



The Seychelles

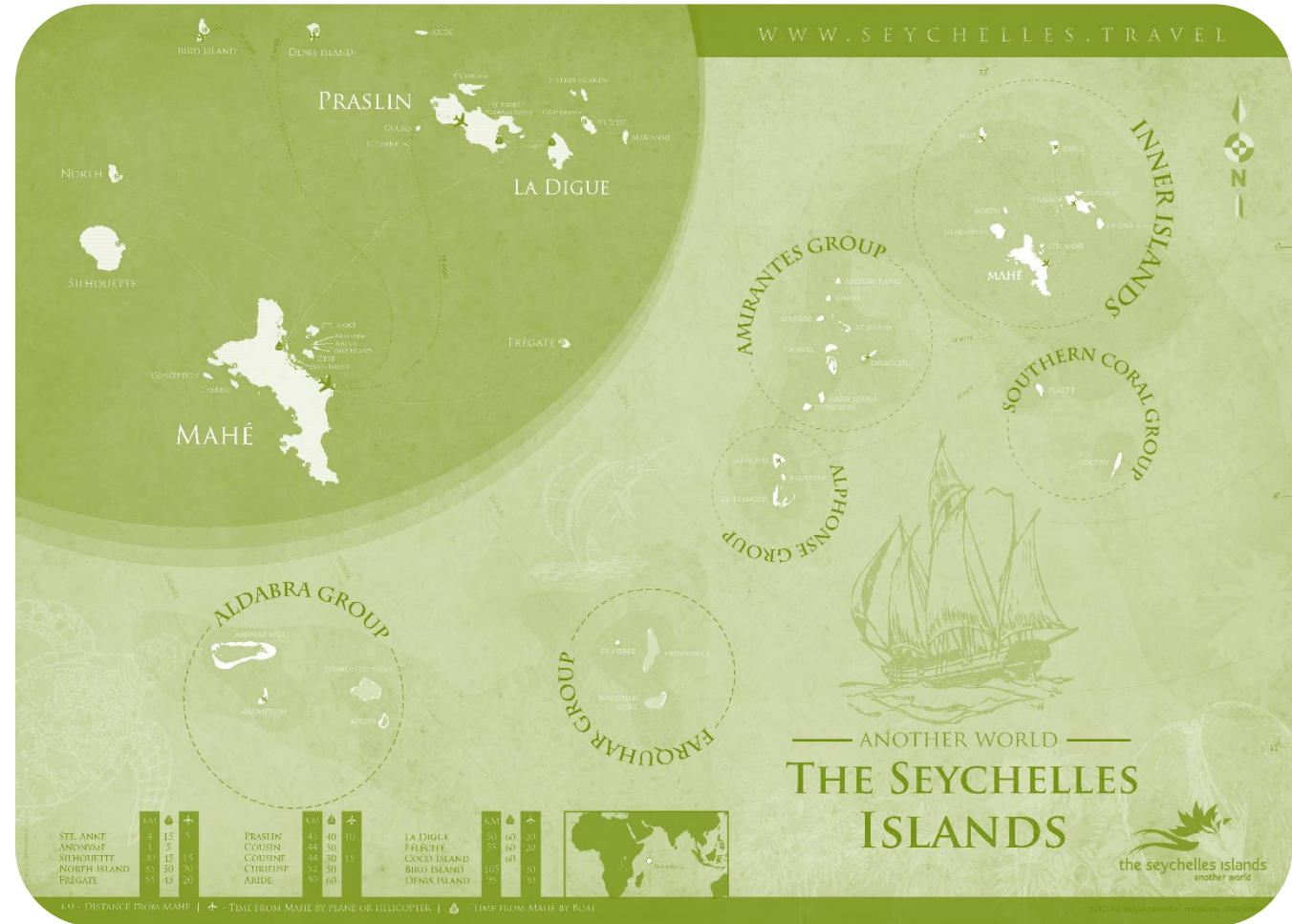


Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Introduction

- First case of COVID 19 detected in Seychelles on the 11th March
- Total of 11 cases recorded
- No community transmission
- Full recovery of all patients confirmed by Public Health Commissioner on 18th May
- ‘New normal’ started on the 4th May



Containment Measures COVID – 19 pandemic

Quarantine & Isolation

4 quarantine centres were set up for all travelers & persons who have been in contact with COVID 19 patients

3 isolation centres are available

Key health safety pillars being enforced by Department of Health – COVID-19

- Increased vigilance in case of reintroduction
- Social and physical distancing
- Hand and respiratory hygiene
- Random testing within the community



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Border Control and Travel Restrictions

- Ban on visitor arrivals from 25th March until 1st June 2020.
- Ban on foreign travel by Seychellois citizens except for medical emergencies from 23rd March to date.
- No new gainful occupational permit issued
- Ban on cruise ships until 2022

Confinement

- Closure of schools from 16th March until 18th May 2020.
- During the month of April all persons in Seychelles were restricted from outdoor movement except for employees of essential services



Support to the private sector including the tourism industry

➤ FISCAL POLICY

- The Government of Seychelles has committed approximately US\$ 70 million to guarantee salary payment of all employees until June 2020 extended to December 2020 for Seychellois Employees only.
- All tax payments due by March 2020 are postponed to September 2020.
- Corporate Social Responsibility Tax, Tourism Marketing Tax and business Tax due for April, May and June have been postponed to September 2020.

➤ MONETARY POLICY

- Central Bank of Seychelles and all commercial banks agreed on a moratorium for loan repayments for affected sectors for at least 6 months. This will cover both interest and capital repayments.
- Low interest loan for micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed individual are being considered and to extend to other businesses as well

➤ JOBS & SKILLS

- An extra US\$1.0 million allocated to the Unemployment Relief Scheme, a programme coordinated by the Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status.

In the meantime click video <https://youtu.be/n3Ur48GUqPo>



Reopening in 2 Phases

- First phase will be to private jets to island resorts - acting as safe holiday destinations & quarantine centres
- Second phase opening on the three main islands with limited movement following the introduction of tracing apps

Reopening - COVID 19 - Safe Tourism Guidelines and Protocols

The Ministry for Tourism has developed a visitors guideline which provides guidance for the following:

- ❑ Entry into Seychelles (including booking of accommodation, Entry procedures for foreigners, Insurance requirement)
- ❑ Entry at the Airport (Arrival Luggage Collection, Receiving of visitors by accommodation establishment staff)
- ❑ Domestic Transportation (Airport Transfers)
- ❑ Stay at Accommodation Establishment
- ❑ Symptomatic Cases (Emergency Procedures for visitors who display flu-like symptoms)
- ❑ Live Aboard Vessels (*Procedures for embarkation and disembarkation, communication in terms of social distancing between staff and guests, Emergency procedures in the event of guest displaying flu-like symptoms*)



Other Measures in place for the re-opening

- Guidelines for different tourism operators have been developed. Following the guidelines the operators will develop their own standard operating procedures.
- Re-opening of the country by phases. Starting with private jets and chartered flights going to island resorts.
- Only visitors from low risk countries will be allowed to enter and they will need a certificate that they are COVID 19 negative (CPR test)
- Restricted movement within and between islands
- Mandatory requirements to wear mask on board Air Seychelles domestic flights and repatriation flights.





Thank You

