

# EXPLORE!



## Reunion and Mauritius

14 days

Mauritius, Reunion - Trip code RUM

## Reunion and Mauritius

We discover a tale of two islands on this contrasting exploration of Reunion and Mauritius. Volcanic vistas and green fertile calderas are the highlights of rugged Reunion; whilst we uncover a side of Mauritius rarely seen by most travellers. We find an island rich in culture from its colonial past and geographical importance with beaches and marine life to rival the best in the world. We will learn to cook creole food and, explore Mauritian bazaars and star gaze with a local astronomer.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Reunion** - Explore volcanos, calderas and small villages on this little visited island
- ★ **Beaches** - Relax on some of the best beaches on the planet
- ★ **Creole culture** - Learn how to cook creole cuisine in a local restaurant
- ★ **Indian Ocean** - Clear water for snorkelling in protected marine parks
- ★ **Port Louis** - Colonial architecture and culture in the capital of Mauritius

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

### TRIP PACE:

#### Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

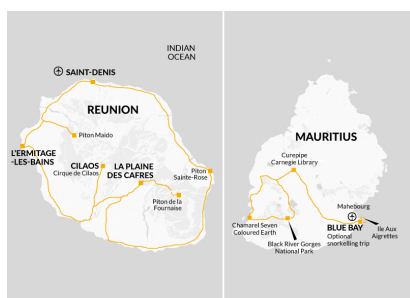
### GROUP SIZE:

#### 10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.



## Why book this trip

This trip is perfect for travellers that want to combine interesting culture, beautiful scenery and a lot of relaxing time on the beach. You will come home feeling relaxed, but with the sense that you have had a real adventure discovering two fascinating islands.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 13  
Lunch: 4  
Dinner: 3



### Transport

Bus  
Flight



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Driver  
Explore Tour Leader(s)  
Local Guide(s)

## Trip information

## Country information

### Mauritius

#### Climate

Mauritius experiences a mild tropical climate throughout the year. Being in the southern hemisphere its summer months are from November to April with an average temperature of 24-25 degrees Celsius, and can be humid with abundant rainfall. While its winter months are between May to October with an average temperature of 20-21 degrees Celsius, night temperatures can also drop to an average 16-17 degrees Celsius, making this the best period to visit the island.

#### Time difference to GMT

+4

#### Plugs

3 Pin Flat

#### Religion

Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism.

#### Language

French and English

### Reunion

#### Time difference to GMT

+4

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

#### Pointe d'Esny:

Le Vanille Nature Park - £36 per person (minimum of 5 persons to operate)

Afternoon Tea and Cassava Biscuit Tasting - £34 per person (minimum of 5 persons to operate)

#### Trou Aux Biches:

Mauritius Aquarium - £32 per person (minimum of 5 persons to operate)

Horticultural Gardens and Orchards - £39 per person (minimum of 5 persons to operate)

All above optionals need to be prebooked and our local agent will assist with these arrangements.

Please note that these activities do not form part of our contracted tour services.

### Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight and ideally cotton all year round. Shorts and T-shirts are acceptable everywhere, although take long trousers/skirts for evening wear. Don't forget your swimming costume.

For Reunion please have a light cardigan or jacket for the evenings.

### Footwear

Lightweight walking bootshoes or trainers are useful for exploring the islands. Sandals for relaxing and beachwear. Rubber soled footwear for beach walks.

### Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main bag - either a holdall, soft bag or suitcase, plus a daypack.

## Equipment

Take a small torch, water bottle, sunglasses, sunhat, suncream, insect repellent, binoculars if planning to birdwatch and a beach towel. Bring a lightweight rainjacket just in case.

On Reunion some of the roads are very windy so if you suffer from travel sickness you may wish to bring your usual remedy.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

You should allow £30 for tipping local staff in Mauritius. Whilst on Reunion a tips kitty will not be operated, though you may wish to tip separately at restaurants and to also tip your driver (approx €2-2.50 per person per day).

## Country Information

### Mauritius

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

##### Lunch price

£5

##### Dinner price

£20

##### Beer price

£1.7

##### Water price

£0.6

#### Foreign Exchange

##### Local currency

Mauritius Rupee

##### ATM Availability

ATMs are available at the international airport, at banks in the main cities and at shopping centres.

##### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit Cards are accepted at some restaurants and hotels in main tourist cities and areas.

##### Travellers Cheques

Can be exchanged at Banks

### Reunion

#### Food and drink

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#### Foreign Exchange

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Flight

### Accommodation notes

#### Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

On Reunion we are mainly staying at small guesthouses in picturesque towns. Our hotels in Mauritius are all located close to the beach, and are generally 3 star, most including swimming pools and restaurants.

## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

Reunion: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Mauritius: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. All visitors should ensure their passport is machine readable.

If you are travelling via South Africa (including transits): From 1st June 2015 South Africa will enforce new immigration regulations effecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via the country. The new laws state that parents and/or guardian maybe requested by the airline and/or South Africa immigration officers to provide additional documentation for each child they are travelling with. Please refer to the South African House website for full requirements: [http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis\\_forcit.html](http://outhafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html) and your airline for up to date requirements.

In order to check in for your flights you must carry full details of your flight itinerary - including all sectors. You will not be able to check in for your flight from Mauritius to Reunion without this.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcours. See [www.travcours.com](http://www.travcours.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcours. The Team at Travcours will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Included activities

During the trip you will make a short visit to the Carnegie Library in Curepipe. This library is very important to the community and is a source of English novels and childrens books. Many of the books are very out of date and donations of new books are thoroughly appreciated. Even books with damage can still be appreciated as the library has a re-binding machine to make sure everything lasts as long as possible. If you wish to bring books with you your Explore Leader will ensure you can donate them to the library on your trip.

## Mauritius

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice. Please note that you will be required to supply a yellow fever certificate if you have travelled from or via a country where yellow fever is endemic or risk of transmission. We strongly recommend the wearing long sleeved shirts and the liberal application of insect repellent as a precautionary measure to avoid being bitten. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information

regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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## Reunion

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