

Nid D'aigle Nature trail

Ecology

Another species that has been introduced because of its economic value is the Vanilla (*Vanilla planifolia*). The flat-leaved vanilla from Mexico grows as a vine, zigzagging its way up onto any tree that might be available. It is hard to see the white scented flowers, since it blooms for only a day.

One of the most common and easy to spot invertebrate, is the green day Gecko (*Phelsuma atriata*), a small insectivore which enjoys sunbathing and licking nectar off a flowers.

Upon climbing the summit, you might notice a peculiar small, dark grey bird, flying in a fast, unpredictable pattern. This is the endemic Seychelles swiftlet (*Aerodramus alaphrus*), they nest in caves and use echolocation calls when flying in the dark, similar to bats.



Seychelles Swiftlet

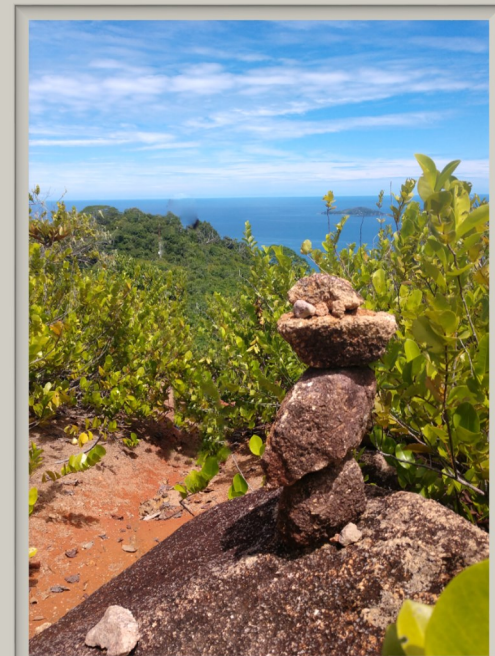
You can also spot endemic vocal sunbirds (*Cinnyris dussumieri*), always busy searching for nectar from a flower. This bird is categorized as least Concern i.e. not in danger of extinction in the IUCN list of threaten species, since they are able to live alongside predators, such as rats and cats.

The forest in Nid D'aigle is secondary in nature; one will however be able to observe several endemic species , including palms, such as the thief palm (*Phoenicophorium borsigianum*) and Palmist (*Deckenia nobilis*). These palms are vital for the ecosystem, since they not only provide shade and habitat for the small invertebrates, they are also drought tolerant, making them perfect for Nid D'aigle's ecosystem.



Green Gecko

The viewpoint is dominated by exotics, such as Cocoplum (*Chrysbalanus icaco*) introduced at the beginning of the 20th century to help control erosion. Cinnamon was introduced for its bark and leaf oil, but the leaf is also used as a key ingredient in curries. Endemics, such as Café marron pti feuille (*Erythroxylum sechellarum*) and Bois calou (*Memecylon elaeagni*) has been able to thrive despite this harsh environment .



La Digue, Seychelles



Getting there

It is easier to get a taxi that takes you straight to Belle vue, this way you will avoid the very steep road that leads up to the beginning of the trail. If you do take up the challenge, starting from La Passe, take Anse Reunion road that will lead you straight to Belle Vue intersection that is located about 150m from Chateau St. Cloud Guesthouse. From there keep following the steep paved road, that leads you to a small cafeteria.

Upon reaching La Digue highest peak, you will be rewarded with a spectacular view of La Passe, as well as Mahé, Praslin, Curieuse, Félicité, Grande Soeur, Petite Soeur and even Frégate. One should be very cautious while exploring the inselberg due to the slippery nature of the rocks. On your back, make sure you complete the circular trail, so that you do not miss out on anything.

- Length of trail: 1.06 km
- Highest peak: 319m
- Difficulty: Medium
- Duration: 1 hr.

Direction of trail



Contact us :

- + (248) 4 225 114
- snpainfo@gov.sc
- Orion Mall, Victoria Sey-

The trail

The trail is about a km long, reaching an altitude of 319 m. It is a relatively easy with a gradual accent, although there are occasional steep parts that might be tougher on children.

Your journey begins at a cozy cafeteria, were one can enjoy a fresh juice before beginning the accent. The early path is a gentle climb, with the view of Praslin and Round Island. After a 5 minutes walk, you will meet the main intersection which places you on Nid Daigle's circular trail.

The trail is a mixture of palmed covered canopies and open areas of eroded red soils. Depending on the season, you might come across some bracken ferns, indicating previous disturbance and soil erosion. Along the way, you will find rocks stacked together, with the occasional white markings to direct you.

You should make sure you are following the main path, since there are other paths that leads elsewhere, Roch Baie for example.



Seychelles National Parks Authority



Helpline ☎ 2723 084

Emergencies ☎ 999

Help us preserve our natural heritage



The management cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or damage which may be sustained by any vehicle or property whilst on these premises. Vehicles are parked at owners risk