

The Seychelles

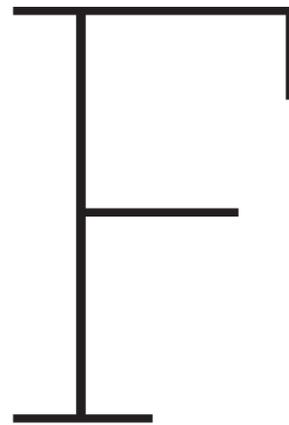
The True Garden of Eden

For those seeking an alternate to the well-beaten path back to the Caribbean after this summer's Med season, the paradise islands of the Indian Ocean have captivated sailors for centuries. Considered by many to be heaven on earth, the Seychelles archipelago lends itself majestically to superyacht cruising... but as we discovered during a recent visit, few venture there.

WORDS & IMAGES: MICHAEL AND FRANCES HOWORTH



Located 15-minutes outside the capital Victoria, Aéroport de la pointe Larue is the base for all inter-island flights and helicopter transfers to luxury island resorts.



For the past decade a passage through the Suez Canal, down the Red Sea and through the Gulf of Aden into the Indian Ocean has not been an attractive proposition for superyacht owners. Pirate activity in the area put yachts and crew at risk, inflated insurance premiums and nobody's idea of a relaxing cruise includes the presence of heavily armed and mustachioed armed ex-Special Forces onboard for protection. In the last year however, the threat from pirates on commercial shipping and private yachts has diminished significantly. From its peak of 176 hijacking attempts in 2011, the presence and efforts of the international Combined Task Force 151 has all but eradicated the threat. In



the first six months of 2013 just three commercial ships were approached in unsuccessful attempts of piracy.

As the countries on the east coast of the Arabian Gulf, including Oman, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain continue to penetrate western commerce with increasing influence, their magnificent new cities become the landmark for measuring luxury and their calendars fill with international sporting and cultural events, the appeal of an Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf winter season grows. Imagine a winter passage plan that includes the Dubai World Cup - the world's richest horse race, the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix, film and art festivals, the Volvo Ocean Race, the Mal-

dives, Sri Lanka and of course the Seychelles. It's certainly an adventurous change and with few yachts doing it, there's little competition for large yacht charter either! In order to investigate the idea further, we hopped over for a reconnaissance trip to The Seychelles to see what's on offer...

Flying low over the Seychelles, looking through the window of a private aircraft it is difficult not to compare them to the cruising grounds of the Eastern Caribbean. It is only when you notice the empty anchorages that you realize that this is an area of the world that the superyacht sector has yet to truly discover. The Seychelles is a naturally attractive destination for any yacht visiting the Indian

Ocean. Located outside the cyclone belt with no risk of contracting malaria, yellow fever, cholera or other common tropical diseases and with a sublime tropical climate, Seychelles offers a carefree, year-round cruising season. Straightforward entry regulations that include a 'no-visa required' immigration policy, make for an uncomplicated, hassle-free stay for superyachts seeking to cruise the area. Occupying more than half a million square miles of territorial water, the Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands, split in to 43 Inner and 72 Outer Islands. The taller granitic Inner Islands cluster around the main island of Mahé and its satellites Praslin and La Digue and they form the cultural and



“God created our islands with sailors in mind... so we make it easy for yachts to visit. No visas for crews or guests are required and minimal bureaucracy makes it easier to come and stay.” Seychelles Minister of Tourism

Lush, verdant and draped in rich rainforest, the Seychelles are not desert islands but a rich ocean paradise.

economic hub of Seychelles. Approximately 40 percent of the land is protected as National Parks, with two UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Aldabra, the world's largest raised coral atoll. The islands are divided into six distinct groups. The first is the 'Inner Island' group of the main islands of Mahé, Praslin, La Digue and the surrounding islands up to a distance of 62 miles (100km). Next is the Amirantes group, 155 miles (250km) south west of Mahé, the Southern Coral group, Alphonse group, Farquhar group and finally the Aldabra group, 685 miles (1100km) from Mahé.

Unlike the many islands in the Caribbean and despite the distances this is just one country, meaning that once a yacht has arrived and cleared in, she is able to roam a wide area of pristine Indian Ocean without hindrance. The nation's capital Victoria, its international airport and the only superyacht ready harbor in the islands, are all to be found on Mahé the largest of the Inner Islands. Measuring 17 miles (28km) long by 5 miles (8km) wide, its backbone is a spectacular mountain range draped in rich rainforest. Its coastline is one of superyacht friendly anchorages fringed with white sand beaches.

QUAY PLAYERS

In fact because the cruising area is so ideal we set off to find out from experts why it might be that so few superyachts are enjoying the facilities. Vicky Farrow is Sales and Marketing Director of TG Radek Masin International Yachts Agents Co. Ltd, the official dealers of both the Ferretti Group and Chris Craft in the Seychelles. She believes that it is only as yachts and their owners become bored by the late night parties in St Barts and the noise and bustle of Sint Maarten that they begin to look at quieter, more secluded and adventurous destinations. She says, “The

Seychelles is for yachts that want to linger without the crowds. When they want to drop anchor in isolation of other yachts they can do it here. When they seek to be at one with Mother Nature they can do it here. I cannot think of a single thing a yacht owner might want to do that he cannot do here in these island.” The islands provide spectacular opportunities for safe swimming, snorkeling, and diving in warm, crystal waters fringing beaches of powder-soft sand, framed by age-old granite boulders and lush palm forests. Whether novice or aficionado, diving here offers a



Interview with Alain St Ange

Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of the Seychelles

Ask any super yacht Captain what it is that prevents them from cruising in the waters of the Indian Ocean and chances are the fear of pirate attacks will be among the top five reasons. If that is so we wanted to know what the facts were and just how safe it was to cruise the waters of the Seychelles. We asked Alain St Ange the Minister of Tourism & Culture in the Government of the Seychelles for his thoughts on Piracy. We were a little taken aback by his immediate response. “I love Pirates!” he exclaimed. “I have done so ever since I was a child! I used to read tales of Blackbeard, Sir Henry Morgan, pieces of eight, gold doubloons and tales of derring-do. In fact, I can remember telling adults that I wanted to become a pirate when I grew up. Pirates are romantic characters and yes much of the culture here in these islands is colored by the romance of hidden pirate treasures and stashes of bullion. In fact Ian Fleming the creator of the James Bond novels came to these islands in 1956 and searched high-and-low for treasure he thought was buried on Frégate Island.” Warming to his subject St Ange continues. “Locals here will have you believe that the ruthless French pirate



Game fishing is a major Seychelles draw with marlin, sailfish and tuna trolling offshore, plus bone-fishing in the flats.

glimpse into a pristine world of astonishing diversity and teeming marine life. Whether diving the granite reefs of the Inner Islands or venturing further afield to the coral reefs of the Outer Islands, the opportunity of the diving experience of your life amid turtles, rays, dolphins and that gentle giant of the seas, the whale shark is ever present. But how difficult is it for an owner or skipper to arrange the passage of his yacht to enjoy these wonders?

Christophe Houareau, is Group General Manager at Hunt, Deltel & Co. Ltd -Seychelles. The family owned business dates back to 1937 and acts as ships agents for visiting yachts, they are also the managing agents for the commercial yacht marina at Eden Island. He believes the reason yachts are not cruising the Seychelles lies not with the islands themselves but with politics. He says, "the sailing corridor to the Caribbean in the winter a trouble free crossing can be easily accomplished inside two weeks with nothing more than routine passage planning. The corridor from the Mediterranean to the Seychelles is either through the Suez Canal the Red Sea, or around the horn of Africa. It is only when yachts get here that they realize the effort is well worth it."

Alastair Maiden is a Director of Seal Superyachts, who also act as ships agent for yachts visiting the Seychelles. He says the islands offer, "An unsurpassable sailing experience

for today's discerning traveller, they remain safe, authentic and are 'another world' entirely." He believes cruising here is "a refreshing departure from the highly processed experiences of more crowded and commercialized destinations," adding, "The Seychelles remains deliciously unplugged and true to its island soul." Controlled development and a lack of exploitation is also reflected in the waters around the islands.

The Seychelles is increasingly being recognized for offering some of the best sport fishing on the planet. Deep-sea fishing is especially popular, delivering one of the best mixed-bags available anywhere and includes yellowfin and dogtooth tuna, wahoo, trevally, streaker, barracuda, sailfish and the mighty marlin. Traditional bottom-fishing or palangrotte promises catches grouper, emperor and bream amongst many other species of bottom-dwelling fish. Seychelles is fast becoming a Mecca for bone-fishing on the flats of its Outer Islands and even off the mainland and the sport is considered to offer some of the best challenges to be found anywhere. Golf is also gaining in popularity with a magnificent championship course on the island of Praslin, plus a nine-hole course on the main island of Mahé. But if you'd rather 'suck it and see' before taking your own yacht, how can you explore the islands?

Sony Parekh is business partner with Radek Masin and with him is also the co-owner of

La Buse stole the Royal Portuguese Golden Cross as it journeyed from India to Portugal. He is said to have buried it on the island, which in those days was a wild, jungle-covered hideaway for buccaneering brigands. In our National Archives we have a somewhat mysterious scroll that purports to be the last will and testament of La Buse. Hanging from the gallows, his last words were reported to have been "Find it for me!" Suddenly however, St Ange's grin switches off; "But the men you talk of are not pirates at all. They do not have parrots on their shoulders or eye patches, they are terrorists and sadly terrorism is rife around the world. It is certainly not confined to the vicinity of our group of islands. The Seychelles is a peaceful fun loving country and we have the situation very firmly under control, there are many local rules regulations and safeguards in place to make sure yachting is safe here in these islands. We work very closely with intelligence forces from countries all over the world. Many of them have men and assets stationed here to deal with sea terrorists, but fortunately we have been free from attack for some time now." The smile is back on his face when he says, "Our islands were created by God with sailors in mind. The diversity of our people makes us welcoming of all who travel here by sea. We are friends of all and enemies of none. We have done our level best to make it easy for yachts to visit. They do not need visas for crews or guests and the internal paperwork and bureaucracy has been greatly reduced to make it easier to come and stay." St Ange has his Tourism ministry hat firmly back on, but the infectious enthusiasm prevails. "We offer sailors a great diversity and above all peace and solitude when you need it. We are not a package holiday destination, we do not wish to become one. That is why you will not find our hotels offering all-inclusive packages. Our islands are a disease free community, they offer yacht owners a secure place to leave their yacht and if they need to bring in funds to operate them there are no restrictions. In fact," he adds with a twinkle in his eye, "If I were the owner of a superyacht I can think of no better place to drop anchor."

The benefits of property investment in the Seychelles includes no capital gains tax, a low fee structure and renewable five-year resident permits for family or co-owners.



View from the pool of one of the Private Residences at the Four Seasons, just nine of the 27 are still available for purchase.

Property Investment

On the two headlands that encapsulate Petite Anse on Mahé there are some 27 Residential Villas that make up a highly exclusive development. Sensitively concealed within the natural rainforest on the cliffs, they are well screened from the Four Seasons resort that occupies the central beach area between them. Nine of the villas currently remain available for purchase, ranging from three to five bedrooms, with a six bedroom villa about to be offered on the market at USD \$12,500,00. This magnificent property has grounds that extend down to the sea and offers the unique potential for a small jetty and possibly a deeper water mooring (subject to the necessary planning, legal requirements and consents being granted). Villa owners have full access to enjoy the facilities of the 67-room Four Seasons Resort Seychelles such as the Spa, fitness center, children's crèche, beach club, non-motorized water sports and a choice of restaurants. For owners wishing to rent their property, their home can be

included in the Four Seasons Rental Program. Elsewhere on Eden Island there are a selection of apartments, villas, and townhouse residences for sale. Each comes with its own boat berth, club membership swimming pool access along with rental pool, holiday letting benefits should you wish to take advantage of them. All the Residential properties mentioned are sold on the basis of a freehold title and in the case of Four Seasons are fully furnished – to include AV systems and operating equipment. In the Seychelles property owners enjoy benefits including no capital gains tax, a low fee structure of 5 percent Stamp Duty and 1.5 percent sanction processing fee – payable on the unfurnished building value – plus the freedom to transfer sales proceeds in full. Owners are also able to take advantage of a 5-year renewable resident's permit, which affords unlimited stays on the island for up to six family members or co-owners, dependent on the villa ownership structure adopted.

Exclusive Yacht Services Ltd, a company dedicated to yacht charter. It provides a wide variety of charter services starting from a simple sunset cruise, day trips or organizing week-long stays on board, always with professional crew. Sony was born in Seychelles and is well known to everybody involved in the local marine industry. An excellent engineer and a great Captain, he is very knowledgeable about the inner and outer islands of Seychelles. Sony also runs a local yacht service and chandlery company to compliment his vast array of local talents. In short, he is a useful guy to befriend.

Tanguy Adriaenssen is the Captain of the 50 meter Codecasa Aldabra a yacht named after the UNESCO World Heritage Site in the outer islands of the archipelago. "Trust me," he says. "The boss gave her that name because the island is one his most favored spots

in the whole world. We have been there and indeed cruised most of these islands many times, not just in this yacht which was launched in 2011 but in other yachts for the same owner." Aldabra was, when we visited the islands, berthed inside Eden Island Marina a dedicated superyacht facility developed in conjunction with the Eden Island luxury residential project. The man-made resort island is located just off the east coast of the main island of Mahé and is linked to the mainland by a 1,000' (300m) bridge.

EDEN AND BEYOND

The marina is owned by Superyacht Services (Seychelles) Ltd, a 50 percent controlled subsidiary of Hunt Deltel, with the company having full management control. The marina can cater to yachts up to 328' (100m). The marina's Bar and Grill, The Boardwalk, and the

nearby Bravo Sports Bar prove popular with both locals and visiting yacht crews. The main islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue provide enticing opportunities to discover the diversity of anchorages in the Seychelles. Guided nature trails through amazing flora or for those seeking to recalibrate mind, body and soul there are a wide choice anchorages adjacent to luxury resorts, spas and wellness centers dotted throughout the islands.

On Mahé, for example there is a bay in the Petit Anse, which is home to the five star Four Seasons resort. This safe deep-water anchorage has much to offer the visiting superyacht. The remote hillside retreat is almost hidden from the anchorage and is very welcoming to yachts that drop anchor in the bay. Slip ashore and use the spa or enjoy dinner in the well appointed Zez restaurant. We not only ate in the restaurant, but also stayed in one



The female fruit of the Coco de Mer (left) is said to possess aphrodisiacal qualities. Alternately, a bottle of the island's rum can achieve the same results.



of the delightful ocean view villas, so can vouch for their luxury standing. The resort itself is perfect spot in which to stay if you do not bring your own yacht. British born General Manager Alex Porteous is the perfect host. From here the other attractions the island has to offer are easily accessible.

Other great anchorages off Mahé include Beau Vallon while vessels fitted with Dynamic Position systems will be delighted to station themselves off the islands of Sainte Anne and Cerf which form part of the Ste Anne Marine Natural Park. Victoria, the charming capital and one of the world's tiniest, is situated on the main island of Mahé. Within walking distance of the port it is a convenient stepping-stone to discovering the charms of authentic island living and the vibrant culture, as well as the attractions of island-hopping.

Here, and indeed elsewhere in the principal islands, you will discover quaint art galleries, craft shops, and picturesque restaurants serving delicious Creole cuisine. If you want the former, head off to Kenwyn House on Francis Rachel Street, if you want the later, then the Marie Antoinette Restaurant is the place to go. We enjoyed side trips to the La Jardin du Roi a magnificent garden open to the public that showcases and explains some of the islands wonderful trees shrubs and flowers. We are slightly embarrassed to report that we also enjoyed a visit to the Takamaka Bay Rum distillery just as much and there was a distinct clink as we hefted our luggage off the caroudele at the airport.

Within the same island group as Mahé, are Curieuse, Praslin, La Digue and Frégate. We visited the last three but Captain Tanguy Adriaenssen of Aldabra says we missed one of his favorite spots, which is an anchorage between Curieuse and Praslin. Each of the islands we visited was a delight and each has its own separate style and individuality. Praslin Island is somewhat quieter, and less developed than Mahé, yet it boasts an exotic



Praslin Island is an exotic paradise of dense vegetation. Almost 100 years ago, General Gordon (of Khartoum) visited this island and became convinced that he had found the original Garden of Eden...

paradise of dense vegetation and lush coconut groves. Almost 100 years ago, General Gordon (of Khartoum) visited this island and became convinced that he had found the original Garden of Eden.

The island is famous for its Vallée de Mai nature park, home to the Coco de Mer. The coconut tree bears fruit that has, over the ages, made it infamous. This is because the female tree bears an enormous coconut shaped like a female pelvis, while the fruit of the male tree is somewhat more phallic. They grow almost exclusively on the island and where discovered in 1743. They can be seen along with the insect-eating pitcher plant, vanilla orchids, and some of the earth's rarest birds: the Seychelles bulbul, fruit pigeon, and the black parrot on the nature trails when walking

through the forest. Now nearly extinct, Coco de Mer require a special license to be removed from the island.

Legend has it that, sailors who first discovered the double coconut floating in the sea thought it resembled a woman's buttocks. This fact is reflected in its old botanical name Lodoicea Callipyge, which roughly translates as "beautiful rump." Because of the erotic shapes, some say the trees make passionate love on stormy nights.

Praslin is also home to the Raffles resort hotel. It is a delightful sister resort to the famous Singapore hotel. Here white powdered sands, opal-hued oceans and lush green hills ring 86 architecturally interesting villas. It is an ideal place to rediscover the luxury of spontaneity. Swim, sunbathe, snorkel, sail,

kayak, walk or just do nothing at all. It is the perfect place to escape the everyday, to explore your senses, and to reconnect with yourself and those you love. Little wonder that under the direction of Marketing Executive Tatyina Polunina the resort has become a mecca for those who want that wonderful wedding on the beach. It is after all the most perfect place to spend a honeymoon.

PARADISE FOUND

We left Praslin from the port of Sainte Anne in the south west of the island and motored across to the island of La Digue. It is a favorite of Captain Vaughan Hill, Master of the super yacht Titania, whose charter marketing is handled by David Price at Hill Robinson. He offers this advice. "I have a secret beach



Frégate Island, described as 'the superyacht that does not move', offers service consummate to that found on the most exclusive of charter yachts.

that I like to recommend, for a spot of privacy. It is on the island's southern shore in one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. There are three bays on the southern shore but the one to the far east is only accessible by boat and only then when the weather is settled."

Sainte Anne island is a steep granite landmass lying just 3.8nm from Praslin. It is a popular, unspoiled destination for people seeking a traditional Seychelles experience. Nowhere else is the water more limpid or the sand so white. The island is named after one of two vessels in a French expedition from Mauritius to explore the islands in 1768.

The quaint jetty at the port of La Passe makes the ideal drop off point for superyacht tenders, but from here the main mode of transport is the bicycle or a traditional oxcart that is also still very much part of the scene and associated with a certain art of living. Its western beach of Anse Source D'Argent is among the most photographed beaches in the world and it is easy to see why, the almost pink colored granite boulders seem to have been sculpted by a divine hand and adorn this beach with breathtaking beauty.

When planning a tour of the island be sure to include a visit to L'Union estate, situated between La Passe and Anse Source D'Argent

on the west coast. There you will have the opportunity to discover some of the traditional industries of the past like vanilla farming and curing, as well as witnessing the production of copra and coconut oil. The nearby yard of the local boat-building industry also deserves a visit, but it will be a while before they can craft a vessel to superyacht build quality!

TREASURED ISLAND

The jewel in the crown of the Seychelles however has to be Frégate Island, a private resort island described as 'the superyacht that does not move'. It's unsurprising really, when you learn that the island is owned by a gentleman



sailor whose own yachts are household names in the yachting sector. Many charter yachts claim to offer six-stars in a bid to distinguish themselves from the world's top hotels. It is not difficult to see why. Superyachts have crew-to-guest ratios that usually far exceed the number of guests she carries, ensuring consummate attention and impeccable service.

Not many hotels can top that level of service, but in the case of Frégate Island Private we may just have found a contender. Lying stationary in position 04°35'19" S and 55°56'55" E, some 30nm east of Mahé, Frégate Island Private is run as an exclusive resort that integrates luxury tourism with the conservation of the natural environment. Just 17 private pool residences means a very small payload of guests and, with an island approximately half a square mile in size, it is very easy to assume you are the only people here. We would describe it as verdant paradise, the likes of which you imagine when you think about Robinson Crusoe or Swiss Family Robinson.

Named by the explorer Lazare Picault after the abundance of frigate birds he found on the island it was purchased by its present owner in 1987. Very slowly and with great attention to the ecology and natural beauty of the island, he has transformed it into one of the finest nature resorts we have ever visited. The island's natural beauty is its greatest attraction. Its topography is covered with Takamaka, Cashew, Coconut, Cinnamon, Cocoplum, Mango, Vanilla, and its support and shade plant Sandragon Trees. Several walking trails have been cut through the jungle to allow the visitor to enjoy them.

The vegetation of Frégate has been significantly altered by man's activities. During the 16th and 17th century pirates are thought to have used the island as a secluded hideout thanks to its plentiful supply of fresh water and food. During the early 1900's the island was used for spice production and copra plantation, causing most of its natural forest to be cleared. When these industries became unviable, the plants were abandoned leaving a landscape of extensive exotic monoculture that had displaced indigenous plant species and reduced the natural habitat for native wildlife. Since then, the vegetation on the island has comprised of exotic plants with patches of native woodland that have either persisted or been replanted.

Despite this, the island has still retained many important plant and animal species endemic to Frégate Island and the Seychelles. The ongoing habitat restoration program on the island makes use of native species propagated in the Frégate Island indigenous tree nursery. The trees themselves are home to over 100 species of birds, of which 12 species are full-time residents that live and breed on the island, while the others are migrants. The island is also home to the rare Seychelles Magpie Robin as well as the relocated Aldabra Giant Tortoises of which over 2,000 roam the island.

The resort comprises of traditional-style villas made from native mahogany and topped with thatched roofs. Each villa has its own private infinity pool, Jacuzzi, cabana and an al fresco dining area. A separate drawing room and hallway ensure accommodation is in keeping with the Master Suite aboard any superyacht. Absolutely everything is taken



Fact File

GETTING THERE

When flying with a carrier it makes sense to fly through the Arabian Gulf. Etihad the airline of Abu Dhabi owns a 40 percent share in the carrier Air Seychelles, so it makes sense to choose them. Connections between the two airlines are well-considered and transfer easy. We flew to Mahé using both airlines and were greatly impressed. The service and food on-board both was impeccable. Travelling Business Class from London Heathrow Etihad's business lounge is adjacent to the departure gate and is among one of the world's finest. An a la Carte menu served freshly prepared food to order. The lounge's Six Senses Spa offers a complimentary 15-minute spa sessions specially created for travelers. Onboard flat-beds made the journey passed quickly. Air Seychelles offer the only opportunity of drinking Seybrew, the national beer of the Seychelles, at 30,000 feet.

GETTING AROUND

Seychelles International Airport or Aéroport de la pointe Larue is the base for all inter-island Air Seychelles flights and helicopter services operated by Zil Air who operate three Eurocopter EC120B, and a twin-engine fixed wing Vulcan air P68C with access to 21 licensed helipads and seven landing strips for guest transfers to and from luxury island resorts.

Frégate Island has its own grass landing strip for light aircraft and handles arriving and departing helicopters from its own helipad. It is a 16-minute flight from Mahé.

CLIMATE

The islands have a tropical climate, enjoying year round daytime temperatures ranging between 75°F (24°C), to 86°F (30°C), with gentle breezes and an average sea temperature of 82°F (28°C). There are two seasonal changes in the weather system - the South East and North West Monsoons. The South East wind is trade like in its nature and occurs from late December until June, and is very reminiscent of weather over the Christmas period in the Eastern Caribbean.

SUPERYACHT AGENTS

Exclusive Yacht Services Ltd
Hunt, Deltel & Co. Ltd
Seal Superyachts
T G Radek Masin



INVICTVS

As an alternate to the Caribbean, the Seychelles takes some beating... especially when you factor in the Maldives and glittering cities of the Arabian Gulf on your winter passage plan.

care of - all you have to do is turn up and flop out. Seven beaches, each with talcum-soft sand, a private butler service, spa, a killer wine cellar, boutique and gallery, library, fitness center, full on audio visual equipment, Jacuzzi, complimentary WiFi and private gardens make for a pleasing inventory of facilities. Like the very best of superyachts "Anything, anytime, anywhere" is the Frégate Island moto but when comparing it with a superyacht we found one thing it lacked! There was no at anchor stabilization. But given that, it's a super yacht that never moves. It does not need to!

- DOCUMENTATION**
- For port clearance upon arrival
 - Certificate of registry
 - Crew list
 - List of weapons and ammunition (Make, Model, Serial No., Quantity)
 - Vessel particulars
 - Insurance papers, valid for the duration of the Vessel's stay in the Seychelles
 - Passenger lists (if applicable)
 - Crew effects declaration
 - Ship stores list (Bonded)
 - IMO Maritime declaration of health
 - Vaccination list
 - Copies of De ratting Certificate
 - List of last 10 ports of call lists
 - Last port Clearance

- PROCEDURES**
- Masters are required to give notice of ETA 72hrs, 48hrs, 24hrs, and 12hrs prior to arrival. Clearance formalities take place in the anchorage prior to entering the marina. Pilots are required inside harbor limits
 - Victoria Harbor Control can be contacted on Channel 12 or 16

- CHARTER YACHTS**
- T G Radek Masin arrange crewed charter aboard craft in their ownership. These include Ferrettis, Mochi Craft and Chris Craft. Sunseeker Charters and The Moorings are also at Eden Island Marina.

- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**
- We are grateful to the Seychelles Tourist Board and Mr G S Burridge for his help with the supply of facts and figures.

- CONTACTS**
- Air Seychelles:** www.airseychelles.com
 - Eden Island:** www.edenlandmarina.com
 - Eden Island Resort:** www.edenland.sc
 - Etihad:** www.etihad.com
 - Exclusive Yacht Services** www.exclusive-yacht-services.com
 - Four Seasons Residential Properties** www.petiteansedevelopments.com
 - Four Seasons Resort** www.fourseasons.com/Seychelles
 - Frégate Island Private** www.fregate.com
 - Hunt, Deltel & Co:** www.hundel.sc
 - Raffles Praslin:** www.raffles.com/praslin
 - Seychelles Tourism:** www.seychelles.com
 - T G Radek Masin:** www.radekmasin.com

- SHIPS STORES AND SUPPLIES AGENTS**
- ISPC** - www.ispc.sc
 - Apex** - www.apex.sc

Suggested Charter

Itinerary taking in islands mentioned in this report

Day 1 - Depart Eden Island Marina and steam to St Anne National Park and relax for day in the Marine national park move to anchor off the Four Seasons Resort in Petit Anse over night.

Day 2 - Use the facilities of the Four Seasons resort as a base and visit the Rum Distillery and the Garden du Roi. Leave time for a spa treatment at the resort and take sunset drinks on the terrace above the spa while watching fruit bats swoop down to tackle an unsuspecting mango.

Day 3 - After early morning use of jet skis and other water sports steam to the 40 miles to Bay St Anne in the South of Praslin. Tender ashore and hire an island guide (Michael Juan-Louis tel: 252 4150). Visit the Valley De Mai and take a drink at the beach front Café des Arts at the Le Duc de Praslin Hotel on the golden sands of Cote d'Or Beach. Anchor off Raffles resort choosing a spot between Praslin and Curieuse Island.

Day 4 - Tender ashore to Curieuse Island, arrange rendezvous diving or simply snorkel the crystal clear waters that are teeming with fish.

Day 5 - La Digue, rent bicycles or charter a bullock cart and tour the island visiting Le Union Estate and the beach at Anse Source D'argent. Anchor over night off the island's southern shore.

Day 6 - Steam to Frégate Island and arrange a shore visit to Island. You will need to arrive before 10am and request transfers, no unauthorized tenders are allowed to enter the marina. Arrange a shore excursion to see the Giant Tortoise and wild life. Ask for the island Ecology manager to take you on a walking trail through the Rain Forest and hike up Mount Signal to watch the sun set. Overnight at anchor off the hotel's own marina and take a private dinner in the resort's very own Yacht Club.
Day 7 Return to Eden Island Marina, perhaps via the resort on Round Island, and dock in time to arrange the short drive to the airport. **■**

