

BLUE SAFARI SEYCHELLES



Outer Islands



Area Overview

Far from the main island of Mahé, the Outer Islands are a complete contrast to the granitic inner islands.

The Outer Islands are remote, scattered coral atolls and sand cays spread across vast oceanic expanses. These islands feature very little development compared to the mountainous inner islands, and are far more secluded, with little to no permanent human habitation.

The Outer Islands offer a true escape into nature, ideal for sustainable eco-tourism and adventure. These remarkable coral atolls are renowned for their extraordinary biodiversity, featuring vibrant coral reefs, rare bird species, and untouched marine ecosystems in a true ocean wilderness.

Where the inner islands offer a more developed tourism experience of larger hotels, shops, restaurants and a touch of local culture, the Outer Islands provide unparalleled seclusion and natural beauty - perfect for those seeking a tranquil and adventurous retreat.

Coral House Room

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.

Fast Facts

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 and outdoor dining area.

Quick Facts

6 Coral House rooms

Dining room

Child policy: 12+

3 hour flight from Mahé (via Alphonse)

Activities

Activities included in the rate:

Guided:

- Kayak
- SUP
- Island walks
- Turtle nesting (seasonal)
- Beach sundowner
- Paulie's lunch
- Reef flats expedition

Coral House Room

- Scuba diving
- Wall snorkelling
- Paulie's island snorkelling
- Blue Safari experience
- Lagoon mangrove hike.

Independent exploration activities:

- Kayak
- SUP
- Snorkel.

At additional charge:

- Guided flats fly-fishing.

Astove Atoll Experiences

One of the most remote inhabited islands in Seychelles, Astove Atoll features a rugged and dramatic landscape with limestone rock and sand dunes rising against the horizon. It's an environment which has had very little human impact placed on it in recent decades. 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.

Our activities are scheduled according to the best conditions during your stay. Some activities may only be possible once a week due to tides & will be scheduled by our activity team accordingly. Please always let us know if you have a particular interest in any so we can do our best to accommodate it.

Non - Motorised Experiences (Included)

Astove Atoll Experiences

Independent Activities

The Blue Safari team is at your disposal should you wish for activities such as bird identification walks or private picnic's. For those who like to explore independently there is much to offer. The paths surrounding the lodge pass through natural vegetation and immerses guests in the natural beauty of Astove, on request our team will provide dedicated routes to explore. Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and Snorkelling gear are available for guests wanting to explore the island independently.

Kayak and SUP's

Kayaks and SUP's are a perfect and non-intrusive way to get up close to turtles and other marine species, 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 spot and identify countless turtle, 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. Getting close up to mangroves and roosting seabirds in the tranquillity of nature.

Reef Flats Expedition

Immerse yourself in the reef flats in front of 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, crabs and molluscs 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 turtles. Guests visiting Astove spend their evenings a mere 10 minutes from where multiple female turtles lay their eggs. Spending an evening with a knowledgeable guide waiting for this natural phenomenon is a rare and special experience. During the excursion guests are educated about turtle ecology and reproduction as well as their conservation status.

Motorised Experiences (Included)

Astove Atoll Safari

An exploratory drive around Astove, your guide will familiarise you with your new home showing you the layout of the island, all the secret spots, best views and all the unique species that call Astove home.

Astove Atoll Experiences

Scuba Diving

Of a selection of great dive sites, “The Wall” of Astove is probably the best dive sites in the Seychelles and those few people that have dived here regard it as one of the best in the world. With the Wall and other sights a mere 5-10 minute boat ride from the lodge, diving is at your doorstep. The reefs are covered with a forest of gorgonian and black corals that extend down to great depths. Sightings 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.

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 vertical from 1 – 2 metres to 50 m+. Snorkellers 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 is complimentary and is available for all guests.

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 is 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, mating turtles 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.

Astove Atoll Experiences

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 surrounding you. Alternatively you may spend time at the edge of the lower lagoon mangroves, 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.

Motorised Experiences (additional cost)

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.

Astove Coral House Dining

Astove Coral House, offers a unique and remote dining experience that reflects its isolated and pristine environment. The cuisine is inspired by local Seychellois cuisine that combines African, French, Chinese, Indian, and British influences. The focus is on fresh, locally-sourced ingredients, including seafood, tropical fruits, and spices.

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

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.

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 General Information

Access Map

- Blue Safari Seychelles access map

Getting There

- One of the attractions to Europeans, Africans and especially Middle Easterners is that the Seychelles is located in a similar time zone to these areas. It is only four and a half hours by plane from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha which all serve as a connecting hub for regular international flights from Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia. Additionally, seasonal direct flights to the Seychelles are available from Bombay, Nairobi, Antananarivo, Mauritius, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, Reunion, Colombo, Moscow and Frankfurt.
- 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 Domestic Terminal at the Mahe Interntional Airport. Flight times are subject to change. For further information please refer to the [flight schedule](#). Please make sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team.

Astove General Information

- Guests are required to fly into Mahé at least four hours before the flight is scheduled to depart. Alphonse Island is also accessible through private charter flights. The inter-island IDC charter flight to Blue Safari Destinations will depart from the Mahe Domestic terminal, situated at the international airport at the opposite end of the international arrivals. Guests will need to check in 60 minutes prior to departure and check-in closes 30 minutes before departure. If you are flying into the Seychelles on the same day as your inter-island flight and your layover should be more than 90 mins.
- The Blue Safari reservations team will assist with all return flight reservations between Mahé and Astove at the time of booking.

Weather

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at $\pm 35^{\circ}$ Celsius [$\pm 90^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit]. The 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 Late January to early April. Due to Astove being 2° south of Alphonse Island, the south-easterly monsoon winds blow insistently 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 Donations & Environmental Levy

Conservation Donation

There is a mandatory conservation donation of \$210 per person per week. This will be included in your confirmation invoice and is settled prior to arrival or on check out. Donations are complimentary for children 0 - 17 years. All packages exclude this donation which is donated to the Alphonse Foundation and Island Conservation Society.

Environmental Levy

Please take note that the Seychelles Government has introduced a Tourism Environmental Sustainability Levy which will come into effect from the 01 August 2023. Establishments will charge and collect this levy from the visitors upon guests check-out. For more information, please refer to Seychelles Tourism Sustainability Levy. This levy is applicable for all guests over 13 years old.

Astove General Information

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 responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

Indemnity Form

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

Passports & Visas - Entry into Seychelles

Passports & Visas

No visa is required for a holiday. - This applies to all foreign passport holders.

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 29 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 and / 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 vaccination certificate to apply for your Travel Authorisation. Get in touch with our team if you are unsure of which countries fall within the yellow fever endemic region. Please note that all travellers must have a valid credit / debit card available to pay the fee. (€10 per application and you get your clearance within 9 hours).

For more information and to apply, please refer to the [SEYCHELLES IMMIGRATION WEBSITE.](#)

Before you apply, ensure you have all of your mandatory documents ready:

- Valid passport
- Selfie or passport-type photo
- Contact information
- Details of your arrival flight into Seychelles
- Details of your visit in Seychelles
- Details of accommodation for every night of your stay in Seychelles
- Details of your departure flight from Seychelles
- Travel insurance with medical cover for CV 19

Astove General Information

- Yellow Fever Vaccination (if you have visited a yellow fever endemic region prior to arrival in Seychelles)

Flight Times

NB: Please check flight times as they vary. The flights leave Mahé from the Domestic Terminal and arrive on Astove three hours later. It then departs Astove 45 minutes after arriving and will land back at the Domestic Terminal three hours after departing Astove.

Flights & Luggage

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 soft-shell bags

Suggested Packing List

- Loose Fitting Clothing
- 1 x UV Proof shirt for waterbased activities
- 1 x Polarized sunglasses
- 1 x Sunscreen [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Lip Block
- 1 x Hat/Cap
- 1 x Headlamp/torch
- 1 x Lightweight rain jacket
- 1 x Camera
- 2 x Swimming costumes
- 1 x Dry Bag [optional for activities]

Suggested Packing List (Divers)

- 1 x Personal SCUBA mask
- 1 x Polarized sunglasses
- 1 x Sunscreen [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Lip block [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Mosquito repellent
- 1 x Hat or cap

Astove General Information

- 2 x Headband / Buff for ladies 1 x Drybag
- 1 x Wetbag
- 1 x Soft tissue for drying & cleaning lenses
- 2 x Fast drying rash vest
- 2 x Swimwear
- 1 x Headlamp or torch
- 1 x Rain jacket [lightweight] General loose fitting, quick drying clothing for the humidity

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]

Health & Safety

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.

Mosquitoes

Astove General Information

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.

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 a selection of beers, spirits, Champagne and wine on location as a part of all inclusion package.

Gratuities

- If you wish to show appreciation to the general staff, we suggest a US\$300 per guest per week or US\$40 per day guideline. This is to be left with the Camp manager upon departure for equal distribution.
- Fly Fishing Guides: US\$700 per angler per week [US\$110 per day], which is given to the head guide at the end of the week.
- 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.

Currency

You do not need to change your US\$ [US Dollars], € [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.

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.

Astove General Information

Payable Services At Mahe International Airport

- Salon de Vallée de Mai Departure Lounge – for the comfort convenience of clients awaiting air connections upon departure. This service is complimentary to business class travellers.
- Meals in Mahé will be for your own expense.

Astove Atoll Documents & Links

PDF Documents

[Fly Fishing Package 2024 Rates](#)

[Leisure Package 2024 Rates](#)

PDF Documents

[Fly Fishing Package 2025 Rates](#)

[Leisure Package 2025 Rates](#)

PDF Documents

[Alphonse Foundation Brochure](#)

PDF Documents

[BSS Access Map](#)

Astove Atoll Terms & Conditions

Cancellation Policies

- A 10% fee shall be levied if cancellation is made more than 180 days prior to arrival.
- A 10% fee shall be levied if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same season.
- If a booking moved to an alternative year, the 10% fee and the applicable rate increase will apply. Bookings may only be moved more than 181 days prior to arrival.
- A fee of 50% shall be levied if cancellation is between 180 and 90 days prior to arrival.
- A fee of 100% shall be levied if cancellation is 90 days or less prior to arrival.
- All cancellations and provisional bookings must be confirmed in writing.
- Bank fees associated with refunds are for the guests' account.

Payment Terms

- Reservations will be held for 2 weeks.
- We require a 50% deposit to confirm the booking.
- Final payment to be made 3 months prior to arrival.

Tariffs

- Inclusive of VAT in US Dollars
- Subject to availability
- All tariffs are subject to change, without prior notice, however rates quoted for confirmed bookings will be honoured.

Indemnity & Insurance

- All activities require the client to sign an indemnity once on location.
- All clients are required to submit "From Scene of Accident Medevac Insurance" prior to arrival.
- It is highly recommended that guests take out travel insurance that covers part or full cancellation of a trip due to flight delays, health, weather or force majeure.

Blue Safari Contacts

Island

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Reservations

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