



BEACHCOMBER

Beachcomber Important Information

PRICES IN OUR BROCHURE

As we are tailor-made specialists and do not operate set 7- or 14-day holidays we have not included prices throughout our brochure. We have however, shown indicative prices for our Mauritius hotels which include travel during the low season. These prices include our early booking offer (Book before end of October 2007) and serve as a price comparison between our hotels rather than a definitive holiday price for travel throughout the year. We have also suggested a number of itineraries in Africa, the Seychelles and the Arabian Peninsula and again these serve as an indicative lead-in price for each holiday including international flights. For the most up-to-date price, which is tailor-made to your own holiday plans, please call us or speak to your travel agent.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

British citizens require a full ten-year British passport for the destinations we feature with at least six months' validity remaining by the date of your return from holiday. Visas are required for entry into Kenya (Kenyan visas can be purchased on arrival in Kenya, which is the norm, or before you travel) and for entry into Oman (visas are purchased on arrival). We will update you, if you have booked, when requirements change. However, it is your responsibility to check the latest information in good time before travel. If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, please check with the appropriate Government department of the country to (or through) which you are intending to travel. Please also be careful when it comes to children's passports. Your local Post Office will also be happy to advise. If travelling to South Africa, you will be required to have at least two unused facing pages in your passport. In addition to this, if one parent wants to take their child/children to South Africa without the other parent, then a letter of consent must be written by the non-travelling parent. **IMPORTANT:** We cannot accept responsibility if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry the correct documentation. If failure to do so results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalties being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us.

TICKETS & DOCUMENTATION

It is important that you check your invoice, tickets (particularly that names and initials are correct and match your passport details) and all other documentation carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information appears to be incorrect or missing. After we have received your payment, and approximately two weeks prior to departure, you will be sent your travel documentation. Remember, you must check in approximately 2 to 3 hours before take-off for most flights, particularly in light of the heightened security checks at airports. Airlines will often allocate seats on a first come first served basis: we advise you to check in as early as possible, so that if you are travelling in a party, you are less likely to be separated. Please check your flight times carefully on your ticket, as these are subject to change and may well vary from those on the confirmation invoice. Please note: all tickets issued are non-changeable and non-refundable.

PRE-SEATING ON AIRCRAFT

Clients booked in most premium classes and limited economy classes can still be pre-assigned seating, however, the seating available will be limited and, once this limit is reached, airlines will only allocate seats at check-in and this cannot be overridden. Please note, however, that pre-assigned seats cannot be guaranteed and do not constitute a term of your contract with us. All airlines operate a no smoking policy on their aircraft.

SEASONS AND OTHER GUESTS

Most of the countries we feature do have an 'off peak' season. During this period, you will often benefit from excellent prices and, especially on safari, enjoy great game viewing from lodges and camps that have few other guests. The properties we feature may take this quiet period to withdraw a few facilities: for example, a pool for cleaning or renovation, or the temporary closure of a restaurant. It is not possible to notify you of these changes before you travel and we cannot accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused. Occasionally the hotels will accept groups over which we have no control. During your stay, they may take over a restaurant for an event. Under these circumstances, the hotel will ensure there is adequate alternative dining choice and will notify you during your stay. It is not possible to notify you of these changes before you travel and

we cannot accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused by such groups and their activity.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

No vaccinations are required for Mauritius, the Seychelles, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman or Southern Africa. You will require a yellow fever vaccination certificate for Kenya. Malaria is prevalent in many parts of Africa and malaria tablets will be required. There are, however, a number of safari areas in South Africa which are malaria-free. However, it is your responsibility to comply with any health requirements such as vaccinations. These requirements do change, therefore it is wise to consult your doctor at your earliest opportunity. We recommend that you obtain a copy of the Department of Health leaflet 'Advice on Health for Travellers' available from your ABTA travel agent or the Department of Health. If you have a medical condition or if you are pregnant, then you must get clearance to travel from your own doctor. Pregnant passengers are not accepted by most airlines after 28 weeks of gestation.

CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The £ sterling, Euro € and US \$ are all widely exchanged, and most major credit cards are accepted for payment of hotel accounts. Please note, in the Seychelles your extras accounts are required to be settled in a foreign currency such as £ sterling or US \$ or by credit card. It is not advisable to purchase Seychelles rupees before you travel, as they are rarely required in the islands.

HOTEL CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT

Check-in is normally 3pm and check-out by 11am. Some hotels will try to accommodate early arrivals and late departures. However, in order to guarantee early check-in or a day room on departure, we can reserve the accommodation at a supplement beforehand. This is especially true in Mauritius, Seychelles, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman, where you may arrive very early in the morning or depart very late at night.

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Each country has its own star rating system for its hotels. Some ratings are even a decision made by the hotel management! We therefore do not mention star ratings in our brochure or website but try to describe the hotels accurately through words and pictures. Star ratings



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promoted in any other brochure or website are therefore not our responsibility. For the record, our website is www.beachcombertours.co.uk

Accommodation in the tropics does bring with it the local wildlife. Insects, reptiles, small mammals and rodents may be a feature, but in no way does this imply that the accommodation is unhygienic. They are simply a fact of life in these destinations.

SPORTS

It is your responsibility to satisfy yourself as to applicable insurance (if any) and local laws, particularly for water sports, and activities are generally at your own risk. Please be aware, if you wish to take part in scuba-diving you may be required to show a doctor's certificate to confirm medical fitness. If you are a particularly keen diver, it is always a good idea to have this certificate with you. It is also important to check children's ages for scuba-diving before you depart. Water sports service may vary during the year depending on the weather conditions and tides. Please ensure you wear appropriate attire for all sports, particularly footwear. Please also bear in mind that any sporting equipment you intend to take will form part of your luggage allowance, although some airlines may exclude sporting goods from your luggage allowance. Please ask for full details when booking. In the Seychelles, there are luggage restrictions of 10 to 15kg per person on most island-hopping flights. Scuba-divers taking their own gear will need to pack carefully, as in some cases when travelling in small aircraft, excess luggage is not allowed. Motorised water sports are prohibited at Sainte Anne Resort in the Seychelles.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special request must be advised in writing if it was not already stated on your original booking form. We will make every reasonable effort to make the arrangements. We do not have any legal liability whatsoever to you in the event of non-compliance. We regret we cannot accept any conditional booking (i.e. any booking that is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request).

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

As a guide, 20kg in Economy Class, 30kg in Business Class and 40kg in First Class are the allowances for international flights from the UK to the Indian Ocean, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman and

Africa. However, we recommend you confirm with the airline directly before you fly. Excess baggage is charged at the airline's own rates.

Internal flights between individual islands within the Seychelles are limited to 10 to 15kg. Sainte Anne Resort will store your luggage if you are planning to return to the hotel before you leave the country. Please note, there are strict restrictions on the size and weight of luggage allowed on helicopter transfers. This is particularly the case in Mauritius, where baggage will be transferred by road at an additional cost, which may be payable locally. Please ask for full details when booking.

To ensure you get the most out of your time on safari, particularly in Botswana, Namibia and Kenya, we believe the best way to travel is by private light aircraft. On all these flights, there is a strict maximum luggage allowance of 20kg for Botswana, 15kg for Kenya and 12kg for Namibia, packed in a soft bag. We can arrange to store excess luggage and forward this on for you at an additional cost. Please ask for details when booking. Please note, if you are planning to get married abroad, due to carry-on baggage restrictions, airlines cannot guarantee that you will be able to take your wedding dress on board. We recommend, therefore, that you ask the dressmaker to pack the dress in a travelling box or a hard-sided suitcase.

WEATHER & PUBLIC UTILITIES

Temperatures are a guide only, and may fluctuate throughout the seasons. '0' in the average rainfall guides represents rainfall of less than half an inch or no rain at all.

Public utilities, such as water and electricity, are taken for granted in Britain, but on tropical islands and in less developed countries there may be hiccups in the supply. With worldwide weather becoming more erratic and harder to predict, we cannot be held responsible for a disruption to your holiday due to bad weather. The weather in Mauritius between June and September can be fairly changeable with some cloud cover, and it is important to note that, although Mauritius is a year-round destination, it can be chilly in the evenings and windy, with potential persistent rainfall at times during this period. Cyclones occur occasionally in Mauritius (usually in January and February), which may

result in a couple of days of heavy rain and winds, but of course these cannot be predicted. However, at this time of year, the weather is still generally hot with prevalent sunshine. The Seychelles experience two trade winds. The South East Trade Winds are prevalent from May to September when it will be drier, breezier, and slightly cooler than during the remainder of the year. This also means that between May and August currents are stronger, often bringing sea grass onto some of the beaches. The North West Trade Winds are prevalent from October to April. This is a much calmer breeze, which results in increased humidity and calmer seas. Higher rainfall occurs during this time of year. As tropical islands are close to the equator, the Seychelles experience quite a lot of rain at all times of the year, but this mostly occurs in brief showers followed again by tropical sunshine. In Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman, sunshine is virtually guaranteed all year round and rainfall is an absolute rarity. The best temperatures are between October and April whilst during the remainder of the year the heat can soar.

With the size of the area we cover in Africa, weather patterns are difficult to generalise. On the whole, though, Southern Africa enjoys wet summers, October to April, and dry winters, June to September. Cape Town however is unique with dry summers, October to April and wet and windy winters, June to August. Kenya has two rainy seasons, generally April to June and again in November. The beaches in Kenya can also be affected by seaweed from May to October.

Wherever you travel, please ensure you take the necessary precautions to protect yourself from the harmful effects of the sun.

CLOTHING

As the weather is generally warm all year round in the destinations we feature, cool lightweight clothing is recommended. If travelling to Mauritius between June and August, it is well worth taking some warmer clothing with you for the evening. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman are Muslim countries and visitors are requested to respect the religion and culture. Swimwear is for the beach and pools only. Ladies should not wear bikini tops in public areas and shoulders should be covered. If on safari, neutral colours are best, and during the cooler winter months it does get cold in the evenings and early



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mornings, so it is recommended that you pack some warm clothing. Most of our hotels operate an elegantly casual approach to dining in the evening, with gentlemen requested to wear long trousers and collared shirts, and jeans are not acceptable in some restaurants. However, you do need to appreciate that some nationalities' interpretation of 'elegantly casual' may differ from the British point of view.

SAFETY FEATURES

Please note, we cannot guarantee lifeguards are on duty at the swimming pools at all times. Some do have a sign indicating this and that swimming is at your own risk. Please be cautious, particularly with children. The depth and design of hotel pools vary. We suggest in all cases that you familiarise yourself with each pool, particularly prior to any diving. We also advise extra care when staying in accommodation with private pools. This can be very dangerous for young children, even when not supervised for a split second. The government offers advice on safety on Ceefax BBC2 (page 470 onwards) or on the Internet: www.fco.gov.uk When our hotels provide cots for infants, it is suggested that parents satisfy themselves with the safety features prior to use, and particular caution should be exercised with regard to room facilities.

DISABLED CUSTOMERS

No two people's needs are the same, and we therefore ask you to let us know your specific requirements at the time of booking. Confirmation in writing for clarification will also be required. Due to the differing nature of our hotels, facilities vary, including ramps for wheelchairs, lifts, access to restaurants, access to the beach, etc. Please note the hotel fact boxes on each page for details of any rooms that have been specifically converted for disabled customers. Regrettably, many of the Seychelles hotels – with the exception of Sainte Anne Resort – do not offer comprehensive disabled facilities or rooms. We also have a comprehensive manual for reference on each of the hotels if you require further information, and we are happy to advise accordingly to ensure full enjoyment of our facilities.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

The Company is a member of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA V1892). It also holds

an Air Travel Organisers Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL 2995). This means that your money will be refunded, or you will be repatriated if already abroad, in the unlikely event that your holiday cannot be provided due to the company's insolvency.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This brochure must be used in conjunction with our terms and conditions found in our brochure insert and it is important to note that a contract will exist between us from the date we issue a final confirmation invoice. This important information may also be updated from time to time on our website www.beachcombertours.co.uk/importantinformation If you would like to receive the latest copy in the post, please let us know. All information in the brochure was correct at time of going to print and may change outside of our control.

This brochure is valid for holidays travelling between 01 November 2007 & 19 December 2008. If you make a booking from this brochure for travel outside of these dates it is your responsibility that you check and are satisfied with any changes in standards and facilities supplied on your holiday in subsequent brochures/website updates. Beachcomber can not be held responsible for changes in facilities for beyond 19 December 2008.

ADDITIONAL MAURITIUS INFORMATION

BEACHCOMBER REPRESENTATIVES IN MAURITIUS

We have Beachcomber representatives in Mauritius who are there to look after you and help out straight away if you have any problems or queries. They can also suggest things to do and places to visit outside your resort.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The variety of choice provided by Beachcomber ensures that we have a resort that will suit your requirements. Should you discover that the resort you have chosen is not what you had anticipated, we shall be happy to arrange your transfer to another Beachcomber resort (subject to availability) against payment of any additional costs for the transfers and any difference in the cost of accommodation. The room layouts throughout this brochure are for guide only and not to scale. Rooms do vary slightly – even within the same room category – including

layout and size. We do not accept responsibility for any variances to what is shown.

Day rooms: All our hotels have well-equipped Departure Day rooms with showers, etc. for your complimentary use. However, if you wish to guarantee an early check-in or late departure, a supplement can be paid prior to your departure from the UK.

Room service: Available at all hotels. However, timings vary as follows. All rooms have a mini bar.

- Sainte Anne Resort: 6.30am - 11.00pm*
- Royal Palm: 24 hours
- Dinarobin: 6.30am - 11.30pm*
- Paradis: 6.30am - 11.30pm*
- Shandrani: 6.30am - 11.00pm*
- Trou Aux Biches: 7am - 7pm*
- Le Victoria: 7am - 11pm*
- Le Canonier: 7am - 7pm
- Le Mauricia: 7am - 7pm

* Denotes hotels that offer complimentary tea and coffee facilities in the room. Times may vary without notice.

HELICOPTER TRANSFERS

There are strict restrictions on the size and weight of luggage allowance on helicopter transfers in Mauritius. Baggage will be transferred by road at an additional cost which may be payable locally. Please ask for full details when booking.

ADDITIONAL SEYCHELLES INFORMATION

The currency is the Seychelles rupee. However, settlement of bills in hotels must be made in foreign currency. The £ sterling, Euro € and US \$ are widely accepted. It is not advisable to purchase rupees before you travel, as they are rarely required in the islands.

SEA GRASS

During certain times of the year some of the Seychelles beaches get covered in sea grass and hence the swimming from these beaches is not ideal. However, many of the islands have alternative beaches for guests to enjoy.

CUISINE

Local Creole cooking and seafood are specialities. Good quality restaurants are rare and the best restaurants are found in the top hotels.



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ISLAND TIME

Experience a slower pace of life. Whilst things get done in the Seychelles, nothing happens immediately – it's one of the reasons that the islands are so relaxing.

ADDITIONAL DUBAI, ABU DHABI AND OMAN INFORMATION

RAMADAN

Ramadan is celebrated annually in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman, and for 2007 it runs from the 13th September for a month. For 2008, it is around the 6th September. During Ramadan, it is important to note that all Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Eating, drinking and smoking in public areas, as well as live entertainment during this time, is generally prohibited for all. All our featured hotels make special arrangements for their guests, including specific restaurants which will be open all day. Alcohol is served from 7pm onwards only. In Oman no alcohol is served at any time during Ramadan, although things are changing as we go to press, so ask for the latest information when you book.

CLOTHING

Air-conditioning in some restaurants can be a little ferocious so take something warm to put over your shoulders just in case. In public areas, please respect the local religion and cover up swimwear when appropriate.

SPORTS

Non-motorised water sports are available at all the beach hotels. Motorised water sports are available at an extra cost. Golf tee times and any excursions can be pre-booked from the UK to avoid disappointment. If you would like to book these while in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman, please contact our ground handlers or the concierge of the hotel.

The Dune Safari Drive is not for the faint-hearted. The 4x4 vehicles are used to their maximum, and if you suffer from anything such as a bad back, or are pregnant, this is not recommended.

BUILDING WORKS

Extensive hotel and leisure infrastructure developments are underway in Dubai and some of our other destinations, including the amazing Palm Island developments off Jumeirah Beach

and Jebel Ali, the Dubai Marina and numerous new apartment blocks, shopping malls and office parks. It's a reality that wherever you are in Dubai, and at some of our other destinations, construction will be visible, and in some cases heard, as the Emirates continues to develop on its reputation for a bold and innovative approach in creating architectural wonders, and for its cutting edge infrastructure, architecture and design. It is, however, recognised that any unavoidable disruption is to be kept to a minimum, and all the hotels make every effort to ensure that guests have an enjoyable holiday. The developments are not under Beachcomber's control, nor are Beachcomber always made aware of them in advance. The building works and potential disruption change monthly and can be very different from the time of booking to your date of departure. If you are in any doubt about the work near your hotel, please keep in touch with us regularly and we will keep you updated accordingly.

ADDITIONAL AFRICA INFORMATION

TRAVEL IN AFRICA

We have made every effort to ensure that your holiday is thoroughly enjoyable and safe. Each style of accommodation has been inspected to ensure your utmost safety and comfort. The guides in the lodges and camps are qualified professionals and when on safari they should be taken seriously at all times. On safari, close contact with wild animals is a rewarding experience but can be regarded as having an inherent danger.

In making a booking, you acknowledge that there is a limit to the precautions that we can take against such risk. Activities at the safari lodges and camps are dependent on local conditions and may change to ensure guests' safety and enjoyment. It is also important to note that waterholes and pans can be seasonal.

Unfortunately, we cannot always advise you of these changes in advance. If travelling to Zambia, we will require your passport details before you travel. This helps us ensure your entry into the country goes as smoothly as possible.

If travelling to South Africa, you will be required to have at least two unused facing pages in your passport.

CAR HIRE

We highly recommend air-conditioned vehicles when driving through South Africa and will in fact only quote an air-conditioned car. We also include insurance cover. Please ask for details when booking. In South Africa, it is illegal to park facing oncoming traffic, and fuel stations do not accept credit cards as a form of payment. They will only accept cash. Remember that distances in Africa are much farther than at home, and fuel stations may be some distance apart, so always plan your journey in advance.

CITY SAFETY

As with all major cities, caution should be taken. Try not to make yourself an obvious tourist, and it is worth not carrying valuables with you. Ask your hotel reception before going out exploring, as they will be able to give you the latest and most accurate information on when and where not to go.

CAMERAS AND FILM

Photographs, especially safari shots, are an excellent reminder of your holiday in Southern Africa. Although quality film can often be purchased in cities, you may not be able to buy it at game lodges. Please ensure that you bring ample camera or video film supplies for your entire trip. If you have a video camera, it is worth bringing along a spare battery to charge whilst you are out on safari.

PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SAFARI

In a number of our safari lodges we can organise a private guide and vehicle. Please ask for details.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES

Air transfers to game parks are in light aircraft, and passengers' baggage allowance is strictly limited to 20kg in Botswana, 15kg in Kenya and 12kg in Namibia (soft bags are best). Excess baggage can be stored for you or forwarded at an additional cost.

CURRENCY

South Africa – rand (divided into 100 cents).
Zimbabwe – dollar (divided into 100 cents).
Botswana – pula (divided into 100 thebe).
Namibia – dollar (divided into 100 cents).
Kenya – shilling (divided into 100 cents).