



Rumour has it that one of the giant tortoises on the island can speak, and has been alive for one thousand years.

NEED TO KNOW

A stay at **Raffles Praslin Seychelles** starts from €650 (including 26 per cent service and taxes) per villa per night, based on a single or double occupancy in a Garden View Pool Villa on a bed and breakfast basis. To book call +248 429 6780; or visit raffles.com/praslin

Rates at **Raffles Dubai** start from 1,314 AED per room per night based on two sharing. To book call +800 1723 3537; or visit raffles.com/dubai

'food journey' with Raffles' chefs – visiting Seychellois producers and markets to understand the provenance of the ingredients. "We're not about enclosing our guests behind the hotel walls," says Robin, who comes from Mahé. "Seychellois people are naturally welcoming and friendly. We want to share our culture with the world."

For those still hungry for more, a stop-over at Raffles outpost in Dubai, is the only way to travel home. The man-made nature of Dubai is, of course, about as far as you can get from the unchecked wildness of the Seychelles. But they do have one thing in common – the passion for achieving foodie prowess.

Raffles Dubai is one of the city's best foodie hotels, and its many restaurants are overseen by Greek chef Doxis Bekris. From the Manolo Blahnik Collection Afternoon Tea in the Salon – which includes peach-praline chocolate stilettoes and a pannacotta and sour cherry hat stand – to its 17th-floor Japanese Tomo restaurant, it's perfectly wild at heart.



CHAMONIX FRENCH ALPS

The perfect resort for a snow-filled weekend getaway

THE WEEKEND: Hitting the mountain is often an annual affair - the same week, the same place, the same friends. While this might give you something to look forward to it's worth remembering how easy it is to simply grab your gear and treat yourself to a weekend adventure. If you worked on Thursday and will be back in the office on Monday, then spending Friday and Saturday on the slopes takes on a particularly indulgent quality - especially if you get the accommodation right.

WHERE? Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is just an hour's flight from London to Geneva with a quick transfer from the airport. This is the domain of Mont Blanc, challenging runs, off-piste adventures and epic glaciers. The town itself - Frances's oldest ski resort - boasts an impressive range of restaurants, bars and boutiques - all of which appeal to the well-heeled crowd. With 150km of pistes and 15,000 acres off piste, there's something on offer for all abilities. However, Chamonix has a deserved reputation for challenging and exciting opportunities for skiers and borders alike.

THE STAY: The ease with which one can get to Chamonix from London makes it the perfect resort for a mini-break. Collineige is a specialist chalet company that has been welcoming guests for over 30 years. They offer some of the most beautiful properties in the valley, including catered and self-



TOP TIP
Book a mountain guide to help make the most of a weekend break

catering options. They boast a range of properties from serviced apartments in the heart of the town to cosy, tucked-away cottages and larger, luxury chalets. For a weekend break, the Val d'Arve apartments are convenient, comfortable, well-appointed and beautifully positioned with views of Mont Blanc.

THE FOOD: No weekend away is complete without some memorable dining experiences and Chamonix will not disappoint. Collineige can arrange an excellent private dining treat in your apartment, where a skilled chef comes and prepares a four course meal as you lounge by the fire. This is well worth taking them up on, but you should also book a table at the magnificent Maison Carrier - a traditional savoie restaurant with wooden beams, roaring fires and high-end local cuisine. For the real foodie, Chamonix

boasts a range of Michelin-starred restaurants, including Le Bistrot - which wouldn't be out of place in Mayfair. On the mountain you can find gorgeous restaurants for lunch, the best of which can be booked by Collineige.

ASK ABOUT: Private guides and off-piste experiences. Your chalet hosts can arrange for experienced local guides who will help you make the most of the glacier and miles of off-piste adventures. If you're on a quick break, a guide can really help you see the best of Chamonix in a short space of time.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Chamonix's season runs long into the spring, and you should take advantage of last minute availability and special offers with Collineige. So go ahead and treat yourself to a weekend on the slopes. www.collineige.com

FLIGHT CENTRE™
First and Business

BUSINESS CLASS SALE

CARIBBEAN was ~~£2179~~ now **£1295**

USA & CANADA was ~~£2489~~ now **£1294**

BOOK BY FRIDAY

BRITISH AIRWAYS

OUR BEST AIRFARE DEALS

	Premium Economy was	Premium Economy now from	Business Class was	Business Class now from		Premium Economy was	Premium Economy now from	Business Class was	Business Class now from
Auckland	fr. £2143	fr. £1893	fr. £2295	fr. £2065	Kuala Lumpur	fr. £1399	fr. £939	fr. £1828	fr. £1578
Bangkok	fr. £949	fr. £848	fr. £1827	fr. £1399	Las Vegas	fr. £1258	fr. £933	fr. £3066	fr. £2195
Barbados	fr. £989	fr. £849	fr. £2489	fr. £1679	Los Angeles	fr. £1349	fr. £939	fr. £2679	fr. £2199
Brisbane	fr. £1989	fr. £1887	fr. £2879	fr. £2427	Melbourne	fr. £1249	fr. £985	fr. £2249	fr. £1709
Dubai	fr. £1035	fr. £614	fr. £1818	fr. £1279	Miami	fr. £1164	fr. £689	fr. £2806	fr. £1795
Johannesburg	fr. £1379	fr. £1007	fr. £2115	fr. £1786	New York	fr. £1124	fr. £707	fr. £2893	fr. £1495
					Perth	fr. £2129	fr. £1759	fr. £3599	fr. £2167
					Rio de Janeiro	fr. £1295	fr. £988	fr. £2015	fr. £1895
					Singapore	fr. £1095	fr. £979	fr. £1929	fr. £1554
					Sydney	fr. £1193	fr. £989	fr. £2313	fr. £1719
					Toronto	fr. £1035	fr. £804	fr. £2489	fr. £1294
					Vietnam	fr. £1219	fr. £938	fr. £1967	fr. £1399

Various travel dates apply. Prices are for travel with various airlines.*

The premium airfare and luxury holiday experts

flightcentre.co.uk/firstandbusiness

0800 082 5922

*Prices are for specific travel dates and are based on return fares per person and subject to limited availability. Prices and taxes are correct as of 10 March 2017 & the prices are subject to change at any time. All flights depart London & include prepaid taxes & fuel charges. Please call us with your preferred travel dates and regional airport and we will provide a quote for you. Seasonal surcharges may apply depending on date of travel. Airline Failure Protection & booking fees apply.

ABTA IATA 100