[Template:For](/wiki/Template:For" \o "Template:For) [Template:EngvarB](/wiki/Template:EngvarB) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Seychelles** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); French: [Template:IPA-fr](/wiki/Template:IPA-fr)), officially the **Republic of Seychelles** ([Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr); [Creole](/wiki/Seychellois_Creole): *Repiblik Sesel*), is an [archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago) and country in the Indian Ocean. The 115-[island country](/wiki/Island_country), whose capital is [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles), lies [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) east of mainland East Africa. Other nearby island countries and territories include [Comoros](/wiki/Comoros), [Mayotte](/wiki/Mayotte), [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar), [Réunion](/wiki/Réunion) and [Mauritius](/wiki/Mauritius) to the south.

Seychelles, with a population of roughly 93,000, has the [smallest population of any independent African state](/wiki/List_of_African_countries_by_population); however, it does have a larger population than the British overseas territory [Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha](/wiki/Saint_Helena,_Ascension_and_Tristan_da_Cunha).[[1]](#cite_note-1)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Victoria Seychelles 1900s](/wiki/File:Victoria_Seychelles_1900s.jpg) The Seychelles were uninhabited throughout most of recorded history. Some scholars assume that [Austronesian](/wiki/Austronesian_people) seafarers and later [Maldivian](/wiki/Maldive_Islands) and Arab traders were the first to visit the uninhabited Seychelles. The earliest recorded sighting by Europeans took place in 1502 by the Portuguese Admiral [Vasco da Gama](/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama), who passed through the [Amirantes](/wiki/Amirantes) and named them after himself (islands of the Admiral). The earliest recorded landing was in January 1609, by the crew of the "Ascension" under Captain Sharpeigh during the fourth voyage of the British [East India Company](/wiki/East_India_Company).

A transit point for trade between Africa and Asia, the islands were occasionally used by pirates until the French began to take control starting in 1756 when a Stone of Possession was laid by Captain Nicholas Morphey. The islands were named after [Jean Moreau de Séchelles](/wiki/Jean_Moreau_de_Séchelles), [Louis XV's](/wiki/Louis_XV) Minister of Finance.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The British controlled the islands between 1794 and 1810. Jean Baptiste Quéau de Quincy, French administrator of Seychelles during the years of war with the United Kingdom, declined to resist when armed enemy warships arrived. Instead, he successfully negotiated the status of capitulation to Britain which gave the settlers a privileged position of neutrality.

Britain eventually assumed full control upon the surrender of [Mauritius](/wiki/Mauritius) in 1810, formalised in 1814 at the [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1814)). Seychelles became a [crown colony](/wiki/Crown_colony) separate from Mauritius in 1903. Elections were held in 1966 and 1970.

### Independence (1976)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Independence was granted in 1976 as a republic within the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations).[[3]](#cite_note-3) In the 1970s Seychelles was "the place to be seen, a playground for film stars and the international jet set".[[4]](#cite_note-4) In 1977, a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) by [France Albert René](/wiki/France_Albert_René) ousted the first president of the republic, [James Mancham](/wiki/James_Mancham).[[5]](#cite_note-5) René discouraged over-dependence on tourism and declared that he wanted "to keep the Seychelles for the Seychellois".[[4]](#cite_note-4) The 1979 constitution declared a socialist one-party state, which lasted until 1991.

In the 1980s there were a series of coup attempts against President [France-Albert René](/wiki/France-Albert_René), some of which were supported by South Africa. In 1981, [Mike Hoare](/wiki/Mike_Hoare) led a team of 43 South African mercenaries masquerading as holidaying Rugby players in a coup attempt in what is known as the [Seychelles affair](/wiki/Mike_Hoare#Seychelles_affair_and_subsequent_conviction).[[4]](#cite_note-4) There was a gun battle at the airport, and most of the mercenaries later escaped in a hijacked [Air India](/wiki/Air_India) plane.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The leader of this hijacking was the infamous German mercenary D. Clodo, a former member of the Rhodesian SAS.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Clodo later stood trial in South Africa (where he was acquitted) as well as in his home country Germany for air-piracy.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In 1986, an attempted coup led by the Seychelles Minister of Defence, Ogilvy Berlouis, caused President René to request assistance from India. In [Operation Flowers are Blooming](/wiki/Operation_Flowers_are_Blooming), the Indian naval vessel [INS Vindhyagiri](/wiki/INS_Vindhyagiri) arrived in Port Victoria to help avert the coup.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The first draft of a new constitution failed to receive the requisite 60% of voters in 1992, but an amended version was approved in 1993.

In January 2013, Seychelles declared a state of emergency; the tropical cyclone Felleng caused torrential rain, and flooding and landslides destroyed hundreds of houses.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Victoria.jpeg)[Victoria](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles), the capital of Seychelles [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The Seychelles president, who is [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), is elected by popular vote for a five-year term of office. The cabinet is presided over and appointed by the president, subject to the approval of a majority of the legislature.

The [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) Seychellois parliament, the National Assembly or *Assemblée Nationale*, consists of 34 members, 25 of whom are elected directly by popular vote, while the remaining nine seats are appointed proportionally according to the percentage of votes received by each party. All members serve five-year terms.

The [Supreme Court of Seychelles](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Seychelles), created in 1903, is the highest trial court in Seychelles and the first court of appeal from all the lower courts and tribunals. The highest court of law in Seychelles is the Seychelles Court of Appeal, which is the court of final appeal in the country.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

### Political culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|President](/wiki/File:James_Michel_in_meeting.jpg) [James Michel](/wiki/James_Michel) in his office in [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles), 2009 [thumb|Map of Seychelles](/wiki/File:Se-map.gif) Seychelles' previous president [France Albert René](/wiki/France_Albert_René) came to power after his supporters overthrew the first president [James Mancham](/wiki/James_Mancham) on 5 June 1977 in a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) and installed him as president. René was at that time the prime minister.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) René ruled as a [strongman](/wiki/Strongman_(politics)) under a [socialist](/wiki/Socialist) [one-party system](/wiki/One-party_system) until in 1993, when he was forced to introduce a multi-party system. During his tenure, he was accused of involvement in criminal activity. US Ambassador to Seychelles (1982–85) [David Fischer](http://adst.org/2015/04/seychelles-gangstas-paradise/) has stated publicly that René was complicit in money laundering and murder, among other things. He stepped down in 2004 in favour of his vice-president, [James Michel](/wiki/James_Michel), who was re-elected in 2006 and again in 2011.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) The primary political parties are the ruling socialist [People's Party](/wiki/People's_Party_(Seychelles)) (PP), known until 2009 as the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF), and the [socially liberal](/wiki/Social_liberalism) [Seychelles National Party](/wiki/Seychelles_National_Party) (SNP). [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Seychelles is a member of the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the francophone [Indian Ocean Commission](/wiki/Indian_Ocean_Commission) (IOC), [La Francophonie](/wiki/La_Francophonie), the [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community) (SADC) and the [Commonwealth](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations).

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

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Seychelles is divided into twenty-six administrative regions that comprise all of the inner islands. Eight of the districts make up the capital of Seychelles and are referred to as Greater [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles). Another 14 districts are considered the rural part of the main island of [Mahé](/wiki/Mahé,_Seychelles) with two districts on [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin) and one on [La Digue](/wiki/La_Digue) which also includes respective satellite islands. The rest of the [Outer Islands](/wiki/Outer_Islands_(Seychelles)) (*Îles Eloignées*) are the last district, recently created by the tourism ministry. [Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-3](/wiki/Template:Col-3)

Greater Victoria

* [Bel Air](/wiki/Bel_Air,_Seychelles)
* [La Rivière Anglaise](/wiki/La_Rivière_Anglaise) (*English River*)
* [Les Mamelles](/wiki/Les_Mamelles)
* [Mont Buxton](/wiki/Mont_Buxton)
* [Mont Fleuri](/wiki/Mont_Fleuri)
* [Plaisance](/wiki/Plaisance,_Seychelles)
* [Roche Caiman](/wiki/Roche_Caiman)
* [Saint Louis](/wiki/Saint_Louis,_Seychelles)

[Template:Col-3](/wiki/Template:Col-3)

Rural Mahé

* [Anse aux Pins](/wiki/Anse_aux_Pins)
* [Anse Boileau](/wiki/Anse_Boileau)
* [Anse Etoile](/wiki/Anse_Etoile)
* [Au Cap](/wiki/Au_Cap)
* [Anse Royale](/wiki/Anse_Royale)
* [Baie Lazare](/wiki/Baie_Lazare)
* [Beau Vallon](/wiki/Beau_Vallon,_Seychelles)
* [Bel Ombre](/wiki/Bel_Ombre,_Seychelles)
* [Cascade](/wiki/Cascade,_Seychelles)
* [Glacis](/wiki/Glacis,_Seychelles)
* [Grand'Anse Mahé](/wiki/Grand'Anse_Mahé)
* [Pointe La Rue](/wiki/Pointe_La_Rue)
* [Port Glaud](/wiki/Port_Glaud)
* [Takamaka](/wiki/Takamaka,_Seychelles)

[Template:Col-3](/wiki/Template:Col-3)

Praslin

* [Baie Sainte Anne](/wiki/Baie_Sainte_Anne) (Anse Volbert)
* [Grand'Anse Praslin](/wiki/Grand'Anse_Praslin) (Grande Anse)

La Digue and remaining Inner Islands

* [La Digue](/wiki/La_Digue) (Anse Réunion)

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|center|800px|View of the second largest island of the Seychelles,](/wiki/File:Praslin_vom_Nid_d'Aigle.jpg) [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin) [thumb|Dense forests on](/wiki/File:Seychelles_054.JPG) [Mahé Island](/wiki/Mahé,_Seychelles) An island nation, Seychelles is located in the Indian Ocean, northeast of [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar) and about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) east of [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya). The archipelago consists of 115 islands. The majority of the islands are uninhabited, with many dedicated as nature reserves.

The islands as per the Constitution are divided into groups as follows.

There are 45 granite-based islands known as the [Granitic Seychelles](/wiki/Granitic_Seychelles). These are in descending order of size: [Mahé](/wiki/Mahé,_Seychelles), [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin), [Silhouette Island](/wiki/Silhouette_Island), [La Digue](/wiki/La_Digue), [Curieuse](/wiki/Curieuse), [Felicite](/wiki/Felicite_Island), [Frégate](/wiki/Frégate_Island), Ste-Anne, North, Cerf, Marianne, Grand Sœur, Thérèse, Aride, Conception, Petite Sœur, Cousin, Cousine, Long, Récif, Round (Praslin), Anonyme, Mamelles, [Moyenne](/wiki/Moyenne_Island), Eden, Ile Soleil, Romainville, Île aux Vaches Marines, L'Islette, Beacon (Île Sèche), Cachée, Cocos, Round (Mahé), L'Ilot Frégate, Booby, Chauve Souris (Mahé), Chauve Souris (Praslin), Île La Fouche, Hodoul, L'Ilot, Rat, Souris, St. Pierre (Praslin), Zavé, Harrison Rocks (Grand Rocher). [thumb|The beach of Anse Source d'Argent on](/wiki/File:Anse_Source_dArgent_on_La_Digue_2015.JPG) [La Digue](/wiki/La_Digue) There are two coral sand [cays](/wiki/Cay) north of the granitics: [Denis](/wiki/Denis_Island) and [Bird](/wiki/Bird_Island,_Seychelles).

There are two [coral islands](/wiki/Coral_island) south of the Granitics: [Coëtivy](/wiki/Coëtivy_Island) and [Platte](/wiki/Île_Platte).

There are 29 coral islands in the [Amirantes group](/wiki/Amirantes), west of the granitics: [Desroches](/wiki/Desroches), Poivre Atoll (comprising three islands—Poivre, Florentin and South Island), Alphonse, D'Arros, St. Joseph Atoll (comprising 14 islands—St. Joseph Île aux Fouquets, Resource, Petit Carcassaye, Grand Carcassaye, Benjamin, Bancs Ferrari, Chiens, Pélicans, Vars, Île Paul, Banc de Sable, Banc aux Cocos and Île aux Poules), Marie Louise, Desnoeufs, African Banks (comprising two islands—African Banks and South Island), Rémire, St. François, Boudeuse, Etoile, Bijoutier.

There are 13 coral islands in the [Farquhar Group](/wiki/Farquhar_Group), south-southwest of the Amirantes: [Farquhar Atoll](/wiki/Farquhar_Atoll) (comprising 10 islands—Bancs de Sable Déposés Île aux Goëlettes Lapins Île du Milieu North Manaha South Manaha Middle Manaha North Island and South Island), Providence Atoll (comprising two islands—Providence and Bancs Providence) and St Pierre.

[thumb|Mahé Island](/wiki/File:Seychelles_017.JPG) There are 67 [raised coral islands](/wiki/Raised_coral_atoll) in the [Aldabra Group](/wiki/Aldabra_Group), west of the Farquhar Group: [Aldabra Atoll](/wiki/Aldabra_Atoll) (comprising 46 islands—Grande Terre, Picard, Polymnie, Malabar, Île Michel, Île Esprit, Île aux Moustiques, Ilot Parc, Ilot Emile, Ilot Yangue, Ilot Magnan, Île Lanier, Champignon des Os, Euphrate, Grand Mentor, Grand Ilot, Gros Ilot Gionnet, Gros Ilot Sésame, Heron Rock, Hide Island, Île aux Aigrettes, Île aux Cèdres, Îles Chalands, Île Fangame, Île Héron, Île Michel, Île Squacco, Île Sylvestre, Île Verte, Ilot Déder, Ilot du Sud, Ilot du Milieu, Ilot du Nord, Ilot Dubois, Ilot Macoa, Ilot Marquoix, Ilots Niçois, Ilot Salade, Middle Row Island, Noddy Rock, North Row Island, Petit Mentor, Petit Mentor Endans, Petits Ilots, Pink Rock and Table Ronde), [Assumption Island](/wiki/Assumption_Island), Astove and [Cosmoledo Atoll](/wiki/Cosmoledo_Atoll) (comprising 19 islands—Menai, Île du Nord (West North), Île Nord-Est (East North), Île du Trou, Goëlettes, Grand Polyte, Petit Polyte, Grand Île (Wizard), Pagode, Île du Sud-Ouest (South), Île aux Moustiques, Île Baleine, Île aux Chauve-Souris, Île aux Macaques, Île aux Rats, Île du Nord-Ouest, Île Observation, Île Sud-Est and Ilot la Croix).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

The climate is equable although quite humid, as the islands are small,[[15]](#cite_note-15) classified by [Köppen-Geiger system](/wiki/Köppen-Geiger_climate_classification_system) as [tropical rain forest](/wiki/Tropical_rain_forest) (Af). The temperature varies little throughout the year. Temperatures on Mahé vary from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and rainfall ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually at [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on the mountain slopes. [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) is somewhat less on the other islands.[[16]](#cite_note-16) During the coolest months, July and August, the average low is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The southeast trade winds blow regularly from May to November, and this is the most pleasant time of the year. The hot months are from December to April, with higher humidity (80%). March and April are the hottest months, but the temperature seldom exceeds [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Most of the islands lie outside the cyclone belt, so high winds are rare.[[16]](#cite_note-16) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher](/wiki/File:Seychelles_Paradise-flycatcher.jpg) [thumb|An Aldabra giant tortoise](/wiki/File:Aldabra_Female_on_Curieuse.JPG) Environmental legislation is very strict, and every tourism project must undergo an environmental review and a lengthy process of consultations with the public and conservationists. Seychelles is a world leader in [sustainable tourism](/wiki/Sustainable_tourism).[Template:According to whom](/wiki/Template:According_to_whom) The end result of this [sustainable development](/wiki/Sustainable_development) is an intact and stable natural environment, which attracts financially strong visitors (150,000 in 2007) rather than short-term mass tourism. Since 1993 a law guarantees the citizens the right to a clean environment and at the same time obliges them to protect this environment. The country holds a record for the highest percentage of land under natural conservation—nearly 50% of the total land area.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) [thumb|*Nerita plicata* on Mahe island](/wiki/File:Nerita_plicata.jpg) [thumb|Bird flocks Bird Island Seychelles](/wiki/File:Bird_flocks_Bird_Island_Seychelles.jpg) Like many fragile island ecosystems, Seychelles saw the loss of [biodiversity](/wiki/Biodiversity) when humans first settled in the area, including the disappearance of most of the [giant tortoises](/wiki/Giant_tortoise) from the granitic islands, the felling of coastal and mid-level forests, and the extinction of species such as the [chestnut flanked white eye](/wiki/Seychelles_chestnut-flanked_white-eye), the [Seychelles parakeet](/wiki/Seychelles_parakeet), and the [saltwater crocodile](/wiki/Saltwater_crocodile). However, extinctions were far fewer than on islands such as [Mauritius](/wiki/Mauritius) or [Hawaii](/wiki/Hawaii), partly due to a shorter period of human occupation (since 1770). Seychelles today is known for success stories in protecting its flora and fauna. The rare [Seychelles black parrot](/wiki/Seychelles_black_parrot), the national bird of the country, is now protected.

The granitic islands of Seychelles are home to about 75 endemic plant species, with a further 25 or so species in the [Aldabra](/wiki/Aldabra) group. Particularly well-known is the [coco de mer](/wiki/Coco_de_mer), a species of palm that grows only on the islands of [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin) and neighbouring [Curieuse](/wiki/Curieuse). Sometimes nicknamed the "love nut" because of the shape of its fruit which, with the husk removed, presents a "double" coconut resembling buttocks, the coco de mer produces the world's heaviest seed pods. The [jellyfish tree](/wiki/Jellyfish_tree) is to be found in only a few locations on [Mahe](/wiki/Mahé,_Seychelles). This strange and ancient plant in a genus of its own ([*Medusagynaceae*](/wiki/Medusagynaceae)) has resisted all efforts to propagate it. Other unique plant species include the Wright's gardenia ([*Rothmannia annae*](/wiki/Rothmannia_annae)) found only on [Aride Island](/wiki/Aride_Island) Special Reserve.

The [freshwater crab](/wiki/Freshwater_crab) genus [*Seychellum*](/wiki/Seychellum) is endemic to the granitic Seychelles, and a further 26 species of crabs and five species of [hermit crabs](/wiki/Hermit_crab) live on the islands.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The [Aldabra giant tortoise](/wiki/Aldabra_giant_tortoise) now populates many of the islands of Seychelles. The Aldabra population is the largest in the world. These unique reptiles can be found even in captive herds. It has been reported that the granitic islands of Seychelles supported distinct species of [Seychelles giant tortoises](/wiki/Seychelles_giant_tortoise); the status of the different populations is currently unclear.

There are several unique varieties of orchids on the islands.

Seychelles hosts some of the largest [seabird colonies](/wiki/Bird_colony) in the world. The outer islands of Aldabra and Cosmoledo are home to the largest numbers. In [granitic Seychelles](/wiki/Granitic_Seychelles) the largest numbers are on [Aride Island](/wiki/Aride_Island) including the world's largest numbers of two species. The sooty terns also breed on the islands.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The marine life around the islands, especially the more remote coral islands, can be spectacular. More than 1,000 species of fish have been recorded.

### Environmental issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Since the use of [spearguns](/wiki/Speargun) and dynamite for fishing was banned through efforts of local conservationists in the 1960s, the wildlife is unafraid of [snorkelers](/wiki/Snorkeling) and [divers](/wiki/Scuba_diving). [Coral bleaching](/wiki/Coral_bleaching) in 1998 has damaged most reefs, but some reefs show healthy recovery (e.g., [Silhouette Island](/wiki/Silhouette_Island)).

Despite huge disparities across nations, Seychelles claims to have achieved nearly all of its [Millennium Development Goals](/wiki/Millennium_Development_Goals).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) 17 MDGS and 169 targets have been achieved.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Environmental protection is becoming a cultural value.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Their government's Seychelles Climate Guide describes the nation's climate as rainy, with a dry season with an ocean economy in the ocean regions. The Southeast Trades is on the decline but still fairly strong.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Reportedly, weather patterns there are becoming less predictable.[[20]](#cite_note-20)

## Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

### Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Victoria_(Seychelles).jpg)[Victoria, Seychelles](/wiki/Victoria,_Seychelles) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

When the British gained control of the islands during the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), they allowed the French upper class to retain their land. Both the French and British settlers used enslaved Africans, and although the British prohibited slavery in 1835, African workers continued to come. Thus the *Gran blan* ("big whites") of French origin dominated economic and political life. The British administration employed Indians on [indentured servitude](/wiki/Indentured_servant) to the same degree as in Mauritius resulting in a small Indian population. The Indians, like a similar minority of Chinese, were confined to a merchant class.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Through harmonious socioeconomic policies and developments[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) over the years, today Seychelles is described as a fusion of peoples and cultures. Numerous Seychellois are considered multiracial: blending from African, Asian and European descent to create a modern creole culture. Evidence of this harmonious blend is also revealed in Seychellois food, incorporating various aspects of French, Chinese, Indian and African cuisine. [thumb|St Francis Church, Mahe](/wiki/File:St_Francis_Church_Mahe.jpg) As the islands of Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of people who have immigrated. The largest ethnic groups were those of African, French, [Indian](/wiki/Non-resident_Indian_and_person_of_Indian_origin) and [Chinese](/wiki/Overseas_Chinese) descent. French and English are official languages along with [Seychellois Creole](/wiki/Seychellois_Creole), which is primarily based upon French, yet nowadays is often laced with English words and phrases.

The median age of the Seychellois was 32 years.<ref name=CIA>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

According to the 2010 census, most Seychellois are Christians: 76.2% were Roman Catholic, pastorally served by the exempt [Diocese of Port Victoria or Seychelles](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Port_Victoria_o_Seychelles) (immediately dependent on the Holy See); 10.6% were Protestant, ([Anglican](/wiki/Anglicanism) 6.1%, [Pentecostal Assembly](/wiki/Pentecostalism) 1.5%, [Seventh-Day Adventist](/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church) 1.2%, other Protestant 1.6%).

Hinduism is practiced by 2.4%, and Islam by 1.6%. Other non-Christian faiths accounted for 1.1% of the population while a further 5.9% were non-religious or did not specify a religion.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|The sailfish at Mahe Beach](/wiki/File:Mahe_Beach_-_author_with_the_sailfish_by_J._Strzelecki.JPG) [thumb|Colourful Skirts at Seychelles Market](/wiki/File:Colourful_Skirts_at_Seychelles_Market.jpg) During the plantation era, [cinnamon](/wiki/Cinnamon), [vanilla](/wiki/Vanilla) and [copra](/wiki/Copra) were the chief exports. In 1965, during a three-month visit to the islands, futurist [Donald Prell](/wiki/Donald_Prell) prepared for the then [crown colony](/wiki/Crown_colony) Governor General, an economic report containing a scenario for the future of the economy. Quoting from his report, in the 1960s, about 33% of the working population worked at plantations, and 20% worked in the public or government sector.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24)The Indian Ocean Tracking Station on Mahé was closed in August 1996 after the Seychelles government attempted to raise the rent to more than $10,000,000 per year.

Since independence in 1976, per capita output has expanded to roughly seven times the old near-subsistence level. Growth has been led by the tourist sector, which employs about 30% of the labour force, compared to agriculture which today employs about 3% of the labour force. Despite the growth of tourism, farming and fishing continue to employ some people, as do industries that process coconuts and vanilla.

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the main export products are processed fish (60%) and non-fillet frozen fish (22%).[[25]](#cite_note-25) Mothers tend to be dominant in the household, controlling most expenditures and looking after the interests of the children.<ref name=cs/> [Unwed mothers](/wiki/Unwed_mother) are the societal norm, and the law requires fathers to [support their children](/wiki/Child_support).<ref name=hr/> Men are important for their earning ability, but their domestic role is relatively peripheral.<ref name=cs/>

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Until the mid-19th century, little formal education was available in Seychelles. The Catholic and Anglican churches opened mission schools in 1851. The Catholic mission later operated boys' and girls' secondary schools with religious Brothers and nuns from abroad even after the government became responsible for them in 1944.

A teacher training college opened in 1959, when the supply of locally trained teachers began to grow, and in short time many new schools were established. Since 1981 a system of free education has been in effect requiring attendance by all children in grades one to nine, beginning at age five. Ninety percent of all children attend nursery school at age four.

The literacy rate for school-age children rose to more than 90% by the late 1980s. Many older Seychellois had not been taught to read or write in their childhood; adult education classes helped raise adult literacy from 60% to a claimed 100% in 2014.

There are a total of 68 schools in Seychelles. The public school system consists of 23 [crèches](/wiki/Kindergarten), 25 primary schools and 13 secondary schools. They are located on [Mahé](/wiki/Mahé,_Seychelles), [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin), [La Digue](/wiki/La_Digue) and [Silhouette](/wiki/Silhouette_Island). Additionally, there are three private schools: École Française, International School and the Independent School. All the private schools are on Mahé, and the International School has a branch on [Praslin](/wiki/Praslin). There are seven post-secondary (non-tertiary) schools: the Seychelles Polytechnic, School of Advanced Level Studies, Seychelles Tourism Academy, University of Seychelles Education, Seychelles [Institute of Technology](/wiki/Institute_of_Technology), Maritime Training Center, Seychelles Agricultural and Horticultural Training Center and the National Institute for Health and Social Studies.

The administration launched plans to open a university in an attempt to slow down the [brain drain](/wiki/Brain_drain) that has occurred. [University of Seychelles](/wiki/University_of_Seychelles), initiated in conjunction with the [University of London](/wiki/University_of_London), opened on 17 September 2009 in three locations and offers qualifications from the University of London.

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|Cutting open young coconuts for drinking, Seychelles](/wiki/File:Cutting_coconuts_Seychelles.jpg) Staple foods include fish, seafood and [shellfish](/wiki/Shellfish) dishes, often accompanied with rice.[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) Fish dishes are cooked in several ways, such as steamed, [grilled](/wiki/Grilling), wrapped in [banana leaves](/wiki/Banana_leaves), baked, salted and [smoked](/wiki/Smoking_(cooking)).[[29]](#cite_note-29) Curry dishes with rice are also a significant aspect of the country's cuisine.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) Additional food staples include coconut, [breadfruit](/wiki/Breadfruit), [mangoes](/wiki/Mango) and *kordonnyen fish*.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Dishes are often garnished with fresh flowers.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

* Chicken dishes, such as chicken curry and [coconut milk](/wiki/Coconut_milk).[[30]](#cite_note-30)\* Coconut curry [[30]](#cite_note-30)\* [Dhal](/wiki/Dal) (lentils) [[32]](#cite_note-32)\* Fish curry [[30]](#cite_note-30)\* [Saffron rice](/wiki/Saffron_rice) [[32]](#cite_note-32)\* Fresh [tropical fruits](/wiki/Tropical_fruit) [[29]](#cite_note-29)[[33]](#cite_note-33)\* [Ladob](/wiki/Ladob) is eaten either as a savoury dish or as a dessert. The dessert version usually consists of ripe [plantain](/wiki/Plantain_(cooking)) and [sweet potatoes](/wiki/Sweet_potatoes) (but may also include [cassava](/wiki/Cassava), [breadfruit](/wiki/Breadfruit) or even [corossol](/wiki/Corossol)) boiled with coconut milk, sugar, [nutmeg](/wiki/Nutmeg) and vanilla in the form of a pod until the fruit is soft and the sauce is creamy.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The savoury dish usually includes salted fish, cooked in a similar fashion to the dessert version, with plantain, cassava and breadfruit, but with salt used in place of sugar (and omitting vanilla).
* [Shark chutney](/wiki/Shark_chutney) typically consists of boiled skinned shark, finely mashed, and cooked with squeezed [bilimbi](/wiki/Bilimbi) juice and [lime](/wiki/Lime_(fruit)). It is mixed with onion and spices, and the onion is fried and it is cooked in oil.[[34]](#cite_note-34)\* Vegetables [[30]](#cite_note-30)[[33]](#cite_note-33)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The [music of Seychelles](/wiki/Music_of_Seychelles) is diverse, a reflection of the fusion of cultures through its history. The [folk music](/wiki/Folk_music) of the islands incorporates multiple influences in a syncretic fashion, including African rhythms, aesthetic and instrumentation—such as the zez and the bom (known in Brazil as [berimbau](/wiki/Berimbau)), European [contredanse](/wiki/Contredanse), [polka](/wiki/Polka) and [mazurka](/wiki/Mazurka), French folk and pop, [sega](/wiki/Sega_music) from [Mauritius](/wiki/Mauritius) and Réunion, [taarab](/wiki/Taarab), [soukous](/wiki/Soukous) and other pan-African genres, and [Polynesian](/wiki/Polynesia), Indian and [Arcadian](/wiki/Arcadia) music.

A form of percussion music called contombley is popular, as is [Moutya](/wiki/Moutya), a fusion of native folk rhythms with Kenyan [benga](/wiki/Benga_music). Kontredans (based on European contredanse) is popular, especially in District and School competitions during the annual Festival Kreol (International Creole Festival). Moutya playing and dancing can often be seen at beach bazaars. Their main languages are Seslwa Creole of The French Language, French and English.

### Media and telecommunications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The main daily newspaper is the [*Seychelles Nation*](/wiki/Seychelles_Nation), dedicated to local government views and current affairs and topics. Other political parties operate other papers such as *Regar*. Foreign newspapers and magazines are readily available in most bookshops and newsagents. The papers are mostly written in [Seychellois Creole](/wiki/Seychellois_Creole), French and English.

The main television and radio network is operated by the [Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/Seychelles_Broadcasting_Corporation) which offers locally produced news and discussion programmes in the Seychellois Creole language. Broadcasts run between 3pm and 11:30pm on weekdays and longer hours during the weekends. There are also imported English and French language television programmes imported on Seychellois terrestrial television and international satellite television has grown rapidly in recent years.

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

The most popular sport in the Seychelles is basketball, which has particularly developed in this decade.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The country's [national team](/wiki/Seychelles_national_basketball_team) qualified for the [2015 African Games](/wiki/Basketball_at_the_2015_African_Games), its greatest accomplishment to date. There, the team competed against some of the continent's largest countries such as [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt_national_basketball_team).

## Security[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|INS Teg approaching Port Victoria, Seychelles](/wiki/File:INS_Teg_approaching_Port_Victoria,_Seychelles.JPG) The Military of Seychelles is the Seychelles People's Defence Force which consists of a number of distinct branches: including an Infantry Unit, Coast Guard, Air Force and a Presidential Protection Unit. India has and continues to play a key role developing the military of Seychelles. After handing over 2 [SDB Mk5 patrol vessels](/wiki/Trinkat-class_patrol_vessel) namely INS Tarasa and INS Tarmugli to [Seychelles Coast Guard](/wiki/Seychelles_Coast_Guard), built by [GRSE](/wiki/GRSE) which were subsequently renamed SCG Constant and SCG Topaz, India also gifted a [Dornier](/wiki/Dornier_Flugzeugwerke) Maritime Patrol aircraft built by [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited](/wiki/Hindustan_Aeronautics_Limited).[[36]](#cite_note-36) India also signed a pact to develop the [Assumption Island](/wiki/Assumption_Island), one of the 115 islands that make up the country. Spread over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it is strategically located in the Indian Ocean, north of [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar). The island is being leased for development of infrastructure, a euphemism for developing strategic assets by India.[[37]](#cite_note-37)

### Incarceration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Seychelles has the highest incarceration rate in the world, having edged out the United States in 2012. As of June, 2014, Seychelles had 868 prisoners per 100,000 people. <http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/seychelles>.

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

### Modern piracy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Seychelles has become a key participant in the fight against [piracy](/wiki/Piracy), which is perhaps the cause of their out-sized incarceration rate. President [James Michel](/wiki/James_Michel) said <http://www.worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/a-pirate-s-prison-tucked-inside-seychelles-paradise/c1s4825/#.VayUIflViko> that piracy costs between $7 and 12 million a year to the international community; the pirates cost 4% of the Seychelles GDP, including direct and indirect costs for the loss of boats, fishing, and tourism, and the indirect investment for maritime security; and between 2008 and 2009, local fishing suffered a 46% loss.

Help has arrived from abroad. The [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) sent five patrol boats, the United States gave a drone, the [PR China](/wiki/PR_China) offered two patrol planes, [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg) provided a speedboat and Italy continues to send Navy boats to patrol the coasts.

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books) [Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Seychelles](/wiki/Outline_of_Seychelles)
* [List of colonial governors of Seychelles](/wiki/List_of_colonial_governors_of_Seychelles)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

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[Template:Wikivoyage](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage) [Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

Government

* [SeyGov](http://www.egov.sc/), main government portal
* [State House](http://www.statehouse.gov.sc/), Office of the President of the Republic of Seychelles
* [Central Bank of Seychelles](http://www.cbs.sc/), on-shore banking and insurance regulator
* [Seychelles International Business Authority (SIBA)](http://www.siba.net/), regulator of off-shore financial sector
* [Seychelles Investment Bureau](http://www.sib.gov.sc/), government agency promoting investment in Seychelles
* [National Bureau of Statistics](http://www.nsb.gov.sc/), government agency responsible for collecting, compiling, analysing and publishing statistical information

Religion

* [GigaCatholic](http://www.gcatholic.org/dioceses/diocese/pvic0.htm)

General

* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Seychelles](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/seychelles.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Seychelles](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14093816) from [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Island Conservation Society](http://www.islandconservationseychelles.com), a non-profit nature conservation and educational non-governmental organisation
* [Nature Seychelles](http://www.natureseychelles.org), a scientific/environmental non-governmental nature protection association
* [*The Seychelles Nation*](http://www.nation.sc), the largest circulation local daily newspaper
* [Seychelles Bird Records Committee](http://seychellesbirdrecordscommittee.com)
* [Seychelles.travel](http://www.seychelles.travel), Government tourism portal
* [Air Seychelles](http://airseychelles.com), Seychelles national airline
* [ADST interview with U.S. Ambassador to Seychelles David Fischer](http://adst.org/2015/04/seychelles-gangstas-paradise/)
* [Private website with tips and images](http://www.seychelles.cc/)

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