

SMALL SHIP CRUISING IN THE  
**INDIAN OCEAN**

ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
OCTOBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

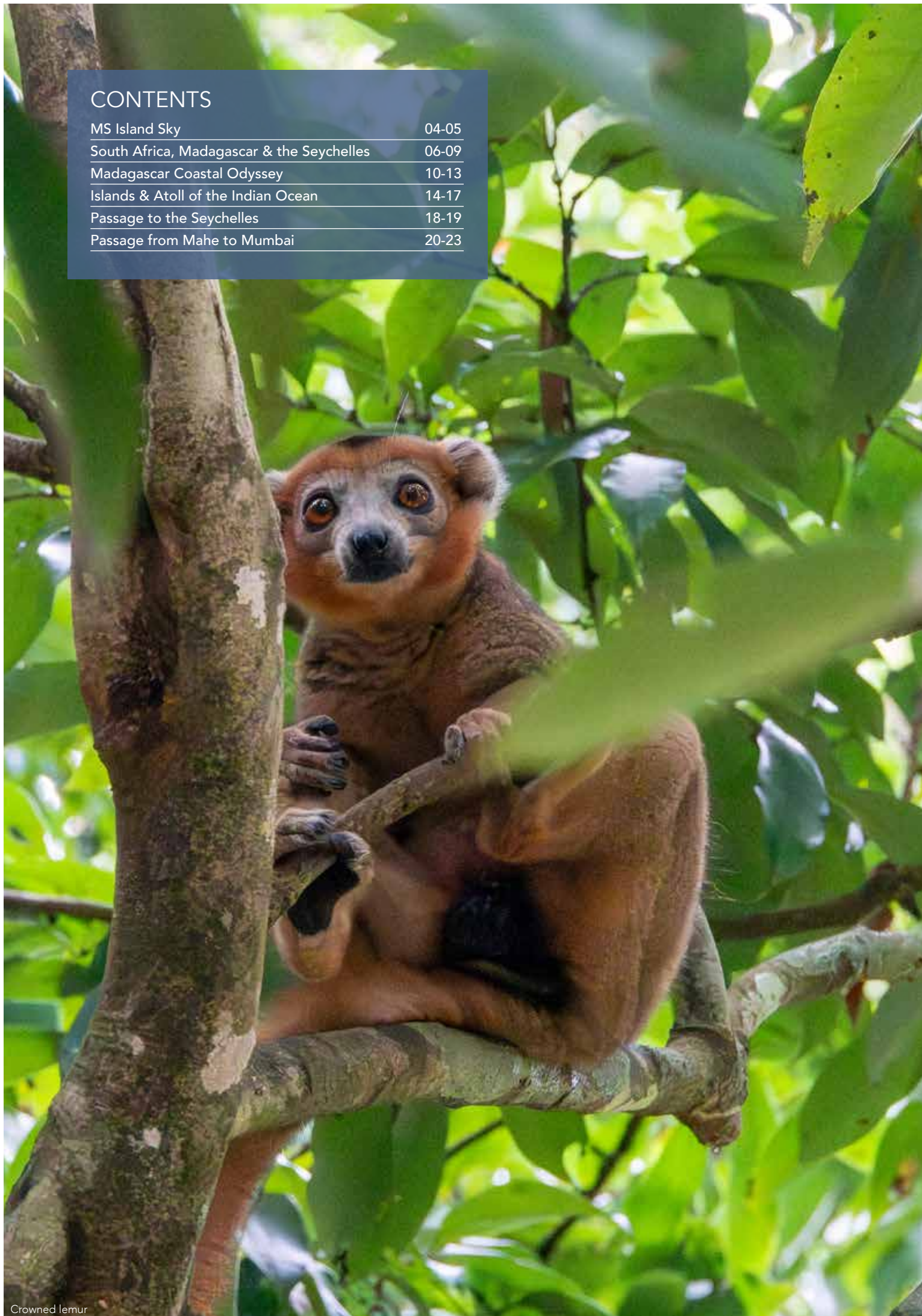


**NOBLE CALEDONIA**



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Crowned lemur

# DEAR TRAVELLER



## Discover the Wonders of the Indian Ocean from aboard the MS Island Sky

We are delighted to be bringing the all-suite MS Island Sky to the Indian Ocean in October 2025 where she will be based for the winter season. Having operated vessels in the Indian Ocean for almost thirty five 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.

The MS Island Sky is an ideally suited vessel for expedition cruising in the Indian Ocean, her size allowing us access to places larger vessels are unable to venture. In addition, with our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we are able to explore and land in otherwise inaccessible places. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by our 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.

Our itineraries represent a veritable feast of beauty and the natural world, from the unique flora and fauna of Madagascar to the enchanting, tropical scenery and magnificent birdlife of the Seychelles and the idyllic Maldives. Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions and with the MS Island Sky, you have the luxury of travelling with just 100 or so fellow travellers. Your days will be spent exploring verdant rainforests and national parks on guided walks with our expedition team, swimming or snorkelling in the clear waters, visiting local villages or just relaxing on some of the beautiful beaches, each evening returning to our comfortable ship to rest and look forward to the next adventure.

At the time of print of this brochure, the MS Island Sky will have just completed her refurbishment so the vessel will look different from the images shown in this brochure with regards décor and soft furnishings, all of which have been upgraded along with some other significant enhancements. As soon as new imagery is available, it will be added to our website.

We hope you can join us on board and discover for yourself the bounty of the Indian Ocean including the wildlife from the lemurs and chameleons of Madagascar to the giant tortoises of Aldabra, the amazingly prolific birdlife and the mesmerising underwater world.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tim Cochrane'.

Tim Cochrane  
Managing Director



## NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

The Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust (NCCT) was established in 2013 with the ultimate aim being to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we visit. After all, it feels right to support places in the world which give so much pleasure to our travellers as well as making our business possible. Every year Noble Caledonia makes a sizeable donation to the Trust and, on occasions, financially matches donations raised by our passengers for a particular cause. The Trust has no employees and is operated by the Trustees, many of whom will be familiar faces for our regular passengers, which allows the charity to make donations free of any costs or charges. Details of the projects being supported by the NCCT can be viewed on our website.





# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

## Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

## Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

## Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games as well as 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 main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

## Your Comfort

The MS Island Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you 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. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

## Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

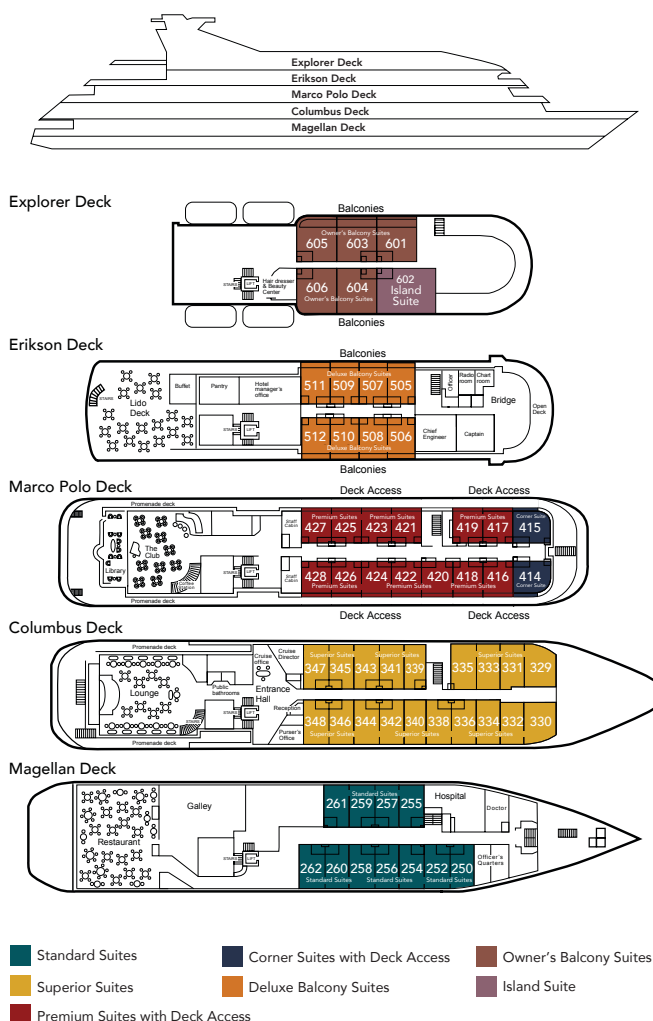


During these voyages you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. These cruises will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



Alfresco Dining on the Lido Deck

## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN





# SOUTH AFRICA, MADAGASCAR & THE SEYCHELLES

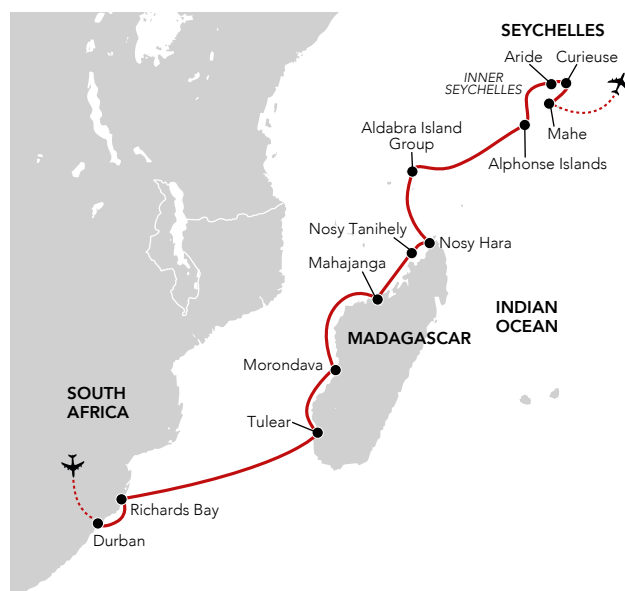
An epic voyage from Durban to Mahe aboard the MS Island Sky

24<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Join us aboard the all-suite MS Island 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. Our journey incorporates some fascinating and exotic calls combining Southern Africa's wildlife-rich KwaZulu-Natal with calls in Madagascar, the magnificent Aldabra Group and the stunning islands of the Seychelles.

South Africa is one of the most beautiful and diverse countries on earth and our journey begins in its southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal. Arriving in palm-fringed Durban we visit the scenic Midlands region before sailing to Richards Bay where we will visit the St Lucia Wetlands with its prolific birdlife and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, Africa's oldest game reserve. A land of contrasts with extraordinary wildlife and mountainscapes contrasting with flat, dry savannahs, modern skyscrapers and traditional Zulu culture, KwaZulu-Natal surpasses expectations.



Following a relaxing two days at sea we arrive in Madagascar, the world's 'eighth continent', where we have five days to explore this extraordinary country. The term 'unique' is often an overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar where the animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand-mile-long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. The final part of our adventure is dedicated to the Seychelles and some of the most idyllic islands in the world. Amongst the highlights of our time here will be the Aldabra Islands, the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise, and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures we should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds. 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.

This itinerary is a veritable feast of beauty and the natural world and with the vessel's fleet of Zodiac landing craft we will land on remote beaches and during our expedition will experience walking through verdant rainforest and national parks, snorkelling in crystal clear waters and getting close to some unique flora and fauna. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by our 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.



iSimangaliso Wetland Park



Lemurs, Madagascar



Bijoutier



Aride



KwaNogqaza, Howick Falls



Exploring by Zodiac, Aldabra



Frigate bird

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Durban, South Africa.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Durban.** Arrive today and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax in the hotel or explore independently.

**Day 3 Durban.** Durban is the capital of KwaZulu-Natal and a blend of diverse cultures from Asia, Africa and Europe making it one of the most cosmopolitan towns in South Africa. We head inland this morning to the Midlands and the area famed as the capture site of Nelson Mandela on the 5th of August 1962. Our guide will provide us with the history of his arrest before we have time to explore the museum and monument erected to commemorate this event. Afterwards we will continue to the Howick Falls, a picturesque 100 metre waterfall known to the Zulu people as KwaNogqaza, Place of the Tall One. After lunch we transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Durban and sail this evening.

**Day 4 Richards Bay.** Set up as a makeshift harbour, during the Anglo-Zulu War in 1879, Richards Bay has flourished into one of the main ports of South Africa. Leaving the port we drive north to the Narrows of the St Lucia Estuary which forms part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. Upon arrival in St Lucia town, we join a boat ride on the lake which is dotted with marshy, sandbank islands that are home to thousands of birds. Over 526 bird species can be found in the St Lucia Wetlands Reserve. The echo of the fish eagle's haunting cry can be heard while you view the basking and nesting sites of the Nile crocodile and the hundreds of hippos that make their homes in the estuary; the greatest occurrence of both crocodile and hippo in Southern Africa. After our visit choose to return to the ship or continue to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the oldest game reserve in all of Africa. Set in the heart of KwaZulu-Natal, the park extends itself over 96,000 hectares, has an immense variety of flora and fauna and is hugely popular not only for its "Big Five" but for the vast birdlife with more than 300 species existing within the reserve. As the home of Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 1960s, the park became world renowned for its white rhino conservation. In addition to rhino, the reserve has a spectacular variety of bird and animal life, including

elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, cheetah, mountain reedbuck, kudu and warthog.

**Days 5 & 6 At Sea.** Spend two days at sea as we cross the Mozambique Channel sailing towards Madagascar. Spend time listening to the informative lectures and spotting wildlife from the outer decks.

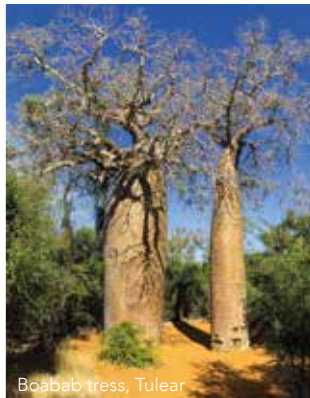
**Day 7 Tulear, Madagascar.** Our first call in Madagascar will be in Tulear where we offer a choice of morning tours. Maybe choose to visit the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to conserving the plants from the southwest of Madagascar. After more than 30 years of hard work, it offers a densely 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. Alternatively, visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares that contains a spiny forest which is unique to southeastern 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 MS Island Sky for lunch as we sail this afternoon.

**Day 8 Morondava.** From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, the capital of the Menabe region, 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. This morning we will explore Zazamalala Forest, a protected area that is home to a number of species of lemurs, birds, reptiles and plants, and also the base for a breeding centre for critically endangered species of turtles and tortoises. It was initially set up in 2000 as a reforestation project to promote sustainable use of the forest. We will then head to the Avenue des Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will marvel at the majestic Granddier's baobabs, a couple of dozen of which form a natural avenue. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance, as well as have the opportunity to contribute to local reforestation efforts by planting a young baobab ourselves. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest (subject to road conditions at time of visit). Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue des Baobabs as we travel north.





Chameleon



Baobab tress, Tulear



Exploring by foot, Zazamalala Forest

Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna include many endemic species. Here we find three species of baobab, and many birds and reptiles including snakes, tortoises and lizards. Eight species of lemur reside here including the pale form marked lemur.

**Day 9 At Sea.** Our lecture programme resumes as we continue our journey along the Madagascan coast.

**Day 10 Mahajanga.** Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day tour of the surrounding area. We will commence with a drive to Lake Mangatsa, a sacred site of many legends where we will learn about local traditions as we search for lemurs, chameleons and birds in the trees. Lunch will be served at the Antsanitia Resort, set in 22 hectares of grounds and located on a stunning section of coastline. There will be an opportunity to swim or enjoy a walk along the beach, see the local fishing boats and visit the village before we return to the MS Island Sky.

**Day 11 Nosy Tanihely.** Arrive mid-morning at the Nosy Tanihely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island that offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We 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, explore the island where we may see the resident lemurs, skinks, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the 1908 lighthouse on the island's highest point.

**Day 12 Nosy Hara.** Our final call in Madagascar will be off the northwestern coast where we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara with its abundant birdlife and great places to swim off the beach. We will spend the day exploring the island on foot or alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands with a chance to snorkel over the coral.

**Days 13 & 14 Aldabra Islands, Seychelles.** Arriving in the Seychelles we have a day and a half at 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, we plan to clear immigration formalities on Assumption. The island 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 plan to spend a day at 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 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 during 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 everchanging undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters teeming with marine life.

**Day 15 At Sea.** Relax on board as we make our way towards the Alphonse Islands.

**Day 16 Alphonse Islands.** There are three islands in the Alphonse group and as we approach them you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. Our plan is to spend a morning on the tiny and idyllic island of Bijoutier which, rarely visited, is a haven for a variety of seabirds. There will be the opportunity to swim and we hope to offer a snorkel platform in the crystal clear waters. Bijoutier sits between two larger atolls so the ocean current flows passing Bijoutier replenish the coral reefs and make them especially rich in biodiversity.

**Day 17 Aride & Curieuse.** Early this morning we arrive at the Inner Seychelles and hope to 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 noddy, 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 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 that 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 18 Mahe to London or Manchester.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London or Manchester. Arrive this afternoon.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

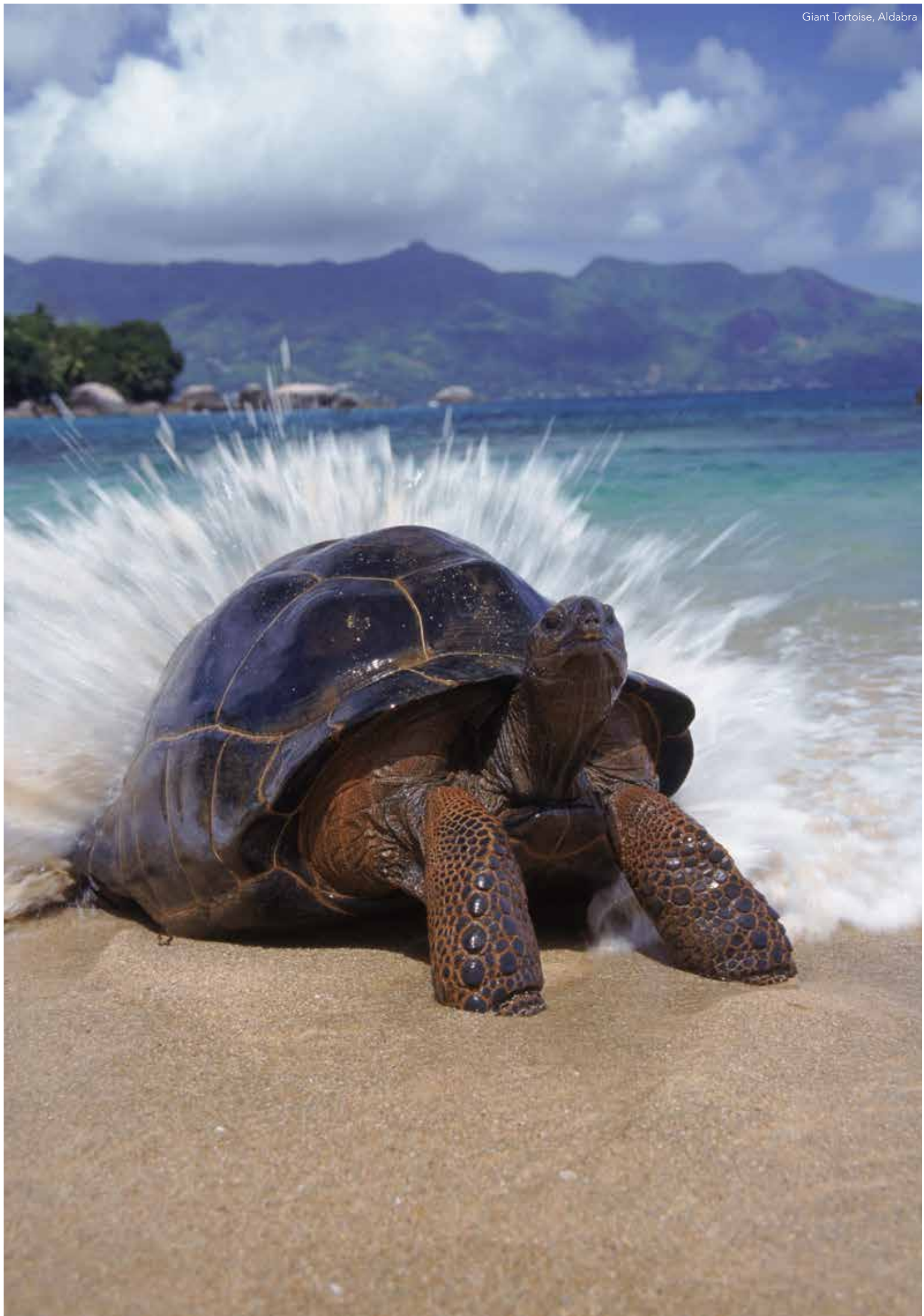
### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£10995	£10495
Columbus	Superior	£11295	£10795
Marco Polo	Premium	£11495	£10995
Marco Polo	Corner	£11995	£11495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£12495	£11995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£12995	£12495
Explorer	Island Suite	£13495	£12995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£11995	£11495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12295	£11795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Durban with breakfast • 15 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Shore excursions • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, meals on Day 2.





# MADAGASCAR COASTAL ODYSSEY

Discover the wildlife & wonders of Madagascar aboard the MS Island Sky  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 & 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026\*



The term 'unique' is an often 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 in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Island Sky is far preferable to exploring by any other means.

Our unique voyage focuses on the wonders of the island of Madagascar with opportunities to explore forests full of wildlife including lemurs, chameleons and indigenous birdlife as well as witnessing the underwater world and village life. Our days will be spent exploring ashore, often traversing over rugged terrain and walking through spectacular forests and each evening we will have the benefit of returning to our comfortable ship to relax and look forward to the next adventure. With the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to some wonderful places denied to larger ships, you can enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean. Our onboard experts will greatly enrich your experience and ensure that we make the most of our time on the world's "eighth continent".



## 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 the ship's log of a previous expedition which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

**Nosy Tanihely:** Coming ashore after lunch, some of us headed off for a nature walk with the expedition team and local guides. We soon learned that the timing of our visit was perfect: the weather was excellent, but recent rain had brought out all the wildlife. As a result, the leaf litter in the island's forested interior was crawling with skinks, plated lizards, millipedes, hermit crabs and land snails. In the trees, we discovered huge blue panther chameleons, bright day geckos and common brown lemurs feeding on fruit. Bird life was in evidence too, with white-tailed tropicbirds, Malagasy kestrels and a Humblot's heron amongst the main highlights. Dating back to 1908, a small lighthouse at the island's 200 metre peak provided some historical interest before we turned and headed back down to the beach for refreshments. Several sampled the excellent local rum or sipped fresh juice from freshly harvested coconuts. Many donned their snorkelling gear and headed into the sea, where they were treated to a kaleidoscope of corals interspersed with sponges and anemones, all augmented with myriad colourful reef fish. Even a few rays and turtles were seen during an afternoon of world-class snorkelling in calm waters that offered excellent visibility.

**Nosy Hara:** Before breakfast, the ship entered the picturesque Nosy Hara archipelago and anchored just off one of the dozen or so stunning rocky islands. Impressive formations of jaggedly eroded limestone karst, known locally as tsingy, towered above picture-postcard beaches of white sand. As the tides were not in favour of going ashore at the main island of Nosy Hara before lunch, we landed in the early part of the morning on Nosy Anjambavola instead, where most people snorkelled or swam off a small beach of alluring soft sand. Others enjoyed the sun and explored the coastline. The remainder of the morning was spent Zodiac cruising around the nearby small islands with sightings of white-tailed tropicbirds and Madagascar black swifts soaring in the sky, not to mention the cherry on the cake: good views of the incredibly rare Madagascar fish eagle. Straight after lunch, snorkelling from a Zodiac platform in a different part of the reef was on offer. The coral here turned out to be some of the healthiest and most diverse seen so far on the trip, with many colourful reef fish weaving in between. Mid-afternoon, we landed on Nosy Hara for wildlife walks. Top of the list of target species here was the Nosy Hara stump-tailed chameleon, *Brookesia micra*, and we were successful in locating a specimen of this extraordinary minute creature, which measures 29mm fully grown. Amongst other wildlife found were a variety of geckos, several kinds of crabs, the Madagascar coucal, souimanga sunbirds, a scorpion, a young Madagascar ground boa, and countless green mantella frogs. Plants of note included Suarez aloes, flame trees, orchids, and *Amorphophallus ankarana*.







## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Mauritius.** Arrive this morning and transfer directly to the MS Island Sky. Settle into your suite and spend a leisurely day on board. This evening enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we set sail this evening.

**Day 3 Reunion Island.** 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 volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. 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 Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit 'La Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in Saint Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in Saint Denis on the way back to the ship. This afternoon is at leisure before we set sail this evening.

**Day 4 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madagascar. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

**Day 5 Toamasina, Madagascar.** Our first call in Madagascar is Toamasina, the country's main port and second largest city as well as the gateway to the Ivoloana Zoological Parc, a 282 hectare property combining a small zoo where we will see up to a dozen species of lemur as well as indigenous tortoises and chameleons. In the surrounding forest we can see free roaming wild lemurs and other wildlife along the various lakeside walking trails. We return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

**Days 6 & 7 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe.** We will spend two days exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and other 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 will also explore Madagascar's largest National Park, the Masoala Peninsula, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh

and mangroves. We may be lucky enough to encounter a group of locally endemic red-ruffed lemur. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge for the endangered Madagascar red owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A range of walks will be on offer, as well as a visit to the local village.

**Day 8 Domaine de Bobangira.** After a morning at sea we arrive over lunch at the port of Voahemmar, our base for an afternoon at the Domaine de Bobangira. This reserve on the Indian Ocean has wild, unspoiled beaches and forests rich in biodiversity having about 40% of endemic flora to the region. Declared as a protected private nature reserve in 2017 by the national forestry department, it is home to fat-tailed dwarf lemurs, the diurnal white-headed lemur, Brookesia and various species of chameleons. There are also large centenarian canarium bujiga trees in the park, locally known as mandrirofo, a type of tree used in Madagascar to build fishing pirogues.

**Day 9 Diego Suarez.** This morning we will enter the dramatic harbour of Diego Suarez. Also known as Antsiranana, the town has a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This morning, choose from a city tour taking in the Commonwealth Cemetery, the faded colonial grandeur of Place Joffre, and a baobab viewpoint at French Mountain; or alternatively, drive up to Amber Mountain National Park at an elevation of 3,200ft, where we will divide into short and long walking parties to explore the pristine rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot Sanford's brown and crowned lemurs, as well as chameleons, stunningly well camouflaged leaf-tailed geckos, and an array of endemic birds.

**Day 10 Nosy Hara.** Having sailed around the northern tip of Madagascar we start our journey along the western coast of Madagascar where we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara with its abundant birdlife and great places to swim off the beach. We will spend the day exploring the island on foot or alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands with a chance to snorkel over the coral.

**Day 11 Nosy Tanihely.** We spend the morning at the Nosy Tanihely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We will take the opportunity to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively explore the island where we may see the resident lemurs, skinks, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the 1908 lighthouse on the island's highest point.



Reunion Island



Crested Coua



Mantella frog

**Day 12 Mahajanga.** Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day tour of the surrounding area. We will commence with a drive to Lake Mangatsa, a sacred site of many legends where we will learn about local traditions as we search for lemurs, chameleons and birds in the trees. Lunch will be served at the Antsanitia Resort, set in 22 hectare of grounds and located on a stunning section of coastline, and there will be an opportunity to swim or enjoy a walk along the beach, see the local fishing boats and visit the village before we return to the MS Island Sky.

**Day 13 At Sea.** Spend a leisurely day on board as we continue our journey around the Madagascan Coast.

**Day 14 Morondava.** From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, capital of the Menabe region, 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. This morning we will explore Zazamalala Forest, a protected area that is home to a number of species of lemurs, birds, reptiles and plants, and also the base for a breeding centre for critically endangered species of turtles and tortoises. It was initially set up in 2000 as a reforestation project and to promote sustainable use of the forest. We will then head to the Avenue des Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will marvel at the majestic Grandidier's baobabs, a couple of dozen of which form a natural avenue. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance, as well as having the opportunity to contribute to local reforestation efforts by planting a young baobab ourselves. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest (subject to road conditions at time of visit). Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue des Baobabs as we travel north. Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous 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.

**Day 15 Andavadoaka & Nosy Hao.** The vessel will anchor this morning off the small fishing community of Andavadoaka, home to the Vezo fishing people. The area offers the most diverse marine ecosystem on the southwest coast. It is also the flagship project for Blue Ventures, a marine conservation society that has helped the local villagers invest in their community. We hope to learn more about the local projects before sailing over lunch to Nosy Hao to discover the sandy white beaches where we can enjoy a swim in the warm waters.

**Day 16 Tulear.** Our final call will be at Tulear from where we have a choice of tours this morning. Maybe visit the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the southwest 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. Alternatively, visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to southeastern 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. This afternoon is free for independent exploration as we moor overnight.

**Day 17 Tulear to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 18 London.** Arrive this morning.

**\*16th December 2025 Departure** – Please note that the 16th December departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Tulear to Port Louis, and is a day longer with an overnight stay in Johannesburg on the outbound journey. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

## 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
Magellan	Standard	£11795	£11295
Columbus	Superior	£11995	£11495
Marco Polo	Premium	£12295	£11795
Marco Polo	Corner	£12795	£12295
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£14295	£13795
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£14795	£14295
Explorer	Island Suite	£15495	£14995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£13795	£13295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£13995	£13495

#### PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled international air travel

- Overnight hotel accommodation in Johannesburg with breakfast (16th Dec departure only)
- Specially chartered flight between Johannesburg and Tulear
- 15 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis
- House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Noble Caledonia expedition team
- Shore excursions
- Gratuities
- Transfers
- Airport taxes
- Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.







# ISLANDS & ATOLLS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

A voyage from Mauritius exploring Madagascar, Aldabra & Tanzania aboard the MS Island Sky

2<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026



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 Island 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 stunning place to spend a day. We will discover the island's truly awesome and dramatic scenery before we continue to Madagascar for five days of exploration of this incredibly verdant and beautiful island with its unique flora and fauna. During our time here there will be ample opportunity to discover the forests which are full of wildlife including the iconic lemur, chameleons and indigenous birdlife as well as to see the underwater world and village life. Continuing to the Seychelles we have a day and a half scheduled in the Aldabra islands. 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. Our expedition concludes in Tanzania where we visit Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest and discover atmospheric Zanzibar.



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 lemurs of Madagascar to the giant tortoises of Aldabra and an amazingly prolific birdlife.

## 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 the ship's log of a previous expedition which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

**Nosy Hara:** Before breakfast, the ship entered the picturesque Nosy Hara archipelago and anchored just off one of the dozen or so stunning rocky islands. Impressive formations of jaggedly eroded limestone karst, known locally as *tsingy*, towered above picture-postcard beaches of white sand. As the tides were not in favour of going ashore at the main island of Nosy Hara before lunch, we landed in the early part of the morning on Nosy Anjambavola instead, where most people snorkelled or swam off a small beach of alluring soft sand. Others enjoyed the sun and explored the coastline. The remainder of the morning was spent Zodiac cruising around the nearby small islands with sightings of white-tailed tropicbirds and Madagascar black swifts soaring in the sky, not to mention the cherry on the cake: good views of the incredibly rare Madagascar fish eagle. Straight after lunch, snorkelling from a Zodiac platform in a different part of the reef was on offer. The coral here turned out to be some of the healthiest and most diverse seen so far on the trip, with many colourful reef fish weaving in between. Mid-afternoon, we landed on Nosy Hara for wildlife walks. Top of the list of target species here was the Nosy Hara stump-tailed chameleon, *Brookesia micra*, and we were successful in locating a specimen of this extraordinary minute creature, which measures 29mm fully grown. Amongst other wildlife found were a variety of geckos, several kinds of crabs, the Madagascar coucal, souimanga sunbirds, a scorpion, a young Madagascar ground boa, and countless green mantella frogs. Plants of note included Suarez aloes, flame trees, orchids, and *Amorphophallus ankarana*.



**Nosy Mangabe:** Our afternoon Zodiac landing was made onto the picturesque beach of coarse orange sand in a protected bay on the eastern side of the island. We were greeted by the rich sounds, sights and scents of the rainforest – the chirps and beeps of myriad frogs echoing through the trees from every direction. From here we split into groups, with a challenging longer walk heading to Plage des Hollandais (Dutch Beach), a beach with some fascinating 17th-century Dutch sailors' inscriptions carved on the rocks. The majority of guests opted for a gentle amble through the rainforest along a flat path following the curve of the bay southwards and ending at a fisherman's hut. Wildlife was much in evidence in every corner of the island. The forest echoed with the cacophonous alarm calls of black-and-white ruffed lemurs. Green-backed mantellas – Madagascar's answer to the poison dart frogs of the New World – hopped around in the leaf litter on the forest floor or perched atop the flooded stumps of giant bamboo that they use as nurseries for their offspring. Perhaps most astounding of all were the fimbriated leaf-tailed geckos resting head-downwards on thin trunks. These superbly well camouflaged reptiles blend in so extraordinarily well with their surroundings that some guests were convinced the guides were pulling their leg when pointing them out!







Exploring by Zodiac



Turtle



Paradise flycatcher



Waterfalls, Reunion Island



Ring-tailed lemur

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Mauritius.** Arrive this morning and transfer directly to the MS Island Sky. Settle into your suite and spend a leisurely day on board. This evening enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we set sail this evening.

**Day 3 Reunion Island.** 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 volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. 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 Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit 'La Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively, enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in Saint Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in Saint Denis on the way back to the ship. This afternoon is at leisure before we set sail this evening.

**Day 4 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madagascar. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

**Days 5 & 6 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe, Madagascar.** We will spend two days exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and other lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the other 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 will also explore Madagascar's largest protected National Park, the Masoala Peninsula, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded

forests, marsh and mangroves. We may be lucky enough to encounter a group of locally endemic red-ruffed lemur. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge for the endangered Madagascar red owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A range of walks for all levels will be on offer, as well as a visit to the local village.

**Day 7 Domaine de Bobangira.** After a morning at sea we arrive over lunch at the port of Voahemar, our base for an afternoon at the Domaine de Bobangira. This reserve on the Indian Ocean has wild, unspoiled beaches and forests rich in biodiversity having about 40% of endemic flora to the region. Declared as a protected private nature reserve in 2017 by the national forestry department, it is home to fat-tailed dwarf lemurs, the diurnal white-headed lemur, Brookesia and various species of chameleons. There are also large centenarian canarium bujiga trees in the park, locally known as mandrirofo, a type of tree used in Madagascar to build fishing pirogues.

**Day 8 Diego Suarez.** This morning we will enter the dramatic harbour of Diego Suarez. Also known as Antsiranana, the town has a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This morning, choose from a city tour taking in the Commonwealth Cemetery, the faded colonial grandeur of Place Joffre, and a baobab viewpoint at French Mountain; or alternatively, drive up to Amber Mountain National Park at an elevation of 3,200ft, where we will divide into short and long walking parties to explore the pristine rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot Sanford's brown and crowned lemurs, as well as chameleons, stunningly well camouflaged leaf-tailed geckos, and an array of endemic birds.

**Day 9 Nosy Hara.** Having sailed around the northern tip of Madagascar we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine sea. Depending on tides and sea conditions, the expedition team will pick the most suitable island for landing in this marine reserve archipelago. We hope to offer swimming and snorkelling over the diverse coral reefs, as well as woodland walks to find extraordinary flora and fauna including one of the world's smallest reptiles. Zodiac cruises around the picturesque islands offer a good chance of sighting not just elegant tropicbirds but also the magnificent Madagascar fish eagle, one of Africa's rarest birds.



**Days 10 & 11 Aldabra Islands, Seychelles.** Arriving in the Outer Seychelles we have a day and a half 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, 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 nature walks or snorkelling. We will 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 we find something new of interest. Our exploration will be guided by the tides and 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 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 numerous tortoises and 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 leisurely day on board as we continue our journey through the Indian Ocean en-route to Tanzania.

**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 morning 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 hope to find a local beach to offer the chance to swim, snorkel or take a stroll.

**Day 14 Latham Island.** Also known as Fungu Kizimkazi, this uninhabited coral island measures just 7.5 acres but is an important breeding ground for many bird species and one of the most important areas in the Indian Ocean for masked booby, brown noddy, sooty tern and greater crested

tern. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to cruise the island to view these colonies and also offer the chance to snorkel on the fringing reef surrounding the island.

**Day 15 Zanzibar.** Zanzibar's 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 of 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 16 Dar es Salaam to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 17 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
Magellan	Standard	£10995	£10495
Columbus	Superior	£11295	£10795
Marco Polo	Premium	£11695	£11195
Marco Polo	Corner	£11995	£11495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£13495	£12995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£13995	£13495
Explorer	Island Suite	£14595	£14095
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12995	£12495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£13295	£12795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Tanzanian visa.





# PASSAGE TO THE SEYCHELLES

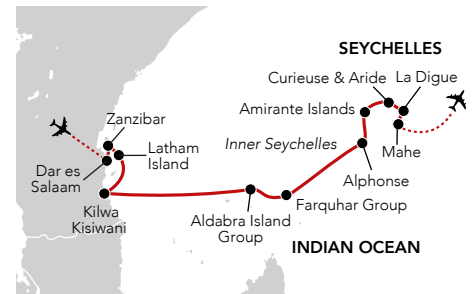


Island hopping through Tanzania & the beautiful Seychelles aboard the MS Island Sky  
16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

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. We know the region well having operated vessels there for almost thirty 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.

Setting sail from Tanzania, we have a full day to explore atmospheric Zanzibar before we spend time discovering Latham Island, an important seabird breeding site with spectacular reefs, and the historic sites of Kilwa Kisiwani. Continuing to the Seychelles, our journey will include all aspects of this extraordinary island nation from the lesser known and rarely visited Outer Seychelles where we visit the Aldabra Islands, the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage Site to the developed Inner Seychelles with staggeringly beautiful islands such as Aride and Praslin. 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. 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.

Obviously, such beauty and serenity are best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions and the MS Island Sky is an ideal vessel. With a maximum of just over 100 passengers she offers all the comforts of a larger vessel but with the added luxury of a small number of fellow, like-minded travellers and an expert expedition team who will add much to your enjoyment. 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.



## The Itinerary

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

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

**Day 3 Zanzibar.** Zanzibar's 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 of 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 Latham Island.** Also known as Fungu Kizimkazi, this uninhabited coral island measures just 7.5 acres but is an important breeding ground for many bird species and one of the most important areas in the Indian Ocean for masked booby, brown noddy, sooty tern and greater crested tern. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to cruise the island to view these colonies and also offer the chance to snorkel on the fringing reef surrounding the island.

**Day 5 Kilwa Kisiwani.** 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 morning 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 hope to find a local beach to offer the chance to swim, snorkel or take a stroll.

**Day 6 At Sea.** Spend a leisurely day on board as we continue our journey through the Indian Ocean en-route to the Seychelles.

**Days 7 to 9 Aldabra Islands, Seychelles.** Arriving in the Outer 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





Exploring by Zodiac



Aldabra



Red-footed boobies



Fort, Kilwa Kisiwani



Slave Market, Zanzibar



Stone Town, Zanzibar

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 nature walks 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. In addition we will 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 we find something new of interest. Our exploration will be guided by the tides and 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 numerous tortoises and 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 10 Farquhar Group.** This morning we anchor off Farquhar where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll and its islands covered in coconut trees, palms and scaevola sea lettuce plants. Hawksbill and Green sea turtles come to the atoll to nest and several of the Farquhar Group's islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. The island is a haven providing us with a delightful morning of bird watching or snorkelling before we sail this afternoon.

**Day 11 Alphonse Islands.** There are three islands in the Alphonse group and 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. Our plan is to land on the tiny and idyllic island of Bijoutier. Rarely visited, it is a safe haven for a variety of seabirds. There will be the opportunity to swim and we hope to offer a snorkel platform in the crystal clear waters. Bijoutier sits between two larger atolls so the ocean current flows passing Bijoutier replenishing the corals reefs and making them especially rich in biodiversity.

**Day 12 Amirante Islands.** This morning we arrive at the 28 islands in the Amirante Group 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 visit the huge sand spit on African Banks and join nature walks with our naturalists, beachcombing and spotting

seabirds. In addition we hope to offer Zodiacs cruises in the lagoon of one of the atolls and also the opportunity for swimming and snorkelling.

**Days 13 & 14 Inner Seychelles.** Our final two days are spent in the Inner Seychelles islands where we hope to visit 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, 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 including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. We plan to land on 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. Meanwhile on La Digue, huge granite boulders lie like giant sculptures on the brilliant white beaches of the island. Maybe visit the forested nature reserve and the L'Union Estate, a superbly restored 19th century colonial house, or swim from one of the beaches.

**Day 15 Mahe to London or Manchester.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight.

**Day 16 London or Manchester.** 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
Magellan	Standard	£10495	£9995
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Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12495	£11995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12795	£12295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Tanzanian visa.

# PASSAGE FROM MAHE TO MUMBAI

A voyage from the Seychelles to India's Malabar Coast including the Maldives & Lakshadweep Islands aboard the MS Island Sky

29<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

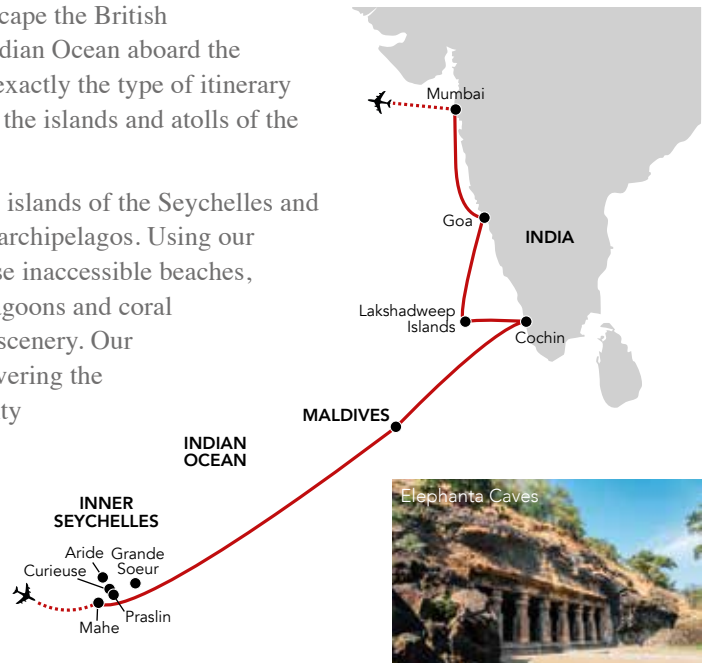


We find it difficult to imagine a more perfect way to escape the British winter than to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. Join us in the tropics as we journey from the islands and atolls of the Indian Ocean to India's Malabar Coast.

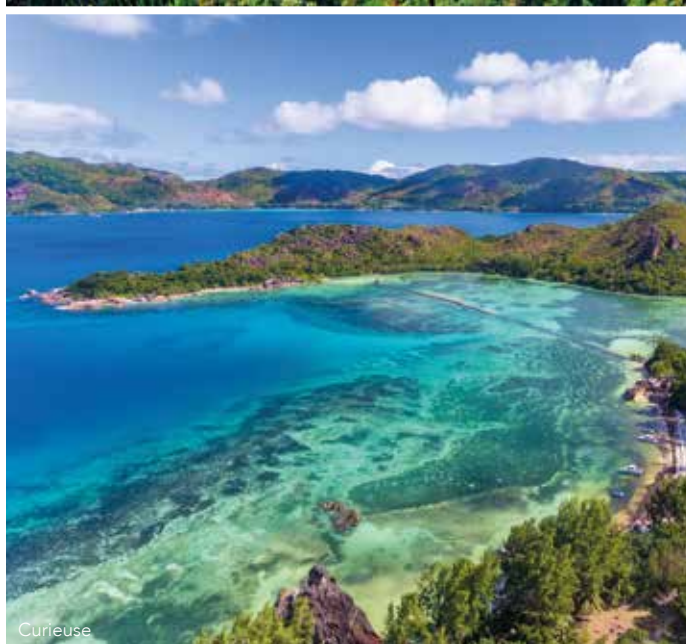
Our journey to Mumbai first allows us to explore the idyllic islands of the Seychelles and Maldives, two of the world's most pristine and picturesque archipelagos. Using our purpose built Zodiac landing craft, we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, witness the magnificent bird and marine life, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery. Our small ship, the MS Island Sky is the perfect means of discovering the region, allowing us to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquillity of the islands, after all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach or whilst exploring remote atolls.

Contrasting well with this natural world exploration, our itinerary then takes a more cultural focus as we reach the Indian state of Kerala. Our first port of call is Cochin, an ancient city of islands which has for centuries attracted traders and adventurers from Europe and the far Orient and from here we can explore the serene 'backwaters', a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals. Continuing west, we spend two days in the beautiful and serene Lakshadweep Islands with opportunities to swim and snorkel in the atoll's shallow waters abundant with marine life and corals. Finally, we will spend time in Goa with its interesting blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures and Mumbai, the perfect city in which to observe the colourful day to day life and the general hubbub of India.

This unusual itinerary will appeal to those looking for something different, incorporating explorations of the natural world with a more expedition focus, followed by a fascinating look at southern India. With the MS Island Sky as our base and travelling with just over 100 fellow passengers and our expert onboard team, we can enjoy great food, good company and a convivial atmosphere.







## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Mahe.** Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail the short distance to our overnight anchorage.

**Days 3 & 4 Inner Seychelles.** Spend two days exploring the islands of the Inner Seychelles group. We hope to include time on Aride which is 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. See 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. Maybe relax on Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Walk the island trails which link the white sand beaches and perhaps catch sight of some of the island's giant Aldabra tortoises or take a swim in the turquoise waters. Our last call in the Seychelles will be at Praslin where we 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. This evening we will clear custom formalities as we start our journey to the Maldives.

**Days 5 to 7 At Sea.** Relax on board, enjoying our time at sea sailing between the islands of the Seychelles and the Maldives. Watch out for the bird and marine life and listen to the intriguing talks by our expedition team. We are assured of warm weather so make the most of the fresh air and enjoy all the comforts of the MS Island Sky.

**Days 8 to 11 Maldives.** We spend four days exploring the whole archipelago. This vast area of ocean is scattered with staggeringly beautiful dots of land surrounded by a cerulean sea. It offers some of the finest lagoons, beaches and coral reefs in the world. Our day to day schedule will be left in the capable hands of the Captain and Expedition Leader and we hope to include visits to a number of atolls as we sail from the southern islands to the north. Our expedition team will be on hand to lead guided walking tours to explore the birds and wildlife on land whilst our Snorkel Master will take us to some stunning reefs to view the wonderful coral and marine life.

**Day 12 At Sea.** Our lecture programme continues as we make our way across the Laccadive Sea to India.

**Day 13 Cochin, India.** Our first call in India is Cochin, an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today. From our berth you can choose to visit the serene Kerala backwaters at Alleppey where we will board a local boat for a cruise past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses. For centuries, these canals provided a safe and efficient means of transportation for goods and people moving between the



heartland of Kerala and the port towns along the coast. Even today, traditional barges, or kettuvallams, haul coconut, pepper, rice and other goods along the waterways. Alternatively stay in Cochin to explore the diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals and also see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, and the ruins of the fort.

**Days 14 & 15 Lakshadweep Islands.** Situated about 200 miles east of Cochin, the idyllic Lakshadweep archipelago comprise the smallest Union Territory of India, totalling just 11 square miles of land. Stunning lagoons, colourful birds, profuse marine flora and fauna, swaying palms and pristine beaches make these an island paradise. During our day and a half here we will stroll along lovely, unspoiled beaches and explore the underwater realm. Weather and tide conditions will determine our course but we hope to land for walks as well as explore the clear waters that surround these pristine islands which are perfect for swimming and witnessing the colourful hard and soft corals which teem with many marine species.

**Day 16 Goa.** In the 15th century Goa was the largest trading centre on India's west coast and when the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century they planned to set up a colony to seize control of the spice trade. Goa remained a Portuguese colony until 1961 when it became the 25th state of the Indian Republic. Whilst famous for her beautiful beaches Goa also offers wonderful architecture with a mixture of Hindu and Catholic styles, unique history, rich culture and pretty natural scenery. Arriving over lunch we spend the afternoon exploring Old Goa with its fine Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Neo-Classical Church of St Cajetan. Afterwards choose to return to the ship or continue to a spice plantation where the cultivation of cardamom, chilli, cloves and coriander can be seen. We will enjoy the smells and tastes whilst we learn about their uses in Indian life.

**Day 17 At Sea.** Relax on board as we make our way to our final destination of Mumbai.

**Day 18 Mumbai.** This morning we sail into Mumbai, a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. Mumbai was derived from 'Mumba' the

name of the Hindu goddess 'Mumbadevi' and 'Aai' – mother in the local Marathi language. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. Choose to explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. Alternatively, travel to Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples features courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace.

**Day 19 Mumbai to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled 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
Magellan	Standard	£11795	£11295
Columbus	Superior	£11995	£11495
Marco Polo	Premium	£12495	£11995
Marco Polo	Corner	£12895	£12395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£14495	£13995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£14495	£13995
Explorer	Island Suite	£16495	£15995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12795	£12295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12995	£12495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 17 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Indian visa.



## Post-cruise Jaipur, Agra & Delhi Extension – 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

If you would like to spend some additional time exploring India after disembarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a five night extension which will include Jaipur, Agra for the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, and Delhi.



Taj Mahal



Birla Temple, Jaipur



Agra Fort

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Mumbai to Jaipur, India.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Jaipur. Arrive in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Originally the city's walls were the colour of red sandstone, Jaipur's universal coat of pink only came in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII). Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint, thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. This afternoon we will visit the Birla Temple and Albert Hall before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 2 Jaipur.** Located near the deserts of Rajasthan, the movement and collection of water play an important role for the city. This morning our guide will show us the ancient channels, aqueducts and reservoirs and explain about their history and creation. Also see the Hawa Mahal, the ornamental facade of this 'Palace of Winds' is a prominent landmark in Jaipur, plastered pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. After lunch we will visit the Observatory and the City Palace which maintains the Maharaja's private collection of textiles and arms. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure before dinner is served in the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Jaipur to Agra.** This morning we drive to Agra (approximately 4.5 hours). Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Located on the Yamuna River, the city grew as a centre of architectural, political and trading activity. Today it is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. After lunch we visit Agra Fort, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565, before continuing to the city including the bazaars which are rich with spices, foods, fabrics, jewellery and textiles. Check in to our hotel for our two night stay and enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Agra.** After breakfast we see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rudyard Kipling described the building as "the embodiment of all things pure". After our visit we will have lunch and an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Agra to Delhi.** Drive this morning to Delhi (approximately 4 hours). Capital to seven different cultures over the course of its history, New Delhi is a fascinating fusion of them all. The art and architecture of the city reflect its ancient and multifaceted heritage. A Hindu fortress, a Mughal tomb, an Islamic minaret and mosque and a Bahai temple give an idea of the cultural richness found here. After lunch, visit Gurudwara Bangla Sahab (Sikh temple), a quiet and serene spot amid the bustling marketplace. After paying homage at the sanctum, where the holy book is kept, we can stroll along the tranquil pond in the Gurudwara. Return to the hotel for our final dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Delhi to London.** Check out and transfer to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2895 Single: £3495

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Mumbai to Jaipur, two nights hotel accommodation in Jaipur, two nights hotel accommodation in Agra, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, guided tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Indian visa.



'Palace of the Winds', Jaipur



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

SMALL SHIPS - BIG EXPERIENCES



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Praslin. Back cover image: MS Island Sky, Seychelles.