Madagascar to Mauritius
Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard the MS Serenissima
Featuring Dr. Matthew Rand, Carleton Professor of Biology
January 15-31, 2020
Dear Carleton College Alumni & Friends,

You are invited to travel with Carleton Professor of Biology Matthew Rand on an extraordinary cruise from Madagascar to Mauritius aboard the elegant, 53-cabin MS Serenissima. Matt will be joined by other onboard experts and, through illustrated talks and informal discussions, they will help to increase your understanding and appreciation of the fauna, flora, cultures, and histories of these beautiful and unique environments.

Madagascar is a global treasure of nature: often called the “eighth continent,” it is the fourth-largest island in the world. It is home to 5% of the world’s plant and animal species that have developed in splendid isolation and exist nowhere else on Earth. With no fewer than six different climatic zones, the island’s array of flora and fauna includes baobab trees; more than 300 species of reptiles; and more than 200 species of birds. Madagascar’s more than 100 known species of lemur are some of the most extraordinary animals you could ever hope to see.

To maximize your time in Madagascar, this expedition begins with a private charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Toliara, Madagascar, thus avoiding the two-day crossing by ship of the Mozambique Channel. Enjoy 11 days exploring Madagascar’s numerous marine reserves and national parks. Then arrive at Réunion Island, a paradisiacal French outpost, to explore its white-sand beaches, spectacular dormant volcanoes, and vibrant Creole character. Disembark on the island of Mauritius, taking in the island’s cultural riches and geologic wonders.

You may also choose from two optional, pre-cruise extensions in South Africa, one with a paleoanthropology focus that includes Sterkfontein Caves and the other a safari near Kruger National Park; and/or a post-cruise opportunity to lengthen your stay on Mauritius.

This program is limited to just 85 travelers and is co-sponsored by other organizations, so I hope you will contact the Alumni Adventures office today at carleton@studytours.org or (800) 811-7244 to reserve your space.

Sincerely,

Derek Fried ’93
President, Carleton College Alumni Association
The cat-like fossa is endemic to Madagascar.

White sand beaches

Comet Moth

Carleton College faculty leader

DR. MATTHEW RAND, Professor of Biology, has been teaching courses in animal behavior, physiology, morphology, and reproduction, including a non-majors course on human reproduction and sexuality, at Carleton College for the past twenty years. In 2002 and 2009, he offered off-campus courses on animal behavior in the Galápagos Islands to Carleton students, and he has led four previous alumni trips to the Galápagos. Matt believes that islands provide one of the best environments on Earth in which to observe animal behavior with a unique and diverse set of organisms. And, since Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world, it provides one of the best “living laboratories” for observing and learning about biodiversity, speciation, and other fascinating subjects.
Amber Mountain
NATIONAL PARK
Madagascar
Toliara
Morondava
Mahajanga
Nosy Tanikely
Nosy Mangabe
Nosy Nato
Réunion Island
Port Est
Port Louis
Mauritius
SOUTH AFRICA
GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK
Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA
Itinerary
Wednesday & Thursday, January 15 & 16, 2020
HOME / JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
Depart home on international overnight flights to Johannesburg, South Africa, arriving on January 16th. Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception this evening.

54 ON BATH HOTEL (R)

Friday, January 17
TOLIARA, MADAGASCAR
This morning board a charter flight to Toliara, Madagascar. After arrival, explore the Arboretum d’Antsokay and learn about its fantastic collection of 500+ species of endemic plants. Board the MS Serenissima this afternoon and enjoy the Captain’s welcome reception and dinner this evening.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 18
TOLIARA
Visit the curious spiny forest region, a unique ecosystem which only exists in the southern part of Madagascar, and see the spectacular baobab trees at Reniala Private Reserve. The reserve is a paradise for birds and home to the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise, and warty chameleon.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 19
MORONDAVA
After breakfast depart to see the Avenue of Baobabs, an extraordinary stand of the iconic massive trees, followed by free time in Morondava market. Or, visit Kirindy Forest Reserve, home to the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world as well as dozens of amphibian species. Look for eight lemur species, the narrow-striped mongoose, the cat-like fossa, and the giant jumping rat.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Monday, January 20
AT SEA
Enjoy a full day at sea and the continuation of the educational program as the MS Serenissima cruises along the west coast of Madagascar.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 21
MAHAJANGA
Drive to Ankarafantsika National Park, a vast reserve boasting a dense diversity of flora and fauna, for guided walks in search of wildlife. One of Madagascar’s finest parks for birdwatching, look for 129 identified species, including Van Dam’s vanga. Learn about the medicinal plants and flowers used by the locals for centuries, try to spot tiny mouse lemurs, and visit the Durrell Breeding Program, established to protect the highly endangered ploughshare tortoise.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 22
NOSY TANIKELY
After a morning of cruising, arrive at Nosy Tanikely marine reserve for an afternoon of snorkeling. Recognized for its remarkable marine biodiversity, the reserve offers some of the best snorkeling in the area, with a spectacular coral reef teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Thursday, January 23
NOSY HARA NATIONAL PARK
Nosy Hara means ‘mountainous island’ in Malagasy and is considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. The island offers a stunning bay, sandy beaches, and the unique, sharply eroded limestone spikes known as Tsingy formations. Hike the low circular path on the island or choose the steeper path to a sweeping viewpoint. Enjoy time in the afternoon to relax on Nosy Hara’s beautiful beaches.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Friday, January 24
DIEGO SUAREZ
Round Madagascar’s northernmost point and cruise into Diego Suárez’s stunning natural harbor to discover the town on a guided tour. Later,
climb aboard a 4x4 vehicle to drive to Amber Mountain National Park for tropical rainforest walks. See lush flora and waterfalls, look for the crowned lemur, spot volcanic lakes, and count more than 40 varieties of butterfly.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 25
NOSY MANGABE
After a morning of cruising and lectures, spend the afternoon exploringNosy Mangabe, a small island reserve of virgin rainforest, and home to a unique nocturnal lemur called the aye-aye. Take the Zodiaceshore for nature walks and hopefully spot black and white ruffed lemurs, colorful paradise flycatchers, and many other types of wildlife.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 26
MASOALA NATIONAL PARK
Explore Masoala National Park’s coastal rainforest, dense marshes, and stands of mangrove. Search for a variety of colorful chameleons, geckos, and of course lemurs, including the red-ruffed lemur native to this area. Stop at Ambodiforaha village to meet with locals and shop in the market.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Monday, January 27
ILE SAINTE-MARIE / NOSY NATO
Enjoy a full day on Ile Sainte-Marie, a lush tropical island dotted with thatched villages. Visit the oldest church in Madagascar and the vibrant market in the capital of the island, Ambodifotatra. Continue to Nosy Nato, a small island south of Ile Sainte-Marie, with curving white beaches and overhanging palms, for nature walks and snorkeling.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 28
AT SEA
During a final full day at sea, enjoy the conclusion of the lecture program and the onboard amenities en route to Réunion Island, a rainforested outpost hundreds of miles into the Indian Ocean.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 29
PORT EST, RÉUNION ISLAND
Visit Réunion Island’s central highlands, a spectacular rugged landscape of active, dormant, extinct, and collapsed volcanoes, where mountain peaks tower to over 10,000 feet above sea level. See picturesque villages that dot the lush and verdant landscape and learn about vanilla production at a small family run plantation. Enjoy the Captain’s farewell reception and dinner this evening on board MS Serenissima before crossing to the neighboring island of Mauritius.

MS SERENISSIMA (B,L,R,D)

Thursday, January 30
PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS
Disembark the ship this morning and discover the unique history of Port Louis and Mauritius at the La Citadel Fort and Aapravasi Ghat, the immigration depot where the modern indentured labor diaspora began. Explore Chamarel, an eye-catching region of tropical flora, hidden waterfalls, and undulating sand dunes displaying an array of colors. Visit Bois Cheri tea plantation for a refreshing cup of tea before departing for the airport (MRU) for flights home. (B,L)

Friday, January 31
ALOFT / HOME
Arrive in the U.S.

OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION
January 30 to February 2
MAURITIUS
Extend your stay for further exploration of the lush rainforests and white sand beaches of Mauritius. During your three-day stay, discover Ile aux Aigrettes, one of the last sanctuaries for rare Mauritian wildlife, including the giant aldabra tortoise (below) and the ornate day gecko. Also learn about the island’s long colonial history and enjoy snorkeling in the crystal blue water.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.
GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Charter flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Toliara, Madagascar
- Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations
- Team of expert naturalists
- Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities to ship staff, porters, wait staff, guides and drivers
- Entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners aboard the ship

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
- U.S. domestic and international airfare
- Passport/visa expenses
- Medical expenses and immunizations
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days
- Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted
- Gratuities for non-group services
- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone, fax, internet and email charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
- U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy-class airfare from New York to Johannesburg and Mauritius to New York is approximately $1,200 per person as of March 2019 and is subject to change without notice. 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.

MS SERENISSIMA

RECENTLY REFURBISHED IN 2018, the 95-passenger MS Serenissima can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to larger cruise ships. The public areas on board create a relaxed and spacious atmosphere. The Andrea Lounge provides a comfortable venue for lectures and has an elegant bar, and the Harald Jarl Lounge offers a library and computers. Outside decks include a massive observation deck for 360-degree views of the passing scenery, and the all-teak Sun Deck is used for meal service in pleasant weather. Guest accommodations are designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins feature ocean views, en-suite bathrooms, and are equipped with many amenities. The Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in a single seating, with great views through the large picture windows. When possible, local produce is sourced for authentic dining experiences. Complimentary house wines, beer, soft drinks, mineral water, coffee, and tea are included with meals. Wifi is available throughout the vessel.
WHAT TO EXPECT  This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, over sometimes rough terrain; often elevators are unavailable and stairs may not have handrails. Participants should be fit and in active good health. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that she does not have any physical or other limitation that would create a hazard for herself or other participants.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS Tour costs 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 prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

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.

GROUP SIZE This program is limited to 85 participants, including travelers from Carleton College, Dartmouth, Harvard, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Archaeological Institute of America.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. You may reserve space immediately by contacting Carleton College Alumni Adventures at (800) 811-7244 or carleton@studytours.org. Or you may send the completed reservation form with your deposit (we accept checks and major credit cards) to Carleton College Alumni Adventures, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Deposit checks should be made payable to Criterion Travel. You may also call Carleton College Alumni Adventures at 800-811-7244; Fax: 603-756-2922. Email: carleton@studytours.org. Website: go.carleton.edu/adventures

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please print)

NAME 1 (AS ON PASSPORT)    CARLETON CLASS
NAME 2 (AS ON PASSPORT)    CARLETON CLASS
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP
HOME PHONE    CELL PHONE
EMAIL 1
EMAIL 2
Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? ☐ Yes, ☐ No

PAYMENT INFORMATION
☐ Please charge my deposit of $ ____________ ($1,000 per person) to my: ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ AmEx  ☐ Discover  OR  ☐ Enclosed is my check for $ ____________ ($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve ______ place(s) on Madagascar to Mauritius

NAME ON CREDIT CARD
CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS
Cabin category preference:
1st choice
2nd choice
Bed preference (not guaranteed): ☐ King/Queen  ☐ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (Choose one)
☐ I prefer to have 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 September 13, 2019, I will remain in a Standard Single cabin.

I have read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated therein.

SIGNATURE DATE
SIGNATURE DATE

MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS  JANUARY 15–31, 2020
Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard the MS Serenissima

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2nd choice
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Featuring DR. MATTHEW RAND, Carleton Professor of Biology

JANUARY 15-31, 2020