



## **SEYCHELLES & MADAGASCAR**

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

**October 23–November 7, 2027**



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, its 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 per cent of the country's population. With pristine beaches, lush forests, and dramatic mountains, it is a tropical paradise with a unique Creole culture that blends a wide range of influences.

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 varieties of lemurs. Madagascar's people are also unique, having descended from Malay-Polynesian mariners, slaves from Africa, as well as traders from Arabia, India, and Portugal.

This program utilizes twelve full days to explore numerous islands and Madagascar's best marine reserves and national parks from the comfort of the *Island Sky*, all accentuated by a robust set of lectures from an outstanding team of experts.



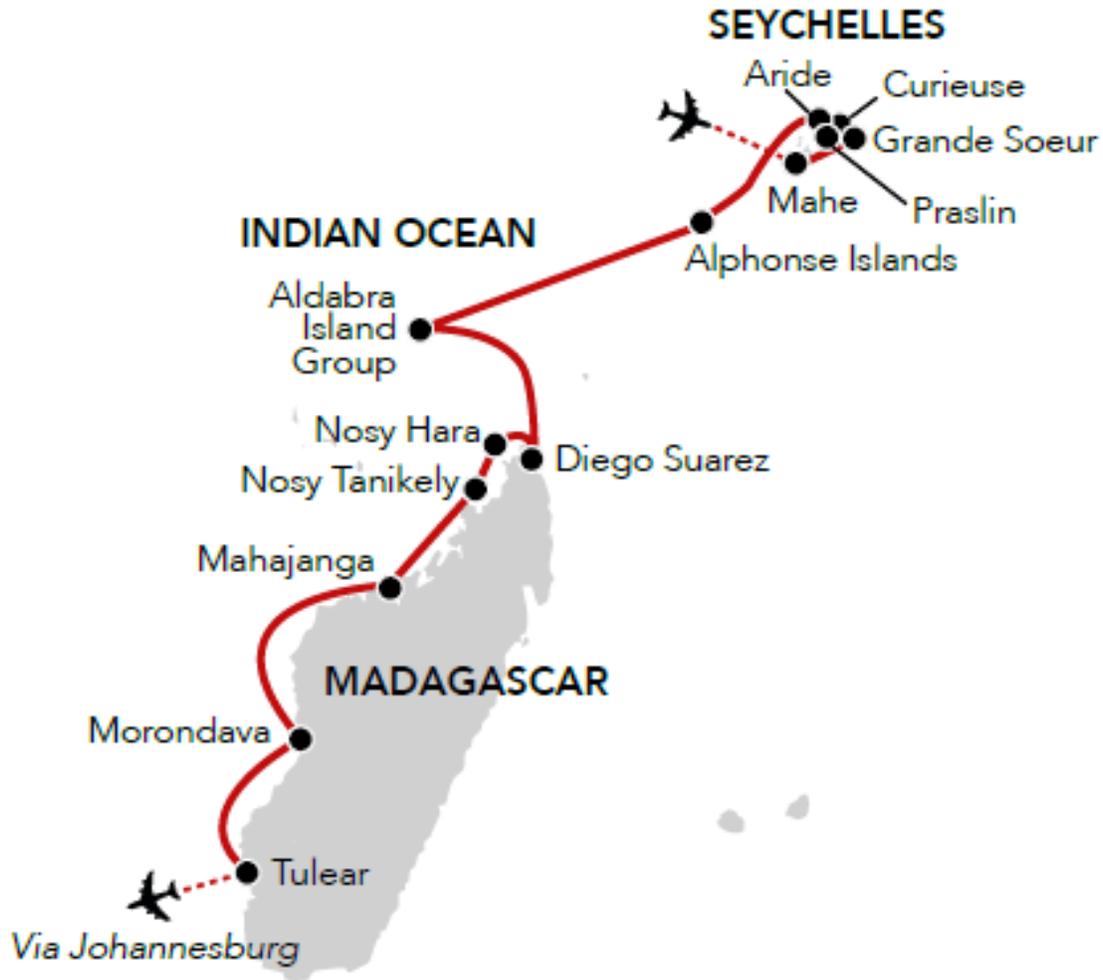
## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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, and 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.
- Snorkelers will delight in the **diverse marine life** they are likely to see, 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.”
- Look for **lemurs** up close in their natural habitat, including the red ruffed lemur, and learn about conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- Meet with local leaders of the Tahiry Honko project: a **community-led mangrove conservation effort** to protect coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, while avoiding emissions of over 1,300 tons of carbon dioxide per year.
- 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.
- Included **charter flight** from Tulear, Madagascar to Johannesburg, South Africa for onward flights back to the U.S., avoiding the two-day crossing of Mozambique Channel by ship.

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## ITINERARY MAP



**SEYCHELLES & MADAGASCAR****Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky*****ITINERARY OUTLINE**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>OVERNIGHT</b>	<b>HOTEL</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>
Oct 23 Sat	Depart U.S.		Flights from the U.S. to Mahe, Seychelles (Note: travelers from remote areas may need to depart on Oct 22.)
Oct 24 Sun	Arrive Mahé, Seychelles	Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa	Arrive at Seychelles International Airport (SEZ) any time during the day; group transfers to the hotel provided; gather for a <b>welcome reception</b> . R
Oct 25 Mon	Mahé / Embark	<i>Island Sky</i>	Tour <b>National Botanical Garden of Seychelles</b> with its vibrant endemic tropical flowers, and learn about the conservation and restoration projects underway; visit the <b>National Museum of History</b> , with informative exhibits on <b>Seychellois Creole culture and heritage</b> . Embark in late afternoon. BLD
Oct 26 Tue	Praslin & La Digue, Seychelles	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM on Praslin to explore the ‘Vallee de Mai’, the last remnant of the original high canopied <b>Seychelles palm forest</b> , home to the endemic <b>endangered coco de mer</b> palm tree and rare <b>black parrots</b> ; PM at La Digue, known for its <b>granite rocks</b> and lush forest, <b>and snorkel</b> in the crystal-clear water among the colorful fish. Captain’s Reception & Dinner. BLRD
Oct 27 Wed	Poivre, Amirantes, Seychelles	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM Cruise to the Amirantes, which harbor many important species. PM Call at Poivre, Amirantes. 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 <b>hawksbill</b> and <b>green sea turtles</b> . Nesting birds include Chinese and blue herons, whimbrels, fodies, noddies, greater frigatebirds and fairy terns. BLD
Oct 28 Thu	At Sea	<i>Island Sky</i>	Full day at sea to enjoy the amenities of the ship and <b>lectures</b> while cruising to <b>Outer Seychelles Islands</b> . BLD
Oct 29 Fri	Cosmoledo / Astove, Seychelles	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM call at Cosmoledo in the Aldabra island group. PM exploration of Astove Atoll, known for offering some of the <b>best snorkelling in the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago</b> . BLD
Oct 30 Sat	Aldabra, Seychelles	<i>Island Sky</i>	Visit <b>Aldabra</b> , a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982 and <b>the world’s largest coral atoll</b> , home to the world’s <b>largest population of giant tortoises</b> ; this vast atoll is comprised of a ring of <b>four reef islands</b> surrounding a massive emerald-water lagoon; explore the crystal-clear waters of the huge <b>lagoon</b> on zodiacs and attempt to <b>snorkel among the robust coral reefs</b> , teeming with marine life. BLD

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Oct 31 Sun	Assumption, Seychelles	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM Choose to <b>snorkel or take a nature walk on Assumption Island</b> ; look for the Assumption Island day gecko and enjoy identifying the <b>diverse birdlife</b> you'll see; PM Depart the Seychelles and enjoy an afternoon of cruising to Madagascar with time for lectures. BLD
Nov 1 Mon	Nosy Be / Nosy Tanikely National Park, Madagascar	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM walk on Nosy Be to view <b>lemurs, chameleons</b> and other wildlife; midday cruising. Late PM to <b>snorkel</b> and look for <b>lemurs at Nosy Tanikely</b> marine reserve. BLD
Nov 2 Tue	Mahajanga, Madagascar	<i>Island Sky</i>	AM Visit "Lac Sacre", or <b>Sacred Lake</b> , and learn about the significance of clear waters and special trees planted on the lakeshore; <b>walk</b> through nearby mango trees to observe the <b>sifaka lemurs, iguanas, lizards, and colorful birds</b> that reside there; chance to <b>swim at a beachside resort</b> and visit a local <b>batik workshop</b> before returning to the ship. BLD
Nov 3 Wed	At Sea	<i>Island Sky</i>	Full day at sea; <b>Lecture series continues</b> . BLD
Nov 4 Thu	Morandava, Madagascar	<i>Island Sky</i>	Zodiac to shore with choice of excursions: 1) half-day <b>Avenue of Baobabs</b> walkabout with <b>free time in Morandava</b> market or 2) a full day excursion that combines <b>Avenue of Baobabs</b> with a visit to <b>Marofandilia Forest</b> to look for primates, including Verraux's Sifaka, and the White-browed owl. BLD
Nov 5 Fri	Tulear, Madagascar	<i>Island Sky</i>	Meet with leaders of Tahiry Honko, a <b>community-based mangrove reserve</b> ; walk in <b>Reniala Reserve</b> , run by a local NGO, to protect the oldest Baobab trees in Madagascar and the only known natural habitat for radiated tortoises; Captain's Farewell. BLRD
Nov 6 Sat	Tulear, Madagascar / Disembark		Disembark; guided visit to <b>Antsokay Arboretum</b> , protecting 900 species of endemic species; transfer to the airport for charter flight to Johannesburg, South Africa for onward flights back to the U.S. BL
Nov 7 Sun	Return to U.S.		Arrive back in the U.S.

Travelers will have the option of a post-trip Safari near Kruger National Park, South Africa.



## **SEYCHELLES & MADAGASCAR**

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**Call 888.484.8785 to Reserve**

**Retail Program Fees** (per person, sharing)

Category 1, Standard Suite Forward, Magellan Deck, 226 sq ft, portholes.....	\$14,990
Category 2, Standard Suite, Magellan Deck, 226 sq ft, portholes.....	\$15,990
Category 3, Superior Suite, Columbus Deck, 217–264 sq ft, picture window.....	\$17,990
Category 4, Premium Suite, Marco Polo Deck, 226 sq ft, sliding glass door .....	\$17,490
Category 5, Corner Suite, Marco Polo Deck, 237 sq ft, sliding glass door.....	\$18,990
Category 6, Deluxe Balcony Suite, Erikson Deck, 225 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door .....	\$20,990
Category 7, Owner’s Balcony Suite, Explorer Deck, 237 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door .....	\$21,490
Category 8, Island Suite, Explorer Deck, 344 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door .....	\$22,490
Category 1, single occupancy.....	\$23,490
Category 2, single occupancy.....	\$24,990
Category 3, single occupancy.....	\$26,990

Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

**Program Length, Capacity:**

17 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 62 passengers; Maximum capacity: 92 passengers (all sponsors)

**Fees Include: One hotel night in Mahé, Seychelles and twelve nights aboard *Island Sky* • Privately chartered jet from Tulear, Madagascar to Johannesburg, South Africa •**

Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers for on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides and drivers • **Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges** • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners aboard the ship

• Bottled water throughout • Professional tour manager through the program • Team of expert naturalists and zodiac drivers

**Fees 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; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.