



COMOROS EXTENSION

ISLANDS OF HERITAGE & BEAUTY

May 05 - May 10, 2025
Led by Tour Lecturer, Michel Behar

The Comoros is a group of islands on the northern end of the Mozambique Channel off the east coast of Africa that receives very few visitors. This tropical island paradise is a unique destination where one can escape the crowds and familiarity of the well-known tourist paths offering an exotic blend of rich history, strong culture, magnificent landscapes, and exceptional biodiversity. The largest island, Grande Comore, is home to Mount Karthala, the country's highest point offering incredible scenery and opportunities to discover intriguing geographical formations, hiking, and endemic bird watching. The smallest island, Mohéli, features stunning natural scenery and wildlife encounters including lemurs, Livingstone bats, whales, and sea turtles. It is the best place to take part in fun and exciting activities such as boat tours, snorkeling, village walks, hiking, and kayaking.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director


Monday, May 05

Arrive in Moroni (**COMOROS**) 

Upon arrival in **Moroni**, the capital city of **Grande Comore**, meet the local representative and transfer to *Golden Tulip Hotel or similar*, which is nestled amid seven acres of tropical gardens with stunning ocean views for check-in and overnight.

Note: Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm. If you arrive on May 05 or in the early morning of May 06, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.

Tuesday, May 06

Moroni (Grande Comoros) 

Begin the day with a walking tour through the historic town of **Itsandra**, one of the oldest on the island, dating back to the 14th century. The town was the cradle of the local Swahili civilization and once the capital of Ngazidja. Out of the town's historical attractions, the most impressive is a 17th century **fortress**, once linked to the city by a long, walled corridor. Explore the old **Arab**

Quarter, including the 14th century **Mausoleum of Al Habib Omar Bin Sumeit** and see the town's 17-18th century **Public Squares**. Stop at the **Handicrafts Shop** to admire fine local woodcarving and then continue through Moroni to **Singani Village**, the site of the most recent lava flow that destroyed the village in 1977. After the tour by local expert guide, we will be welcomed into her home for an in-depth experience of typical Comorian life. Learn how to cook a traditional meal and interact with the hosts while feasting on our lunch creations. In the afternoon, take a short drive to **Iconi Town**, an ancient sultan capital that lies in the shadow of a steep volcanic cone with an interesting history. The ancient **Kaviri Djewe Sultan's Palace**, built from coral and lava stone, lies at the center of the town. At the medina, explore **Funi Aziria Banwe**, the greatest example of a 17th century bangwe - historic open spaces where the men still meet to debate. On the outskirts of town lies **Lake Marabou**, a tidal salt-water pool offering a secluded spot to view the mangroves and sea birds with **Mt. Karthala** towering above it all. Return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, May 07

Moroni - Moheli



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our late morning flight to **Moheli**, a UNESCO biosphere island, to discover lemurs, coral reefs, whales, manta rays, sea turtles, and deserted islands. Upon arrival, transfer to *Laka Lodge or similar* for check-in, enjoy lunch and have some rest. Later, explore the **village** with one of the residents as the local guide to visit **local homes** and meet the villagers with their welcoming smiles. Stroll through the surrounding gardens and visit an artisanal **Ylang-Ylang Farm** to learn about the process of growing and distilling this essential oil, which is the base of Chanel #5 and other famous perfumes. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, May 08

Moheli



Embark on an exciting boat excursion to explore the **Marine Park** and its picturesque islands. Stop on a **deserted beach** to enjoy some **swimming** or **snorkeling** for amazing close-up views of the rich marine life just a few yards from the beach. Return to the *Lodge* for lunch, then take a **swim** in the **lagoon** and possibly encounter hawksbill turtles feeding. Look out for the local family of curious lemurs that come down to the *Lodge* grounds! Dinner and overnight at the *Lodge*. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, May 09

Moheli - Moroni



After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for our late morning flight back to **Moroni** and upon arrival, head to the northern part of the island to discover the geological features created through countless millennia of volcanic activity. These are some of Grande Comoro's most intriguing features, with incredible scenery and local myths about their remarkable history. Visit the legendary **Trou du Prophete**, and then enjoy a delicious seafood lunch under the baobabs on the shores of the **Indian Ocean**. Continue to **Dragon's Back** (Dos du Dragon), a moss-covered rocky outcrop resembling a mythical creature resting in the waters. Stop at **Lac Sale**, a stunning turquoise saltwater lake in a volcanic crater called the "bottomless lake" and visit the **Miraculous Mosque**, a sacred pilgrimage site for the locals. Transfer to the *Golden Tulip Resort or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, May 10

Moroni - Lilongwe (MALAWI)



Begin the day with a walking tour through Moroni's **medina** and have last minute shopping at the local markets, then Return to the *Hotel* for lunch and free afternoon at leisure. Enjoy dinner and then transfer to the airport for your flight to **Malawi**. **(B,L,D)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients."

Tour Remarks:

- *Tourist infrastructure and facilities in the Comoros are very limited & often quite primitive.*
- *Hotels may change at the last minute without prior notice due to reasons beyond our control.*
- *Alcoholic beverages are only available in tourist hotels.*
- *Air-conditioners do not cool a room to American standards of comfort.*
- *Brownouts or blackouts may occur or there may be limited electricity available.*
- *Flights in-between countries can change without notice and may require amending the itinerary.*
- *There are a lack of modern medical facilities and chronic health problems should be discussed with your physician before joining this tour.*
- *A high level of flexibility, tolerance, respect, open-mindedness, sense of adventure, and willingness to go with the flow if things change is expected while visiting this country.*

Tour Cost (Land Only): \$2,595.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$495.00

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 12 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: ***

accompanied custom tours as a leader/photographer for many prestigious museums, universities, and other institutions. He has traveled extensively throughout the world and visited all 21 Arab countries and for the last 20 years has turned his passion for photography into a second career. In addition, he has dabbled in journalism and has done freelance work for travel guides. Michel is also an expert in Sahara led tours such as Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, and West, Central, and Southern Africa. His tour leading skills are the perfect mix that allows him to share this special tour with you.

About your Tour Manager, Michel Behar... boasts an impressive list of credentials that will pique your interest and want to share the road with him. A Dutch citizen, after his studies of Russian and Arabic in the Netherlands he took a course of advanced Arabic at the University of Khartoum in Sudan. Fluent in 12 languages including Farsi, English, Turkish, and Hebrew, he has an understanding of seven others. He has been a tour manager since 1987 leading groups for US, Dutch, Swiss, German, and British companies. Michel has



Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel Airport Transfers.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels and lodges or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Transportation by 4-WD Land cruiser.
- Bottled water during touring days and Soft drinks, juices, or water with meals.
- English-speaking guide or naturalist/assistant during all tours and safaris.
- Moroni-Moheli-Moroni Flights.
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites, activities, and boat excursion.
- Escort of a Lecturer (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

Tour does not include:

- International airfare USA-COMOROS-USA.
- COMOROS - LILONGWE flight (approx. 750.00).
- **Comoros Visa** (upon arrival - currently €60 - subject to change).
- Alcoholic beverages with or without meals and Meals not mentioned.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Gratuities to guide, assistants, porters, hotel staff, etc.
- Gratuity to your tour Lecturer (optional).
- Travel protection insurance (Highly recommended).

Trip Grade:

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

***** Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (3 or 4 stars)

