

Aldabra Atoll: Nature's Secret Sanctuary

Join us for an unforgettable 14-night expedition through the Amirantes and Outer Islands—culminating in the legendary Aldabra Atoll—aboard the MY Basilisk as our exclusive guest.

“One of the world's greatest surviving natural treasures” Sir David Attenborough



Expedition Program:

Silhouette Cruises and Basilisk Cruises are proud to collaborate together, bringing you the opportunity to embark on an incredible adventure to the Aldabra group of islands.

Day 1 - Embark MY Basilisk by 10:00 in Mahe

Day 2 - Amirantes – Desroches Island

Day 3 - Amirantes – Alphonse Group

Day 4 - Amirantes – Alphonse Island

Day 5 - At sea: crossing southwest to the Aldabra Group

Day 6 - Aldabra Group – Cosmoledo Atoll

Day 7 - Aldabra Group - Cosmoledo Atoll

Day 8 - Aldabra Group – Aldabra Atoll

Day 9 - Aldabra Group – Aldabra Atoll

Day 10 - Aldabra Group – Assumption

Day 11 - Aldabra Group – Astove

Day 12 - At sea: crossing northeast to the Alphonse Group

Day 13 - Alphonse Group – Bijoutier

Day 14 - Amirantes – St. Joseph

Day 15 - Return to Eden Marina, disembarking around. 15:00



Itinerary:



DAY 1 - EMBARKATION

Embark on MY Basilisk at 10:00 AM from our Mahé base. After a welcome and cruise briefing, we set course around midday for the Amirantes, beginning our expedition with the beautiful Desroches Island.



DAY 2 - DESROCHES

The Amirantes is a linear chain of coral islands and atolls lying west of the granitic Seychelles. Desroches, the largest and closest to Mahé, stretches 6 km long and 1.5 km wide, hidden beneath swaying coconut palms and lush endemic vegetation. The island is encircled by 14 km of pristine white sand beaches, kissed by crystal-clear turquoise waters..

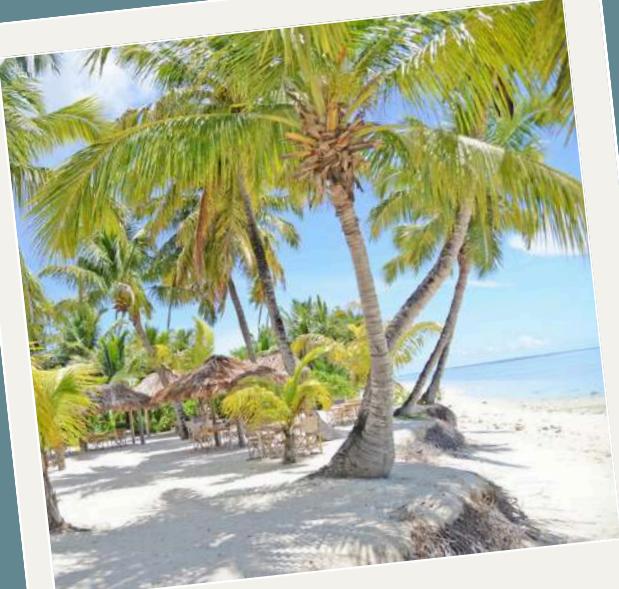
Itinerary:



DAY 3 - ALPHONSE

The Alphonse Group comprises two neighboring atolls — Alphonse and St. François, the latter home to the islands of St. François and Bijoutier. Among the most stunning in Seychelles, Alphonse is arrowhead-shaped, with white surf trailing behind like a wake.

Once a thriving coconut plantation producing 100,000 coconuts a month, the island is now peacefully abandoned, reclaimed by nature.



Snorkelling around these islands is excellent, though it is not for beginners as currents can be strong. However our team will find the best sites for all guests. Features include forests of tall Gorgonian fan corals, shoals of barracuda and other predators together with the occasional Hawksbill Turtles that drift by.

Itinerary:

DAY 4 - AT SEA

As we make our crossing from the Alphonse Group toward Aldabra, we'll be on the lookout for marine mammals, including various species of whales and dolphins. In the evening, join us for a fascinating lecture on the natural history of the Seychelles.

DAY 5 & 6 - COSMOLEDO

A visit to Cosmoledo rivals that of Aldabra, yet in many ways, it surpasses it in sheer remoteness and isolation.

Wild, untouched, and uninhabited, Cosmoledo remains one of the least visited corners of the Seychelles—and the world.



Home to bird species not found on Aldabra, including vast colonies with Seychelles' largest populations of Red-footed Boobies, Masked Boobies, and Sooty Terns. A unique race of Madagascar White-eye is found only here. It is also the last breeding site in Seychelles for the Brown Booby, extinct elsewhere in the islands.

Snorkeling is excellent, with rich marine life and coral reefs that have survived more intact than almost anywhere else in the western Indian Ocean. The shallow lagoon near the main island is full of turtles, including hatchlings. A visit to the north island offers an incredible experience.

We expect to arrive in the afternoon, with a visit to the abandoned settlement and a dive off West Island (Menai), where turtles are especially plentiful.

Itinerary:

DAY 7,8 & 9 - ALDABRA

Often called the Crown Jewel of Seychelles, Aldabra is the world's largest raised coral atoll and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Covering 150 sq km, it has no permanent population aside from the research team on Picard Island.

Home to around 100,000 Giant Tortoises, Aldabra also shelters rare plants, birds, and one of the world's key nesting grounds for endangered Green Turtles. Bird highlights include the flightless Aldabra Rail, Frigatebirds, and several endemics like the Aldabra Drongo and Fody.

We visit the research station and old settlement, cruise the West and Main Channels, and snorkel at sites like Passe Dubois and Anse Var. Snorkeling through the mangrove forests offers a unique opportunity to visit the home to a plethora of marine life.

Recent Dugong sightings hint at a possible return of this elusive marine mammal to Seychelles waters.



Itinerary:

DAY 10 - ASSUMPTION

Assumption Island is home to a stunning arc of coral sand and vibrant offshore waters, where you can explore colorful reefs teeming with snappers, butterflyfish, and angelfish. Though its seabird colonies were impacted by early 20th-century guano mining, the island's vegetation is now gradually recovering. Today, construction on a new hotel development is taking place on the island, bringing with it funds for future conservation programs.



DAY 11 - ASTOVE

Astove's steep coral reef, just 250 meters from shore, is famed as one of the world's best dive sites, rich with hundreds of fish species, Green Turtles, and shipwreck anchors.



Snorkelling along the drop-off is excellent. On land, you'll find shipwreck graves, bleached turtle bones, and abandoned buildings—including a Moorish-style manager's residence. Nearby, Caspian Terns—rare in ocean habitats—dive for fish in the shallow lagoon.

Itinerary:



DAY 12 - SAILING DAY DAY 13 - BIJOUTIER

If you're dreaming of a perfect island, Bijoutier is it: an uninhabited gem crowned with lush green vegetation, surrounded by white sandy shores and vibrant purple reefs set against crystal-clear turquoise waters, perfect for snorkelling with incredible marine life..

DAY 14 - ST. JOSEPH

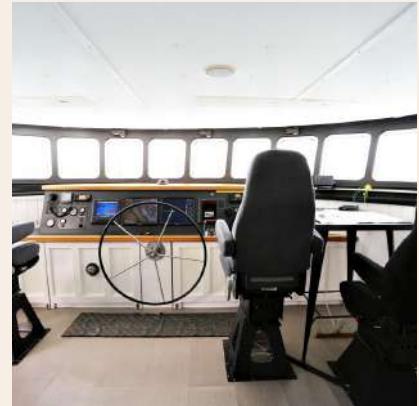
St. Joseph Atoll and D'Arros Island, managed by the Save Our Seas Foundation, include the St. Joseph Channel – a hotspot for manta ray aggregations and over 514 fish species. St Joseph is the Amirantes Bank's most vital nursery and a crucial breeding ground for sharks, rays, and turtles.



DAY 15 - DISEMBARKATION IN MAHE

At approximately 3pm we'll arrive back to Mahe island for you to disembark.

Expedition Gallery:



PLEASE NOTE

This trip is very much of an expedition nature, although we are advertising a program, it is not unusual to have changes.

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Expedition Program:

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10 Day Program - Mahe Island to Astove (flight back to Mahe)

Day 1 - Embarkation

Day 2 - D'Arros Channel and St Joseph

Day 3 - Alphonse and Bijoutier

Day 4 - At sea

Day 5 - Cosmoledo

Day 6 - Cosmoledo

Day 7 - Aldabra

Day 8 - Aldabra

Day 9 - Assumption

Day 10 - Astove – flight to Mahe



White line - by boat. Yellow line - by plane

Itinerary:



DAY 1 - EMBARKATION

Embark on MY Basilisk at 10:00 AM from our Mahé base. After a welcome and cruise briefing, we set course around mid-day for the Amirantes, beginning our expedition with the beautiful Desroches Island.



DAY 2 - D'ARROS CHANNEL & ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph Atoll and D'Arros Island, managed by the Save Our Seas Foundation, include the St. Joseph Channel and lagoon—a hotspot for manta ray aggregations and over 500 fish species, the islands offer incredible natural beauty. St Joseph is the Amirantes Bank's most vital nursery and a crucial breeding ground for sharks, rays, and turtles.

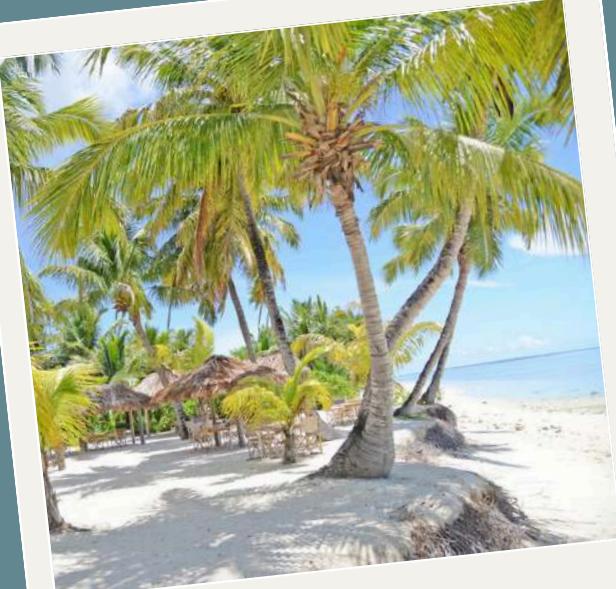
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Once a thriving coconut plantation producing 100,000 coconuts a month, the island is now peacefully abandoned, reclaimed by nature.



Snorkeling around these islands is a truly incredible experience. Features include forests of coral heads and colorful reefs, plus a variety of tropical fish and vibrant marine life.

Itinerary:

DAY 4 - AT SEA

As we make our crossing from the Alphonse Group toward Aldabra, we'll be on the lookout for marine mammals, including various species of whales and dolphins. In the evening, join us for a fascinating lecture on the natural history of the Seychelles.

DAY 5 & 6 - COSMOLEDO

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Home to bird species not found on Aldabra, it includes vast colonies with Seychelles' largest populations of Red-footed Boobies, Masked Boobies, and Sooty Terns. A unique race of Madagascar White-eye is found only here. It is also the last breeding site in Seychelles for the Brown Booby, extinct elsewhere in the islands.

Explore rich marine life and coral reefs that have survived more intact than almost anywhere else in the western Indian Ocean. The shallow lagoon near the main island is full of turtles, including hatchlings.

We expect to arrive in the afternoon, with a visit to the abandoned settlement and snorkel off West Island (Menai), where turtles are especially plentiful.



Itinerary:

DAY 7 & 8 - ALDABRA

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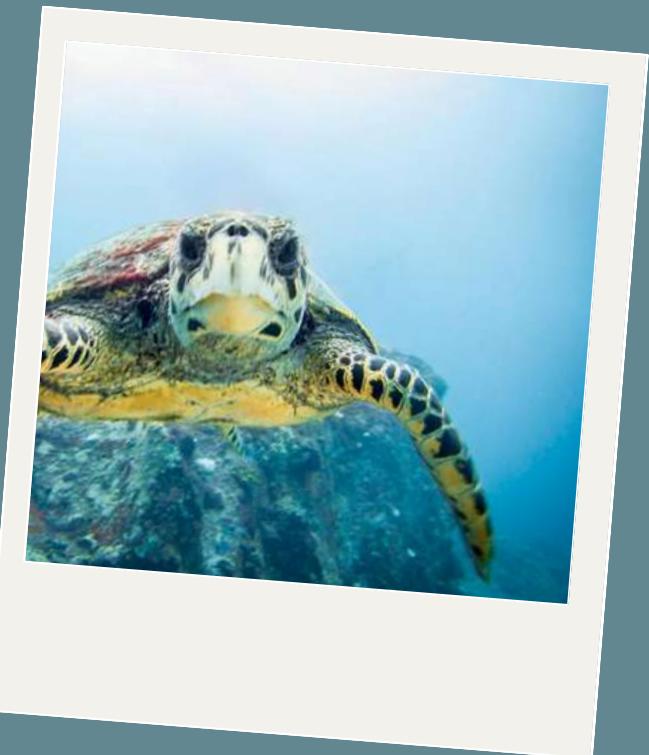
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Itinerary:

DAY 9 - ASSUMPTION

Assumption Island is home to a stunning arc of coral sand and vibrant offshore waters, where you can explore colorful reefs teeming with snappers, butterflyfish, and angelfish. Though its seabird colonies were impacted by early 20th-century guano mining, the island's vegetation is now gradually recovering. Today, construction on a new hotel development is taking place on the island, bringing with it funds for future conservation programs.



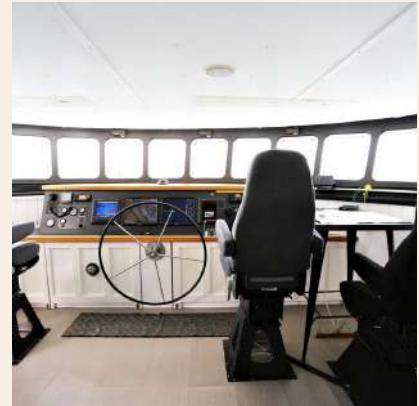
DAY 10 - ASTOVE / DISEMBARKATION

Astove's steep coral reef, just 250 meters from shore, is famed as one of the world's best snorkeling sites, rich with hundreds of fish species, Green Turtles, and shipwreck anchors.

After a short time exploring the island, you'll disembark MY Basilisk before your return flight back to Mahe will depart.



Expedition Gallery:



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10 Day Program - Astove to Mahe Island (flight out to Astove)

Day 1 - Flight to Astove Island – visit Astove

Day 2 - Assumption

Day 3 - Aldabra

Day 4 - Aldabra

Day 5 - Cosmoledo

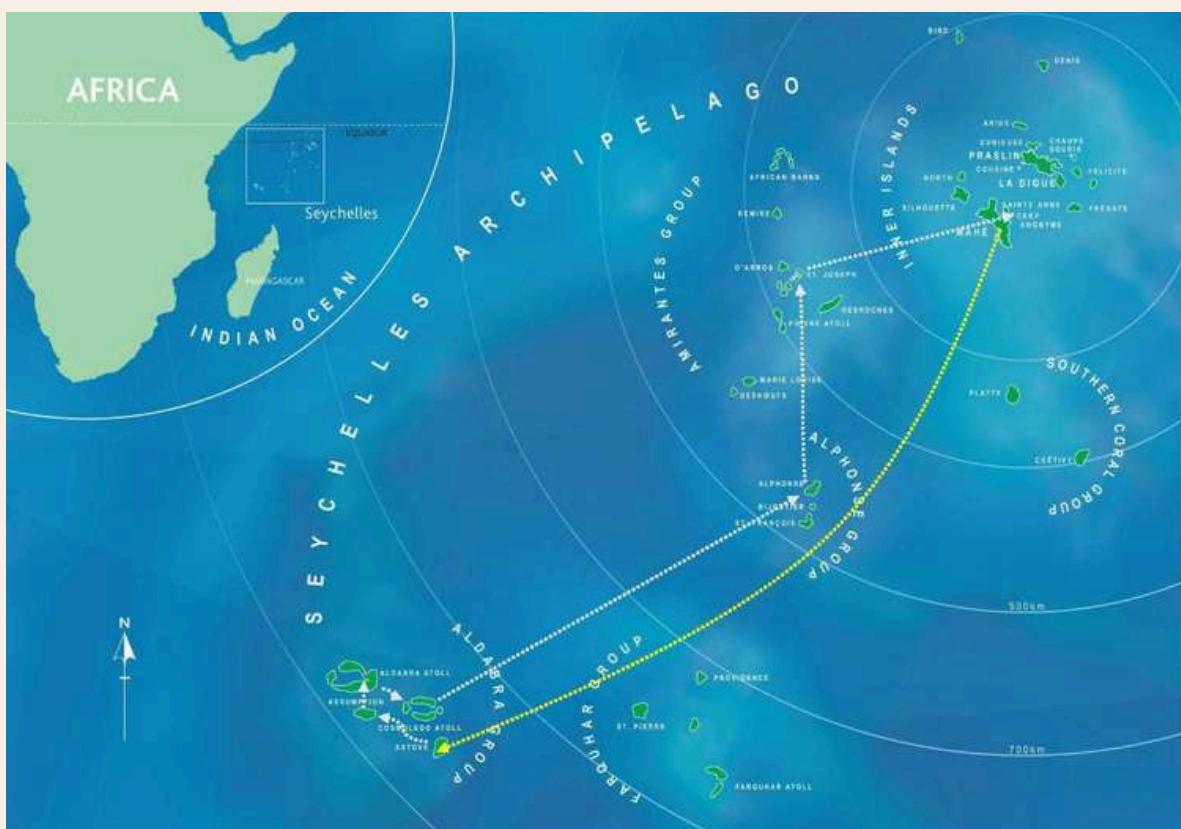
Day 6 - Cosmoledo

Day 7 - At sea

Day 8 - Alphonse and Bijoutier

Day 9 - D'Arros Channel and St Joseph

Day 10 - Disembarkation on Mahe



White line - by boat. Yellow line - by plane

Itinerary:



DAY 1 - FLIGHT & EMBARKATION

From Mahe, you'll fly to Astove island in the Aldabra group, where you'll embark upon MY Basilisk to begin your expedition. After a welcome and cruise briefing, we will explore a little of Astove Island itself whilst settling into your accommodation.



DAY 2 - ASSUMPTION

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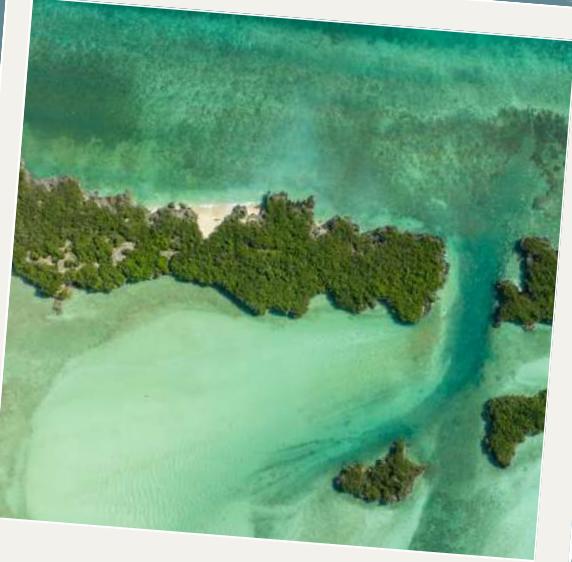
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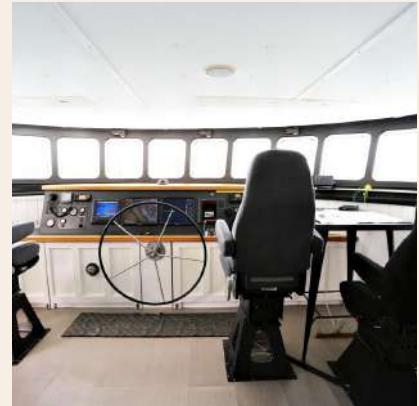
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