

Africa

réunion island private with trisha dixon and fiona brockhoff









trip highlights

- Spectacular walking in the regions of Cilaos and Mafate Cirques
- Ascend the highest peak on the island, Le Piton des Neiges (3070m)
- Explore one of the most accessible and active volcanoes in the world, Le Piton de la Fournaise (2354m)
- Sample Creole cuisine and culture
- Discover rugged mountain scenery and lush forests
- Explore the Le Jardin d'Eden Botanic Garden
- Relax in the lovely seaside town of La Saline les Bains
- Trip escorted by Trisha Dixon & Fiona Brockhoff
- Final night at the luxury hotel, LUX* St Gilles



Trip Duration	12 days	**Trip Code:** SOG5076
Grade	Introductory to Moderate	
Activities	Trekking	
Summary	12 day trip, 5 day trek, 7 nights hotel, 4 nights gite/homestay	

welcome to World Expeditions

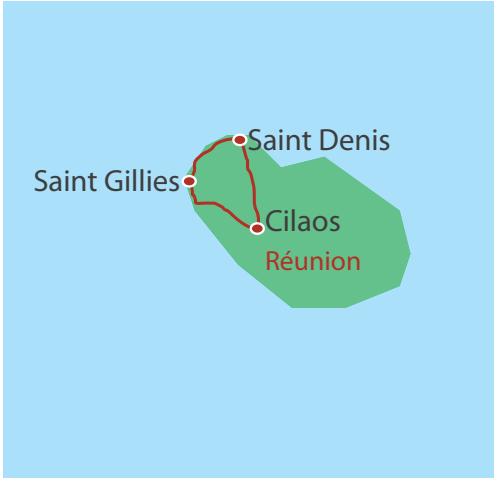
Thank you for your interest in our Réunion Island Private with Trisha Dixon and Fiona Brockhoff trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. Whether you like your adventures to include trekking, touring, cycling, mountaineering, kayaking or cruising World Expeditions can make it happen for you. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!!

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to remote and challenging destinations, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail and seamless operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable experience. Every trip is accompanied by an experienced local leader, as well as support staff that share a passion for the region, and a desire to share it with you. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics. Most importantly, our adventures always aim to benefit the local people we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime.

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trip cost

Joining Saint-Denis:	$5590

All prices are per person

options & supplements

World Expeditions will endeavour to arrange for single travellers to share accommodation with another participant of the same gender, however if we can not match you up a single supplement will be applicable. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

For competitive airfares and stopover ideas to join this adventure, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

just4u **Want a private trip?**

Book this trip as a private departure just for you and your group on your chosen date. Contact us for conditions, costs and availability.

the trip

Join Trisha Dixon and Fiona Brockhoff on an extraordinary trip to Réunion Island. Réunion is part of the Mascarene islands; a small archipelago of volcanic islands in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa. Unlike its closest neighbour Mauritius, with its beautiful beaches, Réunion cannot boast the same, but what it lacks at sea level it more than makes up for in its wildly dramatic mountainous interior. The volcanic mountains and gorges offer a spate of trekking possibilities so if you have enjoyed Nepal or New Zealand, you will also enjoy Réunion, which has similar high quality trekking but with a tropical twist. This trek consists of two major cirques, Cilaos and Mafate, with an opportunity to ascend the highest peak on the island - Le Piton des Neiges at 3070 metres, and to explore one of the most accessible and active volcanoes in the world - Le Piton de la Fournaise. Our trekking route reveals a virtually undisturbed wilderness with sunken peaks and scarps surrounded by steep lush walls of vines, figs and palms with a cluster of mountains that rise to almost 2700 metres. With some luck we should spot Papangue (local hawks), white-tailed tropic birds, panther and chameleon completing this superb back to nature experience. In the company of Trisha and Fiona, this is set to be a fantastic trip. We hope you can join us.

about your leader/escort

FIONA BROCKHOFF

After completing landscape design studies, Fiona gained experience with various landscape designers, worked on re-vegetation projects and designed country gardens, giving her a real insight into unique ecosystems and how plant communities had evolved to deal with Australia's often harsh conditions. She began to design gardens that were uniquely Australian.

During twenty-five years of landscape design Fiona's philosophy behind creating beautiful and practical gardens remains consistent, even though each garden is unique. It materialises in her designs as a strong connection with the site and surrounds, simplicity, use of natural materials, sustainability principles and plants suited to the situation, usually a combination of Australian and exotic species.

Fiona runs her own landscape design business, Fiona Brockhoff Design, and designs urban and coastal and country gardens. Her partner's landscape construction company, David Swann Landscape Construction, builds most of the gardens, ensuring a high quality of finish.

TRISHA DIXON

Trisha Dixon is a writer - photographer with over a dozen books published, who has documented the landscape designs of Edna Walling, photographed the gardens of Gordon Ford and edited Garden History Journal for years. The National Library of Australia have acquired her photographs for their collection and have commissioned two more books.

A passionate traveller, especially for the road less travelled. Early childhood canoeing and walking down gorges with rubber tyres to go rafting along wild rivers left its imprint and somehow Trisha's career of writing, photography and landscape design has morphed into leading tours to some of the world's most enticing locales…. Trisha has led tours for Academy Travel, Renaissance Travel, the Australian Garden History Society, The Historic Houses Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens as well as her specialist private tours.

When Trisha is not taking people on tours she is off either on bicycle down the canal paths of France, trying to find her way to the top of mountains or hills that intrigue her or just loving spending time on her property and large wild garden at the foothills of the Snowy Mountains.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE ST DENIS, REUNION ISLAND
DAY 2	IN ST DENIS
DAY 3	TRANSFER TO LE COL DES BOEUFS AND TREK IN CIRQUE OF MAFATE (APPROX. 3

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trip dates

2018 07 Oct - 18 Oct

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Reunion Island

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:
Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:
Single travellers who are unable to be matched with another single traveller of the same gender, must pay a single supplement on this trip.

Leader:
Expert local leader

Brochure Reference:
Africa, Middle East

*Ask our staff for more information

	HOURS)
DAY 4	TREK TO CILAOS VILLAGE (APPROX. 3 HOURS)
DAY 5	TREK TO BASE OF LE PITON DES NEIGES (2479M)
DAY 6	CLIMB LE PITON DES NEIGES (3070M)
DAY 7	TO LA SALINE LES BAINS (WEST COAST)
DAY 8	VOLCANO TREKKING ON PITON DE LA FOURNAISE (2354M)
DAY 9	FREE IN LA SALINE LES BAINS
DAY 10	WEST COAST DAY TRIP -LAZARET & BOTANICAL GARDEN
DAY 11	TRANSFER TO LUX* ST GILLES. AT LEISURE
DAY 12	TOUR ENDS.

what's included

- **11 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 6 dinners**
- **airport transfers on Days 1 and 11 only**
- **6 nights in comfortable hotels on a twinshare basis**
- **1 night at hotel LUX* St Gilles**
- **4 nights in gites and basic homestays on a twinshare basis**
- **expert English speaking trek guide**
- **internal and luggage transfers**
- **trip accompanied by Trisha Dixon and Fiona Brockhoff**

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive St Denis, Reunion Island

Arrive St Denis, Reunion on MK248 at 2300.

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel to rest for the evening.

meals: NIL

DAY 2 In St Denis

Today you will rest and have time to have a bit of a look around Saint Denis. You will meet your Guide and tonight you will need to pack your daypack for the next night and day. Overnight hotel, St Denis.

meals: D

DAY 3 Transfer to Le Col des Boeufs and trek in Cirque of Mafate (approx. 3 hours)

This morning we transfer with just our daypacks to Grand Ilet then to Col des Boeufs which is the starting point for our two day trek. (Note: your main luggage will be securely stored until we arrive in Cilaos on Day 3, when you can access it for a change of clothes before continuing your trek.) The trek from Col des Boeufs to Marla is approx. 3 hours with your mountain guide. Lunch will be a picnic in the forest of Tamarin des Hauts. Mafate has 800 inhabitants but no roads! So, with your mountain guide, you will discover an another side of the creole way of life! Overnight in a Gite in Marla.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Trek to Cilaos Village (approx. 3 hours)

Today we will trek with your mountain guide to the Cirque of Cilaos. It is the driest Cirque but also the most impressive one because of its natural remparts: more than 2km vertical! Our trek takes approx. 3 hours from Marla to Ilet à Corde in Cilaos. We enjoy a Creole lunch in Ilet à Corde before transferring to your hotel in Cilaos. Overnight in Cilaos at a Private House. (In Cilaos we will meet our main luggage again with time for a change of clothes if you wish.)

meals: B,L,D

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responsible travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence. World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook. This detailed guide to responsible and sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website www.worldexpeditions.com

trip grading

Introductory to Moderate

The emphasis on this trip is on introductory activity with several moderate stages. This trip involves trekking for up to 5 - 6 hours a day at a steady pace. You will need a reasonable level of fitness and good health. Be prepared for potential variable weather conditions. As a minimum, we recommend 30 - 45 minutes of aerobic type exercise, three to four times a week for three months leading up to your trek (eg. hill walking, jogging or cycling). To prepare for a walking holiday we recommend you take every opportunity to walk up and down stairs and/or hills, for leg strengthening and aerobic fitness. Please remember the fitter you are the more you will enjoy your holiday.

DAY 5 Trek to base of Le Piton des Neiges (2479m)

Today you will trek from Cilaos to gite Caverne Dufour (2479m alt.) with your mountain guide. Enjoy the scenery as your guide explains the creole french culture, the land and its way of life! Overnight in a Gite at Caverne Dufour.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Climb Le Piton des Neiges (3070m)

Le Piton des Neiges is the highest point on the island and in fact in the whole of the Indian Ocean. You will wake up very early to go up to the summit (3070m alt.) before the sunset. Then you will walk down to Cilaos for a creole lunch. Overnight in Cilaos - Private House.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 To La Saline Les Bains (West Coast)

Today you will have a guided tour from Cilaos to the west coast. Overnight in a hotel (Hotel Le Nautile or similar).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Volcano trekking on Piton de la Fournaise (2354m)

There are many different walks in the Volcanoes area from which to choose, all with varying distances and duration. The region is full of volcanic craters which make for fascinating views and places to explore. Today you will meet one of the most active volcanoes in the world: Piton de La Fournaise, in 300 years, 300 eruptions! You will drive up to Piton de La Fournaise (2354m alt.) with your mountain guide to discover this active volcano. The program will depend on the volcano! Overnight in a hotel (Hotel Le Nautile or similar).

meals: B,L

DAY 9 Free in La Saline les Bains

La Saline les Bains is a lovely seaside town and is a complete contrast to the mountains in which we have been immersed until now. Today is free to explore the town and surrounds at your leisure or simply relax on the beach. There are numerous water-based activities that can be arranged locally such as a helicopter flight, paragliding, snorkelling and fishing.

During your free time you may also like to take an (optional trip) to visit Jardin de l'Etat which is just down the road in Saint Denis.

Overnight in a hotel (Hotel Le Nautile or similar).

meals: B

DAY 10 West Coast Day Trip -Lazaret & Botanical Garden

Day trip to visit Lazaret de la Grande-Chaloupe and see the Mixed Vegetation exhibition before heading to a former estate that became the Conservatoire des Mascarins Botanical Garden.

Overnight in a hotel (Hotel Le Nautile or similar).

meals: B,L

DAY 11 Transfer to LUX* St Gilles. At leisure

This morning you will transfer a short distance down the road to spend your last night on La Reunion in a little bit of luxury at the LUX* St Gilles - www.luxresorts.com/en/hotel-reunion/luxsaintgilles. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

meals: B

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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 12 Tour ends.

Your tour ends after breakfast today.

There will be a transfer to the airport after lunch on the recommended departure flight MK239 departing La Reunion at 1730

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

suggested extensions

We have a range of options including short customised itineraries and group departures to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius and more. Ask our office, or refer to our website, www.worldexpeditions.com for more details.

country information

Reunion Island is located in the south west of the Indian Ocean and is the youngest, geologically, of the three islands that make up the Mascerene Archipelago (Mauritius, Rodgrigues and Reunion Island). Created from successive volcanic eruptions and originally uninhabited, the island developed as a French colony. It is a richly multicultural society where cultural and religious differences peacefully co-exist. The inhabitants of the island are a mixture of descendents of French colonials, African slaves, Hindu plantation workers, Muslim Indians, Chinese, Comorians and Mahoran people. This ethnic diversity is reflected in wonderful cuisine and colourful traditions. Add to that some unique and spectacular scenery including sandy beaches, coral lagoons, rugged volcanic calderas, ancient forests, endemic birdlife, wild orchids, an active volcano and the highest point in the Indian Ocean (Piton des Neiges, 3070m) and you have a cocktail worth digesting.

climate

Reunion Island has a tropical and humid maritime climate. The sea temperature rarely drops below 23°C all year. The summer (December to March) has an average temperature of 26°C on the coast. Winter (April to November) has an average temperature of 20°C on the coast. The temperature drops progressively moving inland and into the mountains. Warm clothing is essential to trek the cirques. It snowed in the 'highlands' in October 2006 and the "Piton des Neiges" at 3070m lived up to its name.

Cyclone season is usually between December and February but it is rare that a cyclone comes close enough to the island to be a threat.

Prevailing winds on Reunion blow from the east and south-east. The west coast is therefore known as the leeward coast. The east coast generally receives more rain than the west but there are many 'micro-climates' throughout the island so weather patterns vary quite a bit.

a typical day

Each day will be different but generally we aim to make the most of daylight hours. There may be a vehicle transfer on some days, either from our accommodation to the trail head or from the end of the walk to the next hotel or gite. Breakfasts are generally continental style, lunches will be picnic style en route and dinners will be hearty local fare at the hotel/ gite. Trekking each day follows well-marked trails, with time to stop for photos and also to enjoy the superb views. Some of the gites/mountain refuges are very basic and may only have limited, if any, hot water.

hygiene

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian

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diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing, a rain jacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip balm, etc. in addition to a change of clothes and toiletries for 4 nights. You may wish to bring some boiled sweets or muesli/energy bars that you specially like for the trail. Your main luggage is transferred by car and you will only have access to it as described in the itinerary.

equipment required

Specialist gear required includes walking boots and a day pack big enough to carry everything you need for four nights. You will have access to your main luggage on Night 1, 3, and from Night 5 onwards (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking)

acute mountain sickness

When we ascend above 2500 meters our bodies have to acclimatise to the decreasing amount of the oxygen available. To allow our bodies to adjust we have structured our treks so that you ascend slowly, allowing acclimatisation to occur. However, during the acclimatisation process, you may experience some of the following symptoms.

- Headache
- Tiredness
- Disturbed sleep
- Loss of appetite/nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Palpitation
- Swelling of the hands and face

Individuals acclimatise at different rates. Your best strategy is to take your time and drink plenty of water. These symptoms may not indicate the onset of A.M.S. and if you experience them it does not necessarily mean that you should not continue. All our group leaders have extensive first aid training and we urge you to communicate with the group leader at all times should you believe you have any symptoms in order that we can effectively monitor your symptoms. The only cure for Acute Mountain Sickness is to descend.

Please note that your group leader has ultimate responsibility and may ask you to descend if symptoms persist.

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety

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may differ from those in your home country and on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted. While game viewing within a national park could be one example, public bus transfers or specialised transport such as 'tuk-tuk's' could be another. Where seat belts are not provided we strongly recommend that you hold tight to a fixed part of the vehicle at all times.

what's not included

- **international flights and departure taxes**
- **arrival and departure transfers if not arriving/ departing on Days 1 & 12**
- **meals not specified in the itinerary**
- **towel & soap for gite accommodation (4 nights)**
- **Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, etc.**
- **Bottled water, aerated and alcoholic drinks**
- **visas**
- **travel insurance**
- **tips**

visas

Visa exempt for a stay of up to 90 days for the following countries:

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

Please keep in mind that while a visa is not required, you must:

Hold a passport valid at least six months beyond the period of intended stay, with two blank visa pages

Hold proof of confirmed onward/return airline tickets

Hold proof of sufficient funds relative to your intended length of stay

Hold documents showing proof of purpose of trip

Hold all documents required for the next destination

Hold a visa for the next country, where applicable

Confirm with your airline that boarding will be permitted without a visa as these conditions are subject to change.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

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trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. There are many reasons why you may not be able to join your desired departure and limited space on our small group departures is just one of them. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as trekking permits, train travel and visa invitation letters. The demand is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form and pay a non refundable deposit which you can do by using our online booking function for most trips, or if you prefer, download a booking form from the website and return to us by fax, or mail your booking form and deposit to your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent. We can also help you with any additional arrangements that you require, such as competitive airfares to get you to your destination, stopovers, pre or post trip accommodation or any additional tours that you wish to take in conjunction with the main World Expeditions trip.