

EXPEDITION VOYAGE OF ZANZIBAR & THE SEYCHELLES

Seaside sanctuaries await on our remote expedition cruise of Zanzibar and the Seychelles. Aboard the expedition vessel, Aqua Lares, we reach deep into remote waters, stopping to explore awe-inspiring archipelagos seldom visited by other travellers. Cruising to our own timetable, we pause to capitalise on the supreme snorkelling afforded by crystal-clear waters and the biodiversity of the region. Just 26 guests will embark upon this rare, chartered voyage, exclusive to guests of Captain's Choice.



A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Zanzibar - Pemba Island -
Kilwa Kisiwani - Seychelles

16 Days Expedition Voyage
Departing 14 February 2027

Please note, our cruise itinerary is included merely as a guide. Our voyage will be of an expeditionary nature, where each day's activities will be determined not only by our Captain and Expedition Team, but on occasion, the vagaries of the weather and sea conditions. Should we chance upon any unexpected encounters with majestic marine life, or find a spot conducive to swimming or snorkelling, we also have the flexibility to drop anchor and linger a while.

Day 1 Zanzibar (Tanzania)

In Zanzibar, you will be met and transferred to the Park Hyatt Zanzibar. Enjoy dinner at our hotel's restaurant while meeting your Tour Host Team and fellow guests.

Day 2 Zanzibar

This morning, join a tour of Zanzibar's Stone Town. The town's name is said to derive from the proliferation of stone buildings erected by Portuguese colonists. We also discover how Zanzibar acquired its reputation as the Spice Islands, while learning about the cultivation of its various plant species, along with their processing and ultimate use in cooking, as well as for medicinal and cosmetic purposes. Their intoxicating scents and flavours are further appreciated while sampling local delicacies during lunch. This evening, we compare notes while getting to know our fellow guests and Tour Host Team better during our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 Zanzibar

Enjoy today on your own schedule, strolling Zanzibar's beautiful beaches, exploring local markets, or simply relaxing at our hotel. You're also welcome to join us as we head to nearby Prison Island. Initially intended as a transit station for the slave trade, the island later served as a quarantine zone to mitigate yellow fever outbreaks. Today it is used as a haven for Aldabra giant tortoises. We then stop in at Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park, one of the world's last remaining sanctuaries of the red colobus monkey. Wander the forest's nature trail, gazing skyward for a glimpse of these rare primates as they leap from tree to tree.

Day 4 Embark Aqua Lares

Enjoy a relaxing morning before we transfer to Azam Marine to embark our vessel, Aqua Lares. Over the next 10 nights, the small ship will bring us to the remote islands of Tanzania and the Seychelles. Settle into your stylish suite, embellished with dark wooden surfaces and sumptuous Italian fabrics. Then take in the sweeping views of the Indian Ocean from your position along the Sun Deck, before enjoying the flavours of the region during our first dinner aboard.

Day 5 Pemba Island

Part of Zanzibar's archipelago, Pemba Island is visited by relatively few travellers. Known for its pristine beaches and extraordinary scuba diving, the island is also rich in spices, particularly cloves. The island's capital, Chake Chake, features the ruins of an 18th-century Omani fort, which has since been repurposed as a museum.

Day 6 Kilwa Kisiwani

The tiny island of Kilwa Kisiwani is bordered by dense mangrove and populated by the residents of a small fishing village. Although comparatively unassuming by today's standards, this was once one of the most powerful regions in East Africa. Swahili merchants traded right across the Indian Ocean, with the tariffs imposed by the sultan leading to the creation of a great palace, whose 14th-century ruins remain.

Day 7 Day at Sea

Spend today taking advantage of our ship's abundant amenities, as we navigate the waters of the Indian Ocean. Our naturalist guide will present a talk on the geology of the region, as well as its flora and fauna. Firsthand observations may also be enjoyed from the onboard jacuzzi. You may just witness the spectacle of a red-footed booby plucking flying fish out of midair. After dinner this evening, perhaps lie back on the Sun Deck for some serene stargazing.

Day 8 Assumption Island (Seychelles), Aldabra Atoll

Having reached the distant shores of Assumption Island, we may take the opportunity to explore aboard our Zodiacs. Assumption is one of the region's most pristine islands, and an outlying part of the Aldabra Atoll. The coral atoll is a haven to the largest population of giant tortoises on the planet, with more than 100,000 occupying the four main islands. Meanwhile, schools of tropical fish, as well as sharks, sea turtles and manta rays swim in their surrounding waters.

Day 9 Aldabra Atoll

The convenience of our nearby anchorage means we have another full day to explore Aldabra Atoll. Join a guided coastal walk, spotting colossal coconut crabs and majestic frigatebirds. Board a Zodiac and explore the lagoon and mangrove forests. Or immerse yourself within crystal-clear waters to discover the local marine life during snorkelling and scuba diving opportunities.

Day 10 Astove Island

These waters contain some of the finest snorkelling and diving spots in the Indian Ocean. The unique geology of the Astove Wall – which has been likened to an underwater Grand Canyon – features an extensive reef that plunges dramatically to a sheer 90-degrees. Adorned with soft corals, it is frequented by an abundance of marine life, including rays, sharks, and reef fish. The pristine waters here offer remarkable visibility of up to 40 metres.

Day 11 Farquhar Atoll

Sailing due east brings us to Farquhar Atoll. Surrounded by pristine waters, we discover the rich marine life and seabirds of the area, including graceful red-footed boobies. Take the opportunity to be among the few to dive and snorkel in this remote region. Our vessel also has flyfishing equipment for those keen to try their luck. Or perhaps trace the shoreline aboard a kayak.

Day 12 Saint-Francois Atoll, Alphonse Island

This morning, Saint-Francois Atoll reveals its world of wildlife inhabiting the island's mangroves. Keep a close watch for sicklefin lemon sharks swimming in the shallow waters. While crab-plovers can be seen patiently surveying the shore in anticipation of their next meal. Snorkelling opportunities are also available along the sprawling coral reef here. This afternoon, our Expedition Team take us to nearby Alphonse Island aboard Zodiacs. Step ashore to wander an idyllic grove of coconut palms and snorkel with tropical fish along the atoll's colony of coral.

Day 13 Remire Island

Having ventured further into remote waters, diminutive Remire Island soon presents itself. Flocks of seabirds soar overhead as we spend a relaxing day searching for giant tortoises and contemplating coastal vegetation. We may also be tempted to don our scuba gear for a closer look at the local marine life. A sundowner along the white, sandy shore caps off another magical day.

Day 14 Mahé Island, Disembark Aqua Lares

Docking at the island of Mahé, we bid farewell to Aqua Lares and her crew. We then check into the ultra-luxurious Four Seasons Resort Seychelles. Take the rest of the day at leisure to discover this tranquil paradise on your own terms – perhaps enjoy a spa treatment at our incomparable accommodation. Our resort also features a range of dining options, which you are free to select as you please this evening.

Day 15 Mahé Island

Soak up this island paradise in whichever way you please. Perhaps join one of the following Your World experiences:

- ★ Arrive early on the island of La Digue and head to L'Union Estate Park to see its plantation house, boat yard and copra mill. Close by, the idyllic beach, Anse Source d'Argent, mesmerises with its pristine waters and sublime rock formations. Enjoy a creole lunch aboard a catamaran while sailing to neighbouring Praslin Island. Upon reaching its shores, set off on an exploration of the nature reserve, Vallée de Mai. See the giant fruit, coco de mer, and keep watch for the Seychelles black parrot. Conclude your full-day experience with a swim or relax upon the white sands of Anse Lazio beach.
- ★ Enjoy a morning discovery of Mahé Island. Begin in the capital, Victoria, taking in its key sites, before driving to Mission Lodge, from where you will enjoy sweeping Indian Ocean views. At the spice garden, Le Jardin du Roi, learn about the medicinal and traditional uses of Seychelle's plants.
- ★ Meet a marine biologist from the conservation organisation, Wise Oceans. Gain hands-on experience in the field of coral restoration during this rare event.

Toast our magnificent journey this evening during a Farewell Dinner.

Day 16 Mahé Island

Farewell your Tour Host Team and fellow guests this morning as we transfer to the airport. You may also wish to extend your stay here in the Seychelles.