



Mauritius Visitor Code of Conduct

A simple guide for respectful visits to cultural, religious, natural and community sites.



General Visitor Guidance

Mauritius is built on respect—of people, culture and nature. These simple principles help protect what makes the island special and ensure welcoming experiences for everyone.



Respect people and sacred places

Dress and behave thoughtfully, especially at places of worship, cemeteries, heritage sites and local villages.



Protect nature and wildlife

Stay on marked paths, avoid disturbing animals or marine life, and never remove plants, shells, coral or stones.



Follow your guide and site rules

Each attraction may have its own rules. Local instructions always come first.



Leave only good memories

Carry your waste back, keep noise low, and help keep Mauritius beautiful for everyone.



Use this guide for

Temples, churches, mosques, shrines, museums, forts, colonial landmarks, villages, markets, gardens, parks, forests, reserves, waterfalls, viewpoints, beaches, lagoons, islands and marine excursions.



At cultural, spiritual and religious sites

Mauritius is home to Hindu, Muslim, Catholic, Chinese/Buddhist and Creole communities. Many sites are active places of prayer, remembrance or tradition. A respectful attitude helps every visit feel welcome and meaningful.



Greetings that go a long way

- **Bonzour** — Kreol Morisien hello
- **Namaste** — Hindu greeting
- **Salaam** — Muslim greeting
- **Bonjour** — French hello



Dress respectfully

Cover shoulders and knees where possible. Avoid swimwear, transparent clothing or very revealing outfits when visiting religious or community sites.



Ask before taking photos

Do not photograph worshippers, private ceremonies, monks, priests, families or children without permission. Respect all no-photo signs.



Follow entry customs

Remove shoes, hats or sunglasses if requested. Some areas may be reserved for worshippers only. Follow signs and guidance from stewards.



Keep a calm tone

Speak softly, silence your phone and avoid loud music, shouting, running or disruptive behaviour. Create space for others to pray or reflect.



Do not touch sacred objects

Avoid touching statues, offerings, altars, prayer items, graves, carvings, bells or heritage objects unless invited by a guide or site authority.



Be mindful with food and drink

Do not bring alcohol, smoke, litter or eat inside sacred areas. Keep food and drinks sealed unless the site allows them.

Local customs and community spaces

Many tours pass through villages, markets, fishing areas and neighbourhoods where people live and work. These places are part of daily Mauritian life.

	DO	Greet people politely. A simple hello, bonjour or namaste goes a long way.
	DO	Buy from local sellers when possible and bargain kindly in markets if appropriate.
	DON'T	Enter private yards, farms, boats, houses or restricted paths without permission.
	DON'T	Point cameras into homes, schools, prayer areas or private family gatherings.

Nature reserves, gardens, forests and waterfalls

Mauritius has fragile ecosystems, endemic species and protected natural areas. A beautiful visit should not leave a mark on the place you came to enjoy.



Stay on marked trails

Use official paths, viewing Platforms and bridges. Shortcuts can damage plants, disturb wildlife and increase erosion.



Do not collect nature

Leave flowers, seeds, shells, coral, stones, sand, plants and historic objects where they are.



Keep wildlife wild

Do not feed, chase, touch or scare birds, fish, monkeys, tortoises, deer or marine animals.



Avoid loud noise

Keep music low and let others enjoy the sound of the place. Noise can also disturb animals.



Use bins or take waste back

Carry a small bag for tissues, bottles, wrappers and cigarette ends if bins are not available.



Respect closures and weather warnings

Do not cross barriers, swim in unsafe areas or continue a hike when guides advise against it.

Beaches, lagoons, islands and boat trips



Protect the lagoon

Do not stand on coral, touch marine life, throw waste overboard or take shells/coral from protected areas.



Listen to the crew

Follow skipper and guide instructions for snorkelling, swimming, life jackets, currents, reef areas and boat safety.



Be considerate

Keep music and alcohol consumption respectful. Avoid disturbing other visitors, residents, fishers and beach users.



Reduce your footprint

Bring a reusable bottle, avoid single-use plastics and choose reef-friendly sun protection where possible.



Sun & sea safety



Currents and reef breaks can be deceptive.



Wear reef shoes where advised.



Apply reef-safe sunscreen.



Never swim beyond marked or crew-recommended areas.

Quick do and don't checklist

Use this page as a simple reminder before any attraction visit.



Please do



Wear comfortable shoes and carry a light cover-up or scarf for cultural or religious stops.



Arrive on time and follow the planned route, guide instructions and site signage.



Use respectful language and keep your phone on silent in quiet or sacred spaces.



Ask permission before taking close-up photos of people, ceremonies or private spaces.



Carry your waste back if bins are not available.



Support local guides, artisans, small shops and responsible local experiences where possible.



Please don't



Do not litter, smoke in restricted areas or leave cigarette ends behind.



Do not climb monuments, trees, statues, railings, graves, ruins or restricted structures.



Do not touch sacred objects, wildlife, coral, fossils, museum pieces or heritage items.



Do not use drones unless you have clear permission and follow applicable rules.



Do not disturb animals, feed fish, remove plants, shells, stones, sand or coral.



Do not ignore warnings for weather, waves, currents, slippery rocks or closed trails.

A simple responsible tourism mindset

The best visitors enjoy Mauritius while helping protect what makes the island special: its people, cultures, landscapes, lagoons, wildlife and local communities.

 Before your visit	Check the dress code, bring water, pack light, avoid unnecessary plastic and prepare for weather changes.
 During your visit	Stay aware of your surroundings, follow site rules and treat guides, staff, sellers and residents with courtesy.
 After your visit	Leave the site clean, share respectful photos and encourage others to travel responsibly too.



Important

This guide is general and applies to different types of attractions across Mauritius. If a guide, site staff member, religious representative, ranger, skipper, hotel or attraction gives a more specific instruction, please follow that instruction first.



In line with guidance from the Mauritius Ministry of Tourism.