

Stanford TRAVEL/STUDY

Madagascar to Mauritius

December 4 to 17, 2021

For our travelers who love the wonders of the natural world, this extraordinary cruise more than delivers. We begin our adventure sailing up the western coast, then continue down the eastern coast of 1,000-mile-long Madagascar, which boasts an impressive variety of breathtaking landscapes, including pristine coral reefs, coastal mangrove lined coasts virgin rain forests and native groves of baobab trees. Geographically isolated for millions of years, many of Madagascar's plants and its most intriguing animals, including some 100 species of lemurs, are found nowhere else on Earth. We'll also explore two other remarkable islands: Réunion and Mauritius. Traveling with expert naturalists and our faculty leader, Stanford biology professor Anthony Barnosky, we'll enjoy the comforts of the luxurious *Island Sky* as we visit marine reserves, national parks and white-sand beaches.

FACULTY LEADER

Anthony D. Barnosky

Anthony D. Barnosky has been the executive director of Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve since 2016 and a professor in Stanford's department of biology since 2018. Previously he was a professor in UC Berkeley's department of integrative biology. His research focuses on past planetary changes and what they mean for understanding today's global climate change. An expert on the causes and consequences of species extinction, he has conducted field research on all of the world's continents. He says, "I'm particularly drawn to places where wildlife is abundant and relatively undisturbed, such as Madagascar, with its lemurs and other species found nowhere else on Earth." He is looking forward to experiencing what Madagascar and Mauritius can teach us about the importance of biodiversity and how to conserve it. During our cruise he will discuss with us these island nations' geological origins, what is imperiling their wildlife and ecosystems, and what we can do to protect and preserve them.

- Professor, department of biology, Stanford University, since 2018
- Executive director, Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, since 2016
- Professor emeritus, department of integrative biology, UC Berkeley, since 2016
- Author, *Dodging Extinction: Power, Food, Money, and the Future of Life on Earth* (University of California Press, 2014); co-author, *Tipping Point for Planet Earth: How Close Are We to the Edge?* (St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2016)
- Fellow, California Academy of Sciences, since 1992
- Senior fellow, Fulbright Specialist Program, 2007

ADDITIONAL STUDY LEADER

Princeton Journeys:

Daniel Rubenstein is Class of 1877 Professor of Zoology at Princeton University, a position in the university's department of ecology and evolutionary biology, and director of the Program in Environmental Studies. His research focuses on decision-making in animals. He studies how an individual's foraging, mating and social behavior are influenced by its phenotype, by ecological circumstances, and by the actions of other individuals in the population. Combining theory with

experiments, he searches for general principles that underlie complex patterns of behavior. On this journey, Professor Rubenstein will discuss his recent findings on the social behavior and ecology of lemurs and other African mammals, especially in relation to human-wildlife conflict, and how new technologies are changing the face of African conservation.

We will also be joined by expert expedition staff, including naturalists, who will guide our daily excursions.

ITINERARY

Saturday, December 4

Johannesburg, South Africa

Arrive in Johannesburg, where we meet our fellow travelers at a welcome reception this evening. 54 ON BATH HOTEL

Sunday, December 5

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 our ship this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Monday, December 6

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 gray mouse lemur, radiated tortoise and warty chameleon. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 7

Morondava

After breakfast depart to see the Avenue of the Baobabs, an extraordinary stand of the iconic massive trees, followed by free time at the market in Morondava. Or visit the Kirindy Private Reserve, home to the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world as well as dozens of amphibian species. Look for seven lemur species, the narrow-striped mongoose, the cat-like fossa and the giant jumping rat.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 8

At Sea

Spend a full day at sea enjoying our lecture series as the *Island Sky* cruises along the west coast of Madagascar. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 9

Mahajanga

Disembark at the port city of Mahajanga and drive south 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 bird-watching, it's home to 129 identified avian 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 learn about the breeding program established by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in 1986 to protect the critically endangered ploughshare tortoise. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Friday, December 10

Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve

After a morning of cruising, arrive at the Nosy Tanikely 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. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 11

Nosy Hara National Park

Nosy Hara means “mountainous island” in Malagasy, and the island is considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. It 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. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 12

Antsiranana

Cruise around Madagascar’s northernmost point and into Antsiranana’s glorious natural harbor to take a guided tour of the town. Later climb aboard a four-wheel-drive vehicle to drive to Amber Mountain National Park for tropical rain forest walk. During our walk see lush landscape and waterfalls, look for the frequently spotted crowned lemur, view volcanic lakes and perhaps watch for more than 40 species of butterfly. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Monday, December 13

Nosy Mangabe

After a morning of cruising and lectures, spend the afternoon exploring Nosy Mangabe, a small island reserve of virgin rain forest that’s 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. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 14

Masoala National Park

Explore this national park’s coastal rain forest, dense marshes and stands of mangrove. Search for a variety of brightly colored 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. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 15

At Sea

Spend a full day at sea enjoying our lecture series en route to Réunion, a rain forest–studded island outpost several hundred miles offshore from Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 16

Réunion, France

Visit the island of Réunion’s central highlands, a spectacular rugged landscape of active, dormant, extinct and collapsed volcanoes, where mountain peaks tower high above sea level. 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 and dinner this evening on board our ship before crossing to the neighboring island of Mauritius. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Friday, December 17

Port Louis, Mauritius / Home

After breakfast disembark from our ship and discover the unique history of Port Louis and the island of Mauritius at the Citadel of Port Louis and the UNESCO World Heritage site Aapravasi Ghat, 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 Chéri tea museum for a refreshing cup of tea before departing for the airport for flights to the U.S., arriving on Saturday, December 18. (B,L)

OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION: MAURITIUS

Friday to Sunday, 17 to 19

Stay an additional three days to further explore the lush rain forests and white-sand beaches of Mauritius. Learn about the long colonial history of this prosperous Indian Ocean archipelago. Discover Île aux Aigrettes, one of the last sanctuaries for rare Mauritian wildlife such as the Aldabra giant tortoise and the ornate day gecko. Participants depart Mauritius on December 19 and arrive in the U.S. on December 20.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

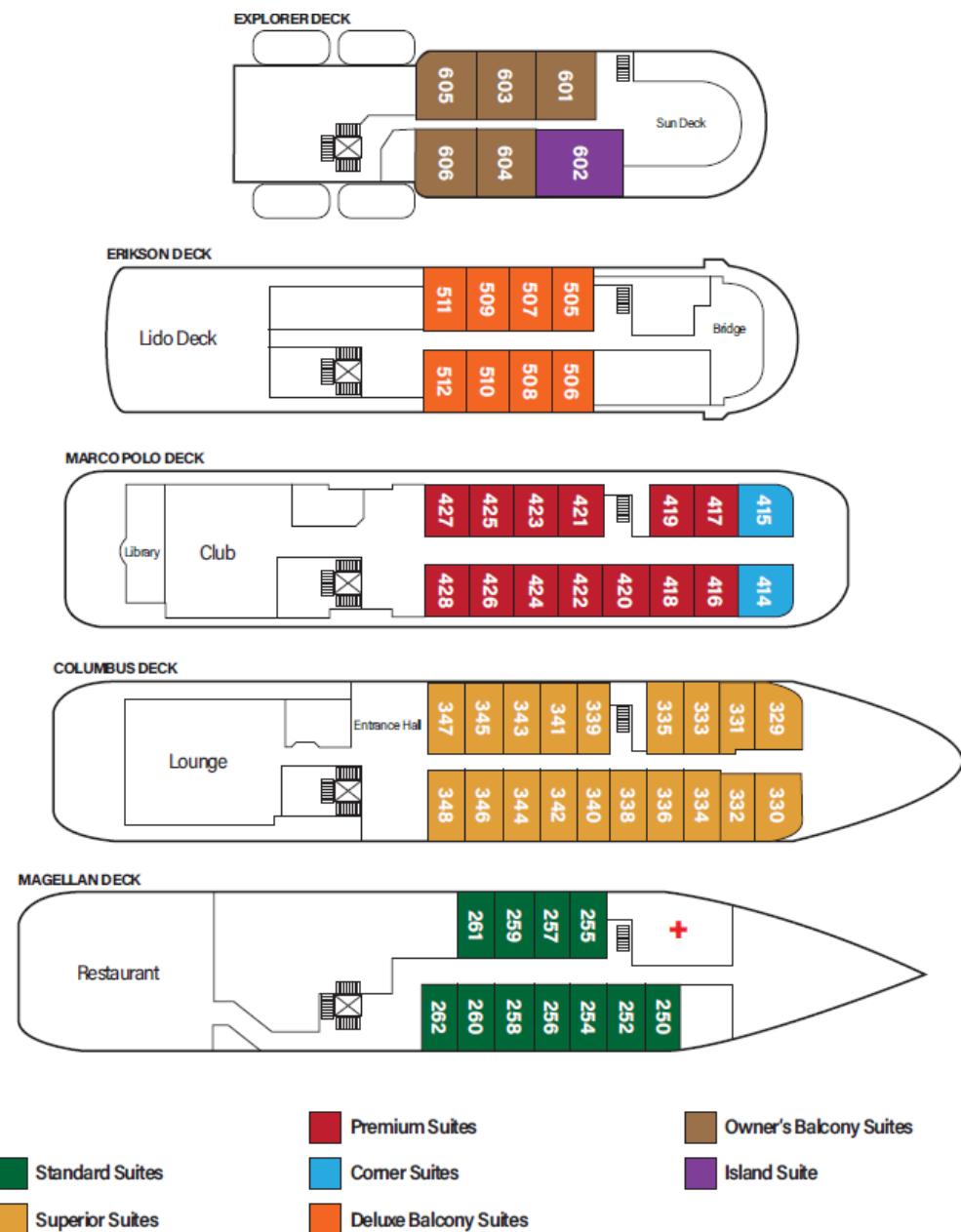
This trip requires a minimum of 60 participants and is limited to 97, including travelers from Stanford, Yale Alumni Academy and Princeton Journeys. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited—please call for availability.

About Our Ship

The *Island Sky* is a 118-passenger, all-suite expedition ship. All cabins have an ocean view, en suite bathroom with marble-topped vanity unit and walk-in shower, sitting area, spacious wardrobe, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air-conditioning, flat screen television and dressing table. The ship's amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, a dining room, two lounges with bar service, a small library, an observation deck with comfortable lounge chairs, a hairdresser and laundry service. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Island Sky*'s chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional personalized service, with a greater than 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

December 4 to 17, 2021



Cost*

Rates are per person, based on single or double occupancy, as specified.

Category		Double Rate	Single Rate**
A: Standard Suite	Magellan Deck, 226 sq. ft. with 2-4 portholes	\$12,990	\$22,290
B: Superior Suite	Columbus Deck, 205–264 sq. ft. with large window	\$13,990	\$24,490
C: Premium Suite	Marco Polo Deck, 226 sq. ft. with sliding glass door	\$15,490	--
D: Corner Suite	Marco Polo Deck, 237 sq. ft. with sliding glass door, walk-in closet	\$16,990	
E: Deluxe Balcony Suite	Erikson Deck, 225 sq. ft. with private balcony, walk-in closet	\$17,990	
F: Owner's Balcony Suite	Explorer Deck, 237 sq. ft. with private balcony, walk-in closet	\$21,990	
G: Island Suite	Explorer Deck, 344 sq. ft. with private balcony, walk-in closet	\$22,990	

*Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as four cabins.

Built: 1992 / Weight: 4,200 tons / Length: 297 feet / Beam: 50 feet / Draft: 14 feet / Cruising Speed: 11 knots / Registry: Bahamas

Included

- 1 night of hotel accommodations in Johannesburg, South Africa
- 12-night cruise aboard the *Island Sky*
- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 12 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Toliara, Madagascar
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Scuba diving
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Scuba Diving Options

We are offering scuba diving for an additional fee at select snorkeling sites. Details are available upon request.

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

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) and possibly in rainy conditions. 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 who are interested in scuba diving must be certified. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS**Eligibility**

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association, as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 90 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are fully refundable until 90 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place is resold, in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the ship's ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association nor Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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