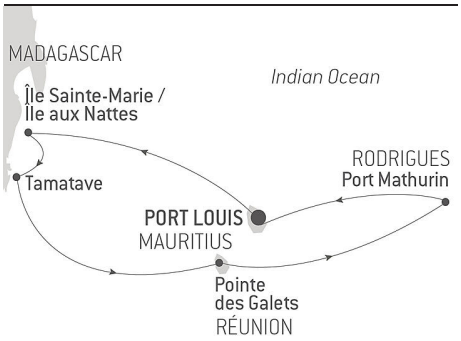
Madagascar & the Mascarene islands adventure

From **03/12/2023** to **16/12/2023**	Ship: ***LE CHAMPLAIN***	From **Port Louis** to **Port Louis**



The softness of the trade winds, the turquoise of the ocean, the shimmer of the verdant vegetation… the incredible beauty of the islands in the Indian Ocean is striking. During **an all-new 14-day expedition cruise** aboard *Le Champlain*, time stands still and, between the island country of Madagascar and the Mascarene Archipelago, nature will plunge you into a dream.

The shores of **Mauritius** grow distant as you arrive in flamboyant **Madagascar**. To the north-east of the largest island in the Indian Ocean, the island of **Île Sainte-Marie** appears on the horizon. The days of pirates, who occupied the territory for almost two centuries, seem long gone now, as peace prevails in this tropical paradise. To the far south, the island of **Île aux Nattes** is a treasure just asking to be discovered. Its coral reef lies in the translucent waters of its lagoon, dotted with natural pools. You will spend your time here swimming, meeting the local population and discovering the abundant fauna and flora. Before leaving the **'Great Red Island'**, you will visit **Tamatave**, renowned for the charm of its colonial architecture.

Setting sail for **Reunion Island** and its characteristic silhouette. Volcanoes and mountainous areas overlook the lagoon that surrounds the island. **The Piton de la Fournaise**, the most famous of these volcanoes and one of the most active in the world, unfolds before you during an optional excursion – if conditions allow it - which will make you feel like you have arrived on the moon. Around the crater, the naked beauty of this lava-stripped land is moving.

“There is the emptiness of the sky, the appeal of the sea, the birds, the blade-like leaves of the screw pines, this exhilaration from the burned stone, sea and wind that form Rodrigues.” Who has managed to describe this jewel of the Indian Ocean better than Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio? Immerse yourself in its unique atmosphere and enjoy the stalls of colourful fruit and fresh fish in the **Port Mathurin** market.

Your journey will end on the island of **Mauritius**. Once one of the main

trading posts of the French East India Company, its capital, **Port Louis**, has kept much of this unique multicultural heritage. On its markets, the perfumes, spices, herbal teas and herbs unveil the make-up of its rich and diverse cuisine.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

PORT LOUIS

Embarkation 03/12/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00
Departure 03/12/2023 at 19:00

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 04/12/2023
Departure 04/12/2023

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.

ÎLE SAINTE-MARIE

Arrival 05/12/2023
Departure 05/12/2023

Off the east coast of Madagascar, discover the island of St. Mary. A **real Garden of Eden**, this peaceful land will offer you landscapes of stunning beauty, with **lush vegetation** and **enormous waterfalls**. In addition, the island is home to a **very large variety of orchids**. An idyllic natural setting that contrasts with the eventful past of the island, which once played host to pirates and prisoners. This port of call will also provide you with privileged access to the Île aux Nattes, renowned for its wild beauty.

ÎLE AUX NATTES

Arrival 06/12/2023
Departure 06/12/2023

The **Île aux Nattes** lies surrounded by a coral reef, to the far south of Nosy Boraha (previously known as Île Sainte-Marie) in the Madagascar region of **Tamatave.** Its lush vegetation contrasts with the white sand and crystal-clear and turquoises waters of its lagoon whose sea beds you can explore snorkelling or diving. Its fringed shores invite you to relax or swim. Or you may prefer to walk along its coastal paths dotted with welcoming little villages.

TAMATAVE (TOAMASINA)

Arrival 07/12/2023
Departure 07/12/2023

Located 350 kilometres north east of Antananarivo, the capital of the eastern province and the island's biggest commercial port, **Tamatave** will charm you with its many assets: a town shrouded in history where you'll be able to admire its many 19th-century vestiges as much in one of its museums as by walking the streets. With **colonial type architecture**, it is the second-largest conurbation on the island. You'll feel its beating pulse with a ride in a rickshaw into the heart of the markets of Bazar Kely or Bazar Be. You'll appreciate walking along **Avenue de l'Indépendance**, bordered by magnificent coconut trees, whose unique charm reflects the vestiges of French colonisation.

AT SEA

Arrival 08/12/2023
Departure 08/12/2023

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 09/12/2023
Departure 10/12/2023

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/12/2023
Departure 11/12/2023

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.

PORT MATHURIN, RODRIGUES

Arrival 12/12/2023
Departure 13/12/2023

The smallest and most little-known of the **Mascarene Islands** welcomes you from its one and only port, **Port Mathurin**. This small stretch of land lost in the heart of the Indian Ocean harbours unspoiled nature and wild beauty. In this small, charming regional capital administratively attached to the **Republic of Mauritius**, the people live to the rhythm of the sun and everything seems timeless. The large town market, with its spicy aromas and fruity scents, is where the locals meet and mingle. This is where they come to stock up on ingredients to make local dishes with multiple influences that you absolutely must try. From this picturesque port, set off to discover the bucolic island of Rodrigues, its mountains, of volcanic origin, but also its deep valleys, its turquoise lagoons and hidden coves, its coral reefs and its shores lined with coconut trees. The incredibly rich fauna and biodiversity make this island a paradise for all nature lovers.

AT SEA

Arrival 14/12/2023
Departure 14/12/2023

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.

PORT LOUIS

Arrival 15/12/2023
Disembarkation 16/12/2023 at 07:00

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