



# Aldabra Atoll: Dive in Nature's Secret Sanctuary

Join us for an unforgettable 9-night dive expedition through the Amirantes and Outer Islands—including the legendary Aldabra Atoll—aboard the MY Basilisk as our exclusive guest.

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



SILHOUETTE CRUISES  
SEYCHELLES

ESTD. 1997

# Dive Expedition Program:

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

## 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 our accommodation



## DAY 2 - 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.



# Itinerary:



## DAY 3 & 4 - 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 dive at sites like Passe Dubois and Anse Var. Drift dives through the tidal channels offer thrilling encounters with reef fish, pelagics, and predators. Snorkelling 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 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.

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 dive off West Island, where turtles are especially plentiful.

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## DAY 7 - AT SEA

# Itinerary:



## DAY 8 - 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.



The diving around these islands is excellent, though at times currents can be a little strong. However, our team will find the best dive site for all guests. Features include forests of tall Gorgonian fan corals, nurse sharks, shoals of barracuda and other predators together with the occasional Hawksbill Turtles that drift by.

# Itinerary:



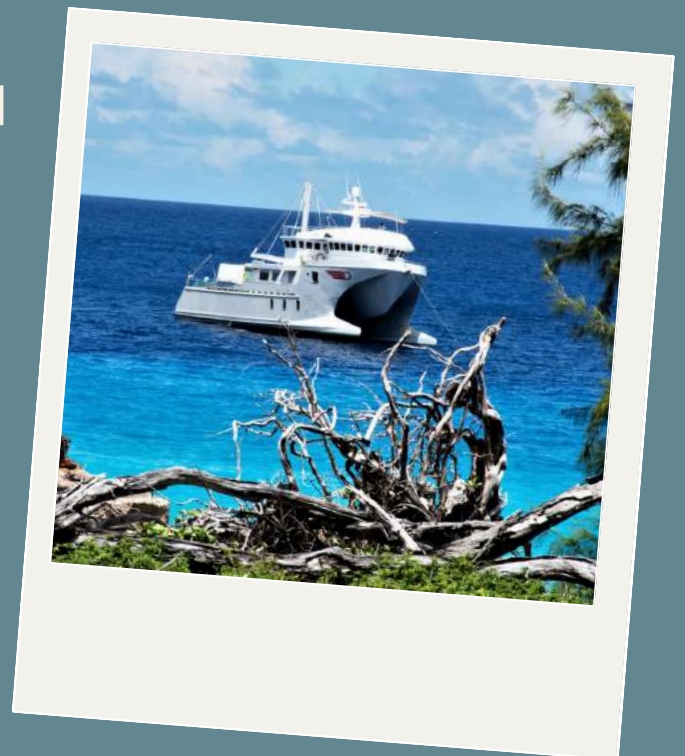
## DAY 9 - D'ARROS CHANNEL & ST JOSEPH

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



## DAY 10 - DISEMBARKATION IN MAHE

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



# The Outer Islands: A Diver's Paradise

Home to just a few people but teeming with birds and tortoises, Seychelles' remote outer islands offer some of the best diving in the Indian Ocean. From Desroches to Cosmoledo, Alphonse to Astove, discover reefs, caves, and pristine coral walls, alive with marine life.

Drift the tidal channels of Aldabra and feel the lagoon pulse with energy. Visibility can reach 60 meters at Assumption — so clear you'll see the seafloor from the mother boat and be drawn into the deep blue.

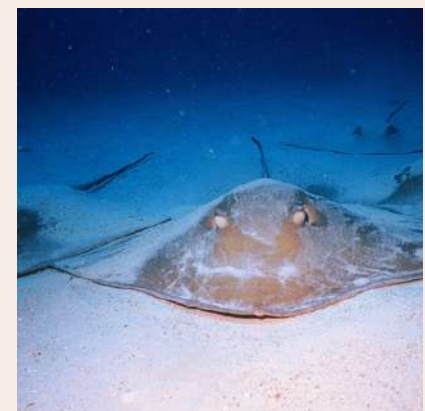
These are wild, untouched sites where strong currents and drift dives are the norm. Schools of fusiliers and yellow snappers flash around you. Potato groupers patrol their reefs, sharks glide past — hammerheads, greys, silver tips — and turtles lazily drift by.

Night dives reveal another world — Spanish dancers twirl under torchlight. We dive up to four times daily, from both the mothership and tenders. Expect early morning drops, detailed evening briefings, and professional guides with top safety standards.

Water temperatures range between 27–29°C. The boat is fully equipped with compressors, oxygen, and trained first-aiders. This is remote diving at its finest — untouched, exhilarating, unforgettable.



# 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.

The above itinerary may change due to weather conditions and the captain's discretion