Mauritius Travel Information

Climate & Time Zone
Mauritius has only two seasons with minimal differences between them, making Mauritius a perfect year round destination. The temperature on the coastal areas varies between 22°C in winter (May-Oct) and 34°C in summer (Nov – Apr). The sea temperature varies between 24°C and 28°C. In the central part of the island, the maximum daytime temperature varies from about 19°C in August to about 26°C in February. The western and northern regions are warmer and relatively drier than the East and the South. The island is prone to tropical cyclones, which occur between December and February. Mauritius is two hours ahead of South African standard time.

Language
English is the official language but most people in Mauritius are bilingual being equally fluent in English and French. Creole and French predominate everyday life and several oriental languages are also spoken. You will hear Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telegu, Marathi, Mandarin and Bojpoori.

Money Matters
The monetary unit is the Mauritian Rupee (Rs.) which is divided into 100 cents (cs). It is advisable to travel with Mauritian Rupee, Euros or US Dollars. ZAR can be exchanged at Mauritius Airport where one will receive a more favourable rate of exchange than at the hotels. Keep a note of your traveller’s cheques as having a record of these numbers saves time if you need replacement documents. Credit cards are normally accepted by banks and most hotels, restaurants and tourist shops. Money can also be drawn from ATM’s which are situation at the airport and in Grand Baie.

Tipping
A 10% service charge is normally included on hotel and restaurant bills. Where no charge is included, 10% is adequate.

Safety & Security
Most hotels have safety deposit boxes in the bedrooms, making it easier to access your money or documents. Thompsons highly recommend the use of the hotel safe to ensure your belongings are secure.

Health Requirements
Travellers are required to check if there are any health requirements before departure.

Transportation
Thompsons Mauritius
Should you be interested in a private tour or transfers during your stay, please feel free to contact our Thompsons Mauritius office for assistance.
**Activities**

Laze on magnificent golden beaches, savour a variety of exotic cuisine and enjoy every imaginable water sport at the hotel of your choice. Go game fishing for Marlin, enjoy snorkeling, take a cruise around the island on a catamaran or go scuba diving in a magical underwater world. Bargain hunt in Port Louis at the exclusive Caudan Waterfront complex. Visit the Pamplemousses Gardens, the island’s botanical gardens, which is a haven of peace and beauty and home to many indigenous plants including giant water lillies, ancient trees as well as giant tortoises.

Shopping in Mauritius is excellent for items such as knitwear, textiles, casual clothing, handicrafts and spices. Shops are open in Port Louis from 9am until 5pm and Saturday from 9am until noon. In Curepipe, Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes from Monday to Wednesday and Friday and Saturday from 9am until 6pm; Thursday and Sunday from 9am until 12 noon. Banks are open from Monday to Friday from 9.30am till 2.30pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am until 11.30am.

**Don’t Forget**
The accepted dress on this tropical island for both men and women is lightweight casual wear and beach attire. It is suggested that you take along a lightweight sweater for the evenings especially during the cooler season.

Don’t forget to pack suntan lotion, sunglasses, hats, medical supplies and a sewing kit. Rubber soled shoes should be used to protect feet on the beach from the coral. Some hotels do request a smart/casual dress code in the restaurants in the evenings. (Please check with your travel agent).

**Visa & Custom Requirements**
Visas are not required for South African passport holders, but all other Nationalities should be checked prior to departure. Passports should be valid for at least six months from date of departure.

Passengers over 18 years of age may import the following duty-free items: 250 grams of tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes), 1 litre of spirits, 2 litres of wine or beer, one 250ml Eau de Toilette or perfume. Drug trafficking is illegal and carries very heavy penalties. Firearms and ammunition need import permits and must be declared on arrival.

**Business Hours**
Normal working hours in Mauritius are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Shopping hours in the main towns range from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm (Monday-Saturday). Some shops are open till noon on Sundays and public holidays. Please note that shops do not open in Rose-Hill, Curepipe and Quatre-Bornes on Thursday afternoon.
**Travel Tips**

In accordance with the directive of the Department of Civil Aviation of Mauritius, restrictions are imposed on liquids, gels and aerosols carried on board aircraft departing from Mauritius. You are allowed a single bag that may contain several items (tubes, bottles, aerosols, etc.). Liquids, aerosols, creams, gels and pastes placed in bottles and tubes of a maximum of 100ml each and carried separately in a clear, plastic, zip-top bag not exceeding 20cm x 20cm and of a maximum capacity not exceeding 1 litre, presented at the security checkpoint will be allowed. Medications, Baby Milk/Foods and Special Dietary Requirements are allowed provided these items are supported by a Medical Certificate or can be verified through physical checks and visual inspection by Screening Staff. Items in liquid form purchased either at Airport Duty Free Shops or on board aircraft will be permitted on the condition that the purchases are packed in a sealed plastic bag that is tamper evident and is accompanied by a satisfactory proof of purchase at airport duty free shops or on board aircraft, on the day of the journey for departing as well as transfer passengers.

All information was correct at the time of going to print and should only be used as a guideline.

**Electricity**

The electricity supply in Mauritius is 220v AC with 3 square flat pin plugs. (British plug).

**Travel Documents**

People in Mauritius drive on the left-hand side of the road and give way to the right. Foreigners with a driving licence issued by a Competent Authority in their respective countries are allowed to drive during their stay in Mauritius.

**South Africa Embassy**

South African High Commission  
4th Floor  
British American Insurance Building  
25 Pope Hennessy Street  
Port Louis  

Tel: + 230 212 6925/26/28/29/30 / Fax: + 230 213 1171  
E-mail: sahc@intnet.mu (General)
Local Contact
Thompsons Mauritius
33 Apollo Street, Roches Brunes, Mauritius.
Tel : (+230) 464-2849
Emergency 24/7 After Hours number : (+230) 919 1617

All information was correct at the time of going to print and should only be used as a guideline.

Johannesburg:
Tel: (27) (11) 770 7700
1st Floor Travel House, 6 Hood Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa

Cape Town:
Tel: (27) (21) 408 9500
15th Floor Main Tower, STD Bank Centre, Hertzog Boulevard, Cape Town, South Africa

www.thompsons.co.za