

SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS ANNOUNCES NEW 2024 EXPEDITION CRUISE TO MADAGASCAR AND SEYCHELLES IN ALLIANCE WITH PONANT

Washington, D.C. (April 2, 2024)—Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution - the world's largest museum, education, and research complex announces a [new expedition cruise to Madagascar and Seychelles](#) in alliance with PONANT departing in November 2024. For more information visit SmithsonianJourneys.org/PONANT or call 1-855-330-1542.

With gorgeous white sand beaches and endless turquoise seas, these islands seem the image of a tropical idyll, but they are so much more. Home to incredible biodiversity, including unusual endemic species like lemurs and giant Aldabra tortoises, the islands also harbor fascinating geology from the iconic granite boulders of La Digue to the Karst Islands of Madagascar. Guests will be joined by renowned Smithsonian zoologist Don E. Wilson and historian Jane Hooper as they cruise the Indian Ocean from one glorious island to the next, snorkeling or diving pristine lagoons and coral reefs and discovering a host of rare flora and fauna on naturalist-led walks.

[Madagascar and Seychelles: Natural Treasures of the Indian Ocean](#) - 11 days from \$8,500

Sail from Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles aboard the 184-guest *Le Dumont-d'Urville*. Encounter a wealth of unique wildlife and geology amid postcard-perfect beaches, coral reefs, and lush rainforests on a voyage to the islands of Seychelles and Madagascar.

NEW 2025 SMALL-SHIP CRUISES

In addition to the departure to Madagascar and Seychelles, following are new 2025 small-ship cruises with PONANT which embody the unique combination of engaging activities and educational enrichment that is the hallmark of Smithsonian Journeys. These cruises are accompanied by two Smithsonian Journeys Experts—whose insight and knowledge deepen a traveler's understanding of their destination's cultural and natural history.

[Cruising the Aegean: Turkey and the Greek Isles](#) - 8 days from \$6,440

Sail from Istanbul to Athens aboard the 184-guest *Le Bougainville* on a voyage that links some of the most storied sites in antiquity—from Troy and Ephesus to Mycenae. As you trace Turkey's western coast and cross the Aegean Sea, discover ancient temples and cities where the legends of Greek mythology took place. Explore early Christian history on rugged Patmos, sail a catamaran in Santorini's caldera, and experience the lovely Peloponnese port town of Nafplio.

[Lisbon to the Canary Islands by Sea: Spain, Morocco, and the Atlantic Isles](#) - 14 days from \$9,020

Aboard the 184-guest *Le Bellot*, voyage from Lisbon and the Algarve to Andalusia and the souks of Morocco before crossing the eastern Atlantic to the spectacular volcanic archipelagos of Madeira and the Canary Islands. Along the way, encounter interwoven cultures, numerous World Heritage sites, and dramatic landscapes forged by lava.

[Cruising the Mediterranean: Sicily, Sardinia, and Mallorca](#) – 8 days from \$5,340

Explore the western Mediterranean aboard the 264-guest *L'Austral*. Set sail from the baroque gem of Valletta, Malta on a voyage that will have you exploring Greek and Arab-Norman treasures in western Sicily, the rose-colored capital of Sardinia, Bronze Age sites in Menorca, and medieval monuments of Palma de Mallorca. Along the way, sample local specialties, visit fascinating archaeological sites, and explore gorgeous coasts of limestone cliffs and secluded coves.

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel for diverse audiences, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. In addition to these small-ship cruises, Smithsonian Journeys offers small group land journeys, active journeys, river cruises, cultural stays, private jet trips, tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler, and student travel programs. Smithsonian Journeys is part of Smithsonian Enterprises, a division of the Smithsonian which oversees the institution's commercial activities, including the Smithsonian Channel, which is available in over 55 million households globally; the retail operation, which includes 35 museum and airport stores, and food concessions; an E-commerce business, Smithsonianstore.com; Smithsonian magazine, which reaches more than 8 million monthly readers; consumer and education licensing; and books. For more information visit SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 1-855-330-1542.

About the Smithsonian

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural centers, and libraries. Two of the 21 museums – the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum – are in the early planning stages. The total number of objects, works of art, and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at nearly 155 million, of which nearly 146 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History. www.smithsonian.org

About PONANT

PONANT's "Explore to Inspire" mission is centered around exploration to better understand, learn, share and protect. For 35 years, PONANT has been committed to more responsible tourism and voyages of exploration which have meaning. The French-flagged fleet comprises 13 small capacity ships equipped with state of the art environmentally friendly equipment. With PONANT, exploration is refined, authentic and a source of inspiration. The company sails to the Arctic and the Antarctic as well as in the Atlantic and North Europe, Mediterranean, Middle East, Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, Asia, Oceania and South Pacific, the Caribbean, North, Central and South America.

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