



he Seychelles has been all the more in the spotlight as a holiday destination following the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's decision to honeymoon there. And one of the most exclusive resorts is Desroches Island, a stunning private island accessible by plane, 45 minutes from the main island of Mahé.

Many hotels and resorts in the Seychelles focus solely on couples, but Desroches Island welcomes families of all sizes. Beach suites are generously appointed and perfect for two adults with one child, while luxury beach villas comfortably sleep up to six adults and have their own private pool, living and dining areas and fully-equipped kitchens.

Larger groups can stay in a dibwa residence, large enough to sleep up to eight, with three private pools and expansive living and entertaining areas.

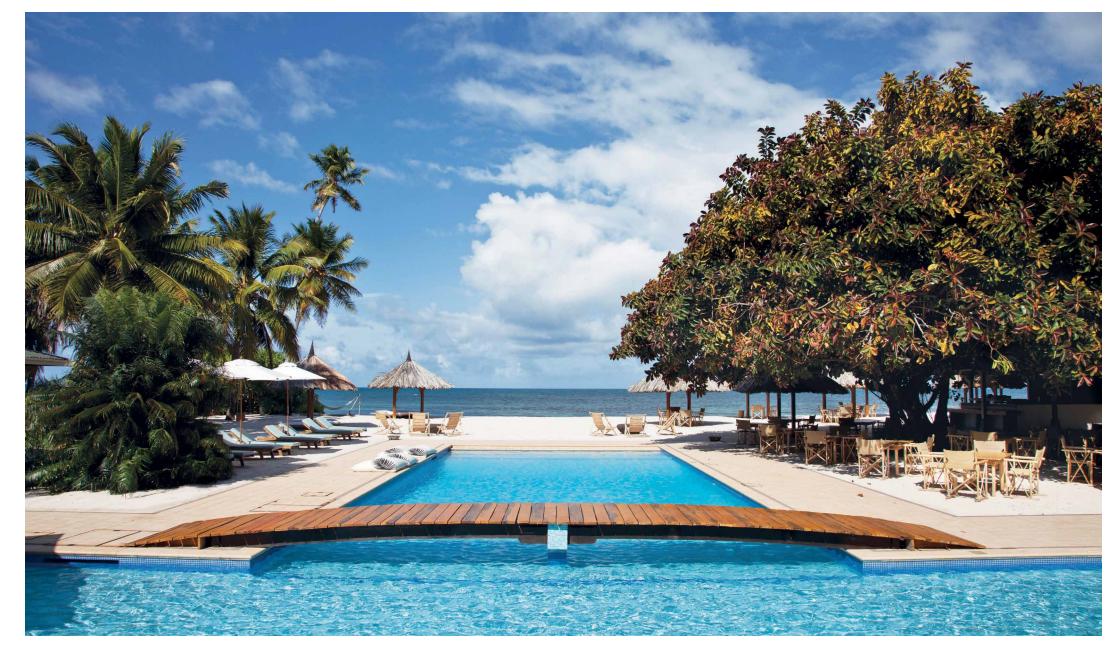
The boys could hardly contain themselves as our plane made its descent onto Desroches. On the beach a small army of smiling staff welcomed us to the island. We felt like VIPs from the moment we stepped onto the sand.

PARADISE FOUND

Michelle Russell enjoys a family holiday on Desroches Island

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delighted to find four bicycles, and they enjoyed hours of fun cycling around the island. During our week we relaxed in the pool, snorkelled in the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the Indian seven years old and we booked the boys in for an Ocean, fed giant tortoises at the Giant Tortoise early evening session. They were too relaxed to Breeding Sanctuary and enjoyed a private go to the restaurant that evening and instead we fishing trip.

Despite some protest from my eight-year-old that a nature trail with a member of the island of you privately at any time on Desroches, and Conservation Team was not his idea of holiday fun, on the last night I booked their services for a he was absolutely engaged throughout the two- romantic meal of freshly-caught seafood, fine hour walk, where we learned about the island's wines and a sumptuous dessert. flora and fauna. Our guide pitched his tour at just the right level for the boys and was soon being was one. As a family we enjoyed blissful days full inundated with questions from them both.

as the boys were keen to explore further, eager to Paradise is lost no more. retrace the walk we had done with the guide and spot new things for themselves. This was so much A seven-night all-inclusive stay in a beach villa more rewarding for everyone than a morning making collages from dried pasta, which is often per person in July/August. The price is based the stuff to be had at holiday kids clubs.

There were no arguments about trivial things that week and our older son became much more tolerant of the younger. Our shoulders relaxed, we ran barefoot on the sand and enjoyed real inter-island flights to and from Desroches. quality family time.

The lack of a mobile signal at Desroches keeps **Just Seychelles. Tel. 020 8840 0969.** work firmly off limits. And while all public areas, www.justseychelles.com. dibwa residences and luxury beach villas have complimentary wi-fi, we did not even consider logging onto the internet to check emails.

Desroches' Escape Spa is the first in the Indian Ocean to offer the exclusive range of Elemental Herbology treatments and is unlike any spa I have ever been to. Designed to reflect the island's

Inside our luxury beach villa the boys were natural beauty, it's flooded with natural daylight and utterly still, allowing you to be totally at one with your surroundings.

> The spa offers taster sessions for children over enjoyed a delicious meal served in our villa.

> A butler and chef can be arranged to take care

Desroches is a dream destination if there ever of laughter. As a couple, my husband and I Our next bike ride proved to be a lengthy one enjoyed precious, peaceful time together.

> with a pool for a family of five costs from £3,949 on two adults and three children under 12 years and includes one night free, an early-booking discount, a children's offer, plus return international flights from London and

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