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**Seychelles– Sitting Pretty Amongst Top Beach Destinations**

**By Andrew Muigai**

Almost every description of the Seychelles appears to be a bit over the top. Is it only the easily impressed who get to visit and write about the Seychelles? The magic of these islands is however real. Impressions gained of this dream island paradise will be your refuge when you return to those long working hours. Just like everybody imagines paradise, the Seychelles islands are far away, peaceful and stunningly beautiful.

It is the peace and quiet that attracted the writer Somerset Maugham when he sought to work on a novel without interruption. Most visitors do not however come here to work. The main draw of the islands has always been the beaches, snorkeling and diving. The attractions of the natural world particularly the birdlife, tropical fish and the unique physical environment are a bonus.

After your holiday you may want to impress your friends by these two facts. The Seychelles islands are the only mid ocean island group in the world with a granite rock formation. And that Aldabra, a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site is the largest coral atoll in the world. Some will of course not understand what you are talking about but the point will be clear that you have traveled to a place of distinction.

Jacques Costeau whose part of the documentary, The Silent World was shot in the Seychelles said that he had never been anywhere else with such clarity of water or diversity of reef life.

The islands are also a good place to get married and to enjoy the tropical honeymoon of your life. Few other destinations can beat the combination of beauty and romance. For this and other reasons I cannot go through here, It is my firmly held position that visitors who get married here go on to a happy married life are sooner joined by cute little ones!

I have prepared an info pack to assist those who wish to get married in the Seychelles. This includes: legal requirements, what documents to carry, wedding and honeymoon packages and much more. Just Contact us by clicking [here](#) and we will send you the info to you

## Seychelles– Sitting Pretty Amongst Top Beach Destinations

The Seychelles is a year round destination. But if you must undertake a specific activity, then you need to pick the most suitable season. Windsurfing and sailing are best at the start and end of the trade winds – May and October. Diving enthusiasts should go for dates between March and May or September to November, although conditions are excellent year round.

Those keen on the birdlife should note that April marks the beginning of the breeding season. Bird Island, in particular is overrun by sea birds between May and September. Due to drier conditions, the period May to September has best conditions for hiking and walking.

The other factor you may want to consider is cost. The Seychelles is considered to be a top–drawer destination. In general, the peak falls between mid December–early January and mid July–end August when most hotels trade in the currency known as top–dollar. The off–season periods vary with each establishment much more widely than most other destinations.

The discount in designated off–season periods relative to the peak season falls between 20–60%.

Some of the smaller premises however charge a uniform rate year round. We stand ready to advise you on the period and particular hotels that will give best value for a specified grade of accommodation. If you have a flexible schedule, good planning can result in considerable savings.

Andrew Muigai is editor of AfricaPoint Insider online newsletter. It is part of AfricaPoint.com– the Africa travel website that has helped thousands of travelers discover Africa. You can view more info on Seychelles vacation at the site.

<http://www.africapoint.com/tours1/seytour.htm>

### **Seychelles A Trip To Paradise?**

**By Lucy Tucker**

Is a trip to the Seychelles, a trip to paradise, or is it only a marketing ploy.

Let me say this, if you have never been to the Seychelles, then you could be excused for thinking the expression `Seychelles a trip to Paradise' is only a marketing ploy. That is until your aircraft gets close into landing at Mahe. Suddenly if you are sitting by a window you become aware of dramatically intense colors of blue, turquoise, and every color in between, and beyond. It quite makes you catch your breath, and as I can't do now, you simply can't explain the dramatic colors and do them justice. Then when you fly on the short haul to one of the many islands, in my case my first port of call was Praslin, but just flying at quite a low height the colors were even more intense. It was hard to believe that such beauty was possible.

Having been taken to our hotel on Praslin, the first thing we did, even prior to unpacking was to walk on the beach, just to see if the stories we had been told, about the color of the sand and how it felt were true.

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All I can say, is that the sand looked like white talcum powder, and was cool to the touch despite the heat, and our proximity to the equator. This was in dramatic contrast to the rough sand of a European beach which could be so hot as to burn your feet. Also the coral sand was like putty when it was damp, and when we waded into the water, it was like a warm bath.

I have very few other memories of my first trip to Paradise that is the Seychelles, except the beaches, the colors of the sea, and the greens of the landscape. An unhurried pace, which allowed us to totally unwind almost immediately, and the friendliness of the people.

If you haven't been to the Seychelles, you must go, and go now, if you have been, especially to one of the islands, then I hope this reminds you of what it was like, and makes you feel like me, that you can't wait to go back.

Lucy Tucker, just loves being on vacation Check out her articles on the Seychelles at

<http://www.worldwidevacationspots.com/categories/Indian–Ocean–Hideways/Seychelles/>



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