





# Seychelles

Private-island resorts such as North Island (right, top and bottom) provide easy access to the Seychelles' top fishing and diving sites.

**Rugged** ♦ Roughly 1,000 miles from the nearest mainland, this far-flung island nation in the Indian Ocean is an unrivaled Eden, comprising some 115 isles speckled with giant boulders, bowing palms, and picturesque white sands—pristine surroundings perfectly suited for adventure. “Seychelles offers some of the richest fishing waters in the world,” says Henrietta Loyd of the London-based outfitter **Cazenove and Loyd** ([cazloyd.com](http://cazloyd.com)). “More importantly, there is something for everyone, from amateurs to professionals.” Fishermen flock to the outer coral islands, where sites such as the Poivre and Saint François Atolls teem with trevally, triggerfish, and pompano. The legendary *pati pati*, or Seychellois milkfish, provides one of the islands’ greatest angling challenges, considered by many locals to be uncatchable due to its strength and speed. The Seychelles’ waters also prove an ideal backdrop for other sports—including scuba diving, windsurfing, and kayaking—while the jungle-filled islands of Mahé and Praslin feature hiking trails, seabird sanctuaries, and more.

**Refined** ♦ The Seychelles’ private-island resorts are legendary for their over-the-top luxury and unspoiled environs. **North Island** ([north-island.com](http://north-island.com))

and **Fregate Island Private** ([fregate.com](http://fregate.com)) are among the most exclusive, offering a seamless blend of high-style accommodations and barefoot amenities along with such experiences as fishing, diving, and sailing. For avid anglers, Loyd recommends the 3.7-mile-long **Desroches Island** ([desroches-island.com](http://desroches-island.com)) for its fleet of watercraft and easy access to the Poivre Atoll. The main island of Mahé also provides plenty of opportunities for upscale adventure with the **Four Seasons Resort Seychelles** ([fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)), which climbs a lush hill above the famed Petite Anse beach. Across the bay, the 30-villa **Maia Luxury Resort & Spa** ([maia.com.sc](http://maia.com.sc)) sits on a steep, secluded peninsula surrounded by jungle. —J.C.