



800 approx. AD • Arab sailors arrive in the Seychelles. Evidence of tombs on Silhouette.

1499 • The Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama discovers the islands during one of his journeys from Cape of Good Hope on the route to the Indies. The Seychelles are drawn into naval charts. **1609** • First appearance of the English on the islands, when two ships of the Company of the Indies anchor off Mahé. Defined the "earthly paradise" because of the abundance of fruits, water and resources of every kind (fish, birds, tortoises). **1685** • For about 100 years the only pirates were occasional guests of the islands, which served as the base for raids and as the hideaway for treasure. Among the most famous pirates was Olivier Lavasseur, called La Buse who, together with the Englishman Taylor, nicknamed the terror of the Indies, captured the "Vierge du Cap", a transport sailing ship that was one of the greatest treasures ever taken in the history of piracy. **1742** • In the name of the King of France, Lazare Picault disembarks in Mahé calling it the "Island of Abundance". He leaves for the Mauritius with 300 tortoises and 600 coconuts. He draws up an enthusiastic report on the islands. **1756** • Captain Murphy lays the "pierre de possession", the stone of possession, now preserved in the Museum of Victoria, in Mahé, declaring it and seven other islands of the archipelago, a French possession. He gives it the name "Seychelles" in honour of Viscount Jean Moreau de Seychelles, Minister of Finance during the reign of Louis XV. The king declares the islands a French Colony. **1770** • First French settlement established on the island of Sainte Anne. **1785** • Viscount Jean Baptiste de Seillac dictates the first regulations for protecting the environment and limiting hunting of tortoises. **1793** • A certain Louis Poirret arrives in the Seychelles. Apparently he is the ten year old son of the deposed King of France, Louis XVI. **1794-1811** • Cav. Quéau de Quirssay, excellent and popular administrator of the islands, surrenders at least seven times to the English, raising the French flag, however, every time they leave. **1804** • The French surrender to the English. The population grows rapidly, the land is given in grants to the settlers. **1833** • With the "Abolition Act" the English prohibit slavery. **1840** • In honour of Queen Victoria, the name Victoria is given to the main city in Mahé. **1875** • The Seychelles become a place of

exile for deposed kings and other powerful people: among them the sultan Abdullah Khan, from Malaysia, and, in recent times, Archbishop Macario from Cyprus. **1903** • The British Government declares the Seychelles an English colony free from the protectorate of Mauritius. **1939** • The colony acquires its own currency (the Rupia). **1948** • After the Second World War, the democratic life of the islands begins with the establishment of Legislative Constitutions. **1967** • First elections with universal suffrage. The people vote against independence and for an association with Great Britain. **1970** • The Seychelles have its own Constitution but remains an English Colony. **1971** • Inauguration of the Int. Airport of Mahé. **1976** • The Seychelles declares independence. James R. Mancham becomes the first president. **1977** • France Albert René establishes the socialist regime. **1981** • A group of mercenaries tries to bring the followers of Mancham, exiled in England, back to power, but the landing fails. **1991** • On 5 December the Single Party in power, the SPPF (Seychelles Peoples Progressive Front), in an Extraordinary Assembly, deliberates the return of multipartyism. **1992** • First elections for the formation of the Constituent Assembly and first referendum for the approval of the Constitution. **1993** • The democratization process is completed with the approval of a new Constitution and with the general elections that see the re-election of President René and formation of a Parliament in which the Opposition, headed by the Rev. Ramkalawan, leader of the "Party Seselwa", carries out its work democratically and freely, protected by the Constitution. **2001** • Anticipated Presidential Election. René is reelected with 54% of the votes but the Opposition led by Ramkalawan gets 45%. **2002** • Anticipated Election for the renewal of the National Assembly. The SPPF Party gets 23 seats, the SNP 11 seats, the other Parties do not reach the "Quorum". **2004** • President René retires. The Vice President, Mr James Alex Michel has become the third President of the Republic of Seychelles. **2006** • Following the Presidential election held in the Republic of Seychelles from 28th to 30th June President James A. Michel has been reelected by a majority of 53,73 % of votes, Wavel Ramkalawan, leader of the Opposition gets 45,71% of votes and Philippe Bouille, Independent Candidate, 0,56% of votes.