Reunion Island Paradise

Trip Code: RUN

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	6 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Distinctive Creole flavour and Indian Ocean beaches
- Summit Piton des Neiges (3070m), Reunion Island's highest mountain
- Proper volcano walking and overnight in mountain refuges
- Sunrise on the summits and stunning mountain scenery walking on Reunion Island

AT A GLANCE

- 8 days trekking
- 1 day beach and sightseeing
- Max altitude - 3070m
- Join at St Denis

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Wild and tropical trekking adventure holiday walking in the mountains of Reunion Island. Eight hundred kilometres east of Madagascar, the French overseas department of Reunion Island is a walking destination - par excellence! The far-flung volcanic Reunion Island, with its intriguing mix of African and French cultures, rises to over 3000m and its rugged interior boasts a network of walking trails which would not look out of place in Nepal. Three vast eroded cirques, Salazie, Mafate and Cilaos, dominate the centre of Reunion Island and provide the backdrop for this surprising walking adventure holiday.

Walking through forest and farmland, our trekking takes us across high passes, descending to spend time in and explore friendly villages. Luxuriant vegetation, exotic bird species, towering waterfalls and hot springs to are all part of the scene on the endearing paradise of Reunion Island. Trekking to the summit of Piton des Neiges (3070m) at dawn, we can look across to our final objective, the active volcano of Piton de la Fournaise (2632m). Having ticked off many of the best walking trails on Reunion Island, we will be ready for a day of R&R at the pleasant coastal resort of St Gilles, a great way to end our walking holiday adventure to Reunion Island.

Is this holiday for you?

This is not a long or sustained walking holiday and the altitudes that we reach are relatively modest. The first 3 days of walking take the form of a continuous trek, walking between 4 and 6 hours each day, as we cross from the cirque of Salazie, through Mafate to Cilaos. We then have a free day, before making a 2-day ascent of Piton des Neiges. Climbing this peak and then descending to the refuge at Belouve, will provide us with our longest day - possibly 7 hours of walking. We have 2 further day hikes, including the 5-hour return trip to the cratered top of Piton de la Fournaise. Although most of the paths that we follow throughout the trip will have way-markers (in the French style - blobs of paint) we will encounter a wide range of underfoot conditions. There will be forest trails, including muddy conditions at Trou de Fer, as well as zig-zag tracks on volcanic scree and rough, rocky sections on each of the peaks. There are a few short, 5-10m sections on the path which do have a little exposure. Whilst trekking for 2 nights / 3 days between Salazie (day 2) and Cilaos (day 4) and during the 2-day ascent of Piton des Neiges (3 nights/4 days), we will carry everything that we need in our daysacks. Our main luggage will be transferred to the following hotel. Your backpack should be kept light, under 8kg. Carrying our few belongings over the walks makes it seem much more adventurous and exciting on this rural island.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Experienced local leader
- Airport transfers to start and end hotels
- Accommodation as described
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- All land transport involved in the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

On arrival, all clients arriving into St Denis Airport (except during the night between 2100 and 0430) will receive a transfer to the group hotel in St Denis. The group briefing with the guide takes place at 18.00, so you should arrive before 17.00 so that you can join this briefing.

On departure all clients will receive a transfer from St Gilles (except during the night between 2100 and 0430) to the airport in time for their flight.

Both transfers are 'tourist transfers' - which is a tourist bus which drops off people at different hotels. The transfer to the hotel in St Denis is approximately 15mins from the airport, and from St Gilles is 45mins - 1hr.

If you are arriving or departing between 2100 and 0430 you will need a private transfer, and we can provide this at an additional cost. Private transfers during the day are also available if you do not wish to take the shared tourist transfer.Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts and 5 dinners are included in the holiday price. All lunches and evening meals on 5 days will need to be purchased directly. Some lunches will involve buying snack items for a picnic lunch and some will be taken in a café, restaurant or other food outlet. Meal prices on Reunion Island are similar to those in the UK. Allow €10 - €15 for each lunch and approximately €30 for each evening meal. A total of €300 will be sufficient to cover these meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

The plethora of races and nationalities has contributed to the integration of cuisines from India, China, France, Madagascar and the African mainland making the local food, interesting and exotic. Eating is one of the favourite activities of Reunionese and mealtimes are family occasions. The regional specialty is 'cari', a truly Creole dish in which many ingredients are simmered together. The cari is made using Indian spices and local ingredients like meat, poultry, fish or seafood and contains garlic, onion, plenty of tomatoes, turmeric, cloves and ginger. Caris are best eaten with boiled rice. The favourite special dishes of the islanders are carri bichique, carri tangue and wasp larvae served in a dish called rougail. Traditional Indian, Chinese and French food is available at the many restaurants and cafes in Reunion that also serve good local and French wines. However, essentially being a part of France much of the food is based on the French food including baguette at breakfast and sandwiches for lunch. Of course one must not forget the beer "bourbon" which is more often called 'dodo'. Our packed/picnic lunches we need to purchase at the local shops and the tour leader will point you in the right direction for this.

Accommodation

During this holiday the group will spend 1 night in a colonial style hotel with small swimming pool, centrally located in St Denis on the arrival night. We have 5 nights accommodation will be in a variety of mountain houses, gites and refuges, which usually have dormitory-style rooms and shared bathroom facilities. Bedding and pillows are provided at the refuges, except for Caverne Dufour refuge where we can not guarantee there will be bedding or blankets provided. We recommend you take a sheet sleeping bag and a sleeping bag for this night. In Cilaos, in the middle of the trip, we have 2 nights in a small hotel with swimming pool. And the last 2 nights of the holiday are in a resort style hotel in St Gilles with swimming pool and access to the beach. However swimming is not recommended in the sea due to the sharks!

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex for the hotel nights (5 nights). Single hotel rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

Approximately €400 (Or equivalent in GBP or USD) should be allowed for should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks, non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

When staying in St Gilles and St Denis (3 nights total) there is a hotel tax of 0.92 Euros per person per night that you have to pay the hotel directly.

The currency is Euros and if you are taking cash you should bring euros as money changing facilities are limitied. There are ATM's in St Denis, Cilaos and St Gilles. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Optional Activities:

Whale-watching or Dolphin Tour, St Gilles. There are a few different options ranging from €20 for a 1 hr trip, €30 for 2 hrs and €60 for 4 hrs, and packages which including drinks and meals.

Dolphins tours are all year around, Whale-watching is Jun-Oct.You should speak with your guide on arrival to book a tour.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members. As a rough guide we recommend €30 per person for your guide.

Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. During the 3-day trek from Salazie to Cilaos and during the 4 days from Cilaos back to St Gilles, you will carry your personal equipment in your daypack. In practice, you should not need to carry more than about 8 kg. It is possible to leave other items not required on these trekking days at the hotel which will be transferred to the next accessible accommodation. Luggage with wheels is considered useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Reunion Islands

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for shorts stays.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in the Reunion Islands is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 3 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardio vascular fitness and stamina.

Climate

From May to October is the winter season on Reunion Island and the climate is generally cooler and drier than other times of the year. This is the best season for trekking in the mountains. From November to April it is hotter and wetter. Daytime maximum temperatures at the coast at the time of any of our departures are likely to be around 22°C to 26°C. High on the mountains, temperatures will be pleasantly cool, averaging between 12°C and 18°C. Early morning at the summit of Piton des Neiges, we might encounter frosty conditions.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Maps

Reunion. IGN 1:75,000

The full Reunion Island at 1:75,000 on a GPS compatible map. It shows the topography, walking routes and places of interest. Also included is a street plan of Saint-Denis.

St-Denis - Cirques de Mafate et de Salazie. 1:25,000. IGN 4402RT (Blue series)

IGN blue series walking map of the Cirques de Mafate and Salazie. This map covers walking days 2 to 8.

Piton de la Fournaise. 1:25,000. IGN 4406RT (Blue Series)

IGN blue series walking map of the Piton de la Fournaise. This map covers walking day 9.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers or sandals for river crossings / hut use / beach use
- Sleeping bag down to 0 degrees C (for 1 night in the Caverne Dufour Hut)
- Sleeping bag liner
- Underwear & socks
- Trekking trousers and shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and overtrousers
- Thermal baselayer shirts and leggings
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight thermal or fleece gloves
- Daypack 40 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose, etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit, including: insect repellent; antiseptic cream; diarrhoea treatment; painkillers; plasters and blister treatment; and re-hydration salts.

The following items are optional:

- Trekking poles (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)
- Travel/trek towel

- Travel pillow (one hut night there is no pillow, you can use rolled up clothes)
- Ear plugs
- Camera
- Swim wear
- Gaiters (against the mud)
- Spare laces
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

During the holiday you will have time away from your main baggage and will need to pack your rucksack accordingly. You will not have access to your main bag from Day 2 to Day 4 (3 days, 2 nights), and from Day 6 to Day 9 (4 days, 3 nights). You will need to carry your sleeping bag (down to 0 degrees C) for the Caverne Dufour Hut on the night of Day 6.

Mosquitoes - In the hotels on the coast the rooms are air conditioned so mosquito nets are not required. When we are walking in the mountains the altitude is usually too high for mosquitoes, and some insect repellent should be sufficient.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in St. Denis, Reunion. For clients making their own flight arrangements, St Denis Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Roland Garros Airport, (St Denis, Reunion) Outbound flights will usually depart the UK at lunchtime, arriving in the morning of the following day (day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart Roland Garros Airport in the evening of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the morning of the following day. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

With 30-year's trekking experience in far-flung destinations, we can tell you that this tropical island trek is sure to provide you with 'A taste of trekking paradise'.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 19/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change