



Yale Alumni  
ACADEMY

# MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS

Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard *Island Sky*

December 3–18, 2021



This is an extraordinary cruise for those who love the natural world and all its wonders. The star is Madagascar, a thousand-mile-long island boasting an impressive variety of spectacular landscapes, from pristine coral reefs and coastal mangroves to virgin rainforests and native groves of Baobab trees. Geographically isolated for millions of years, nearly all of Madagascar's intriguing animals and plants, including nearly 100 varieties of lemurs, are found nowhere else on Earth. Madagascar's people are also unique, having descended from Malay-Polynesian mariners, slaves from Africa, as well as traders from Arabia, India, and Portugal.

Also call at Réunion Island, a remote and paradisiacal French outpost, to explore its white-sand beaches, spectacular dormant volcanoes, and unique Creole character. Disembark on Mauritius, the perfect ending to our voyage, where we will take in this island's cultural riches and fascinating geologic wonders.



## David Meyers

'99 MBA • Executive Director, Conservation Finance Alliance

David Meyers has more than 25 years of experience in sustainability, business strategy and management, environmental economics, international conservation and development, environmental impact assessment, and more. He has worked in 46 countries and launched and managed various companies, including a triple-bottom-line bamboo-flooring manufacturer in Madagascar, a country in which he has spent well over a decade. In Madagascar, he helped the country plan and execute a doubling of the area under conservation, including establishing the Makira Natural Park 370,000-hectare protected area. He spent much of his time in the 80's and 90's conducting research on lemurs as well as working for nature conservation. He is the co-author of the first two editions of the *Field Guide to the Lemurs*.

For more information on this Yale Alumni Academy program, please visit [alumniacademy.yale.edu/madagascar21](https://alumniacademy.yale.edu/madagascar21) or contact us at (203) 432-1952 or [alumniacademy@yale.edu](mailto:alumniacademy@yale.edu).



## Pricing (per person)

From \$12,990 double occupancy  
From \$22,290 single occupancy  
Deposit \$1,000 per person

# Itinerary

## Friday–Saturday, December 3–4: U.S. / Johannesburg, South Africa

Fly overnight to Johannesburg, transfer to the hotel, and meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception this evening.

## Sunday, December 5: Johannesburg / Toliara, Madagascar

This morning board a charter flight to Toliara on the southwest coast of Madagascar. Board the *Island Sky* this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner.

## 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.

## Tuesday, December 7: Morondava

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

## Wednesday, December 8: At Sea

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

## Thursday, December 9: Mahajanga

Drive to Ankarafantsika National Park, a vast reserve boasting a remarkable range of flora and fauna, for guided walks in search of wildlife.

## Friday, December 10: Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve

After a morning of cruising and onboard 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.

## Saturday, December 11: Nosy Hara National Park

Nosy Hara means "mountainous island" in Malagasy and is considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. Hike the low circular path on the island, or choose the steeper path to a sweeping viewpoint. Then relax on a beach in the afternoon.

## Sunday, December 12: Antsiranana

Cruise around Madagascar's northernmost point and into Antsiranana's glorious natural harbor for 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 walks.

## Monday, December 13: Nosy Mangabe

After a morning of cruising and lectures, spend the afternoon exploring Nosy Mangabe, a small reserve of virgin rain forest and home to a nocturnal lemur called the aye-aye. Also, look for black-and-white ruffed lemurs, colorful paradise flycatchers, and more.

## Tuesday, December 14: Masoala National Park

Search for a variety of colorful chameleons, geckos, and, of course, lemurs, including the red-ruffed lemur native to this area. Stop at a local village to meet with the residents and shop in the market.

## Wednesday, December 15: At Sea

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

## Thursday, December 16: Réunion, France

Visit the central highlands, a spectacularly 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.

## Friday, December 17:

### Port Louis, Mauritius / Disembark / Depart

After breakfast, discover the unique history of the island of Mauritius at the Citadel of Fort Louis and Aapravasi Ghat, a World Heritage site. Explore Chamarel, an eye-catching region of tropical flora, hidden waterfalls, and undulating sand dunes displaying an array of colors. Transfer to the airport for flights home.

## Saturday, December 18: Arrive U.S.