



THALASSA
JOURNEYS

Beyond the ordinary

Final Documents

**From the Shores of Kenya to
Madagascar & South Africa**

October 27-November 15, 2025



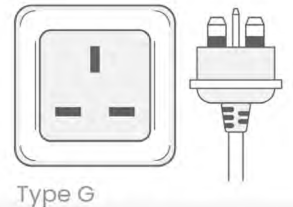
Nosy Be

From the Shores of Kenya to Madagascar & South Africa

Please read this document carefully.

Things you need to do before heading to the airport:

- **PASSPORTS:** You must bring your passport, valid for six months after the end of the journey.
- **VISAS:** Please bring your Kenya Visa and Yellow Card (see next page for more information).
- **BAGGAGE:** Please verify baggage weight limits with your air carrier prior to departure. Some airlines have significantly restricted weight allowances.
- **LUGGAGE TAGS:** All luggage, including carry-on bags, must have identification tags. Especially be sure to indicate your last name. This will facilitate the handling of your luggage.
- **JOURNEY GUIDE:** Review the Journey Guide that you received with your Welcome Letter carefully before departure.
- **ELECTRICAL OUTLETS:** The outlets at the hotel in the Kenya are Type G. You will need an international adapter for your North American devices.



Type G



Lamu Town, Kenya

Visa and Inoculation Requirements

Please click on the links for access to the forms. Costs are as of August 2025 and may change.

Kenya

An [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#) is required BEFORE arriving in Kenya, whether embarking, disembarking or in transit. We recommend using GenerationsVisa. Please see below.

Tanzania

Everything needed for Tanzania will be arranged onboard prior the SH Diana's arrival in Tanzania. The charges will appear on your shipboard account.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY:

[Visa](#): US citizens will need a multiple entry visa at a cost of \$100.

[Travel insurance](#): Each visitor needs to obtain this travel insurance when visiting Zanzibar, even if covered elsewhere. It can be obtained online on the website or arranged onboard and charged on the guest shipboard account. Cost: \$44.

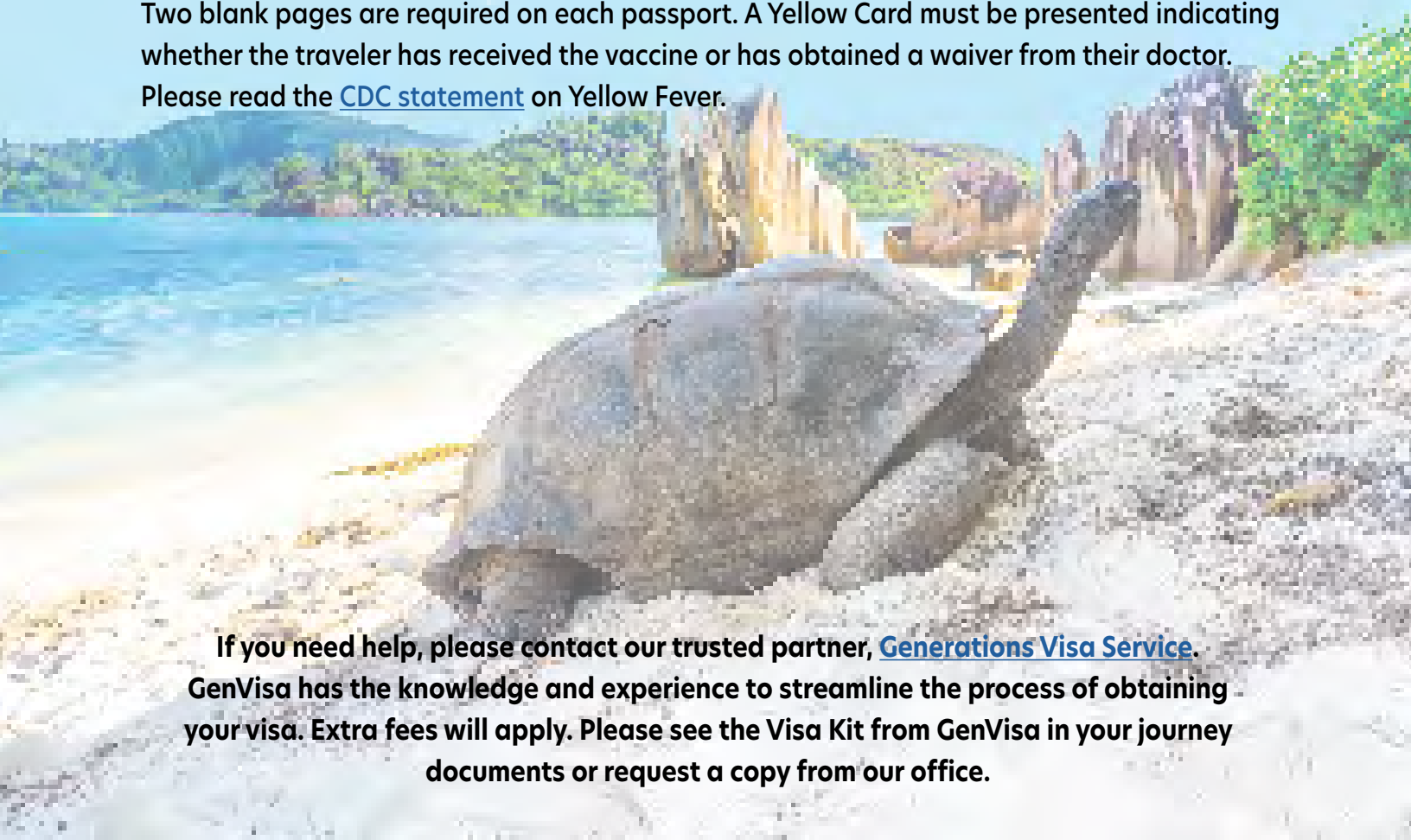
Madagascar

There are no pre-travel requirements. Guests will be required to take antibiotics provided by the Malagasy Health Department in order to visit Nosy Be.

South Africa

Two blank pages are required on each passport. A Yellow Card must be presented indicating whether the traveler has received the vaccine or has obtained a waiver from their doctor.

Please read the [CDC statement](#) on Yellow Fever.



If you need help, please contact our trusted partner, [Generations Visa Service](#). GenVisa has the knowledge and experience to streamline the process of obtaining your visa. Extra fees will apply. Please see the Visa Kit from GenVisa in your journey documents or request a copy from our office.

Arrival Information

Guests who arrive on October 28 (or have made previous arrangements with Thalassa Journeys) will be met at the Moi International Airport (MBA) and will be transferred to the Serena Beach Hotel.

Look for our representative after you have exited the Customs and Baggage Claim area who will display Thalassa Journeys or Swan Hellenic signage. In the event you are going to be delayed, please notify our local agent:

Akorn Kenya Telephone: +2547 3395 4415

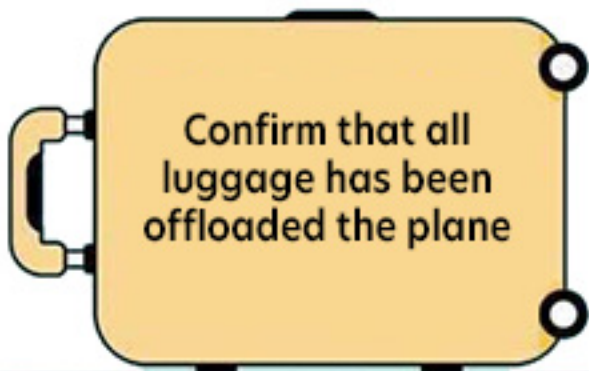
If you have issues contacting the local number please call Colin Church in the US, at +1-978-771-2926. The direct number for the Diana is +1-564-225-3781.

For assistance in Capetown, South Africa please contact Akorn South Africa +278-2900-1958.

For guests planning to meet the group at the hotel, the official check-in time is 3 pm. However, you can store your baggage securely at the hotel until your room is ready.



What to Do if your Luggage is Lost



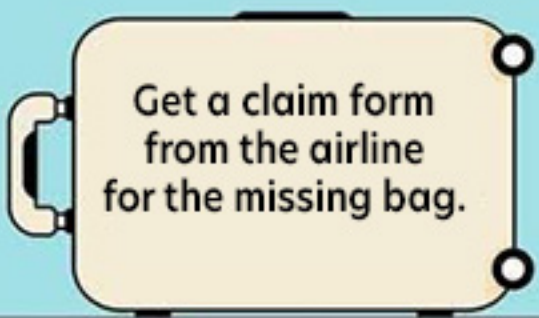
Confirm that all luggage has been offloaded the plane



Call or message the contact agent so they know you have arrived and are still at baggage claim.



PRIOR TO EXITING CUSTOMS
Make a claim at the airline desk in the baggage claim area



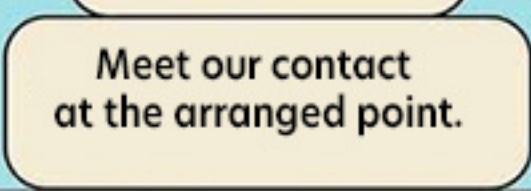
Get a claim form from the airline for the missing bag.



If available: Request an overnight kit and an allowance for reasonable expenses.



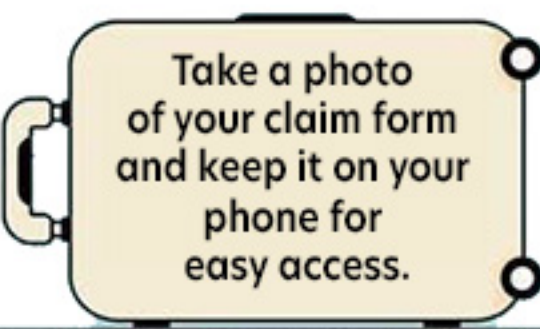
Continue through customs



Meet our contact at the arranged point.



Show the claim form to the Trip Director so our land agent can follow-up with the airline.



Take a photo of your claim form and keep it on your phone for easy access.



Contact your travel insurance company and follow their procedure for reimbursement

From the Shores of Kenya to Madagascar & South Africa

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OCTOBER 28
TUESDAY

MOMBASA, Kenya

D

Arrive in Mombasa, where you will be met and transferred to the *Serena Beach Hotel*. Please stop by our hospitality desk in the lobby between 9:00am and 3:00pm to meet your Thalassa Journeys Tour Managers, Mary Laronge and Teresa Gibbons. The afternoon is at leisure for you to enjoy the amenities of the hotel. This evening, gather with Charlie Welch and fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner in the hotel's *Jahazi Grill*.

OCTOBER 29
WEDNESDAY

MOMBASA | EMBARK

B,L,D

After breakfast at the hotel and check out, this morning's excursion is to the 16th-century Fort Jesus, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because it is a well-preserved example of Renaissance military architecture and because of its significance as the first successful attempt by a European power to control Indian Ocean trade routes. Spend some time in Mombasa's bustling spice market, where Indian, Arab, and African vendors compete for your attention, before you enjoy lunch at the *Tamarind Restaurant*. Later in the afternoon, transfer to the pier for embarkation on *Diana*.

OCTOBER 30
THURSDAY

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania

B,L,D

After *Diana* docks in Zanzibar, the day begins with a guided nature walk in the Jozani-Chwaka National Park, a rich ecosystem of mahogany and palm trees that serves as home to butterflies, bushbabies, over 40 species of birds, and the Zanzibar red colobus monkey, an endemic primate found nowhere else in the world. At the nearby spice farm, a guided tour through plots of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, cardamom, pepper, and vanilla, making it clear why Zanzibar is nicknamed "Spice Island." Lunch is at the *Cape Town Fish Market* in Stone Town, Zanzibar's historic center, followed by a guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the House of Wonders (the largest building in East Africa when it was completed in 1883, and the first in Zanzibar to have electricity and an elevator). Also visit the Old Fort, Stone Town's oldest surviving building, constructed by the Omanis in the late 17th century after they expelled the Portuguese. Today, the Fort is a cultural center that hosts concerts, festivals, and film screenings.

OCTOBER 31
FRIDAY

KILWA KIVINJE | KILWA KISWANI

B,L,D

From the 13th to the 16th centuries, Swahili city-states along the East African coast dominated the trade in gold, silver, pearls, Persian ceramics, and Chinese porcelain throughout the Indian Ocean. Kilwa Kiswani, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was perhaps the greatest of them.

Your guided walking tour begins at the Omani Fort, built in the 18th century on the ruins of a Portuguese garrison, and continues to the medieval Great Mosque, among the oldest surviving mosques in East Africa, and the smaller Malindi Mosque, whose intricately carved gravestones commemorate early Muslim rulers. Other important monuments include Makutani Palace, Chittick House, and the Sultanate Gravestones, before the tour ends at the Great Wall (Kisima Kikuu) that once surrounded the entire city.

NOVEMBER 1
SATURDAY

AT SEA

B,L,D

During a day at sea heading toward Madagascar, treat yourself to the amenities aboard ship and attend informative lectures from Charlie Welch and briefings from the expedition staff. You may also want simply to enjoy being in the middle of the ocean, looking over vast horizons under open skies, with the sun and wind and a few adventurous seabirds to keep you company.

NOVEMBER 2
SUNDAY

NOSY BE, Madagascar

B,L,D

Nosy Be is a resort island just off of Madagascar's northwest coast. Your visit begins with a drive to the village of Ambatozavavy, where you board pirogue canoes to sail through the mangrove to Lokobe Nature Reserve, near the village of Ampasipohy. The Lokobe Reserve protects Madagascar's last remaining tract of lowland rain forest and is home to Black and Sportive Lemurs as well as 17 species of endemic birds, including the Pygmy Kingfisher and the Madagascar Marten-hunter. Notable flora along the pathways includes rosewood, wild vanilla, and a variety of orchids. After the tour of the Reserve, pause for lunch in Ampasipohy before retracing your route to return to *Diana* and set sail in late afternoon.



NOVEMBER 3
MONDAY

MAHAJANGA | KATSEPY

B,L,D

Situated where the Betsiboka River meets the Mozambique Channel, Katsepy is a haven of remarkable biodiversity. After a boat landing on the shore, your excursion begins with a drive to Katsepy Lighthouse, built in the early 1900s. From its summit, sweeping views of the bay orient you to the surrounding area.

Explore the Katsepy Forest Reserve, a protected area that shelters several lemur species, including Black, Brown, Mongoose, and Crowned Lemurs. The forest also boasts 153 endemic plant species, among them Pandanus (or Screwpine), wild vanilla, and delicate orchids. And bird watchers will have the chance to spot some of Madagascar's rarest species, including Bernier's Teal, the Malagasy Sacred Ibis, and the jewel-like Pygmy Kingfisher. After your nature walk in the forest, drive to the Andafiroi Lodge, where a leisurely lunch is followed by a dance performance by the lodge staff.

NOVEMBER 4
TUESDAY

NOSY VAO

B,L,D

Today is a beach day. Spend the afternoon relaxing on this tiny islet, enjoying the sun and sand on the lovely beach that surrounds it.

NOVEMBER 5
WEDNESDAY

MORONDAVA

B,L,D

This morning, visit the Avenue of the Baobabs, a grove of 25 Grandidier's Baobab lining the red-dirt road just outside of Morondava. In 2007, the government granted protected status to the park and named it Madagascar's first Natural Monument.

Continue to Zazamalala Park, established in 2000 as a private reserve comprising 350-acres of restored dry forest and fresh water ponds that provide habitat for some of Madagascar's rarest species, including the Madame Berthe Mouse Lemur (the world's smallest primate), the Red-fronted Lemur, Fossa, Narrow-striped Mongoose, Giant Chameleon, and Spiny-tail Iguana. The park also conserves more than 100 rare and endemic trees, birds, primates, and reptiles.

Lunch will be at the seaside resort of *Palissandre Côte Oueste* and will include access to their pool and private beach.

NOVEMBER 6
THURSDAY

TOLIARA

B,L,D

Toliara, surrounded by mangroves and an offshore coral reef, is your gateway to the Arboretum d'Anstokay, a botanical park dedicated to the conservation of the endemic flora of southwestern Madagascar. A guided tour introduces you to a sample of the park's 900 plant species, 90% of which are endemic.

Travel north from Toliara along the coast, pausing at *La Bella Donna* in the seaside town of Ifaty for lunch before continuing to the Reniala Spiny Forest, a small community-managed reserve that maintains habitat for species found nowhere else on earth. As you walk the reserve's botanical trail, you will come across some of the most spectacular and oldest baobabs in Madagascar. Meet with staff at the Reniala Lemur Rescue Center to learn about their work to conserve and reintroduce rescued Ring-tailed Lemurs.

NOVEMBER 7 - 8 FRIDAY-SATURDAY	AT SEA	B,L,D
	During these two days, as <i>Diana</i> crosses the Mozambique Channel on the way to South Africa, treat yourself to the amenities aboard and attend informative lectures and briefings aboard.	
NOVEMBER 9 SUNDAY	RICHARDS BAY, South Africa	B,L,D
	From the port city of Richards Bay, drive to the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park, the oldest national park in South Africa. Covering a staggering 370 square miles in the KwaZulu-Natal Region, the park's open savannah, acacia, and riverine forests provide habitat for an exceptionally diverse range of species, including lions, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, hippos, and the largest population of white rhinos in the world. Your exploration of this region of the East Cape, includes a two-and-a-half-hour game drive through Hluhluwe-Imfolozi and a visit to the DumaZulu Cultural Village, a living museum that recreates a historical Zulu homestead. At DumaZulu, enjoy a lunch of Zulu specialties followed by a cultural performance of traditional song and dance.	
NOVEMBER 10 MONDAY	DURBAN	B,L,D
	Durban is home to the busiest container port in Sub-Saharan Africa, handling about 32 million tons of cargo each year, and is the largest coastal city in KwaZulu-Natal province. Begin the day with a panoramic tour of the city, including Durban's beautiful Beachfront, City Hall, the Markets at Warwick Triangle, and the Botanical Gardens. Leaving the city, travel inland to Botha's Hill for lunch at <i>Nguni Lodge</i> before embarking on a game drive in PheZulu Safari Park. Because it is in the heart of the historic Valley of a Thousand Hills, PheZulu's 4x4 safaris combine viewing of the abundant wildlife (giraffes, zebras, impalas, blesbok, and wildebeest) with the extraordinary natural beauty of the region's rolling hills, bushveld, and open savannah.	
NOVEMBER 11 TUESDAY	EAST LONDON	B,L,D
	Arrive in East London just after lunch for an excursion to the East London Museum. The displays here cover the cultural history of the region—including one of the world's best collections of beadwork from the Xhosa-speaking peoples of the Eastern Cape—but it is the exhibits on natural history for which the museum is best known. It played an important role in the discovery of the <i>Coelacanth</i> and proudly displays a specimen of this fish once thought to have become extinct 80 million years ago. And it houses slabs of sandstone from the nearby Nahoon Bluff that contain the fossilized footprints of a human child dating to about 124,000 years ago (the earliest evidence of homo sapiens in this part of Africa).	

NOVEMBER 12 WEDNESDAY	PORT ELIZABETH B,L,D This morning, arrive in Port Elizabeth, now officially known as Gqeberha, for an excursion to the Amakhala Game Reserve, a spectacular 18,000-acre private reserve set in the heart of the Eastern Cape. Established as a conservation initiative by local families, Amakhala is home to an impressive variety of wildlife, including the Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo—as well as cheetah, giraffe, zebra, antelope, and an abundance of birdlife. Following a two-and-a-half-hour ranger led game drive through the reserve, enjoy lunch at the Amakhala main lodge before returning to Port Elizabeth and <i>Diana</i>.
NOVEMBER 13 THURSDAY	MOSSEL BAY B,L,D From Mossel Bay on South Africa's famed Garden Route, travel to Botlierskop Private Game Reserve. Located near the coast, Botlierskop includes a variety of ecosystems not available at game parks further inland, particularly coastal fynbos, as well as sweeping views of the Indian Ocean. Wildlife encounters on ranger led drives often include rhinoceros, lions, elephants, buffalo, giraffe, the rare black impala, and hippos, as well as a sampling of the area's 200 bird species.
NOVEMBER 14 FRIDAY	HERMANUS B,L,D On the final day of your journey, travel to the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. This small slice of the Cape Floral Kingdom has the highest concentration of plant species found anywhere in the world. With the help of guides from the Hermanus Botanical Society, explore the network of trails to view some of the 1,200 endemic species of fynbos along with a surprising variety of antelope, including redbok, grysbok, klipspringer, and more than 100 species of birds. Follow trails that hug the coastline for dramatic views over Walker's Bay, where migrating whales come from June through November to mate and calve their young.
NOVEMBER 15 SATURDAY	CAPE TOWN DISEMBARK B After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights homeward.

Included meals noted as: B (breakfast), L (lunch), and D (dinner)

Participant List

From the Shores of Kenya to Madagascar & South Africa

October 27-November 15, 2025

Carol Adams
Lookout Mountain, TN

Laura Adams
Washington, DC
Natasha Partnoy
Brooklyn, NY

Catherine Aldinger
Wynnewood, PA

Drew Barr
Jamie Yannayon
Cary, NC

Jane Barthelme
Bowling Green, KY

Dan Bingham
Gail Hamner
Blowing Rock, NC

Amy Blauman
Arlington, VA

Jaime Capron
Richmond, VA

Jim Capron
Michele Capron
Earleville, MD

Benjamin Cooper
Eden Cooper
Arlington, TX

Gayle Crose
Minneapolis, MN

Jocelyn Cunningham
Cincinnati, OH

Susan Cushing
Sherman Oaks, CA

Karen DiDonato
Chris Sundermeier
Morrisville, NC

David Edmiston
Kathy Edmiston
Mechanicsburg, PA

Susan Fitzgerald
Chapel Hill, NC

Jennifer Ganser
Andrew Haracourt
Bahama, NC

Kiyoko Gluck
Russell Gluck
Franklin Lakes, NJ

Fiona Hamilton
Patrick S. Hamrick
Lakeland, FL

David Howell
Sara E. Miller
Durham, NC

Joey Howell
Lisa Neal
Siler City, NC

Ann Miller
Kenneth W. Miller
Fort Mill, SC

Margaret Howard
Pittsboro, NC

Douglas Joseph
Kim Joseph
Naples, FL

Andrea Katz
Charlie Welch
Lecturer
Durham, NC

Patric Kearns
Bo Kearns
Sonoma, CA

Louis Kohler
Greensboro, NC
Trish Kohler
Durham, NC

Virginia Kraus
Shrewsbury, MA

Barry Menne
Mary Menne
Sykesville, MD

Keith Mobbs
Peggy Shropshire-Mobbs
Brisbane, CA

Carol Neill
Bob Neill
Vilas, NC

PJ Niver
Easthampton, MA

Mary Paisley
Hillsborough, NC

Christine Ross
Sinking Spring, PA

Hannah Moyer Salvatore
Robesonia, PA

Renee Beauclair Twersky
Hillsborough, NC

Edward Wall
Morganton, NC

Teresa Gibbons
Thalassa Journeys Tour Manager
Bronx, NY

Josh Laronge
Thalassa Journeys Tour Manager
Jupiter, FL

Mary Laronge
Thalassa Journeys Tour Manager
Jupiter, FL



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