

SEASONS: SEYCHELLES

When to Go & What to Pack



SEYCHELLES

Due to its proximity to the equator, there is no real twilight in the Seychelles. The sun rises quickly at around 06:15 and sets with equal swiftness at about 18:30. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

Situated only 7° south of the equator and outside of the cyclone belt, **Alphonse Island** is blessed with gorgeous, consistent weather. Alphonse offers guests year-round summer days with temperatures seldom dropping below 22°C/72°F.

The north-west trade winds prevail from the end of September to the beginning of May, which are the hottest and wettest months with humidity averaging 65%. Tropical rain showers are usually short and sharp. Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid, with mid-day temperatures hovering at 35°C/90°F. Although it's always a good time to visit the Seychelles, different times of the year may be better suited to particular interests. The south-east trade winds increase between May and September, causing slightly lower temperatures and humidity.

For **Astove and Cosmoledo Atolls**, the operating season traditionally runs from early November to late April; due to these atolls being a further 2° south of Alphonse Island, the south-easterly monsoon winds blow insistently from May to October. The evenings are also invariably warm except for the first and last few weeks of the season, when there may be a strong, cooling breeze.

January to March

A LITTLE RAIN AND A LOT OF SHINE

Although most rain falls in January the weather is spectacular, rains last only a few hours and then you can continue with your perfect holiday. The islands are a year-round home to a few pods of spinner dolphins, reef manta ray and milkfish are visible up until the end of February and March starts with the beginning of the mating season for the turtles.

- JANUARY:** The rainy season ends with high temperatures.
- FEBRUARY:** A few short rain spells and wonderfully warm weather.
- MARCH:** Little rain can be expected with high temperatures.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day	31°C / 88°F
Average Night	24°C / 75°F

April to June

SEASON COMES TO AN END FOR ASTOVE AND COSMOLEDO

With Astove and Cosmoledo Atolls closing at the end of April, there is still time to discover the remarkable islands. The spinner dolphins are always around, and April and May mark the end of the turtle mating season. Action-filled moments of yellowfin tuna that leap from the water into the sky at sporadic bait balls are also a treat to watch.

- APRIL:** Temperatures are high, and rainfall becomes less. **End of the season for Astove and Cosmoledo.**
- MAY:** Temperatures are high, and rainfall becomes much less.
- JUNE:** Astove Coral House and Cosmoledo Eco Camp are closed. Stay at Alphonse Island Lodge.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day	31°C / 88°F
Average Night	24°C / 75°F

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July to September

START OF THE NEW SEASON

Spinner dolphins are always around, and a small group of humpback whales start to migrate through the warm tropical waters, often in mother-calf pairs. Expect to see other cetaceans like melon-headed whales, Risso's dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, pilot whales and beaked whales.

JULY: Astove Coral House and Cosmoledo Eco Camp are closed. Stay at Alphonse Island Lodge.

AUGUST: Astove Coral House and Cosmoledo Eco Camp are closed. Stay at Alphonse Island Lodge.

SEPTEMBER: Temperatures come down, and rainfall is low.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 28°C / 82°F

Average Night 23°C / 73°F

October to December

MARINE ADVENTURE

Temperatures are warm and rainfall is at a minimum. The rainy season starts in December, with welcome showers. Spinner dolphins are around as well as other cetaceans, reef manta rays and milkfish.

OCTOBER: Temperatures are warm, and rainfall is low.

NOVEMBER: Warmer than October and less rainfall. **Astove Coral House and Cosmoledo Eco Camp open for the season.**

DECEMBER: Temperatures are like November's and the rainy season starts.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 29°C / 84°F

Average Night 23°C / 73°F

What to pack

Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing, a UV-proof shirt for water-based activities, polarized sunglasses, sunscreen (SPF 30+), lip block, hat/cap, headlamp/torch, a lightweight rain jacket, 2 swimming costumes and optionally a dry-bag for activities.

For Astove & Cosmoledo: 3 UV-proof shirts for water-based activities, a pair of UV-proof zip-off pants and short pants each in soft, natural colours, sun gloves, 2 buffs, soft tissue for cleaning/drying lenses and a pair of flats wading boots with thick soles and good ankle support (**NB:** neoprene booties do not offer adequate protection!).

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the proximity to the equator, the sun in Seychelles is exceptionally strong, with the white sand increasing its effect. It is not advisable to lie in direct sunlight during the first few days of your vacation. A strong sunbathing lotion or sunblock is recommended, as is wearing a hat, to protect your head from direct sunlight. For water sports such as snorkelling, a rash vest is recommended.