

MAURITIUS

LOCATION

Mauritius is located approximately 2000 kilometers to the south eastern coast of Africa and lies east of Madagascar. The country covers an area of 1865km with 330 kilometers of coastline. Mauritius is 45km in width and 65km in length.



VISA AND PASSPORT

A Canadian passport valid 6 months after return is required to enter Mauritius - SUBJECT TO CHANGE - For accurate information, please consult the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada at: www.travel.gc.ca

TIME ZONES

GMT + 4

LANGUAGE

Most people in Mauritius are bilingual and are equally fluent in English and French. Creole and French are the main languages in the everyday environment and several oriental languages are also spoken.

MONEY

The monetary unit used in Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (Rs, MUR). One Rupee is divided into 100 cents (Cs).

Coins are in denominations of: 1, 5 and 10 rupees and 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents.

Notes are in denominations of: 25, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 rupees.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Adaptors are normally available at the reception desk of hotels.

CLIMATE

Mauritius has a tropical maritime climate, with relatively little seasonal variation in temperatures, and generally pleasant and sunny on the coast year round. Winter, from May to October, is warm and dry. Summer from November to April is hot, humid and rainy. Cyclones occur between January and March. Sea breezes blow all year, especially on the east coast, and the inland central plateau around Curepipe is cooler and rainy year round.

CLOTHING

Mauritius has a very relaxed dress code which is ideal for the climate. In the evenings gentlemen will be expected to wear long trousers and sometimes tailored shirts in hotel restaurants and for ladies, smart casual. For the daytime, beach and casual wear. Nudism is not welcome. In the winter months (June-September) you may need a light cover-up for the cooler evenings. Visitors are requested to dress appropriately (no shorts mini-skirts etc.) when visiting religious shrines, and to remove shoes when entering temples and mosques. Whenever you travel, remember that the tropical sun is very strong and even on overcast days you should take great care to cover up and use high factor suntan protection. A hat and sunglasses are recommended.

FOOD

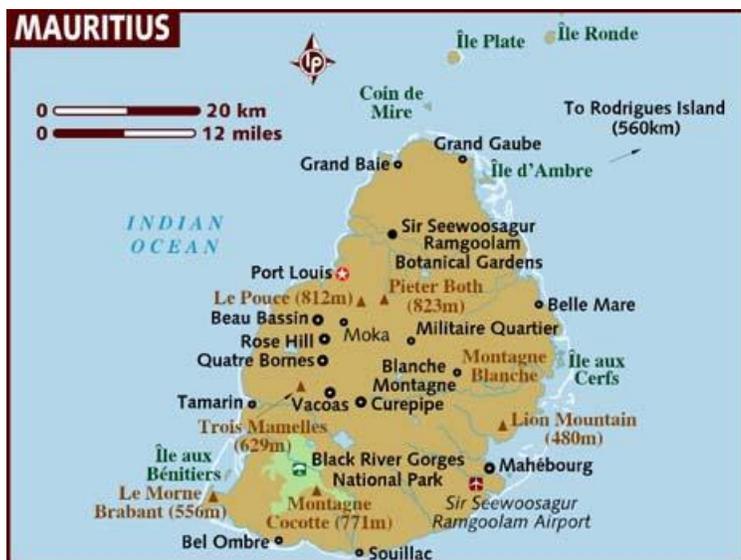
Eating in Mauritius is a real adventure. Mauritian cuisine is a mixture of Creole, Chinese, European, Indian and African. You absolutely need to try the Creole Curry which is a quite spicy cuisine, and very hot. The curry can be made with fish, beef or chicken and it's served with white rice.

TIPPING

Salaries are generally quite low in Mauritius, so extra tips are very much appreciated and will often help them reach the end of the month. However, do not feel obliged. Mauritians seem to know that a tip has to be earned, and they will naturally do their utmost to make you happy, whether it's for service in a hotel, restaurant or taxi.

HEALTH

No vaccination is required unless you have visited a country affected by yellow fever, cholera or small pox in the past three months.



CONSULATE OF CANADA IN MAURITIUS
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HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

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For further information,
visit the official tourist board website of Mauritius: www.tourism-mauritius.mu

