

MAURITIUS NA MILEGI DOBARA

Three water sports in **MAURITIUS** can make you create your life-long moments with friends. **ANINDYA SUNDAR BASU** comes back with some great memories



Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara was loved by different people for different reasons. Some fell in love with Laila, the scuba diver, some drooled over Imraan Qureshi, while some wished to have Arjun Saluja as their beau. A *nayansukh* film, as they call it now, had also given some major friendship goals for all the viewers. Friendship tests over three most popular adventure sports of deep sea diving, skydiving and running with the bulls, was shown on the screen for the first time and remain etched in our hearts forever. As I toured around Mauritius, I discovered the places where you can create your own *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* moments.

Mauritius is known for its pristine beaches and premium luxury hospitality across the island. Water sports come as a natural tourist attraction. As you walk around the white beaches, the temptation to feel the water in various blue shades and turquoise, in particular, is irresistible. One can laze around in the tarmacs or bean bags or beach chairs at the beach with the Indian Ocean gently caressing the feet. For the adventurous ones, there are few sports which will give the necessary high adrenaline rush fix.

SUBMARINE DIVE: It's a life-time experience to go down to a depth of 35 metres in the Indian Ocean. From the office of the blue safari submarine, the speed boat carries you to the mid sea. The passengers are transferred to another ship anchored here and then climb down into the submarine. The pilot, as they call the guide and the driver of the submarine, is well versed with technical part and he is a certified marine biologist.



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ogist. It's a 40 minute ride where you can see a wrecked ship which is strategically placed, so the corals can grow. As you cruise along, you get to see spectacular live corals and marine fish. You might suddenly end up with a tete-a-tete with a lion fish, one of the most dangerous ones. The submarine has glass windows on its sides, where it makes you feel as close as possible to the marine life. As in the song — *A Whole New World* — the lines "no one to tell us no, or where to go or say we are only dreaming" fits perfectly when you see the life under. Blue safari office is located in Coastal Road, Trou aux Biches Mauritius and a 40 min-ride will cost you around Rs 6,000.

FLY BOARDING: Since this started with Hrithik Roshan, I will flashback to that scene in *Bang Bang*, where he surfaced out of the water with a pair of guns in his hands. A favourite water sports of West, big Hollywood stars like Leonardo Di Caprio is a fan of this sport. A sport where no prior training is needed, fly

boarding can make you feel on top of the world. If you want to throw a challenge for your friends, then this is the one. You have to first wear a life jacket and after an initial training for 15 - 20 minutes on the art of floating and understanding the basics, the fun starts. The small board,

a lookalike of a snow board with jet pumps attached under it, is called fly board. The water pump beneath the feet will make you fly on top of Indian Ocean and at that point of time, leave aside Hrithik, you may also feel like Iron Man. You may, most definitely, be tempted to fit in a few stunts in the excitement. A private session of around 90 minutes will be around Rs 10,000 and in a group it will be less.

SEA KART: After *Bang Bang*, *Iron Man* — now time to feel like James Bond. This is a sport which can be done alone, with a friend or as a couple too. If couple of friends are travelling together, then this one acts as a perfect unwinding time and a great team building activity too. The thrill and the fear together makes this a fantastic adventure sport. You can try some tricks and stunts too. Seakarting is one rare experience, which is available only in Mauritius. There is a guided tour taking you through various stops for a half a day. It takes a while to come to terms with the

functionality of the seakart. It does not have a break and the pressure on the hand accelerator located at the steering, controls the speed. Speaking of stunts, the best one is to ride the large waves and land after that. Bright sun on your face, water splashing from the waves and you feel like a superhero out there, to face the evils of the big bad world.

These are only three of many water sports which are available in Mauritius like snorkeling, water skiing, under water scooter, to name a few. Most of these places would not allow you to carry your own camera and even carrying the mobile is not suggested. The staff at all the places will be more than happy to capture those memorable moments for you and they have a provision for additional camera men, which is chargeable. A country rich in flora and fauna, water sports is not all that Mauritius has to offer. If you are up for some adventure sports on land, then try out the zip lining or quad biking. Or perhaps, leave that for another trip.

PHOTO: INTERCONTINENTAL MAURITIUS RESORT

