

GENERAL INFORMATION ON MAURITIUS

Climate

The temperature varies between 28°C and 34°C in summer and the sea temperature between 22°C and 27°C. The humidity is very high (above 80%). November and December falls in the rainy season and some heavy showers can be expected. No cyclones are however being forecasted during the AfriNIC-5 meeting.

Culture & Language

Mauritius is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country. Its population consists of Hindus, Creole (African origin), Chinese, Muslims and Europeans. Most people are bilingual and fluent in English and French. Creole and French are the main languages in the everyday life and several oriental languages are also spoken.

Economy

The Mauritian economy is based on four sectors: Textile, Tourism, Sugar and Services.

Geography

Mauritius is located at approximately 2000 kilometres to the south eastern coast of Africa and lies east of Madagascar on 20°5, 57.5E. The country covers an area of 1865km with 330 kilometres of coastline.

Government

Mauritius is a democratic state based on the Westminster model and enjoys political stability.

History

Of volcanic origin and generally sheltered by coral reefs barriers forming natural, safe, crystal clear lagoons, Mauritius has long been a dream destination. Known to the Arabs as early as the 10th century, but officially «discovered» in 1505 by the Portuguese navigator Pedro Mascarenhas, the island was occupied successively by the Dutch (1598-1712) and the French (1715-1810), and was ceded to Great Britain in 1814 through the Treaty of Paris. On the 12th of March 1968, Mauritius became Independent. Republic Day was proclaimed on the 12th of March 1992.

Time

Mauritius is four hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and three hours ahead of mid-European Time.

WELCOME TO



Some Information on Mauritius

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY

Banking Facilities

The monetary unit is the Mauritian Rupee (Rs.) which is divided into 100 cents (cs). One Euro is worth around Rs. 42 and one dollar around Rs 32.

The opening hours for most banks are Monday to Friday: 09:15 -15:30. The nearest ATMs are in Terre Rouge which is between Port Louis (the capital) to the conference venue. ATMs can be found at all major shopping centres around the island, so having access to an ATM is never an issue.

Most Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and American Express) are by most hotels, restaurants and tourist shops.

Driving

People in Mauritius drive on the left-hand side of the road and give way to the right.

Electricity

220 Volts. Most power sockets are UK or French Type.

Emergency Numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 995

SAMU (Ambulance): 114

Health & Medical Services

No vaccinations are required. However a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers over one year who arrive from areas where yellow fever cases are reported. Free public medical facilities are widely available. Private clinics provide medical services for a fee.

Newspapers

Besides a wide choice of local papers, same day edition of some international edition of foreign newspapers are also available in some hotels.

Security

Some basic pieces of advice

- > Keep an eye on all personal belongings at all times.
- > Be careful when withdrawing money from a cash point.
- > Avoid wearing expensive jewellery.
- > Do not leave anything valuable inside your car.
- > For trips or purchases use only recognised operators or suppliers.
- > Keep your passports, tickets, jewellery and large sums of money in safe custody.

Some hotels provide a safe.

Shopping

Shopping hours in our main cities range from 09:30 to 19:30 (Monday-Saturday). Some shops are open till noon on Sundays and public holidays. Many duty free shops and modern shopping centres (Caudan, Curepipe, Floréal Square, Happy World House, Orchard Centre) offer a wide choice of products.

Telecommunications

Mauritius has two mobile operators, Emtel and Cellplus, both offering prepaid service. International calls from these networks cost about US\$ 0.30 per minute and are much cheaper than roaming tariffs. Please contact AfriNIC-5 Information Desk / Secretariat should you require a prepaid connection during your stay or to top up your account.

Tipping at Restaurants

Tipping is not compulsory but expected in most restaurants. 5-10% is ok.

VAT

A value added tax of 15% is payable on goods and services including hotel and restaurant bills.

What to do in Mauritius

Should you have some spare time before or after AfriNIC-5, we suggest you have a look at the map which we have included for some site seeing and shopping.

We recommend the botanical garden in Pamplemousses (19 on the map) and l'Aventure du Sucre which are both within 30 mins from the meeting venue. For late entertainment, there a few nightclubs in Grand Baie.