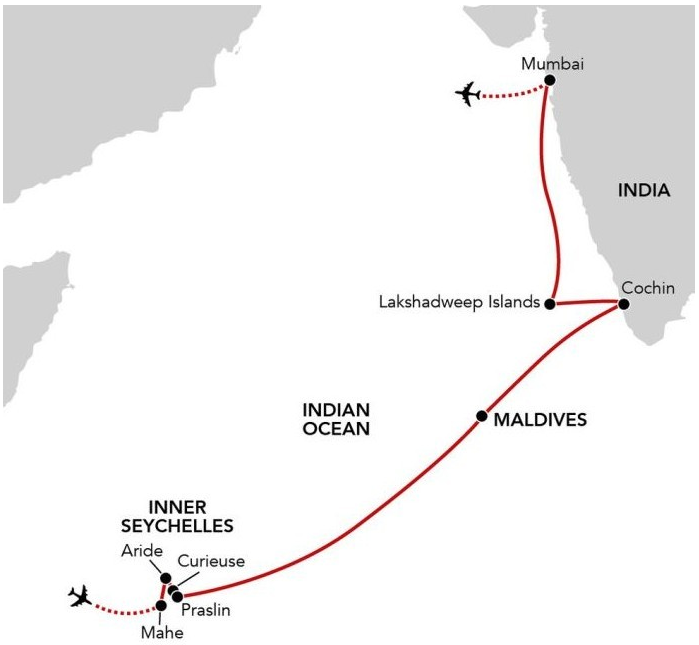


PASSAGE TO INDIA - A VOYAGE FROM THE SEYCHELLES TO INDIA'S MALABAR COAST

We can think of few better ways 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 so well. Join us in the tropics as we journey from the islands and atolls of the Indian Ocean to India's Malabar Coast. Our journey between Mahe and Mumbai allows us to explore some truly idyllic islands, beginning with 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. We will also discover the pristine beauty and rich biodiversity of Lakshadweep, a group of islands that make up India's smallest union territory. We will spend two days here discovering the serene islands with opportunities to swim and snorkel in the atoll's shallow waters which abound with marine life and corals. Our small ship, the MS Island Sky is the perfect means of discovering these three archipelagos, 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 should be a deserted beach or whilst exploring these remote atolls. Contrasting well with our natural world exploration, will be our visit to Cochin in the Indian state of Kerala which will have a more cultural focus. Cochin, an ancient city of islands 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. Finally, we will spend time in 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 some remarkable archipelagos combined with a call in southern India and the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of Mumbai. 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. After our expedition there is the option to extend your time in India with our post-cruise extension to Pench





National Park.

ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Mahe, Seychelles.

Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe.

Arrive this afternoon 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. 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, frigatebirds 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 vines and mangroves which we explore on an island walk. 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 the natural beauty. This evening we will clear customs formalities as we start our journey to the Maldives.

Days 5 to 7 At Sea.

Relax and enjoy our days at sea. Watch out for bird and marine life and listen to the informative talks by our expedition team. We are assured of warm weather so make the most of the fresh air, get lost in a novel from your deck chair 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 walks exploring the birds and wildlife on land, whilst our Snorkel Master will take us to stunning reefs to view the wonderful coral and marine life. We also hope to visit one of the islands' villages and take the opportunity to mingle with the local population and learn a little about life in the Maldives.

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 at 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. We see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, which was the original burial site of Vasco da Gama, and the oldest active synagogue in India built in 1568. Return to the ship via the atmospheric streets known for local handicrafts.

Days 14 & 15 Lakshadweep Islands.

Situated about 200 miles off the coast of Kerala, Lakshadweep is comprised of 36 idyllic islands, 10 of which are inhabited and the archipelago is the smallest Union Territory of India, totalling just 11 square miles of land. Stunning lagoons, colourful birds, marine flora and fauna, swaying palms, and pristine beaches make these an island paradise. During our two days here we will stroll along lovely, unspoiled beaches and explore the underwater realm. Weather and tide conditions determine our course but we hope to land for walks amongst the palm trees, visit a village to learn about the local industries and culture as well as exploring the clear waters that surround these pristine islands which are perfect for swimming, and seeing the colourful hard and soft corals which teem with many marine species.

Day 16 At Sea.

Relax on board as we make our way to our final destination of Mumbai.

Day 17 Mumbai.

Over lunch we sail into Mumbai, a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fishermen, 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. This afternoon we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, the Victoria Terminus, 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, those interested in the spice trade may prefer to visit Crawford Market, one of Mumbai's oldest markets, where the lively atmosphere provides a wonderful opportunity to observe everyday city life. Continue to Lalbaug's famous Mirchi Galli, Mumbai's traditional spice district. Walk through narrow lanes stacked high with colourful chillies, aromatic spices, and dry fruits, gaining insight into the age-old spice trade that has shaped Indian cuisine for centuries.

Day 18 Mumbai to London or Manchester.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester. Arrive this afternoon.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

YOUR SHIP: **Island Sky**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

With a maximum passenger capacity of only 116, 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. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers- the friendly crew of 75 crew and Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers, informative port briefings from our cruise director and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship. Your Suite Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. 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 all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD player which can also play CDs and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. Your Space The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability. There is

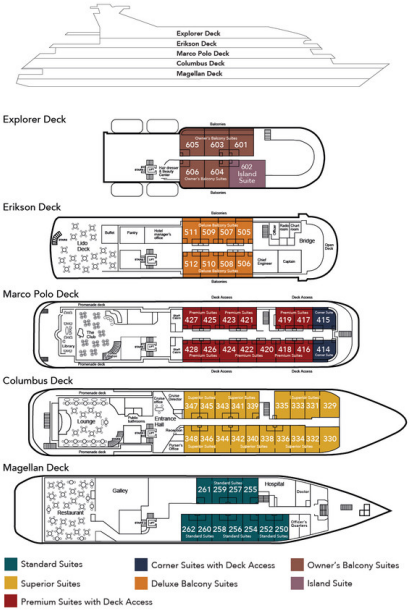
also WI-FI access throughout the vessel. Outside there is a rear sun deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a Jacuzzi and further observation and sun deck. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request. Your Dining Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the



varied menus.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Columbus Deck Superior Single



Columbus Deck Superior Suite



Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite



Explorer Deck Island Suite



Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite



Magellan Deck Standard Single



Magellan Deck Standard Suite



Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite





Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite





PRICING

14-Jan-2028 to 31-Jan-2028

Explorer Deck Island Suite	£15995 GBP pp
Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite	£14995 GBP pp
Magellan Deck Standard Suite	£12995 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Suite	£13495 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Single	£13495 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite	£13995 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite	£14395 GBP pp
Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	£15495 GBP pp
Magellan Deck Standard Single	£12995 GBP pp