



# SEYCHELLES BENEATH THE SURFACE

*Diving the Dream Islands of the Seychelles Archipelago*

Seychelles offers divers a rare gift – pristine waters, uncrowded reefs, and year-round sunshine in one of the world's last true underwater paradises. From vibrant coral gardens to historic wrecks teeming with life, every dive reveals a breathtaking side of these islands, untouched and unforgettable.

Two divers slice the pristine, and crystal waters off the north-west coast of Mahé, the principal island of the jewel of the Indian Ocean: the stunningly beautiful Seychelles Archipelago. What they are

seeking lies some 40 metres beneath the ocean, the hull of an old fishing trawler, deliberately scuppered to provide a diving site in what is arguably one of the best-kept secrets among the international diving fraternity: the amazing Seychelles diving experience.













One diver is Imran Ahmad, a renowned photographer and educator based in Singapore. He is amazed by the world-class diving locations he has discovered around these islands, long-celebrated for their world-beating beaches, and warm, dappled, sapphire waters: the final word in laid-back island lifestyle, but with all the trimmings.

“At 40 metres, it is fully intact and teeming with marine life and coral growth”, he enthuses, “and with visibility for as far as the eye can see, this is a definite must-dive for wreck lovers.”

Imran is one of an increasing number of divers making the same discovery – the magnificent Seychelles Islands. Secluded from the world since the dawn of time, Seychelles is only now awakening to its true potential as a dream tourism destination, and much of what you will find here is still wonderfully untouched, thanks to Seychelles’ strong conservation laws.

#### **DIVE THE PERPETUAL SUMMER**

With 115 granite and coral islands, and an exclusive economic zone of one million square miles, this cyclone-free cluster of island gems offers year-round diving in a land of perpetual summer. Together, the islands provide astonishing diversity for diving aficionados and novices alike, on both granite and coral reefs, which can be nothing less than living aquariums for diverse and spectacular forms of coral and marine life. Myriad, dazzling coral reef fish, sharks, moray eels, turtles, lobster, giant rays, and even the odd migrating whale shark propose a kaleidoscope of diving entertainment in a host of unspoiled venues. On one dive alone, near Aride, no fewer than 800 species of marine life were spotted.

Seychelles boasts several world-recognised dive sites, such as the famous Ennerdale Wreck and Brissare Rocks, as well as the lesser-known, more remote but even more spectacular sites





around Marianne, the Sisters, Aride, Trompeuse and several other islands. Some of the more remote locations are only accessible by live-aboard charter dive boats.

Diving in Seychelles is also refreshingly easy and unprocessed, with uncrowded dive boats and unhurried dive schedules, in keeping with the

leisurely pace of life. Local dive centres and a range of live-aboards provide access to excellent diving while offering a taste of the unique Seychellois lifestyle with beach BBQs and other island-style entertainment. All diver training is conducted by internationally-qualified instructors, most of whom are members of PADI (Professional Association of





Diving Instructors), the world's largest sport diver training organisation.

Now, more than ever, is the time to visit Seychelles and discover just how extraordinary (and affordable) diving can be, in one of the very last natural aquariums on our planet where pristine waters, leisurely diving schedules, and an astonishing variety of marine life all

conspire to offer one of the finest dive vacations on the planet.

*For more information about diving in Seychelles, please visit [www.seychelles.com](http://www.seychelles.com). ①*

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