

# CONNECT WITH NATURE IN MAURITIUS

## INSIGHT

*After he visited Mauritius in 1896, Mark Twain famously wrote, "Mauritius was made first and then heaven; and heaven was copied after Mauritius."*

If it's beaches you're craving, head to Mauritius. Relatively unvisited by Americans, the Indian Ocean island nation off of Africa's East coast is born of French, African, Indian, and Chinese influences. Best of all, it is home to pristine beaches, rainforests, and hiking trails that have been largely insulated from mass tourism. The island hosts several five-star resorts, like the Four Seasons Mauritius at Anahita where you can reserve your own private beach, or the brand-new Anantara Iko Mauritius Resort & Villas whose "Streetwise Gurus" will lead you on off-the-beaten-path excursions. You'll be poised to explore attractions like the protected Blue Bay Marine Park, where the snorkeling and diving showcases over 40 species of vibrant coral, the Ile aux Aigrettes nature reserve, which is leading the way in conservation efforts, and the Black River Gorges National Park, famous for its waterfalls and zip lining.