

THE RESIDENCE ON THE ROCKS

A gem set in paradise

The Residence on the Rocks is located a scenic thirty-minute drive along the coast from the airport, between Anse Intendance and Taka Maka Bay, on the main island of Mahé in the Seychelles. Perched high on a mountain of granite rock and nestled amongst lush emerald-green forests, the residence boasts sweeping vistas of dappled, dark-blue Indian Ocean. It is the only privately-owned residence, situated within the luxury international five star Banyan Tree Hotel & Spa resort.



The owner, world-renowned wildlife photographer and conservationist, Karl Ammann, was instrumental in returning the property, from what was then communist-controlled Seychelles, to the original owners, former Beatles member, George Harrison and British actor Peter Sellers. With the sale of the property to the hotel group, Karl Ammann negotiated this exclusive and unique property for what is today known as Residence on the Rocks.

The colonial/Creole style villa reflects the splendour of a bygone era, and the four bedrooms (three in the main house and one in the guesthouse), are all individually and uniquely furnished with treasures of art and antique furniture collected over a lifetime of travel. Its double volume high ceilings and the sixteen large, old Haveli Palace doors, which were brought in from India, lead onto spacious overhanging verandas, all with spectacular ocean views, creating a feeling of grandeur whilst allowing fragrant breezes to move freely around large rooms. Elements of the natural landscape like gigantic granite boulders and trees are incorporated into the design and architecture of the home. Indian woven wool rugs are scattered over dark-brown recycled old Burma teak timber floors. The beautifully decorated lounge has wide, high arched doors leading out onto a patio overlooking the clear blue swimming pool. The residence is an eclectic blend of African, Indian and Eastern

influences and each item in it, has story to tell.

The rim-flow swimming pool draws your eye to a picture-perfect view of the endless deep-blue ocean, while different areas of the garden present idyllic places to sit, read, reflect and enjoy the spectacular views of both ocean and vegetation. A Jacuzzi beckons under an umbrella of trees next to a wooden gazebo which sits high on a granite rock, decorated in ornamental steel, offering the visitor breathtaking ocean views, outdoor dining options or the opportunity to enjoy stunning golden sunsets whilst drinking sparkling champagne.

Your personal butler, Lalith, who has 15 years experience working for the Saudi Foreign Minister, will cater to your every whim and provide you with the best of personal service. Lalith is very well travelled; having visited over 50 countries worldwide whilst in the service of the Foreign Minister and so has a very good overview of different customs and traditions. It is recommended that on arrival you allow him and his wife, Chandrika, to travel to the local shops and markets to source food for the duration of your holiday stay. At your request, they will prepare daily meals. The option of dining at the Banyan Tree Hotel is also available where guests can choose between Thai and Southeast Asian cuisine or a Creole restaurant offering guests the opportunity to savour local flavours. All of the hotel's five star facilities are available to guests staying

at Residence on the Rocks and a visit to the award winning Banyan Tree Spa is also recommended. One of the world's top rated beaches in Intendance Bay can be easily accessed via one of the Hotel's buggies. The atmosphere is relaxed and casual allowing the freedom to either enjoy time at the sun drenched pool with the added bonus of having surround-sound music playing or to explore the many delights of the island. Outdoor activities such as fishing, diving, mountain biking, hiking, snorkelling, canoeing, helicopter scenic flights or island hopping can be arranged for you. There are many small restaurants dotted along the coastline within a few kilometres of the Residence which offer the visitor the opportunity of having a swim in the turquoise warm sea water whilst waiting for food to be prepared.

A romantic getaway or a family hideaway, this holiday experience will delight even the most seasoned traveller with its tranquility and breathtaking beauty. The promise of Residence on the Rocks is to relax and revive in an environment of complete privacy. A gem set in paradise offering that 'home away from home' experience. A place to escape, unwind and lose yourself amongst cool sea breezes and lush vegetation. ■ Merle Van Der Merwe

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