



## Aldabra Atoll Regulations

Updated: July 2020

The following regulations apply to all tour and cruise ship operators, charter boats, dive operators or camera-crews prior to and during their visit to Aldabra. These guidelines are supplied to the operator each time a visit is requested. Please note that these regulations ensure that visits to Aldabra do not compromise its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and are in place for your and the wildlife’s protection.

### General

- 1) All vessels must have a clearance letter in writing from SIF Head Office and the Seychelles Port Authority (including clearing by the Health Commission) before visiting Aldabra.
- 2) Vessels approaching Aldabra must identify themselves and when within one kilometre of the shore will be answerable to the Island Manager. Vessels should use the designated anchorage area (**Figure 1**); it is forbidden to anchor elsewhere around the atoll.

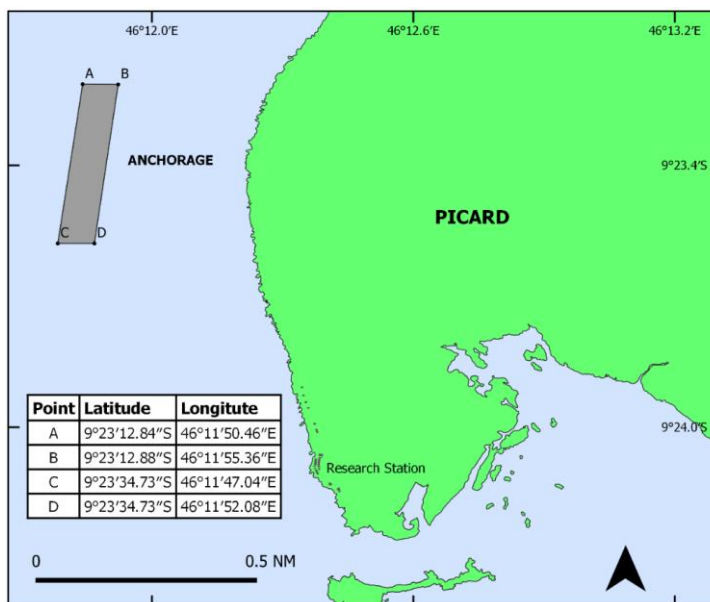


Figure 1. Designated anchorage area for vessel, near the Research Station, Picard.

#### Coordinates:

<b>Point A</b>	S09°23'12.84"	E46°11'50.46"	<b>Point B</b>	S09°23'12.88"	E46°11'55.36"
<b>Point C</b>	S09°23'34.73"	E46°11'47.04"	<b>Point D</b>	S09°23'34.73"	E46°11'52.08"



- 3) Upon anchoring, the vessel will be boarded by either the Island Manager, Aldabra Science Coordinator or Tourism Coordinator and SIF team who shall meet the captain. Vessels cannot leave their anchorage unless cleared by the Island Manager.
- 4) Before arrival to Aldabra the Tourism Coordinator will propose an activities schedule to the expedition leader for the duration of the visit. The itinerary of the visit needs to be agreed and approved by the site management prior arrival. No activities from the visiting vessel should take place before meeting with the Tourism Coordinator.
- 5) Any visitors to Aldabra (including ship's crew) must be accompanied by SIF staff at all times, except within the station grounds. In the event that the vessel does not stay anchored within the designated anchorage area in front of the Research Station you will be required to provide overnight facility for SIF staff members throughout your stay on Aldabra.
- 6) Visiting vessels must remove all their self-generated waste.
- 7) Any incident in the reserve has to be reported to the Aldabra management.
- 8) No helicopter operations are permitted on Aldabra.
- 9) Emitting artificial light into the marine environment during dusk, night and dawn hours for guest attraction i.e. underwater viewing is strictly prohibited.

### Biosecurity

Aldabra is known as one of the most undisturbed ecosystems in the world. It is therefore important that Aldabra is protected from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and any introduced pests and diseases. Passengers and crew of visiting vessels are asked to assist in the prevention of this problem by always ensuring that they do not inadvertently carry any plants seeds, insects, animals or diseases with them. The following procedures are mandatory:

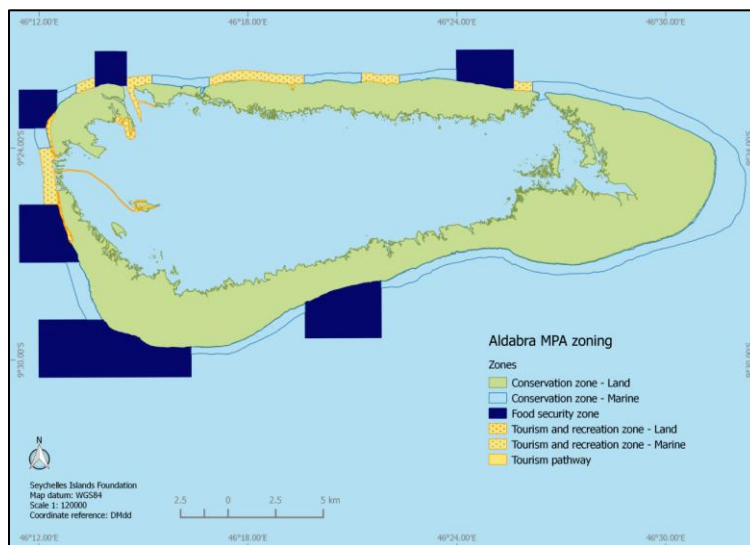
- 9) In preparation for landing on Aldabra, watch and follow the instructions given in the 'Aldabra biosecurity: visitor guidelines' video. The video is available to watch on SIF's YouTube page: [English version](#) [French version](#) [German version](#)
- 10) Please wear clean trousers and socks, and ensure that shoes have clean treads before setting foot on land. Clothes need to be cleaned and inspected for any seeds or invertebrates and shoes dipped in biocide prior to disembarking on the atoll **(it is the responsibility of the cruise ship to provide sufficient biocide for the footwear of visitors and crew, starting as of NW season 2020/2021).**



- 11) Clean empty bags and pockets preferably with a vacuum (provided by the ship) and check Velcro materials, seams, zips and mesh lining of jackets/shirts and pockets.
- 12) Any containers, food or drink also need to be carefully examined for invertebrates, insects or seeds. No fresh fruit or vegetables are to be brought ashore. Pocket tools and knives are to be unfolded and checked.
- 13) Beach umbrellas and fixings are prohibited.
- 14) Dumping of ballast water is strictly forbidden within the Aldabra Special Reserve.
- 15) Certificate of the last antifouling of the ship is to be presented when requesting clearance.
- 16) Declare any pets travelling on the ship.

### Zoning and supervision

- 17) Tourism activities (land tours, lagoon cruises, snorkelling and diving) are only allowed in designated tourism zones (**Figure 2**).



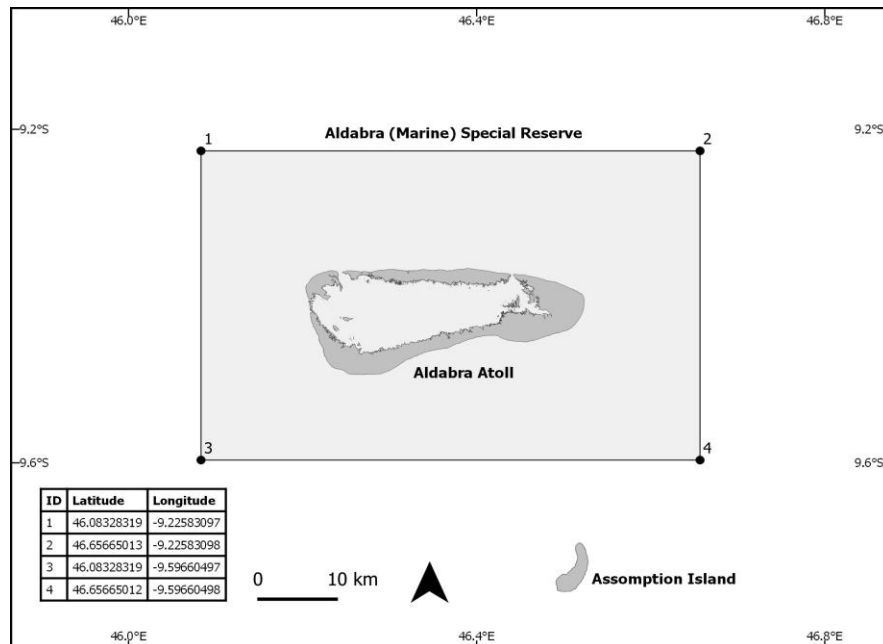
**Figure 2.** Tourism zones in the Aldabra Marine Protected Area (MPA).

- 18) Access to the lagoon on any part of the atoll other than in pre-designated areas is prohibited.
- 19) No drone flights are to take place until the 'Aldabra Atoll Drone Regulations' have been read and agreed upon by the drone pilot and approved of by the Aldabra Island



Manger. The drone pilot will be supervised by a SIF staff member. Drone regulations are also available to download [here](#).

- 20) Fishing is not permitted within the Aldabra Special Reserve (**Figure 3**). All boat operators should ensure that this restriction is conveyed to all their crew. Breaching of this regulation will result in termination of contract and being banned from Aldabra.



**Figure 3.** Aldabra (Marine) Special Reserve. No fishing allowed.

- 21) No more than **120 guests** are permitted to be on shore at any one time. For vessels with more than 120 passengers, they must be split into two groups. Maximum land tour group size per guide is 15-20 guests.
- 22) Visitors are only allowed to land on Picard and must remain on designated trails or when in open areas, within the limits set by their guide. It is absolutely essential that any such trip by any member of the group is accompanied by SIF staff member.

### Terrestrial

- 23) No wildlife is to be disturbed or harmed in any way. No animals are to be touched, chased, fed or attracted with bait.
- 24) No biological or geological specimen, alive or dead, may be collected by any visitor. No plants are to be damaged or removed.



- 25) Giant tortoises should not be stroked, patted or otherwise disturbed except at the Research Station where two individual tortoises are used to humans. It is strictly forbidden to sit on or ride any tortoise.

### Marine

- 26) All divers are to read and comply with Aldabra scuba regulations provided to expedition leaders before partaking in any dives. Scuba regulations are also available to download [here](#).
- 27) A minimum diving certification of PADI Advanced Open Water is required to dive Grande Passe/Main Channel.
- 28) Dives are to take place during daylight hours, night diving is **not allowed**.
- 29) Strictly prohibited to touch (including leaning, hanging onto, sitting or standing on) any coral or to chase and crowd marine life. Fin kicking should be done slowly and with awareness to minimize chances of damage or disturbance to the bottom substrate or reefs. Walking on exposed sections of the lagoon is strictly forbidden.
- 30) The Grand Poche frigatebird colony is the only colony open to visitors. Drivers must at all times stay in close contact with the SIF lead boat and keep outboard engine noise to a minimum, only slow driving is permitted. Mufflers should be used if possible. No-one is allowed to leave the boat, and noise should be kept to a minimum.
- 31) It is prohibited to approach closer than 30m to roosting and nesting frigatebirds. Boats are not to enter narrow parts of Grande Poche where this contradicts the regulation. It is prohibited to approach any other seabirds closer than 10m.
- 32) No motorized water sport activities are permitted.
- 33) Captains must inform their boat drivers to drive slowly over the reef flat to minimize disturbance to marine species, and avoid damage to the shallow reef. Support vessels are not permitted to speed unnecessarily, especially when boats do not carry any passengers.

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Ship captain/agent agreed signature

Select date: Date