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.

Cosmoledo Eco Camp

Cosmoledo has a single Eco Camp situated on Wizard Island where nature meets creative, eco-friendly hospitality. The Camp consists of eight double/twin ensuite Eco Pods with a central communal dining and entertainment area. The rooms are made up of custom designed Eco Pods and the communal dining and entertainment area is a large tent with bare sand floors that are committed to the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural resources of Cosmoledo.

Each Eco Pod can be catered for as a double or twin set up and has all the amenities and modern luxuries one can expect. From being en-suite to fully air-conditioned, each room boasts a front verandah with a seating area and a well appointed outdoor shower. The rooms are tailored in fresh neutral colours accentuating the island and her ocean, drawing in serenity, outdoor adventure and a sense of becoming-one with your surroundings.

Fast Facts

Highlights

Easy beach access, with the ocean only meters away Cupboards Outdoor shower En-suite bathroom Private deck with sun loungers and relaxation area

Quick facts

Sleeps up to 16 guests in 8 eco pods Dining tent with bar and lounge Child policy: 12+ Accessed by boat from Astove (1 hour)

Activities

Activities included in rate: Guided:

- Kayak
- SUP
- Snorkel
- Beach sundowner
- Reef flats expedition
- Wizard Island tour

Cosmoledo Eco Camp

At additional charge:

- Atoll exploration excursion
- Guided flats fly-fishing
- Scuba diving
- Bluewater fishing
- Blue Safari experience
- Menai mangrove hike.

Cosmoledo Atoll Experiences

Cosmoledo Atoll needs to be experienced to be believed... The geographical isolation of Cosmoledo 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.

Many of 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 any interest in doing a particular activity when visiting Cosmoledo Atoll so we can do our best to accommodate it.

Scuba Diving

Take to the reefs that few others have ever been to dive and explore the vast amount of coral reef on offer. Enjoy some of the most rich and diverse areas of coral reef found anywhere in the Seychelles. Expect to see snapper, grouper and reef fish in great abundance and huge sizes as well as a good supply of pelagic species and high chances of shark encounters. Cosmoledo is suitable to divers with advanced or higher qualifications. All diving must be pre booked with the Blue Safari reservations team.

Snorkelling

Experience the beautiful, enchanting marine life by partaking in guided snorkelling trips and can opt-in for the calm lagoon or explore the outer reefs. Snorkelling equipment is complimentary and is available for all guests to use. The abundant and colourful sea life sights are not to be missed.

Cosmoledo Atoll Experiences

Wizard Island Tour

Join a guided tour across Wizard stopping at major landscapes and seascapes for guests to familiarize themselves with the coastal trails and most secret spots on the island. Cross the open grassland and venture through the scrub to scale the impressive sand dunes and be rewarded with a panoramic view of the atoll.

During the tour guests will be informed about the early working life on Cosmoledo and the collection of guano, turtle and birds eggs and meat. Identify birdlife, fish and plants as you see every corner of the island with our knowledgeable guides. If you are lucky you may spot a nesting hawksbill or green turtle.

Reef Flats Expedition

Travel the inside reef flats of Cosmoledo with a knowledgeable and insightful guide. On this expedition guests get to appreciate the untouched view of the white sand, rich seagrass beds and crystal clear waters whilst spotting juvenile turtles, eels, crabs, and molluscs deep in the sea grass, 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.

Kayaks & Stand Up Paddle Boards

Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are a perfect and non-intrusive way to get up close to turtles and rays around the flats and allow guests to enjoy Cosmoledo from a new perspective. A guided tour by nature experts who will point out seabirds and spot fishermen's delights such as bonefish, permit and triggerfish. A picnic basket in the form of a Yeti Cooler can be organised for the guide to carry along, enabling them to choose a spot for you to enjoy a secluded meal or snack.

Motorised Experiences (additional cost)

Scuba Diving

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Atoll Exploration Excursion

Join our guides on an adventure like no other, learning, exploring and discovering all that the vast sand flats dotted with over 20 islands, islets and cays of various shapes and sizes have to offer.

Cosmoledo Atoll Experiences

This is a full or half day excursion and you are able to decide how far and wide you would like to explore this magical atoll. Be prepared to have encounters with a variety of shark species and turtles. By visiting several islands you will be guided through skies, vegetation and waters filled to the brim with birdlife and learn about the reproductive cycles of globally and regionally important breeding populations.

Bluewater Fishing

Experience offshore fishing like never before... The unspoilt waters of Cosmoledo 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 and yellowfin tuna.

Blue Safari Experience

Cosmoledo acts as a home and stopping spot for a variety of cetaceans including spinner dolphins and occasionally melon headed whales, Risso's dolphins, bottlenose dolphin and beaked whales. During this trip you may also spot manta rays, tuna, mating turtles and many other marine species. Whilst exploring the offshore waters do not forget to look to the skies for interesting seabirds like petrels which are not always easily seen elsewhere.

Guided Snorkel in Cosmoledo Lagoon

Experience the beautiful, enchanting marine life by partaking in guided snorkelling trips and opt-in for the calm lagoon or exploring the outer reefs. Snorkelling equipment is complimentary and is available for all guests to use. The abundant and colourful sea life sights are not to be missed.

Menai Mangrove Nature Hike

Take a half or full day excursion across the lagoon to the mangroves on Menai Island. Skirt the edges of this huge mangrove forest and learn about the many different species of mangroves. This is a top spot for bird watching, particularly red-footed boobies that roost in the treetops. Among the roots and trunks look for red mangrove crabs and see if you can spot the huge blue mangrove crabs. As the tide pushes in and around the trees, do not be surprised if a curious sicklefin lemon shark lurks waiting for small prey to leave the shelter of the mangrove.

Cosmoledo Dining

Cosmoledo Eco Lodge, offers a unique and immersive dining experience emphasizing the natural beauty and isolation of the environment. The dining experience focuses on the fresh and local produce available on the atoll. This includes a variety of seafood, fresh vegetables, and tropical fruits. Dining on Cosmoledo Atoll is about savoring fresh, local ingredients while immersing yourself in the breathtaking natural beauty of the Seychelles, making each meal an unforgettable part of your stay.

Sundowners

Sundowners on Cosmoledo Atoll are not just about enjoying a drink at sunset; they are a holistic experience that combines natural beauty, local flavors, and a relaxed, intimate atmosphere. Whether you are sipping a tropical cocktail, enjoying fresh seafood canapés, or simply soaking in the stunning views, this is an experience that embodies the tranquil charm of the Seychelles.

Picnic Experience

A picnic experience at Cosmoledo Eco Lodge in the Seychelles offers an intimate and unforgettable way to enjoy the pristine beauty of this remote island. Picture yourself on a beach with crystal-clear turquoise waters gently lapping the shore, surrounded by nothing but the sound of nature and breathtaking scenery. After enjoying the meal, you can explore the surrounding area with activities like snorkeling in the vibrant coral reefs, bird watching, or simply soaking up the serenity of Cosmoledo's untouched environment. The staff at the lodge ensures a personalized experience, with attention to detail in every aspect, making this picnic not just a meal, but an immersion into the natural splendor of the Seychelles.

Access Map

• Blue Safari Seychelles access map

Getting There

• The Blue Safari Seychelles reservations team will assist with all return flight reservations and flight timings between Mahé and Alphonse at the time of booking. 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.

• Cosmoledo Atoll is a one hour sail [18 nautical miles] from Astove Atoll; which is a three hour flight from Mahé [the main island of the Seychelles]. The group meets an hour before the scheduled departure time at the domestic terminal of the Seychelles International Airport. After the three-hour flight to Astove Atoll, guests will be met by the Captain of the MV Reken, the shuttle boat which will transfer you to the Cosmoledo Eco Camp. MV Reken will then depart on the one-hour sail to Cosmoledo Atoll, situated 18 nautical miles away. The group will spend the days exploring the islands, flats and channels of Cosmoledo Atoll.

• On departure day, MV Reken will shuttle you back to Astove at dawn, where the IDC charter flight will collect the group for your three-hour flight back to Mahé. Scheduled flights depart and return to Mahé each Thursday and select Mondays. Scheduled flights depart from the domestic terminal of the Seychelles International Airport.

• Flight times are subject to change. For further information, please refer to <u>flight schedule</u>. Please make sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team. 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.

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Weather

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at ± 35 ° Celsius [± 90 °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 Fishing Season At Cosmoledo

Cosmoledo is open from late November to April. Due to Cosmoledo being a further 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 fishing 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 \$30per person, per night. 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. This goes to the Alphonse Foundation and funds the conservation centre on the island and our long-term projects, if you would like to contribute further to our special projects that is welcomed and can be settled on check-out

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.

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 before boarding the transfer vessel.

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 **<u>SEYCHELLES IMMIGRATION WEBSITE</u>**.

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
- 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 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.

Flights & Luggage

Your check in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg [33 pounds] per person, and 5 kg [12 pounds] carry on luggage. This is a strict policy that allows us to deliver fresh food produce to the Camp. If it is not possible to load extra luggage, it will have to be repacked and left in Mahé until your return.

Please adhere to the limits. It is suggested that lighter soft-shell luggage is used. Pack a separate bag with excess equipment to avoid having to repack at the airport. Excess luggage can be left with a Blue Safari representative at the hangar.

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
- I x Headlamp/torch
- I x Lightweight rain jacket
- 1 x Camera
- 2 x Swimming costumes
- I x Dry Bag [optional for activities]

Suggested Packing List (Divers)

- 1 x Personal SCUBA mask
- 1 x Mosquito repellent
- 2 x Headband / Buff for ladies
- 1 x Drybag
- 1 x Wetbag
- I x Soft tissue for drying & cleaning lenses
- 2 x Fast drying rash vest
- I x Rain jacket [lightweight] General loose fitting, quick drying clothing for the humidity

Communication

The phone service is operated via satellite and there is Wi-Fi. Communication cost:

- Incoming/outgoing emails US\$41 per MB,
- Out-going voice call US\$4 per minute, incoming voice call US\$3 per minute.

We advise that you leave the contact details of Alphonse Island with your family and friends. The lodge satellite phone is only switched on at certain times for logistical updates so a message can be passed onto you at this time. Alphonse Island Number: **+248-4-22-9700** [GMT+04:00]

Electricity Supply

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

Health & Safety

Water Consumption

There is a desalination plant at the Camp and the 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.

Sun Protection Clothing

The climatic conditions at Cosmoledo can be harsh for those that aren't accustomed to them. Light weight breathable fabrics are recommended. Sunscreen should ideally be SPF 50 for any exposed skin. A packing list will be supplied in your Pre-Trip Information.

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, champagne, spirits and wine on location.

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], \in [Euros] or \pounds [Pounds] into the local currency SCR [Seychelles Rupees], we accepts all these currencies. Please bring sufficient cash to settle tackle bills, tips and other costs incurred. It's important to remember that there will be no credit card facilities on location. All credit card purchases will be done manually.

Duty Free Allowance

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

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.

Cosmoledo Atoll Documents & Links

PDF Documents

Fly Fishing Package 2024 Rates Leisure Package 2024 Rates Cosmoledo Atoll 2024 Experiences

PDF Documents

Fly Fishing Package 2025 Rates Leisure Package 2025 Rates Cosmoledo Atoll 2025 Experiences

PDF Documents

Alphonse Foundation Brochure

Cosmoledo Atoll Documents & Links

PDF Documents BSS Access Map

Cosmoledo 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

<u>Island</u> Telephone:

• +248 422 97 00

• +248 422 90 30

Email:

• info@bluesafari.com

Reservations

Email:

• reservations@bluesafari.com

Postal Address:

Providence Industrial Estate Zone 18 Parcel S9566 No. 6023,

Providence Mahe Seychelles

Website:

• <u>www.bluesafari.com</u>