

SOAK UP THE MAGIC OF MAURITIUS

From its wild coasts to rugged peaks, Mauritius' natural beauty is matched only by its world-class hotels on spectacular powder-white beaches. But the island is so much more than its coastline. From hiking in the Black River Gorges National Park to exploring the lush mountains of Chamarel, a visit here is a multi-sensory experience. Factor in characterful hotels and resorts, and you'll discover a country where eco-consciousness and wellbeing are prioritised and where delicious Creole cooking will have you coming back for more...



SALT OF PALMAR

Around this adult-only boutique resort on the east coast of Mauritius, palm trees wave lazily in the breeze and the aquamarine ocean is magnetic. But the beach is not the only lure at this eco-friendly destination, which champions local culture and traditions.

People and places

The SALT Shakers initiative introduces local entrepreneurs to guests. The 'SkillSwap' concept means you can learn something – from a basket-weaver, say, or a potter – and you can share your knowledge, too. SALT's dedication to meaningful travel allows you to find a deeper connection to island life, from its guidebook written by locals to

curated experiences that include visiting vanilla and sugarcane producers or exploring by car, boat or on foot.

Thoughtful spaces

As well as an eco-sensibility (SALT has a zero single-use plastic policy and only works with local suppliers), the hotel design, led by local architects JFA Studio and artist/designer Camille Walala, is playful, with pops of colour and artisanal products. Rooms feature premium Carpe Diem beds, sunny balconies, a mini library and a Roberts radio.

Heady moments

The Mauritian-fusion menu at the Good Kitchen trailblazes local recipes,

such as the standout giant prawn curry, and a good choice of vegan dishes. For cocktails overlooking the mountains, head to the rooftop bar. The Waste Not, Want Not tipples uses local rum and pineapples.

Pockets of calm

After a day exploring, take a dip in the heated pool or clear your head at the SALT Equilibrium spa, featuring rejuvenating treatments and the island's first salt room. There are also yoga mats in rooms, while sunrise beach power walks, slow running routes and forest therapy offer you the chance to find your mojo again.

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SALT of Palmar pops with bold colours and zebra stripes. Left-hand page: youthful, botanical Tamassa Resort

TOTALLY TROPICAL TAMASSA

The all-inclusive four-star Tamassa Resort is found on the wilder southwest coast. As its name suggests (it means 'party' in Creole), the red-roofed hotel captures a youthful vibe with its colourful décor and fun, innovative offerings.

Find your vibe

From the Food Truck that serves gourmet burgers to Scoop, the ice-cream parlour offering a rainbow-hued line-up of treats, joyful moments are at Tamassa's heart.

Spacious bedrooms have botanical murals reflecting the rich nature here, and there are four pools, daily activities, and a nightclub, as well as clubs for younger children and teens.

Natural highs

Located in 22 acres of tropical gardens in Domaine de Bel Ombre, Tamassa is close to the incredible Black River Gorges National Park. Hike in the nearby hills of Chamarel – discovering secret valleys and cascading waterfalls

along the way – or snorkel in the marine park, found just off the coast, alongside sea turtles and angelfish.

The hotel's Santosha Spa champions mindful wellness with signature treatments rooted in traditional therapies, including Shirodhara, a blissful oil-dripping head massage. There are also plenty of feelgood workshops, such as aerial yoga, sound healing and plant-based cooking.

Food for the soul

Show – the restaurant with an open kitchen – makes meals a theatrical occasion. It's all about barefoot chic at the beach-side Playa restaurant, where you can savour Mauritian cooking with a Mediterranean twist.

For some quiet contemplation, seek out the Tree of Wishes in the aromatic gardens. Guests are given a ribbon to tie around its branches while making a wish. Will it come true? Look around you. Perhaps it already has.

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