

Masoala Experience (6 Nights, departs daily on request)

This tour can be taken either as a one week extension from the Eastern Circuit or as a stand alone tour to Masoala 'where the rainforest touches the sea'. The town has a relaxed and friendly laid back ambience, but it is the nature that is most impressive - the forest, the beaches and of course Nosy Mangabe. Between June to October Humpback Whale are regularly seen in the bay as are dolphin, this area is a nature lovers paradise. Activities are plentiful and are organised by Masoala Forest Lodge to suit your preferences.

	Route	Transport	Activities	Accommodation	Meals
Day 1	Maroantsetra	flight/transfer	free	Relais du Masoala	D
Day 2	Maroantsetra - Masoala	boat transfer	options	Masoala Forest Lodge	FB
Day 3	Masoala	-	options	Masoala Forest Lodge	FB
Day 4	Masoala	-	options	Masoala Forest Lodge	FB
Day 5	Masoala	-	options	Masoala Forest Lodge	FB
Day 6	Masoala - Maroantsetra	boat transfer	options	Relais du Masoala	FB
Day 7	Maroantsetra - Antananarivo	transfer/flight	free	-	B

Day 1: Maroantsetra

Upon arrival at Maroantsetra airport from either Tamatave or Antananarivo you will be met and transferred to the Relais du Masoala Hotel. Located on the Northeast coast of Madagascar, at the far end of the bay of Antongil, Maroantsetra is a sleepy, friendly town bathed in the fragrance of vanilla and cloves: Madagascar at its most authentic. The remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at Relais du Masoala

Day 2: Maroantsetra - Masoala National Park

After an early breakfast, depart from Maroantsetra by boat for the voyage across the Antongil Bay to the Masoala Forest Lodge at Tampolo. The journey takes up to 3 hours and passes near Nosy Mangabe, there is the possibility of dolphin and whale sightings in season and the thickly forested mountains of the peninsula are a dramatic backdrop to the voyage. After lunch why not enjoy either a short guided forest walk, or meet on the beach for a kayak briefing and some training for the novices, followed by a short paddle down the coast to a deserted beach in the primary rain forest at Lohatrozana (whales-head), return by sunset, in time for a shower and relax around the campfire on the beach.

Dinner and overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge

Masoala National Park (North East)

Masoala harbours a sanctuary of primary forest covering an area of 230,000Ha, created a National Park in 1997 to protect rainforest, costal forest, mangrove, flooded forest and

Marshland this is probably the most biologically diverse National Park in Madagascar. The park rises from its three Marine reserves protecting Coral Reefs up to a height of over 1300m at its peak. The reserve is teeming with Flora and Fauna including Red-ruffed lemur among the 10 to be seen in the park, Nosy Mangabe is one of the best Locales in which to see the elusive Aye-aye Lemur. Each year between July and September the bay plays host to hundreds of Humpback Whales who come to the warm Tropical waters to mate and give birth. The park is crossed by a series of hiking paths from fairly easy day walks to week long treks depending on your level. The park has been set up as an ecotourism reserve and half of the park entrance fees goes to local community projects and sustainable management of the reserve.

There are 3 marine reserves in the park: Tampolo, Ambodilaitry and Ifaho, one of the best ways of exploring these is through Kayaking and snorkelling.

Day 3: Masoala

For those so inclined, there is an early morning boat fishing excursion down the coast to replenish the fresh fish supply for the camp. After a leisurely breakfast, you can enjoy a guided walk into the dense primary forest of Lohatrozana to view the birds, lemurs and countless other creatures endemic to this forest. All activities at Masoala Forest Lodge are organised locally and lunches will either be a picnic or taken at the lodge depending on which activities you have chosen for that day.

Dinner and overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge

Day 4: Masoala

After breakfast, the option of a day excursion by boat, on foot, or by kayak, to the Antalavia River, 10km further down the peninsula. The Tampolo Marine National Park extends as far as the river and the forested coast is stunningly beautiful with numerous deserted beaches, thick with coral reefs and sea life. A short distance up river from the beach is the waterfall of the Antalavia River, cool clear water cascading down in perfect swimming pools, overhung by the forest. A traditional lunch is taken with a local Malagasy family, followed by a tour of their forest farm, with vanilla, coffee, cloves, rice fields and many fruits.

Dinner and overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge

Day 5: Masoala

After breakfast, why not take a guided walk to the primary forest and the Tampolo waterfalls, this is another beautiful clear forest river with much wildlife to be spotted at its fringes. With the option of snorkelling the reefs, kayaking the sheltered water of the Marine Park or exploring the area further on foot, there is something for everyone in this natural paradise. Enjoy an evening of entertainment and high spirits with a visit of the local 'vakodrazana' (traditional Malagasy music and dance group) from the small community of Ambodiforaha.

Dinner and overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge

Day 6: Masoala - Maroantsetra

After an early breakfast, board the boat for the return voyage to Maroantsetra, the remainder of the day is at leisure in Maroantsetra to soak up the laid back coastal vibe and perhaps buy some arts and crafts.

Dinner and overnight at Relais du Masoala

Day 7: Maroantsetra - Antananarivo

Transfer to the airport for you return flight to Antananarivo, upon arrival transfer to your city hotel or for onward arrangements.