



FACT SHEET

THE ULTIMATE BLUE SAFARI EXPERIENCE...



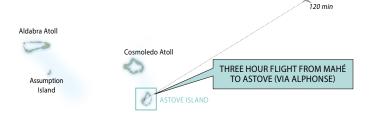
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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO/FROM SEYCHELLES

Astove Atoll

Astove is situated 1055 km southwest of Mahé and forms part of the remote Aldabra group of atolls. It's a small and unique Atoll that spans six kilometers from north to south and just under four kilometers from east to west at the widest points. The shallow lagoon has one small entrance, and due to its elevation a phenomenon occurs whereby the tide falls like a river for ten hours of the 12-hour tidal cycle and then turns to flood the entire lagoon in only two hours.



One of the most remote inhabited islands in Seychelles, Astove Atollfeaturesaruggedanddramaticlandscape with limestonerock and sand dunes rising against the horizon. It's an environment which has had very little human impact placed on it in recent decades and is teaming with bird and marine life just waiting to be explored!

AT A GLANCE

EQUATOR

- Located 665 nautical miles southwest of Mahé in the Seychelles.
- Situated only 9° south of the equator.
- A three hour flight from Mahé via Alphonse Island.
- Astove is comprised of a shallow lagoon, surrounded by sheer drop-offs.
- One of the most remote and secluded inhabited islands in the Seychelles.
- Astove Island Lodge can accommodate between six and 12 guests [fishing, diving or leisure] in air-conditioned en-suite rooms surrounding a central courtyard.
- Similar time zone to Europe, African and the Middle East.

ASTOVE ATOLL SEASONS	OPENING	CLOSING
	November	April

Desroches Island

60 min

D'Arros Island St Joseph Island

Poivre Island

🖌 30 mii

Alphonse Island

ASTOVE CORAL HOUSE

ASTOVE ATOLL

LAGOON



ASTOVE ATOLL

As Remote as you Can Get ...



Astove Atoll has a rich but desolate history and has been the cause of countless shipwrecks dating back to 1 500 AD. It has been said that ships used to pass by in the hope of rescuing and then enslaving abandoned souls on the island. It's also a famous atoll because Jacques Cousteau filmed some of the acclaimed underwater documentary The Silent World along the edge of "The Wall".

The "Wall" of Astove is breathtakingly beautiful and is best described as looking down into the Grand Canyon. It consists of the flat and reef dropping a vertical 90 degrees from ankle deep water to over 1000 metres over a short distance. The "Wall" is still known as one of the best snorkelling and dive sites on this planet.

The terrain varies from hostile shore breaks on the windward side, to flat calm coral flats on the outside and snow-white sand flats inside the lagoon. Its unique lagoon system is home to countless aquatic seabirds as well as the caspian tern, dimorphic egret and red-tailed tropic bird along with a population of over 150 giant Aldabra tortoises.

GETTING THERE

- The Seychelles is a four and a half hour flight from Dubai, AbuDhabi, and Doha which all serve as a connecting hub for regular international flights from Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia.
- There are direct flights to the Seychelles from Paris, Bombay, Nairobi, Mauritius, Antananarivo, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, Reun-ion, Colombo, Dar-Es-Salaam, Frankfurt and London.
- Astove Atoll is a three hour flight from Mahé [the main island of the Seychelles].
- Scheduled flights depart and return to Mahé each Monday.
- Scheduled Flights depart from the IDC Hangar, Pointe Larue, Mahé.
- Flight times are subject to change. Please make sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team.
- Guests are expected to arrive in Mahé the day before their trip as any delay on the day of departure will certainly cause the trip to be missed. It's as important for return flights to be booked the next day after arriving back in Mahé as any delays may cause guests to miss their international flights.
- The Blue Safari reservations team will assist with all return flight reservations between Mahé and Astove at the time of booking.









FAUNA & FLORA OF ASTOVE

Once the island was abandoned, the natural vegetation and inhabitants slowly made their way back. Nowadays the rugged terrain of Astove holds coconut palms and mangrove forests in the shallows. The undisturbed landscapes have seen the return of various bird species like crab plover and caspian tern along with other migratory waders and breeding seabirds. The island also holds a healthy population of giant Aldabra tortoises that are being monitored by the ICS Teams.



The surrounding waters and the colourful coral reefs that they hold plays host to a variety of curious and impressive marine animals. This combined with the sheer drop-offs of "The Wall" and drastic fluctuations of the inner lagoon, create nutrientrich currents which brings with it an assortment of sought-after marine, bird and land species.

THE HISTORY OF ASTOVE

The history of Astove tells that the area was mostly explored by Arab sailors and merchants between 1000 and 1500 AD. The first mention of settlement on the island would only be noted after 1760. This would be the year that the Portuguese frigate La Dom Royal and its crew and captain ran aground on the island. Legend tells that the ship was heavy with slaves and treasure. After the captain and crew left the island for Mozambique, the slaves left behind formed a small community who lived off the land and the ocean.

The 1800's would see more visit the island and reports of coconut trees and mangroves being spotted. In 1895, a fishing enterprise was started on the island and later years would see the farming of maize, tomatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, gourds and tobacco. For a brief time, guano extraction also proved profitable.

In 1968, the lease of Astove was passed on to Mark and Wendy Veevers-Carter. Already the successful producers of a copra plantation on Remire Island, the Veevers-Carters aimed to do the same on the larger Astove. The couple built a house, chapel, store and houses for their workers and set on to get their copra plantation started. They also managed to successfully farm to bacco, cattle, pigs and goats.

Wendy Veevers-Carter managed the farm on her own until November of 1970 after her husband passed away in March of that year. The endeavour soon became too much for her and shereturned to her homeland of the United States with her three children and left the island in the care of three Seychellois employees.

The island was eventually abandoned.

KEY EXPERIENCES AT ASTOVE

snorkelling | guided nature walks | reef flats expeditions | scuba diving | guided kayaking turtle watching | fly fishing | bluewater fishing | historical ruins visits







ASTOVE ATOLL

Equipped for the Ultimate Nature Experience



FLEET & GUIDES

TENDER BOATS

Purpose built Mini-Mahé skiffs are on anchor at Astove which will be used to get you around the atoll, as well as be on standby for any ocean activities that will take you into the deep blue. These skiffs will be skippered by our experienced, world class and professional Blue Safari Guides. Should you wish to do any bluewater fishing, it may be arranged that a 30ft sportfisher, Flyer, can be on standby for your ultimate fishing experience, please be sure to prebook when making your reservation to ensure availability!

OUR GUIDES

The Blue Safari guide team along with the Island Conservation Society ensure the eco system at Astove is protected from overfishing and over exploitation. The Guides are conservationists at heart and some of them also hold qualifications in the field of ecology.

ALL BLUE SAFARI GUIDES:

- Are professional, passionate and extremely experienced with all facets of nature guiding in these remote saltwater destinations.
- Are fluent in English [some speak French and Creole].
- Carry waterproof VHF radios and are in constant communication with each other as well as the base on Astove.
- Are qualified skippers, with STCW qualifications and have impeccable boat handing skills.
- Have first aid experience.





A TYPICAL DAY On an Eco Tourism Adventure to Astove Atoll

DAY 1

Your charter flight departs from the IDC Hangar, diverts to Alphonse and lands on Astove three hours later. On arrival your group will be transferred to the lodge where orientation begins. After lunch you can settle in and get ready for the trip of a lifetime. An afternoon snorkel or unguided walk is an excellent way to start exploring before sunset.

DAY 2-7

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast where your breakfast time is prearranged to suit your daily schedule. You will spend the days exploring the lagoon, landscapesandseascapesofAstoveAtollwithone of our experienced nature guides. Lunch will be a choice between a packed lunch or lunch at the lodge. Pre dinner drinks will commence at 18h00 and dinner will follow.

DAY 8

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the lodge before checking out with the lodge manager and shortly after you will be transferred to the airport for your fight back to Mahé. The charter flight will depart, and possibly divert to Alphonse, landing at the IDC Hangar in Mahé three hours later, approximately 15h00. It is advised that you book your international flights the day after arriving back in Mahé in case of any delays which may cause you to miss your international flight.





ASTOVE CORAL HOUSE



Maximizing Your Experience

Uninhabited since 1969, Astove makes for a wild experience. To ensure that the Atoll stays pristine, Astove Coral House only caters for six to 12 guests per week.

In 1968 Astove was occupied by the Veevers-Carter family who established a coconut plantation. They constructed a number of buildings including a large main house, chapel, store and accommodation for the workers. The small settlement they created, forms the basis of the accommodation used today.

Surrounding a central courtyard, the Coral House has six charming and comfortable rooms. With en-suite bathrooms, the recently refurbished rooms offer relaxed accommodation in one of the most remote locations in the world. The key to the experience is how very little has been changed in the Coral House allowing guests a sense of how the Veevers-Carter family would have enjoyed the house.

Guests will enjoy the attentive service as well as superb dining. The menu frequently comprises of a full English breakfast, a buffet lunch or packed picnic lunch to enjoy on location, and a buffet dinner served in the indoor or outdoor dining area. The food is inspired by the traditional Seychellois Creole cuisine with freshly caught fish being the key ingredient.

Evening sundowners are enjoyed most evenings at our beautiful outside bar, allowing everyone to gather and discuss the events of the day.

With picture-perfect beaches, edged by palm trees and with not another soul in sight, Astove Atoll is wonderfully unique.

Astove forms part of the Aldabra Group of Atolls and is one of the most remote inhabited islands in Seychelles.







LODGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Original Coral House which has been refurbished for your comfort.
- Single/double air-conditioned en-suite accommodation.
- Easy beach access, with the ocean only meters away.
- Large lounge area.
- Indoor dining area.









ASTOVE EXPERIENCES on an Untouched Treasure Trove



Astove Atoll needs to be experienced to be believed... The geographical isolation of Astove Atoll creates an atmosphere of undisturbed solitude where guests forget about the outside world and immerse themselves in all the natural wonders and unique experiences that the island has to offer.

** COMPLIMENTARY ACTIVITIES ON ASTOVE ATOLL. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE WEATHER AND TIDE PERMITTING.

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES**

The Blue Safari team is at your disposal should you wish further activities like bird identification walks or to organise a private picnic about the island. For those who like to explore independently there is much to offer. The paths around the island pass through natural vegetation around the lodge enabling running. Guests are provided with information for the directions and distances of these routes. Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are available for guests wanting to explore the island independently. Snorkelling is a great way to see what marine life resides beneath!

PAULIE'S TROPICAL LUNCH**

A special treat offered by Astove is the amazing Paulie's Lunch. A dining atmosphere like no other. Guests get to revel in the sheer beauty of the flats whilst feasting on a delicious buffet and an ice cold beverage.

SAND DUNE SUNDOWNERS**

Every Sunday guests join the AFC guides and team at the infamous Astove sand dune for a social gathering. Guests enjoy drinks with fellow nature, fishing and diving partners celebrating the week's achievements. Remember, every fish and new sighting counts!

EVENING SUNDOWNERS**

Your island hosts will arrange evening sundowners where you can enjoy stories from the day over a cocktail or an ice cold beer. As the sun sets you and your companions can ready yourselves for the day ahead.

ASTOVE ATOLL SAFARI**

Take a drive around Astove in our ATV, the only way to get around this vast Atoll in style. Your guide will familiarise you with your new home showing you the layout of the island, all the secret spots and best views.







KAYAK AND SUPS**

Kayaks and SUP's are a perfect and non-intrusive way to get up close to turtles and rays around the flats and allow guests to enjoy Astove from a new perspective. On a guided tour your knowledgeable guide will take you to the Astove "Wall" where you can peer down into the blue depth of the dramatic coral drop-off. With your guide to hand, spot and identify countless turtles, fish, shark and ray species whilst paddling the water's edge.

Alternatively, your guide may take you into the calm quiet of the magnificent Astove lagoon where you will paddle it's azure water. Get up close to mangroves and roosting seabirds in the tranquility of nature.

REEF FLATS EXPEDITION**

Travel the reef flats from the lodge with a knowledgeable and insightful guide. On this expedition guests get to appreciate the untouched view of the rich seagrass beds and crystal clear waters whilst spotting juvenile turtles, eels as well as crab and mollusc deep under rocks and squeezed into crevices in the reef platform. This is an opportunity to see all types of nature come together with mind-blowing biodiversity on the macro scale.

TURTLE NESTING VIEWINGS**

Despite being a small island, Astove has one of the largest populations of nesting green sea turtle. Guests in the Astove lodge spend their evenings within 10 minutes of where female turtles haul out to lay their eggs. Spending an evening with a knowledgeable guide waiting for this natural phenomenon is a rare treat. During the excursion guests will be educated about turtle ecology and reproduction as well as their conservation status.

SCUBA DIVING

Sightings whilst diving range across the board from reef to pelagic fish, big predators and tiny macro life. The large marine turtle population means that you will see countless turtles both green and hawksbill; they are absolutely guaranteed during your trip. Schools of predatory fish such as giant and bluefin trevally patrol the drop off looking for prey. The reefs are covered with a forest of gorgonian and black corals that extend down to great depths. Of a selection of great dive sites, "The Wall" of Astove is probably the best dive site in the Seychelles and those few people that have dived here regard it as one of the best in the world. This is not something to miss during your stay. All diving must be pre booked with the Blue Safari reservations team.

ASTOVE "THE WALL" GUIDED SNORKELLING

On this guided excursion you will be taken along the length of the Astove wall which drops dramatically vertically from 1 - 2 metres to 50 m+. Snork-ellers will see soft coral covered walls, crevices, cuts and overhangs that conceal big fish. Snorkellers can take full advantage of the proximity to open ocean at this dive site and therefore may have encounters with sharks and rays as well as large grouper, snapper, napoleon wrasse and tuna. Snorkelling equipment complimentary and is available for all guests use.



PAULIE'S ISLAND GUIDED SNORKELLING

On this snorkel venture to Paulie's island, a gemstone on the flats, you will snorkel in clear waters like never before. It is a shallow snorkel at moments and therefore brings you face-to-face with a variety of fish and numerous turtles that reside at the base of the rocks. Here you can see crabs hiding in all of the nooks and crannies. Snorkelling equipment complimentary and is available for all guests use.

BLUE SAFARI

This is your opportunity to make the most of your own personalised Blue Safari, speak to your guide to create the perfect trip. You may choose our traditional Blue Safari in the open ocean in search of our resident spinner dolphin, leaping tuna, flying fish or mating turtle or even humpback whales, when in season. Alternatively, join our guides on an adventure like no other, learning, exploring and discovering the coastline of Astove Atoll. You may encounter a number of craggy islets full to the brim with birdlife and come face to face with this unique habitat. As you are able to hop-on and hop-off during this trip you may choose to have a perfect picnic in a secret spot looking over the fabulous ocean vista. This can be a full or half day excursion and as the skiff ride is yours, you are able to decide how far and wide you would like to explore this magical Atoll.

LAGOON MANGROVE NATURE WALK**

Take this fantastic excursion across the lagoon and into the mangroves. With such a variety of mangroves on Astove this excursion may include venturing into the very top of the lagoon among the mangrove roots looking for all types of wildlife. For any nature lover this will bring endless delights. Our trained guides will be able to help you identify the various species that you see around you. Alternatively you may spend much time at the edge of the lower lagoon mangrove and peering into the tree tops for interesting bird life or watching for sharks patrolling the mangrove edge. This is one of those increasingly rare environments that have the power to put you in touch with raw nature.

FLATS FLY FISHING

Astove has become synonymous with the largest flats-caught GT's in the Indian Ocean. Its shallow lagoon and small entrance, surrounded by sheer drop-offs makes the experience truly unique. The lagoon is a sanctuary for both juvenile and trophy-size fish that feed on the shallow white sand flats that line the inside of the lagoon. Try your hand on a full or half day of fly fishing with one of our experienced Alphonse Fishing Co. guides in search of the various species Astove has on offer.

BLUEWATER FISHING

Experience offshore fishing like never before... The unspoilt waters of the Astove Atoll are home to a vast variety of bluewater species. The structure and sheer drop-offs are idyllic for species such as sailfish, wahoo, dogtooth tuna, yellowfin tuna and dorado. On each given day there is an opportunity to fight the reel and target these species for either a full or half day. Be sure to pre-book your bluewater fishing trip to ensure boat availability.



THE FINER DETAILS Things to Take Note of ...

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

RATES INCLUDE

- Three meals daily
- Charter Flights to and from Astove
- Room amenities, non-motorised and land based activities
- Soft drinks during activities, water, tea and coffee
- Wine with dinner
- Complimentary scheduled communal excursions
- Snorkelling equipment
- [Loss of gear will be charged per item]Watersport equipment
- [Stand up paddle boards and kayaks]Fly fishing rod and reel rental
- VAT
- RATES EXCLUDE
- International Flights
- Accommodation and transfers on Mahé
- Travel and medical insurance
- Conservation donation
- Additional excursions
- Motorised activities
- Beverages
- Telephone charges
- Laundry and items of a personal nature
- Gratuities
- Tackle and flies

GENERAL INFORMATION

WEATHER

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at $\pm 35^{\circ}$ Celsius [$\pm 90^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit]. Evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first and last few weeks of the season, when there may be a strong, cooling breeze.

THE SEASON AT ASTOVE

The first part of the season traditionally runs from early November to late April. Due to Astove being 2° south of Alphonse Island, the southeasterly monsoon winds blow from May to October. We stick to the fore mentioned dates to ensure you have an unforgettable experience.

HOURS OF DAYLIGHT

Due to its proximity to the equator, there is no real twilight in the Seychelles. The sun rises quickly at around 06h15, and sets with equal swiftness at about 18h30. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

CONSERVATION DONATION

There is a conservation donation of US\$210 per week [US\$30 per day]. This will be included on your confirmation invoice and is settled prior to arrival. All packages exclude this conservation donation which is given to the Island Conservation Society for the preservation of nature in the Seychelles.

FROM SCENE OF ACCIDENT MEDIVAC INSURANCE

You are required to obtain "From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance". Please supply these details prior to arrival on the Island. Alphonse Island Lodge Limited T/A Blue Safari Seychelles and agents cannot assume any financial respons-ibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You are required to obtain travel insurance that will cover any costs incurred due to flight or trip delays for any reason.

INDEMNITY FORM

You are required to sign an indemnity form once on Astove.

ENTRY INTO SEYCHELLES

Every visitor who intends to travel by air or sea to the Seychelles must have an approved, valid Travel Authorization or Disembarkation Information Form. Applications can only be made up to five days prior to your arrival date in Seychelles. There are different requirements for travel to the Seychelles for citizens, permit holders and visitors. Please pay attention to the required documents that apply to you or your group. A yellow fever vaccination is needed if you are traveling to Seychelles from a yellow fever endemic region. If you are transiting through an airport of a yellow fever endemic region for less than 12 hours you do not need yellow fever vaccination. You will need this certificate to apply for your Travel Authorisation. For more information and to apply, refer to the Seychelles Immigration website: seychelles.govtas.com.

FLIGHT TIMES

NB: Please check flight times as they vary. The flights leave Mahé from the IDC hangar and arrive on Astove three hours later. It then departs Astove 45 minutes after arriving and will land back at the IDC Hangar three hours after departing Astove, approximately 15h00.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On inter-island charter flights check-in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg [33 pounds] per person, and 5 kg [11 pounds] carry-on

luggage.

It is not possible to load extra luggage beyond your limit; it would have to be repacked and left on Mahé until your return. On request, the Blue Safari team in Mahé will assist you with the storage of excess luggage while you are on Astove. We also suggest you use lighter softshell bags.

SUN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

The climatic conditions at Astove can be quite harsh for those that aren't accustomed to them. Light weight breathable fabrics are recommended. Sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 30, ideally SPF 50 is required for any exposed skin. See packing check list below.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Island has 24-hour electrical current [240 volt, 50 cycles AC] with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter [three-point, square-pin] is necessary.

COMMUNICATION

The phone service is operated via satellite and there is free Wi-Fi in the communal area.

We advise that you leave the contact details of Blue Safari with your family and friends. The Astove phone is only answered at certain times for logistical updates so a message can be passed onto you at this time.

Blue Safari Number: +248-4-22-9700 [GMT+04:00]

WATER CONSUMPTION

We have a desalination plant on Astove, and water from the faucets is safe to drink. We do not stock mineral water and will only supply it if you specifically requested prior to your arrival.

BEVERAGES

Should you have any special beverage requirements please let us know so we can ensure it is on location for your arrival. There will be Seybrew beer and a selection of spirits and wine on location. It's important to remember that when you are on Astove it is a "dry island" so we request that you do not give any alcohol to the local staff.

MOSQUITOES

Astove has not been civilized for many years so there are mosquito's which need to be repelled. These mosquitoes do not carry diseases. There are very few mosquito's out on the flats. Mosquitoes are only encountered when in the Coral House so it's suggested that long lightweight pants and long sleeve shirts are worn in the evening when dining. If you



have an allergy to mosquito bites please let us know as we will only carry Antihistamine cream and pills. All the air-conditioned rooms have mosquito netting so the windows can be opened at night. We have Peaceful Sleep mosquito repellent [non-DEET] on location.

GRATUITY GUIDELINE

If you wish to show appreciation to the general staff, we suggest a US\$350 per guest per week or US\$50 per day guideline. This is to be left with the lodge manager upon departure for equal distribution. All tips are to please be paid in cash.

Diving Team: US\$25 per dive per person for the diving team, divided up by the dive team and skippers.

Activity Team: US\$15 per day for the activity team if you have joined any activities.

Fly Fishing Guides: US\$650 [US\$110 per day] per angler per week, which is given to the head guide at the end of the week.

CURRENCY

You do not need to change your US\$ [US Dollars], \in [Euros] or £ [Pounds] into the local currency SCR [Seychelles Rupees]. The lodge accepts Rupees, Dollars, Euros and Pounds. There is a card machine on Astove to settle payments, however we recommend carrying cash for on location tackle and beverage purchases as well as gratuities.

DUTY FREE ALLOWANCE

200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, one litre spirits and two litres wine.





PAYMENT & BOOKING INFORMATION

CREDIT CARD EXCHANGE

The following credit cards are accepted:
MasterCard Visa
American Express is not accepted. There is a 5% charge

for any credit card withdrawals / gratuities.

CURRENCIES ACCEPTED

Seychelles Rupee • US\$ • Euro • GBP

CANCELLATIONS

- A 10% fee shall be levied if cancellation is made more than 180 days prior to arrival OR if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same year.
- A 50% fee shall be levied if cancellation is between 180 and 90 days prior to arrival.
- A 100% fee shall be levied if cancellation is 90 days or less prior to arrival.
- Private island bookings require a 50% nonrefundable deposit with final payment 90 days prior to travel.
- All cancellations and provisional bookings must be confirmed in writing.
- Bank fees associated with refunds are for the clients' account.

PAYMENTS

Reservations will be held for 2 weeks. 50% deposit required to confirm the booking, final payment is to be made 3 month prior to arrival. All extras will be settled on departure.

TARIFFS ARE QUOTED

- Inclusive of VAT in US Dollars
- Subject to availability

TARIFF CHANGES

All tariffs are subject to change, without prior notice, however rates quoted for confirmed bookings will be honoured.



Astove Atoll is part of the Blue Safari Seychelles Collection

CONTACT DETAILS

ISLAND

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RESERVATIONS

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