

Live Travel's Quarterly
Newsletter

"We travel not to escape
life, but for life not to
escape us."



JOURNEYS



FOR THE



SOUL

SPECIAL EDITION

ST. LUCIA, SEYCHELLES AND DUBAI



Around The World

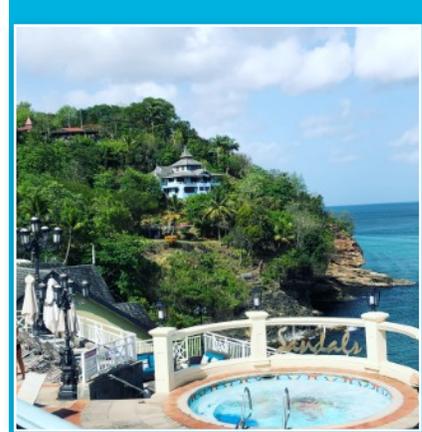
I recently returned from visiting five stunning destinations around the world and I came home with my spirit renewed and my soul filled with delight. A problem came unexpectedly a few months before the trip yet I pushed forward for the travel. I knew the experience would heal me as I made my exploration to gather information and stories. These treasures are what I want to share with you and inspire you to travel to where you can at the level of comfort you want with a tint of luxury that you desire. Introducing in this special edition: St. Lucia, Seychelles and Dubai!

Where is St. Lucia?

Saint Lucia is a volcanic island in the West Indies in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Its mountainous range, most famously the Pitons, give breathtaking views and its miles-long stretches of white soft sand seduce even the most discerning travelers. Dynamics in geography of the island allow for adventures to volcanic beaches, reef-diving sites and waterfalls as high as the 15 meters Toraille that pours over a cliff and into a garden. And Sulphur Springs being which is the “world’s only drive in volcano”. You will get wet and dirty but when was the last time you could get this close to a volcano?

Educational trip with Sandals allows me to visit its three different resorts on the island, each with its own theme and selection of rooms catering to the specific needs and wishes of individual guest. Guests staying in one resort have complimentary access to the facilities of the other two. As Five Star Diamond Resorts, Sandals delivers world class service for the ultimate Luxury Included vacation experience.

- Sandals Grande St. Lucian Spa & Beach Resort has an ideal location on Pigeon island with one side the Caribbean Sea and the other the Atlantic Ocean. This allows for endless view of the turquoise ocean and the Island’s mountains range. It boasts of having one of the longest stretches of white sand beaches in St Lucia. As it is an all-inclusive resort, you will find water sports, including waterskiing, snorkeling and scuba diving complimentary. Snorkeling at Sugar Bay will give an up-close-and-personal view of the Pitons. Did I mention the 11 restaurants and 5 bars including an Olde London Pub... all included and unlimited?
- How about a boardwalk? Yes, there is one. It stretches along the white sandy beach and has casual restaurants for quick bites. For a more formal atmosphere in over-the-water bungalow style, guests will find The Gordon’s at the end of the pier. As the sun sets, guests can relax by the fire pits. The glow of the fire and its warmth along with the island gentle breeze and the soft sound of waves crashing ashore will leave you floating amid the paradise bliss.
- Whether as guests or newlyweds, the Over-the-Water Serenity Wedding Chapel in Sandals Grande will steal the heart of all. Groom and bride receive a complimentary honeymoon stay at Sandals when hosting their wedding at one of the resorts.



- Encompassing 23 acres of land on the island of St Lucia, Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort & Spa is your home away from home. Regency La Toc is similar to the Grande but entirely different with its own theme. The ground is landscaped with stunning architectural designs and gardens for breathtaking views at every corner of your walk. As Sandals Grande captures the beautiful nature and easy-going rhyme of the island, Sandals La Toc delivers a feel of privacy and luxury. Here ButlerElite service is catered to guests staying in Butler Suites with each having their own personal Butler to ensure all guests' needs are met and expectations exceeded. Sandals' Butlers have been specially trained to the highest standards by The Guild of Professional English Butlers. Too good to be true? Not at all with Sandals.
- For complete privacy and tranquility, Sandals Halcion delivers unmatched services in accommodation with small bungalows. A stay here fulfills your wish for a quiet and peaceful retreat at the end of the night after a fun and energetic day at the Sandals Grande.
- How do I know which resort is best for me? An ideal combination of two resorts would be a stay at Regency La Toc for the stunning view at every corner and luxurious feel in every step of the way. The Grande would be the playground for a fun beach day. Night could be savored for elegant dining at Gordon's Over-the-Water restaurant where gourmet meal is delivered while sitting on the pier. For an intimate indoor ambience, La Toc restaurant at the Regency wines and dines guests to the perfect French cuisine. Kelly's Dockside Over-the-Water restaurant in Sandals Halcion serves Caribbean specialties on a 150 feet pier. All three restaurants require reservation in advance as they are well loved by all guests at three resorts.

Where is The Seychelles?

An archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean that is home to stunning beaches and coral reefs including giant Aldabra tortoises and rainforests of Morne Seychellois National Park. Described by early settlers as "the original Garden of Eden", Seychelles is the leading luxury destination for discerning travelers. It is a heaven for divers. Although diving may be enjoyed year round, best diving periods are from March to early May and October to mid December when the water temperature is around 29C and visibility can be over 30 meters. In Mahe, I stayed at The Kempinski Seychelles Resort with a special rate for travel advisor.

- Mahe is the hub for visiting other islands, most famously Praslin and La Digue. On any island, you will find talcum-powder beaches surrounded by topaz waters, lush hills and beautiful giant rocks uniquely to Seychelles. This is true especially at Kempinski Seychelles Resort which is nestled in a secluded bay to offer guests unrivaled privacy and seclusion. All beaches are open to the public. However given difficult access to Baie Lazare, the beach essentially becomes exclusive to guests staying at Kempinski.
- Could there be challenges while staying on this corner of paradise? Surprisingly yes. The soft breeze and sound of gentle wave crashing ashore are the perfect lullabies but falling asleep with such gorgeous sight in front of you is a feat. Next challenge is to decide which beach and diving site are your favorites. How do you do it? Rent a car or hire private driver for beach hopping around the island until you find ones that steal your heart.

- Between playing with the marine creatures under water during your endless snorkeling or diving trips and relaxing ashore by your luxurious retreat, the laid-back tempo of Seychelles keeps you on cloud nine from the moment you arrive until your last minute of departure.

Lastly is Dubai.

I was not ready to leave Seychelles but Dubai was waiting for me. An overnight layover in the travel itinerary calls for a stay in the city in the United Arab Emirates known for luxury shopping and hotels, ultramodern architecture and a variety of activities that are exclusively Dubai ranging from Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo and the largest indoor ski slope in the world Ski Dubai. Did I mention you could also play with the Snow Penguins? Prior to Dubai and Seychelles, I was in the deep jungle of Tanzania and its coastal island of Zanzibar. After completing safari of all kinds from the jungle and hot air balloon to boat, a sand safari only seems appropriate. The sun was strong, the sand was hot and the thrill was real. Exhilarating car speeding in sand dunes, sand boarding, camel riding and authentic buffet dinner with Arabic dancing all in one day. The perfect ending to an incredible journey. Stay tuned for the adventures of Tanzania and Zanzibar in the next Special Edition newsletter.

The sun sets and rises once each day and so does life in its beginning and end. Live it for the moments that will stay with you and make them the greatest stories of a life ever lived.

“Travel is a love affair with life.” Debbie Pham

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