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Take a Hike through Nature's Paradise at Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa

SEYCHELLES – 20 April 2015 – For those who require something a little more exploratory than your usual five-star beach holiday, Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa has teamed up with the Island Conservation Society to create appealing trails for guests to explore the unspoilt and remarkable nature of Silhouette Island, led by expert guides.

Located on Silhouette Island, the resort offers a unique experience for each guest, while combining exemplary service with more than a touch of luxury. The island itself is made up of more than 93 percent national park. In the center of this wild island is beautiful, untouched jungle peppered with fascinating (and many endemic) species of flora, from breadfruit trees to the sinister but beautiful carnivorous pitcher plants. The animals waiting to be found on Silhouette range from extraordinary chameleons to rare Seychelles Sheath-Tailed Bats to the bizarre miniscule Gardiners Frog, no bigger than a fingernail.

Guests can choose from four different hiking trails, at Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa, taking them to various areas of the island, allowing for diverse experiences.

The four-hour trail to Anse Mondon takes guests through the heart of the national park to the small, secluded bay in the north of the island. The trail allows guests to stop at Belle Vue view point, to catch sweeping panoramic vistas across the Indian Ocean before continuing on to a secluded beach where guests can enjoy a swim in the crystal-clear waters. This trek affords guests the chance to discover the unique plants and animals of Silhouette in the tropical jungle, and indulge in an exhilarating fifteen-minute boat ride back to Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa.

The Jardin Marron path was first taken by slaves fleeing La Passe village in the 19th Century, and this shorter, three-hour trail, is rich in history with an abundance of opportunities to spot native plants and animals. The trail is nestled among the lush tropical vegetation of Silhouette, surrounded by native cinnamon trees and fragrant frangipanis. The garden is also home to a collection of 20 magnificent native 'Coco-de-Mer' palms that are more than 70 years old, as well as an assortment of fascinating and unique animals ranging from Sooglossid frogs to bronze tree geckos.

For more of a challenging experience, guests can choose the six-hour hike to the remote Grand Barbe. This stunning location features a diversity of habitats, the plateau is home to wild Giant Tortoises, and the old, abandoned buildings that once made up the village are ripe for exploring. The 1 kilometer long white sanded beach affords a good chance for guests to observe the magical sight of female Hawksbill Turtles nesting between November and February. Further along the coast is the largest Mangrove area in the Seychelles where guests can expect to see a variety of coastal flora indigenous to Silhouette.

The Anse Patates trail is perfect for families. This easy walk takes guests across three stunning beaches and continues through the coastal forest. The Anse Patates beach itself is also noted as a turtle nesting site and affords numerous opportunities to spot these majestic creatures.

Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa is delighted to announce a new trail, the Silhouette Native Plants Trail. This trail winds through a combination of natural ecosystem and botanical garden. The objective of this project is to allow native plants like the iconic Coco-de-Mer and the rare Palmiste to recolonize the area, recreating what Silhouette may have looked like to its first settlers. All labelled plant specimens are either indigenous or endemic. The forest restoration is expected to benefit native fauna including land birds, reptiles, invertebrates and some critically endangered species.

Ahab Charles W. Downer, chief executive officer, Island Conservation Society said, "Silhouette Island is an unparalleled gem of Seychelles floral and faunal biodiversity, and of fundamental importance to the region and the World as a refuge for this unique natural heritage. Thankfully, the marine and terrestrial environments are largely intact. Any visitor to the island cannot help but be amazed by the sheer vibrancy and otherworldly beauty of its land and seascapes, which are protected by law, and actively preserved and restored by a qualified ranger force".

Claus Steiner, cluster general manager, Hilton Seychelles, said, "We want to encourage our guests to explore the real, natural Seychelles, through experiencing the dramatic beauty of Silhouette Island and discovering the amazing variety of endemic flora and fauna. The nature trails are the perfect opportunity for guests to immerse themselves in another world".

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About Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa

Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa is located on Silhouette Island, this luxurious mountainous beach hideaway is sandwiched between a dazzling 2.5 km long white beach with leaning palms over turquoise seas strewn with granite boulders and tropical forest. Only a 20 minute helicopter transfer from Seychelles International Airport, Mahe or a 45-minute boat trip via Bel Ombre Jetty, the resort is home to one of the largest nature reserves and National Marine Parks in the country. Guests can choose from three spacious and peaceful villa categories, from Garden Villas, to Beachfront Villas to Deluxe Hillside Pool Villas and Deluxe Beachfront Pool Villas. The jewel in the crown of these rooms is the magnificent Presidential Villa offering panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Families, nature lovers, divers, adventure-seekers and romantics can all find a haven at Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa.

- World Travel Awards' Seychelles Leading Resort – 2013, 2014
- World Travel Awards' Seychelles Leading Spa Resort – 2013, 2014
- Global Traveller Awards' Best Resort in Africa - 2013
- Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2013, 2014, 2015

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