

# Mauritius - Good To Know:

*The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority has announced that the island nation received an 11 per cent increase in international visitors in 2016. According to the Tourism Authority, the idyllic island in the Indian Ocean received 1.28 million tourists last year, beating the 1.15 million recorded in 2015. There was also a nine per cent increase in travellers from the United Kingdom.*

The island nation of [Mauritius](#) is celebrating its second year of double-digit growth in international visitors. According to the Mauritius Tourism Authority, the country received 1.28 million visitors in 2016, **an 11 per cent increase** compared to the year before.

The number of tourists from the UK increased by nine per cent year on year, and the total number of European visitors reached 734,506, making up two thirds of the final total of international travellers. The increased visitor arrivals are said to have been helped by **the Mauritius 365 campaign**, which promoted the country's low season (May to September) campaign, and highlighted the refurbishment of many of the island's hotels, resorts and attractions.

The statistics office in Mauritius is predicting a 4.3 per cent increase in the number of international tourists in 2017 this year, with a target of 1.3 million. Tourism revenues reached nearly \$1.4 billion in 2016, and are expected to reach approximately \$1.6 billion this year.

Mauritius **is a picturesque island** that is home to tropical postcard-perfect landscapes including white sandy palm-fringed beaches, turquoise sea, and emerald hills. The country is a hotspot for romantic breaks, honeymoons, and family breaks where visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities, or enjoy the all-year-round sunshine.

For nature-loving tourists, there's **the Black River Gorges National Park** with cascading waterfalls, thriving rainforests, and diverse wildlife species. The Crocodile and Giant Tortoise Park is a great place to catch sightings of these huge creatures and learn more about them.

Water-lovers can take part in fun activities in the sea such as kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, snorkeling, or scuba diving. The surrounding reefs are teeming with colourful marine creatures, and visitors can swim alongside sea turtles, parrot fish, groupers, angelfish, sergeant majors, trumpet and clown fish, and moray eels. Divers can enjoy crystal-clear waters and access to various sites including cliffs, caverns, reefs, pinnacles and sunken shipwrecks.

On the [north-west coast of Mauritius](#) is the capital city **of Port Louis**. Visitors can stroll along streets lined with historic buildings and sites such as the Forte Adelaide, the UNESCO-listed Aapravasi Ghat, and Place D'Armes. The bustling Caudan Waterfront is full of restaurants, cafes, and shops where tourists can pick up a local souvenir or handcrafted gift.



## Good to Know

### The Official Language

English is the official business language. Spoken languages commonly used are French and Creole, and the Indian dialect within the Hindu community.

### Currency

The local currency is the Mauritian Rupee (Rs)

### Banks

Most banks open from 09h00 to 15h00, from Monday to Thursday, and from 09h00 to 17h00 on Friday. Bank facilities are available at the airport during all inbound and outbound flights.

### ATM Machines

Within or close to the banks and are available 24/7.

### Money Exchange Offices

Are located in towns and touristic sites.

### Credit Card

Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and most shops.

### Time Zone

GMT +4Hrs

### Driving

Driving in Mauritius is on the left.

Foreigners can use a domestic driving license issued for more than a year.

### Electricity

The standard voltage is 220/240 V. 2 (French) and 3 pin (British) power sockets of type C/G.

### Water

Tap water is safe to drink in Mauritius but we recommend bottled water.

### Climate

Summer: From November to April, ranges from 28 to 32 degrees Celsius. The use of sun screen, even on cloudy days, is advisable. Winter: From May to October, ranges from 20 to 26 degrees Celsius. Warmer clothes are recommended for the evening.

### Tailor-made Clothes

Tailor-made clothes are available, with delivery within 24 hours. Enquire with your hotel, concierge or hotel representative.

### Gratuities/Tips

Tipping is not compulsory, but recognition for a good service is appreciated (around 10% tipping).

### Duty Free shopping

Foreigners can enjoy island-wide duty-free shopping and collect their goods at the airport upon departure. Those wishing to hold on to their duty-free

purchases can have a refund at the airport. Purchases made in foreign currency (upon presentation of passport) at least 48 hours prior to departure will be delivered directly at the airport.

### Shopping Malls

Most shops are open from 10h00 to 17h00, from Monday to Saturday. Some popular shopping malls are open from 10h00 to 19h00 during week days, until 20h00 during weekends and 16h00 on Sundays and public holidays. The Most Popular Shopping Malls:  
Port Louis - Le Caudan Waterfront  
West - Cascavelle Shopping Mall, Ruisseau Creole  
Centre - Bagatelle, Trianon Shopping Center, Centre Commercial Phoenix  
North - Grand Baie La Croisette, SuperU  
EAST - Flacq Coeur de Ville

### Model Boats

You can purchase a beautiful hand-crafted model boat, which is a star product of the island. Delivery is made at the airport.

### Proper Attire

Proper attire is required when visiting places of worship, i.e. church, temple, mosque or pagoda. A smart casual dress code applies in most hotel restaurants in the evening (long trousers for gentlemen).

### Medical Services

Most hotels have a qualified nurse and

good medical facilities are available on the island:

North - Clinique du Nord: +230 2472532  
Center - Apollo Bramwell Hospital: +230 6051000  
Clinique Fortis Darne: +230 6013200  
West - Clinic de l'Occident: +230 4535858

### Emergency Numbers

Police: 999  
EMS SAMU. Ambulance attached to hospitals: 114  
Ambulance attached to private Clinique Apollo Bramwell: 132  
Ambulance attached to private Clinique Fortis Darne: 118  
Fire services: 115

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(Updated AM-220217)