FROM THE SHORES OF KENYA TO MADAGASCAR & SOUTH AFRICA
Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship *Diana*

*November 14 – December 3, 2023*

**ITINERARY OUTLINE**

**November 14**  
Depart the USA for Nairobi, Kenya.

**November 15**  
Arrive in Nairobi, Kenya. Transfer to the Hotel Villa Rosa Kempinski.

**November 16**  
Transfer to the airport for the flight to Mombasa. Board *Diana* and sail.

**November 17**  
At sea.

**November 18**  
Aldabra, Seychelles. Discover the celebrated wildlife.

**November 19**  
Gloriouse, France. Explore this coral island and its reef.

**November 20**  
Nosy Be, Madagascar. Explore the island.

**November 21**  
Mahajanga, Madagascar. Excursion to the Ankarafantsika National Park.

**November 22**  
At sea.

**November 23**  
Morondava, Madagascar. Excursion to the Kirindy National Park.

**November 24**  
Toliara, Madagascar. Tour the Antsokay Arboretum.

**November 25**  
At sea.

**November 26**  
Maputo, Mozambique. Tour the town.

**November 27**  
Ilha dos Portugueses, Mozambique. Explore this small pristine islet.

**November 28**  
Richards Bay, South Africa. Excursion to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park.

**November 29**  
Durban, South Africa. Tour the city.

**November 30**  
At sea.

**December 1**  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Explore the Kariega Game Reserve.

**December 2**  
Mossel Bay, South Africa. Visit the Botlierskop Private Game Reserve.

**December 3**  
Cape Town, South Africa. Transfer to the airport.

**NOTE:** A two-day Cape Town optional extension will be available.
**THE NEW EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP DIANA**

The cruise ship Diana of Swan Hellenic, currently under construction in Finland, is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,250 tons, Diana is large enough to accommodate over 300 passengers, in fact the ship will accommodate only 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.

Scheduled to be launched in February 2023, Diana has been designed to be environmentally friendly, will be certified as a Clean Ship, 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 underwater marine life. Operated by a complement of 145 experienced European officers and international crew members, 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 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. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 74 have roomy balconies. 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.

Diana is 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.

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**ABOUT SWAN HELLENIC**

Swan Hellenic is one of the most storied travel companies in the world. Founded in London shortly after World War II by travel pioneer Kenneth Swan, Swan Hellenic was the first travel company in the English-speaking world to organize cruises with an emphasis on learning, with notable historians, archaeologists and other academicians drawn from British universities and museums accompanying each cruise. In 2020, Swan Hellenic was re-established as a small-ship expedition cruise company, ordering at a Finish shipyard three new-generation expeditions ships, Minerva, Vega and Diana.

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**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 travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational and research 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.