

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN TRAVELLING TO MAURITIUS

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical climate with year-round heat
- Summer months are from December to April where it can be extremely humid. The wettest months are December to March.
- Cooler winter months are from May to November.
- Coastal temperatures range from 25 to 33 degrees Celsius in summer and from 18 to 24 degrees Celsius in winter. On the interior plateau it's 5 degrees Celsius cooler on average.
- Peak season is from November to April inclusive of Christmas and the French school holidays.

WHAT TO PACK

- During summer take cooler clothes, sunscreen and hats for the day time. Evenings at specific resorts will have a smart/casual attire policy.
- During winter months, take along warmer clothes for the evenings.

RETAIL HOURS

- Shops are open Monday – Saturday 10:00 – 17:00 & Sundays 10:00 – 12:00
- Port Louis market is open Monday – Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 & Sundays 10:00 – 12:00
- Vacoas market is open Tuesday & Friday 10:00 – 16:00
- Quatre Bornes market is open Thursday & Sunday 10:00 – 16:00
- Flacq market is open Wednesday & Sunday 10:00 – 16:00
- Popular shopping outlets: Bagatelle Mall, Grand Baie La Croisette, Cascavelle Shopping Village, Phoenix Mall, Trianon Shopping park, So'Flo, Flacq Coeur de Ville.

MONEY MATTERS

- The local currency is the Mauritian Rupee. US Dollars and Euros are widely accepted in all resorts.
- Bureau de Change can be found at the airport offering the best exchange rates, but it is also possible to change money at the hotel reception.
- ATMs can be found in shopping outlets.

DRINKING WATER

- It is recommended to buy bottled water.

TIPPING / PORTERAGE

- Tipping is not compulsory in Mauritius and is not included in your package. The recommended gratuity amounts in restaurants and bars are between 5% to 10%. Tourist guides Rs 200 per day and Rs100 for your transfer vehicle driver. Porterage is from Rs50.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBILITY

- Learn a few words of the local language so you know what's considered polite in terms of eating, greeting and local values.
- Appropriate behaviours by travellers helps ensure local communities continue to be hospital and friendly.
- Respect other people's cultures and avoid imposing your beliefs.
- Adhere to the hotel's water or energy conservation policies.
- Buy locally made crafts and support local skills. Buy them preferably from the craftsman himself to ensure your money goes to the artist and not the middle man.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Lock valuables away while travelling and always be vigilant of your belongings. Never leave them unattended.
- English is the official language. French and Creole are commonly spoken.
- South African passport holders do not require a visa.
- Time is 2 hours ahead of South Africa.
- Smoking is allowed in designated outdoor areas; however it is prohibited in indoor public areas.
- 220V – 240V. Special Plugs British Style 3-pin standard sockets and Continental Style 2 -in sockets.

WHAT THINGS COST

- Bottle of water Rs20 / Soft Drink Rs40
Beer Rs50 / Bottle of wine Rs300
Light lunch Rs300 / Dinner Rs500

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Beware of pick pockets in markets.
- Don't trust beach hawkers selling excursions; these are not safe due to limited insurance. Rather arrange sightseeing through your hotel or from Thompsons Mauritius