INTRODUCTION
The French assumed control in 1715, developing the island into an important naval base overseeing Indian Ocean trade. The British captured the island in 1810, during the Napoleonic Wars. Mauritius remained a strategically important British naval base. Independence from the UK was attained in 1968. A stable democracy with regular free elections and a positive human rights record, the country has attracted considerable foreign investment.

ECONOMY
upper middle-income Indian Ocean island economy; diversified portfolio; investing in maritime security; strong tourism sector decimated by COVID-19; expanding in information and financial services; environmentally fragile

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $24.64 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $19,500 (2020 est.)
Industries - food processing, textiles, clothing, mining, chemicals, metal products, transport equipment, nonelectrical machinery
Agricultural products - sugarcane, poultry, pumpkins, gourds, potatoes, eggs, tomatoes, pineapples, bananas, fruit
Exports $2.36 billion (2017 est.)
  fish products, raw sugar, clothing, apparel, diamonds, refined petroleum (2019)
  partners: France 10%, South Africa 10%, US 10%, UK 8%, Zambia 7%, Madagascar 6% (2019)
Imports $4.986 billion (2017 est.)
  refined petroleum, cars, fish products, aircraft, packaged medicines (2019)
  partners: China 15%, India 13%, France 10%, South Africa 8%, UAE 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population 1.4 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth 0.52% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity Indo-Mauritian (compose approximately two thirds of the total population), Creole, Sino-Mauritian, Franco-Mauritian
Language Creole 86.5%, Bhojpuri 5.3%, French 4.1%, two languages 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes English, the official language of the National Assembly), unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)
Religion Hindu 48.5%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, Muslim 17.3%, other Christian 6.4%, other 0.6%, none 0.7%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 2,040 sq km
Land: 2,030 sq km
Water: 10 sq km
Climate
tropical, modified by southeast trade winds; warm, dry winter (May to November); hot, wet, humid summer (November to May)
Natural Resources arable land, fish

as of October 2021