



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Seychelles & Madagascar



Islands of the Indian Ocean Aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky*

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 7, 2027



Silky Sifaka
lemur

Dear Traveler,

THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY CRUISE for travelers who love the natural world and all its wonders. Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, the 115 islands that make up the Seychelles are known for crystal-clear waters, endless stretches of powdery white-sand beaches, their diverse and vibrant marine ecosystem, and a range of unique plant and animal species.

Your journey starts in Mahé, the largest island in the Seychelles archipelago and home to 90 percent of the country's population. After a day of exploration in Mahé, embark the 59-cabin *Island Sky* and cruise to the Outer Islands of the Seychelles, then travel to the remote Alphonse group, and finally to Aldabra, a vast coral atoll that is home to the world's largest population of giant tortoises (over 100,000). The experienced Expedition Team of naturalists will lead several guided nature walks, plus there will be many opportunities for snorkeling among colorful reef fish, interesting coral formations, and various marine creatures.

Continue to 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 groves of 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 species of lemurs. This program utilizes six full days to explore Madagascar's best marine reserves and national parks from the comfort of the *Island Sky*, including a private charter flight between Madagascar and Johannesburg, all accentuated by a robust set of lectures from an outstanding team of experts. Travelers will have the option of a post-trip safari near Kruger National Park, South Africa.

With kind regards,

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.

Study Leaders

WALTER JOHNSON
and **ALISON FRANK** with
Harvard Alumni Travels

WAYNE SENTMAN with
the Oceanic Society

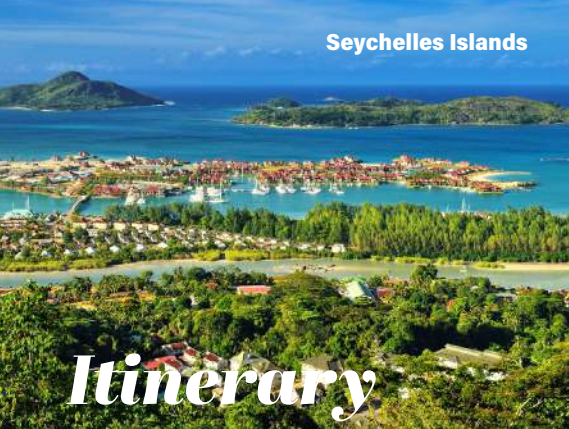
Will provide a series of
engaging presentations and
discussions for travelers



Giant Aldabra tortoise

Highlights

- Explore the Seychelles and Madagascar in depth from the **convenience and comfort of the Island Sky** and its fleet of Zodiacs, avoiding the delays and difficulties experienced when trying to explore the country overland.
- Birders will enjoy spotting **many different species of birds in the Seychelles**, including grey heron, wedge-tailed shearwater, sanderling, greater crested terns, frigatebirds, Abbot's sunbirds, crested bulbul, Madagascar fody, and more.
- On Praslin Island, explore the **UNESCO World Heritage Vallée de Mai**, the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest, home to the rare and endangered coco de mer palm tree. It produces the largest and heaviest seed in the world which can weigh up to 40 pounds.
- Look for **lemurs up close in their natural habitat**, including the red ruffed lemur, and learn about conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- Snorkelers will delight in the **diverse marine life**, such as Moorish idols, peacock grouper, lyretail grouper, pompano, barracuda, giant clams, blacktip reef sharks, sea cucumbers, batfish, trevally, parrotfish, angelfish, turtles, manta rays, and more.
- Discover **Madagascar's remarkable flora and fauna** found nowhere else in the world as well as wild landscapes with invaluable biodiversity—the Avenue of the Baobabs has 800-year-old specimens of these magical “upside down trees.”
- Enjoy the **flexibility of optional excursions and walks for all levels** whenever possible so travelers can pursue individual interests and sights at their own pace.
- An included **private charter flight from Tulear, Madagascar, to Johannesburg, South Africa**, avoids the two-day crossing of the Mozambique Channel by ship.



many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. The sheer drop-off of the Amirantes Trench lends itself to rich currents and an abundance of fish & marine life. The sandy shores are also important nesting grounds for hawksbill and green sea turtles. Nesting birds include Chinese and blue herons, whimbrels, fodies, noddies, greater frigatebirds and fairy terns.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

At Sea

Enjoy a full day at sea to experience the amenities of the ship and attend the lecture series while cruising to the Outer Seychelles Islands. *ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

Cosmoledo / Astove, Seychelles

In the morning, call at Cosmoledo Atoll in the Aldabra Island Group, where a ring of islands surrounds a turquoise lagoon and seabirds fill the skies, including all three Seychelles booby species. This afternoon, visit Astove Atoll, known for offering some of the best snorkeling among the 115 islands of the Seychelles archipelago. Go ashore for a walk before snorkeling in crystal-clear waters.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23-24*

Home / Mahé, Seychelles

Depart the U.S. for Mahé, Seychelles, arriving October 24. Settle into the Savoy Resort & Spa, located on Beau Vallon Beach, where you'll find elegantly appointed rooms equipped with a private balcony or terrace. Gather this evening to meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception and orientation. Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa (R)

** Flight times vary by gateway city; some flights might depart as early as October 22 to arrive on October 24.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

Mahé

Tour National Botanical Garden of Seychelles with its vibrant endemic tropical flowers and learn about the conservation and restoration projects underway. After a delicious Creole lunch, explore the National Museum of History, which offers informative exhibits on Seychellois culture and heritage. Board the *Island Sky* this afternoon. *ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

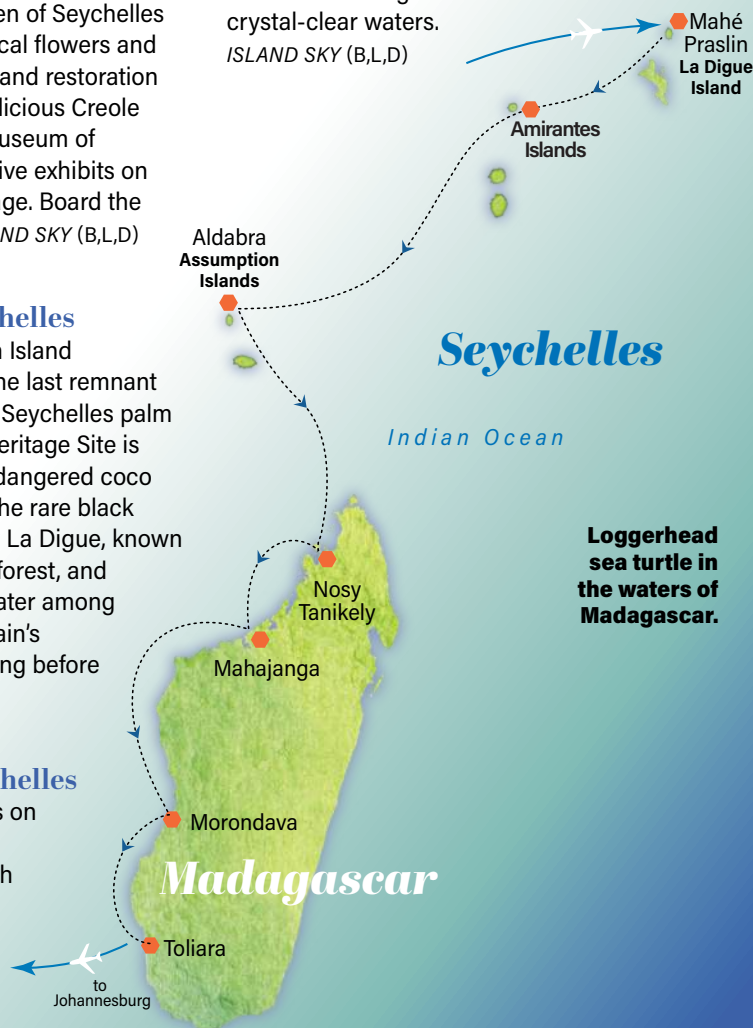
Praslin / La Digue, Seychelles

Spend the morning on Praslin Island exploring the Vallée de Mai, the last remnant of the original high-canopied Seychelles palm forest. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the endemic and endangered coco de mer palm tree, as well as the rare black parrot. In the afternoon, enjoy La Digue, known for its granite rocks and lush forest, and snorkel in the crystal-clear water among the colorful fish. Enjoy a captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner. *ISLAND SKY (B,L,R,D)*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27

Poivre, Amirantes, Seychelles

In the morning, enjoy lectures on board as you cruise to the Amirantes Island Group, which harbor many important bird, plant, and reptile species. This afternoon, call at Poivre, Amirantes, considered by



Seychelles

Indian Ocean

Loggerhead sea turtle in the waters of Madagascar.

Madagascar

to
Johannesburg



Frigate
birds



Chameleon
Furcifer Pardalis
in Madagascar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Aldabra Group, Outer Seychelles

Visit Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982 and the world's largest raised coral atoll, home to more than 100,000 giant tortoises. This vast atoll consists of a ring of four reef islands surrounding a massive emerald lagoon, with channels linking the lagoon to the ocean. Explore the crystal-clear waters of the lagoon on Zodiacs and snorkel among the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Assumption, Seychelles

Choose to snorkel or take a nature walk on Assumption Island, where you can search for the Assumption Island day gecko and enjoy identifying the diverse birdlife. Depart from the Seychelles and spend the afternoon cruising to Madagascar, with time set aside for lectures. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Nosy Tanikely National Park, Madagascar

Snorkel at Nosy Tanikely National Park. This protected marine reserve is celebrated for its exceptional biodiversity and carefully preserved ecosystems and is widely regarded as one of the finest snorkeling sites in the region. Its crystal-clear waters reveal an unspoiled coral reef teeming with vibrant marine life and an extraordinary spectrum of tropical fish. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Mahajanga, Madagascar

Enjoy a morning visit to "Lac Sacré," or Sacred Lake, to learn about the significance of its clear waters and the sacred trees along the lakeshore. Walk through nearby mango trees to observe sifaka lemurs, iguanas, lizards, and colorful birdlife in their natural habitat. There will be an opportunity to swim at a beachside resort, followed by a visit to a local batik workshop to observe the traditional wax-and-dye textile art practiced by local artisans before returning to the ship. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

At Sea

Full day at sea to enjoy the ship's amenities and lecture series while cruising along Madagascar's western coastline.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Morondava, Madagascar

Zodiac ashore in Morondava, Madagascar, a vibrant coastal town known as the gateway to one of the country's most iconic landscapes. The towering baobabs and surrounding dry forest create one of Madagascar's most distinctive and atmospheric landscapes. Select a half-day walk along the Avenue of the Baobabs with free time in Morondava's local market, or a full-day excursion combining the Avenue of the Baobabs with Marofandilia Forest in search of native primates, including Verreaux's sifaka, as well as the white-browed owl. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Tulear, Madagascar

Visit Reniala Reserve, a locally managed NGO-run sanctuary, home to spectacular baobab trees and one of the last strongholds of the radiated tortoise. This protected area is a haven for birdlife and supports species such as the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise, and warty chameleon. This evening, enjoy the captain's farewell reception and dinner.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,R,D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Tulear, Madagascar / Johannesburg, South Africa / Home

Start with breakfast, followed by a guided visit to Antsokay Arboretum, which protects 900 species of endemic plants. Transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, for onward overnight flights back to the U.S. (B,L)

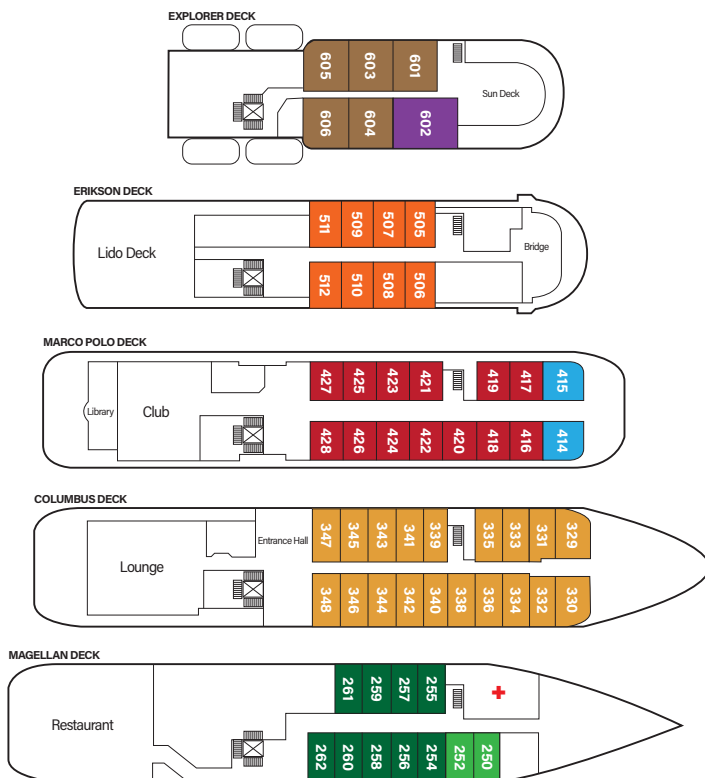


Island Sky

The *Island Sky* is a 59-cabin, all-suite expedition ship. All cabins have an ocean view, en-suite bathroom with marble-topped vanity unit and walk-in shower, sitting area, spacious wardrobe,

safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air-conditioning, flat-screen television and dressing table. The ship's amenities include complimentary WiFi, a dining room, two lounges with bar service, a small library, an observation deck with comfortable lounge chairs, a hairdresser and laundry service. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Island 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.

RETAIL PROGRAM FEES (per person):		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	STANDARD SUITE (forward) 226 ft ² , portholes	\$14,990	\$23,490
2	STANDARD SUITE 226 ft ² , portholes	\$15,990	\$24,990
3	SUPERIOR SUITE 217-264 ft ² , picture window	\$17,990	\$26,990
4	PREMIUM SUITE 226 ft ² , sliding glass door	\$19,490	—
5	CORNER SUITE 237 ft ² , sliding glass door	\$20,990	—
6	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 225 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$22,990	—
7	OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 237 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$23,490	—
8	ISLAND SUITE 344 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$25,490	—



General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

One hotel night and twelve nights aboard *Island Sky* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary including thirteen breakfasts, thirteen lunches, and twelve dinners • Private charter flight between Tulear, Madagascar and Johannesburg, South Africa • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners • 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 or muddy trails, dirt streets and paths in small villages), possibly in direct sun, extreme heat, humidity and rainy or dusty conditions. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for most excursions. Please note that some locations involve wet landings. All participants who plan to swim or snorkel should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. Emergency medical evacuation coverage is strongly recommended due to the remote areas that you will be visiting.

GROUP SIZE This program can accommodate 92 participants, including travelers from National Trust Tours, Commonwealth Club World Affairs, Oceanic Society, Harvard Alumni Travel, and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • 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; alcoholic beverages or soft drinks except as noted

- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone and fax 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, 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 75% of your pre-paid, nonrefundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). To purchase travel insurance today, call (800) 937-1387. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

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

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you 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.

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, please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is June 25, 2027. For those who register after June 25, 2027, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

PASSENGER CANCEL-

LATIONS & 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% non-refundable. After the final payment deadline on June 25, 2027, 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 nonrefundable 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 2026/2027 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 #2088800-40

Seychelles & Madagascar
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 7, 2027

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call National Trust Tours at **(888) 484-8785**.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport)

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport)

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? ☐ Yes:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for _____ place(s) on **Seychelles & Madagascar**.
☐ Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)
Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed Preference: ☐ King/Queen ☐ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)
☐ I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)
☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

☐ I'd like to know about roommates.
I am a ☐ non-smoker ☐ smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of June 25, 2027, I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

105 Loudoun Street, SW, Unit 1, Leesburg, Virginia 20175

www.nationaltrusttours.com
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info@nationaltrusttours.com

Find us on  National Trust Tours

Seychelles / Madagascar

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