



REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

As a guest of North Island, the following information has been compiled to provide you with guidelines and interesting facts about the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you on our website www.north-island.com.



The Republic of Seychelles is an island country spanning an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, some 1 500 kilometres east of mainland Africa, northeast of the island of Madagascar. Seychelles, with an estimated population of 86 525, has the smallest population of any African state. The islands are a mix of granitic (of which North Island is one) and coral islands. As the islands of Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of people who have immigrated to the island. The largest ethnic groups are those of African, French, Indian and Chinese descent.

INTERESTING FACTS



The original flag was adopted at independence on 29 June 1976. In 1977, when President James Mancham was overthrown by France-Albert René, the old flag was abolished and the red, white and green flag of the Seychelles People's United Party came into use. The new flag was adopted on 18 June 1996. The oblique bands symbolise a dynamic new country moving into the future. The colour blue depicts the sky and the sea that surrounds the Seychelles. Yellow is for the sun which gives light and life, red symbolises the people and their determination to work for the future in unity and love, whilst the white band represents social justice and harmony. The green depicts the land and natural environment.

Government

The Seychelles is a multiple-party republic that gained independence on 29 June 1976. The Seychelles president, who is both head of state and head of government, is elected by popular vote for a five-year term of office. The cabinet is presided over and appointed by the president, subject to the approval of a majority of the legislature. The unicameral Seychellois parliament (National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale) consists of 33 members, of whom 25 are elected directly by popular vote, while the remaining eight seats are appointed proportionally according to the percentage of votes received by each party. All members serve five-year terms. The main rival parties are the ruling socialist Parti Lepep (LP), and the Linyon Demokratik Seychellois (LDS).

Economy

During the plantation era, cinnamon, vanilla and copra were the chief exports. In the 1960s, about 33% of the working population worked at plantations, and 20% worked in the public or government sector. In 1971, with the opening of Seychelles International Airport, tourism became a serious industry, basically dividing the economy into plantations and tourism. The tourism sector paid better, and the plantation economy could only expand so far. The plantation sector of the economy declined in prominence, and tourism became the primary industry of Seychelles. Despite the growth of tourism, farming and fishing continue to employ some people, as do industries that process coconuts and vanilla. The prime agricultural products currently produced in the Seychelles include sweet potatoes, vanilla, coconuts, and cinnamon. These products provide much of the economic support of the locals. Frozen and canned fish, copra, cinnamon, and vanilla are the main export commodities of the islands.

Currency

The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR), made up of 100 Cents. Notes come in denominations of SCR10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 and coins from SCR5 and 1, and 5, 10 and 25 Cents.

Language

Seychelles has three official languages: Creole, English and French.

Religion

Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion, although there are Anglican and other Protestant churches as well as smaller Muslim, Hindu and Bahá'í communities based on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue.

Time

Seychelles is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 4 hours, Central European Time (CET) + 3 hours in winter and (CET) + 2 hours in summer.

Climate

The islands enjoy a pleasant tropical climate year round and, as they are situated outside the cyclone belt, there are no extremes of weather. The temperature seldom drops below 24°C or rises above 33 °C. Globally changing climatic conditions make it difficult to predict exact weather patterns. From October to March the islands are affected by the northwest trade winds. This is when the sea is generally calm with warm tropical water. From May to September, the weather is generally drier and cooler, with choppy seas, particularly on the south-eastern coast, which is when the southeast trade winds occur. The wettest months are December and January.

Temperature (°C) – These are the average lows and highs:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24/29	24/30	25/30	25/31	25/30	25/28	23/28	24/28	24/28	24/29	24/30	24/30

Temperature (°F) – These are the average lows and highs:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
76/85	76/86	77/87	78/88	78/86	77/84	75/83	76/83	76/84	76/85	76/86	76/86

Average Rainfall (mm) – This varies according to the year and location:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
379	262	167	177	124	63	80	97	121	206	215	281

Average Rainfall (inches) – This varies according to the year and location:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15.5	10.7	6.8	7.3	5.1	2.6	3.3	4.0	5.0	8.4	8.8	11.5

USEFUL INFORMATION

Visas

Any applicable visas and/or relevant documentation are your responsibility. For further visa information please refer to the website www.seychelles.visahq.com/requirements. Please note while we have provided this website as a guideline for information, North Island are not responsible for the content thereof.

Banks & Payment

Travellers Cheques and foreign currencies can be changed at banks or hotels. Visitors are required to use only local currency (this is due to the Seychelles Foreign Exchange Act) when making payments in hotels and guest houses or when paying for other hospitality related services such as hiring of cars and boats and the services of tour operators or travel agents, patronage of casinos and domestic transfers within Seychelles.

All banks handle Travellers Cheques and foreign exchange transactions. Passports are required for all transactions and nominal commissions may be charged. Barclays Bank and Banque Francaise Commerciale have branch offices on Praslin and La Digue. The banks at the airport open only for flight arrivals and departures. Please note that North Island holds a limited amount of Seychelles Rupees on the island – should you wish to make a significant exchange, please advise the Duty Office 48 hours in advance.

Banking Hours:

Monday to Friday: 08:00 – 14:00

Saturday: 08:00 – 11:00

Credit Cards

MasterCard, Visa and America Express are widely accepted throughout Seychelles.

Please note: At North Island we accept all major credit cards however Diners Card is not accepted.

Shopping

The opening hours for shops on Mahé are from 08:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. The main post office in Victoria is open from 08:00 to 16:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 12:00 on Saturdays.

Value Added Tax

Restaurants and hotel bills normally include a VAT of 15%.

Prohibited Exports

- The export of the following items is prohibited:
- Tortoises, turtles and shells
- All wild birds, all species endemic to Seychelles
- All plant material
- Fish
- Mammals and marine plants

Please note that souvenirs and artefacts made from permitted local products have no restrictions, however, should be declared to avoid any misunderstandings.

Luggage on Scheduled Commercial Flights

Scheduled airlines generally carry a weight restriction of 20 kg (44 lb) per economy class traveller in one suitcase/bag as well as one item of hand baggage (the total dimensions – height, width and length – may not exceed 115 cm or 45 inches). The average weight for business class travel is 30 kg (66 lb) and 40 kg (88 lb) per first class traveller. Please consult your specific airlines directly as slight differences do apply per the individual airline companies. If combining scheduled commercial airline flights and light aircraft/helicopter air transfers, then the specified luggage restriction for air transfers will apply.

NB! If you are travelling economy class on Emirates, a minimum of two hours is required for checking in.

Lost Luggage

Luggage that goes missing on scheduled flights is beyond the control of North Island, and often the airline concerned too. It is usually the airports that control what happens to passengers' luggage from the time it is checked in until it is put on board the aircraft.

We would like to suggest that you take precautionary action and pack a small bag with your essentials, including any life sustaining medication, which can be carried with you as hand luggage. Pack a second bag containing non-essentials that can be loaded in the aircraft hold. If the second bag does not arrive, you will still have your essential items on hand to see you through the first couple of days while we try and recover your baggage.

Helicopter Transfers

We are currently using Zil Air for all helicopter transfers. The helicopter used is either a EUROCOPTER EC 120 which seats a maximum of 4 guests per flight or a EUROCOPTER EC 145 which seats a maximum of 6 guests per flight. Using standard fuel allowances and normal weather conditions, guests are limited as follows:

- An adult male maximum weight cannot exceed 80 kg (176 lb).
- An adult female maximum weight cannot exceed 60 kg (132 lb).
- A child (9 years and younger) maximum weight cannot exceed 40 kg (88 lb).
- Luggage allowance per passenger per flight cannot exceed 20 kg (44 lb), including hand luggage and camera equipment. Space is limited so only soft bags are allowed.

The maximum total weight allowed per helicopter transfer in the EUROCOPTER EC 120 is restricted to 325 kg (715 lb) and in the EUROCOPTER EC 145 is restricted to 700 kg (1 540 lb). Thus the total number and weight of passengers plus luggage on a transfer must be calculated accordingly to determine whether an additional helicopter is required.

All flights are subject to weather conditions and will be at the Captain's discretion. Please note that when departing North Island, you are required to be at Guest Relations 30 minutes prior to your departure time to ensure that there are no delays.

Note that there are no night emergency helicopter services available in the Seychelles. Should the helicopter have to shut down due to passengers arriving late to board the aircraft, a supplement of EUR 250.00 will apply.

For any further information, please contact your agent.

Excess Luggage

If you bring more than the allocated luggage allowance per person on the helicopter transfer then you will need to pay extra to get this luggage transferred to North Island. The luggage can either be transferred by helicopter or by boat at an additional cost.

The cost for excess luggage to be transferred by boat from Mahé to North Island (and vice versa) is on a request basis. Costs to transfer the excess luggage by helicopter will be quoted dependent on the number of guests travelling and the amount of excess luggage needed.

Reconfirming Flights

Please ensure that all your onward flights are reconfirmed at least 72 hours prior to flying. Listed below are some telephone numbers to assist you in reconfirming your flights.

Air Seychelles	Mahé + 248 381 000
Ethiad Airways	Mahé + 248 4 374 700
Emirates Airlines	Mahé + 248 4 292 700
Kenya Airways	Mahé + 248 4 323 907

Health Regulations

The Seychelles is free of tropical diseases such as malaria, bilharzia, typhoid and dysentery. No vaccinations are necessary. You will not be allowed to enter Seychelles if you've visited Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali or the Democratic Republic of Congo within 21 days of the date of your arrival.

Yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers who are arriving from, or have transited through countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

Water

Tap water meets World Health Organization specifications and is safe to drink throughout the country and on North Island.

Medical Information

The emergency telephone number for the police or ambulance is 999. The main hospital is on Mahé, at Mont Fleuri. There are also clinics in the districts and islands of Praslin and La Digue. There is a twin-lock, two-man recompression chamber located only at Victoria Hospital, Mahé. It is available 24 hours a day. A one-man chamber is also available on Silhouette.

Insurance

A condition of booking is that it is your sole responsibility to ensure that you are carrying the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover yourself as well as any dependents/travelling companions for the duration of their trip to the Seychelles.

This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. North Island, including their representatives, employees and agents, will take no responsibility for any costs or losses incurred or suffered you or your dependents or travelling companions with regards to, but not limited to, any of the above mentioned eventualities. You will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services you may require, and may find yourself in a position unable to access such services should you not be carrying the relevant insurance cover.

North Island shall not be held responsible or liable for loss, damage, or theft of personal luggage and belongings, nor can they be held liable for personal injury, accident or illness. Please ensure that you and your belongings are adequately insured before your departure. Insurance is compulsory when participating in any of our trips with evacuation cover of a minimum Euro 60 000.00.

- Health Insurance

It is compulsory to have full medical, emergency evacuation and repatriation cover for the period of time you are away.

- Cancellation and Curtailment

You might have to cancel or curtail your journey due to unforeseen circumstances. If for any reason you cancel a trip close to departure date, you could lose the entire cost of your holiday. Should you have to leave before your due date of departure, we cannot refund you the cost of the portion of the package you do not complete. In the eventuality of this happening, insurance may cover you, depending on the reason for cancellation and curtailment.

- Baggage & Money Insurance

It is advisable to take out baggage and money insurance, especially if you are carrying a lot of cash or expensive and valuable camera equipment. You should always carry such equipment as "carry-on" luggage. Do not put anything of value in your checked-in baggage!

- Claims

If you anticipate an insurance claim upon your return, be sure to document as accurately as possible any accident, injury or loss. Notes from your medical practitioner and police reports will aid any claim.

Drinks Policy

All properties in the Seychelles have their own drinks policy. The accommodation rates for North Island include alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, except drinks on the reserve list. Drinks at other resorts/lodges may be included or excluded from their rates.

Gratuities Policy

At North Island, we work as a team to ensure that you have a memorable stay. All gratuities are appreciated and payable at your discretion. Tips are pooled and equally divided between all staff; individual tipping is only encouraged for your villa attendants. Should you feel it due then an offer of Euro 50 for general staff per day is advised as well as for each of your villa attendants.

Check-in & Check-out Times at North Island

You may check-in after 14h00, and must check-out before 11h00. If you are arriving early or departing late, every effort will be made to make your villa available for your use. If this is not possible, you will be accommodated in the other areas of North Island. To ensure a late check-out or early check-in, you will need to book the villa for the extra night.

Packing Suggestions

Clothing

- Sun hat/bush hat
- Swimming costume
- Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with a sleeve to protect your shoulders from the sun
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts and/or skirts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Pyjamas
- Underwear
- Socks
- Good closed walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine)
- Sandals
- Lightweight jersey or fleece
- Light rain gear or jacket
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels.

Equipment/Other

- Good quality sunglasses, UV protected, preferably polarised. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light.
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities are supplied by most establishments)
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion – SPF 30 or higher recommended
- Insect repellent for body application, e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.
- Tissues/Wet Wipes
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream and antihistamine cream, etc.)
- Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from any allergies
- Anti-nausea tablets if you suffer from motion sickness
- Southern African bird guide if you are a keen birder, e.g., Newman's or Sasol
- Camera equipment including spare batteries, chargers, film, flash cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Binoculars for those wishing to view wildlife and birds.
- Dive card and log book (if applicable)
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance details, etc.

NOTE 1: There is a restriction on luggage limits on your helicopter transfers – please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary.

Laundry

Laundry can be done at most hotels. At North Island this service is complimentary. Please note that dry cleaning facilities are not available in Seychelles.

Electricity

Electrical appliances run on 220V/240V. The Seychelles uses the British standard square 3-pin 13-amp plug. At North Island we do have 110V adaptors available (3-prong round, 3-prong square, 2-prong round, 2-prong flat), however, it is advisable that you carry your own.

Connectivity

Free wireless internet connection is available in all the villas.

Not Included During Your Stay at North Island

The following are all at an additional cost: massage and health therapy in the Spa or Wellness Centre or in the privacy of your villa, private yoga sessions, full day fishing trips, full day yacht charter, guided day trips to other islands, personal expenditure, telephone calls, reserve list beverages, cigarettes, cigars, full travel insurance with evacuation cover of minimum Euro 60 000.00, gratuities and visa fees are generally excluded. Scheduled flights are also generally excluded from your tour fare (unless otherwise arranged). Please consult your itinerary for the specific details of what is included and excluded in your holiday package.

Children at North Island

North Island offers a baby-sitting service at no additional cost, however please note that if a trained child minder is required, one can be arranged from Mahe at an additional cost. There are also a variety of suggested activities available such as educational walks, games on the beach, boat trips or kayaking (depending on their age), treasure hunts, etc. to keep the children entertained.

Scuba Diving

North Island is a PADI Dive Resort. Please remember to bring your dive cards and/or dive logbooks with you. This is very important as without these you will not be allowed to dive. If you have not dived in 18 months, or wish to enrol in any PADI training course on the island, you must bring along a recent Medical Certificate from your doctor verifying specifically that "You are fit to dive and currently have no pre-existing conditions that are incompatible with diving". If you are not in possession of a medical certificate, you will have to be transferred to Silhouette Island for a medical check-up before you are allowed to dive in the pool or open water.

Problem Solving

If there is anything you feel that we can do to enhance your experience, please do not hesitate to contact North Island staff or managers.

Loss of Articles

Please note that we cannot accept any responsibility for the misplacement of any articles whilst on your travels. Naturally, we will endeavor to reunite you with your misplaced items. However, logistics may not be favourable for the returning of articles unless you are prepared to pay the cost to get your goods to you. Any costs incurred will be for your own account. This issue is possibly the single biggest form of stress for guests who have left their goods behind somewhere en route and who are not prepared to pay for the costs to be reunited with their possessions. So please make sure you keep your goods with you.

Bad Weather Back up Plan for Guest Departure (in the event of bad weather)

All helicopter flights are subject to weather conditions and will be at the pilot's sole discretion. Should Zil Air choose not to operate during bad weather, North Island will assist guests with the option to charter a boat from North Island to Mahe. It is standard practice that Zil Air will refund the cost of the cancelled helicopter flight and this can be transferred to the cost of the boat charter - the guests will be liable for the difference if any. North Island will also assist in arranging accommodation in Mahe for any additional night or amending any onward international departure flight should it be required due to any weather delays. Any costs incurred for these changes will be for the guest's expense.

RESPONSIBILITY

North Island – or any person, agent acting for, through or on behalf of North Island – will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death.

In addition, the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any itinerary or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any itinerary being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger.

The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behaviour of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund.

The person making any booking will, by the making of such booking, warrant that he or she has authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the other person included in such a booking and in the event of the failure of any or all the other persons so included to make payment, the person making the booking shall by his/her signature thereof assume personal liability for the total price of all bookings made by him/her.

NORTH ISLAND INDEMNITY

North Island hereby indemnifies the Guest in respect of actual damages suffered by the Guest where the direct and substantial cause thereof was the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the Company. Except for the abovementioned indemnity, North Island will not be liable to the Guest in respect of any damages, losses or liabilities incurred by the Guest arising from or in connection with any Tours or Services. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Agreement, North Island shall not be liable for punitive damages, indirect damages, consequential damages, loss of profits, third party claims or any claims imposed on the Guest by laws or statutes of countries outside of the Seychelles. North Island shall not be liable for any damages, losses or other amounts that the Guest has agreed, settled or compromised without the prior written consent of the Company, or which the Guest is otherwise contractually bound to pay to any other person or entity. North Island will not be liable or responsible to the Guest for any direct or indirect damages or losses of any nature whatsoever, including those arising from any personal injury or death or loss of or damage to any property (irrespective of the cause of such injury, death, loss or damage).