SEYCHELLES

INTRODUCTION
Seychelles was uninhabited prior to being discovered by Europeans early in the 16th century. A lengthy struggle between France and Great Britain for the islands ended in 1814, when they were ceded to the UK. Independence came in 1976.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Wavel RAMKALAWAN

Head of Government
President Wavel RAMKALAWAN

Government Type
presidential republic

Capital
Victoria

Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Assemblee Nationale (35 seats)

GEOPGRAPHY
Area
Total: 455 sq km
Land: 455 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate
tropical marine; humid; cooler season during southeast monsoon (late May to September); warmer season during northwest monsoon (March to May)

Natural Resources
fish, coconuts (copra), cinnamon trees

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income Indian Ocean island economy; rapidly growing tourism sector; major tuna exporter; offshore financial hub; environmentally fragile and investing in ocean rise mitigation; recently discovered offshore oil potential; successful anticorruption efforts

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $2.4 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $24,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - fishing, tourism, beverages

Agricultural products - coconuts, vegetables, bananas, fruit, eggs, poultry, tomatoes, pork, tropical fruit, cassava

Exports $1.09 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, fish, recreational boats, cigarettes, animal meal (2019)
partners: UAE 17%, UK 13%, France 12%, British Virgin Islands 11%, Zambia 9%, Mauritius 5%, Japan 5% (2019)

Imports $1.35 billion (2020 est.)
recreational boats, refined petroleum, fish, aircraft, cars (2019)
partners: UAE 21%, Qatar 13%, British Virgin Islands 7%, Germany 6%, France 6%, China 5%, Spain 5%, South Africa 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
96,390 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth
0.67% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity
predominantly creole (mainly of East African and Malagasy heritage); also French, Indian, Chinese, and Arab populations

Language
Seychellois Creole (official) 89.1%, English (official) 5.1%, French (official) 0.7%, other 3.8%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)

Religion
Roman Catholic 76.2%, Protestant 10.5%, other Christian 2.4%, Hindu 2.4%, Muslim 1.6%, other non-Christian 1.1%, unspecified 4.8%, none 0.9% (2010 est.)

as of October 2021