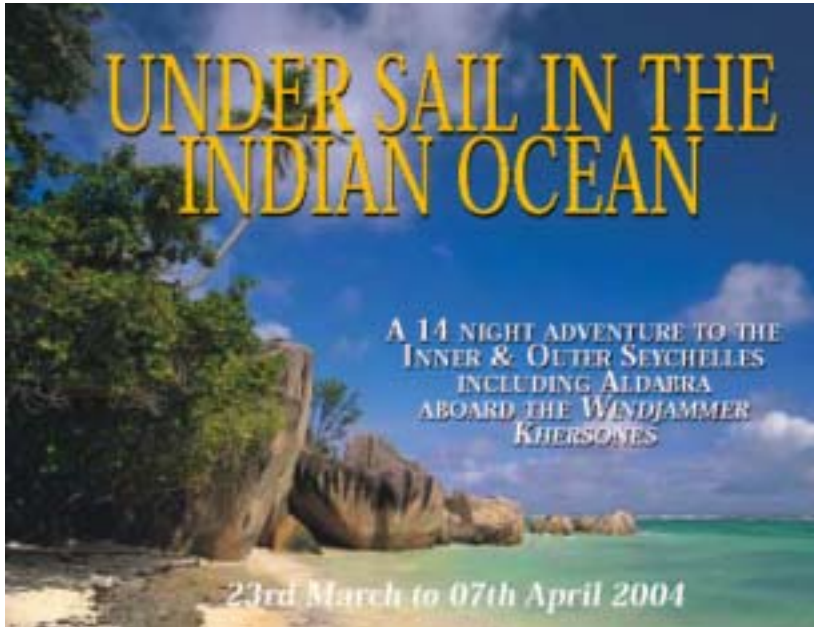


UNDER SAIL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

23rd March – 07th April 2004

An expedition aboard the Windjammer Khersones with Deep Ocean Expeditions



Our destination is Aldabra, a remote island in the Outer Seychelles Group, a World Heritage Site and the world's largest coral atoll. Not an easy place to reach even for the most dedicated of travellers. There's no landing strip, harbour, or hotel, no roads and only a seasonal human population which rarely exceeds 10 souls. Only a few hundred travellers a year are able to visit this 'Galapagos of the Indian Ocean'. Here is the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and we shall see some of the large population together with some of the rarest birds. In the warm seas of the Indian Ocean we will explore some of the most beautiful tropical islands on earth.

and snorkel over coral reefs and enjoy our days at sea, birdwatching, relaxing, reading and listening to the guest naturalists who will add much to our understanding of this extraordinary area and its delicate ecosystems. The scattered islands of the Indian Ocean were created millions of years ago when Africa and India divided into separate continents. These isolated specks on a map have been protected from man and beast due to their very isolation and today many of the islands contain the last habitats of many of the world's unusual and rare species. The voyage will be a rich feast of birdlife, unusual flora, extraordinarily beautiful islands and atolls, and brilliant coral reefs teeming with fish of every hue imaginable. An opportunity to witness some of the world's most unusual species and focus on the major conservation works being carried out on many of the islands.

Swim



THE ITINERARY

Our journey will to some degree be governed by the vagaries of the winds. Although the Khersones does have the benefit of two powerful engines, the captain will whenever possible rely on the sails. We have therefore designed an itinerary to include what we consider to be the most interesting and in some cases spectacular places. But, because the final journey will depend on the prevailing wind, the time in each place and the order visited will be left to the captain's discretion. Under normal sea-going conditions for this time of year we expect to visit the following:

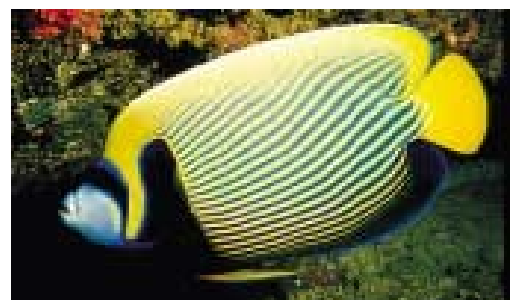
Day 1 : Arrival Mahe. Morning arrival. Check into your first class hotel for a one-night stay.

Day 2 : Mahe. Embark after breakfast and sail in the mid-morning.

Days 3 - 15 : Cruising the inner and outer Seychelles.

Alphonse. There are three islands in the Alphonse Group which are located directly south of the Amirantes. We will call into Alphonse regarded by many as one of the most beautiful of all the 115 islands in the Seychelles. Its circular lagoon offers perfect snorkelling and on an island walk we hope to spot the extremely rare magpie robin.

Astove. Famous for its most beautiful butterflies, this remote coral atoll has an almost completely land-locked lagoon.



Cosmoledo. Here a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are unsurveyed and we shall explore some of them by boat.

Aldabra. Go ashore to the islands referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as “One of nature’s treasures and should belong to the whole world”. Aldabra is unique and we are privileged visitors by kind permission of the Seychelles government. Every time we call at what is believed to be the world’s largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare White-throated rail, and indeed whilst exploring by zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years.

Desroches. Another remote and heavenly paradise island awaits. Swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters around the reef or join one of the leaders on a walk through the woodlands.

Praslin. The “Forgotten Eden”, the second largest Seychelles island is a wonderful place. Best known for its Vallee de Mai, one of only two places in the world where the botanical rarity, the coco de mer grows wild. Here in the Valley we will divide into smaller groups and explore this exotic palm forest, described by Rosemary Wise in 1985; “When no wind was blowing there was a still, cathedral-like atmosphere of silence. When the wind started, the enormous leaves clashed like sheets of corrugated iron”. Look out for the rare Black parrot.

La Digue. Surely one of the most beautiful tropical islands in the world. Explore La Digue on foot, bicycle and oxcart, the wonderful beaches and the tiny town with its houses built in the vaguely French colonial style. This is also the only known habitat of the rare Black Paradise Flycatcher, there are only approximately 50 pairs left.

Day 16 : Mahe. Arrive back in Victoria harbour and disembark after breakfast. Transfer to the local airport for your onward flights

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy, twin cabin with private bath on either Main or T'ween Decks \$3,300USD

Price includes: One night hotel accommodation in Mahe including breakfast, 14 nights (full board) aboard the Khersones

Not included: Air transport to/from the ship, travel insurance, gratuities, shipboard laundry, communications charges and items of a personal nature such as bar and shipboard shop purchases.

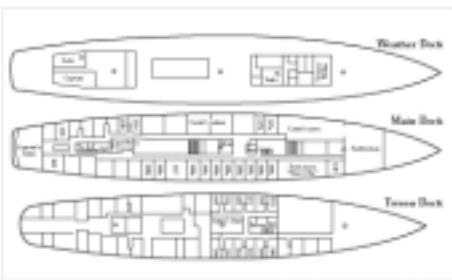
N.B Ports subject to change.



STS KHERSONES



Today, more than ever, those looking for a natural and traditional sea-going experience, have to look long and hard to find a suitable vessel. As cruise ships get ever larger and some would say offer an increasingly ‘plastic’ experience, it is good to know that there are still some tall ships sailing the Seven Seas that can stir the spirit and take us back to a time when sail was king. Such a vessel is the Khersones (2284 GRT), a three masted windjammer which was built in Gdansk in 1989 as a training sailing vessel for the Academy of Navigation in Odessa. Completely renovated in 2003 for passenger use, the vessel is still a working ship and in addition to her permanent crew of 40, is also home to approximately 70 cadets.



She is not a high-tech imitation yacht, with computer generated sails and Jacuzzis in every bathroom, but the genuine article. There is accommodation for up to 62 passengers in well designed and newly fitted, comfortable outside cabins with shower and toilet. You will enjoy excellent cuisine prepared by our team of western chefs. Public areas include the Cape Horn Corner, Captain’s Salon and Sailors Club. In addition there is a large lecture room and a trainee bridge where passengers are welcome.

An expedition on the tall ship Khersones is a unique experience. As a passenger you can elect to be involved in the daily activity of the ship or simply relax and enjoy observing the sailors and cadets put this marvellous vessel through her paces. With suitable conditions she can average up to 16 knots under sail. However during the period of our expedition the winds are expected to be light so speed under sail will likely be a lot less than 16 kts.



The beauty of these uncommercialised islands is stunning and to sail these waters on such a romantic and elegant vessel makes for a fascinating voyage. If ever an ocean was right for exploring under sail, it is the Indian Ocean.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
INFO@DEEPOCEANEXPEDITIONS.COM**