



## Exclusive Madagascar Whale Expedition by Go2Africa & Craghoppers

*Omura's Whale Conservation Research Sailing Adventure in October 2024*



[Images/Video](#)

**Cape Town, South Africa** (July 31, 2024): [Go2Africa](#), the Cape Town-based tour operator, announces its newest experience in the Go2Africa Adventure Series, an Omura's Whale Conservation Research Sailing Adventure in Madagascar. This thoughtfully curated itinerary promises an exclusive chance to explore northwest Madagascar via sailing yacht, allowing travelers to join a private research trip with a marine scientist team who discovered the incredibly rare Omura's Whale Population in the region.

The Omura's whale (*Balaenoptera omurai*) was described as a new species in 2003 and then soon after as an ancient lineage basal to a Bryde's/sei whale clade. [Omura's Whales](#) are considered the cheetahs of the ocean because they are small (10 m/33 feet long) sleek and fast. They do not migrate, but move around a small stretch of coastline hunting for krill, and thus behave a bit more like dolphins rather than typical baleen whales. They have distinctive asymmetrical coloring, white on the right side and dark on the left, and they always feed on their right sides. In northwest Madagascar, they can be found mostly on continental shelves in shallow waters. The vessel, Ocean Sunrise captained by Simon Blackburn, is a classic and sleek 60 foot (20m) monohull schooner and ideally suited to traverse the Mozambique Channel waters of the Indian Ocean. This exclusive-use vessel boasts four guest cabins with two bathrooms, two of which are occupied by guests and two by marine scientists. There are two bathrooms onboard. Although there is no air-conditioning, fans in the cabins keep guests comfortable at night. Included in the experience are meals, snacks, fruit and drinks.

Guests will be able to participate and observe the research work. The team will be transported by speedboat to known whale feeding sites. If whales are found, the team will attempt to do photo ID, skin biopsy, tagging, collection of fecal matter, and a visual ID of feeding matter. In the evenings, the team will gather to discuss the day's research, present findings on the area's marine megafauna and address issues related to protecting this ecosystem and creating marine protected areas. Guests will also have the opportunity to explore the remote north-west coast of Madagascar, discovering secluded beaches, wild-life rich mangrove forests, small fishing communities, snorkeling locations, and inland walks to seek out lemurs. A second tender and guide are available to facilitate the exploration days.

#### Itinerary/Dates:

Trip 1: October 16th-October 29th

SOUTHBOUND Nosy Be – Sailing - Anjajavy – Antananarivo

October 16 1 night in Tana

October 17 Flight Tana to [Nosy Be](#)

October 17-20 3 nights Home The Residence + 1 day Whale Shark Project

October 20-25 5 nights sailing on [Ocean Sunrise](#)

October 25 4 nights [Anjajavy](#)

October 29 Anjajavy – Tana Flight same day departure from Tana in the afternoon

Estimated cost \$11,400 per person sharing

Trip 2: Oct 23rd-Nov 3rd

NORTHBOUND Antananarivo – Anjajavy - Sailing - Nosy Be

October 21 1night Tana

October 22-26 4 nights Anjajavy

October 26-31 5 nights Sailing

October 31 Arrive Nosy Be by yacht, 3 nights at Home The Residence, Nosy Be including 1 day Whale Shark project

November 3 Transfer to Nosy Be for departure

Estimated cost \$11,400 per person sharing

**About Research Scientist, Dr. Salvatore Cerchio:** Boston based Dr. Salvatore Cerchio is one of the world's leading whale researchers and led the team who discovered the Indian Ocean population of Omura whales off North West Madagascar several years ago. Dr. Cerchio has been working in Madagascar since 2004, studying cetaceans from humpback whales to coastal dolphins to Omura's whales. He has been studying cetaceans for 36 years around the world. Currently he is the director of the [Cetacean Program](#) for the [African Aquatic Conservation Fund](#).

By partaking in the positive impact trip, you directly facilitate further research into the unique marine megafauna population. This one-of-a-kind pioneering adventure, offered exclusively through Go2Africa offers deep and direct insight into marine conservation. Go2Africa trips serve as an aid to conserve and

protect Africa's wildlife and wild places and empower communities. Actively involved in initiatives across the continent with local partners, over 300 'Positive Impact' itineraries include a donation to one or more of these [initiatives](#). As an add-on to this journey, an expert at Go2Africa can design a custom itinerary for every type of traveler, whether you are interested in seeing the Big 5, experiencing the great wildebeest migration, indulging in South African wines or chimp trekking.

To book this experience contact Ramona Cillers: [Ramona@go2africa.com](mailto:Ramona@go2africa.com)

**About Go2Africa:**

Go2Africa, part of the Nawiri Group, is a multi-award-winning and B Corp-certified travel specialist based out of Cape Town and Nairobi. Driven by a passion for positive change, Go2Africa curates unforgettable African safari holidays that leave a lasting impact. Celebrating over 25 years, they have first-hand knowledge and relationships with over 1000+ carefully selected partners across Southern and Eastern Africa. With the most accredited and awarded safari specialists recognized by Conde Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure, travelers are in expert hands.

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