

PRESS KIT

CHAMAREL

MAURITIUS' BEST-KEPT SECRET

Where a hidden valley reveals the island's most profound expressions of nature, culture and timeless beauty.



Mauritius, reimagined

In the lush highlands of the south-west, Chamarel reveals a different side of the island: raw, textured and deeply rooted. Beyond its iconic landscapes lies a living territory where nature, culture and craft quietly converge. More than a place to visit, Chamarel is an immersive destination, where every path, flavour and panorama invites a deeper, more authentic connection to Mauritius.

SEVEN COLOURED EARTH | WATERFALL | ALDABRA TORTOISES
CHAMAREL COFFEE PLANTATION EXPERIENCE
LE CHAMAREL PANORAMIC RESTAURANT

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WHY VISIT CHAMAREL ?

- A flagship natural attraction in Mauritius
- Protected geopark spanning approximately 8.5 hectares
- A destination where geology, biodiversity, culture and experience meet
- An all-in-one journey centred on discovery, emotion and place
- Discover the island's unique Coffee Plantation



01

CHAMAREL IN A NUTSHELL



Chamarel stands as one of Mauritius’s flagship natural landmarks: a protected geopark of approximately 8.5 hectares where volcanic legacy, endemic biodiversity, cultural heritage and curated experiences converge within a singular, cohesive destination.

Set within the lush highlands of the south-west, the territory invites visitors to journey through a landscape shaped by time, from the Seven Coloured Earth and Chamarel Waterfall to immersive trails, giant tortoises,

coffee cultivation and, at its heart, Le Chamarel Panoramic Restaurant.

More than an itinerary stop, Chamarel offers a holistic reading of Mauritius: contemplative, educational and sensory, deeply anchored in place. Its vision is clear: to foster a meaningful connection between people, nature and heritage through discovery, understanding and emotion.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- Approx. 8.5 hectares of forest, dunes and discovery space
- Seven-coloured dunes shaped by volcanic history
- Geological evolution dated from around 3 to 1.7 million years
- Chamarel Waterfall, the highest single-drop waterfall in Mauritius
- Coffee Plantation Tour with tasting and terroir storytelling
- Wildlife and family-friendly discovery, including Aldabra giant tortoises
- Le Chamarel Restaurant, the panoramic dining address of the territory

02

THE ESSENCE OF CHAMAREL



“A rare territory where land, memory and experience speak with one voice.”

Chamarel is not simply a place to visit; it is a living territory shaped by a rare coherence of experiences. Here, science and wonder, lush vegetation and mineral landscapes, village memory and panoramic dining all unfold as one continuous narrative.

Set in the verdant highlands of Mauritius' south-west, Chamarel reveals a more contemplative, textured side of the island. Discovery extends beyond the visual: it is felt through scale, silence, elevation, scent and taste.

What makes Chamarel truly singular is its ability to weave nature, geology, culture and local heritage into an immersive journey, one that resonates instantly, yet lingers long after, leaving a lasting sense of place and emotion.



03

GEOLOGICAL WONDER: THE SEVEN COLOURED EARTH



SCIENTIFIC INSIGHT

- Iron oxides contribute many of the red and brown tones.
- Aluminium-rich compounds are associated with blue and purplenuances.
- Tropical erosion and hydrolysis helped shape the present-day dunes.

At the heart of Chamarel lies one of Mauritius' most extraordinary natural phenomena: the Seven Coloured Earth. These undulating mineral dunes reveal a remarkable spectrum of reds, browns, violets, blues and ochres, an otherworldly landscape shaped not by chance, but by time, chemistry and volcanic history.

Formed between approximately 3 and 1.7 million years ago, the dunes originate from the slow decomposition of basaltic lava flows. As the volcanic rock weathered under tropical conditions, it broke down into fine clay particles rich in iron and aluminium. Through oxidation and hydrolysis, these minerals evolved into distinct compounds, primarily ferric oxides and aluminium hydroxides, responsible for the vibrant palette. Variations in temperature, moisture and drainage over time contributed to the differentiation of colours, while the absence of organic matter preserved their purity and intensity.

“Chamarel transforms geology into contemplation: a natural artwork whose beauty is inseparable from the science that shaped it.”

What makes the site particularly compelling is its rare geomorphological behaviour. Despite heavy rainfall and erosion over millennia, the dunes have retained their sharp colour contrasts. Even when disturbed or mixed, the sands naturally separate again, a phenomenon attributed to differences in particle density and composition, which prevent the colours from blending.

Chamarel thus offers more than a visual spectacle. It is a living geological archive, where volcanic origin, tropical climate and mineral transformation converge, revealing, in vivid detail, the deep-time story of Mauritius itself.

04

NATURAL EXPERIENCES WITHIN THE GEOPARK



Chamarel is not experienced as a single site, but as a carefully unfolding journey, where each stop reveals a new dimension of the land. From panoramic viewpoints to immersive encounters, the Geopark invites visitors to move through a living landscape shaped by volcanic forces, biodiversity and time.

Chamarel Waterfall

Carved into a lush volcanic valley, Chamarel Waterfall offers one of the most striking expressions of the island's geological relief. As the highest single-drop waterfall in Mauritius, it plunges nearly 100 metres into a dense gorge, exposing successive layers of basalt formed between approximately 8 and 3 million years ago during the island's volcanic phase. These hardened lava flows, sculpted over time by erosion and tropical rainfall, reveal the deep-time architecture of Mauritius—turning the waterfall into both a visual spectacle and a geological narrative in motion.

Aldabra Giant Tortoise Encounter

Along the journey, the presence of Aldabra giant tortoise introduces a gentler rhythm. Native to the Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles, these remarkable creatures bring an educational and intergenerational dimension to the experience. Their slow, deliberate movements invite pause and reflection, creating a meaningful connection between visitors and the natural world.

Biodiversity Discovery

Beyond its iconic landmarks, Chamarel reveals itself through subtler layers. Nature trails and interpretive zones guide visitors through endemic flora, medicinal plants and fragile ecosystems unique to the region. Here, learning is seamlessly woven into exploration, transforming each step into an opportunity to understand, respect and reconnect with the environment.

Together, these experiences shape Chamarel as a multidimensional destination, where wonder, knowledge and immersion exist in perfect balance.

EXPERIENCE SIGNATURE

- Contemplate a landscape that feels rare, elevated and protected.
- Move from wonder to understanding through interpretation and guided discovery.
- Experience Chamarel as a place that creates memory and meaning at the same time.

05

CAFÉ DE CHAMAREL — A LIVING EXPRESSION OF LAND, CRAFT & MEMORY



An Agricultural Heritage Reawakened

Chamarel stands as one of Mauritius' rare coffee-growing regions, where agriculture becomes both memory and experience, and where Chamarel coffee is known for its premium quality. Introduced during the French colonial period in the eighteenth century, coffee once formed part of the island's early cultivation story before giving way to sugar. Here, in these highlands, that legacy is not only preserved, but also reinterpreted with quiet intention.

A Terroir Shaped by Nature

Within this singular landscape, Arabica coffee flourishes under uncommon conditions. Volcanic soil, soft altitude and humid, filtered light create a distinctive terroir where each cherry matures with balance and depth. Alongside coffee, the land reveals a broader agricultural richness: vanilla, cacao, pineapple and tropical produce, forming a living mosaic of cultivation where nature and craftsmanship remain deeply intertwined.

An Immersive Sensory Journey

The Chamarel Coffee Plantation Experience invites guests to experience Chamarel through all senses. Guided walks through the plantation, insights into roasting techniques and curated tasting rituals transform the visit into a journey of discovery. Here, flavour becomes a language, one that speaks of soil, climate, patience and human touch.

Craft, Sustainability & Transmission

From hand-picked harvests to artisanal roasting, each step reflects a commitment to quality, sustainability and local communities. The plantation embodies a conscious approach to agriculture: respectful of the land, rooted in tradition, and oriented towards the future.

More Than Coffee

In Chamarel, coffee is not merely cultivated, it is lived. Each cup becomes an expression of place, heritage and time, offering visitors a rare opportunity to connect with the island's soul through one of its most intimate and enduring traditions.



06

CULTURE, HISTORY & SOUL OF CHAMAREL

Chamarel carries a profound sense of cultural identity, shaped by history, land and people. Named after Charles Antoine de Chazal de Chamarel around 1800, the village remains deeply rooted in agriculture, Creole traditions and a way of life intrinsically connected to nature. Its heritage reveals itself through memory, atmosphere and enduring landmarks such as Saint Anne Church, founded in 1876, standing quietly as a witness to generations' past.



Beyond its landscape, Chamarel is also a place of powerful cultural expression. It is intimately linked to the legacy of Kaya, the iconic Mauritian musician who gave voice to seggae, a unique fusion of Sega and Reggae. Deeply influenced by Rastafarian philosophy, Kaya's music carried messages of identity, unity and freedom, echoing the spirit of communities rooted in Chamarel. His legacy remains an essential part of the village's cultural soul, where Creole identity and Rastafarian influences continue to shape a vibrant yet grounded way of life.



The village retains a preserved rhythm: authentic, slow-paced and deeply human, that gives depth to the wider destination experience. In Chamarel, visitors encounter a version of Mauritius that feels older, rawer and more soulful, where ancestral roots, village character and contemporary expression coexist in quiet harmony.

07

LE CHAMAREL PANORAMIC RESTAURANT



“Le Chamarel positions the territory at a higher emotional register: not only a place to see, but a place to stay, taste and remember.”

The ultimate table between panorama, terroir and emotion

A journey through Chamarel would not be complete without a stop at **Le Chamarel Panoramic Restaurant**. More than a dining venue, it represents the natural culmination of the territory, where landscape, hospitality and Mauritian gastronomy come together around one unforgettable table.

Recently renovated, the restaurant reaffirms its position as one of the most spectacular panoramic dining addresses in Mauritius. Perched high in the heart of Chamarel, it unveils breathtaking views over the South-West lagoon, a defining signature treated as a destination in its own right. Here, the panorama is not a backdrop but a living element, evolving throughout the day and anchoring the entire experience.

Conceived as an immersive stopover between tropical forest and open horizon, the space has been reimagined to feel both expansive and intimate. Natural materials, local craftsmanship and lush vegetation create a seamless dialogue between interior and landscape, while a warm, tropical elegance enhances the sense of place.

Its culinary proposition is deeply rooted in the local ecosystem: refined cuisine, led by our Mauritian Chef Wesley Ittoo, elevates the carefully sourced ingredients

from Chamarel and surrounding regions, in line with a commitment to short supply chains. Each dish extends the territory's narrative, from mineral textures to coffee aromas, offering a sensory expression of the village's identity.

Designed for scenic lunches, sunset moments, intimate celebrations or meaningful gatherings, the restaurant welcomes both passing visitors and private occasions. It does not interrupt the Chamarel journey, it completes it, transforming a visit into a lasting memory where discovery deepens through taste.

HIGHLIGHTS

- One of Mauritius' most iconic panoramic dining destinations
- Immersive setting between tropical forest, lagoon and horizon
- Refined Mauritian cuisine rooted in local terroir and short supply chains
- Contemporary tropical design blending natural materials and local craftsmanship
- Ideal for lunch with a view, sunset dining, celebrations and private events
- A seamless extension of the Chamarel experience, from landscape to plate

08

VOICES, SUSTAINABILITY & CLOSING PERSPECTIVE



Voices of Chamarel

Travellers respond to the surreal beauty of the landscape, the calm of the highlands and the feeling of discovering a place unlike anywhere else on the island.

Scientific and agricultural interpretation adds depth, helping visitors understand volcanic formation, biodiversity value and the revival of coffee culture in Chamarel.

Hospitality gives the experience its final layer: the territory is not only observed, but lived through taste, service and point of view.

Sustainability & conservation

- Protection of a fragile geological and ecological landscape
- Education-driven tourism built on interpretation and awareness
- Integration of local community, village identity and place-based storytelling
- Agricultural experiences that celebrate small-scale craft, coffee revival and terroir
- A destination logic built on respect: preserve, explain, share and sustain

“ Chamarel embodies a compelling idea of Mauritius: where nature, science, culture, agriculture and hospitality are experienced not separately, but as one complete territory. ”

For travellers, media and hosted guests alike, Chamarel stands out as a destination no itinerary to Mauritius should miss, a place to contemplate, to understand, to taste and to remember.

Chamarel, all in one place

A complete south-west Mauritius experience where the Seven Coloured Earth, waterfall, discovery, terroir and panoramic dining naturally belong together.