



**THE ULTIMATE  
IN NATURAL  
BEAUTY.**

LE PROGRAMME D'ACTIONS FEDER 2020 DE L'ILE DE LA REUNION TOURISME EST CORDONNE PAR L'UNION EUROPEENNE ET LA REGION REUNION. © Olivier Cozzani

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**LA RÉUNION**  
THE ULTIMATE ISLAND





## RÉUNION ISLAND, THE ULTIMATE ISLAND

Reunion Island is part of the Mascarenhas Archipelago, in the south-west of the Indian Ocean and is a land of mixed cultures that is both spectacular and bewitching.

Reunion Island is an exotic, grandiose, vibrant, relaxing and preserved land, with majestic landscapes, an authentic culture, a unique approach to living together as one and flavoursome local cuisine.

Reunion Island is a one-of-a-kind island: you can swim with whales, relax and unwind at the heart of a UNESCO world heritage site, feel enchanted by the sheer power of the volcano and discover Creole culture and the benefits of a place where everyone lives together in harmony.






On Reunion Island, the elements come together: water, earth, fire and air, inviting the traveller to take part in a unique adventure at the heart of the Indian Ocean.



THE ULTIMATE IN NATURE



## TOP 5 EXPERIENCES ON RÉUNION ISLAND

-  Dolphin and humpback whales encounter
-  Horse ride at sunset in the savannah to escape reality
-  Explore the lava tubes of the Piton de la Fournaise, one of the most active volcanos in the world.
-  Admire a superb sunrise at the Piton des Neiges, peak of the Indian Ocean
-  Catch a glimpse of the milky way in the island's highlands

## TOP 5 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ON RÉUNION ISLAND

-  Trail running and hiking on the 900km of marked trails across the island
-  Paragliding to explore the landscapes from the sky
-  Deep-sea diving to discover the 3,500 underwater fauna and flora species
-  Canyoning down the island's ravines
-  Transparent kayak at sunset in the lagoon

## THE WHALES JOURNEY

During the austral winter, after a long journey all the way from the Antarctic, humpback whales arrive on the coasts of Reunion Island every year, choosing the warm waters of the Indian Ocean to bring their offspring into the world. Nature lovers flock to catch a glimpse of the incredible show put on by these giants of the seas, and some of the lucky ones are even treated to an unforgettable encounter with one of these creatures, at the heart of the Indian Ocean. So that the activity of whale watching can be developed in a sustainable way and to ensure the well-being of these animals, a set of rules to respect when approaching whales was established in 2010, and modified in 2017 for the World Humpback Whale Congress that was held in Saint-Leu. The Reunion Region is currently aiming to get the "Route des Baleines" on UNESCO's World Heritage list.



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

-  Surface area: an island covering 2,512 km<sup>2</sup>
-  4 airlines fly to Reunion Island : 11-hour direct flight from Paris  
AIRFRANCE / CORSAIR / Frenchbee / AIR AUSTRAL
-  Reunion Island is on GMT+4: not a big-time difference compared to mainland France; 3 hours difference in winter and 2 hours in summer.
-  2 seasons are reversed compared to the Northern hemisphere:  
Austral summer: November to April, the average temperature is 30°C.  
Austral winter: May to October, the average temperature is 23°C.
-  40% of the territory is listed as world heritage by UNESCO (the pitons, cirques and ramparts).
-  The Piton des Neiges is the highest point of the Indian Ocean, with a peak of 3,069m.
-  The Piton de la Fournaise is one of the most active volcanos in the world, with 5 eruptions in 2019.
-  It is possible to dive with whales during the austral winter season.

## Intensely bewitching

### UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Since 2010, the pitons, cirques and ramparts of Reunion Island have been on the list of natural places classified as world heritage sites by UNESCO, bringing exceptional universal value to these superb places. More than 40% of the Reunion Island territory is listed as World Heritage. This jewel of the Indian Ocean has around 200 microclimates making it the ideal habitat for an incredibly diverse ecosystem: almost 3,000 native plant species have been recorded here and amongst the, 230 flora species are unique in the world!

## Intensely preserved

### MAFATE: AN ECOTOURISM LABORATORY

Accessible only on foot or by helicopter, this extraordinarily preserved site offers a range of jaw-dropping landscapes within a UNESCO World Heritage site.

To make sure the Cirque remains a preserved environment and to ensure the protection of the local people and culture, tourism here is limited and sustainable and responsible practices are encouraged.

Clean energy is used, waste management practices are implemented, environmental pollution is limited, the biodiversity is preserved, local production and consumption are encouraged and a culture of disconnection and sharing make the Cirque of Mafate a reference in terms of ecotourism.

## Intensely volcanic

### A UNIQUE TERRITORY

The highest volcano of France is in La Réunion: The Piton des Neiges, culminating at 3069 meters above the sea level and is also the rooftop of the Indian Ocean! Now dormant this volcano created La Réunion. Since largely eroded, Piton des Neiges and its surroundings offer unique mountainous relief, recognized by UNESCO.

With 5 eruptions in 2019, the Piton de la Fournaise is one of the most active volcanos in the world. Every time, locals and visitors can enjoy a breath-taking spectacle. The fountains and flows of liquid lava of this active volcano cascade down the basalt-rich slopes and sometimes even into the Indian Ocean. Before reaching the volcano, you will cross the Plaine des Sables and the landscapes that will make you feel like you've landed on planet Mars.

To fully live the volcanic experience, literally get inside La Réunion and explore the lava tunnels, created by the previous eruptions.

## Intensely revitalising

### IN HARMONY WITH THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE

Reunion Island is an oasis of wellness. Between sea and sky, the intense island is an invitation to be at one with Mother Nature. The swishing of the palm trees, the soft, warm sand between your toes, the spicy scents, the tasty exotic dishes, the magical volcano or peaks, cirques and ramparts classified World Heritage sites by Unesco: Reunion Island will awaken all your senses. Let the mysterious atmosphere of Bélouve Primary Forest bewitch you, enjoy the invigorating qualities of the white waters and relax and unwind to the sound of the gushing waterfalls, surrounded by a lush natural environment... Moments of pure and utter relaxation await you: just breathe in and breathe out, you are on Reunion Island!

## Intensely authentic

### THE RÉUNION APPROACH TO LIVING TOGETHER AS ONE

Reunion Island is a melting pot of European, Malgache, Indian, Asian and African civilisations, making it a place where everyone lives together as one. The population of the intense island is particularly mixed and the sheer diversity found here is unparalleled. The same applies to the traditional music that is a key part of everyday life. The rhythm of Maloya, classified as intangible world heritage by UNESCO, magically adapts to any state of mind, just listen and let the music carry you away! Go and discover the cultural heritage sites of the island, the temples, traditions and monuments. The events' calendar of Reunion Island is endless.

