



SPECIALIST COLLECTION

REUNION

EXPERIENCE

Extreme sports
& adventures

EXPLORE

Unique volcanic
landscapes

DISCOVER

The Colonial
French lifestyle



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THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

Located to the east of Madagascar in the azure Indian Ocean, this little volcanic island offers a taste of France in the middle of nowhere, a truly unique island experience. Reunion has been part of the French Colonial Empire for 4 centuries and retains the character of a remote outpost, combined with the iconic Creole influence of the islands located here. The capital, Saint-Denis, is typically French, but aside from the beaches, it's the unusual topography that entices: Reunion is full of freshwater lakes, rivers, waterfalls and other scenic splendours. Birdlife here is prolific, and whale watching a popular pastime between May and September. Famous sights include the three cirques, each unique and created by the volcano that gave birth to this magnificent slice of paradise. A holiday here encompasses sampling fabulous French food, hiking, exploring the tiny French villages, paragliding over the mountainous regions or taking a helicopter flip over the volcano and lagoon.

WHY REUNION WITH THOMPSONS?

GLOBAL COMPANY

With 40 years of travel experience you know you're in good hands. We offer expert advice for all your travel requirements. Thompsons Holidays is a division of Cullinan Holdings Group and a member of THE TRAVEL CORPORATION, a fourth-generation family-owned group. Our financial stability is the key to a hassle-free holiday.

UNRIVALLED VALUE FOR MONEY

As the largest South African tour operator our unsurpassed buying power ensures the best holiday deals, unrivalled value for money and unexpected bonus offers.

WE ARE WITH YOU 24/7

Our care line is your friend in an emergency.

Star gradings (***) vary from country to country. This brochure features the star gradings of the host country and might not always reflect the same standards as in SA.



	HELL-BOURG	BEACHES	VOLCANO	CILAOS	ROLAND GARROS AIRPORT	PIERREFONDS AIRPORT
	EAST	WEST	SOUTH-EAST	CENTRE	NORTH	SOUTH
SAINT-DENIS TIME	55 km 55 min	37 TO 51 km 28-35 min	83 TO 105 km 1hr 08	105 km 1hr 46	10 km 10 min	73 km 49 min
SAINT-GILLES TIME	92 km 1hr 23	---	95 km 1hr 25-1hr 48	75 km 1hr 26	47 km 38.5 min	43 km 29 min
SAINT-PIERRE TIME	113 km 1hr 53	32 TO 49 km 23-33 min	46 km 45 min-1hr 15	46 km 1hr 07	89 km 1hr 03	6 km 4 min
PLAINE DES CAFRES 27^{EME} TIME	77 km 1hr 23	55 TO 72 km 53 min-1hr 03	23 TO 69 km 45 min-1hr 22	69 km 1hr 37	72 km 58 min	29 km 34 min
PLAINE DES PALMISTES TIME	59 km 1hr 03	66 TO 83 km 1hr 05-1hr 15	41 TO 61 km 1hr-1hr 05	87 km 1hr 57	54 km 38 min	47 km 54 min
CILAOS TIME	106 km 2hr 40	58 TO 75 km 1hr 16-1hr 26	92 km 1hr 59-2hr 22	---	115 km 1hr 56	40 km 1hr 03
HELL-BOURG TIME	---	92 TO 109 km 1hr 23-1hr 33	78 TO 100 km 1hr 23-2hr 08	160 km 2hr 40	55 km 55 min	128 km 1hr 44
SAINT-PHILLIPE TIME	89 km 1hr 35	60 TO 77 km 55 min-1hr 05	11 TO 81 km 12 min-1hr 55	815 km 1hr 47	84 km 1hr 10	41 km 44 min

ROADTRIPS

SELF DRIVE HOLIDAYS

DISCOVER REUNION – 7 NIGHTS

Salazie Caldera | Fournaise's Volcano | Wild South | West Coast



+ TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Hell-Bourg | Le Grand Hazier | Anse des Cascades
| Piton de la Fournaise | Cap Mechant

Day 1 Arrive at Roland Garros Airport, collect your rental car and depart for St Denis, the island's capital. **Overnight at St Denis**

Day 2 Depart for Hell-Bourg, a typical Creole village in Salazie Caldera. En route to the Vanilleraie, discover the exciting story of Bourbon Vanilla in Le Grand Hazier. Visit the waterfalls. **Overnight at Salazie**

Day 3 Drive through the Wild South past fascinating sites like the Notre Dame des Laves (Lady of the Lava) and Anse des Cascades (waterfalls). Walk along the lava road, passing the Piton de la Fournaise. Stop by Jardin des Parfums et des Epices, a garden of perfumes and spices. Explore the beautiful viewpoint of Cap Mechant. **Overnight at St Pierre**

Day 4 Depart for the volcano, Le Piton de la Fournaise, to view its craters. It's the perfect location for hiking and exploring the moon-like landscape. Stop at the Hydraulic Clock at La Laine des Cafres for a superb view point of Grand Bassin. **Overnight at St Pierre**

Day 5 Depart early for Cilaos and drive to the heart of the Caldera. Stop at the la Roche Merveilleuse (Wonderful Rock), for panoramic views. Explore the village, and visit the thermal sources. **Overnight at Cilaos**

Day 6 Make your way to l'Etang-Sale to admire the black volcanic sand beach. Head to St Leu on the coastal road from St Leu to La Saline. Spend a relaxing evening at **Overnight at L'Ermitage**

Day 7 Enjoy the day at leisure. If you like, take a helicopter flip over the island. **Overnight at L'Ermitage**

Day 8 Check out and return to the airport.



NORTHERN ISLAND EXPLORER – 7 NIGHTS

Salazie Caldera | Fournaise's Volcano



+ TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Vanilla plantation | Salazie, the greenest of the 3 Cirques
| Drive to St Philippe to see the lava | Visit a Turtle farm in
Kelonia | Stroll through the beautiful village of Hell-Bourg

Day 1 On arrival you will be met by a Thompsons representative. Collect your rental car and take the short drive to St Denis. **Overnight St Denis**

Day 2 Travel inland to Salazie, the largest and greenest of the three cirques. Spend the night in Hell-bourg, located at the bottom of the cirque. **Overnight in Hell-Bourg**

Day 3 Head off to St Anne on the picturesque coastal road. En route, stop in Bras Panon to visit the local Vanilla manufacturing plant. After the tour enjoy lunch at the onsite Le Vani-La Restaurant. **Overnight St Anne**

Day 4 We suggest that you make an early start to visit the island's legendary active volcano, Piton de la Fournaise, which is about a 2.5 hour drive away. You spend the following 4 nights in the charming seaside village of **St Gilles**

Day 5 Drive inland to Le Maito, through dense cryptomeria forests. This breathtaking view site overlooks another caldera called the Cirque of Mafate. There are many activities on offer in the area, including quadbiking, horse riding, tree-climbing as well as various arts and crafts stalls along the way. Take time to visit the bustling market at St Paul (open Fridays & Saturdays). **Overnight St Gilles**

Day 6 After a leisurely breakfast, take a short drive to Saint Leu to visit the turtle research institute at Kelonia. For lunch, we suggest La Villa la Vanille. **Overnight St Gilles**

Day 7 At leisure in St. Gilles to enjoy the magnificent white beaches and the many sporting activities on offer. **Overnight St Gilles**

Day 8 Time to check out and return to the airport.

COASTAL & INLAND EXPLORER – 7 NIGHTS

St Denis | St Pierre | St Gilles



+ TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Veil of the Bride, the island's most beautiful waterfall | An active volcano and its lava | Enjoy one of the most scenic drives on the Island | A helicopter flip over the island

Day 1 You are met by a Thompsons representative. Collect your rental car and drive to St Denis, the island's capital. **Overnight St Denis**

Day 2 En route to Hell-Bourg, visit La Vanilla plantation – an authentic Creole farm. Travel on to the Salazie caldera, formed by a dormant volcano with clear streams and waterfalls. View the Veil of the Bride, the island's most beautiful waterfall. Enjoy a traditional Creole lunch at Le Jardin d'Héva. After lunch, visit the Folio house. **Overnight Salazie**

Day 3 Le Piton de la Fournaise is the only active volcano on the island. A winding road takes you to Le pas de Bellecombe for breathtaking views of the volcano. Have lunch at le Bardot, a traditional Creole restaurant. Drive to St Pierre, the capital of the south. **Overnight St Pierre**

Day 4 Visit the volcano, estimated to be 50,000 years old. Have lunch at le Baril, a Creole restaurant. Return to St Pierre. **Overnight St Pierre**

Day 5 Enjoy one of the most scenic drives on Reunion Island. Continue to La Roche Merveilleuse, a natural viewpoint with panoramic views of Cilaos. Have lunch at Le Sentier or Le Petit Randonneur. **Overnight Cilaos**

Day 6 Take a stop at La Saga du Rhum Museum. In the afternoon, drive to St Gilles and the village of Ermitage. **Overnight L'Ermitage**

Day 7 Enjoy the day at leisure. Take a helicopter ride above the island. The best scenery on Reunion is in its wild interior, deep canyons and calderas, waterfalls, and the volcano. **Overnight St Gilles**

Day 8 Check out and return to the airport



INTREPID HIKERS' TRIP – 5 NIGHTS

Salazie | Piton De La Fournaise | Wild South | West Coast



+ TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit a local vanilla plantation | Explore Salazie, the greenest of the 3 Cirques | Drive to St Philippe to see the lava | Visit the Turtle farm in Kelonia | Stroll through the beautiful village of Hell-Bourg

Day 1 You will be collected from the airport and will travel in the direction of Salazie and the village of Hell-Bourg. Check into your hotel. **Overnight Salazie**

Day 2 Visit the village and Villa Folio before you hike to la Nouvelle with lunch at your own account. **Overnight at Relais de Mafate**

Day 3 Trek up to Marla on the 2.5 hour hike. Stop for lunch at your own account. **Overnight at Marla**

Day 4 Trek back to Col des Boeufs with lunch at your own account. This hike is 5.5 hours long and covers 7km. **Transfer to St Gilles for overnight**

Day 5 Day at leisure to explore St Gilles. Why not take a helicopter tour for an aerial view of St Paul, Mafate Caldera, Salazie and the Trou de Fer Waterfall. Explore the lagoon via kayak or quad bike through the forest

GREAT SIGHTSEEING OPTIONS

THE MAIDO & ST PAUL MARKET

Stop at 'Maido', an incredible viewpoint at an altitude of 2,200m overlooking the cirque of Mafate, a caldera (collapsed former volcano). Explore St Paul Market, which offers a fabulous experience filled with unique flavours and extraordinary local scents. The market offers crafts as well as numerous exotic spices, succulent tropical fruits and countless varieties of vegetables.



QUADBIKING

Take an adventurous trip down a mountainside on a specially adapted four-wheeled quadbike, which is unique to the island. No experience is required and you are accompanied by a guide. This is the most fun you can have on a bike using just pedal power! Enjoy the magnificent scenery and stunning sea views as you descend.

VOLCANIC EXPLORER

Depart for Piton de la Fournaise, considered the most active volcano on the planet. The drive takes you to the high plains of La plaine des Cafres, a cool, lush landscape where the island's bovine industry is most active. First stop is at the Nez de Boeuf, an incredible viewpoint at an altitude of 2,070m looking down into the caldera called la Rivière des Rampart.



SALAZIE LUXURIANCE & WATERFALLS

Head for the north of the island, passing through the capital, St Denis. Continue on until you reach the east side of Reunion, famous for its sugar cane plantations. Stop at the spectacular Niagara waterfalls in Saint Suzanne, then visit the vanilla plantation to discover how the amazing vanilla flowers are reared by hand pollination.

PARAGLIDING

Take to the skies for a magnificent view over the entire west of the island. You'll see the primary forest of upper St Leu and then, facing the Indian Ocean, you will extend your flight through the first thermals. Seeing the lagoon and the turtles is included in the programme, after which you land on the beach.



CILAOS LANDSCAPES & RAMPARTS

Depart for the southern part of Reunion. Drive through the village of la Rivière Saint Louis, then cross the Saint Etienne River on a road known as the '400 Turns'. The village of Cilaos is at an altitude of 1,300m, situated in one of the island's three calderas.



SUNSET CRUISE

Admire the spectacular sunset over the Indian Ocean on a 1.5 hour cruise along Reunion's west coast. View the soaring peaks of the island as they change colour and mood in the fading light. Cocktail punch and juice is served as well as a variety of delicious Creole snacks.



HELICOPTER FLIPS

Your helicopter ride takes you to explore the three cirques, the Iron Hole, the volcano and the island's west coast. Explore this colourful island with a bird's eye view of its crescent-shaped scenery created by a volcano that is one of the most active on earth. View the cirques in all their glory: Salazie with its luxuriant flora, Cilaos and its incredibly steep ramparts, Belouve/Bebour and its primary forest. Fly over the beaches, the lagoon with its exquisite coral reef, and the impressive waterfall in the Iron Hole, where, if you're lucky, you will see a beautiful rainbow.

CUISINE



Reunion's cuisine is as varied as it is delicious. It blends the diverse cultures that inhabit the island and combines French, African, Indian and Chinese traditions. Reunion's most iconic dish is called 'cari', a tasty combination of tomatoes, onions, turmeric, local saffron (stronger than its European counterparts) and ginger. It's served with rice, French beans, lentils, spinach with herbs and an accompaniment that is called 'rougail'.



Rum

Called 'rhum Charrette' it's named after its label that shows a cart loaded with sugar cane, drawn by an ox. It's produced from sugar cane or molasses.

Coffee

Coffee is a delicacy. Originally from Ethiopia, it was brought from Yemen to Reunion. It is called Bourbon Pointu and is one of the best and most expensive coffees in the world, a blend favoured worldwide by Michelin-starred chefs.

Bourbon Beer

The local beer, Bourbon Beer, is brewed on the island. There's a second, popular version called Metiss, perfumed with lichee.

WHERE TO STAY



LE JULIETTE DODU

ST DENIS

The lowdown Located in the centre of St Denis, in the childhood home of national heroine Juliette Dodu. Built like a small Creole palace in an historical monument that dates back to the East India Company, it's quaint and charming. Offers easy access to historical sites. **Accommodation** 43 comfortably decorated guest rooms. **Guest experiences** Bar | Restaurant | Free Wi-Fi | Pool | Jacuzzi | Canyoning | Mountain climbing



LE RELAIS DES CIMES

SALAZIE

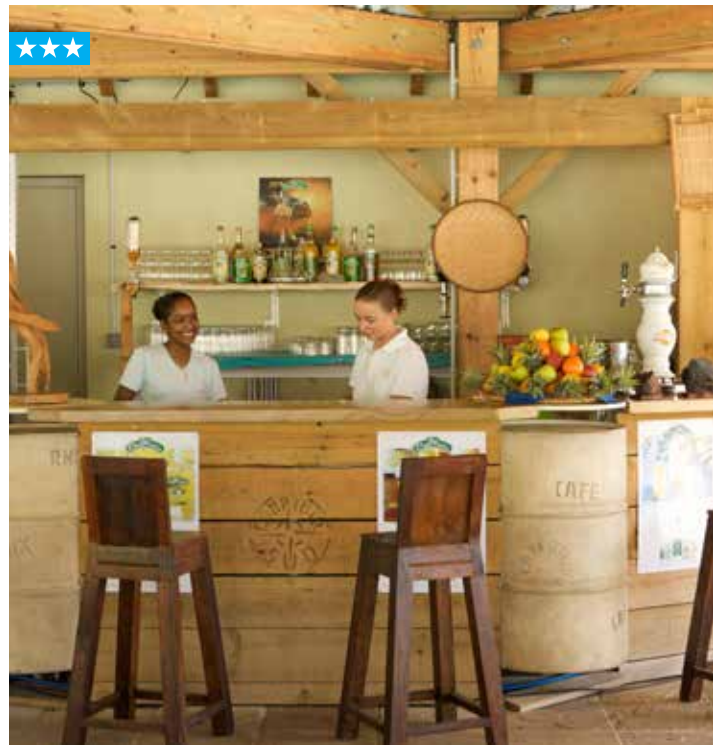
The lowdown Located at the foot of the majestic volcano, Piton de Neiges in Hell-Bourg village, this hotel offers the perfect combination of authentic tradition and hospitality. It's housed in a refurbished, genuine 19th century Creole residence. **Accommodation** 29 comfortable, typically Creole-style rooms. **Guest experiences** Restaurant serving local dishes and Creole specialties | Picnic baskets to take on walks



LE BATTANT DES LAMES

ST PIERRE

The lowdown Located in the south-west part of the island with stunning views of both beach and lagoon, the hotel is close to the port and great shopping. It's a great base from which to explore the surroundings. **Accommodation** 58 rooms and 2 suites, all air-conditioned with satellite TV. Some have terraces or verandas. **Guest experiences** Wi-Fi | Pool | Restaurant | Gym | Spa | Beach close by | Bar



HOTEL LE RECIF

L'ERMITAGE

The lowdown This tropical Reunion Island retreat is set in three hectares of tropical gardens and shady trees, bordering the spectacular Hermitage Lagoon. **Accommodation** 146 rooms including 4 junior suites and 3 rooms for disabled guests. **Guest experiences** Maloya restaurant | Free Wi-Fi | Paragliding | Diving in some of the world's best dive sites



ERMITAGE BOUTIK HOTEL

L'ERMITAGE

The lowdown This unique hotel on Reunion's west coast was established in 1989. It is an ideal base for many island excursions and hikes. It is also just a stone's throw away from the St Gilles marina and the picturesque lagoon.

Accommodation 42 rooms including 7 Junior suites and a Duplex suite.

Guest experiences 1 Pool and 2 kids pools | Blue Zen relaxation area | Gym | Beach 300m away | Close to restaurants and nightclubs



LE VIEUX CEP

CILAOS

The lowdown In the heart of Cirque Cilaos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this charming hotel offers a warm welcome, relaxing atmosphere and traditional Creole authenticity that will capture your heart.

Accommodation 45 cosy rooms in the European-style chalet offering garden and mountain views.

Guest experiences Restaurant | Jacuzzi | Pool | Sauna | Hotel bicycles | Free Wi-Fi | Close to hiking trails and a panoramic viewpoint



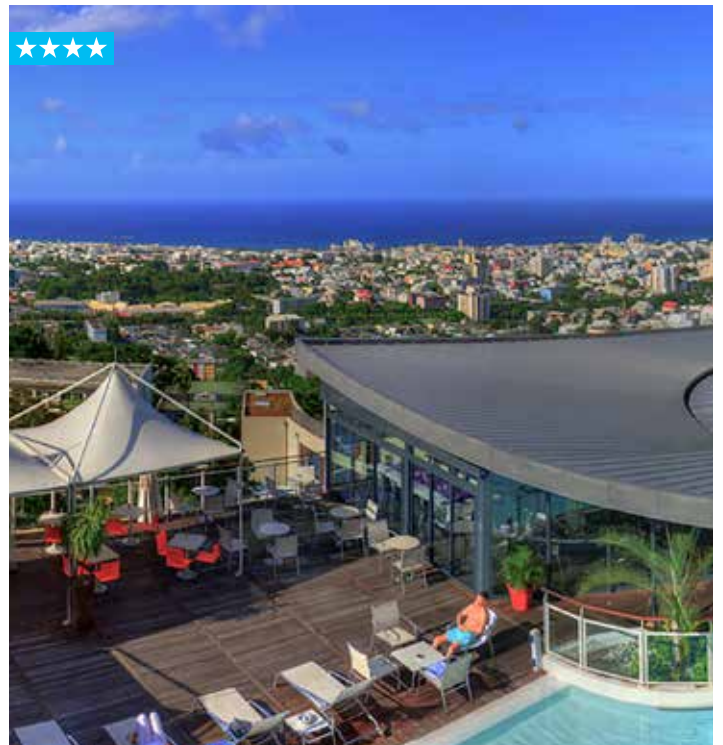
BOUCAN CANOT

ST GILLES

The lowdown This comfortable, traditional beach resort is situated on the island's west coast. It's the perfect location for a beachside holiday, offering exceptional service and refined cuisine.

Accommodation 46 spacious and luxurious seafacing rooms.

Guest experiences Free Wi-Fi | Picnic baskets available on request | Le Cap Restaurant offers panoramic views of the ocean | Bar | Pool



HOTEL BELLEPIERE

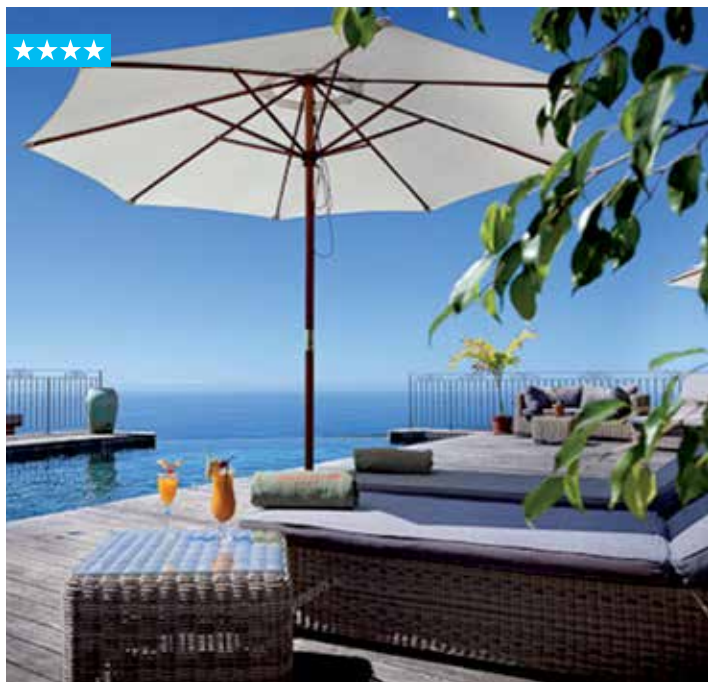
ST DENIS

The lowdown Situated in the heart of St Denis, the island's capital. Offers easy access to the city's local historic sites and the natural beauty and wonders of this unusual island.

Accommodation 85 modern, comfortable rooms.

Guest experiences Bar | International gourmet restaurant, Le Concorde | Swimming pool with expansive views of the city and the Indian Ocean | Tennis

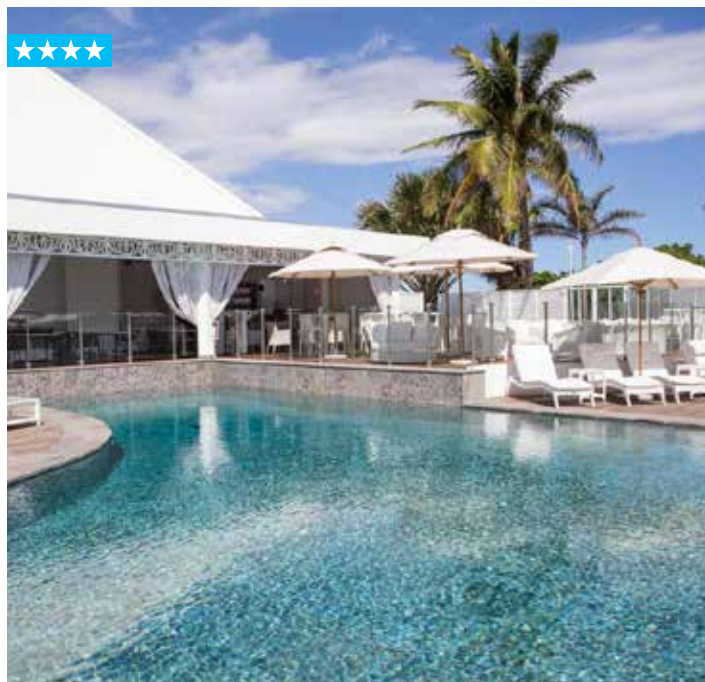
WHERE TO STAY



DIANA DEA LODGE

ST ANNE

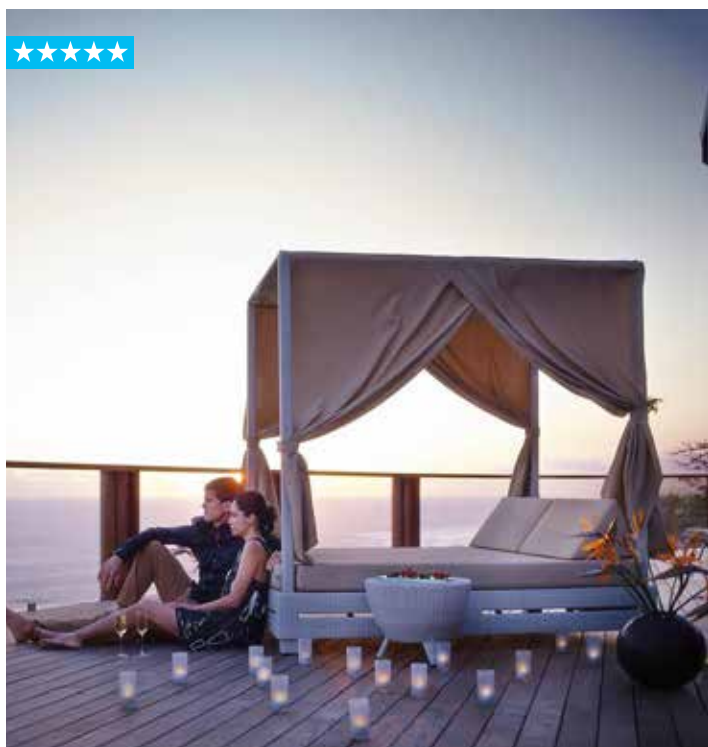
The lowdown A natural paradise on the east coast just above the village of St Anne in the middle of a former hunting domain where wild deer still roam. **Accommodation** 30 tastefully furnished rooms with terrace or balcony. **Guest experiences** Pool | Elegant cocktail lounge | Fine dining with a view | Free Wi-Fi | Library | Lounge | Hammam | Billiards | Badminton



VILLA DELISLE HOTEL & SPA

ST PIERRE

The lowdown This welcoming hotel is located in a spectacular natural setting in the southern part of the island. It offers easy access to the volcano as well as the inland mountainous regions. **Accommodation** 41 rooms including a luxurious suite. **Guest experiences** Fine dining restaurant | Bar | Pool | Spa offering a range of treatments | Casino



PALM HOTEL & SPA

GRAND ANSE

The lowdown Blending designer-comfort, opulence and a tranquil atmosphere, the hotel offers you a serene, calm holiday experience. **Accommodation** 65 rooms, suites and lodges on the mountain edge. **Guest experiences** Selection of restaurants and bars serving Creole-style cuisine | Spa & fitness centre | Hammam | Pool | Horseriding | Mountain bikes | Quad bikes | Live entertainment | Tennis | Golf nearby



LUX* SAINT GILLES

ST GILLES

The lowdown This luxury hotel is located on the island's west coast and is blessed with a flawless beach, facing a shimmering expanse of aqua sea. Nestling in acres of tropical gardens are Creole villas, just steps from the coral-reef sheltered lagoon at L'Hermitage. **Accommodation** 164 guest rooms and suites with lagoon views. **Guest experiences** 3 restaurants | Free Wi-Fi | Water sports | Snorkelling | Diving | Pool | Tennis | Volleyball



LA RÉUNION
THE ULTIMATE ISLAND



AIR AUSTRAL

THE ULTIMATE IN NATURE

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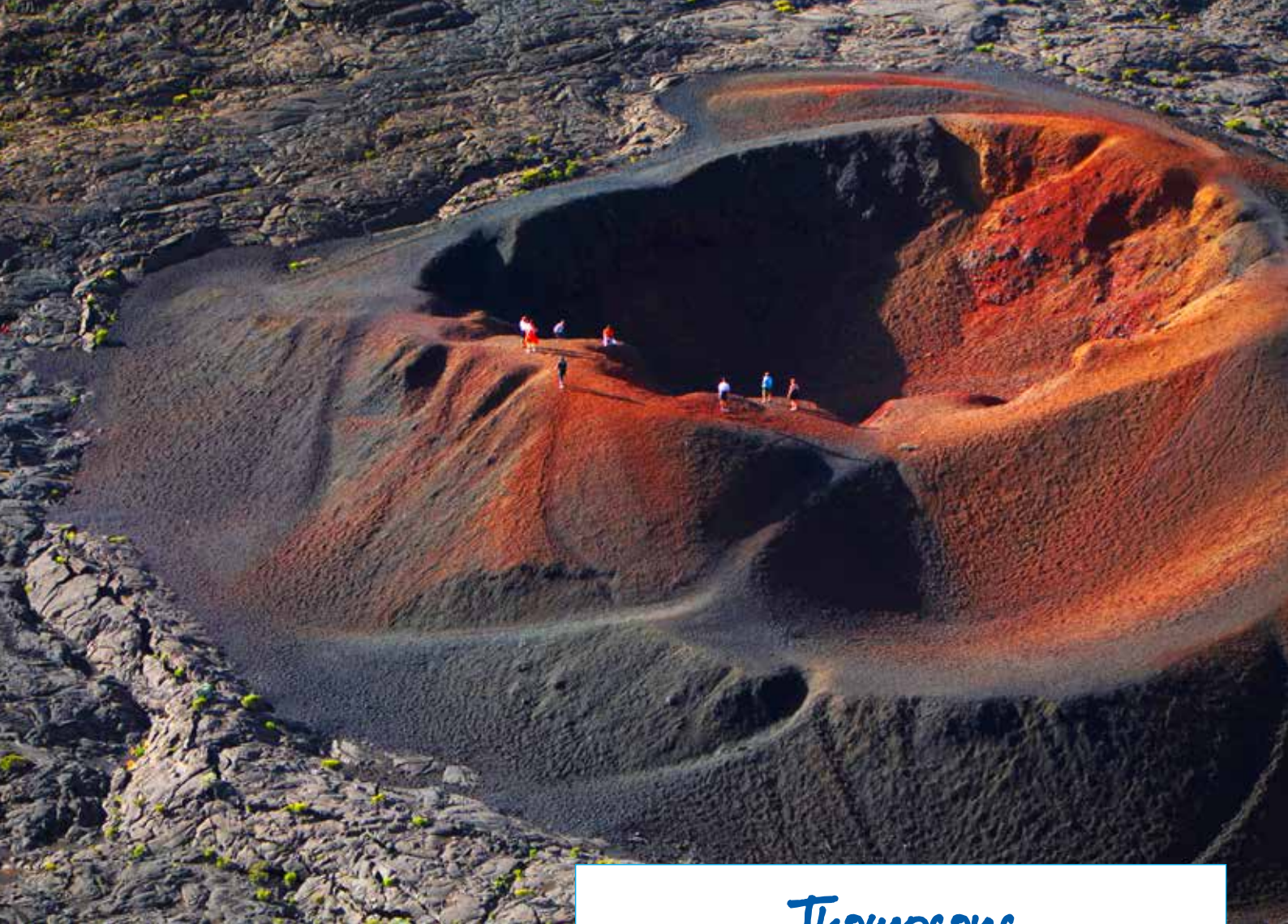


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