

# PARADISE FOUND

*The Seychelles is so much more than simply an idyllic honeymoon destination. Yes, it may be one of the most romantic places in the world, but with a rich history and national parks filled with unparalleled wildlife you can find the perfect balance between adventure and relaxation.*

Just over four and a half hours direct from Dubai International Airport, Seychelles is fast becoming the perfect destination for a long weekend. Although you could undeniably spend weeks exploring everything the islands have to offer, the ease of travel and the world class luxury hotels are making it a prime destination for those of us who just need a mini break. Made up of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean just off East Africa, it is not just the unrivalled beauty and nature that make it the ultimate destination, but also the

weather. With an average temperature of 27c, rarely dropping below 24c or rising above 32c it is a welcome break to the desert heat. As with every tropical island - rain should be expected, but with brief showers that last no more than a few hours it is somewhat of a novelty for UAE residents. With so much to see and do Hilton Hotels offer the best of both worlds, from adult only Northholme Resort & Spa located on Mahé to family friendly Labriz Resort & Spa on Silhouette Island.

## NORTHOLME RESORT & SPA, MAHÉ

A 25 minute transfer from the airport, Northholme is a hidden treasure. No wonder creator of James Bond, Ian Fleming found so

much inspiration here for his sequel *For Your Eyes Only*. Nestled between tropical gardens on the rolling hill top or perched just above the ocean surrounded by white sand beaches and the infamous crystal clear waters, breath-taking views fill your gaze wherever you look.

## ARRIVE

The perfect setting for romantics, Northholme in Beau Vallon Bay, offers everything a secluded paradise should. Welcoming guests 13 years and above only, you will find true serenity at the resort. One of the Seychelles first hotels built on the island, the location still dazzles and inspires guests to this day and with the launch of their 16 new Grand Oceanview Pool Villas its only getting better.

## RELAX

Whether you find yourself hillside or above the ocean, each villa is built on stilts ensuring the ultimate in privacy and panoramic views. From the Deluxe Oceanfront Villa to the Ocean View Hillside Villas you will be mesmerised by the spacious rooms and private balcony with sun loungers, a day bed and of course the view. For those who are after a more luxurious experience, you can opt for one of the 16 new Grand Oceanview Pool Villas, which are truly spectacular. Each featuring a large infinity pool which lights up in a kaleidoscope of colours at night, you would be happy doing nothing more than lying back and watching the world go by. With beds that you quite simply sink into and bathrooms fit for a king, including an oversized bathtub you can fully indulge yourself. Did we mention the bathroom is stocked with deluxe Peter Thomas Roth products.

WORDS: ALEXANDRA VENISON



## EXPLORE

Mahé Island has so much to offer. From awe inspiring views across the island and beyond, to rare and exotic plant life at Victoria Botanical Gardens and even shopping for Creole crafts and gifts at Domaine de Val des Pres. The locals themselves are something of a treasure to the island as well, as they welcome guests and visitors with warmth and love. Other locals who are a must visit are the giant tortoises. These gentle giants can live up to 200+ years old and can be found in the Botanical Gardens and on Moyenne Island. Taking the adventure underwater, be mesmerised by the vast array of marine life and coral encrusting the boulders as you snorkel around the Northholme, or simply relax in the hotels sparkling infinity pool overlooking the ocean.

## DINE

With breath-taking views of the Indian Ocean, Northholme's main eatery The Hilltop Restaurant offers diners an array of delicious international cuisine. They also offer a bubbly, buffet breakfast which is well worth waking up for. For dinner Les Cocotiers Restaurant this dining delight allows guests to indulge in bold flavours, exploring a variety of prime quality

meats and grills alongside the freshest local ingredients. Surrounded by the sounds of the oceans and underneath a sky blanketed with stars it is the ultimate in romance. Start the night early or finish off the evening with drinks at the stylish Ocean View Bar. With a live band playing a few days of the week, you can sit back and relax on the decked balcony.

## UNWIND

The Duniya Spa is the perfect setting to indulge and unwind. Set upon a giant granite boulder, the holistic treatments on offer are complimented with the sounds of the waves lapping against the rocks below. Featuring three luxurious treatment rooms as well as a steam room and relaxation area, it is the perfect place for guests to immerse their senses and revitalise their mind, body and spirit. With expert therapists using organic spa brand Healing Earth, this is an experience unlike anything else.

## TOP TIP

*Ask the Recreation Host to help plan your excursions or arrange a boat cruise.*



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**LABRIZ RESORT & SPA, SILHOUETTE ISLAND**

Located 20 km northwest of Mahé, Silhouette Island finds the perfect balance when it comes to relaxing and exploring. A mountainous hideaway surrounded by one of the largest nature reserves and National Marine Parks in the country, you will find a little piece of luxury along its stunning 2.5km long white beach. Whether you opt to arrive taking in the dazzling scenery from the sky, with a 20 minute helicopter ride straight from Seychelles International Airport, or from the sea with a 45 minute boat trip via Bel Ombre Jetty its sure to take your breath away.

**ARRIVE**

You can't help but sense that there's more to this sleepy island than first meets the eye. Looking past the palm trees leaning over the clear turquoise sea, you can catch glimpses of fruit bats sailing through the sky and fish darting through the water. Getting wrapped up in the beauty of nature isn't an option, as you find yourself completely immersed in some of the most beautiful scenery the world has to offer.

**RELAX**

Whether you opt for one of Labriz's Garden Villas, Beachfront Villas, Deluxe Hillside Pool Villas, Deluxe Beachfront Pool Villas or the exquisite Presidential Villa you can expect space, privacy and above all luxury. With floor to ceiling glass doors and many of the rooms offering private gardens complete with rain showers, the rooms are fully encompassed by nature. Each featuring a contemporary design, infused with hints of the tropics you can expect all the amenities of a luxury resort, including huge over the top bathrooms with walk in showers and oversized bath tubs. Can we mention the Peter Thomas Roth bath products again?

**EXPLORE**

Tearing yourself away from your villa, you can opt to walk along the beach front or jungle to the heart of the resort a beautifully landscaped infinity pool. With sun beds you could lounge in for hours to hammocks



perfectly aligned to watch the incredible sunset it's the perfect opportunity to order a cocktail and lie back and relax. For the other end of the spectrum you can head over to the leisure centre where you will find a fully equipped gym, kids club, floodlit tennis courts and bicycles you can explore the island on, to name but a few. For the more adventurous it's time to get your hiking boots on or head over to the only 5-star National Geographic PADI diving centre in the Seychelles region to explore the amazing marine life surrounding the area. If that's not enough you can even organise an excursion whether it's to try your hand at fishing or for a romantic sunset cruise.

**DINE**

After all the adventure its time to indulge in one of the resorts exceptional dining options. All serving fine food in the most romantic of settings, you are spoilt for choice from the modern Italian at Portobello to dining suspended over an azure lagoon on fresh seafood and Japanese fair at Sakura. For a true Seychellois experience head to the 140-year-old Grann Kaz Plantation House, offering local Créole cuisine, cooking classes and where you can learn more about the history of the island. Other options include delving into a variety of international and local delicacies at Café Dauban, freshly

prepared authentic pizzas at Pizzeria or for a more casual approach head over to Lo Brizan bar for cocktails and live music.

**UNWIND**

Quite simply a must visit for all guests is the award winning, world class Silhouette Spa. Easily one of the most beautiful spas in the world, it is built around huge, natural granite boulders and an open air design where you can find a treatment to suit every desire. Following in the instruction of Yoga to the calming effects of Balinese therapies, there are also Seychelles inspired island rituals which will leave you feeling relaxed and revitalised. Climbing into the jungle you will be mesmerised when you reach one of the six indoor or outdoor couple treatment suites, built on stilts with an unparalleled view of the surround vegetation and Indian Ocean. The spa also features an outdoor thermal treatment lounge which includes a steam room, sauna, Jacuzzi, rain shower and plunge pool.

**TOP TIP**

Head to the *Silhouette Spa thermal treatment lounge at night to watch the stars from their Jacuzzi*



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