

Maritime

Welcome on board the Kalizma

The Seychelles boasts 115 islands offering breathtaking landscapes, pristine seas and romantic sunsets. And that can only get better when sailing on one of the world's oldest motor yachts in the archipelago's waters. TODAY gives its avid readers a guided tour of this magnificent vessel with a romantic history.

by A. De Giorgio

TODAY was recently invited onboard the Edwardian motor yacht 'Kalizma' which once belonged to legendary actor Richard Burton who bought it for his wife - actress Elizabeth Taylor in 1967 and named the boat after their three daughters - Kate, Liza and Maria.

Currently docked at the Wharf Marina, this 50-metre beauty that boasts a luxurious vintage interior and navigation system, was built in 1906 in a Scottish shipyard and originally launched as 'Minona'. In fact, it is older than the RMS Titanic and is currently the oldest motor yacht in the Seychelles waters. Originally designed to be a private yacht, it was commissioned to serve



The 50-metre classic motor yacht is currently docked at the Wharf Marina



Captain Avnish Dhall

during both World Wars I and II as a support boat for the Royal Navy.

TODAY met with Captain Avnish Dhall, who is responsible for the management of 'Kalizma' and its ten crew members, and who gave our journalists a tour of the vessel as he explained its rich history. The captain explained how the boat had changed hands several times from one owner to another through its 110 years. It now belongs to a private company that operates a charter fleet.

"I recall when the owner of this boat had just acquired the 'Kalizma' and he wanted me to manage it. What started off as a six-month agreement eventually turned into 21 years. I

know this boat inside out and we've crossed many oceans and seas together, such as the Mediterranean, the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and South East Asia," said Captain Dhall.

"Over the years, we have extensively refurbished both the interior and exterior of the vessel, as well as changed the engines and enhanced the navigation system, and all the while ensuring that we kept the boat's authenticity and its historical characteristics," he added. Captain Dhall said the 'Kalizma' has been in Seychelles for nearly a year. It will soon be departing for Colombo in Sri Lanka at the end of March but will return to Seychelles in November this year.

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Perhaps the best spot on the boat



Now just imagine yourself staying on a classic boat and enjoying the trip whilst sitting in a Jacuzzi



This bar saloon has served celebrities and survived two World Wars to tell the tale



The dining room that serves intercontinental cuisine



Also available, jet skis and diving equipment along with a certified diving instructor

Their temporary departure is due to the fact that Seychelles does not have a dry dock to accommodate a vessel of the size and weight of the 'Kalizma'. "Many boats our size are experiencing this problem in Seychelles and I believe that it could be a game changer for the country in terms of attracting more yachts in the region and increasing revenue if the country invests in a proper dry

dock that can take ships of at least 3,000 tonnes. This could cater, not only for the yachts but also fishing boats. Until then, many operators have to take their boats elsewhere," Captain Dhall said.

TODAY queried about the vessel's maintenance costs which, one could expect, would be very high. "This boat requires constant maintenance work, so we cannot stay at Eden

Island Marina all the time due to the restrictions regarding what sort of boat works are being conducted there. Hence the reason we find it more suitable to dock at this marina. In my experience, maintenance usually amounts to between eight and 12 per cent of the total cost of the boat. In our case, 'Kalizma' requires around US \$300,000 per year," said Captain Dhall.



It may be the oldest boat in Seychelles but it boasts of a luxurious interior and modern navigation system

When the 'Kalizma' returns to Seychelles in November, it will commence charters offering its guests island tours at competitive rates. TODAY asked the captain about the guest benefits from choosing the 'Kalizma' over the other more modern yachts and catamarans.

"Of course, the modern yachts and catamarans will get you faster to your preferred destination. However, it will be more com-

fortable onboard the 'Kalizma', especially if the guests intend to visit the islands but remain to dine and sleep on the boat. Besides that, we can offer our guests the same services as any modern yacht. In fact, we have two Yamaha jet-skis and diving equipment along with a certified PADI diving instructor, as well as a Jacuzzi on the top deck for those who would rather relax and enjoy the day," he responded.

And for those who would like to spend a day on board this classic ocean jewel or who want to know more about the special tours on offer, visit their website at www.mykalizma.com

Did you know?

When looking forward towards the bow (or front) of any ship, one refers to the left side as 'port' and the right side as 'starboard'.



This is just one of the five guest cabins



Some might have a hard time to believe that this is actually on a 110-year old vessel



Shower in style!



Richard Burton and other celebrities used this classic writing desk



The most valuable lifebuoy