



**WORLDWIDE
HOLIDAYS**
Direct



Madagascar
Highlands and Pangalanes Channel



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Discovery of Madagascar

Highlands and Pangalanes Channel

9 Nights / 10 days

Theme: Adventure





Madagascar

Situated about 400km off the Mozambican Coast, Madagascar is the land of adventure. Known as the “Red island”, its population is particularly welcoming. With sunshine all year round, turquoise lagoon, white sandy beaches, luxuriant flora and amazing fauna... Could this be your idea of paradise?



Highlands and Pangalanes Channel

This tour will take you in the Highlands from Antananarivo to Fianarantsoa, passing Antsirabe to live the memorable voyage in the legendary forest’s train. This ride includes 56 tunnels, 4 viaducts and 40 others structures, and 17 stations along the 170 km of a route sometimes clinging to the mountain. After the train, you will continue by boat on the Pangalanes Channel which links lakes and lagoons on the straight east coast. To finish, return to Antananarivo up through the forested Perinet region and on to the flat coastal plains of Eastern Madagascar.

| Days | Route | Transport | Activities | Accommodation | Meals |
|--------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------|
| Day 1 | Antananarivo | Road Transfer | Free | Pavillon de l’Emyrne | BB |
| Day 2 | Antananarivo - Antsirabe | Road Transfer | Pousse-pousse tour and visit crafts centers | Hotel des Thermes | BB |
| Day 3 | Antsirabe - Ambositra - Fianarantsoa (Fianar) | Road Transfer | Craft tour | Tsara Guest House | HB |
| Day 4 | Fianar - Ranamofana - Fianar | Road Transfer | Ranamofana National Park | Tsara Guest House | HB |
| Day 5 | Fianarantsoa – Manakara - Mananjary | Train | - | Vahiny Lodge | HB |
| Day 6 | Mananjary – Ambohitsara – Nosy Varika | Boat | Visit villages Ampandimana- Ambohitsara- Nosy Varika | Auberge d’Ambohitsara or Bivouac | FB |
| Day 7 | Ambohitsara - Masomeloka | Boat | Visit Typical villages | Gite Musulman | FB |
| Day 8 | Masomeloka - Andasibe | Boat and Road Transfer | Mangoro | Vakona Forest Lodge | HB |
| Day 9 | Andasibe | - | Andasibe National Park, Vakona Reserve and Night Walk | Vakona Forest Lodge | FB |
| Day 10 | Andasibe - Antananarivo | Road Transfer | Vakona Reserve | - | BL |



Day 1: Antananarivo (30mn - Transfer)

You will be met on arrival at the airport and transferred to your city hotel.

Overnight at le Pavillon de l'Emyrne (or similar)

Day 2: Antananarivo – Antsirabe (3hrs - Transfer)

Depart early after breakfast for Antsirabe; admire the landscape of the highland with its traditional houses, mountains, rice fields and rivers Stop at Ambatolampy , lunch at a local restaurant (on your charge) , then on to Antsirabe which you reach middle afternoon ; check in at the hotel . The remainder of the day at leisure, why not enjoy a pousse-pousse tour of the town with its leafy boulevards and old colonial buildings.

Overnight at Hotel des Thermes (or similar)

Day 3: Antsirabe – Ambositra – Fianarantsoa (3hrs - Transfer)

After breakfast continue south towards Ambositra, also called the “city of roses”, the cradle of Malagasy art. This is the capital of wood carving in Madagascar; we will visit some workshops and craft centers. After lunch at a local restaurant (on your charge) you will continue to Fianarantsoa . After check in at the hotel, enjoy the afternoon visiting the town.

*Dinner and overnight at Tsara Guest House (or similar)
Picnic lunch*

Day 4: Ranomafana

After an early breakfast, drive to Ranomafana National park for a full day exploring this lush tropical paradise. Lunch at a local restaurant or empacked from Tsara guest house (on your own charge)
Return late afternoon to Fianarantsoa.

*Dinner and overnight at Tsara Guest House (or similar)
Picnic lunch*





Day 5: Fianarantsoa – Manakara – Mananjary

(8/10 hrs + 3hrs)

Early check out for a full day journey on the legendary train which brings you through wonderful sceneries, waterfalls, mountains, crossing lush vegetation featuring the outstanding Ravinala, the ‘ Traveller’s trees ‘. This train is a vital link between the highlands and the coast and every village in between. At each station, you will be able to buy food from the villages’ peoples. You’ll disembark towards end afternoon in Manakara. Upon arrival, you’ll take the road to Mananjary (3hrs)

Dinner and overnight at Vahiny Lodge (or similar)

Day 6: Mananjary – Ambohitsara – Nosy Varika

(9hrs)

Early departure from the small and quiet town of Mananjary; you’ll start today the navigation on the Pangalanes Channel with a first stop at Ampandimana. The village is known for its blacksmiths, but also famous for distilleries of ‘Betsa Betsa’, the local alcohol recognizable by its creamy appearance. It flows freely on great occasions

You’ll pass then by Andragnavaka bay and the lake Mahela , where Jean Laborde who became a great builder to the service of the Queen Ranavalonal, was shipwrecked . Your next halt is Ambohitsara, which you reach for lunch time. A ‘boar-stone’ religiously kept at this village, is likely to have been carved on the spot by Arab immigrants. The sculpture looks more like an elephant an animal unknown to Madagascar, than a boar.

After a picnic lunch at Ambohitsara, you’ll continue to Nosy Varika , a small and picturesque town.

Overnight at “Petite Oasis “

Day 7: Nosy Varika – Asohiy (5 hrs)

Morning visit on the village, then navigation northern on the Sakaleone , whose falls are the highest in Madagascar (100km to the west) .You ‘ll then pass by the small canal to join the Pangalanes , crossing almost non inhabited areas . Some tribes from the forest are used to come here to look for shrimps which they bring to sale to the highlands. They have built provisional shelters which constitute the small wild villages; here people still have fears for seeing foreigners.

You’ll join Asohiy by navigating along the ocean and held your bivouac on a very quiet and magnificent place by the Indian Ocean.

Time of rest, cocktail drinks, local musical group ...

Overnight bivouac





Day 8: Asohihy – Mahanoro – Andasibe (5 hrs, 2hrs30)

After an early breakfast, continuation to Mangoro, passing by the big mouth of Mangoro. Lunch on board. You'll arrive in Mahanoro towards end afternoon. Disembarkation and road transfer to Andasibe.

Dinner and overnight at "Vakona Lodge "

Day 9: Périnet / Andasibe "Reserve"

After breakfast you will visit the Andasibe Reserve where you should see the Indri Indri, Madagascar's biggest Lemur or/and the **Mantadia National Park** (depending on road conditions).

In the afternoon there will be a visit to Lemur Island, it is a small sanctuary where rescued and no longer wanted pet lemurs live in a semi wild state (the ones that were former pets are quite tame). Before dinner enjoy a night walk looking for the nocturnal creatures present in the Vakona Reserve.

*Dinner and Overnight Vakona Forest Lodge (or similar)
Picnic Lunch*

Day 10: Andasibe – Antananarivo (3 hrs)

After breakfast visit and walk thru the Vakona Private Reserve with its crocodile and other endemic species.

After lunch at Vakona Lodge, drive to Antananarivo. Drop off at your city hotel, or at the airport for onward arrangements.





The National Park of Ranomafana

Created in 1991, to protect primary rainforest, the park contains very rich fauna and flora. Located in an area made up of hills, steep slopes and cliffs, it presents a very significant hydrographic network and has waterfalls and several rivers. The climate is of wet tropical forest. Its fauna consists of 26 species of mammals (*Hapalémur Simus*, *Hapalémur doré*), 96 species of birds (*Accipiter Henstii* one of the rarest species), and its flora while primarily green forest has special species such as giant 'fangeons' and orchids.

***Provide yourself with impermeable clothing, anti-mosquito repellent and boots.**

The Pangalanes

This enormous stretch of smooth water goes on for 665kms (it starts north of Tamatave and goes down to Farafangana in the south). A multitude of lakes and natural lagoons are seen all along the canal. It is the primary North/South transportation route and allows the local villagers to carry their goods safely along the coast. You will also see deserted beaches and scattered forests with many orchids and traveller's trees as well as many birds along the canal.

Perinet / Andasibe

Situated in the province of Toamasina between 930m and 1040m of altitude the reserve is a complex of protected areas that can be visited individually or by group: **La Réserve Spéciale d'Indri** is a reserve especially for the Indri Indri Lemur and also contains other species as well as great Flora.

The Vakona Reserve is a private reserve owned by Vakona Forest Lodge and includes Lemur Island which is a great opportunity to get up close to Lemurs in a natural setting.





Cost Includes

- Meet and Greet on arrival at Antananarivo Airport
- Airport transfers in air conditioned minibus
- All transport during the tour is in air conditioned vehicles with a French/English speaking driver/guide.
- If needed we can provide an extra guide speaking Italian, German, Russian, Spanish (depending on availability) with a supplement.
- Accommodation in hotels as specified in the itinerary (or similar).
- All meals as specified in the itinerary including picnic lunches
- All guide fees and park/reserve entrance fees (on a 3hrs basis)

Cost Excludes

- All international flight costs and visa fees or assistance unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, drinks and personal expenses.
- Travel insurance, it is a condition that all clients traveling with WWHD must have appropriate Travel insurance, including emergency medical evacuation cover.
- None specified items.

Reservation details

- All prices will be re-confirmed at the time of booking and you will be advised at that time of any necessary re-routes or changes the initial itinerary or accommodation proposed.
- All prices are quoted and payments made in EURO (€).
- The final price given will be honoured except in cases of exceptional price increases both unforeseeable and beyond the control of WWHD, in which case we will advise you as soon as any change is notified to us.

