Island Conservation Society

Oh come all to Aride Special Reserve

During this festive season, families and friends may have preferred to travel abroad, however, the COVID-19 pandemic and current travel advisory updates do not permit them to do so. If you are at a loss as to how to keep the family occupied and active over the holidays and still benefit from that get-away-from-home feeling, Island Conservation Society (ICS) has just the answer for you and recommend that by all means come visit Aride Special Reserve.

Contributed by Island Conservation Society

Aerial view of Aride

A visit to the Aride Special Reserve is an opportunity to enjoy an island of high conservation value, uncrowded and unique, Aride lies within a short trip from either Mahé, Praslin or La Digue.

With the world's largest population of Tropical Shearwater and Lesser Noddy, including the Seychelles' largest population of Roseate Tern, the island reserve is home to the largest number of breeding seabird species at any location in Seychelles.

Aride has an abundant and stunning wildlife that can be found in any of its five habitats, from the wonder of swimming over a coral reef to a steady climb onto the hilltop filled with a variety of seabirds, especially the Red-tailed Tropicbird, which breeds on Aride Island only.

Aride is also home to a variety of endemic land birds, plants and reptiles in Seychelles. "I am perplexed by what I saw, I do not usually see fairy terns nor White-tailed Tropicbirds so close. I have never seen the chick of a White-tailed Tropicbird and I am blessed to see one in its nest. I would love to bring my family here and I am sure my son who is an environmental enthusiast will appreciate the wonders of nature found in this reserve. It is simply breathtaking!" said Dean Soundy from Bodco Ltd, one of ICS's sponsors for the current projects undertaken in the reserve.

Aride has an elevated and heavily wooded topography and granite cliffs that are visually astonishing from different angles, but all the more spectacular seen from the sea when in a boat touring around the island. On his first encounter, one of ICS' volunteers described the island as "... a place that I have never seen before, with lots of birds flying all around the island and are not shy to exhibit their flight capabilities." If you are keen to experience the same and more, come visit one of Seychelles' precious jewels for a day only," says Shane Emilie, Deputy CEO of ICS.

To make a booking, please contact the Island Manager on 2 719 778. The Special Reserve is open from Monday to Friday only, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm; visitors must make sure to pre-book their visit at least 48 hours in advance. Non-residents and residents should liaise with local boat operators based on Mahé, Praslin or La Digue to make travel arrangements to and from Aride.

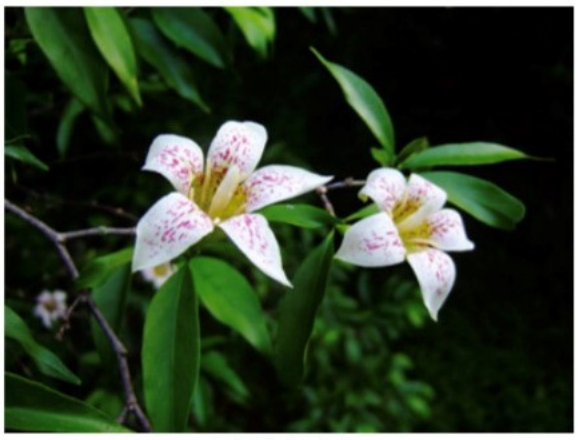
The fee charged to all visitors goes towards the maintenance of the Special Reserve as well as financially supporting our conservation programmes.

Preferential rates will be given to all residents on presentation of an ID card or resident permit. If travelling as a family, the entrance fee is SR100 per adult and SR50 per child (ages 4-13), children under 4 enter for free. For all other groups, please contact the island directly.

Standard entrance fees for non-residents are SCR 650 per adult and SCR 300 per child (4-13 years of age) or its equivalent in other currencies. Children under the age of 4 enjoy free entrance.

Staff on Aride maintain a strict biodiversity protocol so as to ensure that alien plant or animal species are not introduced on the island, hence why all bags are inspected upon arrival on the island. The Special Reserve is also certified COVID safe, issued by the Department of Tourism and endorsed by the Public Health Authority, with all the necessary measures in place to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 on the premises. For a detailed description of our COVID-19 Protocol for all visitors, visitors may scan the QR code or consult the island's website www.island-conservationseychelles.com or Facebook page ICS Seychelles.

It is highly recommended that all visitors bring along their facemask, hand sanitiser, food, water, mosquito repellent and sunscreen. Not got your Christmas gifts yet? Visitors may buy competitively priced nature-themed souvenirs at the island's gift shop. Happy holidays to all, Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all and we look forward to your visit!



Wright's Gardenia

Aride is a breeding site for the red-tailed tropicbird

Brown Noddy

Birds not shy of displaying their aerobatic prowess

Countdown to Christmas

It's 1 day to Christmas...

Seaglass Christmas tree: Copyright and design by Veronique Lanza, Zil Lokal