

Port Louis, Mauritius - Africa Cruises

Mauritius was uninhabited until the Dutch arrived in 1635. Their colony lasted about two generations – long enough for the settlers to hunt the native dodo birds to extinction. The capital of Port Louis offers shopping bargains at the old-fashioned central market. Go bird watching at Casela Bird Park. Or set out on a catamaran to admire the sun-drenched beauty of the island, landing on dazzling white beaches and snorkelling amongst shoals brimming with kaleidoscopic fish.

Excursions

Please note: The shore excursions listed are typical for this port. The full programme of shore excursions available for your cruise will be displayed on Cruise Personaliser at least 12 weeks prior to departure.

• Southern Delights

Discover the natural wonders of Mauritius, from a volcanic crater and breathtaking gorges to the coloured earths and waterfall of Chamarel.

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Soak up the spectacular scenery of Mauritius as you discover the delights that the southern part of the island has to offer. The highlights include Trou aux Cerfs crater, Grand Bassin, Black River Gorges Viewpoint and Chamarel.

The Trou aux Cerfs crater is formed from an extinct volcano. Its position on the central plateau of the island provides a panoramic vista over the rest of the island.

The Grand Bassin is considered a sacred lake for the Hindu community, nestling in a volcanic crater and interesting for both its beauty and legend. It is said that the water in the lake communicates with the Ganges in India, making it a site for pilgrimage for Mauritian Hindus.

At the Black River Gorges Viewpoint, marvel at the breathtaking views over Mauritius' deepest gorge. Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch in a beautiful setting close to the gorges.

At Chamarel, there will be a stop to take photographs of the beautiful cascading Chamarel Waterfall before visiting the unusual seven coloured earths. The soil's colourful hues of red, brown, violet, green, blue, purple and yellow never erode in spite of torrential downpours and adverse climatic conditions.

Tour code

PLO_021

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

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MEAL INCLUDED

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SHOPPING

Duration

7½ HOURS

• Northern Discovery

Step back in time to discover some of the island's colonial attractions and view the giant Victoria Regia water lilies.

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Your journey begins with a drive to Moka, where you'll visit the 19th century Eureka Colonial House, one of the oldest colonial houses on the island. Enjoy a guided tour of the house with its authentic antique furniture, which provides an interesting glimpse into colonial living. After exploring the house and admiring the peaceful garden, you can relax on the terrace with refreshments of a soft drink and local snacks.

Proceed with an uphill ride to La Citadelle, (initially an English fortress), to admire the panoramic views over Port Louis city and the harbour.

Heading further north, you'll arrive at the SSR Botanical Gardens (formerly Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens) where your guide will take you on an interesting tour of the gardens. The gardens are reputed for their extensive collection of tropical and indigenous plants, and most commonly known for the ineluctable giant Victoria Regina water lilies, spice garden and the Talipot Palm which flowers once every 60 years before dying. Many trees have been planted by world leaders and royalty, including Princess Margaret, Indira Gandhi and Robert Mugabe.

After a leisurely stroll around the gardens, a short drive will bring you to L'Aventure du Sucre Museum. This fascinating museum traces Mauritian history back to the 18th century when the main commodity of the area was sugar, which was lusted after as much as gold! Sugar has enjoyed an extraordinary existence, leaving a profound impression on the history and identity of Mauritius.

Before returning to Port Louis, there will be a photograph stop at Cap Malheureux, which is one of the most picture postcard spots of the north coast.

Tour code

PLO_008

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

5¼ HOURS

• Yemen Safari by Single Quad Bike

Enjoy a thrilling safari through the Yemen Nature Reserve on an exhilarating quad bike adventure.

[Hide](#)

As you travel towards the west coast of the island, you'll be treated to views of sugar cane fields, lush green fields and local villages before arriving at one of Mauritius hidden treasures, the Casela Nature and Leisure Park. Originally built as a bird park, the beautifully landscaped Casela is now home to a diverse range of animals and includes the fascinating Yemen Nature Reserve. The Yemen Nature Reserve is a private nature reserve covering 11,000 acres and is a haven to all sorts of native wildlife and abundant indigenous and exotic plants giving it the feel of an African Savannah.

Upon arrival, you'll climb aboard your quad bike and head off on an adventure ride through the Yemen Nature Reserve. There will be regular stops to introduce you to the wild animals (zebras, antelopes, ostriches, wild boar, giant tortoises, deer, monkeys etc) in their natural habitat, as well as different terrains to explore including streams, hills, forest and plains. This truly is an exhilarating and fun way to get close to nature!

Afterwards, you'll have around 2¼ hours of free time to explore the Casela Nature Park.

Tour code

PLO_020

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

Duration

5½ HOURS

• Catamaran Sailaway

Relax and soak up the sun and scenery on a catamaran sailaway through the clear, turquoise waters of the east coast.

[Hide](#)

Embark on a scenic drive to the east of the island, where you will join a small speed boat for a short transfer to your catamaran.

Relax and soak up the beautiful scenery onboard as you sail along the picturesque coastline for a brief stop during which you can either remain onboard to soak up the sun or transfer to a small boat to see the hidden Grand River South East Waterfall.

Back onboard the catamaran, you'll be able to feel the fresh sea air as you skim over the glistening turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. There will be a further stop to enjoy some snorkelling, swimming or sunbathing.

Soft drink refreshments will be served on board and beer or rum will be available on the return sail.

Tour code

PLO_022

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

5½ HOURS

• Paradise Island Escape

Surround yourself with beautiful white sand beaches, swaying palms and azure waters on the tropical island paradise of Ile-aux-Cerfs.

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Embark on a scenic journey to the east coast of Mauritius, past sugar cane fields, lush vegetation and through local villages. At the boat jetty, board your boat for a transfer to the beautiful island of Ile-aux-Cerfs. Known as the 'mini Eden of Mauritius', its wide sparkling sand banks and warm crystal clear waters create the perfect tropical escape.

On arrival, you'll be welcomed with a refreshing fruit cocktail and a Mauritian folkloric dance show. After your warm welcome, you will have around 3½ hours' free time to soak up the sun, relax on the beach, swim in the lagoon or explore this island paradise.

During the day, a delicious buffet luncheon will be served at one of the island's beach restaurants.

Tour code

PLO_014

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW



MEAL INCLUDED



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

7¼ HOURS

• Long Beach Getaway

Indulge in some well deserved relaxation at the luxury Five Star resort of Long Beach, with its beautiful location and stunning beaches. [Hide](#)

Embark on a scenic drive across the island to the east coast, where you'll find the longest and widest stretch of white sand coastline found at any Mauritian resort.

Upon arrival, enjoy a refreshing drink to welcome you to this carefree piazza-style luxury resort. You will have around four hours to spend at your leisure, you could choose to relax by the blue hues of the infinity pool - which melts into the Indian Ocean beyond, stretch out on a sun lounger on the white sands, stroll along the palm lined beach or cool off in the turquoise lagoon with its crystal clear waters and rare coral formations.

At midday, a selection of sweet and savoury snacks will be served in one of the resort restaurants accompanied by a local cocktail, soft drink and water.

Finally, after a farewell soft drink, you'll return to the ship fully relaxed.

Tour code

PLO_023

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED



ESPECIALLY SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES

Duration

6 HOURS

- ## Yemen Safari by Double Quad Bike

Enjoy a thrilling safari through the Yemen Nature Reserve on an exhilarating quad bike adventure.

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As you travel towards the west coast of the island, you'll be treated to views of sugar cane fields, lush green fields and local villages before arriving at one of Mauritius hidden treasures, the Casela Nature and Leisure Park. Originally built as a bird park, the beautifully landscaped Casela is now home to a diverse range of animals and includes the fascinating Yemen Nature Reserve. The Yemen Nature Reserve is a private nature reserve covering 11,000 acres and is a haven to all sorts of native wildlife and abundant indigenous and exotic plants giving it the feel of an African Savannah.

Upon arrival, you'll climb aboard your double quad bike and head off on an adventure ride through the Yemen Nature Reserve. There will be regular stops to introduce you to the wild animals (zebras, antelopes, ostriches, wild boar, giant tortoises, deer, monkeys etc) in their natural habitat, as well as different terrains to explore including streams, hills, forest and plains. This truly is an exhilarating and fun way to get close to nature!

Afterwards, you'll have around 2¼ hours of free time to explore the Casela Nature Park.

Tour code

PLO_019

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

Duration

5½ HOURS

- ## Yemen Safari Adventure and Casela Nature Park

Enjoy a safari through the Yemen Nature Reserve and explore the Casela Nature and Leisure Park.

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As you travel towards the south of the island, you'll be treated to views of sugar cane fields, lush green fields and local villages before arriving at one of Mauritius hidden treasures, the Casela Nature and Leisure Park. Originally built as a bird park, the beautifully landscaped Casela is now home to a diverse range of animals and includes the fascinating Yemen Nature Reserve. The Yemen Nature Reserve covers 11,000 acres and is a haven to all sorts of native wildlife and abundant indigenous and exotic plants giving it the feel of an African Savannah.

Upon arrival, you'll board an open-sided safari truck and take an exciting Yemen Safari that will allow you to discover the beautiful nature and landscape of the reserve, whilst observing the wild animals (zebras, antelopes, ostriches, wild boar, giant tortoises, deer, monkeys etc) in their natural habitat.

Afterwards, you'll have around 2¼ hours of free time to explore the Casela Nature Park.

Tour code

PLO_018

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



SHOPPING

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ESPECIALLY SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES

Duration

5¼ HOURS

- ## The Tea Route

Absorb yourself in the scenic beauty of the south whilst discovering the importance of the tea industry during colonial times.

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The 'Tea Route' will take you on a culinary and cultural journey through the early days of Mauritius. Your journey will begin at the interesting Domaine Saint Aubin estate, which produces sugar, rum and vanilla pods. The estate is dominated by the 19th century colonial plantation house but you will also be able to see how the sugar, rum and vanilla are processed in the Anthurium, Vanilla Plantation and the Rum Distillery.

Next, a visit will be made to Bois Chéri, the first and biggest tea producer in Mauritius, to discover the history of tea and witness the transformation of the tea leaves into flavoured tea bags, green tea and herbal teas. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious luncheon and tea tasting, in the midst of the picturesque scenery of the plantations.

The final stop will be at Domaine des Aubineaux, one of the last colonial mansions typical of the late 19th century. The mansion has been converted into a museum dedicated to the history of Mauritian Tea. You'll also have the opportunity to stroll in the Camphor tree garden to admire its diversity of exotic plants and endemic forest.

The panorama of the south is full of photographic opportunities - you will see tea plantations, local villages, places of worship for all the different communities and beautiful views over the south and south-east coast.

Tour code

PLO_002

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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MEAL INCLUDED

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SHOPPING

Duration

7¼ HOURS
