

# Business Events Africa



*Voice of the Business Events Industry in Africa*

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Taking **care**  
of business



AFRICA'S **LEADING** CONVENTION CENTRE



# Mauritius is magical

by **Clare Neall CMP, Certified Meeting Professional, Event Stuff SA**

At some stage in our lives we will attend a meeting, perhaps win an incentive, network at a conference and possibly manage an event and what better place to implement any of these: Mauritius.

**W**hat makes Mauritius so special? Many of us have been there before but arriving back on the island you do have to ask yourself as to why it has taken so long for you to come back!

Mauritius is magical – is it the letting go and the onset of relaxation? The gentle humidity lulls your senses, perhaps it's the clear fresh air, or the endless beaches, the magnificent seascapes, maybe the blue of the ocean or just the thrill of having won a prize to a dreamy destination. And then there's always that first delicious sip of a Mauritian mojito!

World Leisure Holidays (a wholly owned Sun Resorts company) excels at looking after groups and takes immense pride in their teams of experienced, prepared and attentive staff to make your conference and event happen, and happen well.

Whether you have budget restrictions, number challenges, perhaps duration is a consideration, guaranteed the island

has something to offer to even the most critical corporate and event professional.

Take for example, the Sun Resort offering on the West Coast from the timeless La Pirogue (celebrating 40 years), to the renowned Sugar Beach Hotel or on the East Coast, from Ambre to the five-star Long Beach Golf and Spa Resort, matched with the refreshing attitude of the resort teams, where nothing appears to be too much trouble when it comes to group travel.

I recently had the privilege of meeting the Sun Resorts management team and was bowled over by their enthusiasm and passion for their brand, their teams and their properties.

Newly on board is chief executive officer **David Anderson** who, aside from having travelled extensively in search of new fresh creative ideas for the whole business, is a passionate man at heart. Recently appointed to head his global team is **Juliette Knowles**, as group director of

MICE. Based in the UK, Juliette's wealth of international experience will prove to be invaluable to an already established and well-grounded Sun Resorts incentive and events team. Juliette is ably supported by **Valerie Germain**, from the international marketing division. This pair will undoubtedly add enormous strength and a new direction to this market.

**Shirley Farreedun-Wick**, the MICE & events manager, known to many South





Africans already for her time spent at Sugar Beach Hotel is now based at the fabulous five-star Long Beach Golf and Spa Resort property, took time out of her busy schedule to update Event Staff on where she and the Sun Resorts event teams are at.

Shirley has been with the company for close on 18 years, with her career covering that of sales, marketing and events. She says the secret to managing any programme is to be thorough, detailed and conscientious, understanding your team and keeping them informed at all times through meticulous banqueting orders so as not to miss any minor important information.

And then, it's ticking those boxes and working together with her clients to bring about a rewarding and successful time – happy client, hopefully many happy returns.

Mauritius is a smooth four-hour flying time from Johannesburg and with no visas needed for South African passport holders, it's easy travel.

A pleasant surprise was the refreshing culture and attitude within this company,

where the staff are more than willing and eager to please and where nothing is too much trouble. A missing suitcase from Cape Town was a prime example of their dedication and support in finding this much needed piece of luggage. "Tell us what you want and if we can, we will do our utmost to make it happen" – seemed to be the thread of continuity throughout this group.

Enthusiastic staff on hand at every turn, general manager's willing to assist and support, business events specialists managing your group detail and offering important local advice.

Delving into the detail of events arranged by Shirley and the hotel teams, Shirley muses: The weather can often be an issue, so for her being diligent about always having a back-up plan is key. Pre-empt problems, don't over promise, but give them a challenge, and by working with good suppliers more often than not they can make it happen.

Order of the day – any size group considered – between the four hotels, there is ample accommodation,

conference facilities, gardens and space large enough for unusual group requests and activities, such as welcome and registration set ups, team building activities, creative entertainment and the use of any venue on an exclusive basis heading the list.

There is entertainment aplenty – from fire dancers and jugglers, to Sega bands and dancers, trios, duos, quartets, DJs or full bands, guitarists, jazz singers, there is something different for every evening. Perhaps a fireworks display from a barge on the sea or impress with local fishermen bringing in the "catch of the day" for dinner.

Teambuilding – a selection of note from the likes of SummerTimes who partner with World Leisure Holidays and Sun Resorts on all land arrangements, touring, shopping etc. And on hand professional island photographers to capture stills, videos or a thought, deploy a drone for overhead shots of your team in action.

My favourite for any group are specialised original themed evenings (but naturally budget dependent), be different, be creative and yes, this is the one place where you can push your, World Leisure Holidays and Sun Resort's boundaries. The myriad of themed event photos shown to me by Shirley just don't do their work justice – they're an impressive team.

Mauritius is a business events haven. Really all you need to pack are those essential items - costumes, beach towels, sarongs and sun tan lotion – you cannot keep away for long from those azure seas and sparkling white beaches.

Believe in the Sun Resort philosophy "At Sun Resorts every individual is unique. Each stay is exceptional. We all have specific desires at different times of our lives"

For 2017 World Leisure Holidays have expanded their Mauritius portfolio and now have an extraordinary offering north, south, east and west of the island of at least 42 properties. Dream big on a tight budget or indulge in a stay at a top five-star establishment! ■

