

The Essential Seychelles

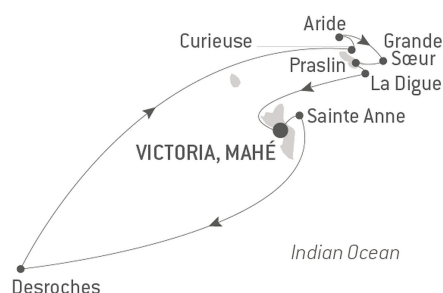
From **18/1/2022**
to **26/1/2022**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Victoria, Mahé**
to **Victoria, Mahé**



SEYCHELLES



On this itinerary, **PONANT** invites you to discover the must-see jewels of the Seychelles. On **Mahé**, you will board *Le Bougainville* for a **9-day expedition cruise** to the heart of this archipelago's **Inner Islands** for a glimpse of paradise.

The first stop on your cruise: **Sainte Anne Marine National Park**, whose coral reefs are home to stunning species, guaranteeing unforgettable snorkelling.

On **Curieuse Island**, reputed for its red earth and for the **Aldabra giant tortoises** that have taken up residence there, take an excursion to the heart of the **mangrove**. You will then discover **Aride**, an unspoiled delight of the Indian Ocean, home to **thousands of birds** including some endemic species.

In **Praslin**, don't miss the chance to visit the **Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve**. There you will find **sea coconuts**, gigantic endemic fruits with a very evocative shape, nicknamed the "love nut".

Palm trees, granite rock, **white sand and crystal-clear water** await you on **Grande Sœur** and **La Digue**. The beaches on these two stunning islands are each more beautiful than the next, guaranteeing moments of relaxation that will live up to your fantasies of the Seychelles.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 8/3/2021

The Essential Seychelles

YOUR STOPOVERS :

VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Embarkation 18/1/2022 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 18/1/2022 at 19h00

Discover **Mahé**, the main island of the Seychelles and also the largest of the archipelago, home to the capital, **Victoria**. Mahé has almost 70 beaches of fine sand, framed by the emblematic **granite rocks**, and whose crystal clear waters are renowned for their rich underwater life. The island is also famous for its **splendid mountain panoramas** accessible on hikes, such as the Morne Seychellois, which is 905 metres high and overlooks the Indian Ocean. Mahé is also an island full of history where fine colonial properties rub shoulders with **Creole houses** - and don't forget the marvellous **Botanical Gardens** in Victoria.

SAINTE ANNE MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 19/1/2022

Departure 19/1/2022

Lying off the coast of Mahé, the **Sainte Anne Marine National Park** has been protecting the natural riches and exceptional sea beds of **the verdant islands and turquoise lagoons** of Sainte-Anne, Longue, Ronde, Moyenne and Cerf since 1973. These dream islands with their white sandy beaches edged with granite rock, crystal-clear waters and coconut trees promise unforgettable moments of relaxation and discovery. These colourful reefs and granite rocks and their large swathes of seagrass are home to a multitude of **tropical fish** as well as **sea turtles, dolphins** and several species of ray, including the **manta ray**.

DESROCHES ISLAND

Arrival 20/1/2022

Departure 20/1/2022

Coconut trees, she-oak, white-sand beaches, warm and clear waters: everything here is conducive to daydreaming and relaxation in an intimate setting where the blue sky completes the picture postcard. You are on **Desroches Island**, the largest in the **Amirantes group** in the Outer Islands of the Seychelles. This 6 km long **coral atoll** covered in lush vegetation is surrounded by spectacular seabeds where encounters with sharks and manta rays are not uncommon. On the beach, you may be lucky enough to observe sea turtles, there to lay their eggs. In the island's north, a lighthouse that is still in operation stands guard, and the small village is home to a chapel and a cemetery.

CURIEUSE ISLAND

Arrival 21/1/2022

Departure 21/1/2022

Situated off the coast of Praslin, **Curieuse** has a distinguishing feature: its red earth. Discovered in 1768 by the French explorer Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne, it was ravaged by a fire in 1771 and then home to a leper colony of which a few vestiges still remain. Declared a **national marine park** in 1979, it is home to many underwater species, which can be discovered while scuba diving or snorkelling in the idyllic waters of the Indian Ocean. But above all, Curieuse is renowned for the **hundreds of Aldabra giant tortoises** that live there. It is highly likely that you will get the chance to meet these fascinating reptiles. Along with Praslin, it is also the only island on which the **sea coconut** grows wild.

ARIDE ISLAND

Arrival 22/1/2022

Departure 22/1/2022

Aride is an island in the Seychelles situated a few kilometres north-west of Praslin. Listed as a **nature reserve**, this pearl of the Indian Ocean will seduce you with the beauty of its landscapes of **wild cliffs and fine-sand beaches**. Protected from human impact and sometimes called “bird capital”, it is home to several endemic plants as well as exceptional wildlife. Most notably, it is the refuge of an impressive number of **seabirds** (Seychelles magpie-robins, terns, noddies, and more), and reptiles, such as Wright's skinks, which can be found in the island's wooded areas. Sea turtles can also be observed on the island's beaches.

GRANDE SŒUR

Arrival 23/1/2022

Departure 23/1/2022

Located 6 km north of La Digue, **Grande Sœur Island** is renowned for its two sumptuous beaches and its translucent waters, protected by a coral reef. An ideal spot for **snorkelling** and observing the **sea turtles** that co-exist here with the many multi-coloured fish. The pristine Grande Sœur Island is considered to be one of the most beautiful islands in the Seychelles.

PRASLIN ISLAND

Arrival 24/1/2022

Departure 24/1/2022

Situated some forty kilometres away from Victoria, **Praslin** is the second largest island in the Seychelles. Its idyllic beaches where granite rocks nestle in immaculate sand correspond perfectly to how we imagine the Seychelles to be. They invite visitors to dive into the **turquoise waters**, which are ideal for snorkelling. In the centre of the island, hidden in the heart of a stunning tropical rainforest, lies the **Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. In this veritable plant sanctuary, several endemic species of palm trees can be observed, as well as the famous sea coconut, which can weigh up to 20 kg and is sometimes called “*coco fesse*” because its shape calls to mind a pair of buttocks.

LA DIGUE ISLAND

Arrival 25/1/2022

Departure 25/1/2022

La Digue Island is a veritable concentration of all the beauty of the Seychelles. Located 6 km south-east of Praslin, this small piece of land that looks like paradise is the third-largest island in the Seychelles, despite its modest size (5 km by 3 km)! Turquoise waters just asking you to swim in them, lush vegetation sheltering **giant tortoises**, beaches of fine sand fringed with coconut trees and surrounded with those emblematic **large granite rocks with their pink highlights** like at the famous Anse Source d'Argent: the perfect picture postcard... **Authentic and preserved**, the island follows a peaceful rhythm, with the only means of transport along its little roads being bikes or traditional oxcarts.

VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Arrival 26/1/2022

Disembarkation 26/1/2022 at 00h00

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