



Aride island is one of the jewels of the Indian Ocean. Its spectacular wildlife makes it one of the world's most important nature reserves. Aride offers a full-day experience of a Seychelles island unspoilt by time or man.

Aride is possibly the most natural and least touched island in the Seychelles. It is the most northerly of the granitic islands, its relative isolation playing a part in its timeless atmosphere.

To visit and enjoy this unspoilt corner of paradise a full day is needed. There is no rush, no pressure; simply an opportunity, some might say a privilege, to take pleasure in a fragment of paradise.

Aride is a Special Nature Reserve under Seychelles law. It was purchased in 1973 by Christopher Cadbury for the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, a British-based conservation organisation. The island is now managed by the Island Conservation Society, a local Seychelles organisation.

It is no accident that Aride is so unspoilt: it has been carefully managed so that little should disturb or destroy its rich wildlife.



How to get there

You can arrange a visit through a Tour Operator, Boat Operator and through most of the major Hotels on Praslin. Book early during your stay to avoid disappointment and include an alternative date should the Island close because of weather. (See list of Tour Operators on the website).

The minimum number of visitors required to make the trip varies from one Operator to another. Operators' charges vary according to the service provided and should include the Island entrance fee of SR500 for adults and SR250 for children (or equivalent in foreign currencies).

Arrangements should be made with the Boat Operator for food as none is available for sale on Aride: however most Boat Operators provide a first-class barbecue.

Other information

Aride Island Nature Reserve is **open to visitors from Monday to Friday** but is **sometimes closed during May-September** when adverse weather conditions preclude landing by boat. Special visits may be possible on other days by prior arrangements.

You should aim to arrive at Aride by 10.00 am. At the end of the day your Boat Operator may take you around the Island. If so we request that you should not make undue noise that may disturb roosting birds, particularly the sensitive frigate-birds on the north side.

Further information

Please phone (weekdays) either our **Mahé office** on **(248) 437 53 54** or the **Aride Wardens** on **(248) 254 77 22** and **(248) 271 97 78** at anytime.



Island Conservation Society

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ARIDE ISLAND

NATURE RESERVE



*experience the
best of Seychelles
in one day*

Come to Aride Island and experience the best of Seychelles in one day.



Roseate Tern

Landing on Aride is an unforgettable experience in itself. Having crossed open ocean to reach the island, you transfer to Aride's own transport for expert island boatmen to guide you through the surf onto the beach of Aride's southern shore. Aride is 10 kms north of Praslin.

Seabird capital of the Indian Ocean

Aride boasts more breeding species of seabirds than any other island of the Seychelles. Over a million breeding seabirds, including the world's largest colony

of Lesser Noddies, fill the sky with sound and movement. It is also home to the Indian Ocean's biggest colony of Roseate Terns (named *arideensis* after the island) and possibly the world's biggest population of Tropical Shearwater.

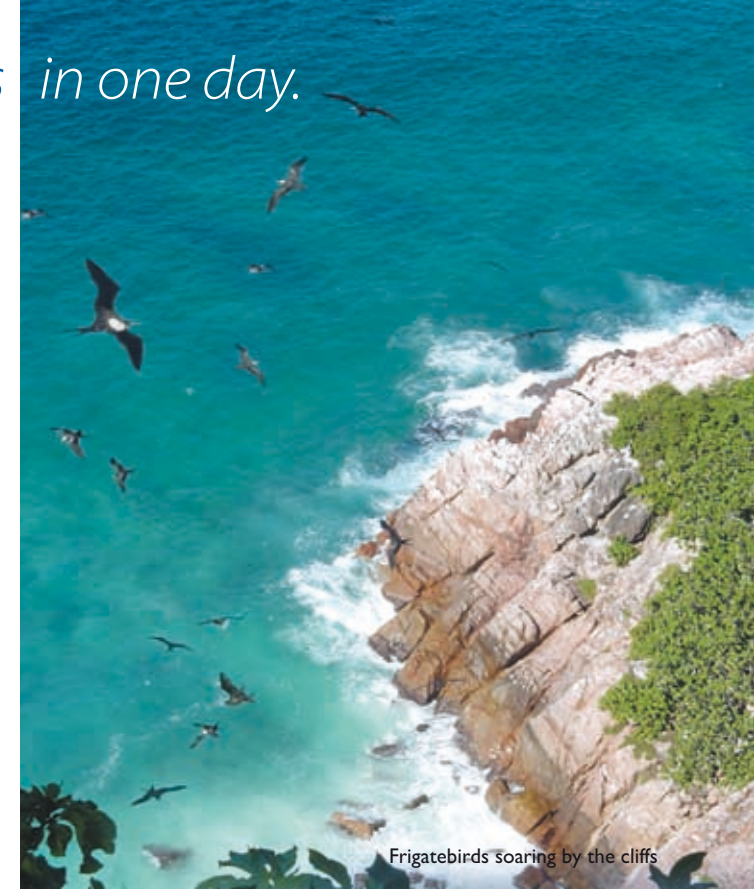
On the nature trail, you are led by local guides who have intimate experience of the island and its wildlife. From the Visitors' Shelter, the path winds towards the small settlement, La Cour, then through a garden where you may discover unfamiliar local crops and learn of their uses.

Aride's landbirds are a conservation success story.

Five of the land bird species unique to Seychelles breed on Aride. The natural forest habitat is home to endemic species such as the Seychelles Magpie-robin, Blue Pigeon, Sunbird and Fody. Introduced in 1989, Aride also hosts eighty percent of the world's population of the Seychelles Warbler.



The hillside and woodland of Aride are filled with wildlife. Elegant White-tailed Tropicbirds nest in every nook and cranny and Fairy Terns peer from the branches of trees. Skinks rustle in the undergrowth, their huge population able to feed off the bounty of the island: it is claimed that Aride has the greatest density of lizards in the world. The beautiful Wright's Gardenia grows here too, its only natural home on earth.



Frigatebirds soaring by the cliffs

From the summit of Aride's northern cliffs, the sea crashes against the last granite rocks until the Indian sub-continent, 3000 kms distant. After the climb up the hill, this is a time to relax and take in the view.

All around you, thousands of Sooty Terns and frigatebirds soar and if you are lucky you may glimpse a Red-tailed Tropicbird or perhaps a dolphin in the turquoise waters below.

Returning to the beach, barbecue lunch and refreshing drinks are usually provided by the boat operators at the Visitors' Shelter. There is time to relax on the beach, swim and snorkel over the reefs where more than 450 species of colourful fish have been recorded.



Seychelles Magpie-robin



Wright's Skink



Wright's Gardenia



Nesting Hawksbill turtle



Puffer fish