

Travel | Destinations

Destinations | Hotels | Offers | Holiday types | City | Beach | Tours | Cruise | Ski | Family | Advice | More

Home > Travel > Destinations > Africa > Seychelles > Hotels



[View gallery](#)

North Island Seychelles

Seychelles [View on a map](#)



9/10
Telegraph expert rating

" Like a crack team of artisans dedicated to reconstructing a natural cathedral, North Island's 100-strong team of specialists have crafted an island paradise like no other. As a result, the delicate footprint of this pioneering barefoot luxury lodge barely disturbs the island's extraordinary natural beauty. "

Check availability

Rooms from **£5472** per night

CHECK-IN
Mon 16 Jul

CHECK-OUT
Tue 17 Jul

OCCUPANCY
1 room, 2 adults, 0 children

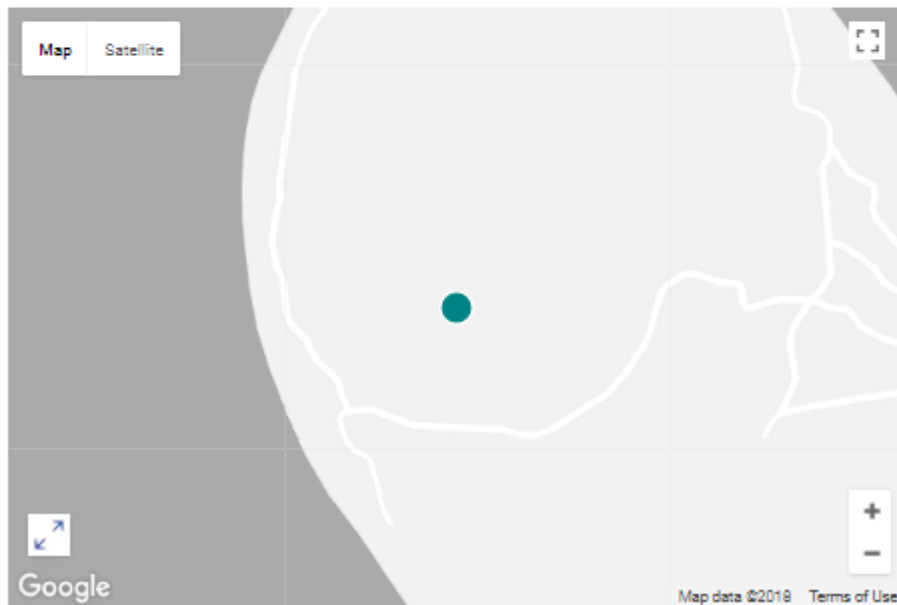
[Check availability](#)

By **Paula Hardy**, DESTINATION EXPERT

10/10 Location

This mini, car-free island is about the same size as Monaco, but is still large enough for weeks of adventure. There are four bone-white beaches heaped with some of the Seychelles softest sand. The topography is varied, too, ranging from grassy plateaus to undulating granite peaks that rise to a high point of 180 metres and are covered in tropical forest.

Unsurprisingly, few leave the island during their stay other than to go fishing or diving, even though North sits just three and a half miles (6km) north of Silhouette Island and 17 miles (27km) northwest of Mahé. Most guests arrive by private helicopter, although it's also possible to transfer by boat via Silhouette.



9/10

Style & character

Renowned safari camp architects Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens lived on North Island for two years while dreaming up the 11 villas and East Beach piazza, where several heritage stone agricultural buildings have been retooled to house a beautiful library, a dive centre and a boutique, beside a barely-there thatched lounge, bar and restaurant.

Their deep understanding of the island, its moods and colours, informs everything. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the use of upturned takamaka trees their sculptural roots splayed out like the ribs of medieval vaults supporting the thatched roofs. Driftwood, granite, roped coral, glass, and textured textiles the colours of the sea, anchor the design delightfully in the fabric of the landscape. Everything is out of the ordinary and yet the experience is one of deep immersion in nature.



[See more images at Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)

10/10 Service & facilities

As this is no ordinary island retreat, service at North has its own unique flavour. There are no obsequious butlers; instead a villa attendant guides your experience like a knowledgeable concierge taking note of your preferences and suggesting interesting activities – yoga, hiking with the island conservationist, picnics on a private beach, diving in Silhouette’s marine park, a film screening or a full day of fishing. Instead of infantilising guests with overly assiduous service, the real gift here is giving guests the run of the place. With bikes and an electric buggy at your disposal, it feels like you’ve been entrusted with the keys to Eden, which is both a privilege and a pleasure.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Fitness centre
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Spa
- ✔ Beach
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Wi-Fi

9/10 Rooms

Strung along the silken white sand of East Beach are 11 enormous villas designed in a thoughtful naturalistic style. Villas 1-10 have two bedrooms, while the slightly larger Villa 11 – George and Amal Clooney’s honeymoon suite – is reserved for couples. All of them comprise a series of open-sided, interlinking spaces that flow effortlessly into each other from the whirlpool-set deck to the open lounge, the rough walled kitchen, the glassed-in bedrooms, shuttered bathroom and magnificent open-air shower. Wood latticework ceilings interspersed with plastered canvas mimic the backs of the Aldabran tortoises that roam around the island while materials move between raw and refined subtly demarcating interior and exterior spaces. It’s an exciting and adventurous design.

10/10 Food & drink

Consider for a moment where you are: on a tiny island in the middle of the Indian Ocean more than 600 miles from the nearest continent, with few fruit trees and no indigenous animals. Now look at your plate and wonder at how South African chef (or should we say genie), Farrel Hirsch, conjures such fantastically good meals. His years working in Michelin-starred kitchens have trained him well for the constraints of island cooking where a manic attention to logistics, ingredients, climate, context and detail are required to deliver meals of this calibre.

Guest menus are individually designed delivering light, unpretentious dishes that gently push the boundaries into adventurous flavour-forward combinations and interesting textures. Consider the exquisitely light tom yum talay sour soup served at lunch followed by a zingy lemongrass popsicle with tiny chips of pineapple marinated in Malibu; or the sous vide hen's egg that oozes unctuously over a handful of flavourful morels, salty pancetta and charred asparagus; or, the sweetest scallops served with an inventive coconut sushi rice 'risotto' with lime and thyme. Every ingredient on your plate is at its best; nothing is over-wrought. Everything is delicious.

8/10 Value for money

Villas from €7,046 (£6,195). All inclusive. Free Wi-Fi.

Although prices appear eye-wateringly high, consider what they cover: practically everything. Only full-day fishing excursions, bespoke spa treatments and the reserve wine list are extra for those who simply can't live without a bottle of Echezeaux with dinner.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Not suitable.

Family-friendly?

Children under 17 stay free, while those aged between 17 and 19 years old are charged at €773 (£680) per night. Although there is no kids' club, anything is possible here and bespoke activities are tailored accordingly. On top of that, the island is an absolute paradise for children.

📍 North Island, Seychelles.

00 248 4293 100

north-island.com