

# Port Louis and the North



## Further Links

- Port Louis - vibrant capital of Mauritius
- Pamplemousses - Royal Botanical Gardens
- Markets and shopping
- Great beaches and watersports
- Visit an ancient Sugar Factory
- Off shore island boat trips
- Lively waterfront, shops and restaurants in Grand Baie

## Situation

North West of Mauritius. Port Louis is on the west coast.

## Activities

Many watersports are popular in the North including sailing, kite surfing, deep sea fishing and the famous semi-submarine and the undersea walk.

**Port Louis** is the capital of Mauritius and is located on the north west coast of the island. It is a vibrant mix of markets, business and history. The north coast has fine beaches with a good range of accommodation and is popular for water sports.

Main **beaches** here include the pretty white sandy bay of Trou Aux Biches, shaded by casuarina trees. Good area for novice snorkellers with easily reached reefs near the shore. At Mon Choisy the beach stretches from Trou Aux Biches to Grand Bay, which is a shopping and leisure paradise.

**Grand Baie** is where tourists and locals head for a night out and has many bars, restaurants and shops. It is a good area also for **sailing, wind surfing and water skiing**. The bay is a favourite anchoring spot for sailboats and a starting point for many day excursions by boat around the islands. Several hotels here are in easy walk or drive from the restaurants and markets.

**Cap Malheureux** with its red roof church has good views of the islets to the north of the coast and this village supports a large fishing community. Kite surfing bases can also be found around this area of the coast.

**Underwater** in this region you can take the 'Blue Safari Submarine' to see marine life and wrecks under

the sea. There is also a unique 'Captain Nemos Undersea Walk' where visitors can see the marine life without complicated diving equipment, using helmets fed with fresh air!

**Diving** in this region includes areas around Gunner's Coin, Whale Rock Morey Eel Reefs, Stella Maru and Holt's Rocks.

Inland there is the famous **Botanical Gardens**, the **Mauritius Aquarium** at Pointes Aux Piments and a **Sugar Cane Factory and Sugar Mill**.

The area is rich in **heritage** and you can visit the Old Cemetery near Pamplemousses, historical churches and the Bassin des Esclaves, where slaves used to be washed.

**Shopping** - There are plenty of places to shop including local handicrafts, fashions, paintings and jewellery. Goodlands Market is a great place for vibrant atmosphere and a range of local goods.

**The Northern Islets**, are a small cluster of islands off the north coast, where many day trips and sailing boats can take visitors. Gunner's Coin rises sharply out of the water and is a good place for snorkeling and birdwatching. Flat Island and Ilot Gabriel are good clear water spots for swimming and picnics. There is a retural reserve at Round Island, protecting various species of plants and reptiles.

