




seychelles  
*experience*



romance...

weddings honeymoons renewal of vows anniversaries



# many couples dream of celebrating their romance in paradise...

Dear Nearly, Newly & Happily Weds!

Welcome to the Seychelles Experience wedding and honeymoon brochure.

I was lucky enough to get married in Seychelles. We chose to travel with Seychelles Experience who put together a gorgeous itinerary for us (our wedding was on Praslin and our honeymoon on Desroches & Mahé), and we came home with a treasure trove of exquisite memories. As holiday romances go, the Seychelles are unsurpassable, and I became entranced with the place, so it is with great joy that I now find myself writing to you as part of the team who introduced us to paradise.

Their passion for the destination is contagious and their extensive knowledge means that they already provide an excellent service – friendly, efficient and thorough. So why do they need me?

Well since our marriage only a short time ago, wedding and honeymoon options in the Seychelles have evolved considerably. There are now even more islands to stay on, a wider range of hotels to marry at (over 30), and a dizzying array of wedding day options. Consequently the team felt they needed a dedicated wedding department to thoroughly research, visit and check out all these delights, and that's where I came in - how lucky am I!

Getting married in Seychelles could not be more straightforward - the tricky part is in making sure that you leave no stone unturned when you plan your trip to ensure that you really do have the wedding and or honeymoon that you both truly desire.

To this end we have taken great care in putting this brochure together and have compiled a comprehensive guide to the numerous options open to you in Seychelles. We hope you find it inspiring and useful. Should you have any queries whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact us, just ask for Litsa.

Happy planning



Litsa Aris  
Wedding & Honeymoon Manager

...but where **exactly** is that?



Here at Seychelles Experience we believe that it lies 7° south of the equator, a necklace of emeralds scattered across the heart of the Indian Ocean...

...fifteen inhabited islands, one hundred more besides, each fringed with silken white beaches.

which is the jewel for you?

Perhaps a dramatic lush granite island - vibrant Mahé, elegant Praslin or rustic La Digue...

...or would you venture further afield and luxuriate in the timeless quietude of the smaller coralline islands - Alphonse, Denis, Bird are but a few to mention...

Couples often choose to combine two or more islands for that exquisite Seychelles Experience they will cherish forever...

**seychelles**  
experience

## your wedding ceremony

However and wherever you choose to make your vows in Seychelles, your civil ceremony will be conducted by a licensed Registrar and you will be bound by UK law, in other words your certificate will be legally recognised in the UK.

Couples will not be queuing for their wedding ceremony

Rest assured that you will not have to share your day as usually even the biggest hotels in Seychelles strictly limit the volume of weddings that they host to ensure that each and every one is special.

Your dedicated wedding co-ordinator will meet with you shortly after you have arrived and settled into your hotel.

Once they know your exact requirements they will be able to organise all the finishing touches for your big day, and ensure that you have everything you might wish for, leaving you both free to just relax in paradise.

English is spoken widely in Seychelles, so there is no risk of confusion over bouquet, make up or ceremony arrangements!

Religious ceremonies are discouraged by Seychelles civil authorities. They require considerable organisation and requests must be submitted 3 months prior to intended date. They are legally recognised when preceded by a civil ceremony.



## your honeymoon

A honeymoon in Seychelles is indeed a brief encounter in paradise. Newly weds have been wise to this for some time now - not that you would know it when you arrive - those beaches in the photos really are that empty! Nor do you have to spend your entire honeymoon lazing on them, tempting though that might be after all the excitement of your wedding - the Seychelles are a wonderful place to share new adventures as well as relax.

To whet your appetites - just turn to the centre of this brochure where you will find a hotel guide to romantic Seychelles locations (for their honeymoon offers please see the enclosed sheet).

For full details regarding hotels that interest you please read through our main brochure or take a look at our website.

## your renewal of vows

Increasingly popular amongst happily weds looking for a second Honeymoon or indeed the one they never had!

Please phone for details on organising renewal of vows ceremonies, where they are possible and current relevant offers.

## your anniversary

Happily weds need not feel left out - there are still a number of hotels that offer you treats and or a discount. Please phone for current Wedding Anniversary offers.



gift voucher service If family or friends need ideas for wedding presents remember to tell them about our 'wedding gift voucher service'. They could either contribute to the trip itself or treat you to any of a wide range of delights be it champagne, spa treatments, scuba training or even a helicopter excursion.

romance...

[www.seychellesUK.com](http://www.seychellesUK.com)

# your paradise location location location

Whether you choose to make your vows in the surroundings of a discreet and elegant luxury resort, spice it up with a traditional Creole ceremony, or keep it tranquil and simple on a secluded beach - you'll be spoilt for choice in this gorgeous destination.

Some couples wish to escape alone, others to take family and friends.

We have a number of special offers available not only for weddings and honeymoons but also for larger group arrangements.



**MAHÉ** The largest and most populated of the islands, Mahé is also the gateway to the Seychelles' archipelago. As well as enabling access to all the other islands, it has a diverse selection of venues at which to tie the knot, with a choice of 65 un-crowded beaches on which romantic couples might frolic!

**Allamanda** Situated on gorgeous Anse Forbans this small, colonial style hotel has a relaxed, hospitable atmosphere, ideal for a romantic Creole style wedding. It has a popular beachside bar featuring a live local band on Sundays.

**Anse Soleil Beachcomber** For an intimate beach wedding in a truly secluded spot, this perfectly placed cluster of rooms tucked away on beautiful Anse Soleil, is enveloped by nothing but lush vegetation - truly off the beaten track.

**Banyan Tree** The uniquely dramatic scalloped coastline of Anse Intendance is the address of this gorgeous venue. Each villa is luxuriously appointed and has a private pool. Both grounds and facilities are exquisite and include a world renowned spa. A signature feature is their à la carte menu of wedding ceremonies. This really is a place for a truly individual wedding in paradise.

**Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Beach Resort** One of the larger and livelier hotels, this resort offers something for all ages so a good option for wedding parties. Extensive motorised water sports available on Beau Vallon beach.

**Chalets d'anse Forbans** Spacious, self-catering chalets make this ideal for larger groups and families as a wedding destination to suit all budgets. Guests are free to use the Allamanda Hotel bar and restaurant, just along Anse Forbans beach.

**Coral Strand Hotel** Large, family friendly relaxed hotel with extensive facilities including an Indian restaurant. A thatched bar on stilts over the ocean is lovely for larger wedding parties.

**Plantation Club** The largest hotel in the Seychelles yet still with plenty of personality, they offer a traditional Creole bungalow for your ceremony location in a picturesque spot.

**The Wharf Hotel** Stylish rooms and suites, conveniently located for the airport, this elegant hotel has much to offer and is a well placed and appointed hotel for family and friends.

**Fisherman's Cove** This infamous resort on Beau Vallon Bay has undergone a modish refurbishment. It is a fresh and stylish choice for a Wedding ceremony. The elegant gazebo poised at the end of the jetty is a dreamy setting for a sunset ceremony.

**Northholme Hotel** This hotel has a long standing reputation for excellent location and service. Reopening this summer with villa accommodation and new spa facilities there is even a state of the art high tech suite named in honour of the hotel's most infamous loyal guest, Ian Fleming.

**Sunset Beach** At the Northernmost tip of Mahé, this delightful hotel has the perfect sunset location. The rooms are as romantically appointed as the hotel is situated - each has a four poster and all face due west. An enticing pool, a sunken bar on stilts, a jewel of a beach - all make this a truly individual and romantic spot to say 'I do'.

**SS Maia** Exciting new five star development in South Mahé on Anse Louise - due to open late spring 2006.

**Cap Lazare** (Ceremony/Reception Venue only) A pristine cove nestled amongst dense tropical vegetation. It is an exotic venue, ideal for larger weddings & particularly useful if you have guests staying in different Mahé hotels. Helicopter pad.

**PRASLIN** Alluded to as the 'original' Garden of Eden, certainly the true home of the sensuous Coco de Mer fruit (see cover picture), this island has much to offer lovers. The second largest of the Seychelles islands, yet with only a small population, the pace of life here is significantly gentler than Mahé, yet Praslin offers everything for a perfect paradise wedding.

Praslin has an inspiring choice of places to visit including the primeval and beautiful Vallée de Mai. Excursions to islands such as Coco, Cousin, the sisters' islands Grand and Petite Soeur and of course La Digue are all possible.

**Acajou** Shrinking violets be warned - a wedding here is always a truly Creole affair! Brides are serenaded, fussed over and generally spoilt rotten! The beautiful mature gardens make this a lush and vibrant, choice.

**Black Parrot** Secluded, tastefully appointed rooms with an enviable panoramic view. All the privacy a romantic couple might wish for with all the benefits of the Coco de Mer facilities and excellent management nearby. No children under 12yrs.

**Coco De Mar** A popular, lively hotel with management so friendly and dedicated that you can be certain you will have a delightful wedding day, tailored to your wishes. Especially good for larger wedding parties, their speciality is Themed Weddings. Honeymoon cruise option as well.

**Cafes Des Arts** This cluster of spacious, creatively appointed rooms are owned by a renowned Seychelles artist. An ideal choice in a lovely tranquil setting if you wish for a serene and unpretentious beach wedding.

**Indian Ocean Lodge** A colonial style lodge with contemporary interiors set in a peaceful location with beautifully maintained gardens.

**La Reserve** Family hotel set in extensive, picturesque grounds with a lovely beach. The hotel catamaran enables a regular itinerary of excursions to other islands such as Coco, St. Pierre and Cousin. Recently renovated with an on site bakery.

**L'Archipel** A friendly, stylish hotel that overlooks a delightful bay on the east coast. The raised terrace makes the most of panoramic views for wedding ceremonies, although the beach is just as appealing. Not recommended for tots or the less sure footed due to layout.

**Paradise Sun** Lovely gardens, delightful old French Colonial style rooms (deluxe with roll top baths) combined with a FREE WEDDING offer make this hotel hard to resist.

**Lemuria Resort** A sophisticated, elegant resort that offers every facility you might require for an idyllic wedding. Just along the coast from Anse Lazio, set itself on a stunning cove, Petit Anse Kerlan starred in the film "Castaway"! Kids love the Turtle Club grown ups love the Guerlain spa!



**LA DIGUE** This, the fourth largest of the Seychelles islands has a reputation for extraordinary beauty that is entirely deserved. The monumentally stunning granite boulders that define the silhouette of Source d'Argent beach are one of the most famous sights in the Seychelles. With bicycles and ox carts still the transport of choice the pace of life is gentler yet than Praslin. All visitors arrive and depart from La Passe jetty – perhaps the busiest spot on the island. Weave through the local fisherman and domino games to reach the bicycle hire area. Within moments you'll find yourself cycling back in time.

**La Digue Lodge** This long standing hotel has a stunning location on Anse Reunion and a choice of ceremony locations that includes the gorgeous beach Anse Source d'Argent. Couple and family orientated accommodation and facilities that offer plenty to see and do.

**Patratran Village** On the North West coast with lovely views over Anse Palate this pretty, peaceful destination offers a romantic setting for your ceremony.

**Gregoire's Apartments** With spacious accommodation and flexible board arrangements these rooms have full access to all La Digue Lodge facilities. Situated above the pizzeria and the main island store. No beach view.

Other wedding properties available - please enquire.

## other islands...

...there are many more Seychelles islands that you might consider.

Please bear in mind that transfer schedules to these are often such that ceremonies can only take place on certain days of the week. Inevitably with these smaller, exclusive, more remote destinations there are extra costs to consider over and above those incurred on more accessible islands. That said it is possible to achieve idyllic castaway intimacy within a realistic budget – to this end we have divided the smaller islands into two groups:-

- Islands that incur limited extra costs such as transfer fares for yourselves, the Registrar, photographer and video. (should you require the latter two).
- Islands that incur further additional costs such as accommodation for the Registrar, photographer and video.



**Anonyme** This small but perfectly formed island just a stone's throw from Mahé has a lovely hotel designed, built and managed by the island's hospitable owners. Couples may choose to marry where they wish on the island. Private boat transfers for guests and wedding personnel. Boat ceremonies and yacht charters available.

**Alphonse** Nearly 400km south west of Mahé, this triangle of coral atoll is as remote a paradise ceremony as you can experience in the Seychelles. Famed for diving, snorkelling and probably the best salt water fly fishing in the world. An exclusive resort with spacious, A frame accommodation.

**Bird** A back to nature experience awaits you on Bird, the most northerly of the Seychelles' inhabited islands. Share your wedding day with only birds, turtles and Esmerelda the most ancient of Seychelles' giant tortoises!

**Cerf L'Habitation** This modern colonial house where once the owner raised her children still has that homely atmosphere. Cerf itself is in a marine park so offers plenty to see and do yet is just a boat ride across from Mahé (the night views are especially compelling). A lovely hotel for a laid back paradise wedding. Private boat transfers for guests and wedding personnel.

**Cerf Marine Park Resort** All the perks of a small island and five star luxury yet only 1km from Mahé. This refined hotel even offers the option of a sunset boat ceremony accompanied by a children's choir! In-room spa treatments and dining, as well as discreetly sited hideaway accommodation, this is a truly intimate, sophisticated choice. No children under 12 yrs.

**Cousine** Essentially an exclusive nature reserve that lies 6km west of Praslin, Cousine has 4 luxury private villas with extensive facilities (each includes jacuzzi and internet connection). Cousine also boasts fantastic collections of wildlife, books and music.

**Desroches** A lovely little castaway island with an elegant lodge that offers stylish yet comfortable accommodation, delicious food, a SCUBA diving school, glass tiled swimming pool, deep and line fishing. Renowned dive sites.

**Félicité** A private island off the coast of La Digue that can accommodate from two to 16 guests – with your own private crewed schooner, team of staff and chef, of course.

**Frégate** A favourite haunt of 'A' list celebrities as well as the rare Magpie Robin, Frégate now has a sumptuous spa to add to its list of exclusive charms. Superb children's activities.

**North Island** A stunning resort on a magnificent island, the star attraction of the recent Thunderbirds movie has transformed itself into an eco-exotic resort of the highest calibre – it made the Condé Nastie Gold list 2004 almost as soon as it opened. All the buildings have been exquisitely crafted from material sourced on the island itself.

**St. Anne Resort** A luxury resort with extensive facilities that include a wellbeing spa and children's club. Situated in the middle of St. Anne Marine Park.

**Taj Denis Island Lodge** Romance at the edge of the world. Luxurious, thoughtfully appointed bungalows, acclaimed cuisine, a farm to supply the produce that doesn't come from the ocean, this little piece of heaven is just perfect for exchanging those vows on.

## your wedding celebrations

We appreciate that your wedding day is a once in a lifetime occasion that deserves and requires considerable thought and planning.

To help you do this we offer you advice based on our first hand knowledge of the hotels, resorts and lodges that we recommend.

To ensure that you have a perfect wedding day, we also provide detailed information about all of the following:-

days ♥ locations ♥ times  
decorations ♥ flowers  
music ♥ photography ♥ video  
transport ♥ excursions  
hair ♥ beauty ♥ spa  
celebration  
refreshments ♥ dinners ♥ breakfasts

## your à la carte choices

### days ♥ locations ♥ times

Most wedding venues offer ceremonies on weekdays but weekend ceremonies can sometimes be arranged. All couples wishing to marry in Seychelles must be resident there for at least three days prior to their ceremony.

If you have a specific date in mind, we recommend that you make your reservations as far ahead as possible. Couples with more flexible wedding date plans can book their trip as near as eight weeks beforehand.

Ceremony days on smaller islands are always subject to plane/helicopter/boat transfer schedules.

It is recommended that your wedding is conducted late afternoon, especially if you are planning a beach ceremony to avoid the hottest part of the day.

To ensure your choice of ceremony location, we advise that you discuss your wishes with us – for example not all hotels offer beach ceremonies, for others it is their speciality.

Some couples wish to embellish their day with additional readings, poems, rituals. If you are interested please phone our wedding manager to discuss where and how you can achieve the complementary ceremony you wish for.

### decorations ♥ flowers

Usually hotels will provide a decorated location, and as the Seychelles are blessed with an inspiring choice of flowers, plants and trees you can be sure that your ceremony location will look delightful. You can let this be a surprise on the day or perhaps indeed you have ideas with regard to colour scheme etc, in which case this should be discussed prior to your trip, to confirm what is possible and where.

With the exception of frangipani and orchids (which are grown locally), bouquet material is imported from South Africa and you will have less choice than back in the UK. Unusual requests for flower arrangements should be discussed before the trip. With sufficient notice many places are able to conjure up all sorts of schemes such as spraying flowers to achieve a particular colour scheme.

Most straightforward requests can be discussed with your co-ordinator on arrival in the resort.

### music ♥ photography ♥ video

The soothing sound of the Ocean, 'your song' playing gently in the background, the lively accompaniment of a Seychellois musician or three, perhaps a children's school choir ...all are options somewhere in Seychelles.

Photographers are not plentiful in Seychelles but those that the hotels do use are very good – the same is true of videographers.

We still advise you to bear in mind that you are not in the UK where we are indeed truly spoilt for quality in these areas.

Please note that it is helpful to book these services at the time of booking your trip.

Photographs and video are available in most formats and should be ready for you to return home with.

Video and photography on some of the smaller islands will also incur transport and possibly accommodation costs.

### transport ♥ excursions

At smaller hotels you will not have far to walk to your ceremony. Larger resorts usually provide golf buggies to deliver you (separately of course!) to your ceremony, looking impeccable.

Afterwards you might like to take a sunset and champagne boat trip, a helicopter ride, or maybe a gentle tour in a decorated ox and cart - the choice is yours!

### hair ♥ beauty ♥ spa

The extent and nature of these facilities varies widely between resorts though generally it is possible to book both a hairdresser and beautician.

There are sublime spa and massage facilities to be experienced in Seychelles. Some even offer a complimentary or special price massage for their wedding couples.



### refreshments ♥ dinners ♥ breakfasts

Most hotels offer sparkling wine, champagne, hot and cold canapés and wedding cakes - 1, 2 or even 3 tiers are possible! In many venues one or some of these are included as part of your wedding package.

Romantic wedding dinners are also often gifts from the hotel for the wedding couple. Seafood and champagne are popular choices as are candlelit beachside sunset settings – couples can usually take this dinner on the eve of their ceremony or on the day itself.

Your hotel will always discuss your wedding dinner menu requirements and options with you. Many will provide personalised menus/place settings on the day that feature your new married names and wedding date! Some hotels offer the possibility of in-room dining. A champagne breakfast in bed is a lovely way to start married life - this is offered in some places as a gift.

Arrangements for larger receptions and dinners vary. Some hotels have a private room, gazebo or beach area especially for such occasions. Always discuss Reception requirements prior to booking.

## legal requirements

### what you need to provide for your wedding

To be eligible for a Seychelles wedding you will both need to present copies (approx 8 weeks prior to travel) and originals ([to travel with you](#)) of the following :-

•Valid 10 year passport •Birth Certificate

*and where applicable:-*

•Divorce or death certificate of former spouse •Change of name by deed poll certificate •Copy of parental consent in the form of an Affidavit if either person is less than 18 years of age

Unlike many overseas wedding trips you will NOT have to waste half a day of your trip getting paperwork signed for your ceremony as between Seychelles Experience and your Hotel Wedding co-ordinator this will all be done for you!

### for your interest

You will of course be bound by UK law but as with all overseas weddings it will be registered in the country it took place. To this end it is worth organising extra copies of your certificate to bring back with you.

### for your honeymoon or anniversary

Always travel with your marriage certificate to ensure eligibility for special offers. Wedding certificates must not be more than 6 months old at the time of Honeymoon travel.

### for your trip

You are required to have a 10 year full British passport, which needs to be valid for at least six months after your return date. You will be required to fill out a visitor's permit, which is issued on arrival and is valid for one month; this can be extended should it be required.

## general information

### health

No vaccinations are required when visiting Seychelles however the Department of Health recommends Typhoid, Tetanus, Polio, and Hepatitis.

Call free phone 0800 555777 for your FREE T6 booklet.

There is no malaria in Seychelles so medication for this is unnecessary, there are however mosquitoes so we do recommend you take repellents and creams. Many hotels provide either electrical or burner repellents in the rooms.

Proximity to the Equator means that the sun is deceptively hot, take plenty of high factor sun creams and of course after sun. Be especially careful on those first days—REMEMBER those wedding photos—and that means grooms too!

### getting around the Seychelles islands

The majority of the islands are serviced by inter island plane transfers. There are several flights per day between Mahé and Praslin whereas schedules for the smaller islands tend to run several times each week. Some islands also/only have a helicopter landing facilities.

The Cat Coco catamaran service operates between Mahé and Praslin twice daily. A schooner ferry service operates between Praslin and La Digue several times a day. Some islands operate private boat transfers for their clients.

### exploring

If you are feeling adventurous there are endless places to explore and plenty of land and water activities to enjoy.

Snorkelling, diving and glass bottom boats will reveal clown, trigger and parrotfish, corals and shells ...and fishing is a popular Seychellois pastime ... you could dine on your own freshly caught Red Snapper, Marlin or Yellow Fin Tuna!

Alternatively just take the time to watch the Indian Ocean from the shore and you'll soon spot turtles, dolphins and manta rays skimming by.

### children

Seychelles are a natural playground just waiting to be explored by intrepid young buccaneers!

As all parents know however, it takes more than that to keep kids happy so you will be pleased to hear that some of the larger hotels offer children's clubs, others can organise babysitting on request. Some hotels relish young guests and make considerable efforts to ensure that they feel welcome and that there stay is good value, often free. Please see our main brochure or website for full details of children's facilities.

A small number of hotels do not permit children to stay. Where this is the case we have noted age limits.

## practical matters

### wedding outfits

Whatever time of the year you choose to marry in Seychelles you can be sure that it will be warm weather. Even in the drier North West monsoon season (Oct-May) there will be some humidity. With all this in mind, we advise that you (both) opt for light weight wedding outfits in natural fabrics.

Wedding outfits can be professionally packaged in special bags by your dress supplier or dry cleaner. All being well, they can then travel in Pearl Class (space & crew permitting) even if you do not!

Most brides will find themselves walking on uneven surfaces at some point of their day - however briefly! We do recommend that heels be on the low side! Wedges and glamorous flip flops really do seem to work best in most Seychelles' locations.

Try out your look well before you travel and ideally get some photos to show to your Seychelles' hairdresser and beautician. Remember that make up and hair products react differently in heat as do skin and hair. Avoid heavy foundations - a tinted moisturiser is often sufficient for most brides (and indeed sunburnt grooms)!

### wedding certificate and copy

Your day might be unforgettable to you both but your certificate is an essential legal document - to this end we always advise that you request a copy as well as the original. We book this at our end but it is essential that you make sure you collect it with your certificate.

### wedding weather

Seychelles has a wonderful year round climate that is enviable but not infallible - as with all tropical places it has tropical rain and no one can guarantee that it won't grace your wedding day - wherever you are in the world. In the event of inclement weather, it is usually possible to change the time or even day of your ceremony should you wish,

Bear this in mind if, for example, you are intending to make a formal wedding date announcement or to get your wedding rings engraved.

### insurance

We strongly recommend that couples take our insurance or a policy with equivalent cover for individual items.



## about us

As a team we pride ourselves on offering a friendly, efficient, informed service organising á la carte, tailor-made itineraries based on...

...your dreams ...your needs ...your budget

Our client's weddings are organised by Litsa Aris, who recently experienced her own wedding and honeymoon in Seychelles.

If you like the sound of a Seychelles Wedding and would like to know more, please feel free to contact Litsa, or indeed any of the rest of the Seychelles Experience team on...

01202 419 219 or [holidays@seychellesUK.com](mailto:holidays@seychellesUK.com)

# seychelles

experience

Supported by:  
Seychelles Tourist Office  
[www.aspureasitgets.com](http://www.aspureasitgets.com)

