

where to stay now

# HOTEL CENTRAL



**FRESH START**  
Breakfast is on Le Marche  
terrace, the perfect place  
to start your day

## CONTEMPORARY COOL

**IN A DEPARTURE FROM THE TROPICAL-RESORT CLICHÉ, LONG BEACH IN MAURITIUS HAS A SOPHISTICATED URBAN AESTHETIC THAT IS SIMPLY FRESH**

WORDS LUANNE TOMS

Long Beach is appropriately named for its kilometre-long stretch of white sandy beachfront situated on the east coast of Mauritius. This indulgent piece of ocean is yours to dip into during your stay at Sun Resorts' newly completed five-star 'lifestyle' hotel, leading the way ahead of its siblings, Sugar Beach, La Pirogue and Le Touessrok. Spread out over a 59-acre site that was once Coco Beach on Mauritius's Belle Mare Peninsula, the hotel has 255 rooms, each with its own sea views. The architecture is contemporary urban but softened by the lush landscape of the surrounding grounds, encouraging a relaxed island-style atmosphere. After exploring the livelier ocean of the Mauritius east coast



**GLAM IT UP**  
CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The chef at Chopsticks whips up delicious contemporary Chinese fare; the clean lines and dramatic vertical scale of the entrance sets the tone for the hotel's sophisticated urban design; the Shores cocktail bar and lounge; the Piazza is the communal hub of the hotel  
OPPOSITE: Chill out on the pristine beach under an umbrella



or just simply stretching out on a chaise longue to absorb all the island loveliness, you can slip into a pair of heels and escape into an intimate feast of cosmopolitan nightlife in the central urban-style Piazza, with its variety of eating experiences, ranging from sophisticated Asian to Italian deli, modern Chinese to casual beach dining. A cocktail at Shores, the lounge bar, with an urban buzz and lounge tunes, overlooking the beach is the perfect way to stir up anticipation for a fun evening ahead.

Architecturally, the Piazza is unique, with elegant shutters that can be adjusted to protect it from offshore breezes, something many hotels in Mauritius haven't succeeded in doing. In fact, their effort to convert the property into one of the most ecosensitive on the island required immaculate forward planning and smart thinking on water saving, recycling, the latest energy-saving technology for air conditioning and lighting, solar energy, and ozone and UV treatments in pools. Even the roofs are covered in plants, pebbles and special materials to keep rooms cooler.

To burn off the cocktails and make up for lazy days, Long Beach offers all the activities you'd expect in Mauritius and more. But even with so much to do, you are reluctant to venture from your room, a short walk from the beach and almost 'neisty' in its minimal design. The suites are a simple cube-like private space, with a comfy king-sized bed with crisp white linen, a large bathroom and a quiet reading nook on your front porch, which spills out onto the green lawn of the hotel gardens. That said, I can definitely recommend a massage at the Long Beach Aqua Spa – developed around the French-based concept of Thali – which opens up a whole new world of sensory delight. Doubles from R3 790; [www.longbeachmauritius.com](http://www.longbeachmauritius.com)

**GETTING THERE** Air Mauritius offers daily flights from Joburg to Mauritius, from R6 385 return, and SAA offers eight weekly codeshare flights, from R5 239 return; [www.airmauritius.com](http://www.airmauritius.com); [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com). **LAUNCH SPECIAL** Long Beach is offering a seven-night stay from R12 875, valid until 9 October 2011, or from R15 908, valid 10 October to 30 November 2011 (both for standard sea-view rooms). These rates include economy-class airfares ex Joburg on Air Mauritius (subject to change); return coach transfers; dinner, bed and breakfast; free land and motorised watersports; and evening entertainment. Book before October and you'll receive a complimentary beverage voucher. For bookings call your travel agent or World Leisure Holidays on 011 285 2500 or 0860 954 954.



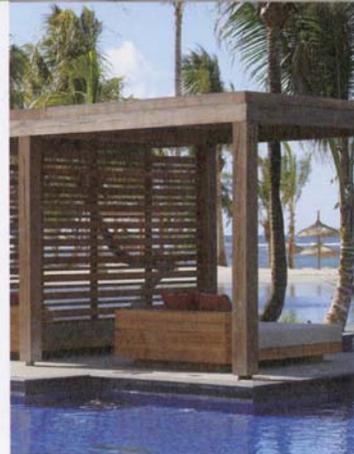
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:



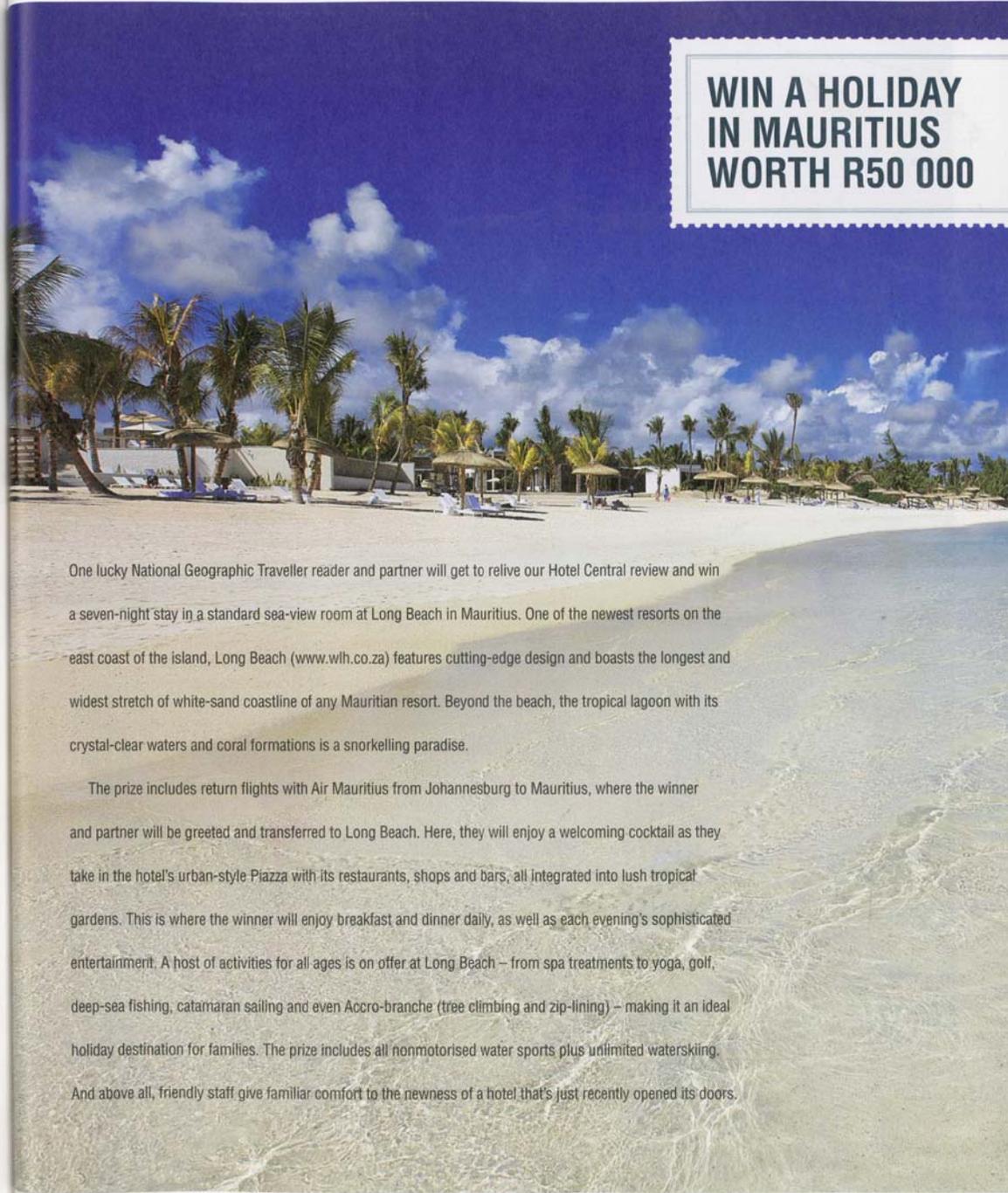
**ON WHICH COAST OF MAURITIUS IS LONG BEACH SITUATED?**

**SMS 'NGT MAURITIUS', YOUR ANSWER, NAME AND PROVINCE TO 33970\***

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
 SMSSES COST R1.50. FREE SMSSES DO NOT APPLY. YOU MAY ENTER AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 6 DECEMBER 2011. THE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED BY A RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR AND WILL BE NOTIFIED TELEPHONICALLY. THE PRIZE MUST BE TAKEN UP BETWEEN 15 JANUARY 2012 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2012. AIRPORT TAXES AND DOMESTIC FLIGHTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, NOR IS TRAVEL INSURANCE. ANY MEALS NOT SPECIFIED OR ANY ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE, WHEN TRAVELLING TO MAURITIUS, PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING: PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR PASSPORTS ARE IN ORDER AND VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS AFTER YOUR INTENDED DATE OF RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE OUT TRAVEL INSURANCE TO COVER PERSONAL ACCIDENT, MEDICAL EXPENSES, EMERGENCY REPATRIATION, LOST BAGGAGE, LOSS OF FUNDS THROUGH CANCELLATION OR CURTAILMENT. THIS INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH WORLD LEISURE HOLIDAYS. THIS PRIZE IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE HOTEL CONCERNED AND WILL ONLY BE CONFIRMED ONE MONTH PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. AS PRIZES ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, WORLD LEISURE HOLIDAYS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MOVE THE RESERVATION TO ANOTHER HOTEL, AS NECESSARY. THE PRIZE IS NONTRANSFERABLE, NONREDEEMABLE FOR CASH, NONUPGRADEABLE AND CANNOT BE EXTENDED. IT ALSO EXCLUDES ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND PEAK SEASONS. THE ENTRANT ACCEPTS THAT ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT OR ANY FORM OF LEGAL COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE ENTRANT AND NG TRAVELLER. NG TRAVELLER SHALL NOT ASSUME LIABILITY FOR ANY AMBIGUITY, ERROR, OVERSIGHT OR OMISSION WHETHER NEGLIGENT OR OTHERWISE WHICH MAY BE COMMITTED BY ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE PARTICIPATING MAGAZINE, THEIR AGENTS OR ASSOCIATES IN RESPECT OF THIS COMPETITION. EMPLOYEES OF MEDIA24, SPONSORS AND THEIR AGENTS OR ANY COMPANY ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMPETITION AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ENTER.



**WIN A HOLIDAY IN MAURITIUS WORTH R50 000**



One lucky National Geographic Traveller reader and partner will get to relive our Hotel Central review and win a seven-night stay in a standard sea-view room at Long Beach in Mauritius. One of the newest resorts on the east coast of the island, Long Beach ([www.wlh.co.za](http://www.wlh.co.za)) features cutting-edge design and boasts the longest and widest stretch of white-sand coastline of any Mauritian resort. Beyond the beach, the tropical lagoon with its crystal-clear waters and coral formations is a snorkelling paradise.

The prize includes return flights with Air Mauritius from Johannesburg to Mauritius, where the winner and partner will be greeted and transferred to Long Beach. Here, they will enjoy a welcoming cocktail as they take in the hotel's urban-style Piazza with its restaurants, shops and bars, all integrated into lush tropical gardens. This is where the winner will enjoy breakfast and dinner daily, as well as each evening's sophisticated entertainment. A host of activities for all ages is on offer at Long Beach – from spa treatments to yoga, golf, deep-sea fishing, catamaran sailing and even Accro-branche (tree climbing and zip-lining) – making it an ideal holiday destination for families. The prize includes all nonmotorised water sports plus unlimited waterskiing. And above all, friendly staff give familiar comfort to the newness of a hotel that's just recently opened its doors.

**LONG BEACH**

**AIR MAURITIUS**

**WORLD LEISURE holidays**

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