

Welcome to one of the wildlife spectacles of the Indian Ocean. This small island, rising impressively from the sea, is cloaked in rich natural woodland with a fertile coastal plateau on the south side. A palm-fringed beach, crystal clear waters and a rich coral reef complete the picture of an idyllic tropical island.



For centuries the wildlife remained undisturbed, with only the occasional pirates landing to bury their treasure. Protected by its dangerous surf, Aride was not colonised until after 1851. The forests were felled, coconuts were planted and seabirds and their eggs were taken in thousands.

Despite all this, the seabird colonies, destroyed by rats and cats on so many other islands, survived on Aride.

Not only the birds but all animals and plants are protected here, including the turtles that come ashore to lay their eggs and the fish, shells and coral of the reef.

Aride is the most important bird reserve in the Seychelles. It hosts more than 750,000 pairs of ten breeding seabird species, several thousand frigatebirds and five species of landbird endemic to Seychelles, including the very rare Seychelles Magpie-robin.

Aride Island is a Special Nature Reserve under Seychelles law. It was purchased in 1973 by Christopher Cadbury for the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, a British-based conservation organisation. In 2004, the lease and responsibility for management of Aride was passed to Island Conservation Society of Seychelles. It is no accident that Aride is so unspoilt: it has been carefully managed so that little should disturb or destroy its rich wildlife. Please bear in mind that we are all guests on an island that 'belongs to the birds'.

- Please take all your rubbish back with you.
- Please do not smoke outside the Visitor Shelter.
- Please do not stray from the paths or go up the hill without a Guide/Warden.
- Please do not touch or disturb the birds and other animals.
- Please do not collect shells, coral or birds' eggs – all are protected by law.

Tourism has deliberately not been developed, as conservation of the island's wildlife is the reserve's only aim. Aride does not make a profit. Your landing fee plus donations from friends and other organisations help to keep Aride the sanctuary it has become and ensure that it enriches the seas and skies of the Indian Ocean far into the future.



Hawksbill turtle

ARIDE

S E Y C H E L L E S



Lesser noddy

Island Conservation Society
The Island Conservation Centre, PO Box 775, Seychelles
Tel: 4375354 Fax: 4376341 Email: ics@seychelles.sc

Aride Island Nature Reserve
Via Grand Anse GPO, Praslin, Seychelles
Tel: 2719778 Email: aride@seychelles.net

Designed by FDA www.fdadesign.co.uk
Photography by John Bowler, Michael Gore, Colin Prior,
NHPA, Adrian Skerrett and Richard Waite



ARIDE

NATURE TRAIL

Seabirds

- 1 Lesser noddy *Anous tenuirostris*
- 2 Brown noddy *Anous stolidus*
- 3 Bridled tern *Sterna anaethetus*
- 4 Sooty tern *Sterna fuscata*
- 5 Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*
- 6 Greater frigatebird *Fregata minor*
- 7 White-tailed tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*
- 8 Red-tailed tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

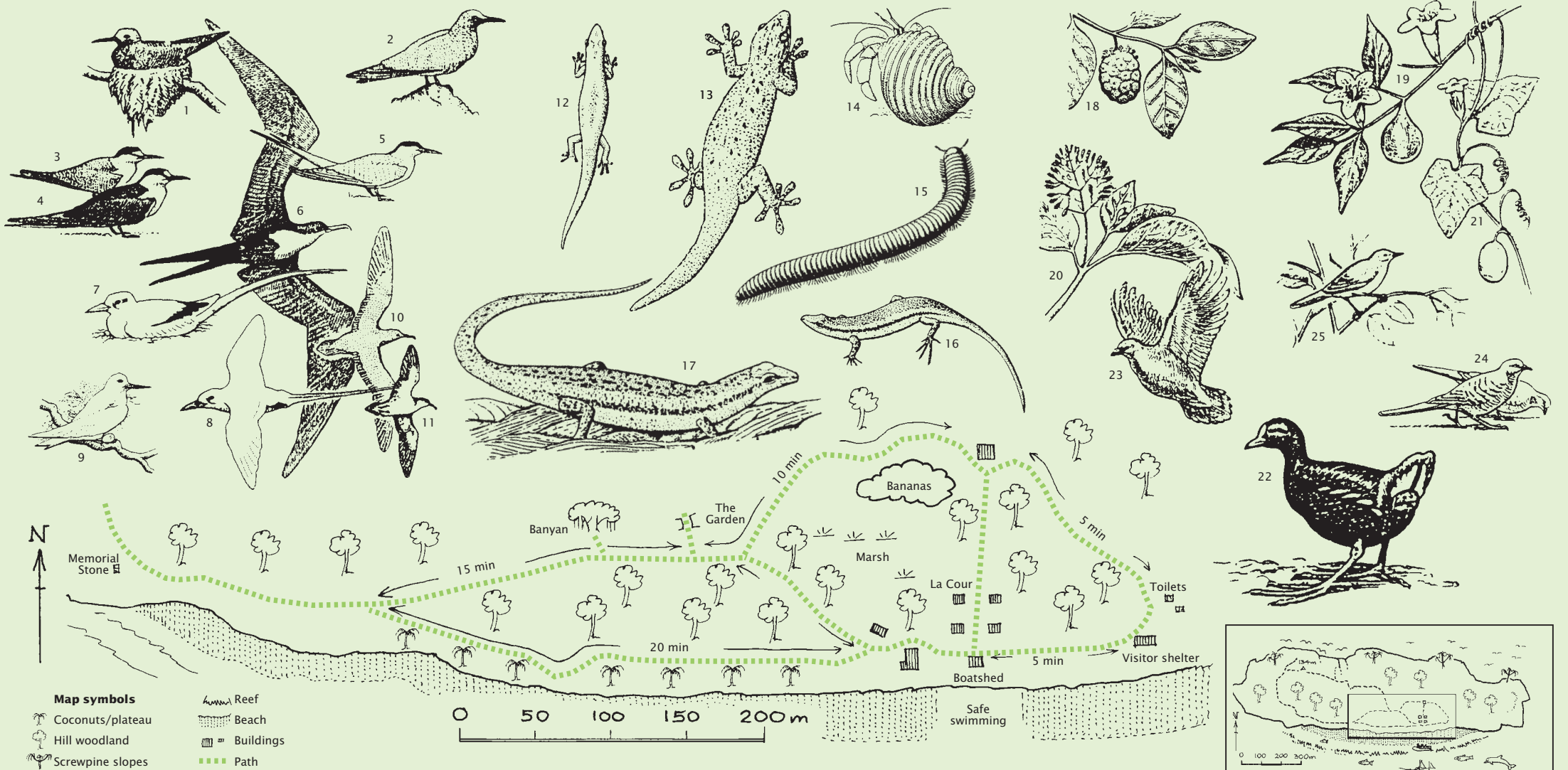
- 9 Fairy tern *Gygis alba*
- 10 Wedge-tailed shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*
- 11 Audubon's shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri*

Land animals

- 12 Green gecko *Phelsuma astriata*
- 13 Bronze gecko *Ailuronyx sechellensis*
- 14 Hermit crab *Coenobita rugosus*
- 15 Giant millipede *Sechelleptus sechellarum*
- 16 Seychelles skink *Mabuya sechellensis*
- 17 Wright's skink *Mabuya wrightii*

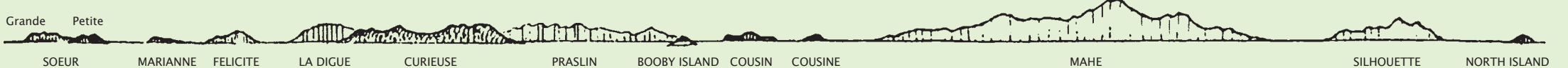
Flora and landbirds

- 18 Tortoise tree *Morinda citrifolia*
- 19 Wright's gardenia *Rothmannia annae*
- 20 Mapou *Pisonia grandis*
- 21 Peponium *Peponium sp.*
- 22 Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
- 23 Madagascar turtle dove *Streptopelia picturata*
- 24 Barred ground dove *Geopelia striata*
- 25 Seychelles warbler *Acrocephalus sechellensis*



The Aride Island Panorama

... one of the best views of the Seychelles archipelago



Grande Soeur, Petite Soeur, Marianne, Felicite, La Digue, Curieuse, Praslin, Booby Island, Cousin, Cousine, Mahe, Silhouette, North Island