

THE NEW EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIPS *VEGA* AND *DIANA*



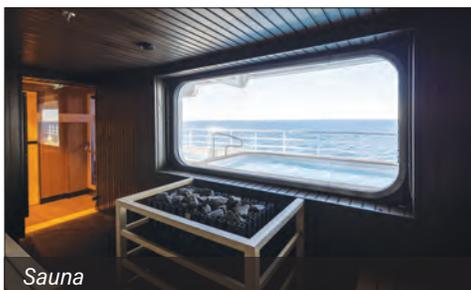
Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Observation Lounge



Sauna



Club Lounge



Outdoor Cafe / Bar with swimming pool

The cruise ships *Vega* and *Diana* of Swan Hellenic, built in Finland, are new-generation expedition cruise ships. *Vega*, at 10,250 tons, and *Diana*, at 12,250 tons, are large enough to accommodate over 250 passengers. In fact, *Vega* accommodates only 152, and *Diana* 192 guests in spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Vega and *Diana* have been designed to be environmentally friendly, will be certificated as Clean Ships, and will meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code. Its PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other technical and mechanical attributes allow it to cruise around the world in safety and comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System makes it possible to stay in position without dropping anchor, thus avoiding the possibility of damaging underneath marine life. Operated by a complement of experienced European

officers and international crew members, *Vega* and *Diana* will be equipped with a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks, and a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) that will reveal marine life in the deep.

All staterooms and balcony suites face outside and will be equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, ample closet space, as well as other amenities. Public areas include several lounges; a restaurant that will accommodate all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness facility with a gym, spa, and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; an infirmary that is attended by a resident medical doctor and nurse; and a "mud room" with lockers for storing cruise gear. The ship will also feature expansive open-deck areas. Attentive service will be provided on a 24-hour basis. *Vega* and *Diana* are owned and operated by Swan Hellenic, one of the most storied travel and cruise companies. Thalassa Journeys is Swan Hellenic's exclusive partner in North America.

VOYAGE TO MADAGASCAR

October 26 - November 6, 2024 | Aboard *DIANA*



ITINERARY OUTLINE

October 26	Arrive in Nairobi, Kenya. Overnight at the <i>Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel</i> .
October 27	Fly to the port city of Mombasa to board the <i>Diana</i> and sail.
October 28	Zanzibar Island, Tanzania. Explore the island.
October 29	At sea.
October 30	Mayotte. Explore the island, an overseas department of France.
October 31	Nosy Be, Madagascar. Explore the island.
November 1	Mahajanga, Madagascar, for the excursion to the Ankarafantsika National Park.
November 2	At sea.
November 3	Morondava, Madagascar. Explore the Kirindy National Park.
November 4	Toliara, Madagascar, for the Antsokay Arboretum.
November 5	At sea.
November 6	Maputo, Mozambique. Transfer to the airport.

TREASURES OF COASTAL SOUTH AFRICA

November 5 - 16, 2024 | Aboard *DIANA*



ITINERARY OUTLINE

November 5	Arrive in Maputo, Mozambique. Transfer to the <i>Radisson Blu Hotel</i> .
November 6	Tour Maputo, embark on <i>Diana</i> and sail.
November 7	Portuguese Island. Explore the island.
November 8	Richards Bay, South Africa, for the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park.
November 9 & 10	Two days in Durban for a variety of shore activities, including a cultural tour of the city, and explorations of the Drakenberg Kamberg ancient rock paintings, a Zulu village, and the St. Lucia Wetland Park.
November 11	At sea.
November 12	Port Elizabeth, for the Kariega Game Reserve.
November 13	Mossel Bay. Visit the Botlierskop Private Game Reserve.
November 14	At sea.
November 15	Cape Town. Excursion to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. Overnight aboard, docked in Cape Town.
November 16	Disembark and transfer to the airport for the return flight.



Lemurs, Madagascar

NOTE: Voyage to Madagascar and Treasures of Coastal South Africa can be combined to provide a comprehensive grand voyage of East Africa, Madagascar and South Africa.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels before the cruise, as mentioned in the itineraries.
- Cruise aboard the new expedition cruise ships *Vega* and *Diana*.
- Welcome dinner at the hotel.
- All meals aboard ship with a selection of wines, beers and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night aboard ship.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages aboard ship.
- 24-hour room service aboard ship.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours, excursions and other activities ashore, led by professional local guides and on board experts.
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by the on board experts and guest lecturers.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, local guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard ship.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare, travel insurance, expenses of a personal nature; any meals and other items not mentioned in the itinerary and the Program Inclusions.

ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys is a tour company founded in 2018 by the men and women who, working as Travel Dynamics International, pioneered educational and cultural travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational, research, cultural and performing arts institutions in the United States. For more than 45 years our mission was to provide robust, intellectually stimulating experiences to lifelong learners who see travel as an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world and their place in it. This same mission guides us today because we believe that the most rewarding travel experiences happen when small groups of like-minded people share an enthusiasm for engaging with the richly varied environments of the world and with the history, culture, ideas and ideals of the people who inhabit them.



Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, South Africa



Baobab trees, Madagascar

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