



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard *Hebridean Sky*

December 5–20, 2023



DEAR NATIONAL TRUST TRAVELER,

We are pleased to offer you an extraordinary cruise for those who love the natural world and all its wonders. The star is Madagascar, a thousand-mile island boasting an impressive variety of spectacular landscapes from pristine coral reefs and coastal mangroves to virgin rain forests and native baobab trees. Geographically isolated for millions of years, nearly all of Madagascar's intriguing animals and plants are found nowhere else on Earth, including nearly 100 varieties of lemurs.

To maximize the time in Madagascar, this expedition begins with a private charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Toliara, Madagascar, avoiding the two-day crossing of the rough Mozambique Channel by ship. In the company of expert study leader David Meyers, **spend eleven days exploring Madagascar's marine reserves and national parks, traveling in comfort aboard the all-suite *Hebridean Sky***. Then, leaving the wonders of Madagascar behind, arrive at Réunion Island, a paradisiacal French outpost, to explore its white-sand beaches, spectacular dormant volcanoes, and vibrant Creole character. Disembark on the island of Mauritius, the perfect ending to our voyage, taking in its unique cultural riches and geologic wonders before flying back to the U.S.

This unique journey to Madagascar and its neighboring islands is sure to generate interest, so we encourage you to reserve your space by calling our office at (888) 484-8785 today!

Sincerely,



Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.



THIS PHOTO: BAOBABS AT SUNSET

ON THE COVER: AVENUE OF BAOBABS; FOSSA; MADAGASCAR BEACH; TREE FROG AT MASOALA N.P.

BACK COVER: SIFAKA LEMUR

STUDY LEADER

David Meyers is an environmental finance expert and entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy and management, environmental economics, international conservation and development, environmental impact assessment, training, and education and research in ecology and evolution. In Madagascar, he helped the country plan and execute a doubling of the area under conservation. He holds a Doctorate in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. He spent much of his time in the 80s and 90s conducting research on lemurs in Madagascar as well as working for nature conservation. He is the co-author of the first two editions of the Field Guide to the Lemurs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Explore Madagascar in depth** from the convenience and comfort of the all-suite expedition ship *Hebridean Sky*, avoiding the delays and difficulties experienced when trying to explore the country overland, and reach intimate sites larger cruise ships cannot.
- ◆ **See lemurs up close in their natural habitat**, including the red ruffed lemur and the aye-aye, and learn about the conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- ◆ **Cruise into dramatic Antsiranana**, set on a stunning natural harbor with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants.
- ◆ **Visit the Durrell Breeding Program** to learn about the efforts being made to protect the ploughshare tortoise, one of the most threatened breeds in the world.
- ◆ **Snorkel in the warm and pristine waters** around Nosy Tanikely, a tiny, uninhabited island surrounded by sandy beaches and a shallow coral reef teeming with fish and turtles.
- ◆ **Take in the beauty of Masoala National Park**, one of the most diverse virgin rain forests in Madagascar, hosting half of all flora and fauna found on the island.





ALDABRA TORTOISE



TSINGY ON NOSY HARA



ANTSIRANANA



PRODUCE MARKET

ITINERARY

Tuesday–Wednesday,
December 5–6

U.S / Johannesburg, South Africa

Fly overnight to Johannesburg, where we meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception this evening.

INTERCONTINENTAL JOHANNESBURG (R)

Thursday, December 7

Johannesburg / Toliara, Madagascar

This morning board a charter flight to Toliara on the southwest coast of Madagascar. After arriving explore the Antsokay Arboretum and learn about its fantastic collection of endemic plants. Board the *Hebridean Sky* this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, December 8

Toliara

Today visit the curious spiny forest region, a unique ecosystem that exists only in the southern part of Madagascar, and view the spectacular baobab trees at Reniala Private Reserve. The reserve is a paradise for birds and home to the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise and warty chameleon.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 9

Morondava

After breakfast, depart to see the Avenue of Baobabs, an extraordinary stand of the iconic massive trees, followed

by free time at the market in Morondava. Or, visit the Kirindy Reserve, home to the greatest density and diversity of primates on Earth, as well as dozens of amphibian species. Look for the narrow-striped mongoose, the cat-like fossa, and seven lemur species, including the smallest known primate, the pygmy mouse lemur.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 10

At Sea

During a day at sea, enjoy the on-board lecture program as the *Hebridean Sky* cruises along the island's west coast.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Monday, December 11

Mahajanga

Drive to Ankarafantsika National Park, a vast reserve boasting a remarkable range of flora and fauna, for guided walks in search of wildlife. One of Madagascar's finest parks for birdwatching, it's home to 129 identified species, including the Van Dam's vanga. Learn about the medicinal plants and flowers that the locals used for centuries, try to glimpse tiny mouse lemurs and visit the breeding program established by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in 1986 to protect the critically endangered ploughshare tortoise.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 12

Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve

After a morning of cruising and on-board lectures, arrive at Nosy Tanikely's marine reserve for an afternoon of snorkeling. Recognized for its outstanding marine biodiversity, the reserve offers some of the best snorkeling in the area, with a spectacular coral reef teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 13

Nosy Hara National Park

Nosy Hara means "mountainous island" in Malagasy and it's considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. The island offers a stunning bay, sandy beaches and the unique, sharply eroded limestone spikes known as Tsingy formations. Hike the low circular path on the island, or choose the steeper path to a sweeping viewpoint. Then relax on a beautiful beach in the afternoon.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 14

Antsirana

Cruise around Madagascar's northernmost point and into Antsirana's glorious natural harbor for a guided tour of the town. Later climb aboard a four-wheel-drive vehicle to drive to Amber



RING-TAILED LEMUR



RÉUNION HIGHLANDS



MAURITIUS



CHAMAREL

Mountain National Park for tropical rain forest walks. During our walks, see lush flora and waterfalls, look for the common crowned lemur, spot volcanic lakes and perhaps count more than 40 varieties of butterfly.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, December 15

Nosy Mangabe

After a morning of cruising and lectures, spend the afternoon exploring Nosy Mangabe, a small island reserve of virgin rain forest and home to an unusual nocturnal lemur called the aye-aye. Take Zodiacs ashore for nature walks and look for black-and-white ruffed lemurs, colorful paradise flycatchers and many other types of wildlife.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 16

Masoala National Park

Explore this national park's coastal rain forest, dense marshes and stands of mangrove. Search for a variety of colorful chameleons, geckos and, of course, lemurs, including the red-ruffed lemur native to this area. Stop at Ambodiforaha village to meet with the locals and shop in the market there.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 17

At Sea

The educational program continues during a final full day at sea en route to Réunion, a rain forest-studded island outpost hundreds of miles into the Indian Ocean.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Monday, December 18

Réunion, France

Visit the island of Réunion's central highlands, a spectacular rugged landscape of active, dormant, extinct, and collapsed volcanoes. See picturesque villages that dot the verdant landscape and learn about vanilla production at a small family-run plantation. Enjoy the captain's farewell reception this evening on board our ship before crossing to the neighboring island of Mauritius.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,R,D)

Tuesday, December 19

Port Louis, Mauritius / Disembark / Depart

After breakfast, disembark and discover the unique history of Port Louis and the island of Mauritius at the Citadel of Fort Louis and Aapravasi Ghat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the immigration depot where the modern indentured labor

diaspora began. Explore Chamarel, an eye-catching region of tropical flora, hidden waterfalls, and undulating sand dunes displaying an array of colors. Then visit the Bois Cheri tea plantation for a refreshing cup of tea before departing for the airport for flights home. (B,L)

Wednesday, December 20

Arrive U.S.



Pre-trip Extension: Safari at Sabi Sands Reserve

December 1–6

Experience the "big five" and more at South Africa's Kruger National Park.



Post-trip Extension: Mauritius

December 19–22

Further explore the lush landscape of Mauritius and learn about its long colonial history.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

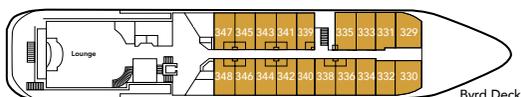
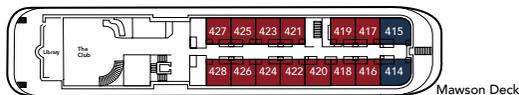
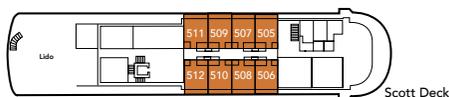
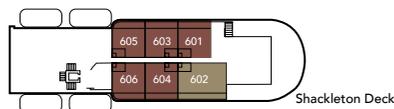
HEBRIDEAN SKY



The all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016 and further enhancements since, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Hebridean Sky's* chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
A	STANDARD SUITE (forward) portholes; 238 sq. ft.	\$12,990	\$20,790
B	STANDARD SUITE portholes; 238 sq. ft.	\$13,990	\$22,390
C	SUPERIOR SUITE picture window; 226–241 sq. ft.	\$15,490	\$24,790
D	PREMIUM SUITE picture window; 221 sq. ft.	\$16,990	—
E	CORNER SUITE picture windows; 224 sq. ft.	\$17,990	—
F	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 221 sq. ft. plus 40 sq. ft. balcony	\$18,990	—
G	OWNER'S CORNER BALCONY SUITE 245 sq. ft. plus 83 sq. ft. balcony	\$22,990	—
H	HEBRIDEAN SUITE 349 sq. ft. plus 101 sq. ft. balcony	\$24,990	—



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners, and **12 nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*** · Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations · **Charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Toliara, Madagascar** · Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates · **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities** · Entrance fees and port charges · Welcome and farewell wine receptions · **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all meals aboard *Hebridean Sky*** · Bottled water on motorcoaches · Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information · A team of expert naturalists · Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven beaches, steep and sandy trails, dirt streets and paths in small villages). You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for most excursions. Please note that some locations involve wet landings. All participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. As of publication, SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 92 participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details will be advised prior to departure.

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare · Passport/visa expenses · Medical expenses, immunizations, and COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel · Travel and trip cancellation insurance · Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days · Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options · Airline baggage charges · Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted · Laundry or dry cleaning · Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges · Room service · Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Travel Delay, Baggage Delay, Baggage Loss, Emergency Medical and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for ANY reason at all and be reimbursed up to 70% of your pre-paid, non-refundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is August 7, 2023. For those who register on or after August 7, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After final payment deadline on August 7, 2023, all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2023 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-00

MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard *Hebridean Sky*

December 5–20, 2023

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call **National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785**. Or, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, **payable to Criterion Travel**. Mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

NAME #1 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #2 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____

E-MAIL(s) _____

PAYMENT

Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD _____ DATE _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve _____ place(s) on **Madagascar to Mauritius**

NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERSHIP

I am/We are National Trust Members. My/Our membership # is _____

I am/We are not National Trust members. Please enroll me/us as members. (\$20 individual; \$30 family)

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations.

or I plan to share accommodations with: _____

or I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of August 7, 2023, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours
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info@nationaltrusttours.com

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