

# Mauritius

*"Indian Ocean Paradise"*

*With Probus*

12 Days / 11 Nights

**Tour Departs Saturday 21 September - Wednesday 02 October 2019**

**Tour Cost from: \$5940.00 per person Twin Share (\$745.00 single supplement)**

**Business class available - POA!**

***Includes taxes of approx \$640.00 - Airport taxes/levies are subject to change until fully ticketed***

***Tour price based on minimum 20 paying passengers ex Phillip Island***

***Tour prices are based on 2019 rates All pricing is subject to change due to seasonal rates, availability & International currency fluctuations until fully ticketed. Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.***



## **Day 1 Sat 21 Sept: Melbourne – Perth**

**D**

Today we will be transferred to Melbourne Airport for our flight with Virgin Australia to Perth. On arrival we board the coach and continue onto our hotel for check in and rest. Tonight, dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

**VA685 departs Melbourne @ 1305, arriving Perth 1530**

**Overnight Perth: Sage Hotel West Perth**

## **Day 2. Sun 22 Sept: Perth– Mauritius**

**B & D**

Breakfast at the hotel before late morning transfers to Perth airport to check in for our International flight across to Mauritius.

**MK441 departs Perth @ 1305, arriving Mauritius 1745**

Our Air Mauritius flight arrives at the International Airport, Mauritius where we collect our luggage, clear customs and change money to the local currency. We are then met by our English speaking guide and friendly team. After boarding our coach we can relax for the drive to our luxury resort. Along the way, our guide will share with us interesting information about this beautiful island paradise, its history and customs. We'll even learn a few local words that might prove useful in the coming days! Our coach arrives at the **stunning LUX Tamassa Resort at Bel Ombre** in the south-west of the island. The resort is **set in tropical gardens on a white sandy beach, with rustling coconut trees and a cobalt ocean**. Offering a range of bars and world-class restaurants there's plenty of daily activities and an array of evening entertainment. It's the perfect spot for fun and relaxation. After check in, it's a short stroll past the pools and gardens to our stylish and comfortable rooms where it's time to unpack and unwind. Still a bit peckish, then head over to the buffet and relax with a drink and chat with fellow travellers. Our holiday has begun!

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

## **Day 3. Mon 23 Sept: Grand Bassin - Sacred Lake - Chamarel Coloured Earth & Waterfall**

**B,L,D**

We start our day in paradise with a truly amazing buffet breakfast, then it's onto the bus with our guide for a leisurely, **half day tour**. Cameras ready as this morning's tour takes in some stunning spots. First up, we are welcomed to **Grand Bassin**, a most sacred Hindu site, by a 33metre statue of Shiva. Then it's onto the **Sacred Lake** where, every year thousands take pilgrimage, some walking barefoot from their homes for three days. We have an opportunity to stop at a reintegration box to see the rarest endemic bird of Mauritius the Petrin Pink Pigeon, saved from extinction. The natural wonders of **Macabée Forest, Black River Gorge, Chamarel Waterfalls and the amazing Chamarel Coloured Earth** are perfect locations to stop for a while and appreciate the beauty of this tiny island. We return to the resort for lunch and a leisurely afternoon. We later meet for complimentary drinks and delightful dinner at the resort.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

#### Day 4. Tues 24 Sept: Saint Aubin House “Rum & Vanilla” - Biscuit Factory - Mahebourg

B,L,D

After another delightful breakfast we are back on the bus for another **interesting half day tour**. First stop is **Saint Aubin House** which was built in 1819. It has been home to several managers of the sugar estate, before being renovated in the 90's in order to preserve a part of the Mauritian heritage. Today one may still see the beams and ship poles used in its original construction. The estate produces sugar cane which is then processed to make sugar as well as delicious rum. Our tour takes in the **Rum House, Vanilla House, Anthurium Greenhouse, Saint Aubin House** and the surrounding tropical gardens. Back on the bus, our next stop is an amazing little place - the **H. Rault Biscuit Factory**. The guide will share with us the fascinating history of this 4th generation, family owned business that has been producing manioc (cassava) biscuits by hand, using traditional methods since 1870. Of course we'll have a tasting of the many different flavours of these naturally gluten free biscuits as we enjoy morning tea. Then passing through busy little villages including the **beautiful seaside port of Mahébourg**. Situated next to the largest lagoon on Mauritius, there is something relentlessly charming about bite-size Mahébourg. Once a busy port, these days the only boats belong to a small fleet of fishermen who feed the locals from their daily catch. We stop at the **Fredrik Hendriks Museum in Grand Port**. This building houses some interesting artefacts dating back to early Dutch settlement. Then it's back 'home' to our resort for lunch and a leisurely afternoon. We might explore the magnificent beach, book in for a spa treatment, check out the many facilities and activities, **or just relax poolside as we work our way through the complimentary food and beverage list** – all part of our 'full board' inclusion. Save some space though, for tonight we meet for pre-dinner drinks and another delicious dinner. At Tamassa, evening entertainment is also very special, with a poolside DJ, live bands, dance floors and nightclub - something different every night!

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

#### Day 5. Wed 25 Sept: Casela Wildlife Park - Interaction with Lions

B,L,D

Following another leisurely buffet breakfast, we depart for what will be for many, a **life-changing encounter** and certainly one of the highlights of our tour. At **Casela Wildlife and Nature Park** we have the opportunity to sit with a magnificent female lion – a moment we'll never forget. Then take a leisurely stroll through the picturesque park where we will encounter a fascinating variety of creatures – big and small. We enjoy lunch in the park at the Mirador Restaurant. This afternoon it's back to the resort via the **Martello Towers, Notre Dame de Fatima Church and the salt pans of Tamarind**. We travel past the iconic **Le Morne Brabant Unesco World Heritage Site** that symbolises slavery in Mauritius. We continue on to the magnificent, yet sobering **Slave Route Memorial**, erected to honour the slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering and their sacrifices. After this special experience we head back to the resort where we will have time to reflect on our amazing adventure over dinner and drinks.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

**\*\* Optional at extra cost \$100.00! “Walk with Lions”.** We get to walk, pat and take photos up close and study the primitive behaviour of the lions and share their “Pride” of being in their natural state.

#### Day 6. Thurs 26 Sept: Port Louis - Chateau de Labourdonnais.

B,L,D

Today we head up to the city after another delightful buffet breakfast. Arriving in the **Mauritian capital of Port Louis**, our driver then takes us on a tour of the city while our guide points out cultural highlights, **La Citadelle on Fort Adelaide and Champ de Mars Racecourse** “second oldest racecourse in the world”. Our next stop is **The Blue Penny Museum**, an art and history museum that is wholly devoted to Mauritius. It houses some prestigious collections, which are true testimony of the historical and cultural wealth and diversity of Mauritius, in a stunning layout. The museum was inaugurated in 2001 and covers the era of great maritime explorations in the Indian Ocean before moving on to an overview of the three colonial periods in the history of Mauritius. What unfolds next is the tale of the history of postal services, namely with the very first postage stamps to be issued in Mauritius, the world-renowned Post Office stamps. The tour of the museum ends with the beautiful yet tragic story of a mythical couple, Paul and Virginie. After leaving the museum we will have time to browse through boutique shops, markets and cafés located along the **Caudan Waterfront**, nestled in the port. We enjoy a light lunch at La Terrasse forming part of Domaine Labourdonnais. Our next visit is to the grand, 150 year old **Château de Labourdonnais**, home to three generations of the Wiehe family. After our guided tour of the château, we enjoy the lush gardens and old orchards of the property, host to fifty varieties of hundred-year-old mango trees, spice trees such as nutmeg and clove, as well as several exotic fruit trees such as pomme jacot, sapote, jamalac and kythira plum. Fruit varieties such as papaya, mango, guava and passionfruit are used in the manufacture of the Labourdonnais product range. Mid-afternoon we return south to Bel Ombre, home to our resort where we will have time to relax poolside before dinner and drinks at the resort.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

#### Day 7. Fri 27 Sept: Le Morne Unesco World Heritage Site - West Coast Cruising - School Visit

B,L,D

A memorable day lay ahead as we depart the resort and make our way to the **Joie De Vivre School**. The school was setup to take care of the local children that were wandering around the village, to give them basic education, keep them from the dangers of life on the streets and help and to provide them with opportunities that we often take for granted. With the experience to interact with the local children and enjoy lifelong memories this is a great opportunity to give back to the school with much needed school materials. Continuing up the West Coast we arrive at **Rivière Noire** to begin another tour highlight - our **half-day catamaran lunch cruise**. Keep camera's handy as curious dolphins are likely to join us. We sail south towards **La Roche Crystal** with its clear lagoon, while the crew prepares a **mouth-watering BBQ lunch**. Sailing back to **Rivière Noire**, cocktail in hand, we delight in the beauty and tranquillity of another unforgettable day in paradise. Back on land, make our way through **Le Morne stopping at the Matthew Flinders Memorial**. Our guide will explain how this important monument links a part of our Australian history with Mauritius. We are back to the resort for a rest before meeting for drinks and delicious dinner.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

**Day 8. Sat 28 Sept: Sugar Museum - Botanic Gardens - Grand Baie****B,L,D**

After an early buffet breakfast at the resort this morning, we begin our drive north for our full day touring. Our first stop is in Pamplemousses at **L`Adventure du Sucre "Sugar Museum"** to follow the trail of the sugar industry in Mauritius. We've been passing sugar cane fields all week, now it's time to discover more of its profound history and the importance sugar and its by-products still play in Mauritius today. Next is the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden**, formerly known as Royal Botanical Gardens Pamplemousses. The gardens are spread over 37 hectares and are the oldest in the Southern Hemisphere, constructed in 1770. Most famous for its giant water lilies, the garden features many rare and exotic trees and plants as well as 85 varieties of palms from across the world. Many trees were planted by world leaders and royalty, including Princess Margaret, Indira Gandhi, François Mitterrand and Robert Mugabe. We travel around the coast to the pretty village of Cape Malheureux and stop at the **Notre Dame Auxiliatrice "Red Roofed Church"**. We enjoy lunch in **Grand Baie at the Merville Beach Hotel**. Following lunch its time to hit the shops and seaside cafés especially the **Super U Grand Baie**. Later this afternoon we travel back to the south to our home away from home, the Tamassa Resort to refresh before meeting up for drinks and dinner.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort or similar - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

**Day 9. Sun 29 Sept: Free Day****B,L,D**

Today is all ours to enjoy the complimentary resort facilities and activities, *or at own cost, why not book in a tour, a scenic flight or maybe attend a local church service!* All food and beverage at the resort for the day is included in our 'full board' package.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort or similar - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

**Day 10. Mon 30 Sept: Trou aux Cerfs - Curepipe - Eureka House****B,L,D**

After a restful day yesterday and a another delicious breakfast we are back on the road for **another adventurous day in Mauritius**. Our first stop provides us with some photo opportunities at the **Trou aux Cerfs volcanic crater** before arriving in **Curepipe** in the Central Plateau area to experience some **rather unique duty free shopping**. Next we drive south to Moka where we walk through the **Eureka Mansion and Garden, built 1830**. The famous residence was built during the French colonial period and once belonged to a very well-known Mauritian family. Filled with period furniture and impressive antiques, this home shows a glimpse into colonial life on the island. **A traditional Mauritian lunch is then served on the back verandah** overlooking the lush gardens which carry through to the river. Then its back to our resort to freshen up before our final night dinner at the resort.

**Overnight Bel Ombre: Tamassa Beachfront Resort or similar - All inclusive food & beverage menu**

**Day 11. Tues 01 Oct: Bel Ombre - International Airport****B,L,S**

It's our last day at the resort, so we enjoy the resort facilities before we are treated to an early supper by the pool as we share stories and laughter with our travel companions. Then it's time to farewell the staff who have become our friends, before transferring to the airport for check in. We depart late evening for our overnight flight back across the Indian Ocean to Perth.

**Air Mauritius flight MK440 departs Mauritius @ 2240 - Arrives Perth 0910 (Wednesday)**

**Day 12. Wed 02 Oct: Perth - Melbourne**

Our flight arrives back into Perth today before our connecting flight back home after our amazing time away in Mauritius with Going Places and Trade Travel.

**VA684 departs Perth @ 1135, arriving Melbourne 1705**

On our arrival into Melbourne Airport, after we collect our luggage we will be transferred back down to Phillip Island.

**Tour Highlights:** Half Day Highlights of Chamarel – Grand Bassin Statue, Temple & Sacred Lake, Macabée Forest, Black River Gorge, Chamarel Waterfalls & Coloured Earth; Saint Aubin Estate - House & Garden, Rum House, Vanilla House, Anthurium Greenhouse; H. Rault Biscuit Factory; South East Coastal Village of Mahébourg & Historic Port Monuments; Fredrik Kendriks Museum; Casela Wildlife & Nature Park - "Interaction with the Lions" or optional extra "Walking with Lions"; Lunch "unique dining experience" at Escale Creole; Traditional Salt Pans of Tamarind; Martello Towers; Chapel of Notre Dame de Fatima; Highlights of Port Louis - Natural History Museum of Mauritius, La Citadelle Fort Adelaide & Champ de Mars Racecourse, Blue Penny Museum; Le Caudan Waterfront Precinct; Joie De Vivre School Visit; Catamaran ½ Day Scenic Lunch Cruise West Coast; Matthew Flinders Memorial; Le Morne Brabant Unesco World Heritage Site & Slave Route Memorial; L`Adventure du Sucre "Sugar Museum"; Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden; Highlights & Shopping Grand Baie - Cap Malheureux Red-Roofed Church; Trout aux Cerfs Volcanic Crater; Shopping Village of Curepipe; Lunch Eureka Mansion & Garden & more.



# Mauritius *"Indian Ocean Paradise"*



## Tour Price Includes:

- Return economy flights: Melbourne - Perth - Melbourne
- Return international flights "Air Mauritius" Perth - Mauritius - Perth
- Return airport transfers from/to Phillip Island
- Coach travel Mauritius
- 1 Night accommodation in Perth
- 9 Nights luxury beach front accommodation
- Full board menu all inclusive meals & beverage - Mauritius
- All entry fees and guides as per Itinerary
- English speaking guide

## Tour Price Excludes:

- Any optional touring Perth & Mauritius - Includes upgrade "Walk with Lions"; Scenic Flights etc.
- Travel Insurance - POA

## PAYMENT DETAILS

**DEPOSIT of \$500.00 per person due on booking with completed booking form to secure your place on this tour - no later than Friday 08 March 2019**  
**FINAL PAYMENT to be paid on or before Wednesday 01 May 2019**

For bookings and enquiries please contact:  
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