



Alumni Travel



# *Seychelles & Madagascar*



Islands of the Indian Ocean aboard the 59-cabin *Island Sky*

**NOVEMBER 7-23, 2025**



Silky Sifaka  
lemur

## *Dear Alumni, Parents, & Friends of Dartmouth,*

**THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION** for travelers who love the natural world and all its wonders. Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, the 115 islands that make up the Seychelles are known for crystal-clear waters, endless stretches of powdery white-sand beaches, a diverse and vibrant marine ecosystem, and endemic plant and animal species. Along the way, an experienced team of naturalists will lead guided nature walks and snorkeling among colorful reef fish, interesting coral formations, and various marine creatures.

Your journey starts in Mahé, the largest island in the Seychelles archipelago and home to 90 percent of the country's population. With pristine beaches, lush forests, and dramatic mountains, it is a tropical paradise with a unique culture that blends African, French, and British influences. After two days in Mahé, embark on the 57-cabin *Island Sky* and cruise to the Outer Islands of the Seychelles, then to the remote Alphonse group, and finally to Aldabra, a vast coral atoll that is home to the world's largest population of giant tortoises (over 100,000).

Continue to Madagascar, a thousand-mile island boasting an impressive variety of spectacular landscapes from pristine coral reefs and coastal mangroves to virgin rainforests and native groves of Baobab trees. Geographically isolated for millions of years, nearly all of Madagascar's intriguing animals and plants are found nowhere else on Earth, including nearly 100 varieties of lemurs. Madagascar's people are also unique, having descended from Malay-Polynesian mariners, slaves from Africa, as well as traders from Arabia, India, and Portugal.

This program features 12 days to explore numerous islands and Madagascar's best marine reserves and national parks from the comfortable expedition vessel *Island Sky*, all accentuated by a robust set of lectures from an outstanding team of experts. Travelers will have the option of a post-trip extension near Kruger National Park, South Africa.

With regards from Hanover,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin K. Albing".

Robin K. Albing, TU'81

Executive Director

Lifelong Learning and

Advancement Special Projects

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice Day".

Candice Day

Assistant Director

Lifelong Learning,

Office of Alumni Relations



**SCAN ME**

with your iPhone or tablet  
to register online.



# Faculty Expert

**Douglas Bolger** Professor of Environmental Studies  
and Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences



Doug Bolger is an ecologist and conservation biologist interested in how human land-use affects animal and plant populations. Professor Bolger has research projects that examine the impact of residential development in the coastal sage scrub ecosystem of southern

California, and of agricultural intensification in landscapes surrounding national parks in Africa. He is the Director of the Environmental Studies Africa Foreign Studies Program.

## ALSO JOINING US:

### Professor Rubenstein

with Princeton  
Journeys

### Alison Richard

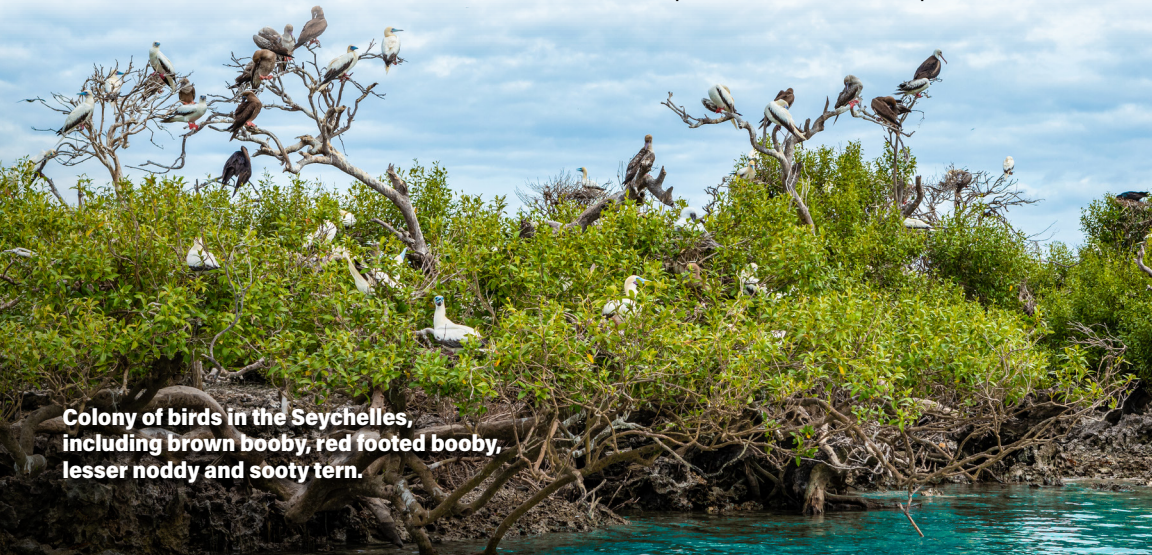
with Yale  
Alumni Academy

### Bence P. Olveczky

with Harvard  
Alumni Travels

## Highlights

- Explore the Seychelles and Madagascar in depth from the **convenience and comfort of the *Island Sky*** and its fleet of Zodiacs, avoiding the delays and difficulties experienced when trying to explore the country overland.
- Birders will enjoy spotting **many different species of birds in the Seychelles**, including grey heron, wedge-tailed shearwater, sanderling, greater crested terns, frigatebirds, Abbot's sunbirds, crested bulbul, Madagascar fody and more.
- On Praslin Island, explore the **UNESCO World Heritage Vallée de Mai**, the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest, home to the rare and endangered coco de mer palm tree. It produces the largest and heaviest seed in the world which can weigh up to 40 pounds.
- Look for **lemurs up close in their natural habitat**, including the red ruffed lemur, and learn about conservation efforts to save these incredible animals.
- **Included charter flight from Toliara, Madagascar to Johannesburg, South Africa** for onward flights back to the U.S., avoiding the two-day crossing of Mozambique Channel by ship.
- Snorkelers will delight in the **diverse marine life** they are likely to see, such as Moorish idols, peacock grouper, lyretail grouper, pompano, barracuda, giant clams, blacktip reef sharks, sea cucumbers, batfish, trevally, parrotfish, angelfish, turtles, manta rays, and more.
- Discover **Madagascar's remarkable flora and fauna** found nowhere else in the world as well as wild landscapes with invaluable biodiversity—the Avenue of the Baobabs has 800-year-old specimens of these magical “upside down trees.”
- **Meet with local leaders** in multiple community-led conservation efforts to protect local species, ecosystems and livelihoods.
- Enjoy the **flexibility of optional excursions and walks for all levels** so travelers can explore sites at their own pace.



**Colony of birds in the Seychelles, including brown booby, red footed booby, lesser noddy and sooty tern.**

Vallée de Mai  
in Praslin

# Itinerary

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7-8

### Home / Mahé, Seychelles

Depart the U.S. for Mahé, Seychelles, arriving November 9. **NOTE: flight times vary by gateway city; some flights might depart on November 8.**

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

### Mahé, Seychelles

Settle into the Savoy Resort & Spa, located on Beau Vallon Beach, where you'll find elegantly appointed rooms equipped with a private balcony or terrace. Later, gather this evening to meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception and orientation. SAVOY SEYCHELLES RESORT & SPA (R)

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

### Mahé

Tour Le Jardin Du Roi Spice Garden, featuring vibrant tropical flowers, fragrant herbs, exotic spices, and medicinal plants, while learning how the Seychelles once stood at the center of the spice trade in the 18th century. Visit the excellent National Museum of History, which offers informative exhibits on Seychellois Creole culture and heritage. Board the *Island Sky* this afternoon and enjoy the captain's welcome reception this evening before dinner. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

### Praslin Island

Spend the morning on Praslin exploring the Vallée de Mai, the last remnant of the original high-canopied Seychelles palm forest. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the endemic and endangered coco de mer palm tree, as well as the rare black parrot. In the afternoon, enjoy a walk along the beach and in the forest on an uninhabited island, followed by an opportunity to snorkel among hawksbill and green turtles. ISLAND SKY (BLD)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

### Alphonse Islands

In the morning, cruise to the three islands of the Alphonse group, located directly south of the Amirantes and considered by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. Conditions permitting, call at the idyllic island of Bijoutier, home to a wide variety of seabirds. Snorkel in the crystal-clear waters after exploring by foot. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

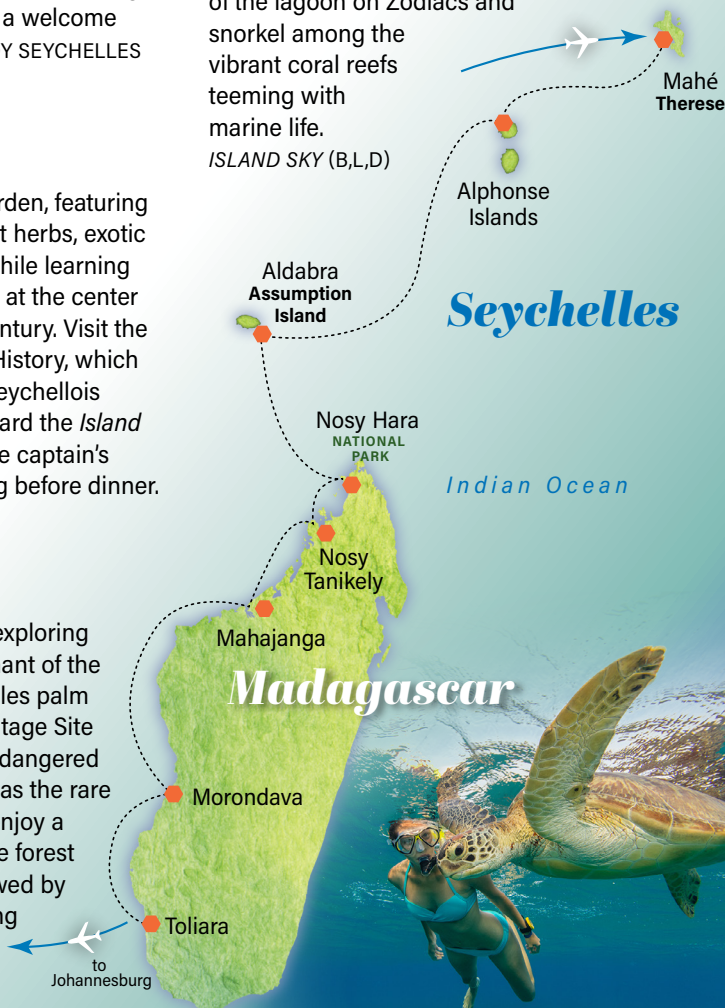
### At Sea

Enjoy a full day at sea to experience the amenities of the ship and attend the lecture series while cruising to the Outer Seychelles Islands. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

### Aldabra Group, Outer Seychelles

Visit Aldabra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982 and the world's largest coral atoll, home to the largest population of giant tortoises. This vast atoll consists of a ring of four reef islands surrounding a massive emerald lagoon, with channels linking the lagoon to the ocean. Explore the crystal-clear waters of the lagoon on Zodiacs and snorkel among the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)







Frigate  
birds

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
**Assumption, Seychelles**

Choose to snorkel or take a nature walk on Assumption Island, where you can search for the Assumption Island day gecko and enjoy identifying the diverse birdlife. Depart from the Seychelles and spend the afternoon cruising to Madagascar, with time set aside for lectures. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**  
**Nosy Hara National Park, Madagascar**

Nosy Hara means “mountainous island” in Malagasy and is considered one of the last true paradises of Madagascar. The island features a stunning bay, sandy beaches, and unique, sharply eroded limestone spikes known as Tsingy formations, where you can choose between guided walks. You can hike the shorter Brookesia Micra Circuit in search of animals such as chameleons or take the steeper route on the longer Tsingy Mitsiry Circuit to see the unique Tsingy formations and reach a sweeping viewpoint. Then, relax on a beautiful beach in the afternoon. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17**  
**Nosy Tanikely, Madagascar**

Morning snorkeling at Nosy Tanikely’s marine reserve. Recognized for its outstanding marine biodiversity, the reserve offers some of the best snorkeling in the area, featuring a spectacular coral reef teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures. In the afternoon, enjoy cruising with time for a lecture. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
**Mahajanga, Madagascar**

Morning visit “Lac Sacre”, or Sacred Lake, and learn about the significance of clear waters and special trees planted on the lakeshore; walk through nearby mango trees to observe the sifaka lemurs, iguanas, lizards, and colorful birds that reside there. Afternoon chance to swim at a beachside resort before returning to the ship. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
**At Sea**

During a day at sea, enjoy the continuation of the education program and the amenities of the *Island Sky* as it cruises. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
**Morandava, Madagascar**

Zodiac to shore with a choice of excursions for an Avenue of Baobabs walk, followed by a specially arranged visit to the Zazamalala Forest Reserve and Botanical Garden. Established in 2000, the reserve’s staff harvest seeds as part of an extensive community reforestation effort and run a turtle breeding program. During a forest walk, observe and learn about the 11 species of lemurs, 5 species of chameleons, and numerous rare bird species that reside here. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**  
**Toliara, Madagascar**

Today, visit the curious spiny forest region, a unique ecosystem found only in the southern part of Madagascar, and view the spectacular baobab trees at Reniala Private Reserve. The reserve is a paradise for birds and is home to the grey mouse lemur, radiated tortoise, and warty chameleon. Enjoy the captain’s farewell reception and dinner this evening. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
**Toliara, Madagascar / Disembark**

Start with breakfast, followed by a guided visit to Antsokay Arboretum, which protects 900 species of endemic plants. Transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, for onward flights back to the U.S. (B,L)



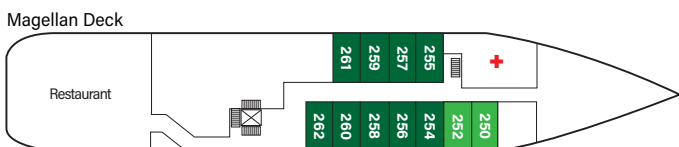
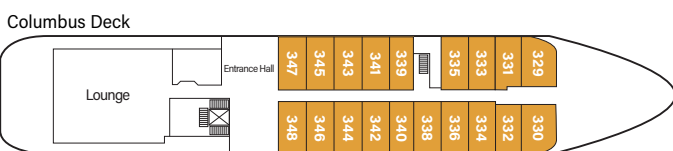
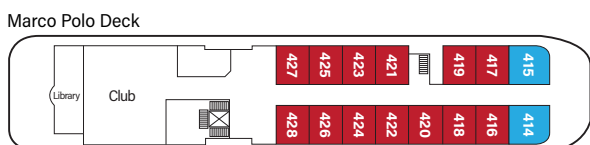
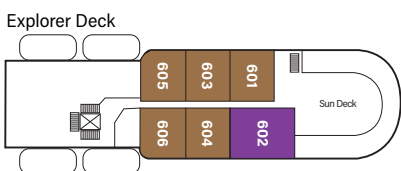
## Island Sky

The *Island Sky* is a 59-cabin, all-suite expedition ship. All cabins have an ocean view, en-suite bathroom with marble-topped vanity unit and walk-in shower,

sitting area, spacious wardrobe, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air-conditioning, flat-screen television and dressing table. The ship's amenities include complimentary WiFi, a dining room, two lounges with bar service, a small library, an observation deck with comfortable lounge chairs, a hairdresser and laundry service. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Island Sky's* chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

### RETAIL PROGRAM FEES (per person):

		DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>1</b>	<b>STANDARD SUITE (forward)</b> 226 ft <sup>2</sup> , portholes	\$12,990	\$19,490
<b>2</b>	<b>STANDARD SUITE</b> 226 ft <sup>2</sup> , portholes	\$13,990	\$20,990
<b>3</b>	<b>SUPERIOR SUITE</b> 217-264 ft <sup>2</sup> , picture window	\$15,990	\$23,990
<b>4</b>	<b>PREMIUM SUITE</b> 226 ft <sup>2</sup> , sliding glass door	\$17,490	—
<b>5</b>	<b>CORNER SUITE</b> 237 ft <sup>2</sup> , sliding glass door	\$18,990	—
<b>6</b>	<b>DELUXE BALCONY SUITE</b> 225 ft <sup>2</sup> , balcony + sliding glass door	\$20,990	—
<b>7</b>	<b>OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE</b> 237 ft <sup>2</sup> , balcony + sliding glass door	\$21,490	—
<b>8</b>	<b>ISLAND SUITE</b> 344 ft <sup>2</sup> , balcony + sliding glass door	\$22,490	—



## General Information

### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including one hotel night and twelve nights aboard *Island Sky* ■ Private charter flight between Toliara, Madagascar and Johannesburg, South Africa ■ Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations ■ Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates ■ Baggage handling ■ Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers ■ Gratuities to shipboard personnel ■ Port charges ■ Entrance fees ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners ■ Filtered water on motorcoaches ■ Criterion Tour Managers

### AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven beaches, steep and sandy or muddy trails, dirt streets and paths in small villages), in hot or rainy conditions. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for most excursions. Please note that some locations involve wet landings. All participants who plan to swim or snorkel must be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water, although no prior snorkeling experience is necessary. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health.

### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and

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RESERVE ONLINE

departure days ■ Travel and trip cancellation insurance ■ Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options ■ Airline baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone and fax charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature.

**GROUP SIZE** This program can accommodate 90 participants, including travelers from Dartmouth Alumni, Princeton Journeys, Harvard Alumni Travel, National Trust Tours, and Yale Alumni Academy.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

## A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

## RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

Reserve your space online at <https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/DAT/251107/SMI/tour> or please email Criterion Travel at [res@critteriontravel.com](mailto:res@critteriontravel.com) or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250

SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400.

Balance of payment is due July 10, 2025. After July 10, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

## CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% non-refundable. After the July 10, 2025 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate.

**NOTE:** Neither Dartmouth Alumni Travel nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

**HEALTH** All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

## ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the tour operator reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089. Or, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. **Mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1

NAME #2

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Seychelles & Madagascar.**

OR

Charge my deposit to my  VISA  MC  AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

DATE

## ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference:  King/Queen  Twins

## SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)

I plan to share accommodations with:

I am willing to share with another participant

I am a  non-smoker  smoker

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of July 10, 2025, I will pay the single rate.*

*I understand that the detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability will be sent to me for signature after registration, and is available for review prior, upon request.*

SIGNATURE #1

DATE

SIGNATURE #2

DATE





**Alumni Travel**

20 North Main Street Blunt  
Alumni Center Hanover,  
NH 03755



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*Island Sky*

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[alumni.dartmouth.edu/learn/alumni-travel](https://alumni.dartmouth.edu/learn/alumni-travel)