



# Reunion Island

Photo: bjul/Shutterstock.com

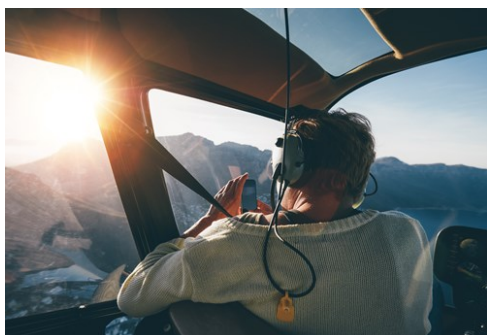


Joost van Uffelen/Shutterstock.com

With a nearly matchless land-before-time quality to its majestic landscapes, Reunion Island tops the list of the world's most photogenic destinations. The tiny dot of land in the Indian Ocean packs a punch with its dizzying hiking trails, magnetic shoreline, stunning beaches, and a truly unique blend of cultures encompassing French, African, Creole, Malagasy, Chinese and Indian heritage.



iladm/Shutterstock.com



Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

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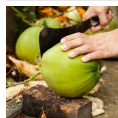
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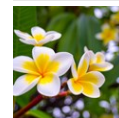
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## THE ISLAND



*Seb c'est bien/Shutterstock.com*

As hard as it may be to wrap one's head around, Reunion Island, located just east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, remains an administrative region of France, and as such constitutes a part of the European Union and the Eurozone (albeit its most remote part). Speaking the island's official language - French - may prove handy when traveling around, but many locals do speak some English as well (Reunion Creole is used in most day-to-day communication).

The Island was first settled over 300 years ago by natives of France, Africa and Madagascar. New pieces have been added to eclectic mosaic of ethnicities and cultures that is Reunion, all put together to create an inviting combination of elegant French and flavourful Creole cuisine, serene beaches and steep mountain ranges (harbouring the still active Piton de la Fournaise volcano), stylish shopping streets reminiscent of those in mainland France and busy local markets. Trips to Reunion are best-planned well in advance - unlike its immediate resort neighbour of Mauritius, the island does not boast a plethora accommodation options, so these are advised to be booked in advance.

## DO & SEE



*Joost van Uffelen/Shutterstock.com*

With its abundance of natural beauty, Reunion is an island where any traveller is spoilt for choice. Do keep in mind that most locations up in the mountains are best visited before noon, since view-obstructing clouds tend to thicken at higher elevations as the day progresses. Dress in layers - the heat in waterside valleys below is misleading, and quickly turns to chilly winds up on the hilltops.

### Piton de Fournaise



Get your hiking shoes on and plan a day trip up the magnificent Piton de Fournaise volcano - one of the most active peaks in the world. Joining a guided tour is highly recommended, and do wear appropriate clothing, as temperatures tend to fall dramatically the higher up you go.

Photo: *infografick/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Piton de Fournaise, Reunion

### Le Maido



The island's north holds one of its most scenic spots at the le Maido summit, where stunning views over Reunion's west coast unfold before the eyes of enthralled visitors. To avoid madding crowds and possible weather changes, head to the summit early in the morning on a clear day.

Photo: bjul/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Route de Maido, Reunion

### Domaine du Café Grillé



A fascinating adventure through the island's past via the over 900 plant species contained in this well-maintained botanical garden awaits visitors to the domaine du Café Grillé, where the journey starts at a recognizable modern creole garden and ends at a lush forest containing indigenous plants.

Photo: panna-yulka/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 10 Allee des Cedres, Pierrefonds  
Phone: +262 262241540  
Internet: [www.domaine-cafe-grille-st-pierre.com](http://www.domaine-cafe-grille-st-pierre.com)  
More Info: Coffee tasting offered to visitors

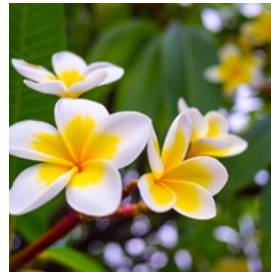
### Cirque de Mafate



The stunning, secluded caldera of Mafate is the place several tiny villages call home. Reaching the dazzling remote loaction is certainly worth the hike (no paved roads run up here, and hiking for hours is unavoidable). Depart in the early morning hours from the Maido or Cilaos (for an easier hike).

Photo: Joost van Uffelen/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Mafate, Reunion

### Jardin des Parfums et des Epices



Tropical flower fragrances fill the air already in the garden's parking lot, and the abundance of flower species becomes apparent once visitors set foot into the lush gardens. Marvel at and learn all about the indigenous plants, flowers, and spices (learning is currently only possible in French).

Photo: bjul/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 7 Chemin Forestier Mare-Longue, Saint-Philippe  
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm  
Phone: +262 262 37 06 36  
Internet: [www.jardin.ep.fontaine.pagesperso-orange.fr](http://www.jardin.ep.fontaine.pagesperso-orange.fr)

### Maison Folio



The authentic Creole villa is now open for public tours, the owners gladly walking visitors through the well-preserved 19th century house and lush garden premises. Tours in English are possible if you're in luck and happen to be visiting at the right time - there is, however, no fixed schedule.

Photo: Olivier Gonthier/Flickr(image cropped)  
Address: 20 Rue Amiral Lacaze, Hell-Bourg  
Opening hours: 9-11.30am & 2-5pm  
Phone: +262 262 47 80 98

### Waterfalls



Visiting the beautiful natural waterfalls is a must-do for visitors to the island. Some of the most scenic ones include those at the bassin des

Aigrettes (at Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains), the cascade de Bras Rouge in Cialos, Delices in Sainte-Suzanne, and Takamaka in Saint Benoit.

Photo: infografick/Shutterstock.com

### Beaches & Lagoons



Being an island in the Indian Ocean, Reunion naturally boasts a number of splendid beaches, some of the best being concentrated in the

waterside stretch between the settlements of Saint-Gilles and l'Ermitage-Les-Bains - these beaches here are sheltered from strong waves by near-lying coral reefs. One of the prettiest white sand beaches on the island is the l'Hermitage, lined with trees to provide saving shade. The prettiest lagoons are to be found between St. Paul and Saint-Leu.

Photo: photobeginner/Shutterstock.com

### Saint-Denis



The region's capital Saint-Denis in the island's north is worth a visit, even if only for a glimpse of Reunion's urban side.

Being the administrative center of the island, it is home to a significant number of local museums, monuments, and important sights.

Photo: Sapsiwai/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saint-Denis, Reunion

### Aquarium de la Reunion



The fascinating 600,000 liter aquarium of Reunion contains an impressive 500 species of fish and marine animals.

Descriptions are provided in French only, but the aquarium is still worth a visit if only for the sight of underwater creatures. Workshops and information meetings are held regularly.

Photo: FamVeld/Shutterstock.com

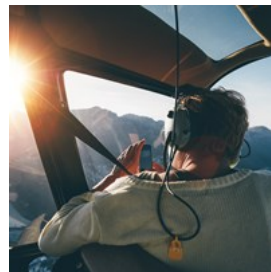
Address: Port de Saint-Gilles, Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5.30pm

Phone: +262 262 33 44 00

Internet: [www.aquariumdelareunion.com](http://www.aquariumdelareunion.com)

### Helicopter Tours



Few places in the world compare in beauty and dramatic effect to the impression produced by the scenery of Reunion Island. See the volcano,

incredible cirques, waterfalls, and the stunning coastline all on one tour of the island from above - on board a helicopter or an ultralight.

FelixULM

+33 6 92 87 32 32

[www.felixulm.com](http://www.felixulm.com)

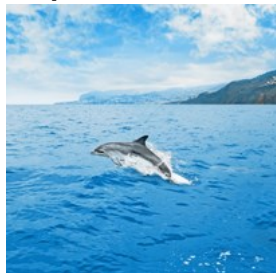
Helilagon

[www.helilagon.com](http://www.helilagon.com)

+262 262 555 555

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

### Dolphin and Whale Watching



Marine life is abundant in the waters around the lush Reunion Island, and quite a number of local companies offer organized tours to some of the best spots where sighting a school of dolphins or even a couple massive whales (June to October) is all but guaranteed.

Bato Pei

+262 692 64 81 97

[www.batopei.re](http://www.batopei.re)

Photo: aldorado/Shutterstock.com

### Cirque de Cilaos



The windy road up to the caldera is a thrill in its own right - after dozens of twists and turns and breathtaking vistas of mossy green cliffs

travelers arrive at the secluded settlement of Cilaos. For best vistas, walk up the Roche Merveilleuse, and do stop by the local thermal baths.

Photo: Sebastien Burel/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cilaos, Reunion

### Canyoning



Those up for active and a tad bit extreme outdoor pursuits should definitely try canyoning in Reunion. The unique natural landscape provides an

abundance of opportunities for exploring (jumping, sliding, swimming and walking in) the canyons, all under supervision of professionals

offering services throughout.

Aquasens (Rivière Langevin)

[www.aquasens.re](http://www.aquasens.re)

+262 692 20 09 03

Canyoning la Reunion (Cilaos)

[www.canyoning-la-reunion.fr](http://www.canyoning-la-reunion.fr)

+262 692 94 03 35

Photo: pedrosala/Shutterstock.com

### Piton des Neiges



Reunion Island's highest peak with its unbeatable 360-degree panorama is certainly worth the two-day hiking trip normally arranged to

reach the summit (those with ample energy may manage a round-trip in one day). If going overnight, opt to stay at Gîte de la Caverne Dufour.

Photo: Dudarev Mikhail/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piton des Neiges, Reunion

### La Saga du Rhum



The Saint-Pierre distillery museum grants visitors insight into the production process of one of the island's traditional alcoholic drinks. Take a

look at the workings of rum production in Reunion, and do try the several rum varieties offered for tasting at the end of the tour.

Photo: Shaiith/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chemin Fredeline, Saint-Pierre

Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm

Phone: +262 0262 358190

Internet: [www.sagadurhum.fr](http://www.sagadurhum.fr)

### La Cooperative Provanille



Discover the little-known vanilla cultivation plant Cooperative Provanille, where all work is done by hand on-site. See the industrious workers on the job, and witness the spice every step of the way over the 18-month long processing period. Gift shop operates on premises.

Photo: franco lucato/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 21 Route Nationale 2, Bras-Panon  
Phone: +262 262 51 71 02  
Internet: [www.provanille.fr](http://www.provanille.fr)

### La Maison du Coco



The curious Maison du Coco in Saint-Leu is where everything revolves around coconuts abundant all throughout the island. Visitors will

gain insight into the way coconut-derived products are made, from juice and various edibles to items made by weaving palm tree leaves.

Photo: Visit Roemvanitch/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 134 rue Georges Pompidou, Saint-Leu  
Internet: [www.maisonducocoreunion.com](http://www.maisonducocoreunion.com)

### Kelonia



The Kelonia turtle center is home to dozens of marine turtles, some of which guests can come in direct contact with. Apart from providing unique entertainment to visitors, the center contributes to research on migration patterns and turtle populations, aimed at preserving the species.

Photo: Isabelle Kuehn/Shutterstock.com

Address: 46 rue du General de Gaulle, Pointe des Châteaux, Saint-Leu

Internet: [www.kelonia.org](http://www.kelonia.org)

### DINING



Foodpictures/Shutterstock.com

A Reunion Island staple are the traditional Creole "caris" (essentially a local spelling of "curry"), the "cabri massalé" (prepared with goat meat) being one of the most popular varieties. Caris are also made with chicken, duck, and seafood, all normally come with a separate side of minced chili pepper. Some local restaurants offer buffet-style Creole dining, with a selection of caris and stews, as well as other local dishes (e.g. vanilla duck, smoked pork or rougail sausage). Indian, Chinese, and French influences can all be traced in the local flavours, and a few fine dining French restaurants operate on the island as well (primarily in the capital city of Saint-Denis).

### Ferme Auberge Eva Annibal (Bras-Panon)



Speaking of authentic, the locally famed restaurant at Eva Annibal's is a longstanding establishment, a place to

be written into a savvy travelers' itinerary. Order the full meal featuring some of the local homely classics (such as the vanilla duck), and follow-up

with one of the many rums on offer.

Photo: Leonie Pauw/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Chemin Riviere du Mat, Bras-Panon

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-1pm & 7-8pm, Sun 12pm-1pm

Phone: +262 262 51 53 76

### Le Reffet des Îles (Saint-Denis)



Local creole cuisine served at this Saint-Denis location comes in multiple delicious varieties of stews and curries. Ingredients are fresh and locally-sourced, and the menu translated into English - a great asset for those who do not speak the local lingua franca (French).

Photo: Alex Hubenov/Shutterstock.com

Address: 114 Rue Pasteur, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-2pm & 7-9.30pm

Phone: +262 262 21 73 82

Internet: [www.lerefletdesiles.com](http://www.lerefletdesiles.com)

### Le 144 (Saint-Denis)



The trendy 144 is a hip European fusion restaurant based in Saint-Denis. It serves finger foods and substantial meals, all

cooked to perfection from the freshest ingredients purchased at local markets. Wines served by the glass. Smoking is allowed on the veranda.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

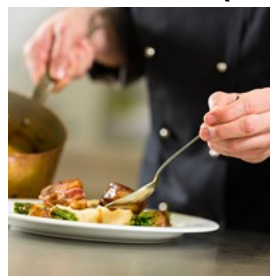
Address: 12 Rue de Nice, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-2.30pm & 7-10pm

Phone: +262 262 11 24 07

Internet: [www.le-144.com](http://www.le-144.com)

### L'Atelier de Ben (Saint-Denis)



The fabled French restaurant is an exceptional gastronomic treat for those ready to contribute time and financial resources

towards an unparalleled dining experience.

Haute cuisine served here bears clear traces of Frech, Creole and Asian influences that all come together in a perfect twist.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 rue de la Compagnie, Saint-Denis

Phone: +262 262 41 85 73

Internet: [www.atelier-de-ben.com](http://www.atelier-de-ben.com)

### Le Sham's (Saint-Denis)



A casual eatery serving Chinese and Creole dishes, Le Sham's is good whether you're looking to dine in or take away. Choose from a broad

selection of chicken, beef, and seafood dishes (fish, calamari, shrimp, etc.). The establishment is very popular with locals. Does not serve alcohol.

Photo: subin pumsom/Shutterstock.com

Address: 85 Rue Pasteur, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Wed-Mon 11am-1.30pm & 7-9.30pm

Phone: +262 262 94 19 57

Internet: [www.shams.re](http://www.shams.re)

### Wasabi (Saint-Denis)



For fans of the sushi conveyor-belt concept, Wasabi is a good choice in Saint-Denis - sushi and rolls here are of remarkably good quality,

and a la carte is available to diners who bring

time (one cannot go wrong with a bento box).  
The restaurant is very popular with locals.

Photo: Cuson/Shutterstock.com

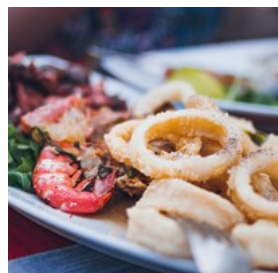
Address: 52 Rue Jean Chatel, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11.45am-2.30pm & 7.30pm-11.30pm

Phone: +262 262 48 58 39

Internet: [www.facebook.com/wasabi.re/](https://www.facebook.com/wasabi.re/)

### Le Manta (L'Hermitage-les-Bains)



Set in a lush tropical garden, the Le Manta restaurant (located right by the beach of L'Hermitage-les-Bains) specializes in fish and

seafood dishes, with some Creole menu items on offer. Serves a selection of desserts, as well as alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Photo: hobo018/Shutterstock.com

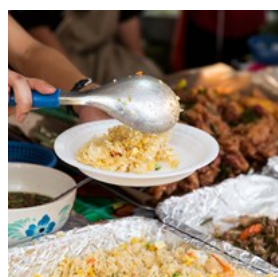
Address: 18 Blvd Leconte de Lisle, L'Hermitage-les-Bains

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-2pm & 7-9.30pm

Phone: +262 262 33 82 44

Internet: [www.le-manta.re](http://www.le-manta.re)

### La Marmite - Restaurant Creole (L'Ermitage-Les-Bains)



The well-regarded Creole restaurant set on one of Reunion's most stunning beaches is a great choice for dinner. Its buffet-style arrangement allows

diners to sample a large selection of local meat, seafood and vegetable curries and stews all in one meal. Cultural nights are sometimes hosted.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: 34 Boulevard Leconte de Lisle, L'Ermitage-Les-Bains

Opening hours: Sun 12pm-2pm, Mon-Sat 12pm-2pm & 7pm-11pm

Phone: +262 262 33 31 37

### Ti Mahi-Mahi (Saint-Gilles)



A great address in Saint-Gilles, the Ti Mahi-Mahi offers a limited selection of dishes for very good reason - "ingredients" (fish) are

caught daily by staff going out to sea in the restaurant's own boat, which guarantees excellent quality and freshness. Tartare is the way to go.

Photo: garetsworkshop/Shutterstock.com

Address: 167 Rue du Général de Gaulle, Saint-Gilles-Les Bains

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 11.30am-2.30pm

Phone: +262 692 10 90 66

### La Case Creole (Saint-Gilles)



To acquaint yourself with local culinary traditions try the very good value La Case Creole. In the evenings, the all-inclusive buffet-style dining allows

guests to sample a large variety of Creole (as well as French/Cajun) dishes at once - even the pickiest of eaters will find something suitable.

Photo: Michaelpuche/Shutterstock.com

Address: 57 rue du General de Gaulle, Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains

Phone: +262 262 24 28 84

### Le DCP (Saint-Gilles/Saint-Pierre)



Le DCP holds somewhat of a legendary status when it comes to seafood in Reunion. The menu foregrounds fresh fish, which comes raw (in the

form of tartare, sushi, or carpaccio), seared, or well-done. It's hard to go wrong with the

selection. Do book in advance to ensure being seated.

Photo: svry/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place du Marche, Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-10pm

Phone: +262 262 33 02 96

More Info: Another location at 38 Bis Boulevard Hubert Delisle, Saint-Pierre

### Sakimfo BBQ HOUSE (Saint-Pierre)



Grill-it-yourself is the motto of this Korean restaurant, where guests are invited to actively participate in the process of dish creation. Staff are

helpful and ready to guide you through the process if the need arises. A la carte menu available if you prefer ready-made meals.

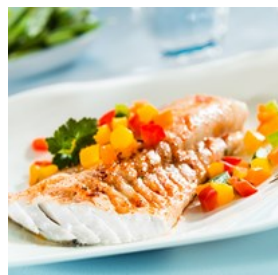
Photo: Indypendenz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 rue Auguste Babet, Saint-Pierre

Opening hours: Opens for dinner

Phone: +262 262 43 70 18

### Planch' Alize (La Saline-les-Bains)



More of a beach club than a restaurant (complete with sunbeds and water sport equipment rental), Planch' Alize is a waterfront establishment

that serves meat and seafood dishes in the main dining area, along with solid sandwiches, salads and desserts at its in-house take-away booth.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com

Address: 25 Rue des Mouettes, La Saline-les-Bains

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-2.30pm, Wed-Sun 7-9pm; bar 9am-late

Phone: +262 262 24 62 61

Internet: [www.planchalize.net](http://www.planchalize.net)

### Au Bout La Bas (Saint-Leu)



The superb St-Leu restaurant serves cooked to perfection local meat and seafood, but the real highlight here are the so-called "tartines" -

succulent open-faced sandwiches that come with various toppings. Portions are very generous, and desserts simply not to be missed.

Photo: Ekaterina Kondratova/Shutterstock.com

Address: 37 Rue du Lagon, Saint-Leu

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-2.30pm & 7pm-10pm

Phone: +262 262559872

### Le Blue Margouillat (Saint-Leu)



A restaurant holding somewhat of a legendary status on the island, the Blue Margouillat (housed inside a boutique hotel by the same name) is a very

upscale dining establishment serving elevated dishes by the pool, against a backdrop of the traditional Creole building it is contained in.

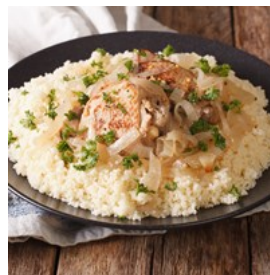
Photo: Elena Elisseeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Impasse Jean Albany, St-Leu

Phone: +262 262 34 64 00

Internet: [www.blue-margouillat.com](http://www.blue-margouillat.com)

### Le QG (Plaine-des-Cafres)



The QG serves the very definition of fusion cuisine - the Creole, French and Senegalese culinary traditions blend together only to create a

varied menu heavy on grilled meats and stews (try the "poulet yassa"). Karaoke nights are held on Fridays.

Photo: AS Food studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 60 Rue Alfred Picard, Plaine-des-Cafres  
Opening hours: Daily 12pm-10pm  
Phone: +262 262 38 28 55

## CAFES



Irina Meliukh/Shutterstock.com

Reunionnais French heritage shines through in its array of bakeries and pastry shops, heavily reminiscent of those dotting each and every larger town on the mainland. These ties to France make it possible to savour a fresh croissant here, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, or go for some of the treats unique to the region - a sweet "macatia" bun or savoury "gâteau patate," a cake made with potato or corn. Fruit is, naturally, abundant - do not miss the goyaviers (small red strawberry guavas), ubiquitous lychee and mango, as well as passion fruit, pitaya cactus and delightfully sweet soursop (all often come in juice and sorbet form).

### Le Massale (Saint-Denis)



The small and very casual take-out cafe is where locals in-the-know go for delicious Indian treats and snacks - from samosas and other deep-fried savoury pastries with various fillings to colorful "barfi" sweets that come in a variety of fruity flavours.

Photo: viennetta/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 30 Rue Alexis de Villeneuve, Saint-Denis  
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11.30am-7pm, Sat & Sun, Fri 3-7pm  
Phone: +262 262 21 75 06  
Internet:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Le-Massale/257824884235777](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Le-Massale/257824884235777)

### Perlin Pain Pain (Saint-Denis)



The centrally located bakery is, perhaps, one of the best in Saint-Denis. It's great for a quick, affordable lunch as well as a coffee break in town with a delicious local or classic French pastry. Breakfast is served in a pleasant on-site dining room, and breads may be purchased for take-away.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 43 Rue de la Compagnie, Saint-Denis  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5.30am-7.30pm, Sun 5.30am-12pm  
Phone: +262 262 23 01 21

### Les Glaciers Igloo (Saint-Denis)



L'Igloo is a not-t-be-missed ice cream parlour in the very heart of Saint-Denis. Anyone with a sweet tooth is guaranteed to find something to their liking from over 30 different flavours. At lunchtime, the parlour also serves light meals and snack foods.

Photo: Luboslav Tiles/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 67 Rue Jean Chatel, Saint-Denis  
Phone: +262 262 21 97 12  
Internet: [www.liglooleffetglace.re](http://www.liglooleffetglace.re)

### La Case à Pains (Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains)



The delightful bakery in Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains is a godsend for those who enjoy a good freshly-baked loaf of bread or layered dough pastry. Case a Pains packs a punch with its endless array of freshly baked goodies, cakes, tarts, coffees and much more.

Photo: Tobik/Shutterstock.com

Address: Local 29 B Rue du Général de Gaulle, Saint-Gilles les Bains, Réunion

Email: lacaseapains.direction@gmail.com

### Le 16 (Saint-Pierre)



The generously stuffed bagels at this Saint-Pierre location are simply to die for - pick and choose from multiple delicious varieties and follow-up

with a decadent dessert (cheesecake enjoys a rather good reputation). Seating available in- and outdoors.

Photo: vsl/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Rodier, Saint-Pierre

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10.30am-2.30pm, Fri 10.30am-2.30pm, 6.30pm-9pm

Phone: +262 262 10 57 43

### L'Instant Plaisirs (Cilaos)



Upholding its French culinary heritage, the island of Reunion is home to a number of delightful French bakeries and creperies - L'Instant

Plaisirs in Cilaos being a shining example. Crepes served here vary from cheesy savoury galettes to decadent sweet treats mounted with

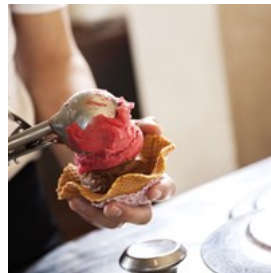
whipped cream.

Photo: rakratchada/Shutterstock.com

Address: 28 Rue du Pere Boiteau, Cilaos

Phone: +262692457199

### La Magie Des Glaces (Saint-Paul)



The exquisite ice cream parlour is worth a stop for dessert if you happen to be in the area - the selection of home-made ice-creams is rather

impressive, and many are made with fresh local fruit (adding to the flavour variety). Also on offer are desserts and pastries, including French crepes and macaroons.

Photo: Tyler Olson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Rue Edmond Albius, L'Étang, Saint-Paul

Opening hours: Tue & Fri-Sun 10am-12.30pm & 2-7pm, Wed & Thu 2-7pm

Phone: +262 262 45 25 48

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Reunion Island's west coast is the area most frequented by party-goers - the general stretch between Saint-Paul in the north and Saint-Pierre in the south is where most bars and nightlife establishments are concentrated, with Saint-Gilles and the paradise beach of L'Hermitage particularly known for their animated, glossy venues, while Saint-Pierre still retains some of

the authentic local charm. Drinks to be had on the island are the locally-produced rums and the island "Burbon" beer brand, simply referred to as "dodo" by locals.

### Ô Bar Reunion (Saint-Denis)



Contrary to what the establishment's name indicates, the Ô Bar isn't just a watering hole but a full-blown restaurant, with a rather varied selection of meals and tapas. The drink list is, naturally, quite extensive. Live music nights are hoisted frequently.

Photo: Nykonchuk Oleksii/Shutterstock.com

Address: 34 Rue de la Compagnie, Saint-Denis, Réunion

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11am-2am

Phone: +262 262 52 57 88

Internet: [commande.obar.re](http://commande.obar.re)

Email: [contact@obar.re](mailto:contact@obar.re)

### Mac Evan's (Saint-Denis)



Heralded as one of the best pubs in the island's north, Mac Evan's is not to be missed by travelers to Saint-Denis. The place boasts an extensive selection of drinks (the variety of beer is particularly impressive), but food is served as well - try the classic combination of meat and fries.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com

Address: 59 Rue Monthyon, Saint-Denis

Phone: +262 262 21 30 60

### KT Dral (Saint-Denis)



Located directly behind the Saint-Denis Cathedral, this aptly named bar is really a full-blown restaurant with an extensive menu, but its spacious outdoor seating area is a very popular location for an evening drink in the island's capital. Service is pleasantly attentive.

Photo: IVL/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Ruelle Saint Paul, Saint-Denis

Phone: +262 692 95 92 00

Internet: [www.facebook.com/ktdral/](http://www.facebook.com/ktdral/)

### Apoteek (Saint-Denis)



There is no place for the ubiquitous mojito and caipirinha on the drink list of this innovative establishment boasting liquor imports from all over the world (Japanese whiskeys and Russian vodka, to name a couple) and creative cocktail mixes. Serves good food (international rather than local).

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 rue Rontaunay, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-12.30am

Phone: +262 262 20 19 19

### Le Bénitier Plage (Saint-Gilles)

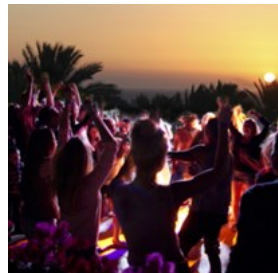


Sit back and sink your feet into the sand at this casual waterside restaurant and bar, where the atmosphere is conducive to complete relaxation. Live music is played at night, with guest singers setting the mood to a wonderful evening. Dancing isn't uncommon either.

International foods on offer.

Photo: vetrovamaría/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Avenue de Bourbon, Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains  
Phone: +262 262 24 38 16

### La Villa Club (Saint-Gilles)



La Villa is, perhaps, one of the island's finest nightlife establishments - with its in- and outdoor areas, excellent music and regularly held theme

nights, the venue is all but perfect for the twenty-something demographic of party-goers. An entry fee is normally charged.

Photo: vlad09/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 71 avenue Bourbon, Saint-Gilles-Les-Bains  
Opening hours: Fri 11pm-5am, Sat 11pm-6am  
Phone: +262 692601900  
Internet: [www.lavilla-club.com](http://www.lavilla-club.com)

### V and B St Pierre - Wines & Beers (Saint-Pierre)



The franchise's well-realized ambition is to bring together a bar and cellar under one roof, creating a space where guests would be free to

purchase exquisite wines and varied beers by the case, while also having the possibility to sample some of the finest varieties in-house.

Photo: Christopher Gardiner/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 169 Rue Albert Luthuli, Saint-Pierre  
Opening hours: Mon 2pm-8pm, Tue&Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs&Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 8.30am-9pm  
Phone: +262 2 62 42 25 37  
Internet: [www.vandb.fr](http://www.vandb.fr)

### Les 3 Brasseurs (Saint-Pierre/Sainte-Marie)



The brewery franchise originated in France over 30 years ago, and has since spread all around France and beyond - to Canada and French

territories such as Reunion. There are 2 locations on the island, both serving several varieties of home brews and a good selection of dishes.

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Route ZI N 2, Saint-Pierre  
Phone: +262 262 96 30 60  
Internet: [www.les3brasseurs.re](http://www.les3brasseurs.re)  
Email: [st-pierre@les3brasseurs.re](mailto:st-pierre@les3brasseurs.re)  
More Info: Further location at Centre Commercial Duparc Sainte-Marie

### Bambou Bar Restaurant (Saint-Gilles)

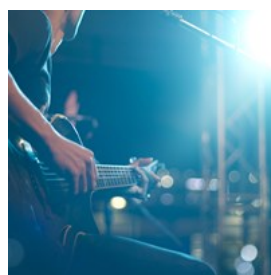


The tropical Bambou restaurant and bar is set directly on the beach in Saint-Gilles. It is known for its generous portions sizes and very decent

Creole cuisine - arrive hungry or do not hesitate ordering to share. A nice selection is provided for those looking to simply indulge in an evening drink.

Photo: Olesya Kuznetsova/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 35 Rue du Boucan Canot, Boucan Canot, Réunion  
Phone: +262 262 24 59 29

### La Cerise (Saint-Paul)



A cafe by day and cultural center/live music venue by night, La Cerise (sur le chapeau - "cherry on top") is an attractive evening venue with a

varied event program (check the web page to see

what's on currently). Walk-ins are welcome - grab a beer and enjoy the show.

Photo: PopTika/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Rue Eugene Dayot, Saint-Paul

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 5pm-12am

Phone: +262 262 96 21 69

Internet: [www.lacerise.re](http://www.lacerise.re)

## SHOPPING



Gts/Shutterstock.com

### Saint-Paul Market



Heralded as one of the finest markets on the island, Saint-Paul is where over 300 vendors come together each Friday and Saturday to showcase and sell a wide variety of produce - from exotic fruit and fresh vegetables to honey and spices used in local cooking.

Photo: Photology1971/Shutterstock.com

Address: Boulevard du Front de Mer, Saint-Paul

Opening hours: Fri 6am-5.30pm, Sat 6am-12pm

### Le Palais du Fromage (Le Tampon)



The selection of locally-made cheeses in this Le Tampon location is staggering - browse through a variety of cheeses, but be ready to be guided by the senses only if French isn't on the list of languages you speak. The house specialty is caramel and honey-flavored "fromage de Sylvie."

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Alfred Picard, Le Tampon

Phone: +262 2 62 59 27 15

### Marché forain du Chaudron (Saint-Denis)



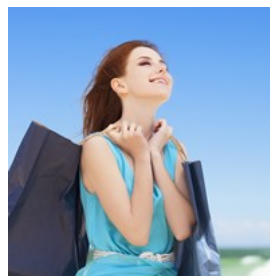
The open-air market at Sainte-Clotilde in the island's capital is a great spot to stock up on fresh produce - items vary from fresh fruit and vegetables to meat and fish from local suppliers. Browse though local art and craft creations (authentic-as-it gets souvenir material) and local treats.

Photo: Luis Carlos Torres/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Jean de Villele, Sainte Clotilde, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Wed & Sun 6am-12pm

### Centre Commercial Duparc (Sainte-Marie)



The Duparc shopping center in the island's north is the largest shopping mall in Reunion, with multiple international brand names represented. The center is located directly by the Roland Garos airport, making it a popular shopping destination for travelers. Cafes

and restaurants available on-site.

Photo: Masson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Rue Michel Ange, Réunion

Phone: +262 262 93 18 18

### La Maison du Curcuma (Saint-Joseph)



Simultaneously a local attraction and shopping location, the Maison du Curcuma is an educational experience and shopping spot

combined. Learn all about the processing stages of this indigenous spice and shop for unique goods featuring the ingredient known for its medicinal properties.

Photo: 5PH/Shutterstock.com

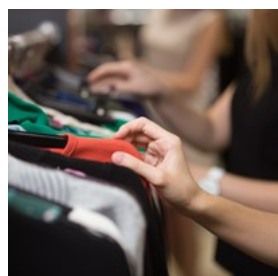
Address: 14 Rue du Rond, Plaine des Gregues, Saint-Joseph

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9am-12pm, 1.30pm-5pm

Phone: +262 262 37 54 66

Internet: [www.maisonducurcuma.fr](http://www.maisonducurcuma.fr)

### Pardon! (Saint-Denis)



The Pardon! boutique is home to island-made fashions, and a real treasure ground of fun, stand-out T-shirt designs.

The boutique stocks

women's and men's, as well as children's clothing and accessories. Emphasis is laid on beach ware and summer styles.

Photo: fizkes/Shutterstock.com

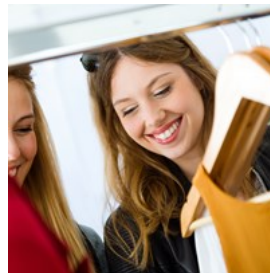
Address: 96 rue Jean Chatel, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm

Phone: +33 2 62 41 15 62

Internet: [www.shop-pardon.net](http://www.shop-pardon.net)

### L'Effet Péi (Saint-Denis)



Another clothing store native to the island, L'Effet Péi features local designs on beach ware, tops, skirts, shorts, dresses, and various accessories primarily fit for the Reunionnais climate - for both men and women. Multiple locations operate throughout the island.

Photo: nenetus/Shutterstock.com

Address: 54 Rue du Maréchal Leclerc, Saint-Denis

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6.30pm

Phone: +262 262 29 25 60

Internet: [www.leffetpei.re](http://www.leffetpei.re)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*Kletr/Shutterstock.com*

### Shark Alert



Nearly 20 registered shark attacks have occurred in the waters surrounding Reunion since 2011, 7 of which ended in fatalities. In

2013 (when attack frequency reached its peak) surfing, body-boarding and swimming were banned on all Reunion beaches. Travelers are advised to exercise extreme precaution and stay updated on the current regulations.

Photo: Victor Z

### Roland Garros Airport



This one is the island's main entry point, servicing a number of international destinations and airlines. The airport is located in the immediate vicinity of the capital city of Saint-Denis.

The "Citalis" bus line 31 functions as the airport shuttle and allows travelers to reach the city easily.

There are two long-distance bus routes by "Car Jaune": "ZE" bus connects Saint-Benoît and Saint-Denis (Mon-Sat, 3 times a day), while the "T" route runs from Roland Garros to Pierrefonds airport in Saint-Pierre via multiple destinations on the west coast (every two hours).

Taxis and rental cars are available for hire.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: 74 Avenue Roland Garros, Reunion

Phone: +262 262 48 81 81

Internet: [www.reunion.aeroport.fr](http://www.reunion.aeroport.fr)

### Pierrefonds Airport



The island's second airport - Pierrefonds - is located at its southern end. Bus line "T" operated by the "Cars Jaunes" company connects Saint-Pierre and Saint-Denis (including the Roland Garros airport), passing through multiple beach resorts on the west coast. Consult the website for schedules.

To hire a cab to Saint-Pierre, call +262 262 96

80 00

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Chemin de L Aerodrome, Saint-Pierre

Phone: +262 262 96 80 00

Internet: [www.pierrefonds.aeroport.fr](http://www.pierrefonds.aeroport.fr)

### Public Transport



A network of yellow buses ("Car Jeunes") connects all major destinations on the island. There are 13 lines in total, one of the most popular ones being line "T" that runs through many beach resorts along Reunions west coast, from Roland Garros Airport in the north to Pierrefonds Airport in the south. Consult the website for schedules and fares.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Internet: [www.cg974.fr](http://www.cg974.fr)

### Taxi



Taxis are fairly expensive, and prices go up even higher at night time (after 8pm) - these are easily hired in town centers or at bus stations. Taxis can be shared, in which case prepare to wait for passengers headed in the same direction.

Saint-Denis:

Allo Taxi +262 692 854 134

Saint-Pierre:

+262 262 385 484

Photo: ArrivalGuides

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies are readily available throughout.  
Pharmacie de la Poste 89  
Rue Juliette Dodu,  
Saint-Denis Phone: +262  
262 20 07 52 Pharmacie

de l'océan  
105 Rue du Général de Gaulle, Saint-Gilles les  
Bains

Pharmacie du Lagon  
1 Rue des Macabits, La Saline-Les-Bains

Photo: Gemma Garner

## Post



The island's main post office is located in Saint-Denis, although all larger settlements have small post offices of their own. These normally

operate Mon-Fri 8am-12pm & 2pm-5pm, Sat 8am-12pm.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Rue du Marechal Leclerc, Saint-Denis

## Telephone

Reunion code +262



Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Hertz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

**Population**  
843,617 (2015)

**Currency**  
1 Euro = 100 cents

**Opening hours**  
Most businesses are closed on Sundays. Some restaurants open for lunch and dinner only, and remain closed between around 2pm and 7pm.

**Newspapers**  
Journal de l'île de La Réunion  
Le Quotidien

**Emergency numbers**  
Ambulance: 15  
Police: 17  
Fire: 18  
Accident and Emergency Department: 112

**Tourist information**  
Office de Tourisme Nord Reunion  
+33 2 62 41 83 00  
Maison Carrère 14, rue de Paris, Saint-Denis  
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 9am-1pm  
[www.lebeaupays.com](http://www.lebeaupays.com)