

■ MAHE, SEYCHELLES

As waves barrel and plunge onto this tiny strand, it would be tempting to launch yourself into their frothy embrace – but don't be seduced. The current on Mahé island's western coast has a grasping undertow. Much better to stand on the deck of a boat, feel the Indian Ocean spray on your skin and admire the view. With a backdrop of tangled jungly greens and a smattering of coal-like granite boulders, this idyllic inlet has a Jurassic quality. It's as popular as Grand Anse beach, a few hundred metres south, but with birds rather than people. Indeed, hawkers and honeymooners would struggle to reach these shores – the only access is through the pounding surf or near-impenetrable undergrowth. Indigenous blue pigeons and white-eye warblers chatter ceaselessly, undisturbed by human footfall. You can't join them, but you can at least share the scenery. *Virgin Holidays* (0844 557 3859, www.virginholidays.co.uk) has seven nights on Mahé from £1,425pp, half board, including flights from Gatwick. *Gerry's Private Charters* (00 248 271 3839, www.sunglowholidayvilla.sc/boatcharter.html) hires out speedboats from £178.

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