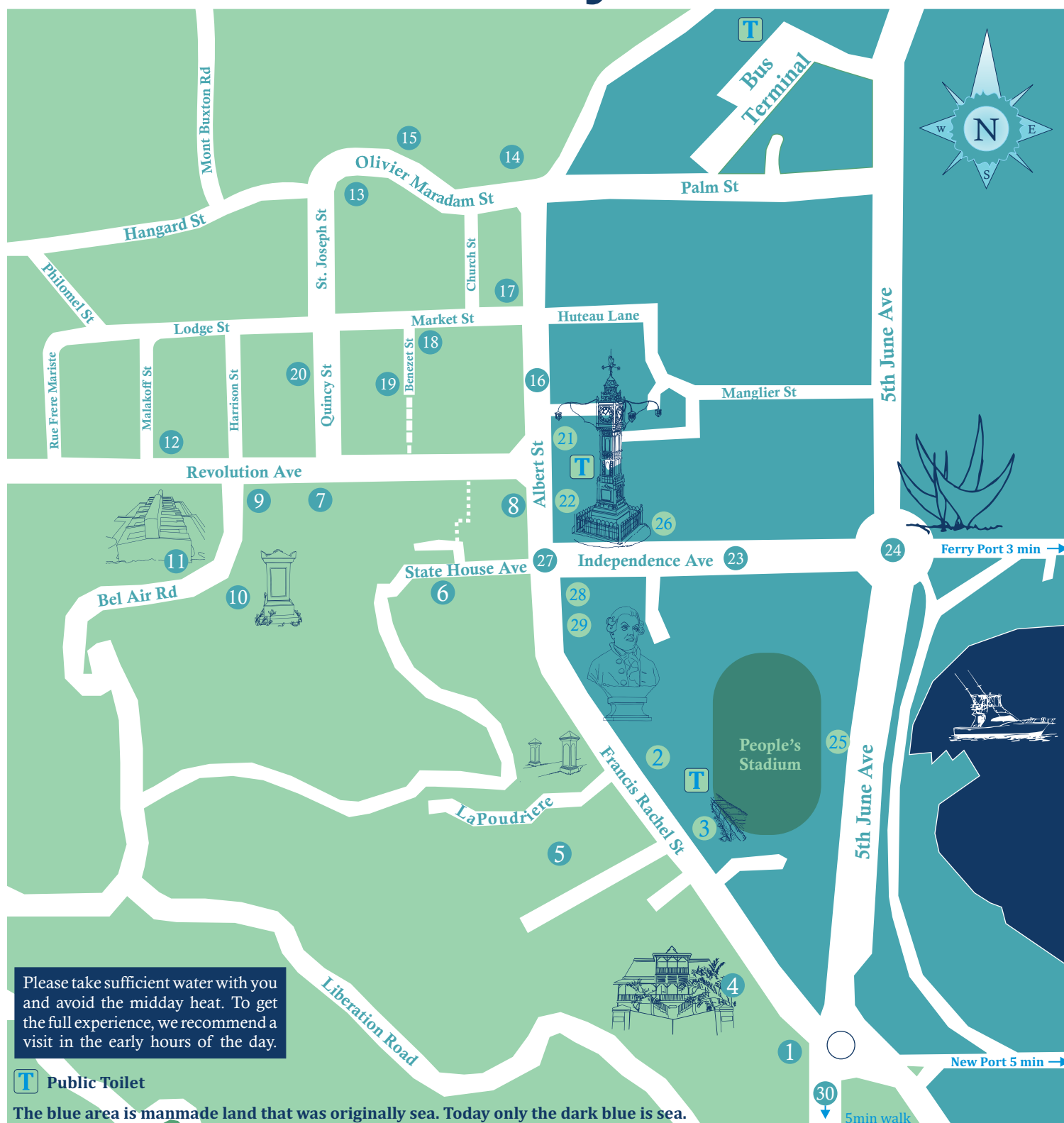




Hidden History of Victoria



Discover the hidden historic and cultural sights of Victoria. Take a self-guided walking tour through the Creole capital with the help of this map to appreciate the cultural heritage of Victoria. This is an initiative of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation with the kind support of the British High Commission, Victoria. Visit www.seychellessustainable.org for more detailed information about the map and German, French and Creole translations.

on behalf of the SSTF:



Be a responsible traveler in Seychelles
Please consider your environmental footprint when visiting our islands, by participating in our Pristine Seychelles campaign: dispose of your waste adequately, limit your use of air-conditioning, skip single-use plastics by carrying reusable bags and bottles and support local conservation efforts.
Read more about the Pristine Seychelles campaign and the SSTF's efforts to promote sustainable tourism in Seychelles: www.seychellessustainable.org



British
High Commission
Victoria

British High Commission, Victoria

3rd Floor Oliaji Trade Centre,
Francis Rachel Street,
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

www.gov.uk/world/seychelles
(00248) 428 3666

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1. Le Chantier Mall During the first half of the 19th century this area became a ship building centre and more than 40 ships were built here, many for the market in Mauritius, creating a boom in construction, housing and the economy.

2. Fiennes Esplanade 1919 This shady promenade was named after a former British administrator who did much for Seychelles and was the grandfather of the polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, and the great, great, grandfather of the actor Ralph Fiennes who was in the films The English Patient and Harry Potter.

3. Coral Rock Francis Rachel Street is on the line of the original coastline. Behind the tourist kiosks is the top of the original sea wall now at ground level.

4. Kenwyn House 1850 Much reconstructed now, but a fine example of Creole architecture. The original house was built by the chief medical officer for Seychelles, Dr Henry Brook. It was later bought by the Eastern Telegraph Company (later Cable & Wireless), who housed their engineers here while they were laying the underwater cables between Seychelles and Zanzibar.

5. Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Mosque

6. Office of the Mayor of Victoria 1903 Originally built for the Government Secretariat. Beyond it are the gates that lead to State House, (formerly Government House), the residence of the President.



7. Seventh Day Adventists Church The perimeter wall closest to the police station shows the coral rock used in its construction clearly visible in the lower courses.

8. St Paul's Cathedral 1857



9. Francine Lagrenade House 1923 A traditional Creole home made of local wood. The house is built on blocks that provide ventilation and a storage area under the house. The original bathroom and kitchen were separate from the main home.

10. Bel Air Cemetery 1794 The earliest settlers were buried here including a legendary giant and the French corsair La Buse (Jean Francois Hodoul, a pirate employed by the French king to attack British ships). In 1770 when the first settlers arrived mainly from French Mauritius, there were 15 colonists, 7 slaves and 5 Indians.

11. Lavwar (public laundry) This was built for the local maternity hospital and became a meeting place for local women up until the 1970s when the last households in the area were connected to the mains water supply.

12. Kas Zanana A late 19th century, restored, Creole townhouse, now an art gallery with works by Seychellois artist George Camille.

13. Catholic Convent 1861

14. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception 1864

15. La Domus 1934 Also known as Capuchin House for Franciscan monks. Capuchin was the nickname given to the hooded monks from which we get the word cappuccino. The Bell tower was built in 1898.

16. Albert Street This was on the original coastline; Barclays Bank and everything on the east side of this street is built on what was marshland and mangrove when the first settlers arrived. By 1909 most town properties were owned by Indian and Chinese settlers. At the traffic lights go up the shopping mall stairs for a viewpoint.



17. Jivan Shah Imports A traditional Creole commercial building. The ground floor is built of coral rock blocks covered with limestone plaster made from crushed coral rock.

18. Market 1839 The first market on this site. In 1969 it was named after a former Governor of Seychelles during the 1940s, Sir Percy Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke. The Indian silver rupee made up of 100 cents was introduced in 1876. Don't miss the upper floor of the market!

19. Chinese Pagoda 1898 The Chinese introduced the technology for distilling cinnamon to produce the essential oil that was first exported in 1908. The Chinese area of Victoria grew up around the market.



20. Sri Navasakthi Vinyagar Hindu Temple 1992 There are approximately 5000 Seychellois Hindus today.

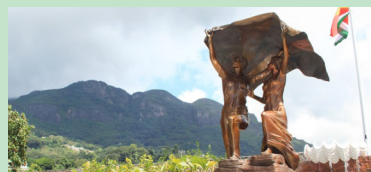
21. Early Transport information board The earliest forms of transport on Mahé included horses and mules. This square formerly known as Gordon Square and now Freedom Square was the pick up/drop off point for passengers.



22. Horse Drinking Trough On the edge of the taxi rank is a horse drinking trough made of limestone from crushed coral rock. The first settlement was either side of the adjacent St Louis river as you look towards the mountains. Most of the buildings were destroyed in the avalanche of 1862, known locally as Grande l'Avalasse. 1/2 million tons of debris filled the sea frontage with mud and rock to a depth of 30-60cm.

23. Independence Avenue Follows the line of the long pier built in 1840 and known as La Chaussee and La Promenade des Creoles. Passengers were ferried here to disembark from visiting ships in the harbour.

24. Bicentenary Monument 1978 It represents three pairs of wings, and celebrates the origins of the Seychellois people - from Africa, Asia and Europe.



25. Liberty Monument 2014 This bronze sculpture was made by Seychellois artist Tom Bowers. It celebrates national unity after independence in 1976 from British rule and also the earlier emancipation of slaves.



26. Natural History Museum 1902 Built as a library with a grant from the

Carnegie Foundation only the core of the building is what you see today as originally there was a wide first floor balcony.

27. Clock Tower 1903 A replica of one by Victoria Station, London. In 1904 Seychelles became an independent colony of Britain ruled from London. Up until this time, under both French and British rule, it had been a dependency of Mauritius which changed from French to British rule in 1814. In 1841 the name Victoria was adopted for the capital (formerly L'Etblissement du Roi), after the young Queen Victoria.



28. History Museum formerly Victoria House, 1885 The oldest surviving building in the capital with its wide balconies and original iron work has recently been renovated.

29. Pierre Poivre Monument A French naturalist (1719-1786), who worked as an administrator in Mauritius and introduced cinnamon and other spices (cloves, nutmeg, pepper), to Seychelles. His vision of a spice industry centred on Mahé was the stimulus behind the first French settlement as he resented the Dutch monopoly of the spice trade with the East Indies. He started the Jardin du Roi spice garden at Anse Royale. The introduction of cinnamon is now a controversial issue as it is an invasive species.

30. Botanical Gardens 1901 These well laid out mature gardens on a hillside have many examples of endemic plant species as well as themed Chinese and Japanese areas and specimens planted by famous people. For variety there are also giant tortoises and a huge fruit bat colony.



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