



# islandsonly

## Islands Only

Cellular: + 27 (0) 83 381 1087

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Email: [info@islandsonly.com](mailto:info@islandsonly.com)

Website: <http://www.islandsonly.com>



## Mauritius fast facts



## travel information

### Visa Requirements

- European passport holders do not require visas.
- South African passport holders do not require visas.
- Passports should be valid for at least six months from date of departure from Mauritius.

### Diplomatic Representatives in Mauritius:

#### British High Commission

7th Floor, Les Cascades Building,

Edith Cavell Street,

Port Louis

Tel: + 230 208-9850

Fax: + 230 211-1369

#### South Africa High Commission

4th Floor, British American Insurance Building,

25 Pope Hennessy Street,

Port Louis

Tel: + 230 212-6925/6/8/9

Fax: + 230 212-9346

Email: [sahc@intnet.mu](mailto:sahc@intnet.mu)

#### USA Embassy

4th Floor, Rogers House,

John Kennedy Street,

Port Louis

Tel: + 230 208-2347

Fax: + 230 208-9534

### Health Considerations

- Before undertaking any travel all clients are encouraged to consult with their GP and/or local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information on the destinations they are travelling to.
- Visitors to Mauritius who have passed through Yellow Fever infected areas (e.g. Tanzania or Kenya) will be required to provide proof of a Yellow Fever vaccination before entering Mauritius.

### Travel Insurance

- When travelling internationally it is important to ensure that a Travel Insurance Policy appropriately covers you against any unforeseen eventualities.
- Your insurance broker or provider will offer the necessary advice on specific travel insurance policies.
- Travellers from South Africa can go to the IslandsOnly Travel Shop for more details of tailor made travel policies.

### Departure Taxes

- All departure taxes are included the price of your airline ticket. There are no additional taxes to be paid in Mauritius.

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The independent state of Mauritius comprises the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues and dependencies.

**Location:**

Located in the southwestern Indian Ocean between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn.

**Geography:**

- Part of the Mascarene Archipelago the island of Mauritius covers an area of 1,864km<sup>2</sup>. However, the total area including dependencies is 2,045km<sup>2</sup>.
- Mauritius is a mountainous country with an elevated and impressive central plateau.
- The island is 65km long and 45km wide.

**History:**

The Arabs and the Portuguese first discovered the island. The Dutch first settled in 1598 before being claimed by the French in 1715 and named Ile de France. It was a British Colony until 1968 when it became independent member of the Commonwealth before becoming a republic in 1992.

**Government:**

A parliamentary democracy based on the English Westminster model. The president is head of state but the prime minister and cabinet have the constitutional authority.

**Population:**

1,206,000 people, most of which are of Indian, African, European and Chinese origin.

**Languages:**

The official language is English but Creole is the most widely used. French, Hindi, Tamil and Chinese are the most widely spoken alternative languages.

**Religion:**

Hinduism, Islam and Christianity are the most widely practised, along with Confucianism and Buddhism.

**Economy:**

Based heavily on industrial and agricultural exports, tourism and a rapidly growing financial services sector.

**Currency:**

The Mauritian rupee (Rs) is divided into 100 cents (cs)

**Weights and measures:**

The metric system is used (officially introduced in 1985)

**Climate:**

Hot summers – November to April – with average coastal temperatures of 30°C at midday.

Warm winters – May to October – with average coastal temperatures of 24°C at midday.

Temperatures in the interior of the island are generally 3 to 5°C cooler than at the coast.

The rainy season is from January to May with the possibility of stray cyclones between January and March.

**Time:**

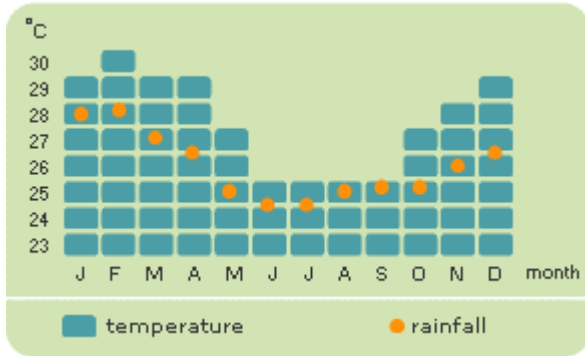
GMT +4

**Electricity:**

220 volts

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**At a glance:**

- Located between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn, Mauritius enjoys a subtropical climate that is typically warm and humid.
- Hot summers – November to April – with average coastal temperatures of 30°C at midday.
- Warm winters – May to October – with average coastal temperatures of 24°C at midday.
- Temperatures in the interior of the island are generally 3 to 5°C cooler than at the coast.
- The rainy season is from January to May with the possibility of stray cyclones between January and March.

**Seasons:**

- Summer months from November to April are characterised by hot and wet weather.
- Winter months from May to October are generally warm and dry.

**Temperatures:**

- Summer - Average coastal temperatures varying between 24°C in the early mornings to 30°C at midday. The hottest months are from January to March.
- Winter - Average coastal temperatures varying between 18°C in the early morning and 24°C at midday.
- Cooling sea breezes and trade winds relieve the humidity on the coastal areas throughout the year

**Rainfall:**

Tropical showers are more likely to occur between January and May. The wetter east coast and central plateau can experience up to 5m of rain per year. The west coast being on the leeward side of the island is generally dryer with annual rainfalls of 1m or less.

**Cyclones:**

Mauritius, like Reunion and Madagascar, is located in the so-called cyclone belt. Cyclone season is during the hot summer months from January to March. Fortunately for locals and tourists few cyclones actually make landfall on Mauritius, often remaining at sea and eventually dissipating as they travel west and south. However, the island often feels the effects of the 'milder' weather on the edges of these storms when they pass by.

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