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WHALE WATCHING SEASON - JUNE TO OCTOBER

# REUNION ISLAND

YOUR INFORMATION GUIDE TO OUR ADVENTURE ISLAND

An island of true contrasts, the French department of Reunion is unknown to many of the world's travelers. That's unfortunate! This unique island in the middle of the Indian Ocean is simply one of the most intriguing spots on earth. Not as well-known as nearby Mauritius or the not-so-far-away British Seychelles, little Reunion seems but a speck in the vast ocean, dwarfed by Madagascar, located 500 miles to the west. The French know the island well but only the very well-traveled have ever stepped foot on Reunion's varied and enticing terrain.

With an active volcano on its south coast, 17 miles of warm, welcoming beaches in the west, and lots of mountains and forests in between, Reunion Island offers vacation opportunities ranging from relaxing to truly insane. If you're looking for a place to "chill out", you'll find it here. But if you're the kind of vacationer who prefers an adrenaline rush over a sunburn, the possibilities are endless. From hiking Reunion's unique "cirques" or canyoning the island's many waterfalls to scuba diving or surfing in the clear waters that surround this tiny 30-mile-wide island, adventure activities abound for vacationers hoping to do something a little daring while on their Reunion holiday.



**Book the following properties with us:**

- 3\* Le Battant Des Lames Hotel & Resort
- 3\* Dina Morgabine
- 3\* Le Dina Morgabine Saint Denis
- 3\* Iloha Seaview Hotel
- 3\* Le Saint Pierre
- 4\* Ness By D Ocean
- 4\* Le Saint Alexis
- 4\* La Villa Angelique
- 5\* Palm Hotel
- 5\* Le Blue Margouillat



## TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

**In Reunion, you can relax by the pool, sip on cocktails and be pampered all day, but there are many other adventures to enjoy outside the resorts:**

**Experience incredible scenery on Reunion.** Hire a car and driving around the island. It's a large island so you may want to pace yourself. Drive the Route du Volcan or into the Cirque de Cilaos for some of the most astounding scenery.

**Visit 'Mars' and the smouldering Piton de la Fournaise,** one of the world's most active volcanoes, is a must. The scenery along the way is jaw-droppingly beautiful and on the approach to the volcano, the road takes you through the Plaine des Sables, an area that looks very much like Mars! If you're into volcanoes, do the hike inside an old lava flow of the Piton de la Fournaise.

**Hike in the cirques.** Reunion is famous for its three cirques (Mafate, Cilaos and Salazie), three large calderas formed by the collapse of a shield volcano. Of the three, Mafate is inaccessible by roads, making it ideal for hikers wanting to enjoy the impressive nature in total solitude. There are several villages inside the Cirque de Mafate which are accessible by trails (and helicopters).

**See Reunion from above.** If you enjoy microlight or helicopter flights, it is highly recommend seeing Reunion Island from above. Only then will you be able to truly appreciate its impressive and varied topography. From the volcano to the amazing cirques, verdant forests and elegant waterfalls, this is one experience you won't easily forget!

**Stroll around the towns and their markets,**

St. Denis is the capital and largest town. It's great to stroll around this lovely town – don't forget to check out its beautiful architecture and visit its markets. Another market town to visit is St. Pierre on the south coast, with its lively Saturday market. It's a great place to taste local specialties like Bon Bon Piment and a variety of rum, buy top quality vanilla (Reunion produces some of the best quality vanilla in the world) and pick up some souvenirs.



**Laze at the lagoons.** Most of the island's most beautiful lagoons are found on the west coast between St. Paul and St. Leu. Here you'll find wide expanses of sandy beaches ranging from white to black! The most popular beach areas are around La Saline les Baines – here you'll find a variety of hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and bars, such as at Coco Beach.

**Go canyoning down the Riviere de Roche** from Bassin la Mer to the Bassin la Paix on the northeast coast near the town of St. Benoit. An old lava flow had been carved into a canyon by the river, with astonishing walls on each side, tranquil pools, followed by rapids and waterfalls. It is an incredible experience, jumping off the walls (some up to 12 meters high) into the pool below, tobogganing from one pool to the next or floating down the river.

**Indulge yourself in food and dance.** Reunion presents a fascinating mix of French, African and Asian cultures, resulting in a wide array of delicious food and performing arts. Go on a 'food tour' at one of the markets and indulge yourself in Creole cuisine. If you can, ask around for places to witness stunning performances by a méringue troupe (méringue is a local martial arts dance somewhat similar to capoeira that can be found in Brazil) and the lovely Mahoya dancers. And don't forget to taste some of the island's famous rum!

**Spot street art.** You'll find many vibrant examples of street art throughout Reunion, and especially in the capital, St. Denis. In fact, Jace, one of the most famous street artists, hails from Reunion. It's fun to try and spot his works around the island – his faceless characters are easy to recognise.

**Go whale/dolphin watching.** Reunion is a great place to to experience marine life up close. There are various dolphin-and whale-watching tours but one that stands out is run by Excursia Voyageur Curieux on board Hnoss, an old Norwegian whaling boat. This is an opportunity of a lifetime to join scientists from the Dare Win project as they research the complex communication systems of dolphins and whales.





ON LAND ACTIVITIES	ON WATER ACTIVITIES
Hiking	Canyoning
Mountain biking	Kayak
Horse riding	Body board, long board
Climbing	Snorkling
Via Ferrata	Windsurf
Golf	Deep Sea fishing
4x4 excursions	Glass-bottom boat
Lava Caves visits	Sailing
	Kitesurf
	Rafting
	Scuba Diving
	Dolphin watching
	Whales watching



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