



# Bird Island Lodge

- Seychelles Archipelago

“A truly relaxing hotel on  
an incredible island”

“A private island, wildlife reserve  
and hotel - all rolled into one”

“Ranked No.7 in the world's  
top 10 eco-destinations”

BBC Wildlife Magazine

“A living testament to a remarkable success story”

ALISTAIR SAWDAY  
SPECIAL PLACES TO STAY



“No T.V. no phone, just masses of birds, turtles and palpitatingly beautiful beaches”

SINGAPORE AIRLINES MAGAZINE

We are proud how we have managed to balance the conservation of critically endangered species with the running of an ecologically sound and quality hotel experience.



“An Island all to myself feeling”

DESTINATIONS MAGAZINE

Only 30 minutes flight from the main Island of Mahe, and its international airport, Bird Island, the most northerly of the archipelago, has just one small hotel with 24 bungalows and over five kilometres of the world's finest beaches, so feeling like Robinson Crusoe on your own private island comes as standard.



“Never more than 80 people on your own private island”

AFRICAN GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



*Bird Island - 60 miles N.W of Mahé Island, Seychelles.*



Voted one of the top ten beaches in the world...



“Small enough to walk round in an hour - an endless trail of blinding white sand”

THE SCOTSMAN



“The island has free roaming giant Aldabran tortoises including the world’s most famous tortoise, Esmeralda”

Children and guests are delighted and fascinated by the 24 giant Aldabran tortoises that roam freely around our island. Weighing in at 304 kilos our Esmeralda is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world’s largest living tortoise. His official birth date is 1771, making him (yes, for most of his life we got his sex wrong) almost 240 years old.



“Every trip has a highlight - Bird Island was mine”

AFRICAN GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

“Bird has its own pods of resident dolphins and giant manta rays”

See the dolphins and seek out the magnificent manta rays that thrive in our clear, warm waters.



Tropic Bird



Tail fluke of Southern Right Whale

“Whale watching Bird Island style”

The island is on the migratory route of whale sharks as well as other whales such as Southern Right Whales, Humpbacks and Short-Finned Pilot Whales. During the calmer months of October and November our guests might get the opportunity to watch these amazing creatures in the waters surrounding the island.





Baby Turtles

“Most guests staying with us for 3 or 4 nights will get the chance to witness a turtle laying or a nest hatching” (October to March)

Bird has its own full time Nature Conservationist who is part of a Seychelles-wide turtle monitoring project. Robbie is responsible for tagging laying turtles and the ongoing monitoring and protection of the nests of critically endangered Hawksbill and Green turtles. In the peak laying months (see below) up to five turtles a day can come onto our beaches to lay – Seychelles is the only place in the world where these turtles still lay in broad daylight! Seeing a nest of over 100 tiny turtles hatch and begin their life or death race down the beach to the waters edge is a sight that will live with you forever. Guests are welcome to spend time with and often volunteer to help Robbie with his conservation work.



Hawksbill turtle

“Excellent opportunities for the fly fisherman”

The north point of the island is just 500 metres from the edge of the Seychelles Plateau where the ocean bed drops 2,000 metres vertically. This means a variety of wonderful fish surrounds Bird Island. We have excellent fishing opportunities from the beach and on our reef - particularly bone fish and trevally. Fly fishing is allowed free of charge - clients must bring their own equipment.



Sailfish



Sooty Terns

“Lured by the sanctuary of the island, 1.5 million sooty terns arrive to nest on the Northern point of the island” (March to October)

When the island's owner Guy Savy bought Bird Island in 1967 he began to clear and manage the vegetation to create much needed nesting sites for Sooty Terns. Over the past 40 years the number of nesting Sooty Terns has grown from 16,000 pairs to an incredible 750,000 pairs. This is just one facet of Bird Island's remarkable conservation and tourism success story. The birds gather in the sky above the island in March and start to land in the colony towards the end of April with the majority of the first batch of eggs being laid in the first week of June. The last of the juvenile birds fledge by the end of October.



“For over 35 years, one of the Seychelles most loved and treasured hotels and locations”

24 simple but very comfortable individual chalets nestle amongst what remains of the island’s old coconut plantation. The 40ft by 20ft rooms each have a king-sized bed, large shower room and separate toilet, a lounge corner and spacious veranda overlooking the gardens to the sea beyond. The rooms are naturally ventilated and an overhead fan provides a much greener alternative to air-conditioning, complimenting the solar panels which provide hot water for the showers. Each chalet will accommodate a third adult and child or two extra children.

Simplicity is style in our hotel which is as far removed from your standard, over-priced and over-pampered luxury hotel as you are from busy resorts and crowded beaches. Our 5 kilometres of unbroken white sandy beach, including some of the best beaches in the world, means that our guests can have a beach to themselves.

The daily 30 minute flight takes guests to and from the island which has a grass landing strip. With just 30 staff there are never more than 80 people in total on the island.

Food is fresh, wholesome and served buffet style in a relaxed informal atmosphere. Fresh fish can be found on the menu every day with organic home grown vegetables and fruits to supplement the simple but tasty meals.

Bird Island really is a pioneering force in Indian Ocean eco-tourism. We have been monitoring the Sooty Tern seabird colony since the early 1970’s, increasing the available nesting ground significantly, and our Turtle monitoring project began back in 1995. The Seychelles is amongst the very few places in the world where Hawksbill turtles come ashore to nest in broad daylight and Bird Island is said to have the best population in the inner islands, so clients have a very good chance to see these wonderful creatures up close during the season.

Bird Island offers barefoot relaxation with friendly helpful service. It is owned and run by the Savy family, who are Seychellois, and who have shared their unique island lifestyle with guests for over 35 years. For independent guest reviews of Bird Island Lodge check out [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)



24 individual bungalow lodges



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[reservations@birdislandseychelles.com](mailto:reservations@birdislandseychelles.com)

For flight and accommodation prices please see back cover.

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



# A year in the life of Bird Island



## **JAN / FEB**

**Weather** - Wind from North West, very hot and still, occasional rain showers, good sunsets.

**Ocean** - Calm and clear – excellent snorkelling.

**Hawksbill turtles** - Still laying in large numbers / nests starting to hatch.

**Migrant birds** - A good variety of migrants and vagrant birds.

## **MAR / APR**

**Weather** - Very hot and still, doldrums period, good sunsets.

**Ocean** - Very clam and clear – excellent snorkelling.

**Hawksbill turtles** - nests still hatching and entering the water.

**Sooty Terns** - Begin to gather in small number. Towards end of April begin to land in the colony.

**Migrant birds** - As the winds begin to change, migrants that have been on the island change to summer plumage in preparation for return to Northern breeding grounds.

## **MAY**

**Weather** - South East breeze begins to blow and temperatures get slightly cooler.

**Ocean** - Snorkelling still good.

**Green Turtles** - Lay throughout year but are more common June to September

**Sooty Terns** - From mid month they start to land in the evening. Each day they land earlier until by end of month they stay on ground all day.

**Lesser Noddy Terns** - Eggs start to hatch and parents feed chicks.

**Migrant birds** - Odd squalls out at sea bring in migrants travelling north.

## **JUNE**

**Weather** - South East breeze blows steadily, comparatively cooler (28 Deg C daily max).

**Ocean** - Western beach water calm, snorkelling still possible.

**Sooty Terns** - Majority of eggs are laid by the end of the month.

**Brown Noddy Terns** - June to September second peak breeding season, courting rituals, nest building and incubating eggs.

## **JULY**

**Weather** - South East breeze, pleasantly cool 27 – 28 Dec C.

**Ocean** – West coast calm, snorkelling still possible.

**Sooty Terns** – First eggs begin to hatch, later afternoon parents return with food for chicks.

**Brown Noddy Terns** – Towards end of month first chicks begin to hatch.

## **AUG / SEPT**

**Weather** - South East breeze continues, less humidity, occasional rain showers.

**Ocean** - Can be choppy, poor visibility for snorkelling.

**Sooty Terns** - Towards end of August and beginning of September the early chicks start to fledge.

**Brown Noddy Terns** - Majority of chicks still hatching by end of September majority have fledged.

## **OCT / NOV / DEC**

**Weather** – South Easterly ceases. North Westerly breeze starts in November, getting warmer, showers possible. Good sunsets.

**Ocean** – Calm and clear, excellent snorkelling. Hawksbill Turtles – start emerging from ocean to lay eggs. Numbers increase daily until Nov and Dec when 4 to 5 a day nest and lay. Eggs laid in October start to hatch in December. Peak laying is November to February. Hatchlings emerge circa 58 days after eggs laid and continue to emerge into May.

Sooty Terns – Virtually all gone by end of October. Migrant Birds – Best time of year for unusual sightings and number of species. Migrants and vagrants start to fly in.