

Island-hopping is one of the great pleasures of visiting the Seychelles. The views from a small plane or helicopter are sublime. And the pleasure of arriving at a place where you can feel you've got an entire island at your personal disposal is, quite frankly, almost indecent. So it is at Denis Private Island—375 acres of perfection on the northern edge of the Seychelles lagoon.

The island isn't big, but it's big enough to have variety; the resort's not flashy, but it's flashy enough for you to realise how incredibly fortunate you are to be there. Denis embodies what is, for some, the most luxurious kind of luxury—unassuming, unpretentious, deeply satisfying. “No keys, no phones, no worries,” they tell you on arrival. So it proves to be. Though as a matter of fact you can be reached, if you must be—the point is that you really, really won't want to be reached. You'll be too busy not being busy at all.

The 25 cottages are roomy and generous, each with a large veranda facing the sea, a sitting area, a big bathroom and walled courtyard with an outdoor shower to rinse off the sand. The main lodge, with its superb restaurant and bar and a brilliantly bijou little boutique, manages to be both excellent and informal. You're not only allowed to feel at home, but encouraged to do so.

Denis is modest about its eco credentials, but they are impressive. The owners have been determinedly restoring the habitat for years. A walk around the island in the company of André Labiche, the resident environmental officer, is a revelation. You will be humbled to be reminded of the astonishing variety of the birdlife that surrounds you, which you somehow failed to see for yourself. Sea turtles nest on Denis all year round; the snorkelling and deep-sea fishing are outstanding.

The estate operates its own farm, producing poultry for meat and eggs and cattle for milk, as well as fruit, vegetables and herbs. Children are welcome to visit the farm. They will learn a lot not only about where stuff comes from but also how to take care of their environment. So might their parents.

The resort's green commitment goes further still. The very furniture in your room has been fashioned from the island's fallen timber, the water you drink collected from un-

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derground aquifers and rain-catchment reservoirs. And guess where the coconut oil used in your spa treatments came from...

At Denis, you're so distant from anywhere, yet everything's so close to home. This is the delightful paradox of one of the most charming of all the Seychelles' resorts. Such notions of near and far, local and global, small and large, are matters you might care to reflect upon carefully, at your leisure, on the beach at Denis, at sunset, as you gaze wistfully westwards into a luminous canopy of rose-gold sky, over a glass of something chilled and delicious.

[www.denisland.com](http://www.denisland.com)

### GETTING THERE

Call 00 248 428 8964 to book a stay at Denis Private Island now and mention Vanity Fair to receive a Surprise Wellness Package.

Quote the following booking code: VFDP101 when booking. Please note that conditions apply, and these will be detailed when making your booking.