

Travel

French Tourism Journalist returns to Seychelles for her Podcast and Magazine

Ms Saliha Hadj-Djilani, a specialized tourism journalist, author of a hundred travel guide books for one of France's largest travel book company, upscale French Magazine Editor in Chief, podcast and radio host, expresses her joy at returning to Seychelles for the second time in one year; in an exclusive interview with TODAY.

by K. Gendron

Miss Saliha Hadj-Djilani was lured to the Seychelles for its safety in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic by having an excellent vaccination program and PCR testing prior to travel in and out of the country. Saliha was drawn to Seychelles because of the way the island's nature is preserved, as well as its culture and welcoming people. She describes how vital it is in her line of work to speak with the locals since it is only through them that she can truly understand the country and its tradition. "It is good to speak to locals and really staying with them because they will make you understand the country and its history."

Saliha had longed to travel the world since she was four years old. "It is really a dream for me to do that and I could fulfil it because for me it's important to follow your dreams." She had an office job in television production when she decided to change career to fulfil her dream of travelling.

Saliha began working as a travel journalist for Le Petit Futé, one of France's biggest travel book company, 10 years ago, and has since authored around 100 travel guide books. This enabled her to fulfill a lifelong ambition of traveling the world while working and doing something she loves. Cuba, Miami, Florida, Hawaii and Algeria are among her favorite and mainly frequented destinations. She compares one of her favorite destinations, Cuba, to the Seychelles, explaining how similar the two countries are. "I would compare Cuba with the Seychelles, because the people are sociable, they enjoy a good barbeque and they like to have rum." Saliha has been allowed to continue her travels now that the lockdowns have been lifted, where she began writing travel guide books again digitally. She has just written the first travel guide for digital nomads for Petit Futé with 29 destinations all around the world including some in France.

Her podcast channel Le Podtrips de Saliha (podcasts autour de voyage) was launched three years ago, and it quickly grew in popularity during the COVID-19 outbreak; when most countries were forced to close their borders. Saliha's podcast is acces-



Miss Saliha Hadj-Djilani

sible on Soundcloud, Spotify and Apple Podcast, as well as TourMag; a popular travel website with 2 million monthly visitors in France and French-speaking countries (tourmag.com.) It was through her podcast during the COVID-19 pandemic that she was able to interview people from other countries to continue creating content for TourMaG.

One particular interview she did on her podcast and wrote for Tourmag.com was of her May-June trip to the Seychelles earlier in the year, with Minister for Tourism and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde. Saliha was overjoyed to learn that her podcast and article had received a lot of attention on the website. She rejoiced that the largest national French TV - 'TF1' had approached her for an interview about her views on tourism in the Seychelles, resulting in her being included in the same TF1 reporting as Minister Radegonde, after TF1 conducted an interview with him as well.

Saliha is the Editor-in-Chief of Escapade magazine, in addition to her well-known work as a travel journalist for Le Petit Futé and TourMag.com. Escapade is an upscale travel magazine published every three months in France with a circulation of 40 thousand copies. "Escapade is a new, contemporary way of talking about travel, including staycations, healthy retreats, the best of hotels and spas in the world and city breaks in Europe and France where people visit countries such as Barcelona". Saliha also presents a live four-minute radio show on one of France's largest radio stations 'RMC' live and daily each summer, which she has been doing for the past

two years, speaking about travel destinations as a representative of Le Petit Futé.

Saliha confesses that, despite the pleasures and advantages of travel, she has been apprehensive at times while on a vacation. She mentioned two incidents while she was a young student on vacation in South America, where she found herself in precarious situations. She advises anyone who desires to travel, to avoid making risky judgments and to always trust their instincts and intuitions.

Furthermore, one aspect of travel with which Saliha has had a number of encounters is PCR testing; she laughs as she realizes that this is what she must do in order to continue living her dream, and that she believes her nose has grown accustomed to it by now, but she also recognizes the seriousness of the situation in that if the result is positive, she will be stuck in a country.

Saliha has been in the Seychelles since early December, where she stayed at the Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Resort Casino and Spa. She had a podcast interview with Mr. Norazman Chung, the General Manager, and chronicled the hotel for her magazine due to its historical value. During her last visit to Seychelles, Saliha stayed at Augerine Hotel at Beau Vallon and had nothing but praise for it.

Saliha expressed her gratitude to the people she met in Seychelles, particularly Mr. Dominic Ward Horner of L'Habitation Hotel on Cerf Island, from whom she learned a lot about the history of the Seychelles' islands, young entrepreneur Mr. Zayn Ebrahim of Ocean Blue Travel Agency in Seychelles, who has been of great assistance to her, and Mrs. Nexi

Dennis, Manager of Marcom and Events at the Berjaya Hotel, who has made her stay at the Berjaya welcoming.

Saliha is spending her last week at L'Habitation Cerf Island, which she adores and is conveniently located near Ile Moyenne, one of her favorite story-telling islands. Saliha will be writing an article for Escapade magazine and recording her podcast on hotels in the Seychelles. She also has plans to visit the best beaches in the Seychelles, which she believes will be perfect for the magazine. After leaving Seychelles, the journalist will travel to the UAE to record her weekly lifestyle 4-minute radio show, 'Les Bonnes Adresses des Emirats,' which will be broadcast on the French-speaking program, 'Salut les Émirats,' from 10 p.m. to midnight on Star FM, a national radio station of the UAE belonging to Abu Dhabi medias, from Sunday to Thursday. Miss Saliha Hadj-Djilani's Instagram account is @salihajournaliste where she also documents her travels throughout the world in short videos and photos. Escapade magazine can be found on <https://boutiquecpresse.com/fr/magazines-loisirs/1624-escapade-n3.html>



Escapade Magazine



Saliha interviewing the General Manager of Berjaya Resort for her podcast Mr. Norazman Chung

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