



CYBER DRILL MAURITIUS

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY ITU AND CERT-MU

MAURITIUS INFORMATION PACK FOR PARTICIPANTS

LE MERIDIEN, MAURITIUS

**4 – 8 April 2016
(5 days)**



Welcome Note

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU), a division of the National Computer Board, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Technology, Communication & Innovation wishes to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the Cyber Drill event.

The organizer of the event for April 4th – 8th 2016 is the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The event will be hosted by CERT-MU.

This information pack will help you understand how to enter Mauritius and what to prepare before coming to Mauritius, where to stay, what to do during your free time and how to handle any emergency need. We hope that this information will make your stay in Mauritius a pleasant one.

We look forward to seeing you at the event.



General Information

Mauritius, an island covering 1,860 square kilometres (720 square miles), is situated some 2,000 kilometres (1242 miles) off the south East coast of Africa. More than 150 kilometres (93 miles) of white sandy beaches and transparent lagoon are protected from the open sea by the world's third largest coral reef, which surrounds the island.

The population is estimated at 1, 2 million. It forms a mosaic of different races, cultures and religions since Mauritians are descendants of immigrants from the Indian sub-continent, Africa, Europe and China. The cultural diversity and racial harmony of the island make of Mauritius a unique place. Most Mauritians are multilingual, being fluent in Creole, French and English. English is the official language. Bhojpuri, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Marathi, Telugu and Mandarin are also spoken.

Mauritius is a democracy modeled on the British system of parliamentary democracy, which guarantees the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers. The President is the Head of State and Commander-in-chief while the Prime Minister has full executive powers and is the Head of Government. Sixty-two members of the National Assembly are elected every five years by universal adult suffrage. Democracy is well entrenched in Mauritius and all major political parties are represented in Parliament.

Entry Requirements

A valid passport and a return or onward ticket is a must for travellers entering Mauritius. Visas are not required by those from a Commonwealth country, Japan, South Africa, the USA, the EU and the Scandinavian countries. Those that do require a visa can usually obtain one for three months, and they are renewable on request. Mauritian Embassies and High Commissions issue visas free of charge.

More information on Visa requirements can be found on this link:

<http://passport.govmu.org/English/Passport%20and%20Visa%20Requirement%20in%20Mauritius/Pages/Visa-Requirements-in-Mauritius.aspx>



Otherwise, participants from countries that require visas can contact CERT-MU for information beforehand on the following email address: cyberdrillmauritius@cert.ncb.mu

Currency

The unit of currency is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR), which is made up of 100 cents. Travellers' cheques can be exchanged at hotels, banks and authorised dealers in foreign currency. Travellers' cheques in Pounds Sterling and French Francs are preferred. Major credit cards are accepted throughout the island, such as Visa, Access MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club.

Rates for currencies can be found on the Bank of Mauritius' website:

<https://www.bom.mu/Default.asp?id=ExchangeRates>

Transport Services

Mauritius is well serviced by a number of main airlines. Air Mauritius has weekly flights to and from many European cities as well as to and from the major African cities including Antananarivo, Cape Town, Durban, Maputo, Harare, Johannesburg, and Nairobi. In addition, there are flights to and from Bombay, Delhi, Chennai, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, Perth and Singapore. British Airways, Air France, Singapore Airlines, Turkish Airways, Kenyan Airways and South African Airways operate weekly flights. A prime destination, Mauritius is only some 12 hours flight from Europe and about 4.5 hours from Johannesburg, South Africa.

Note: Air Mauritius has agreed to give preferential rates to the participants. For flight information, refer to the Air Mauritius website: www.airmauritius.com

Pick up from Airport

Pick up and Drop off of delegates will be organised by CERT-MU from the airport to the Hotel and vice versa. Delegates need to be aware that they will need to pay for this pick up and drop off directly to the driver of the van/taxi. This will be a fixed amount and will be



communicated to all delegates in due course time. Delegates need to send their booking details 1 week before travelling for arrangements.

Accommodation

The following hotels are available for participants. Although the other hotels are in the vicinity, transport facilities will be required to travel to and from the venue.

Le Méridien (Venue for the event)

Room Type	Rates per night		Contact Details
	MUR	USD (Approx.)	
Single / Half Board	5,200	147	Tel: +230 204 3333 Booking: atma.aubeeluck@lemeridien.com
Double / Half Board	6,400	181	Aldo.Carnel@westin.com Email: gerald.wong@starwoodhotels.com Website: http://www.lemeridien-mauritius.com/

Cultural Show at the venue

At Le Méridien, during the Gala dinner, a multi-cultural show will be played, with dance programmes from four ethnicities namely African, Hindu, Muslim and Chinese. Each dance session will be around 15 minutes.



Other Hotels around the venue

Hotel	Room Type	Rates per night	
		MUR	USD (Approx.)
The Ravenala Attitude Tel: +230 204 3000 Email: resa@hotels-attitude.com Website: http://theravenala-hotel-mauritius.com	Single / Half Board	5,250	148
InterContinental Resort Tel: +230 261 1200 Email: res.vi@bchot.com Website: http://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/balaclava/mruma/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--ic--MUEN--mruma	Single / Half Board	5,900	167
The Westin Tel: +230 204 1400 Email: reservations.westin@starwoodhotels.com Website: http://www.westinturtlebaymauritius.com/	Single / Half Board	7,950	225
Le Victoria Tel: +230 204 2000 Email: info.icmauritius@ihg.com Website: http://www.beachcomber-	Double / Half Board	7,950	225



hotels.com/hotel/le-victoria			
The Oberoi Tel: +230 204 3600 Email: tomu.salesmanager@oberoihotels.com Website: http://www.oberoihotels.com/hotels-in-mauritius/	Double / Half Board	22,000	621

Cheap Hotels around the venue

Hotel	Room Type	Rates per night	
		MUR	USD (Approx.)
Tarisa Resort Email: tarisa@intnet.mu	Single / Half Board	3,000	82
De Conti Hotel Email: resa@hoteldeconti.com	Single / Half Board	2,562	70
Casuarina Resort & Spa Email: reservation@alizeeresort.com	Single / Half Board	4,200	115
Le Palmiste Resort & Spa	Single / Half	3,250	89



Email: Resa2@hotel-lepalmiste.mu	Board		
Villa Mon Plaisir Email: villasmp@intnet.mu	Single / Half Board	3600	98

Weather Details

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year. The country has two seasons: a warm humid summer extending from November to April and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September. The month of October and May are commonly known as the transition months.

Mean summer temperature is 24.7 degrees Celsius and mean winter temperature is 20.4 degrees Celsius. The temperature difference between the seasons is only 4.3 degrees Celsius.

The warmest months are January and February with average day maximum temperature reaching 29.2 degrees Celsius and the coolest months are July and August when average night minimum temperatures drops down to 16.4 degrees Celsius.

More details are available on:

<http://metservice.intnet.mu/>

Time Zone

GMT +4

Communications

The country telephone code is +230 and there are no area codes. Public telephone booths can be found at the airport and larger hotels. Fax facilities are available at most hotels. E-communication is also available. Broadband Internet connection is available in all the hotels.



The main telecom providers in Mauritius are Orange and Emtel. SIM cards can be purchased from the airport as well as from their outlets across the country.

Major Cities

The capital, Port Louis, has a population of about 140 000. Other interesting towns include Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Mahébourg.

Language

People from China, Africa, India, France and Britain, make up the population. The official languages are English and French (with French being the more popular), the most commonly used are Creole (a mixture of French and African languages), Hindi and Bhojpuri. Urdu and Chinese are also spoken.

Culture

Due to the diversity of cultures in Mauritius, a number of colourful festivals and ceremonies take place every year. In January or February the Tamil penitents, while celebrating Cavadee, pierce themselves through their cheeks, tongues and backs with long skewers while walking on nail shoes. At the same time they carry images of deities. In February or March the Hindus make a pilgrimage to Lake Grand Bassin in honour of Lord Shiva as they take part in the Maha Shivaratree festival. The Muslim, Christian and Chinese celebrations include Eid-Ul-Fitr (Muslims), Christmas (Christians) and the Spring Festival (Chinese).

Religion

Mauritians are a rich mix of people of African, Chinese, Indian, Muslim and European descent, who together create a colourful, multicultural society. Mauritians work and play together, celebrating each other's religious ceremonies throughout the year. Together, they form a harmonious society which spills over to create an authentic warm welcome to all visitors. The religions of Mauritius are Hinduism (52%), Roman Catholicism (31%), Islam (16%) and Buddhism (1%).



Water And Electricity

It is wise to stick to bottled water for drinking purposes.

The electrical supply is 220V AC, 50Hz. The plugs used in most hotels are three-pin (British Standard), although two-pin plugs are also used.

Traditional Foods

The local people generally eat spicy food - curry is very popular, served with rice or roti (a flat Indian bread). Hotels and restaurants offer a range of foods including Chinese, Indian and Creole. European style food is available and seafood is a speciality in many places.

Internal Transport

The island's only port is Port Louis. There is no railway service but the 1 800 km-road network is good, as are the taxi and bus services. Those wishing to hire a car will need a valid international driver's license. Taxis are available at reasonable rates. One can go just about anywhere on the island by making use of the three main bus services that operate in separate regions.

Safety Of Participants

The island is a peaceful place, but, as with many international tourist destinations, caution should be exercised with valuables and normal safety precautions should be taken.

What To Buy

Take your pick - packets of Mauritian spice, ship models, miniature dodos in copper or wood, Mauritian recipe books, Sega music cassettes, miniatures of island rum, anthurium flowers, Mauritian tea, T-shirts, shells (make sure you get a Clearance Certificate), Indian fabrics, basket work, quilts, hand-embroidered table cloths, pottery, casual wear and pareos. Knitwear and beachwear can be purchased at factory prices and duty free shopping includes designerwear, diamonds and gold jewellery.



Business Hours

Generally from 09h00 to 17h00 each Monday to Friday and a half-day on Saturdays.

Mauritius has a number of commercial, development and offshore banks. Participants can exchange currency at money exchanges such as Thomas Cook, Shibani Finance etc. Currency can also be exchanged from the commercial banks between 09h00 and 15h00.

Healthcare Information

An international vaccination certificate against yellow fever is required if visitors are from an infected area. More details on entry requirements can be obtained from the health office in Port Louis on +230 212 3223 or fax +230 208 7222.

With the outbreak of the Ebola Virus in West African countries, all foreign nationals who have visited one or more of the countries affected by Ebola Virus Disease during the last 21 days as from the date of their travel to Mauritius **will temporarily not be allowed entry in Mauritius.**

Participants from these countries, please contact CERT-MU on the following email address before making your travel plans: cyberdrillmauritius@cert.ncb.mu

Items To Bring

Beachwear is a popular form of dress in Mauritius. Otherwise, dress is casual although most hotels do not allow guests to wear shorts or T-shirts in the restaurants or bars in the evenings. Between June and October, a jacket or tracksuit top is recommended. Dress appropriately when visiting religious shrines and remove shoes when entering mosques and temples.

Main Attractions of Mauritius

Mauritius is a sparkling jewel set in the brilliant turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. Sun-kissed beaches, stunning mountains, calm lagoons, bustling villages, patchwork sugar cane fields and swaying palm trees - Mauritius is a tropical island of colourful contrasts where the welcoming smiles of the people reveal the true magic of this enchanting land.



Mauritius has a rich and varied past. Settled by the Dutch and colonised by both the French and the British over the centuries, the cosmopolitan population is now a fascinating mix of Indian, Chinese, African and European origin, creating a kaleidoscope of customs and religions. This marvellous blend of cultures is best reflected in the island's cuisine - a delicious fusion of vibrant tastes and subtle aromas.

Mauritius offers the classic tropical holiday pastimes - relaxing on sun-kissed beaches, sailing to beautiful deserted islands, exploring the wonders of the coral reefs. The island abounds with places of interest to amaze and entrance the visitors.

Port Louis



The City of Port Louis

A capital city, brimming with life, visit the bustling market, the museum displaying the famous Dodo, the Caudan and Port Louis Waterfronts bursting with restaurants and shops and the busy streets teeming with exotic foods and merchandise.



Spend a day perusing the vibrant markets found on Farquhar Street, and experience an array of sights, sounds and smells. Sections of the market are divided into fruits and vegetables, meats and fish, souvenirs, crafts, clothing and spices. Here you will find precious and unusual trinkets to take home - but keep an eye on your pockets, as nimble, uninvited fingers have been known to dip into them occasionally.



Le Caudan Waterfont, Port Louis

Anchored at Le Caudan Waterfront, you will be able to see ships from all over the world.

Eating in Port Louis is a gastronomical adventure. Stir-fried Chinese delights, piquant Indian curries and bryanis, seafood and other exotic cuisine are all available. A bonus is that most of the restaurants, particularly at the Le Caudan Waterfront, are open until late. For entertainment, there's a cinema and casino. You can obtain details on these and other nightlife highlights from the Tourist Information office in Air Mauritius Centre.



Perfect beaches



Beach in the North of Mauritius

In the north of Mauritius are the pristine white beaches that make the island famous. Surrounded by turquoise seas, a number of stunning resorts dot the coast. This area is also a water sports lover's paradise.

The first resort you will come across is the Maritim Hotel, which has 221 rooms, free water sports and the best sunsets. It's also possible to see traditional Segga dancing, the national dance that originated in the days of slavery.

Trou aux Biches

Further north is Trou aux Biches, situated on the bus routes from Port Louis. Like the Maritim, Trou aux Biches Hotel offers a vast array of watersports, wholesome food, and sublime rum cocktails. If you like fishing, the locals are usually amenable to visitors accompanying them on their fishing trips, but you will have to be on the beach very early. Usually there's no charge, but check on this before boarding their tiny boats.

Grand Bay

One of the best ways to explore this area and the nearby Grand Bay is on hired bicycles, which are readily available. Home to the five-star Royal Palm Hotel, Grand bay is possibly



'the capital' of the tourist industry. Many of the hotel's guests arrive by helicopter from the airport to be offered every luxury, from a sauna to masseurs, windsurfing instructors, restaurants and boutiques. Apart from the hotels, Grand Baie has lovely restaurants, clubs and bars to entertain those looking for some excitement. Day excursions by bicycle are a good option as the bay is exquisite.

Ile Aux Cerfs



Crystal clear waters and white sand beaches shaded by casuarina and palm trees surround this tiny island which caters for those seeking peace and solitude or the thrills of para-sailing and other watersports.



Pamplemousses Gardens



Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses

Away from the coast, and almost directly south of Grand Baie, is the place where, in 1767, Pierre Poivre created the Pamplemousses Gardens, also known as the Royal Botanical Gardens. They started as a vegetable garden in 1735, to service the then governor's Mon Plaisir Château. Pamplemousses stretches for four hectares, and features plants from all over the world - wild bananas, camphor trees, clove and nutmeg trees from Manila and huge water lilies, known locally as 'flan tins' as well as a number of palms.

World-famous for a unique collection of indigenous and exotic plants, the gardens offer a peaceful haven in which to stroll and admire the giant lily pond, the beautiful Chateau Mon Plaisir, the lumbering giant tortoises and the replica of a 19th century sugar mill.



The Coloured Earths



These multi-coloured mounds of earth, ranging from ochre through to various shades of purple and red, are the extraordinary result of long-distant volcanic activity and provide a truly amazing spectacle.



Black River Gorges



Black River Gorges

A trip into the mountains will reveal the lush green and unspoilt beauty of this National Park. You may be lucky enough to spot a kestrel or straw-tailed tropic bird as you gaze towards the far-distant ocean and enjoy the calm beauty of the surrounding countryside.

CERT-MU Contact Details

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