



all4ships



## PORT LOUIS – MAURITIUS

Mauritius basks in splendid isolation in the bosom of the warmest ocean of all, the Indian Ocean, just inside the tropic of Capricorn, bounded by Africa, India and Australia. Mauritius is a tropical paradise of rolling hills, swaying sugar cane, silvery beaches and coral reefs, good hotels and charming and smiling people. This small island republic offers not only the natural beauty of an island under the sun but also a unique human potpourri which blends the grace and elegance of Colonial France with the warmth and colour of India, the decorum and politeness of China and the spontaneity and rhythm of Africa.



## HISTORY

Of volcanic origin and sheltered for its major part by barriers of coral reefs forming natural, safe, crystal clear lagoons, Mauritius has long been a dream destination. Known to the Arabs as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, but officially “discovered” in 1505 by the Portuguese navigator Pedro Mascarenhas, the island was occupied successively by the Dutch (1715-1810), and was ceded to Great Britain in 1814 through the Treaty of Paris. On March 12 1968, Mauritius became Independent. Republic Day was proclaimed on 12 March 1992.



## GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius has an area of 1865 square kilometers with 330 kilometres of coastline. Inland features include: a vast central plateau, subtropical forests, rivers, streams and waterfalls. Bordering this tableland are several mountain ranges consisting of varied shaped masses of basalt testifying of volcanic origins of the island.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The famous Pamplemousses Gardens, ranking among the finest botanical gardens in the world, boasts 500 different species of plants, of which 80 are palms. Of particular interest is the Talipot Palms, said to flower once every 60 years after which they die. In the district of Black River are coloured dunes of volcanic ash, which are naturally displayed, in an orderly pattern of 7 colours – result of weathering – a fascinating phenomenon! In Curepipe is a crater of an extinct volcano, 85 metres deep and more than 200 metres wide. From here one can enjoy a panoramic view of the western part of the island. On the east coast, Ile aux Cerfs is a paradise for water sports and witnesses the most beautiful beach of Mauritius. This small island, delicately poised on the ocean is an unavoidable stop in the Mauritian landscape.

