

MADAGASCAR & SEYCHELLES: NATURAL TREASURES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN – WITH SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys. _This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture._ The western reaches of the Indian Ocean contain some of the most beautiful tropical islands in the world, and this 11-day voyage aboard _Le_ _Dumont-d'Urville_ introduces the very best of them, as you sail more than 1,000 miles through the Seychelles Archipelago to northern Madagascar. Along the way, you will encounter coral reefs teeming with fish, colonies of seabirds breeding and nesting on jagged volcanic cliffs, lush vegetation, unbelievably picturesque beaches, and the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of an expansive open sea. Leaving the Seychelles' capital of Victoria on the island of Mahé , sail north to a group of small granite islands, where you spend two full days immersed in the essence of a tropical paradise—turquoise waters inviting you to swim, vegetation sheltering giant tortoises, and beaches of fine sand fringed with coconut trees. Explore La Digue , home to the iconic picture-postcard beach at _Anse Source d'Argent_ ; the bird sanctuary of Aride Island, where more than 1.25 million seabirds breed; and the "red island" of Curieuse, with its endemic _coco de mer_ palms and free-roaming population of Aldabra giant tortoises. Turning to the southwest, _Le_ _Dumont-d'Urville_ sets a course for



Remire Island , prized for its extraordinary biodiversity, especially its rich marine life, and then on to two pristine atolls in the heart of the Outer Islands of the Seychelles. Saint-François, covered in coconut trees, provides ideal habitat for myriad birds and sea turtles and is a splendid location for both hiking and snorkeling. Farquhar Atoll , the most southerly atoll in the Seychelles and a popular destination for fly fishermen, is your last call before reaching Madagascar—and your final opportunity to take advantage of the extraordinary birding and snorkeling offered by these tiny islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Your experience of northern Madagascar begins with two full days in Diego Suarez, the second-largest bay in the world, after Rio de Janeiro. The city (renamed Antsiranana in 1975), was an important naval outpost for the French until the late 20th century, and their influence remains clearly evident in the colonial architecture of the old town. But the primary attraction of the region is the bay itself. Comprising several smaller bays, including the famous Emerald Sea Lagoon and Andovazaha Bay, home to emblematic Sugarloaf Island, Diego Suarez offers splendid beaches, panoramic views, and an inviting, laid-back approach to life. Rounding the northern tip of Madagascar, _Le_ _Dumont-d'Urville_ arrives at Nosy Hara, a marine protected area and national park remarkably rich in wildlife: 279 species of coral fish, 108 species of corals, 5 species of sea turtles, whales, dolphins, 31 species of birds, and 18 species of reptiles including the smallest chameleon in the world. The final day before your voyage ends in Nosy Be is spent exploring two islands: the "lemur island" of Nosy Komba , covered in dense tropical rainforest that is the ideal habitat for the small mammals that are emblematic of Madagascar; andNosy Tanikely, a tiny islet with a magnificent white sand beach on an unbelievably blue lagoon with an exceptional diversity of marine and terrestrial life. _The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be



guaranteed._

ITINERARY

Day 1 Victoria, Mahé

Discover Mahe, the main island of the Seychelles and also the largest of the archipelago, home to the capital, Victoria. Mahe has almost 70 beaches of fine sand, framed by the emblematic granite rocks, and whose crystal clear waters are renowned for their rich underwater life. The island is also famous for its splendid mountain panoramas accessible on hikes, such as the Morne Seychellois, which is 905 metres high and overlooks the Indian Ocean. Mahe is also an island full of history where fine colonial properties rub shoulders with Creole houses - and don't forget the marvellous Botanical Gardens in Victoria.



Day 2 La Digue Island

La Digue Island is a veritable concentration of all the beauty of the Seychelles. Located 6 km south-east of Praslin, this small piece of land that looks like paradise is the third-largest island in the Seychelles, despite its modest size (5 km by 3 km)! Turquoise waters just asking you to swim in them, lush vegetation sheltering giant tortoises, beaches of fine sand fringed with coconut trees and surrounded with those emblematic large granite rocks with their pink highlights like at the famous Anse Source d'Argent: the perfect picture postcard... Authentic and preserved, the island follows a peaceful rhythm, with the only means of transport along its little roads being bikes or traditional oxcarts.

Day 3 Aride Island & Curieuse Island

Aride is an island in the Seychelles situated a few kilometres north-west of Praslin. Listed as a nature reserve, this pearl of the Indian Ocean will seduce you with the beauty of its landscapes of wild cliffs and fine-sand beaches. Protected from human impact and sometimes called "bird capital", it is home to several endemic plants as well as exceptional wildlife. Most notably, it is the refuge of an impressive number of seabirds (Seychelles magpie-robins, terns, noddies, and more), and reptiles, such as Wright's skinks, which can be found in the island's wooded areas. Sea turtles can also be observed on the island's beaches.

Situated off the coast of Praslin, Curieuse has a distinguishing feature: its red earth. Discovered in 1768 by the French explorer Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne, it was ravaged by a fire in 1771 and then home to a leper colony of which a few vestiges still remain. Declared a national marine park in 1979, it is home to many underwater species, which can be discovered while scuba diving or snorkelling in the idyllic waters of the Indian Ocean. But above all, Curieuse is renowned for the hundreds of Aldabra giant tortoises that live there. It is highly likely that you will get the chance to meet these fascinating reptiles. Along with Praslin, it is also the only island on which the sea coconut grows wild.

Day 4 Rémire island

Remire Island is like a piece of confetti in the Indian Ocean and is a captivating place to visit. Located in the Outer Islands of the Seychelles, it is prized for its unique biodiversity, including its exceptionally rich underwater life. The rare inhabitants of this tropical islet watch over its preservation, and a walk amidst its lush vegetation, home to delightful birds, will delight fans of unspoilt areas. For those who love snorkelling, myriad colourful fish live among the coral reefs that border the island.

Day 5 Saint François Atoll

In the heart of the Outer Islands of the Seychelles, St. François Atoll paints the Indian Ocean in an infinite palette of blues. This coral atoll, made up of the Bijoutier and St. François islands, is exactly what people imagine when they think of the Seychelles. Formed around volcanos having vanished into the abyssal depths of the Indian Ocean, its islands are protected by splendid and fragile coral reefs. Here, the population is composed of myriad birds on land and of sea turtles and a multitude of fish in the water, making this the ideal place for hiking or snorkelling.

Day 6 Farquhar Atoll

The southernmost atoll of the Seychelles, Farquhar is famous for its 10-metre high sand dunes and the deep waters of its lagoon in infinite shades of blue and green. It was among the first atolls



of the Outer Islands to be discovered and bears the name of the first British Governor of Mauritius, Sir Robert Farquhar, who published the act abolishing slavery in 1813. Only North Farquhar is still inhabited by some farmers, who perpetuate ancestral artisanal traditions. On South Farquhar and Goelette, you will be able to observe hundreds of crabs as well as thousands of sooty terns and black-naped terns, a species that exclusively lives on coral islands.

Days 7 - 8 Diego Suarez (Antsiranana)

A jewel on the north coast of Madagascar, Diego Suarez, also known as Antsiranana, reveals itself in all of its splendour, from its idyllic beaches to its turquoise waters and its mountains. Enjoy the gentleness of its heavenly stretches of fine sand and fall under the spell of its pristine landscapes where nature reigns supreme. Diego Suarez is not only a nature sanctuary home to certain endemic species such as the brookesia micra, one of the world's smallest chameleons, it is also a dream location for hikers. You will have the opportunity to discover the Red Tsingy, to the north of the town. Carved out by the Irodo River, this canyon reveals huge ochre rock formations. A captivating sight.

Day 9 Nosy Hara

Its limestone rock formations rising from the waters, or marine "tsingies" typical of Madagascar, make Nosy Hara both exceptional and immediately recognisable. Located to the north-west of Madagascar, the island is a protected area due to its incredible biodiversity. It is a veritable open-air aquarium inhabited by around 280 marine species. The rocky columns edged with gorgeous white-sand and pebble beaches fading into shades of deep blue make an idyllic place cut off from the world. Succumb to the charms of this untouched jewel that will welcome you into its stunning decor for a special experience. This is an ideal location for snorkelling.

Day 10 Nosy Komba & Nosy Tanikely

During your cruise, your ship will stop in Nosy Komba, otherwise known as "lemur island". Not far from the Madagascar mainland, this volcanic island shaped like a gigantic turtle shell is covered in dense tropical rainforest. This vegetation is home to amusing black lemurs - furry orange-brown and black creatures that are surprisingly agile and call to each other from amongst the trees. The many small beaches and the emerald-coloured water make Nosy Komba a natural gem that only a select few visit.

In the heart of the Nosy Be archipelago, discover Nosy Tanikely, nicknamed the "island of little earth." In addition to a magnificent white sand beach bordering a lagoon of crystal-clear waters, the island, which is uninhabited, has exceptional marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Thanks to this, the area has been classified as a "marine and coastal protected area" since 2010. It is a perfect spot for swimming and snorkelling. Hiking fans won't be left out either: a stunning walk that climbs to the summit of the island will enable them to discover the old lighthouse built at the beginning of the 20th century and enjoy superb views over the ocean and surrounding islands.

Day 11 Nosy Be

Nosy Be (from the Malagasy: Nosy meaning island and Be meaning large), in the Mozambique Channel, is located near the north-eastern coastlines of Madagascar. A former French protectorate, known under the promising name of "the scented island", of volcanic origin, it is located on a maritime route with access to India and Asia. Cosmopolitan, a boulevard of



encounters, its mixed-race and multicultural population still remembers its past as a significant trading post. Today, its 321 km² enchant lovers of nature and idyllic beaches. Its sumptuous primary forest is home to animals that are endemic to the island as well as surprising flora.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: LE BOUGAINVILLE

YOUR SHIP: **Le Bougainville**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Featuring innovative and environmentally-friendly equipment, elegantly designed cabins, spacious suites with large windows, and lounge areas that open onto the outside, this new limited-capacity yacht boasting just 92 cabins and suites will offer you a truly unique cruising experience. As the first ship in a new series that remains true to the Ponant spirit, Le Bougainville will embody the unique atmosphere that is the cruise line's hallmark: a subtle blend of refinement, intimacy and comfort. Aboard this ship that flies the French flag, you will experience the incomparable pleasure of an intimate cruise, with the possibility of exploring an ever-increasing range of destinations in an ethnic-chic ambiance with luxury service. Experience a luxurious setting where the accent is on authenticity and passion for travel. RESTAURANTS As it is an essential part of French culture, gastronomy will naturally have pride of place aboard this new ship. Through its two restaurants, Le Bougainville will invite you on a journey to elegance and epicureanism. In a relaxed atmosphere, a first dining area located on Deck 3 and able to seat 70 will serve grilled meats daily, along with a variety of salads and desserts. To the back of Deck 4, you will find a 260 m² panoramic restaurant which can accommodate all of our passengers in a single sitting. Designed differently to that on our other ships, this dining area, which opens onto the outside, will have a buffet of salads, desserts and cheeses at your disposal. Our discreet and attentive crew will provide table service for hot meals. PUBLIC AREAS Like Le Boreal and its sisterships, Le Bougainville has many common areas that are designed and equipped to meet all of your needs while preserving the intimacy of each passenger. A 140 m² reception area includes: A reception/concierge desk, An excursions desk, The ship's administrative services, The sales office, manned by our Guest Relations Officer, Our 50 m² boutique which sells clothing, jewellery, beauty products, postcards and various accessories, Toilets accessible to passengers with reduced mobility. A new hydraulic platform with adjustable height provides: Easier boarding than on any other cruise ship, Easier Zodiac embarkation and disembarkation for expeditions, Easier access to the sea for swimming and practising various water sports such as kayaking or paddle-boarding. A pool deck offering: A pool with a panoramic view, equipped with a counter-current swimming system, A pleasant solarium, An outdoor bar and lounge with armchairs and sofas. A 200 m² main lounge which can accommodate all of our passengers to share convivial moments and to host activities organised during the day or evening. Lastly, a theatre that seats 188, equipped with: The latest sound and lighting technology, A LED wall as the stage backdrop, for the projection of high-resolution images and videos. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant





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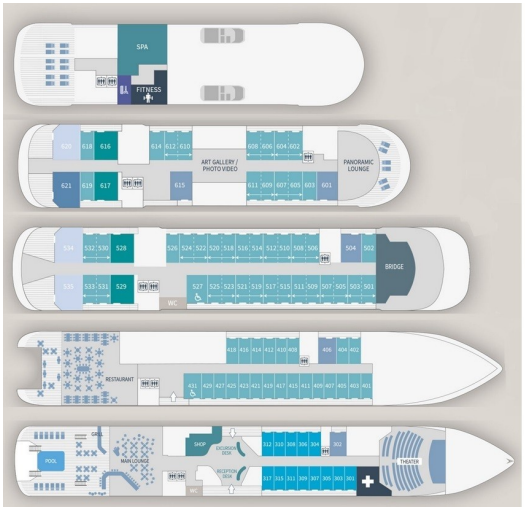
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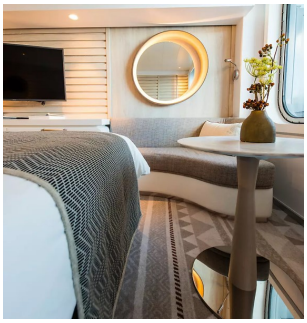
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Stateroom - waitlist



Deluxe Suite Deck 3



Deluxe Suite Deck 3 - waitlist



Deluxe Suite Deck 4



Deluxe Suite Deck 4 - waitlist



Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Deluxe Suite Deck 5 - waitlist





Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Deluxe Suite Deck 6 - waitlist



Grand Deluxe Suite



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5



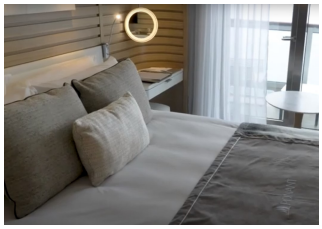
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6



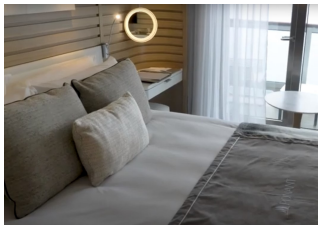
Owner's Suite - waitlist



Prestige Deck 4



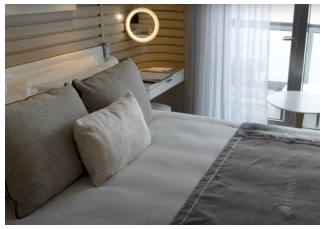
Prestige Deck 5



Prestige Deck 5 Suite



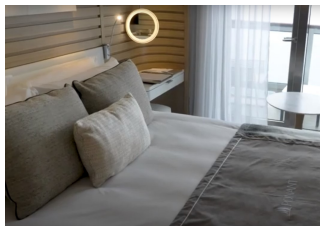
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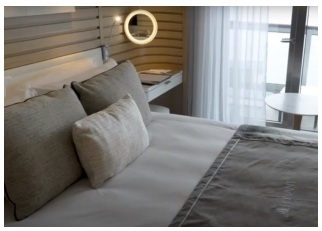
Prestige Deck 6 Suite



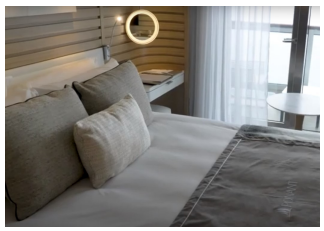
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6





Privilege Suite Deck 5



Privilege Suite Deck 6





PRICING

31-Jan-2027 to 10-Feb-2027

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