

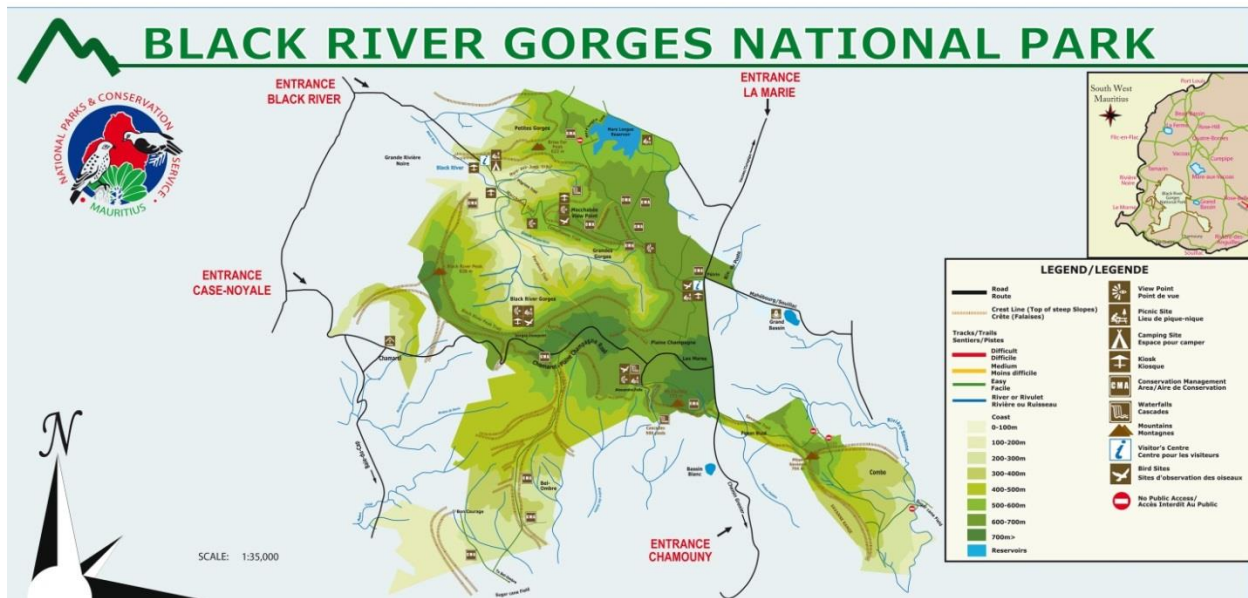
PARK MANAGEMENT UNIT

Contact Details: Mr. P. Moolee
Tel No.: 464 4053/ 54711128/ 258-0056
Email: plm10@yahoo.ca

Park management unit – responsible for the day to day management of [Black River Gorges National Park](#) and [Bras d’Eau National Park](#) and any protected areas entrusted to this unit such as Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary.

The National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) is responsible for the management of our native terrestrial biodiversity and its ecosystem. The two National Parks of Mauritius namely Black River Gorges National Park and Bras d’Eau National Park which fall under the responsibility of NPCS are very popular sites amongst both local and foreign visitors.

BLACK RIVER GORGES NATIONAL PARK



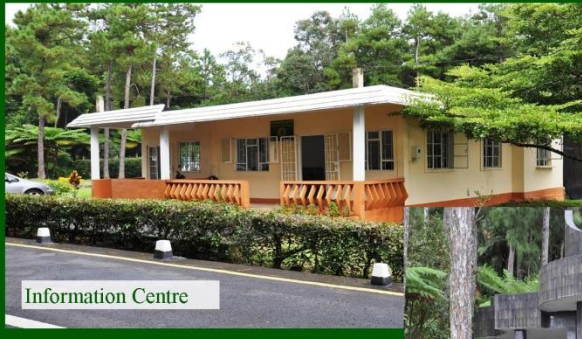
History

The Black River Gorges National Park Project was proclaimed on the 15th of June 1994 by the President of the Republic of Mauritius. It is found in the South West of the island, and covers an area of 6,574 hectares of forests including the highest point at Piton de la Rivière Noire (828 m). The Park is managed mainly for the conservation of endemic flora and fauna, dissemination of and creation of public awareness, education and the provision of leisure to both local and foreign visitors.

There are different microclimates in the park. Hiking from the eastern side of the park to the west, you will be moving from a damp rainy upland forest to a drier lowland forest. The annual rainfall varying from 1000 mm in drier areas to 4000 mm on the uplands, determines the type of vegetation in different regions. The mean temperature varies from 21 °C (upland) to 27 °C (lowland) during summer months and from 17 °C (upland) to 21 °C (lowland) during the winter period.

Facilities at Black River Gorges National Park

Visitor's facilities at Petrin



Information Centre



Picnic Area



Kiosk



Native Garden



Parking

Visitor's facilities at Alexandra Falls



Visitor's Facilities in the Lower Gorges



Visitor's Centre



Picnic Area



Parking



Kiosk

Hiking Trails in Black River Gorges National Park

Trails lead to all parts of the park, from the shady path up the Black River Gorges, to the often cloud-shrouded ridge walk to the Black River Peak. Some 60 km of trails are there for you to enjoy the panorama and to be closer to the plants and animals of the park. The routes listed below and marked on the map are some of the more popular ones:

TRAIL	PATHWAY	LENGTH	TRAIL TYPE
MACHABEE FOREST LOOP	Pétrin–Machabée–Pétrin	14 km Return	Moderate
MACHABEE TRAIL	Pétrin–Black River Lower Gorges	10 km	Strenuous
MARE LONGUE LOOP	Pétrin–Mare Longue–Pétrin	12km Return	Moderate
PARAKEET TRAIL	Plaine Champagne–Black River Lower Gorges	8 km	Strenuous
BLACK RIVER PEAK TRAIL	Gorette–Black River Peak–Gorette	9 km Return	Moderate
PAILLE en QUEUE TRAIL	Alexandra – Plaine Champagne	3 km	Moderate
SAVANNE TRAIL	Plaine Paul – Piton Savanne – Plaine Paul	6 km Return	Easy
CASCADE des GALLETTS TRAIL	Alexandra Falls – Cascade des Galletts – Alexandra Falls	3 km Return	Strenuous



Figure 1: Walking activity at Black River Gorges

Petrin Range

It comprises of Mare Longue, Macchabée, Les Mares and Plaine Champagne regions

Altitude : 580 - 770 m above mean sea level

Annual Rainfall : 3500 - 4000 mm

Vegetation types : Ranging from the heath and Pandanus marshes of Mare Longue plateau and Petrin to the cloud forest of Mt. Cocotte through the climax upland forest of Macchabée and Brise Fer.

Samples of these vegetation types are being managed in the various Conservation Management Areas found within the range.

Several facilities and hiking trails have been set up for visitors to explore and enjoy the area.

Macchabée Trail
Parakeet Trail
Mare Longue Trail
Macchabée Forest Trail

Picnic areas & Kiosk
Information centre
Native garden
Parking facilities

Black River Range

This Range comprises of the Lower Gorges and its surrounding cliffs together with the forested area around the northern part of the Chamarel Village.

Altitude : 100– 828 m above mean sea level
Annual Rainfall : 1500—1800mm
Vegetation types : Dry lowland to wet upland forest

Several facilities and hiking trails have been set up for visitors to explore and enjoy the area

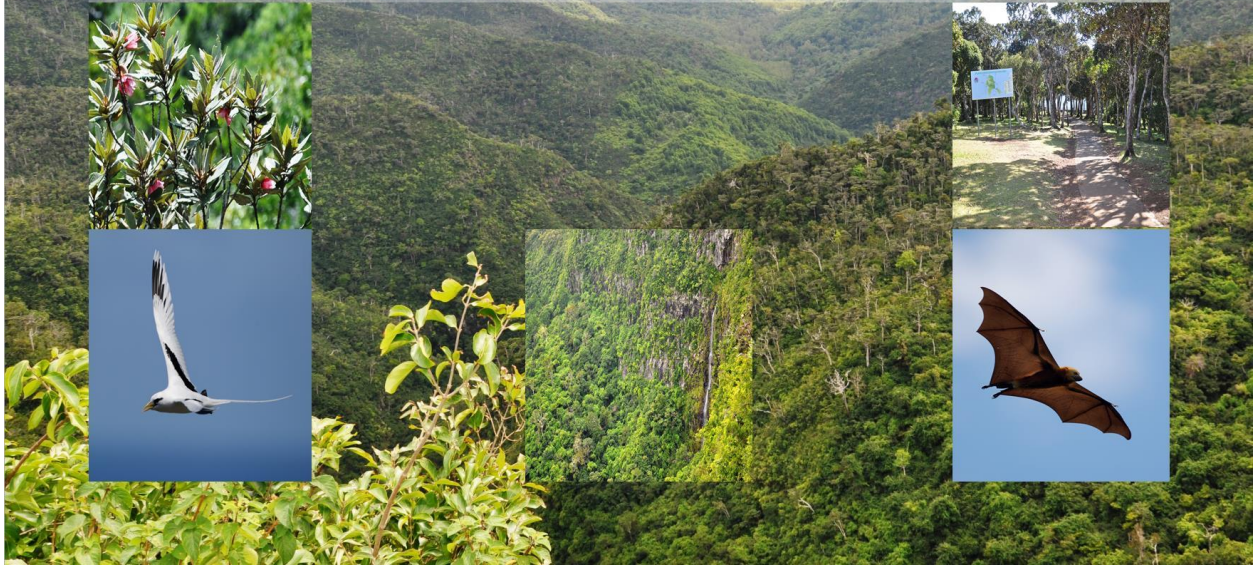
Mare aux Joncs Trail
Plateau Remousse Loop
Black River Peak Trail

Picnic areas
Kiosk
Parking facilities
Visitor's Centre

Black River Gorges View Point

You cannot miss this renowned viewpoint along the Plaine Champagne-Chamarel road. Enjoy the breathtaking view of the Gorges. The highest point of the island, the Black River peak (828 m), stands majestically on your left.

Watch out for tropic birds, Mauritian fruit bat and kestrel.



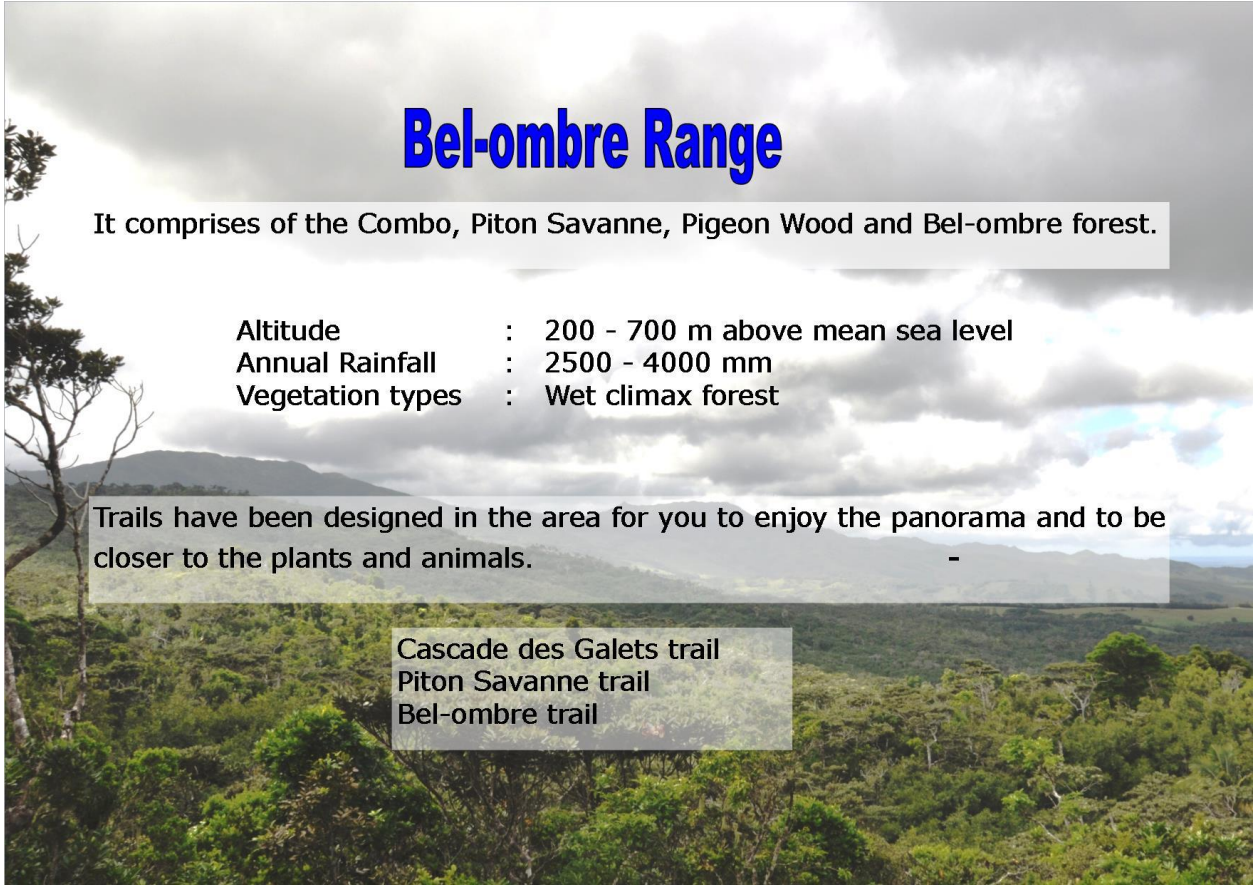
Bel-ombre Range

It comprises of the Combo, Piton Savanne, Pigeon Wood and Bel-ombre forest.

Altitude : 200 - 700 m above mean sea level
Annual Rainfall : 2500 - 4000 mm
Vegetation types : Wet climax forest

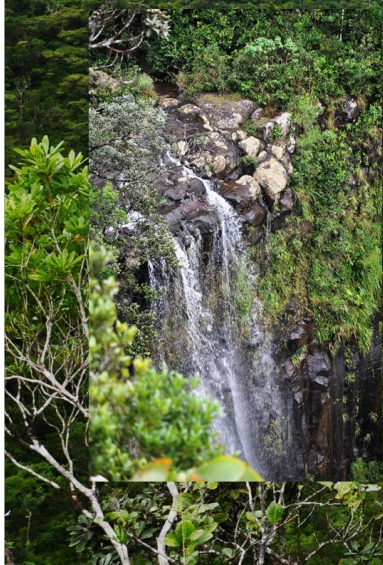
Trails have been designed in the area for you to enjoy the panorama and to be closer to the plants and animals.

Cascade des Galets trail
Piton Savanne trail
Bel-ombre trail

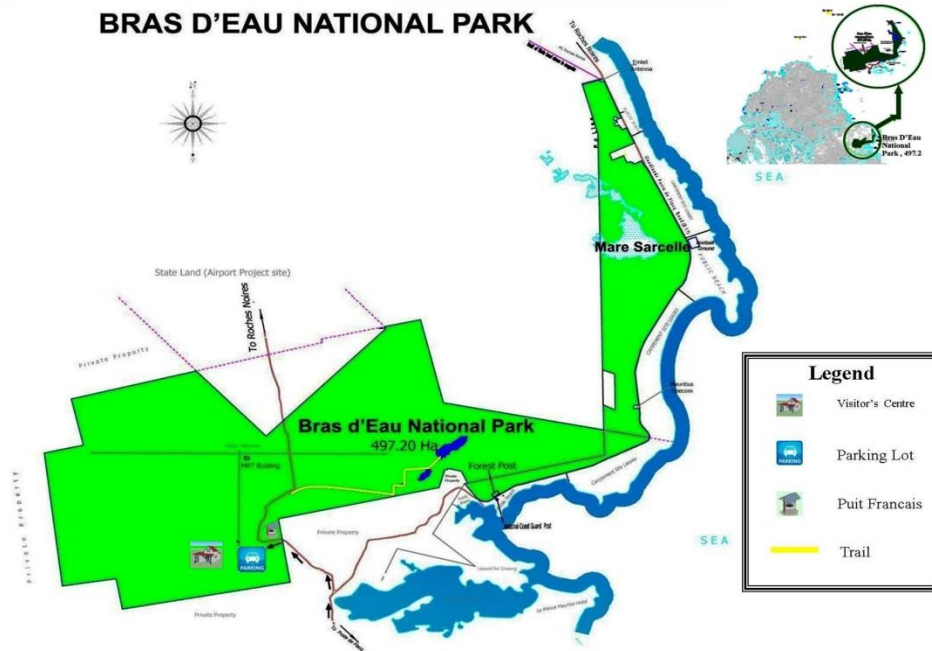


ALEXANDRA FALLS VIEW POINT

Visit to this viewpoint is a must. It offers a magnificent panorama of the south coast and the cloud forest of Mt. Cocotte.



BRAS D'EAU NATIONAL PARK



Bras D'Eau National Park Map

Bras d'Eau National Park was proclaimed as the second terrestrial National Park of Mauritius on the 25th October 2011 under Section 11(1) of the [Wildlife and National Parks Act 1993](#). It is located in the North East of the island and comprises part of State Land Bras d'Eau, part of Pas Geometriques Bras d'Eau and part of reserves of Poste Lafayette Pas Geometriques. It covers a total area of 497.2 ha and is mainly under Mahogany, Araucaria, Tecoma and Eucalyptus plantations. The name Bras d'Eau originated from the outline of the mass of water protruding in the land in the shape of an arm between Pointe Radeau and Belcourt Bay.

The eastern region is known for being a very hot and humid (avg. 80%). The mean temperature in summer varies from 22 °C to 28 °C while in winter it varies from 17 °C to 23 °C.

HISTORY

Mauritius emerged from the ocean floor some eight million years ago. Following the arrival of human some 400 years ago, the island was colonised and later the sugarcane industry became the major source of income for the inhabitants. During that period, Bras D'eau was chosen by some French owners for the construction of a sugar mill. During the years that followed, people had settled around the mill, and an entire village was created. After the sugar mill closed, people left the place as well. However they left behind them remains of an impressive architecture and infrastructure that bears testimony to the vibrant life that existed in the area years before.

Bras d'Eau National Park harbours patches of native vegetation as well as our endemic birds.

Some of them are illustrated below.



Figure 2: The very rare orchid *Oenellia Aphrodite*



Figure 3: Two spp of ebony (*Diospyros melanida* and *D.egrettarum*)



Figure 4: Paradise Flycatcher
(*Terpsiphone bourbonniensis desolata*)



Figure 5: Mauritius Grey-White Eye (*Zosterops borbonicus*)

Mare Sarcelle forms part of the Bras d'Eau National Park and covers an area of 89.37 ha. It consists of an important thriving population of mangroves, native plant species and also supports a few species of migratory birds. This site is ideal for recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching.



Figure 6: Mare Sarcelle



Figure 7: Migratory bird known as Whimbrel



Figure 8: Coastal Mangrove forest

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

Presently, there exist only two trails in the park:

- **Coq des Bois Trail** which takes you through the forest and ends at the Mares Chevrettes
- **Coq de Bois Loop** which is an extension of the existing Coq de Bois Trail.

The **Coq des Bois Trail** (5 km Return from Bras D'eau Visitor's Centre) is a fairly easy one. Though only 2.5 km long, visitors may easily enjoy the different aspects of a forest since there are dwarf trees as well as tall trees along the track.

BRAS D'EAU NATIONAL PARK - COQ DE BOIS LOOP


Welcome to the Bras d'Eau National Park.

The Coq de Bois Loop (*green*) is an extension of the existing track, the Coq de Bois Trail (*red*). This Loop allows you to go deeper into the forest whereby you can observe the Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher in its natural habitat.

On completion of the Loop, you can either go back the same track or continue on to the Coq de Bois Trail (*red*) towards Mare Sarcelle.


Distance: 5km | Difficulty: Easy | Duration: 2hrs

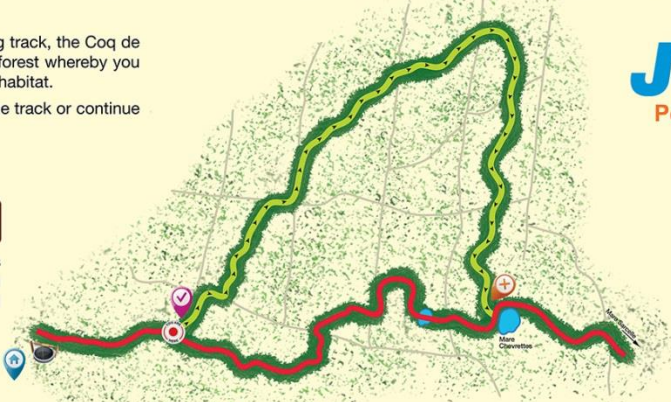
Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher
(Terpsiphone bourbonniensis desolata)



Also known as 'Coq de Bois', it is a species of bird in the Monarchidae family. Its natural habitat is usually subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

Do you want to learn more about the Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher?











An initiative of:


JCI

Port Louis


- You are here!
- Access Roads
- Coq de Bois Loop
- Coq de Bois Trail
- Main Office
- Start of Loop
- End of Loop
- Water Well
- Lake


MINISTRY OF
AGRO INDUSTRY
AND FOOD SECURITY




Sensation
Nature




gef



SGP
The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



UN
DP



Do's and Don'ts in the Parks



National Parks and Conservation Service
Black River Gorges National Parks



<i>Dos</i> ✓	<i>Don'ts</i> ✗
 <p>✓ You may take photos</p>	<p>✗ Don't pick fruits and flowers except from guava, raspberries and prunes</p> 
 <p>✓ Picnic spots</p>  <p>✓ Either use the bin to throw your litter or kindly take it back with you</p>	<p>✗ Don't throw your litter in the forests</p> 
 <p>✓ Day time recreation</p>	<p>✗ Don't bring pets & Don't interfere with animals and their nests</p>  
 <p>✓ Keep along the track</p>	<p>✗ Don't Light fire and/or cigarettes</p>   <p>✗ Don't put loud music or shout</p> 

National Parks and Conservation Service,
Head Office,
Reduit
Office: +230 464 4053
Fax: +230 466 0453