

3RD ITINERARY:

The National Marine Park of St Anne

The small archipelago of six granitic islands that faces towards Victoria is the National Marine Park of St Anne. It was the first marine park to be established in 1973 in the Indian Ocean. The best way to appreciate the wonders of its marine floor, which hosts over 150 species of different fish, is to visit it with a glass-bottomed boat. Of course fishing, collecting shells and coral is not permitted. Excursions are organized by the local tourist operators. Short description of the small islands of the St Anne Marine Park:

St Anne

It was named by Lazare Picault, because it was discovered on the feast of St Anne, in 1744. It was the site of the first French settlement. With a surface area of 2 square kilometres, it is completely surrounded by the coral reef, which offers excellent possibilities of under-water immersion and observation.

Moyenne

Privately owned, the island is in the centre of the marine park. Beautiful, its history is rich in legends. A visit to Moyenne is very interesting: the main path wanders through the island, among a succession of beautiful views in rich vegetation, ancient tombs and historical memories.

Ile Ronde (Round island)

It owes its name to its circular shape. It was the site of a leper colony during the last century and has now become a destination for excursions, thanks to the excellent restaurant, Chez Gaby. Its waters are extraordinarily rich in underwater fauna and flora.

Ile Longue

Rich in vegetation, it currently hosts a prison. Access is prohibited.

Ile aux Cerfe (Cerf island)

Frequent destination for excursions, Cerf owes its name to one of the ships of Nicolas Murphey, who took possession of it in 1756.

Superb the coral reef and excellent the beaches.

A path runs through the whole island, inhabited by giant tortoises and bats.

Two restaurants, the Kapok Tree and the Turtle Beach offer tasty typical meals.

Ile Cachee

It is the only uninhabited island of the Marine Park.

