

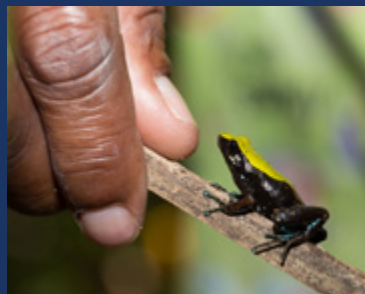
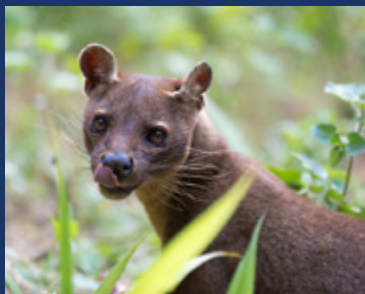


WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
*of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils*

# MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard *Hebridean Sky*

December 5–20, 2023



**We are pleased to offer you an extraordinary cruise for those who love the natural world** and all its wonders. The star is Madagascar, a thousand-mile island boasting an impressive variety of spectacular landscapes from pristine coral reefs and coastal mangroves to virgin rain forests and native baobab trees. Geographically isolated for millions of years, nearly all of Madagascar's intriguing animals and plants are found nowhere else on Earth, including nearly 100 varieties of lemurs.

To maximize the time in Madagascar, this expedition begins with a private charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Toliara, Madagascar, avoiding the two-day crossing of the rough Mozambique Channel by ship. In the company of Daniel Rubenstein, Princeton Professor of Zoology, **spend eleven days exploring Madagascar's marine reserves and national parks traveling in comfort aboard the all suite *Hebridean Sky***. Then, leaving the wonders of Madagascar behind, arrive at Réunion Island, a paradisiacal French outpost, to explore its white-sand beaches, spectacular dormant volcanoes, and vibrant Creole character. Disembark on the island of Mauritius, the perfect ending to our voyage, taking in this island's cultural riches and geologic wonders before flying back to the U.S.

This journey to Madagascar is sure to generate interest, so we encourage you to reserve your space today!

**COOPERATING COUNCILS:** ALASKA • ARIZONA • ATLANTA • BALTIMORE • BOSTON • CHARLOTTE • CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY • CLEVELAND • COLORADO SPRINGS • COLUMBUS • CHARLESTON • CONNECTICUT • DALLAS/FORT WORTH • DENVER • DETROIT • GREATER HAMPTON ROADS • GREATER HOUSTON • HARRISBURG • HILTON HEAD • JACKSONVILLE • KENTUCKY AND SOUTHERN INDIANA • KANSAS CITY • LOS ANGELES • MAINE • MONTEREY BAY • MONTANA • NAPLES • NEW HAMPSHIRE • NEW JERSEY • NEW ORLEANS • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA • ORANGE COUNTY • OREGON • PALM BEACH • PEORIA • PITTSBURGH • RHODE ISLAND • RICHMOND • SAN ANTONIO • SAN DIEGO • SANTA FE • SAVANNAH • SEATTLE • SOUTH TEXAS • STAMFORD • ST. LOUIS • TENNESSEE • UPSTATE • UTAH • VERMONT • WESTERN MICHIGAN • WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

THIS PHOTO: BAOBABS AT SUNSET

ON THE COVER: AVENUE OF BAOBABS; FOSSA; MADAGASCAR BEACH; TREE FROG AT MASOALA N.P.

BACK COVER: SIFAKA LEMUR



## STUDY LEADER

**David Meyers** is an environmental finance expert and entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy and management, environmental economics, international conservation and development, environmental impact assessment, training, and education and research in ecology and evolution. In Madagascar, he helped the country plan and execute a doubling of the area under conservation. He holds a Doctorate in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. He spent much of his time in the 80s and 90s conducting research on lemurs in Madagascar as well as working for nature conservation. He is the co-author of the first two editions of the Field Guide to the Lemurs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Explore Madagascar in depth** from the convenience and comfort of the all-suite expedition ship *Hebridean Sky*, avoiding the delays and difficulties experienced when trying to explore the country overland, and reach intimate sites larger cruise ships cannot.
- ◆ **See lemurs up close in their natural habitat**, including the red ruffed lemur and the aye-aye, and learn about the conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- ◆ **Cruise into dramatic Antsiranana**, set on a stunning natural harbor with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants.
- ◆ **Visit the Durrell Breeding Program** to learn about the efforts being made to protect the ploughshare tortoise, one of the most threatened breeds in the world.
- ◆ **Snorkel in the warm and pristine waters** around Nosy Tanikely, a tiny, uninhabited island surrounded by sandy beaches and a shallow coral reef teeming with fish and turtles.
- ◆ **Take in the beauty of Masoala National Park**, one of the most diverse virgin rain forests in Madagascar, hosting half of all flora and fauna found on the island.





ALDABRA TORTOISE



TSINGY ON NOSY HARA



ANTSIRANANA



PRODUCE MARKET

## ITINERARY

Tuesday–Wednesday,  
December 5–6

### U.S / Johannesburg, South Africa

Fly overnight to Johannesburg, where we meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception this evening.

INTERCONTINENTAL JOHANNESBURG (R)

Thursday, December 7

### Johannesburg / Toliara, Madagascar

This morning board a charter flight to Toliara on the southwest coast of Madagascar. After arriving explore the Antsokay Arboretum and learn about its fantastic collection of endemic plants. Board the *Hebridean Sky* this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, December 8

### Toliara

Today visit the curious spiny forest region, a unique ecosystem that exists only in the southern part of Madagascar, and view the spectacular baobab trees at Reniala Private Reserve. The reserve is a paradise for birds and home to the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise and warty chameleon.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 9

### Morondava

After breakfast, depart to see the Avenue of Baobabs, an extraordinary stand of the iconic massive trees, followed

by free time at the market in Morondava. Or, visit the Kirindy Reserve, home to the greatest density and diversity of primates on Earth, as well as dozens of amphibian species. Look for the narrow-striped mongoose, the cat-like fossa, and seven lemur species, including the smallest known primate, the pygmy mouse lemur.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 10

### At Sea

During a day at sea, enjoy the on-board lecture program as the *Hebridean Sky* cruises along the island's west coast.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Monday, December 11

### Mahajanga

Drive to Ankarafantsika National Park, a vast reserve boasting a remarkable range of flora and fauna, for guided walks in search of wildlife. One of Madagascar's finest parks for birdwatching, it's home to 129 identified species, including the Van Dam's vanga. Learn about the medicinal plants and flowers that the locals used for centuries, try to glimpse tiny mouse lemurs and visit the breeding program established by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in 1986 to protect the critically endangered ploughshare tortoise.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 12

### Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve

After a morning of cruising and on-board lectures, arrive at Nosy Tanikely's marine reserve for an afternoon of snorkeling. Recognized for its outstanding marine biodiversity, the reserve offers some of the best snorkeling in the area, with a spectacular coral reef teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 13

### Nosy Hara National Park

Nosy Hara means "mountainous island" in Malagasy and it's considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. The island offers a stunning bay, sandy beaches and the unique, sharply eroded limestone spikes known as Tsingy formations. Hike the low circular path on the island, or choose the steeper path to a sweeping viewpoint. Then relax on a beautiful beach in the afternoon.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 14

### Antsirananana

Cruise around Madagascar's northernmost point and into Antsirananana's glorious natural harbor for a guided tour of the town. Later climb aboard a four-wheel-drive vehicle to drive to Amber

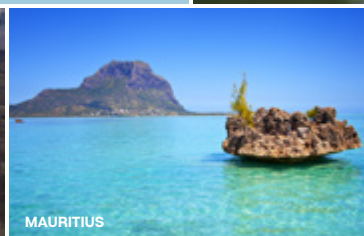




RING-TAILED LEMUR



RÉUNION HIGHLANDS



MAURITIUS



CHAMAREL

Mountain National Park for tropical rain forest walks. During our walks, see lush flora and waterfalls, look for the common crowned lemur, spot volcanic lakes and perhaps count more than 40 varieties of butterfly.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**Friday, December 15**

### Nosy Mangabe

After a morning of cruising and lectures, spend the afternoon exploring Nosy Mangabe, a small island reserve of virgin rain forest and home to an unusual nocturnal lemur called the aye-aye. Take Zodiacs ashore for nature walks and look for black-and-white ruffed lemurs, colorful paradise flycatchers and many other types of wildlife.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**Saturday, December 16**

### Masoala National Park

Explore this national park's coastal rain forest, dense marshes and stands of mangrove. Search for a variety of colorful chameleons, geckos and, of course, lemurs, including the red-ruffed lemur native to this area. Stop at Ambodiforaha village to meet with the locals and shop in the market there.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**Sunday, December 17**

### At Sea

The educational program continues during a final full day at sea en route to Réunion, a rain forest-studded island outpost hundreds of miles into the Indian Ocean.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**Monday, December 18**

### Réunion, France

Visit the island of Réunion's central highlands, a spectacular rugged landscape of active, dormant, extinct, and collapsed volcanoes. See picturesque villages that dot the verdant landscape and learn about vanilla production at a small family-run plantation. Enjoy the captain's farewell reception this evening on board our ship before crossing to the neighboring island of Mauritius.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,R,D)

**Tuesday, December 19**

### Port Louis, Mauritius / Disembark / Depart

After breakfast, disembark and discover the unique history of Port Louis and the island of Mauritius at the Citadel of Fort Louis and Aapravasi Ghat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the immigration depot where the modern indentured labor

diaspora began. Explore Chamarel, an eye-catching region of tropical flora, hidden waterfalls, and undulating sand dunes displaying an array of colors. Then visit the Bois Cheri tea plantation for a refreshing cup of tea before departing for the airport for flights home. (B,L)

**Wednesday, December 20**

### Arrive U.S.



### Pre-trip Extension: Safari at Sabi Sands Reserve

**December 1–6**

Experience the "big five" and more at South Africa's Kruger National Park.



### Post-trip Extension: Mauritius

**December 19–22**

Further explore the lush landscape of Mauritius and learn about its long colonial history.

*Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.*

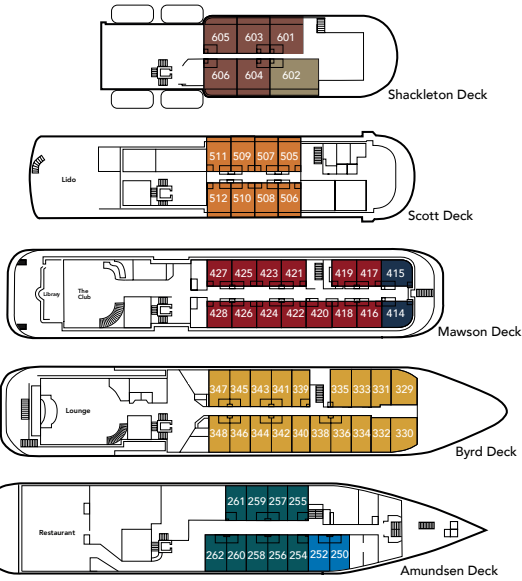
# HEBRIDEAN SKY



The all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016 and further enhancements since, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Hebridean Sky's* chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

## PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

| CATEGORY |   | DOUBLE   | SINGLE   |
|----------|---|----------|----------|
| A        | STANDARD SUITE (forward)<br>portholes; 238 sq. ft.                  | \$12,990 | \$20,790 |
| B        | STANDARD SUITE<br>portholes; 238 sq. ft.                            | \$13,990 | \$22,390 |
| C        | SUPERIOR SUITE<br>picture window; 226–241 sq. ft.                   | \$15,490 | \$24,790 |
| D        | PREMIUM SUITE<br>picture window; 221 sq. ft.                        | \$16,990 | —        |
| E        | CORNER SUITE<br>picture windows; 224 sq. ft.                        | \$17,990 | —        |
| F        | DELUXE BALCONY SUITE<br>221 sq. ft. plus 40 sq. ft. balcony         | \$18,990 | —        |
| G        | OWNER'S CORNER BALCONY SUITE<br>245 sq. ft. plus 83 sq. ft. balcony | \$22,990 | —        |
| H        | HEBRIDEAN SUITE<br>349 sq. ft. plus 101 sq. ft. balcony             | \$24,990 | —        |



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners, and **12 nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • **Charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Toliara, Madagascar** • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all meals aboard *Hebridean Sky*** • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information • A team of expert naturalists • Professional tour manager throughout the program

### AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven beaches, steep and sandy trails, dirt streets and paths in small villages). You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for most excursions. Please note that some locations involve wet landings. All participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. As of publication, SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents.

### GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 92 participants including travelers from the World Affairs Council, Cornell's Adult University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Commonwealth Club of California, and Yale Alumni Academy.



NOSY BE

## GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, or COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

### A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

### INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, call (800) 942-5004, email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org), or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Final payment is due August 7, 2023 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after August 7, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the August 7, 2023 final payment deadline:

California Seller of  
Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40

# MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

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December 5–20, 2023

To reserve a place, please contact the World Affairs Council by phone at **(800) 942-5004** or (215) 561-4700 x231 or x209. You may mail the completed reservation form to One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

For more information please visit our website at **[www.wacphila.org](http://www.wacphila.org)** or email **[travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org)**.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

### DEPOSIT

Once a request is received, a Travel Counselor from Criterion Travel will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Deposit may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA. If paying deposit by check, please make check payable to Criterion Travel and include with the form.

☐ I'd like to pay my deposit by credit card.

--or--

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Madagascar to Mauritius**

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*) or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

*I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:*

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE



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One Penn Center 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055 Philadelphia, PA 19103

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