

InterContinental Hotels & Resorts to Open World-Class Luxury Resort in Mauritius

2007-11-19

Hotel brand's first resort in African region forms part of aggressive growth plan

InterContinental Hotels & Resorts has signed an agreement with Lateral Holdings to develop a US\$50 million luxury resort on the idyllic island of Mauritius.

Scheduled to open late 2008, the 210-room InterContinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort will offer guests a prime beachfront location in the Bay of Balaclava, 20 minutes north of the country's capital Port Louis. The development is the first InterContinental resort in the African region and is part of InterContinental Hotels Group's (IHG's) aggressive growth plan that will almost double the Middle East and Africa property portfolio over the next three years.



InterContinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort will feature a two-tier infinity pool and the island's only salt-water lagoon

This development mirrors the recent growth of InterContinental resorts in the Asia Pacific region, where IHG has plans to launch several new luxury resorts in locations such as Thailand, China, Vietnam and Japan within the next three years.

'We are thrilled to be developing InterContinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort, especially in a destination that is synonymous with the ultimate in luxury travel,' said John Bamsey, chief operating officer, IHG, Middle East & Africa. 'Globally, InterContinental Resorts offer the best in upscale accommodation and the brand is the preferred choice for international travellers looking for a truly authentic destination experience.'

'The African region is one of the most exciting places in the world at the moment for the travel industry and IHG's confidence in the market is reflected by the fact we plan to open six properties, across the continent in 2008 alone,' added Bamsey.

InterContinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort will be located just 15 minutes drive from Grand Baie, the island's most popular area. It will comprise 210 bright and spacious rooms, including 40 family guest rooms and 10 suites. In addition, the resort will include a Club InterContinental floor with Club Rooms and Lounge where guests can enjoy an exclusive retreat with privileges including breakfast and regular refreshments throughout the day.

All rooms have an attractive open-plan design and overlook the turquoise blue waters of the Indian Ocean, allowing guests to take in the stunning scenery of the island's pristine beaches. The ocean-facing rooms will feature stone baths, 42-inch wall-mounted interactive televisions and a private outdoor balcony or terrace area completing the accommodation's superior feel.

InterContinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort will offer travellers the opportunity to enjoy the distinct beauty of this volcanic island, which is famous for the extinct Dodo bird and its magnificent coral reefs. A two-tier infinity pool located next to the beach is a perfect accompaniment to the natural surroundings and the resort will boast the only lagoon on the island with a natural salt-water dip pool. Guests will be invited to explore the adjacent marine park through snorkeling or diving trips organised by the resort's diving center, or sign up for one of the many water-sports on offer.

Situated on the roof-top, the resort's spa and health club will offer panoramic views across the Indian Ocean. The spa will offer the ultimate in rejuvenation through steam and sauna rooms, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, relaxation areas and a boutique offering a range of wellness products.

The four fine-dining options set for the resort include a Mediterranean restaurant and two beachfront outlets offering up-market Indian and Chinese cuisine. The Indian restaurant will be the first of its kind on the island, blending authentic Indian cuisine with a contemporary design.

For high profile social and corporate events, the property will feature the largest banqueting and conference hall in a hotel in Mauritius, accommodating up to 1,000 people. The area includes four meeting rooms and a business centre equipped with modern equipment, and an eight-metre-high grand ballroom that has direct access to the pool, gardens stunning beach area.

Other resort highlights include a pool bar with live entertainment, two tennis courts, a kids' club and retail shops.

InterContinental Resort Mauritius Balaclava Fort will give a growing number of visitors unrivalled access to the island, with tourist figures hitting an all time high of almost 800,000 in 2006*. The property is the latest in a long line of high profile development announcements for the InterContinental brand, including the opening of the 150th InterContinental Hotel at Dubai Festival City in November this year.

**Figure from the World Travel & Tourism Council.*

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