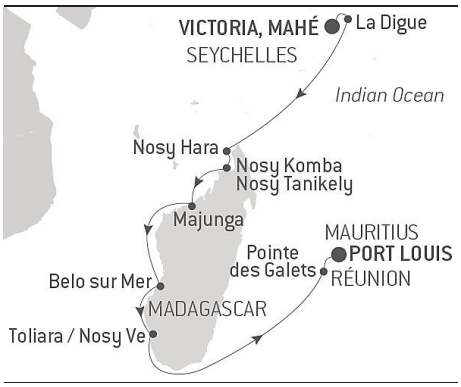
Adventure in Madagascar

From **18/11/2023** to **03/12/2023**	Ship: ***LE CHAMPLAIN***	From **Victoria, Mahé** to **Port Louis**



PONANT invites you on an **expedition cruise** in the **Indian Ocean to discover 'the island continent' of Madagascar**. From the **Seychelles** to **Mauritius**, set off for **16 days aboard *Le Champlain***, between beaches, dives, encounters with local populations and the discovery of endemic fauna and flora in rarely visited places of stunning natural beauty.

From **Victoria** on the island of Mahé, you will first sail to **La Digue**, a veritable picture-postcard of the Seychelles: palm trees, granite rocks, white sand and crystal-clear waters.

Your ship will then set sail for the northern tip of **Madagascar**. You will be dazzled by the beauty of the deserted beaches and preserved coral reefs of the idyllic islets in the **Nosy Hara, Nosy Komba** and **Nosy Tanikely** marine parks, renowned for their fabulous underwater life.

In **Majunga**, you will explore **Ankarafantsika National Park**, home to numerous bird and lemur species.

After exploring the picturesque and sumptuous city of **Belo sur Mer**, *Le Champlain* will then sail towards the wild expanses of the **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** in the south-west of Madagascar. Near the mouth of the **Onilahu River**, **Tulear** enjoys an exceptional flora that will delight botany lovers.

Along the immense beaches edged with dunes in **Sarodrano**, you will experience an **exceptional encounter** with one of the planet's last '**sea nomad**' people, the **Vezo**. You will discover their **fishing villages** and ancestral maritime know-how.

Out at sea await **turquoise waters**, the magnificent **coral reefs** and the **natural pools** of **Nosy Ve**, an **islet of white sand** that shelters a large colony of red-tailed tropicbirds.

After calling at **Pointe des Galets** on **La Réunion island**, *Le Champlain* will reach **Port Louis** in **Mauritius**, where this unforgettable cruise will come to an end.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 29/03/2024

Adventure in Madagascar

YOUR STOPOVERS :

VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Embarkation 18/11/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00
Departure 18/11/2023 at 18:00

Discover **Mahé**, the main island of the Seychelles and also the largest of the archipelago, home to the capital, **Victoria**. Mahé 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. Mahé 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.

LA DIGUE ISLAND

Arrival 19/11/2023
Departure 19/11/2023

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 20/11/2023
Departure 21/11/2023

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

NOSY HARA

Arrival 22/11/2023
Departure 22/11/2023

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.

NOSY KOMBA

Arrival 23/11/2023
Departure 23/11/2023

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.

NOSY TANIKELY

Arrival 23/11/2023
Departure 23/11/2023

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.

MAJUNGA

Arrival 24/11/2023
Departure 24/11/2023

A lively and cosmopolitan town on the west coast of **Madagascar**, **Majunga**, also called Mahajanga, will be a port of call rich in discoveries. The former capital of the **Sakalava** kingdom, then a significant interchange due to its prime position between Africa and the Middle East, the city displays an interesting cultural patchwork. Also renowned for its outstanding natural sites, this port of call will provide you with the opportunity to discover **Ankarafantsika National Park** , home to many endemic animal and plant species, or the **Cirque Rouge**, immense red sandstone formations classified as national heritage.

AT SEA

Arrival 25/11/2023
Departure 25/11/2023

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

BELO SUR MER

Arrival 26/11/2023
Departure 26/11/2023

In the south west of the **Menabe Region**, in the district of **Morondava**, you will marvel at the picturesque beauty of **Belo sur Mer**. This peninsula edged with mangroves alternates fine sandy beaches with rocks plunging into a sea whose shades fall between deep blue and crystal-clear green. This fishing village is renowned for its **dhows**, the traditional sailing boats of Madagascar, which are built in situ, in the local artisanal boatyard. The choreography of these vessels coming and going on the beach sets the pace of life in the village, bestowing it with a unique charm.

TOLIARA

Arrival 27/11/2023
Departure 28/11/2023

Located to the south-west of the island of **Madagascar**, near the mouth of the **River Onilahy, Toliara** is a port town that opens onto the **Mozambique Channel**. Inhabited for several centuries, becoming prosperous during the colonial period in the 19th century, **Toliara** is a cheerful town with unspoilt nature and **exceptional flora** that will certainly appeal to fans of botany. The **Antsokay Arboretum** botanical garden with nearly 1,000 Madagascar plant species, 90% of which are endemic, is worth a fragrant and charming detour. Cultural heritage will not be outdone, with the interesting **museums of Mahafaly ethnology** and the **Museum o**f the Sea**.**

SARODRANO

Arrival 28/11/2023
Departure 28/11/2023

Sarodrano is a small village in the south-west of Madagascar in the province of **Atsimo-Andrefana**, at the mouth of the **Onilahy River**. This village of **Vezo fishermen** possesses the authentic and unspoiled charm of remote places. You will be surprised by the dexterity with which these "nomads of the sea" steer their outrigger canoes to fish, or keep up their ancestral traditions like seaweed cultivation. If the tide allows it, you will also have the possibility of discovering the **sacred cave of Sarodrano**, a natural fresh water pool separated from the sea by just 10 metres (33 feet) of rocks.

NOSY VE

Arrival 29/11/2023
Departure 29/11/2023

Five kilometres out to sea from the Malagasy village of **Anakao**, **Nosy Ve** is an unspoilt paradise of exceptional wild beauty. Located on a two-kilometre (1.2 miles) long coral bank, this island is unique in that it is home to a colony of endemic birds commonly called red-tailed tropicbird. This nature reserve, a nesting site for rare birds, is unique because it is this species' only reproduction site. The duckboards installed on the island will enable you to observe the birds hidden from view under the forest of Madagascar jewel. This Eden dotted with natural pools is also a setting for coral, fish and sea turtles you can discover while snorkelling.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/11/2023
Departure 01/12/2023

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

POINTE DES GALETS

Arrival 02/12/2023
Departure 02/12/2023

At the end of the 19th century, the construction of the **port of Pointe des Galets** lasted seven years, with the **town called Le Port** emerging in its wake. You'll also hear the name "Port-Réunion" used to designate the **Pointe des Galets**, which is the main port on the island of La Réunion. In fact, it is the only port in France that has five functions: naval base, passenger terminal, commercial port, fishing port and marina. The **old town of the Port** conjures up the area's rich history, which is connected to transport. Here you'll be able to discover the former house of the Réunion Railway and Port Company (1878), its marine cemetery and its teeming covered market.

PORT LOUIS

Arrival 03/12/2023 early morning
Disembarkation 03/12/2023 at 08:00

On the north-west coast of Mauritius, discover **Port Louis**, the country's **multicultural capital.** Constantly in movement, the city, which was once a port of call on the route to India, is home to many cultural and historic treasures. In addition to the city's market where you will be able to discover all the local flavours and many handicrafts, make sure that you visit **Fort Adelaide**. Nestling on the heights of Port Louis, this citadel built in the 16th century, classified as a national heritage monument, offers sumptuous views over the surroundings. Not far from there, the **Pamplemousse Botanical Garden**

will reveal to you its countless plant species, coming from all four corners of the world.