



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Indian Ocean Explorer

Tour Duration – 18 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●●●○○

Tour Pace

Busy

Tour Highlights

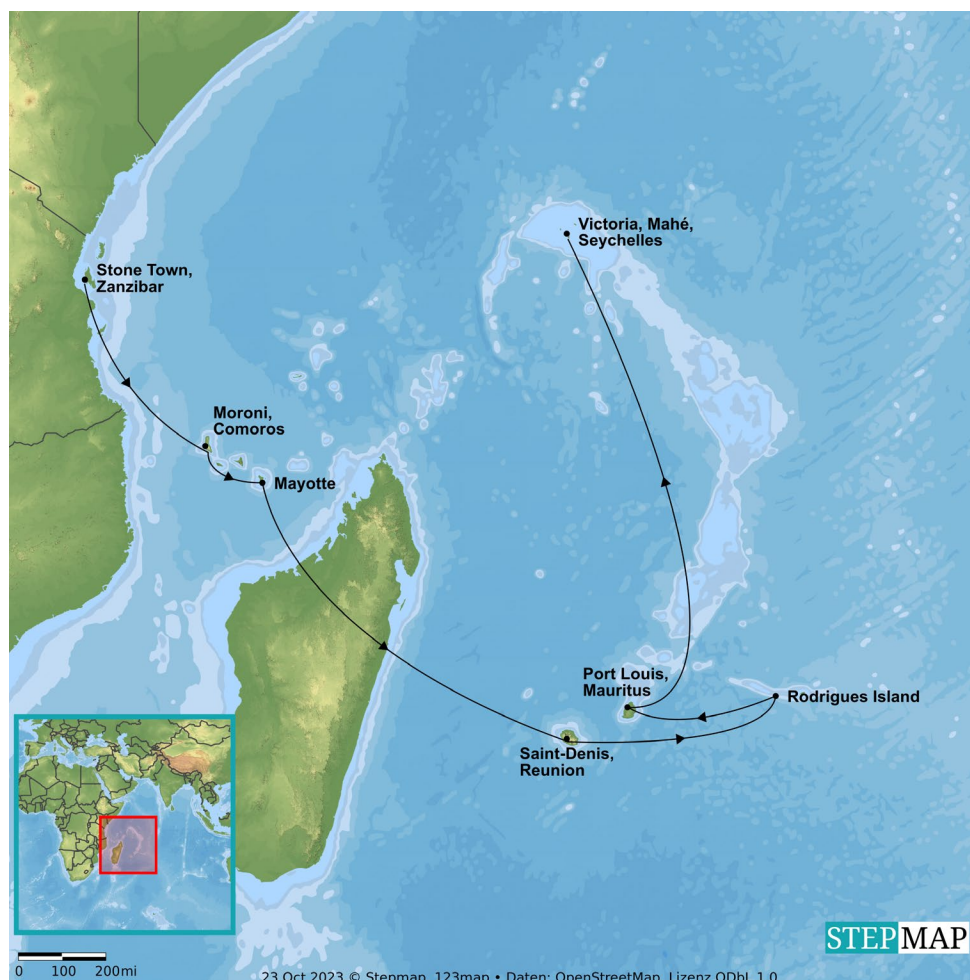
- ✓ An extraordinary adventure visiting seven special destinations in the Indian Ocean – Zanzibar, Comoros Islands, Mayotte, Reunion, Rodrigues Island, Mauritius, and the Seychelles
- ✓ See the highlights of each island, as well as enjoying some downtime
- ✓ Explore Zanzibar and visit Prison Island to see giant tortoises and do a bit of snorkeling before making your way to a spice farm to see, smell, and taste freshly grown spices and fruits
- ✓ Be the centre of attention in the Comoros, a delightful set of tropical islands which define the very essence of *off the beaten track*
- ✓ Discover the French island of Reunion and visit Notre Dame des Laves – a church that sits at the bottom of an active volcano, and miraculously spared of its lava
- ✓ Visit Rodrigues, an island time forgot. Marooned some 600km north-east of Mauritius, and close to no other landform, Rodrigues is a world unto itself. It is also one of the world's most remote inhabited islands.





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Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** A mix of comfortable boutique style properties and 3 to 4* hotels and resorts
- Included Meals:** Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) as shown in the itinerary
- Group Size:** Maximum 12
- Start Point:** Zanzibar – you can arrive any time on day 1
- End Point:** Seychelles – you can depart any time on day 18
- Transport:** Inter-island flights, minibus, or similar vehicle for guided excursions and tours
- Country Visited:** Tanzania (Zanzibar), Comoros, Mayotte (French Overseas Department), Reunion (French Overseas Department), Rodrigues Island (Mauritius), Mauritius, Seychelles



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Indian Ocean Explorer

A unique opportunity to get off the beaten track and discover some of the least visit islands in the Indian Ocean, including a couple of absolute gems. Be the centre of attention in the Comoros, a delightful set of tropical islands which define the very essence of off the beaten track. And explore Rodrigues, an island time forgot, marooned some 600km north-east of Mauritius

Our adventure starts in truly exotic Zanzibar, once a hub for spice traders, history here goes back 2,000 years. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Stone Town, the capital, where you can wander winding alleys leading to spice markets and see piles of cinnamon and nutmeg lying in the sun. From Zanzibar we continue via a connection in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, to Moroni, capital on the Comoros Islands. A long standing favourite of Undiscovered Destinations, we explore the main island, Grande Comore, and drive to the foothills of Mount Karthala, an impressive active volcano. Later we hope to encounter lemurs, the Comoros being the only place that they can be found except for Madagascar.

Our adventure continues with a short flight to the island of Mayotte where we stay overnight and discover mangrove swamps, a volcanic lake, and mudflats before we head to our next destination, Reunion, which like Mayotte is an overseas department of France. We visit magnificent waterfalls, Trou du Souffleur – an impressive kind of geyser caused by waves and Notre Dame des Laves – a church that sits at the bottom of an active volcano, and miraculously spared of its lava.

Our next destination, served by just one flight a week from Reunion, is Rodrigues, an island that time forgot. Marooned some 600km north-east of Mauritius, and close to no other landform, Rodrigues is a world unto itself. It is also one of the world's most remote inhabited islands. Rustic simplicity and a laidback Creole charm are its hallmark, and visitors to Mauritius's sleepy sister, nicknamed "Cinderella of the Mascareignes." invariably return misty-eyed.

Next stop is Mauritius where we tour the island and discover sandy beaches bordered by cliffs and carved by waves, rocky shores, sugar cane fields, waterfalls and mountainous terrains offering magnificent panoramas. We also have a free day set aside to relax, perhaps by the hotel pool or explore the vibrant capital Port Louis known for its French colonial architecture.

Our final stop takes us to the Seychelles and the island of Mahe. We visit gardens, heritage sites, a rum distillery, and a tea factory, before stopping for a swim and a chance for some snorkelling. And our last day of the tour is set aside to relax before we head home after what has been a thrilling journey to some of the least visited destinations in the Indian Ocean.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as shown below, we have built in a degree of flexibility. However, overnight stops may still vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

The itinerary as described below is very dependent on current flight schedules, and in some cases, these may only be fully confirmed within a few months of travel. On some routes flights may only operate a few times a week. Should the days of operation change then this will have an impact on the overall itinerary and inadvertently the programme will need to be revised. We will do our best to visit each island named below, but the length of stay may need to change. Should a particular route be withdrawn, or it no longer works with the overall programme, we reserve the right to substitute some of the destinations, with one or more other islands. It is only on this basis that we can accept your booking and we thank you for your understanding.





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Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not routinely send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Please refer to the important information given below.

Group Size up to and including 4 Travellers

It should be noted that a different guide will be allocated for each island. The group will not be accompanied throughout and will fly between each island without a guide. On arrival at each destination the group will be met and transferred to the hotel. As part of your joining information, you will receive a series of tour vouchers for the applicable services, and these will include contact details for our local supplier as well as start times and joining information for each tour.

In the event of any flight delays or cancellations, you will be asked to contact our office directly for assistance. However, in practice it may be difficult for us to provide an immediate solution. Therefore, should the tour operate with less than 5 clients it is a trip that is best suited to the more experienced traveller and one who is comfortable travelling unescorted. For group sizes of 5 clients or more please see below for details of the arrangements. Please contact our office if you would like to check on the current booking status and size of the group.

Group Size 5 to 12 Travellers

For a group size of at least 5 travellers the tour will be fully escorted throughout, including when travelling between each island. A tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK or our representative will accompany the group, principally to facilitate with the practicalities such as dealing with any delays or disruption to the programme. Local knowledge of each destination and all guiding will remain the responsibility of our experienced local suppliers.

It should be noted that a change of tour leader maybe required during the trip. Therefore, we reserve the right to use more than one member of our team.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Zanzibar

Our journey begins on the island paradise of Zanzibar where we discover jaw-dropping scenery, magnificent beaches and the floating fragrances of spice markets, all oozing with insight into the region's rich history. Upon arrival we will be transferred to our centrally located hotel in Stone Town, the island's capital, and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight Tembo House Hotel and Apartments or similar.

Zanzibar

Zanzibar beckons travelers with its enchanting allure, offering a tapestry of experiences that captivate the senses. Delve into the island's rich history, wandering through the labyrinthine streets of Stone Town adorned with intricately carved doors, a testament to its Swahili-Arab heritage. Explore spice plantations, where the air is fragrant with cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg, immersing yourself in the island's storied past as a spice trading hub.



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Venture into crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant marine life, perfect for snorkeling or diving adventures. Relax on pristine beaches kissed by turquoise waves, savouring moments of tranquillity against a backdrop of swaying palms and azure skies. Indulge in tantalizing cuisine, influenced by Arabic, Indian, and African Flavors, tantalizing your taste buds with culinary delights.

Day 2: Zanzibar Island Tour

After breakfast we meet our guide and leave the hotel for a full day tour of the island. We will learn about Zanzibari history as we visit some of Stone Town's most historic buildings. Later we take a boat to Prison Island to see giant tortoises and do a bit of snorkeling (equipment provided) before making our way to a spice farm to see, smell, and taste freshly grown spices and fruits. Overnight Tembo House Hotel and Apartments or similar. (B)

Day 3: Zanzibar Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure and the opportunity to wonder around Stone Town, with museums to explore, tiny bazaars to browse and superb Zanzibari restaurants to sample. Or for early risers a visit to the morning market is a must. Here, hessian sacks overflowing with black pepper, turmeric, cinnamon, and vanilla jostle for space with piles of fresh ginger, chillies, and nutmeg. Overnight Tembo House Hotel and Apartments or similar. (B)

Day 4: Zanzibar to Morono, Comoros

After breakfast we are transferred back to the airport where we take a short flight to the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, with an onward connection to Moroni arriving late afternoon. Transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Golden Tulip Grande Comore Moroni Resort & Spa. (B)

Comoros Islands

Few have even heard of this gem at the northern reaches of the Mozambique trench and the islands remain virtually unvisited every year. Yet, to those who make the journey to this tiny archipelago set in the azure waters off Africa's east coast, a truly stunning world where nature's palette has produced a masterpiece awaits. Three contrasting volcanic islands, all with irresistible charm, provide an escape from the bustle of life to a place of endless sequestered beaches, turquoise shallows, reefs teeming with life, and deep indigo ocean views that are bewilderingly beautiful. Encounters with rare species on starlight shores and amidst virgin rainforest are a given in this forgotten treasure.

Day 5: Grande Comore Tour

After breakfast we set off on a full-day tour of Grande Comore. Drive across the island from the foothills of Mount Karthala, an impressive active volcano, to the high plateau of Diboini to view other extinct craters. We then proceed to the agricultural cooperative in Mbeni where you can see another ylang ylang distillery and a vanilla pods warehouse. After a stop for lunch, we hope to encounter lemurs and tortoises as well as the odd and legendary coelacanth fish. We continue to a famous rock formation shaped as a Dragon and we stop by the enchanting Salt Lake, which water colour may vary from white to blue turquoise. On our way back to Moroni we stop at the beautiful white sand beaches of Galawa and Chomoni where we can enjoy a swim in the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. Golden Tulip Grande Comore Moroni Resort & Spa. (BL)

Day 6: Moroni to Mayotte

After a leisurely morning, we are transferred back to the airport for an afternoon flight to the French island of Mayotte where we stay overnight. Upon arrival make our way on foot the short distance to our hotel. Overnight ibis Styles Mayotte Aeroport or similar. (B)



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Mayotte

Mayotte is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, located between Madagascar and the coast of Mozambique. As an overseas department and region of France, it holds a unique status within the European Union. The island's population is primarily of Comorian descent, with a blend of African, Malagasy, French, and Arab influences shaping its culture and society. French is the official language, but Shimaore, a dialect of the Comorian language, is widely spoken. The island is renowned for its stunning coral reefs and rich marine biodiversity, attracting divers and nature enthusiasts. Despite being part of France, Mayotte's remote location and distinct cultural heritage gives it a character that sets it apart from its mainland counterpart.

Day 7: Island Tour and fly to Reunion

After breakfast we will meet our guide for a morning tour taking in the island's highlights. We will visit MUMA Musée de Mayotte, an ideal place to immerse ourselves in Mayotte's history, traditions, and natural heritage. We continue with the tour taking in mangrove swamps, a volcanic lake, and mudflats. Later we make our way back to the back for a flight an afternoon flight to Reunion. Upon arrival we are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel located in the heart of Saint-Denis, the island's capital. Overnight Hotel Le Juliette Dodu or similar. (B)

Reunion

Reunion Island, an overseas department of France nestled in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mauritius, offers a distinctive blend of natural wonders and cultural richness. While its beaches may not resemble those of neighbouring Mauritius, Reunion compensates with its unique volcanic black sand shores and vibrant coral reefs. The island's interior boasts lush forests teeming with rare flora and fauna, complemented by cascading waterfalls and the formidable Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes. The island's diverse cultural heritage, stemming from European colonisers, African slaves, Indian labourers, and Chinese merchants, infuses its cuisine and traditions with a fascinating mix of influences.

Day 8: Reunion Island Tour

After breakfast we meet our local guide and set off for a full day tour of the island. Stops include Cascade Niagara - a pretty waterfall that is well hidden at the bottom of a sugar cane plantation, Notre-Dame des Laves - a church that sits at the bottom of an active volcano, and miraculously spared of its lava, the spectacular Route des Laves that leads to the Piton de La Fournaise - one of the most active volcanoes in the world and Trou du Souffleur – an impressive kind of geyser caused by waves. Return to Saint-Denis and our hotel by late afternoon. Overnight Hotel Le Juliette Dodu or similar. (B)

Day 9: Reunion – Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax or explore the island's capital. Visit the historic Le Barachois waterfront, admire the colonial architecture of Rue de Paris, and visit the captivating Musée Léon Dierx art museum. The Jardin de l'État botanical garden offers tranquillity, while the bustling market at Le Grand Marché showcases local crafts and flavours. Overnight Hotel Le Juliette Dodu or similar. (B)

Day 10: Reunion to Rodrigues Island

After a leisurely morning, we will be transferred back to the airport where will check-in for the weekly flight from Reunion direct to the Rodrigues Island, located some 600km north-east of Mauritius, and close to no other landform. Upon arrival we will be at the airport and transferred to our hotel, in time for dinner. Overnight C Rodrigues Mourouk or similar. (BD)



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Flight Information

Although our itinerary has been carefully planned to coincide with taking the once a week direct flight from Reunion to Rodrigues Island, in practice airlines schedules can often change. In the event that we are unable to fly direct, we will travel via Mauritius, with a change of plane, still arriving in Rodrigues Island on the same day.

Rodrigues Island

Blissfully isolated, set in the southern part of the Indian Ocean, some 600km away from Mauritius, Rodrigues Island is among the remotest places one can visit. A mountainous gem that barely feels connected to its big sister, let alone the wider world. Preciously kept away from the mainstream travel destinations, this pristine island is well known for its authentic culture, people, and unspoilt places where serenity reign over. With its rugged coastlines, crystalline lagoons, and verdant hills, it offers breathtaking vistas for nature lovers and adventurers, and is renowned for its marine biodiversity. Disconnect from the world and reconnect with nature on this idyllic gem in the Indian Ocean.

Day 11: Rodrigues Island Tour

After breakfast meet our local guide and set off for a full day tour of the island. We start with a stop in the main town, Port-Mathurin, where we will visit the local market, St Gabriel Church, and the Rodrigues Island Museum, which traces the history and culture of this island. Then we have a chance to discover the island's heavenly beaches, such as Trou d'Argent beach, Gravier beach or Saint-François beach, all of which offer breathtaking landscapes and crystal clear water. We continue the tour with a visit to François Leguat Nature Reserve, where we see giant tortoises and endemic birds before returning to our hotel. Overnight C Rodrigues Mourouk or similar. (BD)

Day 12: Rodrigues Island to Mauritius

After breakfast we will be transferred back to the island's airport for a late morning flight to Mauritius where will stay for three nights giving us to explore and to unwind. Upon arrival we will be met at the airport and transferred to our located on the waterfront in the island's capital Port Louis. After check-in, the remainder of the day will be free to get some rest or to explore and take a stroll. Overnight Le Suffren Hotel & Marina. (B)

Mauritius

Despite attracting sun seekers from across the globe Mauritius has managed to maintain its tropical island appeal with warm shallow lagoons, spice filled trade winds and a wild untamed south coast summoning up the majority of Indian Ocean idylls. Although it can be tempting to hit the beach all day every day, it would be a shame to miss out on Mauritius' cultural diversity and vibrant spirit, with Port Louis, the capital, exemplifying both within its European architecture and historic Chinatown district. Head to the UNESCO site of Aapravasi Ghat to unearth the island's colonial history and relationship with India following the abolition of slavery.

Day 13: Mauritius Island Tour

After breakfast meet our guide for a full day of the southeast island. Explore the bright blue waters of Eau Bleue Waterfall - one of the most beautiful waterfalls on the Island, see the natural bridge at 'Pont Naturel, formed from volcanic rock millions of years ago, enjoy the amazing views at le Souffleur – on the magnificent untouched raw side of the island and stop at Tookay - a charming colourful temple hidden in the middle of the sugar cane fields. After a typical Mauritian lunch, we stop to admire the breathtaking views at Gris Gris beach before we discover the Rochester Falls, a spectacular 33-foot waterfall. We may find some daring locals jumping off the 10m cliff into the water but bear in mind that they are experts and know the waterfalls inside out. Return to Port Louis and our hotel in the later afternoon. Overnight Le Suffren Hotel & Marina. (BL)



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Day 14: Mauritius – Fee Day

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax or explore the island's bustling capital known for its vibrant markets, colonial architecture, and multicultural atmosphere. Explore the historic Le Caudan Waterfront, delve into the vibrant Central Market, and visit landmarks like the Aapravasi Ghat, reflecting the island's rich history and diverse heritage. Overnight Le Suffren Hotel & Marina. (BL)

Day 15: Mauritius to the Seychelles

After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our final flight of the tour, to the Seychelles where we will stay on the main island, Mahé for three nights giving us time to explore and to relax. Upon arrival we will be met at the airport and transferred to our resort style hotel located just a few miles outside of the capital, Victoria. Overnight Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa. (B)

Seychelles

The Seychelles beckons visitors with its captivating natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, exemplified on Mahé, its largest island, which is home to rare flora and fauna. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Victoria, the island's capital, where colonial architecture meets bustling markets. Experience authentic island life amidst stunning natural beauty and savour local cuisine whilst engaging with friendly locals. Being the final stop of tour, why not extend your stay in the Seychelles to simply relax and unwind. Or given that the islands are surrounded by vibrant coral reefs, swimming, snorkelling, and diving in the warm, clear waters are some of the most memorable experiences for any visitor, with frequent sightings of boxfish, angelfish, Moorish idols and even turtles.

Day 16: Mahé Island Tour

After breakfast meet our local guide and set off for a day of Mahé Island with various stops including Victoria's botanical garden, heritage sites, a rum distiller, and a tea factory. We will also stop at one of the island's fine beaches for a swim. Return to our island by late afternoon. Overnight Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa. (B)

Day 17: Seychelles – Free Day

Our last full day of the tour has been set aside at leisure to relax, or if you prefer to explore more of the island and its capital, just a 15 minute taxi ride away, on your own. Overnight Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa. (B)

Day 18: Seychelles Departure

Today the tour ends after check-out from the hotel. A transfer to the airport will be provided to coincide with your international departure. (B)

Please note that the hotel's check-out time is 12pm. A later check-out can be requested locally although charges may apply. After check-out the hotel will be happy to store your luggage and with their agreement, you can continue to use the pool and changing facilities.



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Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure airport transfers

Transportation throughout the tour

All inter-island economy class flights including a checked-in luggage allowance of 20k

All accommodation

Services of English-speaking guide for the tours and excursions shown in the itinerary

Meals as shown (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch)

Except where indicated, entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights to Zanzibar and return from the Seychelles

Any airport taxes – except on those flights included as part of the itinerary

Travel Insurance

Visas – when applicable

Drinks

Tips (Discretionary)

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At present there are no warnings against travel to any of the places that we visit on this itinerary.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis, please contact us.



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Accommodation Rating

At Undiscovered Destinations we know our travellers prefer to stay in comfortable, mid-range accommodation, preferably with local character. Where possible this tour is based on using smaller centrally located hotels but given the need for us to block book a number of rooms this is not always possible. Some of the hotels will be resort style, which is common for the more developed islands and maybe located further away from the capital.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drinks

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunches when provided maybe a picnic. Unless stated drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements, you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs, and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten. In addition, islands like the Comoros have been less touched by tourism, leading to lower prices. We would suggest you budget an average, minimum per day, of £50.00 per person to include meals and drinks not included within the itinerary. But again, costs will vary. For a better understanding many of the hotels publish menu with prices on their websites which can help with budgeting.

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise in the region. If your local guide has been helpful, then you could think about tipping. For a one day tour or excursion we would suggest \$10 for your guide but of course, do tip more or less as you wish. It is at your discretion.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Available throughout the Indian Ocean, particularly in airports and the island's capital.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, except less so in the Comoros Islands, although they can still be used in the hotel featured on this tour.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollar or Euros.

Where to Exchange: Your local guide will advise, but very often money can be exchanged in the airport upon arrival or at the hotel.



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Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Your Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a free airport transfer, both on arrival and departure. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time, and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

With the exception of entry to Tanzania (including Zanzibar), and the Comoros, at the time of writing British, US and Australian nationals do not require a visa for a short-term tourist visit to any of the countries visited on this tour. For entry to Tanzania, at the time of writing, an e-visa is available. For further details please visit – <https://visa.immigration.go.tz/>. For entry to the Comoros, at the time of writing, a visa can be obtained on arrival.

As it is the travellers' responsibility to ensure that they meet all entry requirements it is essential that you check the rules and any other conditions at the time of booking and again when making your balance payment. In addition, we would strongly advise that you make a final check around two weeks before your arrival. This is important as requirements can change at short notice. Undiscovered Destinations, when possible, will provide guidance about entry rules, but in the first instance please contact the relevant authorities, including the applicable embassy or consulate for assistance. Contact details can be found by visiting the following websites.

British Nationals - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - www.smartraveller.gov.au/

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destinations nearest embassy or consulate



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Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of the Indian Ocean, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice, and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, you may be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. The use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended, and we recommend that you take professional advice about malaria prophylactics.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you will need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you are travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

As this tour takes in a large swathe of the Indian Ocean the climate can vary between the different islands. But in general, a good time to travel is from May to September when any rainfall will be fairly minimal, and temperatures will be warm.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared and to be adequately immunized with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended. Lighter shoes or sandals are fine for travelling between destinations.



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Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Excursion Times and Duration

Please note that the approximate departure times and tour durations when shown in the itinerary are given in good faith but should only be used as a guide. The information provided may vary depending on the interests of the group, road traffic conditions, comfort breaks and photo opportunities.

Electric Supply and Plugs

Most countries use two-pronged Type A or three-pronged UK style plug on a standard 110V network. We recommend that you bring a multi-adapter.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour, but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated on 16 February 2024.