

Comoros islands, invited you to discover and to enjoy its beaches and cuisine. (Juzr Al Qamar)

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www.comoros-islands.com

Located in a strategic position at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel, the archipelago of the Comoros Islands consist of four islands: Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mwali (Moheli), Nzwani (Anjouan), and Mahore (Mayotte). The Comoros capital city Moroni is on Grande Comore.



The Comoros Islands arose from the seabed of the Western Indian Ocean as the result of volcanic activity and they once played a major role in the world economy of the ocean. For centuries, they

were a major stopover along the mercantile routes of the Indian Ocean from Africa to the Orient.

In the waters around the islands, lives the famous Coelacanth. It is a unique fish once thought by western scientists to have been extinct for millions of years. But in the second half of the last century, an ichthyologist learned that Comorian fishermen regularly caught coelacanths in the deep

waters surrounding the islands of Ngazidja (Grande Comore) and Nzwani (Anjouan). Several specimens have since been preserved and can be seen today in museums around the world.

There is an abundance of life in the sea around the Comoros. One can find everything from giant whales, large sharks, big manta rays, sailfish, sunfish, to lobsters, crabs and tiny shrimp. Deep water





close to the islands, coral reefs, miles of sandy beaches, plus fresh water streams and shoreline springs provide multiple habitats for the marine life.

The islands became a French colony following the Berlin conference of 1886-7 and remained under French political control until 1975 when three of the islands: Ngazidja (Grande

Comore), Mwali (Moheli), and Nzwani (Anjouan), declared themselves independent from France. They are now forming the Union Of Comoros with each of the three islands given considerable autonomy. The fourth major island of the archipelago, Maore (Mayotte), continued to be administered by France although Maore belongs within the sphere of the independent nation of the

Comoros which has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly.

Geography

The Comoros Islands are an archipelago of four islands and several islets located in the western Indian Ocean about ten to twelve degrees south of the Equator and less than 200 miles off the East African coast. They lie approximately halfway between the island of Madagascar and

northern Mozambique at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel. The archipelago is the result of volcanic action along a fissure in the seabed running west-northwest to east-southeast. The total area of the four islands is 785 square miles (2,034 square kilometers).

Of the four major islands (Ngazidja, Mwali, Nzwani, and Mahore), Ngazidja is the largest and the youngest island in the archipelago.





It is the most westerly of the islands, lying 188 miles from Mozambique. The island has an active volcano that rises to a height of 7,746 feet (2,361 meters) above sea level. Mwali, 28 miles south-southeast of Ngazidja, is the smallest of the islands with a central mountain range that rises 2,556 feet (790 meters) above sea level. Nzwani lies about twenty-five miles easterly of Mwali, has a central peak that rises 5,072 feet

(1,575 meters) above sea level. It also has several swift running streams that cascade down to long, sandy beaches. Forty-four miles to the southeast of Nzwani is Mayotte (Maore), the oldest of the islands. It is almost surrounded by a barrier reef and is fairly flat with slow meandering streams and mangrove swamps.

Time GMT + 3. Country code
Country Code 269, Climate
Located a little more than 10

degrees below the equator in the western Indian Ocean the islands have a maritime tropical climate.

In the wet season from October to April, the predominant northerly winds of the Indian Ocean bring moist, warm air to the region. Heaviest rainfall occurs during the period from December to April and amounts can reach as high as 15 inches (390 mm) in a month. The mean temperature during the wet

season is in the high seventies with the hottest month, March, averaging temperatures in the middle eighties (fahrenheit).

From May to September southerly winds dominate the region. These are cooler and drier and temperatures in the islands average around 66 degrees fahrenheit (19 degrees celsius).

Rainfall and temperature vary from





island to island during any month and even vary on an island due to the topography. The central, higher areas of an island are often cooler and more moist than the coastal regions. This variation results in microecologies on the islands with distinct flora and fauna.

Required clothing Lightweight cottons and linens with waterproofing during the rainy season. Warmer garments and rainwear are needed for the mountains. **Food & Drink**

Restaurants serve good food with spiced sauces, rice-based dishes, cassava, plantain, couscous, barbecued goat meat, plentiful seafood and tropical fruits. There may be restrictions on drink within Muslim circles. Shopping hours Comoran products can be purchased at Moroni on Ngazidja (Grande Comore). These include gold, pearl and shell jewellery, woven cloth, embroidered skull-caps (koffia) and slippers, carved chests, panels and portes-croix





experience the Islands offer. For nature lovers who are bored with the stressful artificial city life and looking for some refreshing inspirational time off, the Perfumed Islands will be the right place for an escape to a relaxing atmosphere of untouched wonderful nature with lush foliage, majestic waterfalls, picturesque towns, and incredible coral reefs. And travelers seeking a unique adventure will enjoy discovering the wonders of the Comoros that shelters some

endangered species in its seas and forests, such as the Hawksbill and green sea turtles, the Coelacanth (or Gombessa), an endangered «living fossil» fish once thought to be extinct for millions of years. Another wonder found nowhere else in the world is the Livingstone's flying fox, a fruit bat with a 3-meter wing span. The «Islands of the Moon» also offer a variety of outdoor activities & water sports: hiking, camping, diving, sailing, and for those who

need some relaxation would definitely take delight in sunbathing on the white-sand seashore!!!

Comorian rich culture:

The culture of the Comoros is no less rich and interesting than its nature. Being located in the Mozambique Channel at the Indian Ocean, the Islands have played a central role in the commerce among the Arab World, Europe and Africa. The Comorian people's customs, traditional clothes,

cuisine and celebrations demonstrate a blend of diverse cultures imported centuries ago by Arabs, Portuguese and French traders.

Despite the French influence on the Comoros, the local people of the Islands still wear their traditional clothes (especially the elderly). The women's clothes consist of Shiromeni, lively colored long dresses and skirts. Another traditional traditional way of





dressing up for Comorian women is the use of sandalwood and coral paste as a beauty mask on their faces. The men's traditional clothes are a colorful long skirt, a long white shirt and Koffia, a considerably expensive skull cap that has a high value among the people of the Comoros.

The rich cultural heritage of the Islands of the Moon has generated a variety of beautifully made crafts which includes: pearl and shell jewelry, wood carving, pottery and

basketry, women cloth, embroidered skull caps and slippers, carved chests, panels and portes-croix (lecterns).

The Comorian cuisine is as delicious as it is healthy. It is based on fresh seafood (lobster, crab, shrimp...), locally grown rice and vegetables, and tropical fruits (mango, pineapple, coconuts...)

People in Comoros greatly enjoy music and dancing. The Comorian music is historically linked to both East Africa and France, and now

has a strong Malagasy influence. Zanzibar's taarab music, however, remains the most influential genre on the islands, and a Comorian version called twarab is popular. Leading twarab bands include Sambeco and Belle Lumière, as well as star singer Mohammed Hassan. Comorian instruments include the oud and violin, the most frequent accompaniment for twarab, as well as gabusi (a type

of lute) and ndzendze. Sega music from nearby Mauritius and Réunion islands is also popular.

Modern musicians like Abou Chihabi, who composed the Comorian national anthem and is known for his reggae-tinged pan-African variety music, and reggae/zouk/soukous fusionists like Maalesh and Salim Ali Amir, as well as Nawal, a singer-songwriter and instrumentalist.

