



Must-do list

Being just for a weekend or for 3 months, the best advice we can give you is to **move around the island** and discover the different moods of Mauritius at your own pace. Here goes a *short* guide of the things us as locals enjoy the most. Keep our downloadable itinerary close during your trip.



1. **Going out for a hike** tops the list with no doubt, since the best views and real experiencing of our island are from the top of our mountains. A good start can be the [Black River Gorges National Park](#) for its easy access and well signalled trails. Leaving place for no excuse, Mauritius has [trails for all levels](#) and they are all gracefully rewarding.



2. **Visit a deserted beach.** To admire the beauty of Mauritius as it was 500 years ago, when it still was a deserted island, has no price. As the adjective suggests, these beaches are barely visited by locals and totally worth the ride to enjoy their pureness with your tribe. Head to [La Cambuse](#), [Riambel](#) or [Gris Gris](#) towards the south.



3. **Admire our waterfalls.** Being a very rainy little nation, waterfalls make-up one of our most beautiful sceneries in the mountainous area. You can hire an activity with our conscious friends to go [canyoning or hiking](#), or simply adventure yourself to find an oasis following the routes of 7 cascades, Rochester falls, Chamarel waterfall or [500 Pieds Cascade](#).



4. **Watch dolphins in a stand-up paddle or in a kayak excursion.** The best way to appreciate the visit of dolphins to our west coast is as well the most sustainable! Try to avoid motor boats that work on fossil-fuels and turn to physical activities, like paddling. Not only you will **tone your muscles**, but **dolphins will feel more comfortable** coming closer to you.



5. **Visit a colonial house or a rum distillery.** They say that to understand a culture you have to *taste* it, that's why in Domains like **Chateau de Labourdonnais** and **Domain des Aubineaux** a visit to their house-museums ends up with a savoury degustation of their local production, like tea-infused dishes and macerated rums. Or well, you could visit the **Rhumerie de Chamarel** and **Domain St. Aubin** to admire the sustainable process in which they create agricultural rum.



6. **Visit the beaches of the east** for long promenades of unspoiled beach and a wavy sea. Just go there. You'll understand why we say so. Visit [Belle Mare](#) and [Roches Noires](#).



7. **Picnic in the Botanical Garden of Pamplemousses**, one of our gems at the north of the country. The garden is a compilation of trees, palms and floating flowers from all around the world, extended throughout 60 hectares. A stroll down its avenues is a must when in Mauritius, until you find that perfect spot by the edge of the pond. The rest is just relaxation and food sharing, even with the “hungry” fish under water.



8. **Snorkel**, because our coral reefs are so accessible, beautiful and still alive! In many beaches you will find them as soon as you step inside the sea (see [Pomponettes](#)), while conscious boat trips can take you to the coral barrier to admire the best of it. Use only [reef-friendly sunscreen](#) to help protect the natural marvels and your skin.



9. **Explore Chamarel, lush Chamarel.** A lively district that makes up for lovely road-trips between tropical jungle, pineapple plantations and daring curves. Plan a day there to appreciate the **7 Colored Earths**, **Chamarel waterfall**, **La Rhumerie de Chamarel** and **authentic little restaurants** for a *Millionaires Salad* with palm heart.



10. **Eat an authentic Mauritian curry.** We dare to say that everybody loves Mauritian food. It's our mix of flavours and influences from Asia, India and Africa that brought the best out of our abundant fresh ingredients. You must try the traditional **curry of chicken with potato and peas**. My favorite? *Carri ourite...*



11. **Visit a Hindu temple or festival.** Mauritius being so influenced by the Indian culture is the perfect place to *kill two birds with one stone* if you can't afford a trip to India (quite yet). Visit a [Tamil temple](#) or the [Sagar Shiv Mandir](#) islet-temple to get the feeling of their culture. Go to our [events page](#) to check if a festivity falls during your stay.

Because *eleven* points are not enough...



12. **Bike around the coast** for stunning views with a salty breeze. Wake-up early and enjoy a fresh ride as exercising locals do every day. If you are not a morning person, evenings are equally attended and even more rewarding with a sunset backdrop. Get yourself a fresh coconut water after the ride, you deserve it!



13. Go to Le Morne Brabant. The mountain holds some of the most beautiful views to the Indian Ocean if you opt to [hike it](#), but their [beautiful beaches](#) are also preferred ones in the area. Pristine and cheerful, with a backdrop of mountains, Le Morne is the hosting beach for kite-surfers and surfers during the winter months (Apr - Oct).



14. Try AKA roti for the ultimate street-food experience. [Faratas](#) are perhaps Mauritius most popular snack, and AKA roti at Port Louis, behind Jardin de La Compagnie, makes locals queue every day outside its shack. Their secret must lie somewhere between the freshness of their product and the complimentary *jus tamarin*.... Why don't you go and find out?



15. **Jam sessions every Wednesday at Lakaz.** Sure, Sega Nights in Hotels are cute and instructive, but between you and me, the **best Mauritian live entertainment** is in Lakaz, Cascavelle. Every Wednesday Mauritian artists express themselves in this scenario that will awe you with the amazing talent of our people in a local ambience.



16. **Souvenirs time is Markets time!** *Last but not least*, that little something to take back home, the best excuse to visit our bustling markets. **Caudan Crafts Market in Port Louis** is the place to find everything from up-cycled coconut shells to local coffee beans, fruit jams, music instruments and ethnic jewellery. Or head to the **Grand Bazaar**, also in Port Louis, for your take-away dose of *pima confi*, herbs and spices.