

Reunion History

Reunion is an island in the southwest Indian Ocean which forms a department and overseas French region . It is located in the Mascarene archipelago about 700 kilometers east of Madagascar and 170 kilometers south -west of Mauritius, the nearest land island.

Enjoying a tropical and situated on the road cyclone climate, it has steep terrain worked by a marked erosion. It rises to 3,071 meters above sea level at the top of Piton des Neiges and also houses one of the world's most active volcanoes: Piton de la Fournaise . It regularly increases the total area of the territory about 200 miles in circumference and enjoys its current 2,512 square kilometers of exceptional endemism.

Probably marked by the Arabs in the Middle Ages , Reunion has been inhabited only from the mid-seventeenth century , about 150 years after its appearance on Portuguese navigators . Previously known to Mascareigne , it becomes under the Bourbon, the stopover of the French East India Company on the route to India and then from the 1710s , a colony practicing the cultivation of coffee . Become a plantation society , it then passes under the direct control of the king of France in the 1760s before being reassigned to the industry sugarcane after the Napoleonic Wars . It is definitely renamed to its current name and slavery was abolished there in 1848 . Despite the indenture , which is practiced even in the 1930s , it follows a creeping economic crisis that will put an end as a result of its transformation into a French department in 1946.

Reunion is since an overseas department designated by the numeral 974 and thus enjoys a rapid development with its most recent status of outermost region of the European Union participates. Nevertheless, despite its membership in the euro zone, its productive fabric remains structurally fragile and highly dependent on mainland France. It identifies a particularly high unemployment rate (around 25 %) result further supported population growth , which is officially on 1 January 2010 833,000 inhabitants. Reunion focuses on the coasts, where space and housing are lacking. Saint- Denis is the capital of Reunion. The GDP is estimated at € 14.5 billion .

The local population is characterized by the youth of the inhabitants and their various origins,European , West African , East African , Malagasy ,

Indian , Annamite , Malay and Chinese . Coexistence in a confined space has resulted in an unusual combinations , languages forming Reunion Creole, their religions meeting around an original syncretism , their gastronomy feeding together Reunion kitchen and merging their music to give Sega and Maloya . This original mix is considered a key asset for the economic sector of the island, the local tourism industry, which it owes its nickname: intense Island .

The Piton des Neiges :



The eruptive volcano

