



# Seychelles



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# Festivals – Festival De La Digue

One of the most popular festival on the islands is called the festival De La Digue. Catholic believers from the islands flock to Digue, one of the smallest islands of the main islands, to celebrate this religious festival in honour of Virgin Mary.

During this festival there are lots of sporting events, cultural activities and parties on the beach of Digue. This festival takes place on the 15th August, they say that fun, music and joy are guaranteed!



# Music of Seychelles



Seychelles has a distinct type of music. The folk music incorporates multiple influences in a combination of English Contreras, polka, mazurka, French folk, pop, saga, Taarabs and lots more genres.

Some of the most common instruments used in their music is the banjo, the violin, the acoustic guitar, the accordion, drums, and the triangle. Some famous musicians from Seychelles are Angie Arnephy a singer, Jean- Marc Volcy a composer and songwriter and Sandra Esparon a singer and performer.

# Cuisine

Seychelles is home to many different dishes, the main ingredient often being fish- where they have many different exotic kinds- but they also have a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Some dishes include:

- Fresh grilled fish
- Salted fish (Pwason Sale)
- Coconut curry
- Red lentils - often served as a side dish
- Sausage rogay (sosis rogay) - a sausage-based dish with onion, garlic and tomato sauce
- The island has over 23 different species of banana, so they use that in many of their dishes
- “Breadfruit” is a vegetable that can be used essentially as a potato as you can mash, boil, roast them. “Ladobe” can also be a dessert.
- “Satini” contains un-ripened fruit, like papaya and apples, and is then mixed with garlic, onion, and chillies





# Religion

Roman catholic remains being the main religion of the island the percentage being 76%, however, it does welcome other religions such as Protestant, Muslim, Hindu and Bahai. There is little to no conflict between these religions and communities as the culture in Seychelles is very respect, orientated. This country is a prime example of equality and peace between religions that other countries should strive towards.

## The island

- The Seychelles islands are situated in the Indian ocean over 1,500km to the east of the African continent. Seychelles is made up of 150 African small islands north east of Madagascar and has a total land area of 455 square kilometers.
- Seychelles has a population of roughly 92,000 people with 90% of the population living on the largest island called Mahe. Seychelles capital, Victoria, is on Mahe and is home to 26,000 people.





## Tourism



Over the years Seychelles has become a very popular tourist destination with as many as 38910 tourists staying in January 2020. This is probably because of its white beaches and clear water, but ever since Prince William and Kate went on their honeymoon there, there has been a surge in interest to visit the beautiful island.

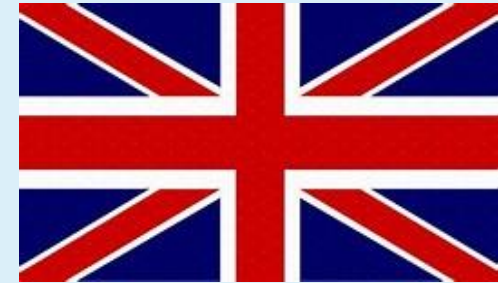
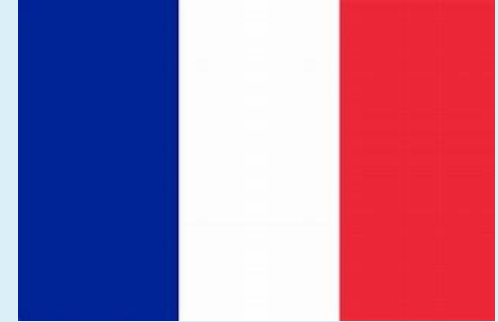
The tourist sector employs roughly 30% of the population and provides more than 70% of hard currency earnings.

According to additional data received tourism contributes to 27 percent of Seychelles GDP

## History of the Island

The islands were first spotted by Vasco da Gama , a portugese explorer, on his explorations in the 15th century. Later in 1770 the French and British settled on the island, meaning that English, French and Seychellois Creole were the official languages of Seychelles.

Recently, in 1976 Seychelles gained independence from Britain.







# Wildlife

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- The Seychelles lie far away from any mainland, which normally doesn't help when it comes to variety of life. But when it comes to bird-life, there is around 220 species of bird calling the Seychelles their home.
- Another well known species of animal in the Seychelles is the giant tortoise, giant tortoises live like fossils across the island and would most likely have been wiped out if they hadn't set up a conservation area for the tortoises to live.



## Culture

- Seychelles is a matriarchal society. They can wear what they want, and The women tend to be the ones who run businesses and are also very present in the government.
- At different times in its history, people of African, European and Asian origin have come to Seychelles, bringing with them their different traditions and contributing to the way of life and to the Seychellois culture. You can see these influences at work throughout the domains of local art, cuisine, music, dance and architecture.
- The flag consists of rays emanating from the lower left corner. The colours are yellow, red, white, and green, with a blue wedge at the upper left. The flag symbolizes the ocean, the link to Africa, and the multi-coloured nature of the population.