



# Mauritius

*Joined the Commonwealth in 1968 - visited by the Queen in 1972*



**Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean**

Pop: (2012) 1,240,000      Capital: Port Louis      Area: 2,040 sq km

Mauritius is almost entirely surrounded by coral reefs with lagoons and coral-sand beaches. It has rocky peaked mountains that rise sharply from the broad, fertile coastal plain. Rivers flow through steep ravines, often with waterfalls. These are not navigable but fill eight reservoirs for the supply of fresh water. The maritime sub-tropical climate and outstanding coastline make Mauritius an exotic and popular holiday destination.

The mountain foothills are densely cultivated for sugar cane and tea. The forest reserves contain stands of ebony though not as plentiful as they once were. There are over 10,000 species of plants found on this small island nation. Conservation of species is very important but too late for the now extinct dodo.

Mauritius has a good record of economic growth. Horticulture, financial services, ICT and the export of manufactured garments attract a high level of foreign investment.

*Black River Gorges, Mauritius*

