



Why (did I come to) Reunion?

Part I

Very often, when we **native English speakers** meet people for the first time here in Reunion, one of the most common questions we get asked is: 'why on earth did you come to Reunion?' It's **funny**, you don't hear the same question for people who have come from Mainland France, but I guess that's because it's **commonplace**. But when we say 'I'm from Melbourne' or 'London' or 'Texas' the reaction of people is often this **amazed** look on their face, going wow! Why would someone as cool as you come to a place like Reunion?

Well, we all have our different reasons. For me, it was a collection of about five or six. **First and foremost**, I was living and working in London, but it felt so boring, **predictable** and I was having a fun time I suppose, but I knew that if I didn't leave then, I would never leave, and the prospect of spending the next fifty years in the same place **scared** me to death.

Number two was that it was also 1999, which meant that I wanted to mark the beginning of this new millennium with an **outstanding** experience, one which would really put me to the test.

The plan was to spend six months here, and then see how I felt **afterwards**. 99% of me thought I would be back in the UK within a year, but there's always that little 1%, that little **spark** which leads us to do adventurous things, to take new risks, and also to break the **mould**. Like many people, society **expected** me to get a job in the same place I was born, and follow the **crowd**.

But that would have meant staying in England...

Which brings me to reason number three: the climate. I'll admit it: sunshine makes me happy. Rainclouds and **gloomy** skies get me down. Before London I had lived in Beziers and Montpellier, and had fallen in love with the south of France. And reason number four was the language. **What's the point** of spending four years studying a language and never using it? I had to get back to the strange and exotic world of croissants, fine wines and the joys of the subjunctive tense.

So it was a classic example of when you know exactly what you want, and **you go for it** – my criteria: somewhere hot, French, adventurous and unique. Someone suggested a **tiny** place in the Indian Ocean, and off I went. Reunion Island it was.

They say that the rest is history, but the second question I often get asked, and this will be Part II of this podcast, is 'Why on earth did you stay...?'





Vocabulary

native English speakers - anglophones

funny - marrant

commonplace - courant

amazed - étonné

first and foremost - tout d'abord

predictable - prévisible

scared - effrayé

outstanding - remarquable

afterwards - après cela

spark - étincelle

mould - moule

to expect - s'attendre

crowd - foule

gloomy - lugubre

what's the point - quel est l'intérêt?

you go for it - tu te lances

tiny - minuscule

