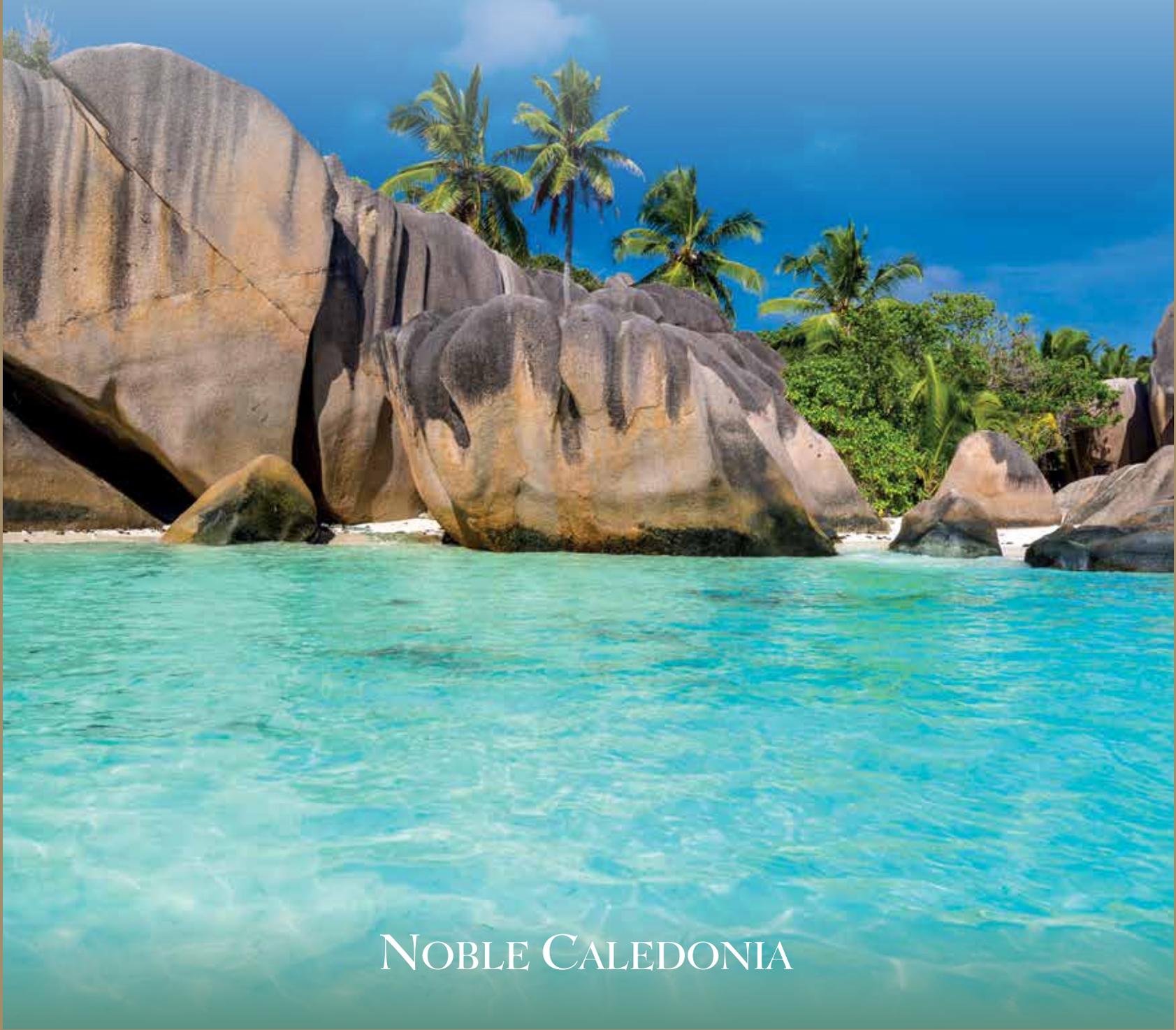


*Voyages in the
Indian Ocean aboard*
MS CALEDONIAN SKY
OCTOBER 2020 TO JANUARY 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA

CONTENTS

MS Caledonian Sky	04
Your Life On Board & Expedition Cruising	05
Your Space On Board	06
Your Dining On Board	07
Your Suite On Board	08
MS Caledonian Sky Deck Plan	09
Wildlife & Wonders of the Indian Ocean	10-13
Passage through the Seychelles	14-17
Splendours of the Seychelles	18-19
Islands of the Indian Ocean	20-21
Christmas & New Year in the Seychelles	22-23
Madagascar & Beyond	24-27



Dear Traveller

We are delighted to be bringing the 114 passenger MS Caledonian Sky to the Indian Ocean for the winter of 2020 – 2021. Having operated vessels in the Indian Ocean for almost thirty years, we know the region well, as do our expert expedition team and if ever there was a region perfect for expedition cruising it is here, a timeless world of wonders both below and above the water. Although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is the unscheduled events that often become the highlight of the journey and our ideally suited vessel allows us access to places larger vessels are unable to venture, and with our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we are able to explore and land in otherwise inaccessible places.

Each of our expeditions in the Indian Ocean includes the islands of the Seychelles; spread out over a vast swathe of the Indian Ocean they offer everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild, remote and uninhabited nature reserves. One of the highlights of our voyages will be our time spent exploring the Aldabra Group of islands. Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access has saved Aldabra from any tourism development and the only viable means of reaching this untouched region is by small ship. Aldabra is the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures you should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean.

Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions. After all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach. The MS Caledonian Sky is an ideal vessel, and with a maximum of 114 passengers she offers all the comforts of a larger vessel, but with the added luxury of a small number of passengers and an excellent crew and expedition team. Our small ship allows us access to wonderful places denied to larger ships and with our onboard experts you can learn about and enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.



Tim Cochrane
Managing Director



NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

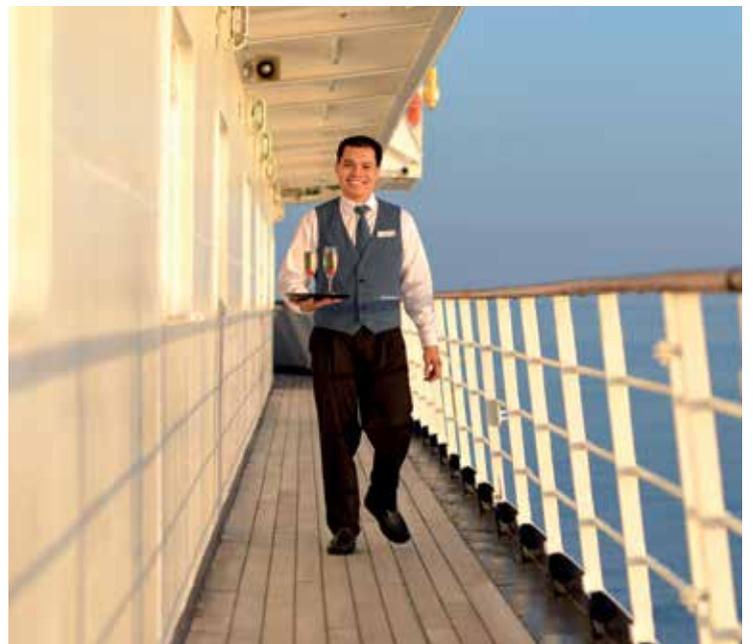
During our worldwide explorations over the years, we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. To this end we established the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust in 2013 (NCCT). It is our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. Our onboard teams are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives, whilst many of our guests genuinely care about the people and places we visit and want to make a difference. 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries as Noble Caledonia Ltd covers all the administration costs and donates a percentage of profits annually. Details of our projects can be found on our website www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



MS Caledonian Sky

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flagships and one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Equally as important as the facilities are the staff on board, whether they are the vessel's crew or our own onboard teams who work together to ensure a well-run ship with a warm atmosphere. Our reputation has been built on providing the very best in all areas and our crew not only offer an excellent service, they are also noted for their kindness and attention to detail. In addition, the Noble Caledonia onboard team, who are in control of the day to day programme and shore visits, do their utmost to make every day special and their knowledge and enthusiasm make every trip a unique event.





Your Life On Board

When choosing your next voyage the choice of vessels is astounding. You can select a ship carrying in excess of 4000 passengers with impersonal service or join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. Enjoy a little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader and of course good food with wine included at lunch and dinner, all contribute to make any voyage aboard the MS Caledonian Sky a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship.

For your Comfort, Security & Safety

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. There is also a dedicated channel on your television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel. On board you will find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks.



Expedition Cruising & Zodiacs



Since time began man has felt compelled to step beyond the familiar realm and seek a new destiny. Out of this desire to explore and seek understanding, which still remains an integral part of our spirit today, came the advent of expedition cruising. Extraordinary travel requires vessels like the MS Caledonian Sky with their ability to adapt to their surroundings, land on remote atolls, follow in the wake of whales and dolphins and provide a comfortable base.

Our voyages in this brochure through the Indian Ocean are expeditionary in nature and therefore in place of the customary Cruise Director and accompanying staff, you will be joined by an expedition team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. We have the very best in their field and they will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible.

Expedition cruising is about getting off the beaten track, out of the way of other ships, of other visitors; it is about leaving the infrastructures of civilisation behind. We may not be far from civilisation, but we will often be out of sight of it. The MS Caledonian Sky carries a fleet of onboard Zodiacs which are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. Zodiacs can negotiate shallows, river estuaries, coral reefs and in many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. They also enable the expedition team to offer Zodiac cruises during the voyage and on occasion, Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted.

Zodiacs will be integral to the operation of all the itineraries featured in this brochure. If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.



On Deck



The Panorama Lounge



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms on board the MS Caledonian Sky include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating. Daily briefings given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place in the Main Lounge which is fitted with multiple screens. For your convenience it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day.

In addition to the Main Lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the recently refurbished Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The Travel Library is the perfect place to relax with a good book and is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a collection of

essential reads. A selection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand).

The Dining Room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade and often occasions such as sail away parties and barbeques are held here. On the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is an additional Observation Deck, complete with bar and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request.



The Restaurant



Alfresco dining



Elegant cuisine

Your Dining On Board

It is quite a task to create a dining experience as that found on board the MS Caledonian Sky when you are cruising in far-flung corners of the globe, indeed it takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering teams are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions.

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality. Where possible and when it meets their high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well-stocked larders and enable the chefs on board to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place every day in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is

favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like-minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose.



Deluxe Balcony Suite

Your Suite



On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Following a comprehensive refurbishment of the suites in November 2018, the suites on each deck have their own colour theme utilising fabrics from companies such as Osbourne & Little and Zimmer & Rohde. Soft hues, blended tones and the classic contemporary fabrics enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing

place to be. Each suite exudes great character and grandeur with wood panelling and brass features found throughout.

The large suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a heated towel rail, shaver outlet and vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, refillable water bottles, as well as extra blankets and pillows. Ship announcements made from the Bridge and Reception area are also broadcasted in your suite. A laundry service is also available on board.



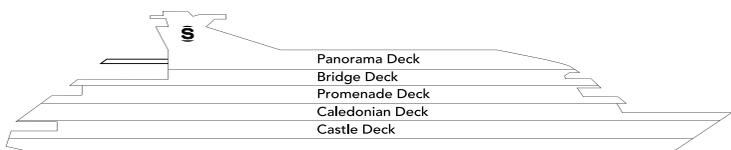
Standard Suite



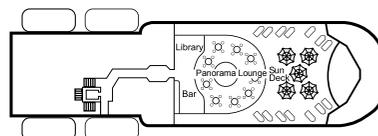
The Lounge

MS Caledonian Sky

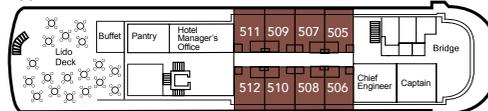
Deck and Cabin Plans



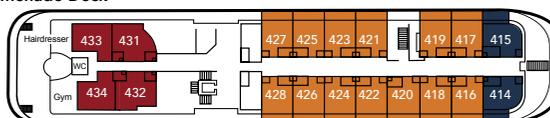
Panorama Deck



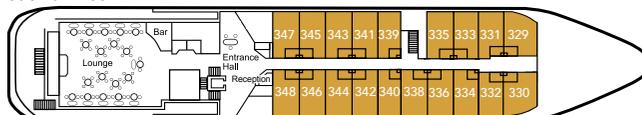
Bridge Deck



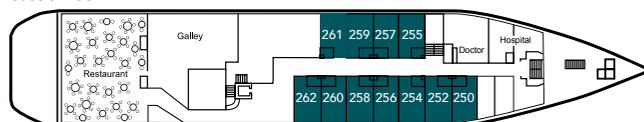
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



Castle Deck



Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11 knots
 Length overall: 90.6 metres
 Width overall: 15.3 metres
 Draught maximum: 4.2 metres
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1991
 Tonnage: 4200
 Guest capacity: 114
 Classed by: BV
 Upgraded: November 2018



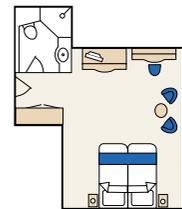
Castle Deck – Standard Suites

The Standard Suites located on the Castle Deck measure 22.7 square metres and feature four port holes, an en-suite bathroom with shower and spacious wardrobes.



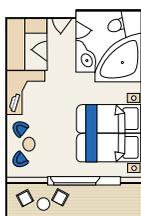
Caledonian Deck – Superior Suites

The Superior Suites located on the Caledonian Deck measure 21.6 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower (suites 329, 330 and 331 which feature only a shower), a spacious wardrobe and large window.



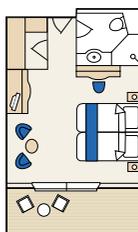
Promenade Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with shower (cabins 431 & 432 feature a bathtub), spacious wardrobes and a large window.



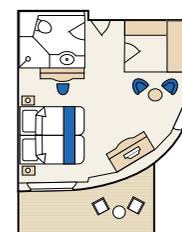
Bridge Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Bridge Deck measure 20 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower and a private balcony measuring 4.2 square metres.



Promenade Deck – Premium Balcony Suites

The Premium Balcony Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with shower and a private balcony measuring 5.6 square metres.



Promenade Deck – Owner's Corner Balcony Suites

The two Corner Suites on the Promenade Deck measure 22.6 square metres and feature a 5.6 square metres balcony and two forward facing portholes, a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom with shower.

Wildlife & Wonders of the Indian Ocean



A voyage from Mauritius to Tanzania including Madagascar & the Outer Seychelles aboard the MS Caledonian Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral John Lippiett
26th October to 10th November 2020

Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky for this island hopping expedition through the Indian Ocean which will appeal to those who enjoy the natural world and all its wonders, travelling aboard a small ship and staying clear of the well-beaten tourist tracks. The all-suite MS Caledonian Sky with her fleet of Zodiac landing craft is the perfect vessel for such an enterprise. Carrying just over 100 guests, she is a far cry from the latest breed of cruise ships and can visit small islands and backwaters that are denied to larger vessels. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by the expert crew and officers, who along with our expedition team of marine biologists, ornithologists and botanists have many years of experience in the Indian Ocean and will provide commentary on all we see.

Setting sail from Mauritius we will land on its nearest neighbour, Reunion, a little bit of France in the Indian Ocean and a truly stunning place. We will spend the day exploring its awesome and dramatic landscape before continuing to Madagascar where over a period of three days we will explore the incredible verdant and beautiful island and its unique flora and fauna.

Continuing to the Seychelles, for many the highlight of the voyage will be our time spent exploring the Aldabra Island Group, the breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures we should also encounter dolphins and turtles as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean. To explore the abundant crystal clear waters of the vast lagoon and to set foot on atolls which have never been exploited by the hand of man is a rare experience. Our final days are spent in Tanzania exploring Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest and we have a full day to explore atmospheric Zanzibar.



Guest Speaker – Rear Admiral John Lippiett CB CBE DL

John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy, serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world's operational theatres. He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War,

and his book "War and Peas; Intimate letters from the Falklands War" was broadcast on BBC's Today programme for the 25th anniversary. John commanded three ships, a Frigate Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare. On promotion to Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award-winning new museum and ensure Henry VIII's flagship is conserved and displayed for future generations. John retired from the Mary Rose Trust in 2016 and spends much time back at sea as a speaker on maritime history - and this time with his wife Jenny. He much enjoys telling the stories both of exploration, often using old maps, and of naval ventures that have taken place on the world's oceans over the last two thousand years. During this voyage John plans to reveal the maritime history of the Indian Ocean with insight into the ancient Greek and Arabian trade routes, tales of European discovery, Royal Naval operations as well as tales of the mighty Chinese treasure fleets and how China is now influencing the economies of the region today.

What to Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from a ship's log from last season which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Aldabra: We set off soon after breakfast dropping some of our party at the research base for guided walks, while the rest continued into the lagoon to explore. Beneath our boats eagle rays sped away and small schools of coloured fish seemed to be everywhere. At one point we entered a narrow channel deep into the red mangroves, with sunbirds twittering around us and at a sunny bend at the end a huge green turtle swam around, its back fuzzy with green algae. Then along the mangrove edge we came to the best patch of all: a mixed nesting colony of red-footed boobies and both lesser and greater frigatebirds.



Some nests had chicks almost 12 months old which will soon fledge.

Others were sat tight on tiny white fluffy chicks. The strangest thing was to see boobies fast asleep in the branches, their bright red feet clutching hard, their head and beak hanging down below their feet, and their eyes closed tight. That afternoon we saw why they get so tired. Watching from the decks, we passed through some large flocks of birds scanning for fish at the surface, while the most agile individuals queued up alongside our ship to plunge down in split second dives to try and catch flying fish bursting out of the water.



Black and white ruffed lemur



Waterfalls, Reunion



Paradise-flycatcher



Nosy Mangabe

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Gatwick to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel (Trou aux Biches Beachcomber or similar) for an overnight stay. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel facilities before we meet for dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Mauritius. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel. After checking out our island tour will include the Trou-aux-Cerfs Volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky in the late afternoon. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 4 Reunion. We arrive at breakfast in Port Est, Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. We will enjoy views from the Nez des Bouefs and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a Creole lunch

in a local restaurant, we will visit the "Cite du Volcan" museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. We will also enjoy some free time in St Denis before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 5 At Sea. Spend the day at sea. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, enjoy a book in the library or spend time on deck as we cross to Madagascar.

Days 6 & 7 Nosy Mangabe & Masoala National Park, Madagascar. Spend a day and a half in Antongil Bay area. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rain forest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees,

plants and ferns and we hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders, we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We also explore Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A series of walks for all levels will operate whilst there will also be the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 8 Diego Suarez. Over lunch, we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This afternoon choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place

“

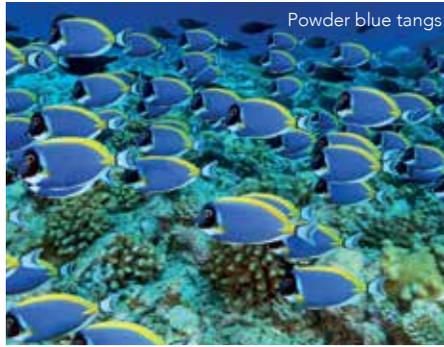
For many the highlight of this voyage will be our time spent exploring the Aldabra Islands, the breeding ground of the giant tortoise and, in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures, we should also encounter dolphins and turtles as well as countless birds including the flightless rail.

”





Grand Bassin Lake, Mauritius



Powder blue tangs



Red-footed Booby, Cosmoledo



Castle ruin, Kilwa Kisiwani



Exploring by Zodiac

Joffre, or the Malagasy Rain Forest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rain forest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots.

Days 9 to 11 Aldabra Island Group, Seychelles. Spend a relaxing morning at sea before arriving at the Aldabra group of islands where

we have two and a half days to explore. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we hope to call at the island of Assumption which was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned, and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here

will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast

17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 12 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea.

Day 13 Kilwa Kisiwani, Tanzania. This morning we anchor off Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest, where the atmospheric ruins represent a wide sweep of East African coastal history, from the heights of the Swahili and Shirazi trading civilisation to the darker days of slavery and the uprisings against German rule. Once one of Africa's wealthiest towns, Kilwa Kisiwani is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains the world's most extensive and best-preserved Swahili ruins. We will spend the afternoon on a walking tour and see the prominent fort and the Great Mosque which stood at the heart of this ancient city which was once the largest in East Africa. This afternoon we continue our cruise across the Indian Ocean.

Day 14 Zanzibar. Here the colourful harbour, crowded with dhows, very much sets the scene for our visit to this Arab-style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses



Masoala National Park



Giant Tortoise, Aldabra

with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. On a morning walking tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market and the Old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island. Alternatively, travel to Jozani Forest

which sustains a variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare red colobus monkey, indigenous to the island.

Day 15 Dar Es Salaam to London Heathrow. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London Heathrow. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£9495	£8995
Caledonian	Superior	£9795	£9295
Promenade	Premium	£9995	£9495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10995	£10495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£11295	£10795
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£12495	£11995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11795	£11295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mauritius on a half board basis • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Post-Cruise Selous Safari Extension 9th to 13th November 2020

Giraffe, Selous Game Reserve



Before returning home, we are offering an extension to the Selous Game Reserve which is home to over 1,000,000 large animals and over half of Tanzania's elephant population. However, one of the major attractions must be the mighty Rufiji river, home to one of the largest crocodile and hippo populations in Africa, swarming with fish which in turn bring about some of the world's best water birding. The river has also formed several large lakes on its northern bank, navigable by boat and Siwandu Camp is situated on one of these lakes. All safari tents at the camp are widely spaced along the lake shore ensuring maximum privacy and wonderful views. Each tent sits atop its own raised timber platform with two large verandas. The spacious tents are luxuriously appointed, with en-suite bathrooms and open air hot-water showers. The camp has its own swimming pool, enabling guests to cool off in the heat of the day. The dining area and bar areas are raised on viewing platforms, with large comfortable sofas and a wildlife reference library.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Dar es Salaam to Selous, Tanzania. After breakfast we will disembark and transfer to the airport for our 45-minute scheduled flight to Mtemere Airstrip in the Selous Game Reserve. On arrival transfer to the Siwandu Camp and this afternoon enjoy your first game experience with a boat safari looking for hippos, crocodiles and birdlife.

Days 2 & 3 Siwandu Camp, Selous Game Reserve. Enjoy two full days in the Reserve with included game drives each day. Maybe enjoy a full day game viewing with a picnic lunch or a half day walking safari through the bush with a ranger. Alternatively join another boat safari or simply relax in your tent.

Day 4 Selous Game Reserve to Dar es Salaam to London. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a final safari option before transferring to the airstrip for your flight to Dar es Salaam where we connect with our onward scheduled flight to London.

Day 5 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£3295** Single: **£4295**

Price Includes: Internal flights between Dar es Salaam and Selous Game Reserve, three nights accommodation at the Siwandu Camp on a full board basis, game drives, transfers, gratuities, storage of main cruise luggage at hotel in Dar es Salaam, taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Tanzania visa.

Passage through the Seychelles



Island Hopping in the beautiful Seychelles aboard the MS Caledonian Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral John Lippiett – 8th to 20th November 2020

The Seychelles offers the visitor a tropical beauty that is difficult, if not impossible to match anywhere else in the world. Spread out over a vast area of the Indian Ocean, they offer everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild and uninhabited nature reserves, where the very remoteness of the islands has protected them from the worst excesses of mankind. If ever there was a region perfect for expedition cruising it is here and the MS Caledonian Sky is the perfect size and equipped vessel for our voyage.

Our journey will include all aspects of this extraordinary island nation from the lesser known and rarely visited Outer Seychelles where we visit Aldabra Island Group, the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage Site to the developed Inner Seychelles with staggeringly beautiful islands such as Praslin, La Digue and Aride.

Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access and having a lack of freshwater has saved Aldabra from any tourism development and only small vessels like the MS Caledonian Sky are allowed to visit. It is therefore a great privilege to be able to land on the untouched beaches of Aldabra, the breeding ground for giant tortoise and home to some of the rarest birds in the Indian Ocean. To explore the abundant crystal clear waters of the vast lagoon and to set foot on atolls which have never been exploited by the hand of man is a rare experience.



What to Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the ship's log from last season which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.



Cosmoledo: Today we had another day in the Aldabra group, this time to the island of Cosmoledo. Like the other islands of the Aldabra group this is an uplifted coral island. It was an early start due to the tide times and at 07:30 the flotilla of Zodiacs made the lengthy journey into the mouth of the atoll, across the lagoon to the eastern shore. Once we arrived the site was wondrous with thousands of birds sitting on the coral rock. They were mostly boobies, both red footed and masked, but there were also species of herons, terns, noddies, frigate birds and tropic birds. The sea was also full of turtles. There seemed to be hundreds darting about in the shallow water. The Zodiacs took their time

passing up the shore, allowing plenty of bird photos to be taken. We then found little patches of beach to land on and to have a small walk about or a little swim or paddle. All the while the tide was quickly dropping and the beaches were becoming larger and larger. Soon it was time to head back to the ship and for the ship to set sail for the Farquhar Group of islands. Once back aboard we enjoyed lunch and a great talk all about the biology of coral reefs.

Aride & La Digue: The intrepid birders set out early on Aride and were rewarded with the sight of birds that were totally unafraid of man, many of them at very close range. The birds were certainly friendly as were the two species of skink. White-tailed tropicbirds swooped through the woodland and crash landed in the shrubbery on their way to their nests, their landing technique a stark contrast to their grace in flight. The fairy terns sat on their branches and met us eye to eye. Most people got to see the fluffy little chicks, hatched on a bare branch and now moving around, waiting for their feathers to grow so that they could fly. Seychelles fodies were everywhere! There were many newly fledged chicks, able to fly, but still insisting that their parents provided them with food! The common noddies looked down their noses at us, while common moorhens run around in the undergrowth, far away from water, apart from the falling kind, of course. They too, had chicks. This afternoon we were back in our

trusty Zodiacs for a short ride to a very civilised landing on a floating pontoon inside the busy little harbour on La Digue. Here we boarded our camionettes, converted trucks with seats in the back, for our tour of the island. The more adventurous among us boarded bicycles and headed off to explore independently. We drove through the little village of La Passe, full of weaving bicycles, to the l'Union Estate. At the estate we were shown all the processes used in exploiting the coconuts, from dehusking to the copra kiln and the coconut oil mill, powered by a very patient and placid bull. We were also taken to the original old plantation house. Behind the house was the tortoise pen, where we got to meet the giant Aldabra tortoises that are so much part of the image of the Seychelles. We clambered back aboard our camionettes for a short ride to the beach at L'Anse Source d'Argent. The beach is famous, much photographed because of the dramatic contrast of rugged granite boulders, white sand and clear blue sea and we enjoyed a swim before returning to the vessel.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Dar es Salaam. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Zanzibar. Here the colourful harbour, crowded with dhows, very much sets the scene for our visit to this Arab-style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. On a morning walking tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market and the old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island. Alternatively, travel to Jozani Forest which sustains a variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare red colobus monkey, indigenous to the island.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we cross to the Seychelles.

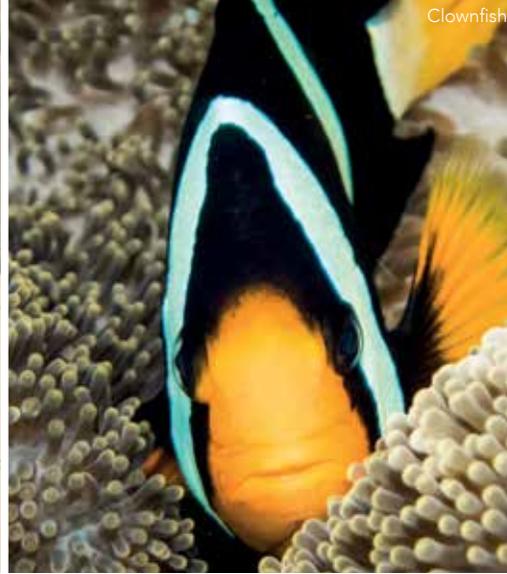
Days 5 to 7 Aldabra Island Group, Seychelles. We have two and a half days to enjoy the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, after a morning at sea,



Giant tortoise, Curieuse Island



Stone Town, Zanzibar



Clownfish

“ Spread out over a vast area of the Indian Ocean, the Seychelles offers everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild and uninhabited nature reserves, where the very remoteness of the islands has protected them from the worst excesses of mankind.

”

we will plan to call at the island of Assumption, for clearance into the Seychelles. Assumption was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century but peace has returned and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We also plan time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as “One of nature’s treasures and should belong to the whole world”. Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world’s largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world’s second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive

with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We will explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs. We will include as much as possible with our time on Aldabra making landings on South Island and trips into the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters teeming with marine life.

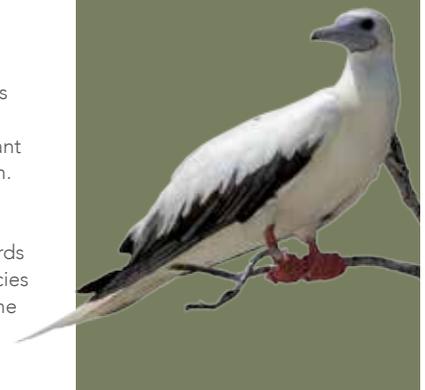
Day 8 Farquhar Islands. After a morning at sea we will anchor off Farquhar over lunch where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. Hawksbill and green sea turtles come to the atoll for nesting, and several of the Farquhar Group’s islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. The island is a haven providing us with a delightful afternoon of bird watching or snorkelling.

Day 9 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands over lunch you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands

in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are a number of tracks across the island to enjoy island walks.

Day 10 Amirante Islands. This morning we arrive at the 28 islands in the Amirante Group of islands which were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1501 and are, considered to be, some of the most pristine and untouched islands in the world. If conditions permit we will spend the day on Desroches, the largest of the islands, although still only measuring six kilometres by 1.5 kilometres. Enjoy nature walks with our naturalists and the island’s conservation team observing the flora and fauna and in particular the giant tortoises and nesting turtles. Meanwhile keen snorkellers will have the chance to swim over the outlying coral.

Day 11 Aride & Curieuse. Early this morning we will anchor off Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser nobby, frigatebirds and roseate tern and also five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland,





Dhow, Zanzibar



Exploring by Zodiac



Fairy tern

including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. Sail over lunch to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk.

Day 12 Praslin & La Digue. From our overnight anchorage we will land on Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer.

We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail the short distance to La Digue where huge granite boulders lie like giant sculptures on the brilliant white beaches of the island. Tour the forested nature reserve and the L'Union Estate, a superbly restored 19th century colonial house. Rent a bicycle, relax or swim from one of the beaches. Tonight we will sail to Mahe where we moor overnight.

Day 13 Mahe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£9495	£8995
Caledonian	Superior	£9795	£9295
Promenade	Premium	£9995	£9495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10995	£10495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£11295	£10795
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£12495	£11995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11795	£11295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise Selous Safari Extension

4th to 9th November 2020



Hippo

Before joining the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering an extension to the Selous Game Reserve which is home to over 1,000,000 large animals and over half of Tanzania's elephant population. However, one of the major attractions must be the mighty Rufiji river, home to one of the largest crocodile and hippo populations in Africa, swarming with fish which in turn bring about some of the world's best water birding. The river has also formed several large lakes on its northern bank, navigable by boat and Siwandu Camp is situated on one of these lakes. All safari tents at the camp are widely spaced along the lake shore ensuring maximum privacy and wonderful views. Each tent sits atop its own raised timber platform with two large verandas. The spacious tents are luxuriously appointed, with en-suite bathrooms and open air hot-water showers. The camp has its own swimming pool, enabling guests to cool off in the heat of the day. The dining area and bar areas are raised on viewing platforms, with large comfortable sofas and a wildlife reference library.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.
Day 2 Dar es Salaam. Arrive today and transfer to the Hyatt Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 3 Dar es Salaam to Selous. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our 45 minute scheduled flight to Mtemere Airstrip in the Selous Game reserve. On arrival transfer to the Siwandu Camp and this afternoon enjoy your first wildlife experience with a boat safari on the Rufiji River, or on a nearby lake, looking for hippos, crocodiles and birdlife. This evening enjoy dinner at the camp.

Days 4 & 5 Siwandu Camp, Selous Game Reserve. Enjoy two full days in the Reserve with included game drives each day. Maybe enjoy a full day game viewing in Selous Game Reserve with a picnic lunch or a half day walking safari through the bush with a ranger. Alternatively join another boat safari or simply relax in your tent. In the evening enjoy a delicious dinner at the camp.

Day 6 Selous Game Reserve to Dar es Salaam. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a final safari option before transferring to the airstrip for your flight to Dar es Salaam where we transfer to MS Caledonian Sky.

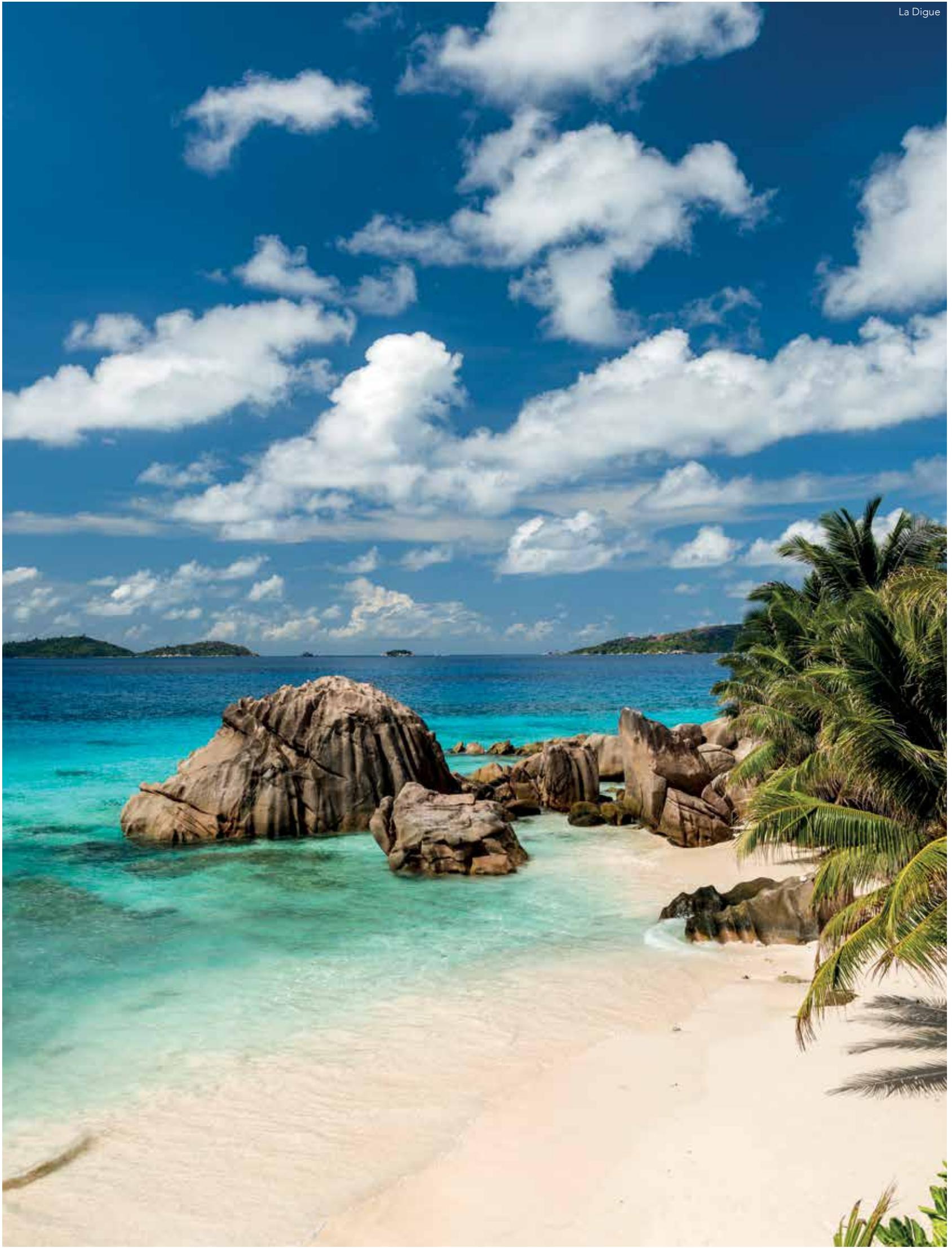
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £3295 Single: £4295

Price Includes: Overnight hotel accommodation in Dar es Salaam with breakfast, three nights accommodation at Siwandu Camp on a full board basis, internal flights between Dar es Salaam and Selous Game Reserve, transfers, gratuities, taxes, storage of main cruise luggage at hotel in Dar es Salaam.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Tanzania visa.



Splendours of the Seychelles

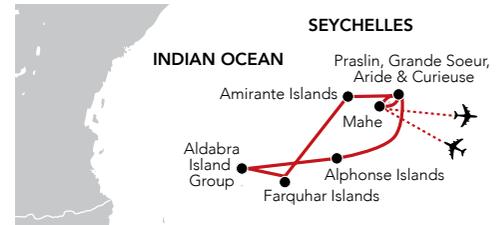


An island hopping expedition cruise through the Seychelles aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
18th to 29th November 2020

We find it difficult to imagine a more perfect way to escape the British winter than to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean aboard the MS Caledonian Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary which suits her many talents best. In the depth of winter at home, you can join our all-suite vessel for an exploration of the islands and atolls of the Seychelles, one of the world's most pristine and picturesque archipelagos and a veritable feast of beauty, the natural world and island culture.

Our expedition focuses on the remote Outer Seychelles, tiny untouched islands and atolls of the Amirante Islands, Farquhar, Aldabra and Alphonse Groups. These minute dots on an atlas are truly magical places. For many the greatest highlight will be our visit to Aldabra, the world's largest coral atoll and the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures you should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean. Totally untouched by the modern world, Aldabra was described by Jacques Cousteau as 'the last unprofaned sanctuary on this planet'. It is one of the most difficult places on earth to access and a lack of fresh water has saved Aldabra from any tourism development. There is no landing strip and the only viable means of reaching this and other Outer Seychelles islands is with an expedition vessel such as the MS Caledonian Sky.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we will be able to access wonderful places denied to larger ships and accompanied by our onboard experts you can learn of the marvellous flora and fauna during nature walks along the island trails, experience the underwater world when swimming or snorkelling and discover the sparkling lagoons from the Zodiacs.



Curieuse Island

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to acclimatise before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 3 Mahe. Spend the morning at leisure enjoying the hotel facilities, relaxing or exploring independently before we check out of our hotel. After lunch we will make our way to Victoria, one of the world's tiniest capitals where we visit the market and the Botanical Gardens, home of the giant land tortoises, fruit bats

and endemic plants which include the world famous coco de mer palms. Transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky in the late afternoon and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail the short distance to Praslin for our overnight anchorage.

Day 4 Praslin & Grande Soeur. This morning we will land on Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as we sail the short distance to Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited

island. Spend the afternoon walking the island trails which link the island's white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the giant Aldabra tortoises or enjoy our first snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise waters.

Day 5 Amirante Islands. Arrive over breakfast at the 28 islands in the Amirante Group of islands which were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1501 and are considered to be some of the most pristine and untouched islands in the world. If conditions permit, we will spend the morning on Desroches, the largest of the islands, although still only measuring six kilometres by 1.5 kilometres. Enjoy nature walks with our naturalists and the island's conservation team observing the flora and fauna and in particular the giant tortoises and nesting turtles. Whilst keen snorkellers will have the chance to swim over the outlying coral. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 6 Farquhar Islands. This morning we will arrive at the Farquhar group of islands. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. Hawksbill and green sea turtles come to the islands to nest and several of

the Farquhar Group's islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. We will spend the morning either snorkelling over the coral reef or exploring the island's past wandering around the settlement which once housed a thriving copra and fishing industry. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as we continue our journey through the Outer Seychelles islands.

Days 7 & 8 Aldabra Island Group. We have two days at the Aldabra group of islands. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we will hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. Additionally we will spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll, we find



Giant tortoise



Coconut Crab



Exploring by Zodiac

something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 9 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we head back to the Inner Seychelles islands. Our lecture programme will continue or maybe find a spot on deck.

Day 10 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands in the early morning, you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good

snorkelling and there are several tracks across the island to enjoy island walks. Spend the morning exploring before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Day 11 Aride & Curieuse. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigate birds and roseate tern in addition to five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. We will sail over lunch to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk. This evening we will return to Mahe and moor overnight.

Day 12 Mahe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

Pre-Cruise Mahe Extension 16th to 19th November 2020



Mahe

If you would like to spend some time in the Seychelles before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering a two night pre-cruise extension staying at Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove Hotel which overlooks Beau Vallon, the largest and most popular beach on Mahe.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Days 2 & 3 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove for a two night stay. Your time is free to enjoy the hotel facilities, relax on the beach or explore independently.

Day 4 Mahe. Your fellow travellers arrive today and we follow the main itinerary from Day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£1395**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Frigate bird

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£6995	£6495
Caledonian	Superior	£7195	£6695
Promenade	Premium	£7395	£6895
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8395	£7895
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£8595	£8095
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9795	£9295
Castle	Standard for sole use	£8695	£8195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£8895	£8395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast • Dinner on Day 2 • Nine nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Islands of the Indian Ocean



An expedition from Mauritius to Mahe including Madagascar aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
9th to 23rd December 2020



Here is an extraordinary cruise for those who enjoy the natural world and all its wonders and are looking for the opportunity to escape the British winter. Join us aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky and enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her many talents best. With the vessel's purpose built Zodiacs we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some of the most extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery to be found anywhere in the world.

Sailing from Mauritius we will land on its nearest neighbour, Reunion, a little bit of France in the Indian Ocean and a truly stunning place. We will spend the day exploring its truly awesome and dramatic scenery including the Central Highlands with their spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant volcanoes which cradle huge natural amphitheatres known as cirques. We then continue to Madagascar where we will have three days exploring this incredible verdant and beautiful island. Madagascar is unique; the animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else. It is a country that has long remained obscure as a destination and is relatively little known even amongst the most serious of travellers. The long separation from the African mainland has given rise to its amazing number of unique species of flora and fauna.

From Madagascar we will make our way to the Aldabra Island group. Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access and having a lack of freshwater has saved Aldabra from any tourism development and there is no landing strip so the only viable means of reaching this untouched region is by ship. Aldabra is the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures you should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean.

This expedition really is a veritable feast of beauty, the natural world and island culture. You will witness the bounty of the islands, the wildlife from the giant tortoises of Aldabra to the lemurs of Madagascar and an amazingly prolific birdlife.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to acclimatise before we meet for dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Mauritius. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a morning at leisure. After checking out, lunch will be followed by an island tour which will include the Trou-aux-Cerfs Volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky in the late afternoon. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 4 Reunion. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air. We will enjoy views from the Nez des Boueufs and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After a creole lunch in a local restaurant, we will visit the "Cite du Volcan" museum. Alternatively join a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. We will also have some free time in St Denis before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and an afternoon at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we cross to Madagascar. Find a spot on deck to relax or listen to a talk in the Lounge from the experienced expedition team.

Days 6 & 7 Nosy Mangabe & Masoala National Park, Madagascar. Spend a day and a half in Antongil Bay. We visit Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rain forest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when



several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We also visit Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs and all manner of extraordinary chameleons. Masoala is also a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. We will run a series of walks for all levels whilst you also have the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 8 Diego Suarez. After a morning at sea we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. After lunch on board there will be a choice of excursion this afternoon. Choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or the Malagasy Rain Forest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore



Reunion Island waterfalls

the rain forest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots.

Days 9 to 11 Aldabra Island Group.

Spend a relaxing morning at sea before arriving in to the Seychelles where we plan to spend two and a half days at the Aldabra group of islands. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible we will hope to call at the island of Assumption which was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to

explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 12 At Sea. Spend the day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 13 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands over breakfast you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are several tracks across the island to enjoy island walks. Spend the morning exploring before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Day 14 Praslin & Grande Soeur. This morning we will use Zodiacs to land on Praslin and explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. Walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail the short distance to Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Spend the afternoon walking the island trails which link the white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the islands giant Aldabra tortoises, enjoy a swim or join our final snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise waters.

Day 15 Mahe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

Post-Cruise Christmas in Mahe Extension 23rd to 27th December 2020



If you would like to spend Christmas in the Seychelles before returning to London we are offering a four night hotel extension staying at the Savoy Resort & Spa after disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky. The hotel is located on Beau Vallon, the most popular beach on the island of Mahe.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Mahe, Seychelles. Disembark the MS Caledonian Sky in Mahe and enjoy a morning island tour and lunch before transferring to our hotel for a four night stay.
Days 2 to 4 Mahe. Spend a relaxing three days at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities, relax on the beach or explore independently with a celebratory Christmas Dinner included on Day 3.
Day 5 Mahe to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095** Single: **£1595**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, four nights hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast basis, dinner on Christmas Day, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Black & white ruffed lemur

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£8795	£8295
Caledonian	Superior	£8995	£8495
Promenade	Premium	£9195	£8695
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10195	£9695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10495	£9995
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11795	£11295
Castle	Standard for sole use	£10395	£9895
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10595	£10095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mauritius with breakfast • Dinner on Day 2 • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

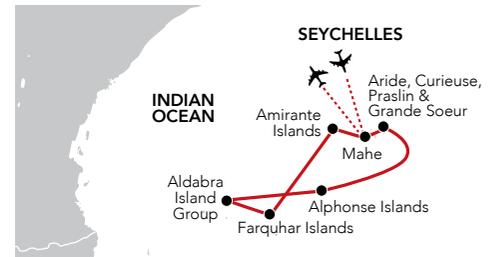
Christmas & New Year in the Seychelles



An expedition cruise through the Inner and Outer Seychelles aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
21st December 2020 to 3rd January 2021

Surely a trip such as this must count as one of the best ever Christmas presents. The opportunity to escape to the islands of the Seychelles for an unforgettable Christmas and New Year in the Indian Ocean aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky. This is a perfect expedition for those who enjoy the natural world and all its wonders as we explore the warm seas of the Indian Ocean visiting some of the most beautiful tropical islands on earth.

We know the region well having operated vessels there for the past twenty five years and if ever there was a region perfect for expedition cruising it is here, a timeless world of wonders both below and above the water. With our fleet of Zodiacs we can reach the unreachable, landing on remote beaches, walking through verdant rainforest and national parks and getting close to some unique flora and fauna. To many travellers, the islands we visit are without equal, having remained largely free from the ravages of mass tourism. Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions. After all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach. The MS Caledonian Sky is an ideal vessel, and with a maximum of 114 passengers she offers all the comforts of a larger vessel, but with the added luxury of a small number of passengers and an expert expedition team who will add much to your enjoyment.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to The Savoy Resort & Spa (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to acclimatise before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 3 Mahe. After a morning at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore independently we will check out of our hotel. Following lunch, we will make our way to Victoria, one of the world's tiniest capitals, where we visit the market and the Botanical Gardens, home of the giant land tortoises, fruit bats and endemic plants which include the world famous coco de mer palms. We will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky in the late afternoon and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we set sail.

Day 4 Aride & Curieuse. Today we will use our Zodiacs to land on Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigate birds and roseate tern in addition to five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island

is largely covered in native woodland, including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. We will sail over lunch to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk. Return to the vessel and celebrate Christmas Eve with the ship's crew and fellow travellers.

Day 5 Amirante Islands. Spend Christmas Day morning at the Amirante Group of islands which were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1501 and are, considered to be some of the most pristine and untouched islands in the world. If conditions permit, we will spend the morning on Desroches, the largest of the islands, although still only measuring six kilometres by 1.5 kilometres. Enjoy nature walks with our naturalists and the island's conservation team observing the flora and fauna and in particular the giant tortoises and nesting turtles. Whilst keen snorkellers will have the chance to swim over the outlying coral. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and an afternoon at sea to celebrate Christmas Day on board.

Day 6 Farquhar Islands. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of these remote atolls ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. Hawksbill and green sea turtles come to the islands to nest, and several of the Farquhar Group's islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. We will spend the morning either snorkelling on the coral reef or explore the island's past and wander around the settlement which once housed a thriving copra and fishing industry. Return to the ship for lunch as we continue our journey through the Outer Seychelles islands.

Days 7 to 10 Aldabra Island Group. We have four days at the Aldabra group of islands. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we will hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. Furthermore our visit may include the island of Assumption, which

was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned, and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.



Curieuse

Day 11 At Sea. After a busy few days we have a day at sea as we return to the Inner Seychelles. Tonight we will welcome in the New Year on board cruising the Indian Ocean.

Day 12 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands over breakfast you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are several tracks across the island to enjoy island walks. Spend the morning exploring before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Day 13 Praslin & Grande Soeur. We will land on Praslin to explore the

'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as we sail the short distance to Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Spend the afternoon walking the island's trails which link the island's white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the island's giant Aldabra tortoises, enjoy a swim or snorkel in the turquoise waters. We will sail to Mahe this evening for an overnight mooring.

Day 14 Mahe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled, indirect flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£8495	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£8695	£8195
Promenade	Premium	£8895	£8395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9895	£9395
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10195	£9695
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11495	£10995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10195	£9695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast • Dinner on Day 2 • 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise Mahe Extension

19th to 22nd December 2020



Mahe

If you would like to spend some time in the Seychelles before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering a two night pre-cruise extension staying at The Savoy Resort & Spa which is located on Beau Vallon, the most popular beach on the island of Mahe.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Days 2 & 3 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to The Savoy Resort & Spa for a two night stay. Your time is free to enjoy the hotel facilities, relax on the beach or explore independently.

Day 4 Mahe. Your fellow travellers arrive today and we follow the main itinerary from Day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595** Single: **£795**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Vallee de Mai



Flora



Fody Foudia



Hawksbill turtle

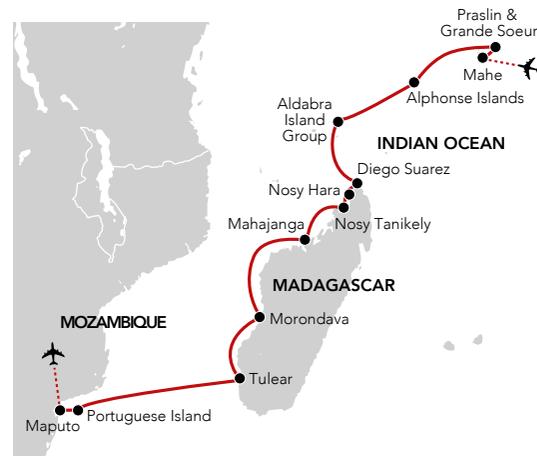
Madagascar & Beyond



Discover the wonders of Aldabra & Madagascar aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
2nd to 20th January 2021

Start the New Year with an expedition aboard the MS Caledonian Sky that combines discovering beautiful, tropical islands, some of which are a mere dot in the Indian Ocean with the natural wonders of Madagascar. Our voyage begins with five days in the Seychelles including the magnificent Aldabra islands before we sail to the world's 'eighth continent'.

The term 'unique' is often an overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar. The animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. This extraordinary country long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively unknown amongst even the most serious of travellers. There is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore the island in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Caledonian Sky is far more preferable than by any other means. After a day exploring, often along untarred roads with basic transportation you can return to the comfort of the MS Caledonian Sky to recharge before the next adventure. With the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to the wonderful places denied to larger ships and, accompanied by our onboard experts you can learn and enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean.



In addition to the breathtaking scenery, the region abounds with strange and wonderful plants and trees, countless varieties of birds and abundant wildlife including the iconic lemur. The long separation from the African mainland has given rise to its amazing number of endemic species of flora and fauna and its people are also unique having descended from Malay - Polynesian mariners who sailed from South East Asia between 1500 to 2000 years ago. Later arrivals included slaves from Africa, traders from Arabia, India and Portugal and more latterly French colonials.

What to Expect...

During an expedition, each day holds something new and below is an extract from a log of one of our most recent expeditions in Madagascar which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Madagascan adventure.



Mahajanga & Ankarantsafika National Park, Madagascar: No such thing as a Sunday lie-in this morning as we were up bright eyed and bushytailed in readiness for an exciting day. The sea was a millpond. Large fleets of prawn trawlers lined the quay side, while traditional 'dhows' passed us on their way out to sea. Women in traditional dress greeted us on the slipway and our transport waited at the end of a strip of market stall selling local crafts. The convoy of minibuses departed Mahajanga driving through the busy streets before heading out in the countryside. Savannah like landscape could be seen for miles on either side of the tarmac road. The savannah gave way to large swathes of rice paddies. Local rice farmers were seen harvesting the rice, children waved from the road side, as we passed through beautiful villages. We arrived at the Ankarantsafika National Park, a mere two hours after leaving the dock. Immediately after arriving, we saw a troop of brown lemur and the gorgeous Coquerel's sifaka expertly negotiating their way through the canopy. Already we could see this was a special place and we hadn't even left the car park! We were on the lookout for creatures great and small, and we found them. Our guides took us on prepared trails through the dry forest, spotting a variety of bird species, reptiles, and of course, lemur. Highlights included an eye-height view of a paradise fly-catcher incubating on a nest; a female Milne-Edwards sportive lemur with her juvenile resting on a tree trunk, iguanas basking in a variety of different body positions in spots of sunlight and, the fantastic spot of the Madagascan fish eagle. Combined we saw 51 different species of bird and reptile, and five species of lemur. What an incredible day! Lunch was a tasty BBQ and local snacks, accompanied by much required cool drinks. Even lunch didn't distract from the wildlife viewing as there was a group of sifaka that could be seen clearly from the table, sleeping through the heat of the day. Post-lunch was flexible and some of us couldn't resist another opportunity to walk around the forest, while others were lucky to be shown the Durrell conservation project.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Victoria. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening to Praslin and anchor overnight.

Day 3 Praslin & Grande Soeur. This morning we will use the Zodiacs to land on Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail the short distance to Grande Soeur an idyllic uninhabited island. Spend the afternoon walking the islands trails which link the island's white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the islands giant Aldabra tortoises, enjoy a swim or join our first snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise waters.

Day 4 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands over lunch you will understand why

they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are several tracks across the island to enjoy island walks. Spend the afternoon exploring before returning to the ship for dinner.

Day 5 At Sea. Take the chance to sit on deck or join a lecture as we sail to the Outer Seychelles.

Days 6 & 7 Aldabra Islands. We have two days at the Aldabra group of islands. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we will hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the



whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 8 Diego Suarez, Madagascar. This morning we arrive in Madagascar at Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. Using our Zodiacs to come ashore, we will take a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre before visiting the Malagasy Rain Forest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rain forest.

Day 9 Nosy Hara. Sail overnight over the northern tip of Madagascar where strangely shaped limestone islets dot

the aquamarine-coloured sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing by Zodiac, such as Nosy Hara, with its abundant birdlife and a great place to swim off the beach. We will explore the island on foot, walking through dense woodland and observing the unusual vegetation. Alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands and a chance to snorkel over the coral.

Day 10 Nosy Tanikely. We arrive this morning at the Nosy Tanikely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We land by Zodiacs and will take the chance to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively our naturalists will lead guided walks on the island where we may see the resident lemurs, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the lighthouse on the island's highest point. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 11 Mahajanga. Today the MS Caledonian Sky anchors off Mahajanga, a port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River which is our base for a full day excursion to Ankarafantsika National Park. This deciduous forest is a haven for birds, lemurs and reptiles and on a choice of walks, we will explore with our guides. Eight species of lemur have been observed here including the famous Microcebus, the smallest primate in the world.

Meanwhile over 120 species of birds nest here and we will keep an eye out for the Madagascar fish eagle and banded kestrel whilst the 44 species of reptile include chameleon, turtles and crocodiles that live in Lake Ravelobe. We will enjoy lunch in the park and in the afternoon there will be options to join further walks, watch for birdlife at the nearby lake or we have requested permission to visit the Durrell breeding programme which was established at Ampijora and is dedicated to protecting the ploughshare tortoise, one of the most threatened breeds in the world.

Day 12 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we continue our journey around the Madagascar coast.

Day 13 Morondava. From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, we will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach. From here there will be a choice of excursions to explore the local region. A half day morning tour will visit the Avenue de Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will see the Adansonia grandidieri species with a row of 20 to 25 trees which border the gravel road. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance before returning to Morondava and exploring the local market. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest. Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue de Baobabs as we travel north. Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous

“ This itinerary is a veritable feast of beauty and combines the natural world with cultural discovery. Witness the bounty of the islands, the wildlife from giant tortoises of Aldabra to the lemurs of Madagascar and an amazingly prolific birdlife. ”



Portuguese Island



forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna includes many endemic species. Here we find three species of baobab, many birds and reptiles including snakes, tortoises and lizards. Eight species of lemur reside here including the pale form marked lemur.

Days 14 Tulear. Our last call in Madagascar will be Tulear on the southwest coast. Arriving at lunchtime we spend the afternoon at the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the south west of Madagascar and, after more than 30 years of hard work, offers a densely kept selection of flora presenting a typical sub-arid thicket with baobab trees towering over the smaller plants. We will see the four hectare botanical garden which comprises over 900 species of plants of which 90% are endemic to the region.

Day 15 Tulear. After breakfast we drive to the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to south eastern Madagascar. The park is

home to 200 plant species including baobabs as well as being a haven for birders with sightings of paradise flycatchers, Madagascar hoopoe and Madagascar crested drongo. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we head to the African mainland.

Day 16 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we cross the Mozambique Channel.

Day 17 Portuguese Island, Mozambique. Situated in Maputo Bay, we anchor offshore and spend the afternoon at subtropical Portuguese Island. This uninhabited island can be explored on a nature walk with our naturalists looking for some of the resident bird life. Alternatively, simply spend your time relaxing on the beach. This evening we will sail to Maputo where we moor overnight.

Day 18 Maputo to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 19 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£10995	£10495
Caledonian	Superior	£11195	£10695
Promenade	Premium	£11395	£10895
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£12395	£11895
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£12695	£12195
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£13895	£13395
Castle	Standard for sole use	£13195	£12695
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£13495	£12995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise New Year in Mahe Extension 29th December 2020 to 3rd January 2021

Mahe



If you would like to spend some time in the Seychelles before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering a four night pre-cruise extension staying at The Savoy Resort & Spa which is located on Beau Vallon, the most popular beach on the island of Mahe.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Days 2 to 5 Mahe. Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for a four night stay. Your time is free to enjoy the hotel facilities, relax on the beach or explore independently with a celebratory New Year's Eve dinner included on Day 3.

Day 6 Mahe. Your fellow travellers arrive today and we follow the main itinerary from Day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195** Single: **£1795**

Price Includes: : Four nights hotel accommodation in Mahe with breakfast, New Year's Eve Dinner, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Post-Cruise Kruger National Park Extension 19th to 22nd January 2021



Bull elephant

After your expedition we are offering the opportunity to explore the wildlife of the Kruger National Park, South Africa's largest game reserve.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Maputo to Kruger National Park, South Africa. After breakfast we will take a three hour coach journey to the Kruger National Park, South Africa's largest game reserve. This is the land of baobabs, fever trees, knob thorns, marula and mopane trees underneath which lurk the Big Five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion and rhino), the Little Five (buffalo weaver, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise, ant lion and rhino beetle), the birding Big Six (ground hornbill, kori bustard, lappet-faced vulture, martial eagle, pel's fishing owl and saddle-bill stork) and more species of mammals than in any other African Game Reserve. We will transfer to the Lukimbi Safari Lodge where we enjoy lunch before embarking on our first game drive this afternoon. Return to the camp for a traditional Boma dinner this evening.

Day 2 Kruger National Park. Hot and cold beverages will be waiting for you after your early morning wake up call. Enjoy a morning game drive showcasing the wildlife and nature of the southern region of Kruger National Park, followed by breakfast at the lodge. After breakfast, embark on an optional morning bush walk, followed by free time and a leisurely lunch. Later this afternoon you can enjoy another game drive before dinner at the Lodge.

Day 3 Kruger National Park to London. After another dawn game drive we will enjoy breakfast and check out of the lodge before transferring to the airport for our internal flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with our onward flight to London

Day 4 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1445** Single: **£1695**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Lukimbi Safari Lodge on a full board basis, game drives, flight between Kruger and Johannesburg, gratuities, transfers, taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.





NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.