

FRÉGATE ISLAND

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The most easterly of the granitic Inner Islands, Frégate Island lies 35 miles from Mahé and just four degrees south of the Equator. One of Seychelles' largest private islands, yet still only 3km², it's a topographical mix of granite peaks and plateaux, mystical forests of banyan trees, and seven startlingly beautiful beaches, from the windswept length of Grande Anse to the photogenic cove at Anse Victorin.

Frégate's varied and striking landscape is home to some unusual flora and fauna. Fourteen bird species are resident and breeding on the island, including the rare Seychelles magpie robin; over a thousand Aldabra giant tortoises roam free; both hawksbill and green turtles nest on the quiet beaches; fruit bats circle continually; and even two small endemics can be found: the flightless giant tenebrionid beetle and the Enid snail.



Tortoises roam freely on Frégate Island

FRÉGATE ISLAND VILLAS

There are 17 vast villas on Frégate: 13 one-bedroom villas; two two-bedroom villas, one spa villa and the Presidential villa 'Banyan Hill', which is booked exclusively by small groups and families of up to six. Although everything has been constructed within strict environmental controls, levels of luxury have not been compromised.

On the northern curve of the island, between Anse Bambous and Anse Macquereau, each villa is a large colonial-style bungalow, with a spectacular ocean view from the terrace, a butler and a private solar buggy for exploring the island. The interiors, incorporating a spacious bedroom and living area, are in natural tones, with carved timber furniture, built-in facilities and a selection of useful mod-cons. The en suite has both an indoor and small outdoor shower, and a window-view bath. A shaded day bed, sunloungers and pool-side



Each of the vast villas on Frégate Island has its own infinity pool

Jacuzzi overlook the sea, though the *pièce de résistance* of these hideaways is undoubtedly the sapphire-blue infinity pool.

Away from your pool are a host of activities. Water lovers are spoilt for choice with two further, huge freshwater swimming pools, a yacht club and a PADI dive centre. From motorboats to kayaks, and sailing to snorkelling, it's all available. Back ashore, hiking, beachcombing, or a trip to the gym can all be arranged. If that all sounds too energetic, the Zen-like Rock Spa is a perfect retreat. Clear ponds, raked rock gardens, timber pagoda-style treatment rooms and gentle Balinese staff combine to create a true haven. By contrast, younger guests (aged 5–12 years) will be warmly welcomed at the active 'Castaway Kids Club House' (opening varies with the season) for supervised games, excursions, craft and even cookery classes.

Food is a highlight on Frégate. Served in-villa, at the marina, in the main restaurant or

in any number of natural settings around the forest and coast, Creole and international flavours are blended to produce a seasonal menu of elaborate French-inspired creations.

A rich assortment of natural and cultivated mangos, papayas, guava, coconuts, melons and bananas are harvested daily on Frégate Island. A wander around the working gardens to see the coffee bushes, aromatic herb borders and vanilla vines is fascinating. For gardeners, scientists and cooks, the first-class hydroponics project, which produces wonderful salad crops and juicy tomatoes, is well worth a tour.

Whilst Frégate Island is very costly, it offers a luxurious private-island experience with first-rate facilities and service, which it delivers with aplomb.

