter : Mon to Fri: 9am to 12.30pm & 2.30pm to 6pm

### Did you know?

Tunisia has served as a popular film making location for some of Hollywood's biggest films, Stars Wars, Jesus of Nazareth, The English Patient and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

The original Star Wars movie sets in the desert of Tunisia are still there and well preserved for visitors. The "Planet of Taooine" - Luke Skywalker's home.

The world's longest Aqueduct is the Roman Aqueduct of Carthage in Tunisia. It ran 141km from the springs of Zaghouan to Djebel Djougar.

