

# DELICIOUS MAURITIUS

As Simon A. Morrison continues his global clubbing quest, he finds clubbing in paradise rather Addictive...

**A**s per usual, DJmag has little idea where in the name of Philleas Phucking Phogg we are in the world. Prior to departure I trailed a finger around the globe at home with the kids, trying to find the island of Mauritius off the coast of India — and was only a couple of thousand miles out of whack. We eventually found it, the tiniest fleck off the East coast of Africa, almost mistaking it for dust dandruff on the earth's scalp, tucked away behind the larger island of Madagascar. The finger that trailed over the globe is now the plane in which we sit and look down over an essentially volcanic island. Mountainous rock ranges are formed as though someone rippled the geological fabric of the island like a tablecloth. Beneath the mountains lie fields upon fields of sugar cane. Ergo... rum-based drinks are in abundance. Ergo... we need to move this party to a bar.

Towards the West of the island we arrive in the town of Flic en Flac — a French phrase that denotes the swerving road that takes you down to the Sands Resort, where we proceed to flic en flac to the bar. Cocktail in hand, we then hit the beach where, beneath pregnant palms, we catch up with the man with the Mauritian mission: Ziggy Ruhomutally.

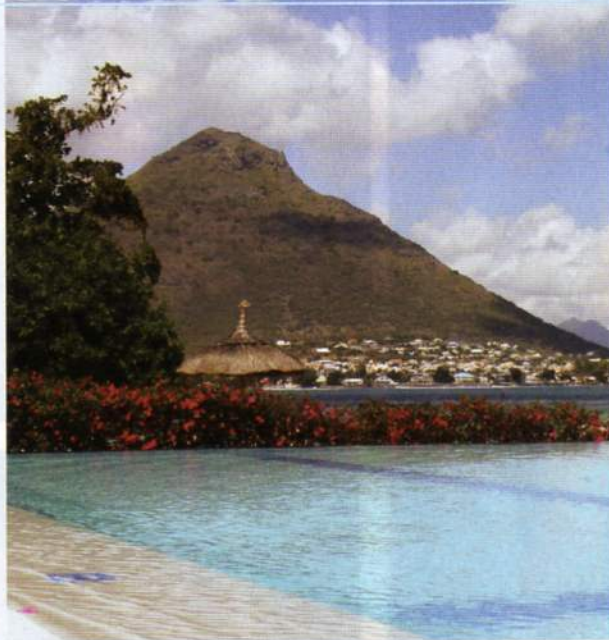
"The genesis of the idea was to try to promote Mauritius as a more popular destination for clubbers," says Ziggy, the waves lapping like a thirsty liquid pet at our feet, "and make it more of an upper-class Ibiza." Ah yes, that old chestnut. However, to be fair to Ziggy, he's not attempting to discover The New Ibiza — as Columbus discovered The New World — more that there may be space for another island for those who have already rinsed Ibiza for all it's worth and now wish to indulge their lives in a little more luxury. All that's missing is the funk, and Ziggy is here to bring that on, with his night Addictive. Brought up in the UK but of Mauritian descent, Ziggy has experienced the best of both worlds. "It's a niche market," he says. "Mauritius is known to honeymooners, wedding makers and expats but what I'm trying to do is break that a little bit, to bring the big brands out here so people can follow the beat and party in paradise." Ziggy my friend, you can sign this Ibiza Veteran up for all activities. You may imagine a trip to Mauritius would cost thousands but think on. A grand don't go far in Ibiza these days. Put that money into the long haul flight and once you're in situ, Mauritius is as cheap as rum-flavoured chips. Says Ziggy: "Coming out here you've got beautiful beaches, beautiful women — the

food's great, the people are great. What more can you ask for?" Us holiday ravers spend our days hidden amongst such honeymooners, draped inelegantly around the resort like spit-roasting lizards, grappling with that most existential of dilemmas — to go to the beach or the pool? We go slowly native, like the stranded children in Lord of the Flies, following the beach like a yellow brick road. On one walk DJmag finds Jimmy the Hat wearing a garland of twigs atop his head, brandishing a Gandalf staff and growling like a feral child. That evening we scrub up well enough to join Addictive resident DJ Antony Angell (an angel of the north) plus the Ministry dancers and Stonebridge for dinner. Strange beaked birds with Mohicans flutter down to the table to join us. Jimmy grapples with a bug in his burger (a la carte-a-pillar, perhaps?) while DJmag chats with Stonebridge about getting jiggy with Ziggy. "He can pull it off here," says Stoney. "They're already well on the way — there's a big edge because they've got summer when we've got winter, it's not too far from Dubai and there is no real time difference." Although Stonebridge gives a third of his time to producing, and another to remixing, he now appreciates the need to

keep a third for gigs like this, to actually play the stuff as well. Commenting on his previous four-year hiatus from DJing, Stonebridge revealed: "I realised if you want to do dance music, you have to play. Keep your beats fresh." In search of fresh beats we head out to the North of the island, where most of the disco action is to be found. The clubs on the whole all seem to be small-to-medium sized — it's difficult to see how they will accommodate a combination of Addictive, Ministry of Sound and Stonebridge. When we arrive it's quickly apparent though. On the site of the Anjalay Stadium, Ziggy has arranged the construction of a



The Ministry dancers



## TRAVEL TIPS MAURITIUS

### CASE NOTES

Mauritius was a British colony as recently as 13 years ago and they still have UK plug sockets. The French influence is also felt, with Creole spoken.

### GETTING THERE

Direct flights run from airports like Newcastle and Heathrow (with BA) and Virgin run holidays ([virginholidays.com](http://virginholidays.com)). We flew from Manchester via Dubai with Emirates — a fabulous airline.

### TO SLEEP

A variety of resorts are available, but Sands should be your first port of call. Run by Sanjiv, it has a fabulous beach and pool combo. You can also rent villas for 30 euros a day.

### FOOD

Blacksteer is a great steak house in the capital, Port Louis. Also make sure you try a dish called vadamotoo — coconut breaded tuna steak. Yum.

### SHOPPING

There's the usual tourist tat plus more fashionable clobber from East Sider, available in Port Louis. Other labels are available from Caudan Waterfront, a popular tourist place for shopping and gambling.

### TO DO

Visit the botanical gardens or the Black River District, as well as Trou Aux Cerfs, the extinct volcano in the town of Curepipe. For adventure try Mayz Marine, ([info@mayzmarine.com](mailto:info@mayzmarine.com) or call +2302633535) for big game fishing. Good beaches include Perebere and Mont Choisy, situated in the North.

### PARTIES

On 8th December Yves Larock plays Anjalay Stadium, which also features a fashion show. On 22nd December Jimmy and Antony play back-to-back, with Antoine Clamaran headlining.

### MORE INFO

Ziggy's company Mayzi ([mayzi.net](http://mayzi.net)) is the exclusive representative for MOS, Hed Kandi and Fierce Angel in Mauritius and Reunion Island.



marquee that could accommodate all of the spiders from Mars. It's a Tonka of a disco, a steel-framed Goliath, with staging at one end, a subsidiary area for overspill (with its own bars and video screen to the main stage), a VIP area and VIP area. Get yer gums around these stats: 66 police, 50 security and 50 bar staff servicing 60 metres of bars. That's a lot of work for a disco.

"I want to bring nightclubs here," Ziggy smiles. "For a Ministry of Sound event there isn't a nightclub big enough, and that's why we built one."

Antony kicks things off, slamming it back-to-back with our own Jimmy Bell,

who switches between playing records and taking photos with all the ease of someone, well, changing hats. The dancers spin around on the stage with a nimbleness that exhausts you just to look at it. Salivating punters throw condoms at the stage. The atmosphere has a baggy energy to it, crackling between dancers and crowd; between DJs and dancefloor. DJmag takes a stroll into the guts of the party — 4000 Mauritians losing it big style. From the perspective of the dancefloor, the party goes off like a firecracker in a virgin's Y-fronts. "We just wanted to show we're party people," says Ziggy. "And we want people to come and enjoy themselves."

As Stonebridge pulls the monitors closer and hits play and Jimmy and Antony sign autographs, even the VIP is bouncing, and those cats never seem to enjoy themselves too much.

In the parlance of the western, there's a new disco in town. Let's face it, once honeymooners have filled their boots to overflowing with champagne and chocolates they're not usually going to want to do much besides hang out the 'Do Not Disturb' sign, lock the hotel door and indulge in that most private party a deux... none in, none out. And that leaves plenty of parties for the rest of us in the plump paradise of delicious Mauritius.

Antony Angell (left) and Jimmy Bell, Addictive Tours residents

