

The Small Cruise Ship Collection info@small-cruise-ships.com

# EASTERN MADAGASCAR & MOZAMBIQUE

Our luxury expedition cruise leaves the Kenyan port of Mombasa and heads via the stunning landscapes of the Seychelles for a 10-night voyage discovering the Eastern Madagascar & Mozambique coasts. Along the way, we encounter spectacular beaches, rainforests and gardens where incredible wildlife makes their home, from dolphins, whales, turtles and giant tortoises to brightly coloured pink flamingos and rainbow chameleons, as well as several species of lemur. Dive among these pristine waters, or spend your time on land taking in the aromas of local spices piled high on market stalls. Your journey finishes in Maputo, the intriguing capital of Mozambique, where you'll feel uplifted by nature in all its splendour in these rarely visited parts of the world.



## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 MOMBASA

A dynamic coastal metropolis, Mombasa draws you in with its rich history and beguiling blend of cultures. For centuries, Arabs, Portuguese, Asians and British settlers have lived side by side in the enchanting old town, whose buildings meld African, European and African styles. Perched above the sea, Fort Jesus was built by the Portuguese in the 1590s to protect the city, while the bustling spice market is packed with fragrant stalls selling pepper, ginger and cardamom.

## DAY 2 AT SEA

You can spend your day at sea enjoying the many facilities available. Head to the sauna, get in a workout in the



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state-of-the-art gym or relax in the jacuzzi whilst taking in incredible views along the way. If you prefer to learn a little more about your surroundings, listen to an informative talk or have a chat with one of our knowledgeable on-board experts.

#### DAY 3 ALDABRA ISLANDS

Comprising 13 islands around a lagoon, this massive raised coral atoll is home to the world's largest tortoise colony. More than 100,000 lumbering giant tortoises inch their way around the isolated archipelago's protected landscape, which features hundreds of flowering plant and fern species. You might be lucky enough to spot swooping Aldabra drongos - endemic to the islands - or wading pink flamingos. Look out too for scavenging white-throated rails, the only flightless bird remaining in the Indian Ocean.

#### DAY 4 GLORIEUSE ISLANDS

Lying north of Madagascar, the remote Glorieuses (Glorioso Islands) are a protected nature reserve and sanctuary for an extraordinary array of marine life. This low-lying French archipelago encompasses two islands, Grande Glorieuse and tiny Île du Lys, as well as a scattering of craggy islets forming part of a coral bank. Look out for pods of dolphins or surfacing beaked whales in the ocean surrounding the islands, and keep your eyes peeled for green turtles foraging in seagrass beds.

#### DAY 5 NOSY BE

Sandy swimming beaches, biodiverse jungle and vividly blue crater lakes are among the highlights of this verdant island off Madagascar's northern coast. After exploring the French colonial buildings in the port of Hell-Ville, head to nearby Lokobe Reserve, accessed via guided pirogue canoe. Black lemurs clamber up the park's centuries-old trees, and you might also catch a glimpse of a vibrantly hued panther chameleon, which typically grow to around a foot and a half long.

## DAY 6 MAHAJANGA

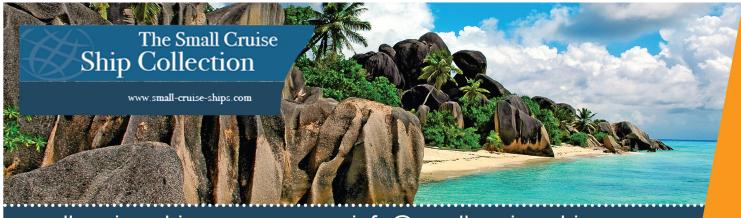
The lively northern port of Mahajana (Majunga) is known for its charming French colonial and Arabian architecture as well as a broad seafront promenade lined with coconut palms. Be sure to look for the gigantic landmark baobab tree towering near the water. Long sandy beaches stretch north towards Cirque Rouge, a remarkable natural amphitheatre whose crumbling rocks are a blend of red, ochre and pale pink. The colours are at their most dramatic at sunset.

### DAY 7 AT SEA

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#### DAY 8 MORONDAVA

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The relaxed west coast town of Morondava is the gateway to the iconic Avenue of the Baobabs. Lining a bumpy track, this striking grove of centuries-old giants - often nicknamed upside-down trees - is especially popular at sunset, when the trunks cast long shadows on the ground, creating spectacular photo effects. To the south, Kirindy Mitea National Park is a protected coastal reserve home to several species of lemur along with the rare fossa, a close relation of the mongoose.

## DAY 9 TOLIARA

Mangroves, beaches and an offshore coral reef surround Toliara (Tulear), near the mouth of the Onilahy River. Just southeast of the city, you can explore the Arboretum d'Anstokay, created by a Swiss botanist in 1980 amid a swathe of spiny forest. Garden guides lead you past more than 900 mostly endemic plant species, and you might spy flitting butterflies or lemurs tucked into branches. Within the port, there's also a fascinating small museum dedicated to local marine life.

# DAY 10 AT SEA

You can spend your day at sea enjoying the many facilities available. Head to the sauna, get in a workout in the state-of-the-art gym or relax in the jacuzzi whilst taking in incredible views along the way. If you prefer to learn a little more about your surroundings, listen to an informative talk or have a chat with one of our knowledgeable on-board experts. DAY 11 MAPUTO

Mozambique's capital city has an intriguing mix of Portuguese colonial and Soviet-style buildings on broad boulevards lined with jacaranda and palm trees. Architectural standouts include the early-20th-century domed railway station, painted in green and white, and the Smiling Lion, a distinctive post-modernist apartment block designed by Pancho Guedes. Exploring Maputo is also simply about wandering the historic district of Baixa and taking in the vibrant street scene of bustling pavement cafes, live music and busy markets.

## Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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# **YOUR SHIP: DIANA**

YOUR SHIP: Diana VESSEL TYPE: LENGTH: PASSENGER CAPACITY: BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Launched in 2023, SH Diana provides elegant and spacious 5-star accommodation for 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and suites, the vast majority with large balconies. Operated by an onboard team of 140 she provides a high level of personal service, exploring the Mediterranean and its famous sites of antiquity. Now sit back, relax and take a moment to get to know this amazing new ship, purpose-designed for our unique cultural expedition cruises. Named after the Ancient Roman goddess of light, the moon, hunting and the wilderness, SH Diana been specially designed for worldwide cruising to explore the most inspiring and inaccessible places on earth. Building on the outstanding amenities of her sister ships, she adds a dedicated Multifunctional Room next to the Observation Lounge, a Private Dining Room for special occasions, and two tenders which bring guests a comfortable alternative to Zodiacs for expedition landings. A Polar Class 6 ice-strengthened hull combines with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as comfortable as possible. SH Diana has been designed for immersive experiences, with extensive outside deck areas, multiple observation points and bright, open and relaxing public spaces with unobstructed views. The pleasure and safety of our guests is paramount at all times, cared for by our attentive crew and seasoned expedition leaders. Cutting edge hygiene technology protects the health of all on board to the highest standards and includes air conditioning with UV sanitisation systems. SH Diana's 96 staterooms , including 11 suites, are each a superbly comfortable home from home and all feature panoramic sea views, a flame-effect fireplace, original works of art, plush couches, premium pocket sprung mattresses, en-suite bathrooms with glass-enclosed rain showers, and Egyptian cotton towels, bathrobes and sheets. A pillow menu offers customised head and neck comfort during rest, while a large flat screen TV, espresso machine with Illy premium coffee, tea making facilities with the finest Kusmi teas, and a minibar with refreshments enhance relaxation at any time. In-room dining is of course available at



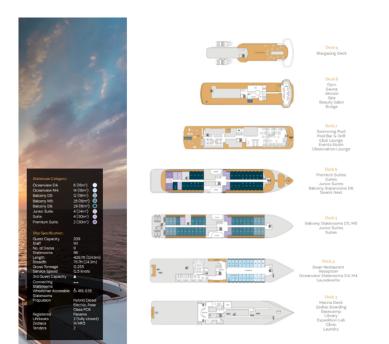
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# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**



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PRICING

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