

Aldabra

Aldabra Atoll, the largest in the world, consists of 13 islands which make up about one third of the Seychelles' land mass. Lying 1,115 km (715 miles) southwest of Mahé, Aldabra is a World Heritage Site. It is composed of four main islands: Picard (the site of the Research Station), Polymnie, Malabar and Grande Terre, separated from each other by four large "entrances" to the immense lagoon. Twice a day, with high and low tide, the lagoon fills and empties almost completely and is populated with a multitude of fish, including barracudas and sharks. Wildlife takes priority here with over 150,000 giant land tortoises, the world's largest population.

Organizing a visit to Aldabra is not an easy task. Special permission is required. The maximum number of visitors is limited to 12 people at one time. The island can be reached either by chartering a boat or a small plane.

The airstrip is on Assumption: from there a boat can be chartered to transfer to Aldabra. On a fine day the plane journey from Mahé to Assumption will take about two hours and the boat trip from Assumption to Aldabra will take about two and a half to three hours. A direct trip by boat from Mahé to Aldabra takes a few days.



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