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Luxury Ocean Cruise Itinerary – 31 Days Indian Ocean Sojourn

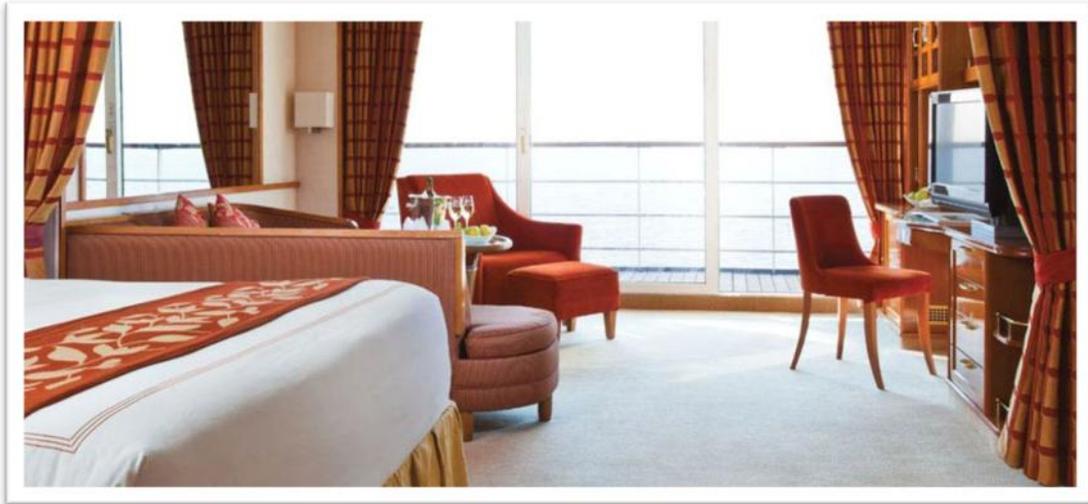


Photo courtesy of Regent Seven Seas

Day 1

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Located in the northeast United Arab Emirates, bustling Dubai attracts visitors with its international facilities and exotic, yet cosmopolitan lifestyle. Known as the Hong Kong of Arabia, Dubai's modern duty-free shopping malls and traditional souks offer some of the best bargains in the world on such luxury items as gold jewelry and designer creations. For a more historic outing, visitors can explore the museum at Al Fahidi Fort or venture out into the Old Quarter of Bastakia.

Day 2

Fujairah, United Arab Emirates

Fujairah is one of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, on the Gulf of Oman. Fujairah is the only Emirate of the U.A.E. that is almost totally mountainous, surrounded by the ruggedly majestic Hajar Mountains. Dana Plaza offers shopping in the souks, while excursions include dune drives, camel safaris and a voyage to the region's only fjord, Musandam Fjords.



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Day 3

Muscat (Port Qaboos), Oman

Muscat is the capital of Oman, a sovereign country. Muscat has been important since the 6th century BC, when Persians controlled the port. It was under Portuguese domination from 1508 to 1650, and subsequently the Iranians gained control of the city. Muscat became the capital of independent Muscat and Oman in 1741- the country's name was changed to just Oman in 1970. Muscat offers a number of exciting excursions including dolphin watching and off-road desert adventures.

Days 4 through 5

Cruise the Indian Ocean

Days 6 through 7

Mumbai (Bombay), India

Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, is the capital of the Indian state of Maharashtra and the most populous city in the world. This bustling city offers a seemingly endless array of sights and cultural activities, and is the commercial and entertainment capital of India. Mumbai is home to India's Hindi film and television industry, known as "Bollywood." Mumbai is also one of the few cities that accommodates a national park, the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, within its city limits.

Day 8

Goa (Mormugao), India

Scenic, tropical, and often called the Pearl of the Orient, Mormugao, India's largest, natural harbor offers unexpected cultural contrasts in this former Portuguese ruled seaport area. Hire a taxi to transport you to Vasco City, named after founder, Vasco da Gama who fortified the area in 1543. You'll discover the largest Roman Catholic Cathedral in all of Asia, along with an area more reminiscent of Portugal than India. Delightful colonial architecture, complete with overhanging balconies, narrow winding cobblestone streets, small shops and eateries beckon. Shop for colorful azulejos, painted tin-glazed ceramic tiles typically used in Portuguese architecture. Take a stroll on one of the area's magnificent beaches, and dine on some of the finest seafood in all of India.



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Day 9

Mangalore, India

A major port on the Arabian Sea located in Southern India, Mangalore derives its name from a goddess. The city has a rich historical past, part of it even dating back to major epics that are the bedrock of the Hindu mythological pantheon. Mangalore has 11th century temples, scintillating beaches dotted with coconut palm trees, museums and lighthouses. Red-roofed houses against the lush greenery provide a much-needed escape from the ordinary.

Day 10

Cochin (Kochi), India

Popularly referred to as the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea,' Cochin (Kochi) has been a trading post since early Roman times, due to its strategic location between Europe and China. From the court of Kubla Khan to the captains of Europe's great Age of Exploration, travelers and merchants from far-off lands have been coming here since ancient times in search of spices, sandalwood and ivory. Explore St. Francis' Church, the oldest existing European church in India. View one of the oldest synagogues in the world – a jewel of incomparable beauty with its brass columns, Belgian hanging lamps, and exquisite hand-painted, blue-and-white Chinese porcelain tiles.

Day 11

Cruise the Indian Ocean

Day 12

Malé, Maldives

Malé, the capital of the Republic of Maldives, is located at the southern edge of North Male' Atoll Kaafu Atoll. Traditionally, Malé was the "King's Island," from where the ancient Maldivian Royal families had their palace and ruled the country. Malé is dotted with mosques, wide streets, parks and markets. Tour the national Museum, the colorful Fish Market and the Friday mosque with its splendid golden dome.



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Days 13 through 14

Cruise the Indian Ocean

Days 15 through 16

Mahé, Seychelles

Mahé, the largest island of the Seychelles, was named for Mahé de Labourdonnais, a governor of Mauritius. It is the location of Port Victoria, the capital city. Ringed by steep and magnificent mountains, few capitals can claim a more beautiful backdrop. The nearby reefs and pristine marine national parks are a snorkeler's paradise.

Day 17

La Digue, Seychelles

Located east of Praslin, La Digue is the fourth largest inhabited island of the Seychelles. Massive boulders lie like surrealist sculptures on a brilliant white beach. Turquoise seas and emerald palms complete the picture of a serene, peaceful isle, that is considered the gem of the Seychelles. This is our planet's only home for the elusive black paradise flycatcher bird.

Days 18 through 19

Cruise the Indian Ocean

Day 20

Mombasa, Kenya

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya, lying on the Indian Ocean. The town is mainly occupied by the Muslim Mijikenda/Swahili people. Over the centuries there have been many immigrants and traders who settled in Mombasa, particularly from Persia and the Middle East and Indian sub-continent who came mainly as traders and skilled craftsmen. Today, Mombasa is your gateway for exciting safaris to Tsavo, Maasi Mara and the Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary.



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Day 21

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Zanzibar, part of the archipelago sometimes referred to as the “Spice Islands,” has for centuries been a crossroads of culture, a melting pot of influences where Africa, India and Arabia meet. Visitors can savor this confluence in its food and delight in the variety of unique offerings for sale at its bazaars. The major attraction is Stone Town, with its whitewashed, coral-rag houses, quaint shops, bazaars, mosques, courtyards and squares; although the pristine white-sand beaches offer just the spot for a quiet moment.

Day 22

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Tanzania’s largest and richest city, Dar El Salaam is a multi-cultural crossroads that is home to African, Asian and Middle Eastern communities. When translated, the city’s name is Haven of Peace; however, Dar El Salaam is far from a sleepy town. Its bustling streets encircle markets, luxury hotels and the best restaurants in East Africa. The city boasts international cuisine ranging from traditional Tanzanian barbecue and Zanzibari food to Thai, Chinese and American restaurants. After a delicious meal, visit the National Museum for insight into the history of Tanzania.

Day 23

Cruise the Indian Ocean

Day 24

Nosy Be/Nosy Komba

Discover exotic Nosy Be with its rich air fragrant from native spices and flowers and, neighboring Nosy Komba with its lemur population found only in this part of the world. Begin with a stroll around the city center of Hellville in Nosy Be, visiting the open marketplace. Then hire a driver to take you on an island tour to see the bright blue volcanic lakes, or hire a boat to take you to Nosy Komba to visit the lemurs. Back in Nosy Be, shop for locally made perfume, distilled rum, fine linens and hand carved wooden art. Enjoy some of the fresh local seafood prepared with the local spices in this colorful and aromatic destination.



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Days 25 through 26

Cruise the Mozambique Channel

Day 27

Maputo, Mozambique

Discover the relaxed charm of Maputo with its wide, European style boulevards, lush with jacaranda, bougainvillea and other tropical foliage, where old colonial palaces are mixed in with modern high-rise buildings. Visit The Cathedral built in 1944 in the shape of a cross, then the lively Mercado Central. Enjoy a snack of freshly roasted cashews and a cold bottled drink. Stop by the National Museum of Art then stroll along the Avenida Julius Nyerere, browsing the boutiques, vendors, and restaurants. Look for African waxprint and woven fabrics, beautiful wooden boxes and picture frames. Seek out the surreal Pancho Guedes buildings, reminiscent of Gaudi. Visit the Praça de Trabalhadores designed by Gustave Eiffel in the late 19th century. Sip coffee in one of the many outdoor cafés as you watch the world go by in this vibrant seaside capital.

Day 28

Richards Bay, South Africa

Richards Bay is one of South Africa's largest harbors, and is the tourist's gateway to Zululand, once the mightiest of the sub-Saharan African Kingdoms. Richards Bay began its life as a makeshift harbor, set up by Sir Fredererick Richards, after whom it is named, during the Anglo-Boer War of 1880-81. Richards Bay has some of the most spectacular wetland scenery and pristine beaches on the north coast of KwaZulu Natal. Join us as we explore the land of King Shaka, or embark on an unforgettable safari to Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve.



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Day 29

Durban, South Africa

A bustling, subtropical city and Africa's busiest port, Vasco da Gama is said to have sighted Durban Bay on Christmas Day, 1497, naming the land Natal as a mark of respect for the Nativity. The name Durban was acquired in 1843 when Port Natal was renamed for Sir Benjamin D'Urban. Today, Durban delights the traveler with its colorful mosaic of ethnic neighborhoods and memorable excursions to game reserves and the traditional lifestyle of the Zulu people. Explore Old Market Square, the Golden Mile beachfront and the scented Botanic Gardens and Gray Street Mosque, the largest in the southern hemisphere.

Day 30

Cruise the Cape of Good Hope

Day 31

Cape Town, South Africa

Called 'the fairest cape in the whole circumference of the earth' and regarded as one of the world's most beautiful cities, Cape Town offers museums, lush parks and shops. Impressive mountains, magnificent beaches and outstanding wineries add to the attraction. Ride a cable-car to the top of famous flat-topped Table Mountain and gaze at the mosaic of towering mountains, verdant valleys and the confluence of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The historical highlight is Robben Island, once the prison holding such outstanding anti-apartheid leaders as Nelson Mandela.