

PRINCETON JOURNEYS



Seychelles & Madagascar

Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard the 59-cabin *Island Sky*

NOVEMBER 7-23, 2025

Featuring **Daniel Rubenstein**, Class of 1877 Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

Dear Princetonian,

THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION for travelers who love the natural world and all its wonders. Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, the 115 islands that make up the Seychelles are known for crystal-clear waters, endless stretches of powdery white-sand beaches, a diverse and vibrant marine ecosystem, and endemic plant and animal species.

Begin with two days in Mahé, the largest and most populous island in the Seychelles archipelago. With pristine beaches, lush forests, and dramatic mountains, it is a tropical paradise with a unique culture that blends African, French, and British influences. Then embark the 59-cabin *Island Sky* and venture to the Outer Islands, the remote Alphonse group, and finally to Aldabra, a vast coral atoll that is home to the world's largest population of giant tortoises.

Continue to Madagascar, a thousand-mile 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 are found nowhere else on Earth, including its nearly 100 varieties of lemurs. A team of experienced naturalists will guide you as you explore these unique ecosystems, leading nature walks and snorkeling excursions among colorful reef fish, coral formations, and marine creatures.

This journey features a robust academic program presented by an outstanding line-up of faculty speakers, including Princeton's Daniel Rubenstein, Class of 1877 Professor of Zoology. You will have the opportunity to learn about the ecology, wildlife, and conservation efforts of this remarkable region from a variety of expert perspectives. Participants will be joined on this program by like-minded travelers from Dartmouth, Harvard, and Yale. For those wishing to continue the adventure, a post-trip extension near Kruger National Park, South Africa, will be offered.

With kind regards,

Bridgett St. Clair

Bridgett St. Clair

Director, Alumni Education and Travel

SCAN ME
with your iPhone or tablet
to register online.



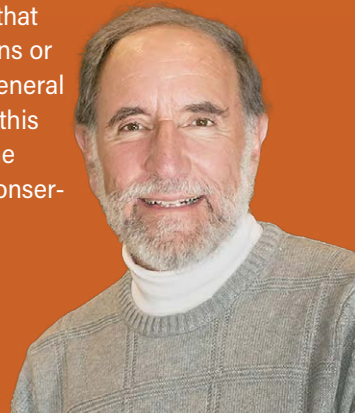
**Baobab trees in
Madagascar.**



Study Leader

Daniel Rubenstein Class of 1877
Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

Professor Rubenstein's 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. He develops simple mathematical models to generate predictions that can be tested using data gathered from structured field observations or experimental manipulations. In this way Rubenstein searches for general principles, or 'rules,' that underlie complex patterns of behavior. On this journey, Professor Rubenstein will discuss his recent findings on the social behavior of lemurs and zebras, as well as topics in African conservation.



ALSO JOINING US:

Douglas Bolger with Dartmouth Alumni
Alison Richard with Yale Alumni Academy
Bence P. Olveczky with Harvard Alumni Travels

Highlights

- Delight in **white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters**, and a diverse array of spectacular tropical landscapes.
- Visit the **largest population of giant tortoises** in the world on the Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Spot the **wide variety of animals and bird species** that call the Seychelles and Madagascar home.
- Explore the **UNESCO World Heritage-designated Vallée de Mai**, the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest, home to the rare and endangered coco de mer palm tree.
- See **lemurs up close in their natural habitat**, and learn about conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- Snorkel amidst **pristine coral reefs** teeming with **vibrant marine life**.
- Witness the **Avenue of the Baobabs** and its 800-year-old specimens of magical "upside down trees."
- **Meet with local leaders** in multiple community-led conservation efforts to protect local species, ecosystems and livelihoods.
- Enjoy the **flexibility of optional excursions and walks for all levels** so you can explore at your own pace.



Colony of birds in the Seychelles, including brown booby, red footed booby, lesser noddy and sooty tern.

Vallée de Mai
in Praslin



Itinerary

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7-8

Home / Mahé, Seychelles

Depart the U.S. for Mahé, Seychelles, arriving November 9. **NOTE:** flight times vary by gateway city; some flights might depart on November 8.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Mahé, Seychelles

Settle into the Savoy Resort & Spa, located on Beau Vallon Beach, where you'll find elegantly appointed rooms equipped with a private balcony or terrace. Gather with fellow travelers this evening for a welcome reception and orientation.

SAVOY SEYCHELLES RESORT & SPA (R)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Mahé

Tour Le Jardin Du Roi Spice Garden, featuring vibrant tropical flowers, fragrant herbs, exotic spices, and medicinal plants, while learning how the Seychelles once stood at the center of the spice trade in the 18th century. Then visit the National Museum of History, which offers informative exhibits on Seychellois Creole culture and heritage. Board the *Island Sky* this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Praslin Island

Spend the morning on Praslin exploring the Vallée de Mai, the last remnant of the original high-canopied Seychelles palm forest. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the endemic and endangered coco de mer palm tree, as well as the rare black parrot. In the afternoon, enjoy a walk along the beach and in the forest on an uninhabited island, followed by an opportunity to snorkel among hawksbill and green turtles.

ISLAND SKY (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Alphonse Islands

In the morning, cruise to the three islands of the Alphonse group, located directly south of the Amirantes and considered by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. Conditions permitting, call at the idyllic island of Bijoutier, home to a wide variety of seabirds. Snorkel in the crystal-clear waters after exploring by foot.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

At Sea

Enjoy a full day at sea to experience the amenities of the ship and attend the lecture series while cruising to the Outer Seychelles Islands. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Aldabra Group, Outer Seychelles

Visit Aldabra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982 and the world's largest coral atoll, home to the largest population of giant tortoises. This vast atoll consists of a ring of four reef islands surrounding a massive emerald lagoon, with channels linking the lagoon to the ocean. Explore the crystal-clear waters of the lagoon on Zodiacs and snorkel among the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)



Seychelles

Indian Ocean

Madagascar

to
Johannesburg



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Assumption, Seychelles

Choose to snorkel or take a nature walk on Assumption Island, where you can search for the Assumption Island day gecko and enjoy identifying the diverse birdlife. Depart from the Seychelles and spend the afternoon cruising to Madagascar, with time set aside for lectures. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Nosy Hara National Park, Madagascar

Nosy Hara means "mountainous island" in Malagasy and is considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. The island features a stunning bay, sandy beaches, and unique, sharply eroded limestone spikes known as Tsingy formations. Hike the shorter Brookesia Micra Circuit in search of chameleons and other animals, or take the steeper route on the longer Tsingy Mitsiry Circuit to see the Tsingy formations, ending with a sweeping viewpoint. Spend the afternoon relaxing on one of the park's beautiful beaches. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Nosy Tanikely, Madagascar

Delight in a morning snorkeling excursion at Nosy Tanikely's marine reserve, recognized for its outstanding marine biodiversity, featuring a spectacular coral reef teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures. In the afternoon, enjoy cruising and the continuation of the lecture series. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Mahajanga, Madagascar

This morning, visit "Lac Sacre", or Sacred Lake, and learn about the spiritual significance of its clear waters and special trees planted on the lakeshore, which are venerated by the local people. Walk through the nearby mango trees to observe the sifaka lemurs, iguanas, lizards, and colorful birds that reside there. This afternoon, you will have the chance to swim at a beachside resort before returning to the ship. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)



**Frigate
birds**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
At Sea

During a day at sea, enjoy the continuation of the lecture series and the amenities of the *Island Sky* as it cruises to Morandava. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Morandava, Madagascar

Zodiac to shore and enjoy a choice of excursions for an Avenue of Baobabs walk, followed by a specially arranged visit to the Zazamalala Forest Reserve and Botanical Garden. Established in 2000, the reserve's staff harvest seeds as part of an extensive community reforestation effort and run a turtle breeding program. During a forest walk, observe and learn about the 11 species of lemurs, 5 species of chameleons, and numerous rare bird species that reside here. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Toliara, Madagascar

Today, visit the curious spiny forest region, a unique ecosystem found 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 is home to the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise, and warty chameleon. Enjoy the captain's farewell reception and dinner this evening. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Toliara, Madagascar / Disembark

Enjoy a guided visit to Antsokay Arboretum, which protects 900 species of endemic plants. Transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, for onward flights back to the U.S. (B,L)

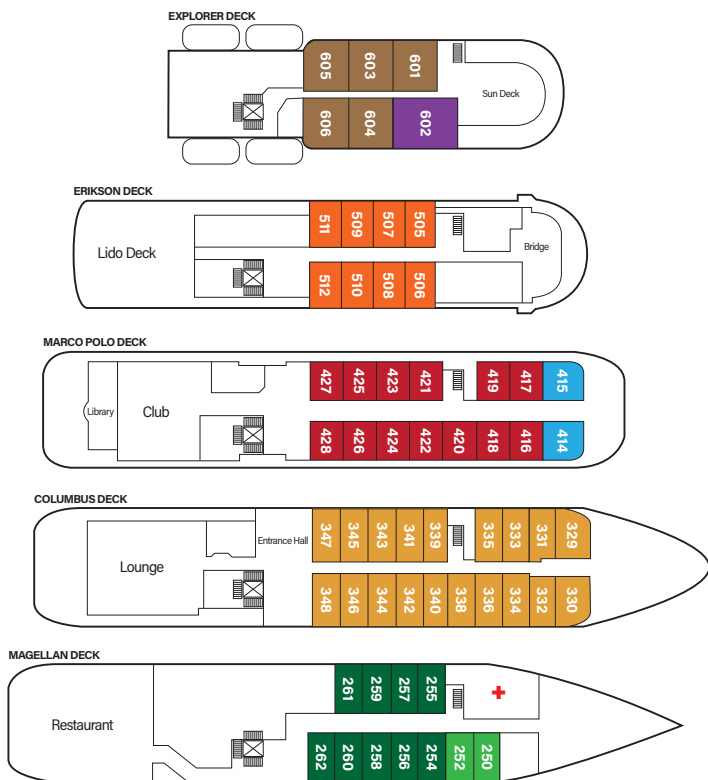


Island Sky

The *Island Sky* is a 59-cabin, 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 WiFi, 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 more than a 1:2 crew-to passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

RETAIL PROGRAM FEES (per person):	DOUBLE	SINGLE
1 STANDARD SUITE (forward) 226 ft ² , portholes	\$12,990	\$19,490
2 STANDARD SUITE 226 ft ² , portholes	\$13,990	\$20,990
3 SUPERIOR SUITE 217-264 ft ² , picture window	\$15,990	\$23,990
4 PREMIUM SUITE 226 ft ² , sliding glass door	\$17,490	—
5 CORNER SUITE 237 ft ² , sliding glass door	\$18,990	—
6 DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 225 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$20,990	—
7 OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 237 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$21,490	—
8 ISLAND SUITE 344 ft ² , balcony + sliding glass door	\$22,490	—



General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including one hotel night and twelve nights aboard *Island Sky* ■ Private charter flight between Toliara, Madagascar and Johannesburg, South Africa ■ Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations ■ Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates ■ Baggage handling ■ Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers ■ Gratuities to shipboard personnel ■ Port charges ■ Entrance fees ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners ■ Filtered water on motorcoaches ■ Criterion Tour Managers

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

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 or muddy trails, dirt streets and paths in small villages), in hot or 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 must be physically fit, active and in good health.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 90 participants, including travelers from Princeton Journeys, Dartmouth Alumni, Harvard Alumni Travel, National Trust Tours, and Yale Alumni Academy.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days ■ Travel and trip cancellation

Seychelles & Madagascar

NOVEMBER 7-23, 2025



RESERVE
ONLINE

insurance ■ Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options ■ Airline baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone and fax charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/PJ/251107_SMI/tour or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256 Princeton, NJ 08543. Balance of payment is due July 10, 2025. After July 10, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Princeton Journeys. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if

written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After July 10, 2025, final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE:** Neither Princeton University nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Princeton Journeys and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Princeton Journeys and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER: Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that Princeton Journeys neither conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for competing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel. Complete program terms can be found: <https://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions>.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

Please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256 Princeton, NJ 08543. For more information or to reserve by phone, contact Princeton Journeys at journeys@princeton.edu or (609) 258-8686.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) PRINCETON AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) PRINCETON AFFILIATION

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for _____ place(s) on **Seychelles & Madagascar**.
 Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference: King/Queen Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)
 I plan to share accommodations with:

I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a non-smoker smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of July 10, 2025, I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1

DATE

SIGNATURE #2

DATE

Seychelles & Madagascar

Islands of the
Indian Ocean
aboard 59-cabin
Island Sky

PRINCETON
JOURNEYS

Princeton University
P.O. Box 5256
Princeton, NJ 08543

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alumni.princeton.edu/journeys