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CURIOUS ISLANDS FROM THE SEYCHELLES TO MADAGASCAR - 11 DAY LUXURY CRUISE

As the gentle trade winds caress the turquoise ocean, a light breeze skims over the vegetation... The idyllic islands and captivating atolls of the Indian Ocean stretch out before you. During an all-new 11-day expedition cruise aboard Le Dumont-d'Urville, time seems to stand still and, between the Seychelles and the island country of Madagascar, nature will plunge you into a dream. From Victoria on the island of Mahe, you will first sail to La Digue, a veritable picture-postcard of the Seychelles: palm trees, granite rocks, white sand and crystal-clear waters. You will then discover Aride, an unspoiled delight of the Indian Ocean, home to thousands of birds including some endemic species. On Curieuse Island, reputed for its red earth and for the Aldabra giant tortoises that have taken up residence there, take an excursion to the heart of the mangrove. Then you will sail to Remire Island, an Eden lost in the Indian Ocean. Discover its abundant fauna as you explore both on land and under water. Fall in love with this idyllic port of call as you walk around the island and snorkel in its waters. You will be completely dazzled by the splendour of the Seychelles atolls. On Saint-François, in the heart of the Outer Islands, immerse yourself in a genuine marine and terrestrial natural sanctuary where you will be able to observe the spellbinding ballet of myriad bird species as well as the fascinating spectacle of colourful fish. You will then discover Farquhar, whose pristine shores, azure lagoons and wildlife unveil a world of infinite adventures. Your ship will then set sail for the northern tip of Madagascar. During a brand-new and unique port of call, discover the charm of Diego Suarez, renowned as Madagascar's most beautiful bay. Also known as Antsiranana, this port of call

is famous for its Emerald Sea lagoon, its picturesque bays, its iconic Pain de Sucre island, its majestic mountains, its idyllic beaches and its vibrant culture, all of which are invitations to discovery and fascination. You will be dazzled by the beauty of the deserted beaches and preserved coral reefs of the idyllic islets in the Nosy Hara and Nosy Tanikely marine parks, renowned for their fabulous underwater life. Finally, you will arrive in Nosy Be, the end of this unique journey, which is known for its beautiful primary forests where rosewood trees, camphor trees and ylang



-ylang thrive.

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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 CURIEUSE ISLAND & ARIDE ISLAND

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.

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.

Day 3 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 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

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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.

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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.



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YOUR SHIP: LE DUMONT D'URVILLE

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PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Featuring innovative and environmentally-friendly equipment, elegantly designed staterooms, spacious suites with large windows, and lounge areas that open onto the outside, this new limited-capacity yacht boasting just 92 staterooms 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 Dumont d'Urville 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 Dumont d'Urville 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 Dumont d'Urville 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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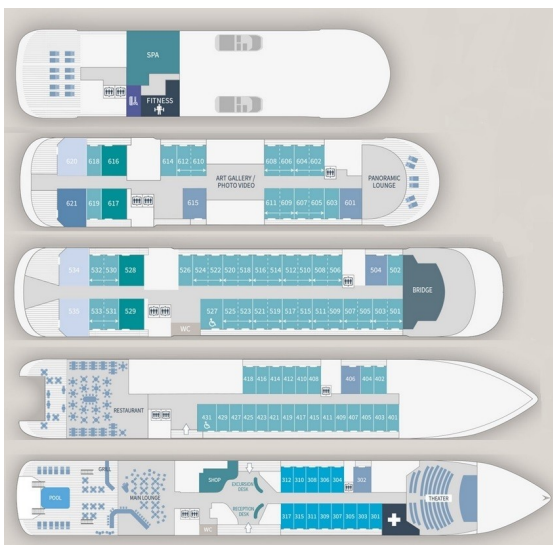
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