



## Mauritius

Mauritius, located off the Southeast coast of the African continent in the Southwest Indian Ocean, has a colourful history that includes the British taking control during the Napoleonic Wars and later gaining its independence from UK in 1968.

The island of Mauritius is also well known for its production of rum, derived from the sugar cane that forms 90% of the islands agricultural crop, as well as being renowned for having been the only known home of the dodo.

This world famous holiday destination offers the height of luxury, magnificent beaches and a varied selection of things to do that will allow you to do as much or as little as you choose.

The mix of ethnicity's and tropical climate will help ensure you have a memorable holiday and we have some suggestions of things you might like to do when in Mauritius.

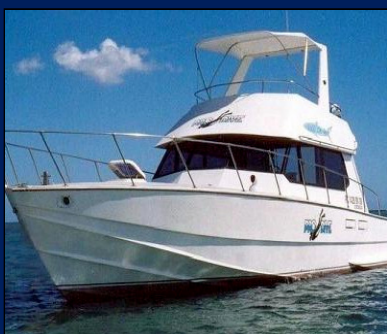
The crystal clear blue waters make Mauritius the perfect choice for diving and snorkelling. Both beginners and expert divers can enjoy exploring the undersea world through a variety of dive centres that offer diving tours, the Discover Scuba introduction course as well as PADI and CMAS instruction.

Visiting the National Parks is a must with popular activities including horseback tours, zip lining, quad biking, hiking and cycling.

Other popular activities include a wide variety of Watersports, boat charters, fishing, kayaking and you can even get your adrenaline flowing with the high speed thrills of Kite-surfing and Sky Diving.

This [Mauritius Holidays](#) guide has been prepared with the help of UK travel company [www.holidaysplease.co.uk](http://www.holidaysplease.co.uk)

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## Exploration Sous-Marine

Pierre Szalay and his team of qualified diving instructors at Exploration Sous-Marine offer a professional diving experience as well as dive course tuition.

With 40 dive locations in the seas of Mauritius there is something to suit everyone from beginner to fully confirmed diver. All dives take place beyond the reef and famous spots like 'Cathedral' and 'Snake' can be reached by boat in less than 15 minutes. Water temperatures range between 21 and 28 degrees centigrade and visibility can reach up to 40 metres.

Other popular dive spots include Aquarium, Tug II, Suisse and Cannon, which are perfect for the beginner. Advanced divers can explore Bambou Hill, Wake-up, Cathedral and Snake Reef whilst Fully-confirmed divers will have access to Stella, Great Reef, Monioc and Corail-Rose.

A wide choice of courses is available and these include PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and CMAS (World Diving Confederation). Nitrox dives and speciality certificates are also offered by Exploration Sous-Marine with the Nitrox provided in ready-to-use diving bottles.

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## Prodiv

Situated at several convenient locations around the island, the Prodiv team transforms diving into a luxurious event with the 'Aman', a dive boat cruiser designed to transport divers outside the barrier reef and the 'Speediver', an open mono-hull dive boat.

Services include easy diving courses, full certification courses such as PADI and NAUI as well as providing daily diving excursions. The daily dive excursions leave twice daily and visit the clear waters outside of the barrier reef in the Trou aux Biches and Grand Bay areas.

If you are looking for something outside of the 'norm' then night dives can be arranged on request and visit dive sites where lobsters, spanish dancers, parrot fish and a large variety of scorpion fish can all be viewed.

Private dives and exclusive dive charters are also available on the 46 foot luxury dive cruiser with full day dive charters benefiting from a barbecue lunch to the islands to the north east of Mauritius.

**Website address:** [www.prodivemauritius.com](http://www.prodivemauritius.com)

**E-mail address:** [prodiv@hotmail.com](mailto:prodiv@hotmail.com)

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## Coral Breeze Tours

Located in Grand Bay, Coral Breeze Tours specialise in organised tours, individual excursions and customised trips.

Island tours are possibly the best way to experience Mauritius and its many points of interest and the Coral Breeze North, South, South-West and South-East Tours cover popular spots such as the Aquarium, Aventure du Sucre, Pamplermouses Botanical Gardens, Alexandra Falls and Casela Bird Park. Other popular attractions covered by the tours include the Naval Museum, La Vanille Crocodile Park and the Reserve des Mascareignes.

Various cruises are also available such as the Northern Island Cruise on the catamaran Coral Belle with time for swimming, diving and walking at Gabriel Island. Alternatively the Dolphin & Benitier Island Cruise comprises of breakfast on the catamaran, a morning with the dolphins and scuba diving on the coral reef. Lunch is included and followed by a trip to Benitier Island.

Further cruise options include the Ile aux Cerfs Tour and a Sunset Cruise aboard the Coral Belle with Dinner as the sun sinks behind the horizon.

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## Tamarin Ocean Pro Diving

Located on the west coast of Mauritius, the Tamarin Ocean Pro Diving Centre can be found in the middle of the bay of Tamarin, which is famous for its regular visits of large groups of dolphins and is directly surrounded by the best dive sites of Mauritius.

The warm waters of Mauritius and great underwater visibility offer a wide variety of diving sites that have something for everyone, from the curious beginner to adventurous advanced diver.

The experienced team of divers at the Tamarin Ocean Pro Diving Centre consists of four divers from Mauritius, who know the diving areas and their special characteristics well. Their enormous experience gained from many years of diving will provide you with both qualified and knowledge-based information.

PADI courses are available and include classes to suit the beginner, advanced or expert diver. The team also offers first tryouts, continuing advanced diving courses and also requested courses to become a professional diver.

Specialised services include personalised Safari-Diving with a BBQ lunch and night diving with locations designed to include wrecks, caves and a diverse array of the islands natural underwater inhabitants.

**Website address:** [www.tamarinoceanpro.com](http://www.tamarinoceanpro.com)  
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## Casela Nature and Leisure Park

The Casela Nature and Leisure Park has an area of 10 hectares and is home to 1,500 birds, giant tortoises, a tiger, monkeys and many more animals. The park offers a wide range of activities designed to cater for all ages.

Discover the African reserve on a quad bike and a professional photographer will follow the guided tour with pictures available for purchase right after the outing. The Rando Fun trail has been designed to offer a full park experience with a walk, Nepalese bridges, zip lines, BBQ grill and a swim through a canyon. Alternatively take a unique opportunity to meet, touch and walk with lions and cheetahs or take the 45-minute Photo Safari where you will see deer, zebras and many more animals in their natural environment.

There is a playground, mini-quads and fishing competitions to entertain children of all ages. The park also has a petting farm where you can feed ducks, fawns and wallabies as well as a restaurant with views of Tamarin Bay and the West Coast.

**Website address:** [www.caselayemen.mu](http://www.caselayemen.mu)  
**E-mail address:** [casela@intnet.mu](mailto:casela@intnet.mu)  
**Telephone number:** 00-230-452-2828

## Big Game Fishing Mauritius

Located at the Morne Anglers Club in the Black River on the West Coast, Big Game Fishing Mauritius offer trips to the best fishing grounds where all the big competitions, including the Marlin World Cup are held.

The seas of Mauritius offer a wide variety of fish species, perfect for the catch, and include the pacific blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, yellow fin tuna, dorado, mako shark and tiger shark

The 15 metre 'Thalassa' fishing boat is equipped with 130lbs Penn reels, 80lbs Penn/Shimano reels and 50lbs Penn/Shimano reels as well as being powered by 2 Perkins Sabre 300HP engines that will get located quickly for maximum fishing time.

Both full and half-day charters are available, providing you with a convenient excursion that can be easily slotted into any holiday schedule. Transportation from your hotel to the boat can also be arranged.

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**Telephone number:** 00-230-674-1486 / 00-230-423-0711



## Sun Divers

Sun Diver, the first ever PADI diving centre in Mauritius, welcomes divers from all across the island to discover diving with up to 30 dive sites within a short boat ride including the world re-known Cathedral, Snake Reef and Tug 2. Thierry De Chazel, the founder of Sun Diver is backed by an experienced team of 3 PADI & CMAS qualified instructors and 3 Dive Masters who offer up to 3 dives each day.

A selection of courses are available that will suit both the beginner and advanced diver. The Resort Course is composed of a pool session & a dive in the sea at around 10m. The PADI Referral course is also offered and this enables the theory of both Open Water and Advanced PADI courses to be completed before starting your holiday.

Further choices include an Open Water course, an Advanced course that will train you to dive to 30m allowing you to visit dive spots such as Cathedral & Snake Reef and the Rescue Diver Course.

Sun Diver also offer speciality courses such as underwater naturalist, night diving, wreck diving, drift diving, multi level diving and Nitrox diving. Underwater photography courses are also a speciality and more information can be found at [www.geraldrambert.com](http://www.geraldrambert.com).

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## SkyDive Mauritius

SkyDive Mauritius aim to deliver a unique tandem skydive experience, with high standards of safety, comfort and a personal service. SkyDive Mauritius is based at MonLoisir Sugar Estate next to Riviere du Rempart village in the heart of the northern sugar fields of Mauritius.

The highly qualified tandem skydive team will guide you through the jump and free-fall and the whole tandem skydive experience lasts for around 2 hours. You will be provided with a jump-suit, goggles and a specially designed tandem skydiving parachutes that allow for a slow and soft landing. With jumps starting from 10,000ft you can enjoy 360-degree views of Mauritius's mountains and the Indian Ocean.

SkyDive Mauritius offer a number of digital photography and DVD options that will allow you to re-live your Mauritius skydiving experience. The Free-fall DVD/Picture CD combo includes a DVD recording from your first step out of the plane through to landing as well as 40 digital pictures placed onto a CD. The Handi-cam DVD option is a recording of your tandem skydive as captured by your instructor with his glove mounted camera.

**Website address:** [www.skydivemauritius.com](http://www.skydivemauritius.com)

**E-mail address:** [info@skydivemauritius.com](mailto:info@skydivemauritius.com)

**Telephone number:** 00-230-499-5551



## Mauritius Horse Trails

With a background that includes both show jumping and dressage, Lindy Hill created the owner operated Mauritius Horse Trails to enable visitors to explore the island and its natural beauty on horseback. Lindy personally leads each ride, with the help of well trained grooms.

Lindy has given many of the islands retired racehorses a second career and a way of life that is more conducive to their nature. The supervised equestrian trail rides will take you along cliff tops, which offer spectacular views of the ocean and the south coast. Alternatively you can discover ancient riverbeds and large waterfalls, including the legendary Rochester Falls.

The responsive and forward going horses will allow beginners to be led in safety with encouragement to try gentle trots and canters on the first ride. The experienced guides will keep the horses under control and leave you free to enjoy the sensation of riding whilst taking in the Islands scenery.

More experienced riders may enjoy trots and canters in wide open spaces with trails of various duration's that can include an over night stay in one of the company's lodges. Full day clinics for children are also available and these include lunch, trail rides and games on horseback.

Accommodation available at Andrea Lodge, with panoramic ocean views, or Exil Lodge, overlooking the Combo National Park, available on the Estate, with daily riding activities.

**Website address:** [www.mauritiushorsetrails.com](http://www.mauritiushorsetrails.com)

**E-mail address:** [lindy@mauritiushorsetrails.com](mailto:lindy@mauritiushorsetrails.com)

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## Kite Trip

With miles of lagoons on the east coast of Mauritius, Kite Trip, located in Trou d'Eau Douce in front of the Ile aux Cerfs Island, will offer unforgettable half or full day kite downwinder tours.

The downwinder of Ile aux Cerfs begins with a speedboat ride through the tropical mangrove to a narrow beach of white coral sand where you can ride miles of lagoon, undisturbed by the crowds. There's plenty of time to freestyle at the 'Joy Ride' reef and at the end of the trip you can downwind to the fishing town of Trou d'Eau Douce. Alternatively you can downwind from Palmar beach where the kite lessons of the kiteschool are held. This easy spot provides a chance to warm up before downwinding along the beach of Belle Mare and continuing with views of the Hindu Temple of the Mare aux Lubines. At the end of the trip you can choose to enjoy the flat-water spot of Poste Lafayette beach or go riding the waves on the shallow reef.

The day kite trip of Pointe d'Esny will give you more than 20 miles of downwinder inside the lagoon and down to Trou d'Eau Douce. This trip includes a ride through the waves and down to the cape of La Pointe au Diable. You will have time for lunch beneath the filaos trees on a white coral beach and then kite down through the Ile aux Cerfs before the final ride to Trou d'Eau Douce.

**Website address:** [www.kite-trip.com](http://www.kite-trip.com)

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**Telephone number:** 00-230-743-4298

## Mauritius Kitesurf

Mauritius Kitesurf offer Kite lessons for beginners to expert riders, taking advantage of the easiest spot in Mauritius. For all autonomous riders, lots of spots are to be found within a 20- minute drive.

IKO qualified professional instructors will take you through various IKO certification courses from the Discovery Training programme up to the Evolution Training Course with no more than 4 students per instructor.

Mauritius Kitesurf also offer a Stand Up Paddle (SUP) programme that enables all ages to enjoy the waters around Mauritius in a unique way. The giant surfboard is moved with a paddle and can be used on flat waters or in the waves. Stand Up Paddle trips around Trou d'Eau Douce, the mangroves of the Ile aux Cerfs island and of Bras d'Eau are available whilst the more adventurous can surf the small waves of Palmar/Trou d'Eau Douce.

Stand Up Paddle options include a half-day trip with a guide/instructor, a Discovery SUP and a day trip with guide/instructor including a BBQ/Picnic.

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**E-mail address:** [mauritius.kitesurf@gmail.com](mailto:mauritius.kitesurf@gmail.com)

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## Safari Adventures Mauritius

This unique and rare opportunity from Safari Adventures Mauritius will bring you to the Casela Nature & Leisure Park for the islands first 'Lion Encounter'. You may feel and study the primitive behaviour of the lions and cheetahs, all within their natural habitat.

The experienced team has over 3 generations of lion handling, training and expertise with thousands of walks and customer interactions over the years to bring to you the safest lion encounter. Walks are made in the morning and afternoon with interaction and viewing activities available throughout day.

The lions are the second largest members of the cat family and live in large family groups. Their roars that can be heard from up to 5 miles away and make meeting these cats a truly magnificent experience. The endangered Cheetah on the other hand lives a more solitary life in the wild. The Cheetah is the fastest land animal, reaching speeds of over 60mph and is naturally active during the day making this an experience not to be missed.

**Website address:** [www.safari-adventures-mauritius.com](http://www.safari-adventures-mauritius.com)

**E-mail address:** [reservation@safariadventures.mu](mailto:reservation@safariadventures.mu)

**Telephone number:** 00-230-452-5546



## Scuba-Doo Mauritius

The Scuba-Doo is an exclusive and unique experience that will get the non-diver and diver alike underwater in minutes without the long-winded training session of the Resort Diving Induction Course.

The Scuba-Doo is a self-propelled diving vehicle that is primarily used for introductory dives to a maximum depth of 10 metres. When seated on your Scuba-Doo your head and shoulders are within a clear air-filled dome, which means you don't need to wear a mask or mouthpiece and you can keep your glasses or contact lenses on.

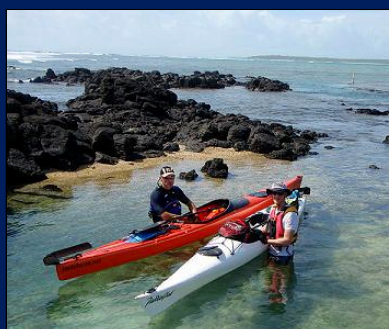
The air tank and diving weights are all part of the Scuba-Doo that is both manoeuvrable and speedy at a rate of 2.5 knots. You don't need to be a strong swimmer and the Scuba-Doo is even used by people with minor disabilities. Your diving instructor will show you the safety techniques and with no previous diving experience you'll be under the water within minutes.

Your dive will be captured with digital photography and pictures will be available on a CD as soon as you have completed your Scuba-Doo dive.

**Website address:** [www.scuba-doomauritius.com](http://www.scuba-doomauritius.com)

**E-mail address:** [operations@scuba-doomauritius.com](mailto:operations@scuba-doomauritius.com)

**Telephone number:** 00-230-265-6365



## Yemaya Adventures

Offering Eco-friendly adventures, Yemaya Adventures, created in 2000 by Patrick Haberland, offers a unique way to enjoy sea kayaking, mountain biking and hiking. This former cycling champion and qualified sports instructor ensures each trip is carried out with a total respect to nature whilst learning about the fauna and flora.

The vast protected lagoons are an ideal location for sea kayaking with mangroves, river mouths and isolated islets all within easy reach. More experienced paddlers can also enjoy open water crossings.

If mountain biking is of interest then Mauritius offers trails to suit all levels. Beginners can enjoy flat cultural trails whilst Yemaya Adventures can show the experienced biker more challenging runs. Coastal trails, bush forest, old railways, sugar mills and lava caves are all to be experienced with the possibility of coming across rare birds such as the Paradise Fly Catcher.

Hikes can see you venture onto the mountains and across conservation areas with tour options including a 2-day overnight hike or even a blend of sea kayaking, mountain biking and hiking all rolled into one.

**Website address:** [www.yemayaadventures.com](http://www.yemayaadventures.com)

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**Telephone number:** 00-230-752-0046



## La Vieille Cheminee

Located within the small mountain range of Chamarel, La Vieille Cheminee is just a 15 minute drive from the developed west coast and offers guided excursions such as horse-back riding with a self catering / half or full board accommodation in one of the fully equipped cottages.

The surrounding landscape includes sugar cane, banana & pineapple fields, indigenous forest and rivers. The Chamarel Falls and the Seven Coloured Earths are also within the region of Chamarel and are an absolute must when visiting Mauritius. The 'Escapade' and 'Evasion' packages begin in the afternoon of day 1 with time to enjoy the swimming pool, which is located at the top of the hill with panoramic views. If the weather permits campfires are organised in the paddock. Dinner is dropped in the houses at the client's discretion.

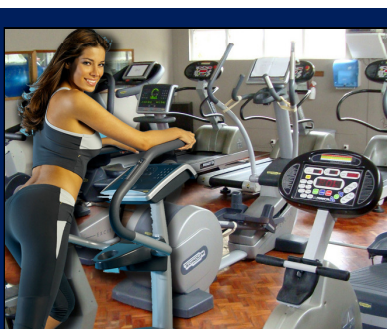
Day 2 begins with a continental breakfast with coffee or tea, fruit juice, bread, butter, jam & cheese, eggs and fruits from the farm. The horse-riding excursion will take you through sugar cane, banana and pineapple fields as well as along the river and into the cool shelter of the forest. A Picnic lunch with cool drinks is served next to the pool after the ride. Excursions can also be arranged by the hour for tailor made tours of the area.

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## Mauritius Fishing & Hunting Safaris

A variety of custom-built safaris are available from Fishing and Hunting Safaris and these can range from fly-fishing on the reef to hunting and exploring amongst the Mauritian wilderness.

Groups are kept to small numbers to provide a personalised service and your guide Dominique brings many years of experience to help ensure your safari is an experience of a lifetime. The hunting adventure gets you as close as possible to the natural wildlife of Mauritius and these inhabitants include stags, wild boar, Partridge and many more.

Dominique is also an excellent angler with knowledge of the best spots for fly-fishing and surfcasting. Many guests will get the opportunity to make the catch of a lifetime with success stories including an 82lb giant trevally and 50lb kingfish. Other fish that are abundant in the seas of Mauritius include bonefish, barracuda, garfish, rock cods, white and black tip sharks and dogtooth tunas.

**Website address:** [www.mauritiusfishinghunting safaris.com](http://www.mauritiusfishinghunting safaris.com)

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**Telephone number:** 00-230-729-9120

## Sunset Café & Paparazzi Ristorante

The Sunset Café is situated at Grand-Baie and Caudan Waterfront and is a great stop for breakfast, lunch or dinner with a coffee, beer or cocktail.

Overlooking the Grand-Baie lagoon, the Cafe is a great place to unwind with a gentle breeze and the sound of waves adding to the atmosphere. Promotions are regularly featured including a happy hour, where beers and wines are offered on a buy one get one free basis.

The Paparazzi Ristorante located at Grand-Baie welcome's guests seven days a week and the friendly services promises a memorable experience with a choice of Italian specialities heading up the balanced and varied menu.

Classics such as homemade tagliatelle, pizza, pasta, rigatoni, cannelloni, ravioli and tortelloni are all popular choices that can be combined with an appetiser, dessert and wine.

**Website address:** [www.sunset-cafe.mu](http://www.sunset-cafe.mu)

**E-mail address:** [sunsetcafe@levieuxgroup.com](mailto:sunsetcafe@levieuxgroup.com)

**Telephone number:** 00-230-263-9602 (Sunset Café)  
00-230-263-8836 (Paparazzi Ristorante)

## Grand Baie Gym & Hydro Spa

The Grand Baie Gym, Hydro Spa & Cafe is the perfect combination for those looking to continue their exercise program and healthy living routine or even simply want to de-stress whilst on vacation. Professional trainers that have a wealth of knowledge and world-class facilities run the new sport and relaxation centre.

The Gym boasts state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment, toning circuits, free weights and an Olympic size swimming pool and this is backed up with the Hydrotherapy Spa which is perfect for before or after your workout.

The Spa is focused on relaxing muscles and evaporating stress and in addition to Hydrotherapy you will find saunas, steam rooms, beauty treatments, massage with essential oils, aesthetic treatments, hot treatments and a relaxation lounge.

The sport and relaxation centre also offers the Physiomins slimming course that will allow you to lose those extra kilos in an enjoyable way as well as a hair dressing salon and Gail's Cafe where you can boost your energy levels before you get going.

**Website address:** [www.grandbaiegym.com](http://www.grandbaiegym.com)

**E-mail address:** [info@grandbaiegym.com](mailto:info@grandbaiegym.com)

**Telephone number:** 00-230-263-9290



## Escale Créole

Escale Créole sits in a tropical garden situated in the village of Moka for a unique dining experience in the true sense of Creole tradition. With a large veranda and cosy tables or large family tables this is the ideal stop for couples, families or large groups.

Enjoy organic dishes such as "rougaille" (homemade Creole sausages in tangy tomato sauce) and "cangarille" (cabbage and salted fish) as well as a large range of dishes to suit all tastes. Tempting drinks are on offer including fresh pineapple lemonade and island rum and all can be enjoyed in the picturesque setting offering a unique dining experience.

The Spice Boutik allows you to take home a unique Mauritian souvenir with hand selected locally grown herbs and spices presented in hand-woven bamboo bags. Situated right in the centre of the island Escale Créole is an ideal stop when exploring the local attractions such as Port Louis, Eureka Colonial House and the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Gardens.

The Escale Créole is only open for lunch and a reservation is required.

**Website address:** [www.escalereole.net](http://www.escalereole.net)

**E-mail address:** [contact@escalereole.net](mailto:contact@escalereole.net)

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**Reservation only:** 00-230-422-2332



## Mauritius Holidays Tips

To find out more exciting activities to do in Mauritius during your holidays, visit Mauritius Holidays Tips at [www.MauritiusHolidaysTips.com](http://www.MauritiusHolidaysTips.com).

The site does what it says on the tin and will keep you updated on news about travel to Mauritius. You will also be able to use our price comparator to look for flights, accommodation and car rental.

Read our background articles on Mauritius to better prepare yourself for your stay and understand the custom and habits on the island. What do you know about sugarcane in Mauritius? A visit to the Sugar Museum l'Aventure du Sucre will tell you everything you need to know and allow you to sample special unrefined sugar. What is the tourist hotspot on the island? It is Grand-Bay and incidentally it's located not far from the Sugar Museum. Where are the best beaches on the island? Find out all this and more on [Mauritius Holidays Tips](http://www.MauritiusHolidaysTips.com)