

From West to East

You will start discover Madagascar in the west by the incredible Tsingy, rising in their hundreds to form a landscape that resembles a forest of church spires. Between them, wildlife thrives in pockets of dense jungle. Then you will continue by the highlands of Antananarivo down through the forested Perinet region and on to the flat coastal plains of Eastern Madagascar and the Pangalanes Canal. You will certainly discover a wide variety of Lemurs and other endemic species. You will notice the difference between the landscape of the inland highland and coastal belt. You will also be fascinated by the diversity of the population.

Day 1: Antananarivo

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

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

Day 2: Antananarivo

The former Kings Palace at Ambohimanga is the second most sacred site in Madagascar and a Unesco World Heritage Site. Located 13km outside Antananarivo your visit here will provide you with the chance to also see some of rural Madagascar en-route..

Depart from your hotel and drive straight to the Palace, you will take a guided tour of the Ambohimanga site and Palace before returning to Antananarivo for lunch at the Chez Anna Guest House. Then, continue to the upper town of Antananarivo, you will pass the former Queens Palace, which is being re-constructed after it was destroyed by fire in 1995. You will then visit the former Palace of the Prime Minister which houses much of the historic and cultural artefacts saved from the Queen's Palace. The view over Antananarivo is spectacular from the viewpoint near the palace.

Finish your day at a craft market and buy souvenirs. Diner and transfer to your hotel.

Dinner & overnight at le Pavillon de l'Émyrne (or similar)

Day 3: Antananarivo – Monrondava

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to fly to Morondava. There, you will be transferred to your hotel and have the rest of your day free to discover the city.

Dinner and overnight at Baobab Café (or similar)

Day 4: Morondava – Bekopaka

Early breakfast before the depart to the Tsingy Reserve . You will take Tsimafana roads (around 3 hours drive), crossing rivers, and will arrive in Belo around noon . Lunch at a local restaurant « MAD zebus' restaurant », then take the sandy road until Bekopaka (around 4hours drive).

Upon arrival in Bekopaka , you 'll be met by ANGAP guide who will inform you about the tours .

Check in at your hotel " ORCHIDEE " or similar

Dinner and overnight at Les Orchidées (or similar)

Picnic lunch

Day 5: Bekopaka

Morning visit of the small Tsingy (3hr) , lunch at the hotel or on picnic .

In the afternoon, pirogue trip on Manambolo River. + caves visits (1h30min excursion). Return to the hotel end afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Les Orchidées (or similar)

Picnic lunch

Day 6: Bekopaka

After breakfast, full day trekking among the weird rock formations. You will discover the Tsingy de Bemaraha which offers one of the most stunning landscapes. You can explore the jungle in search of Madagascar's lovable lemurs and its fantastic array of birdlife (4 hrs visit + picnic lunch)

Rest in you hotel in the end of the afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Les Orchidées (or similar)

Picnic lunch

Day 7: Bekopaka - Morondava

Today you leave Bekopaka after an early breakfast for the return trip to Morondava .

On the way you will pass the Sakalava tribe tombs. They are known for the very unusual paintings and carvings that decorate the outside of their tombs. You will arrive to the Avenue of Baobabs for the sunset. It is the best time to see the trees as their colours become red. It's the most photographed place of Madagascar.

Dinner and overnight at Baobab Café (or similar)

Picnic lunch

Day 8: Morondava - Antananarivo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to fly to Antananarivo. There, you will be transferred to your hotel and have the rest of your day free (excursions are available in option)

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

Day 9: Antananarivo – Périnet / Andasibe “Reserve”

After breakfast you will depart for the Périnet / Andasibe “Reserve”. After lunch, visit and walk thru the Vakona Private Reserve with its crocodile and other endemic species. Before dinner enjoy a night walk looking for the nocturnal creatures present in the Vakona Reserve.

Lunch, Dinner and Overnight Vakona Forest Lodge (or similar)

Day 10: Périnet / Andasibe “Reserve”

After breakfast you will visit the Andasibe Reserve where you should see the Indri Indri, Madagascar's biggest Lemur. 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). An optional night walk is available.

Dinner and Overnight Vakona Forest Lodge (or similar)

Picnic Lunch

Day 11: Périnet – Manambato – Akanin'ny Nofy

Should you have not seen the Indri Indri the day before and if you are an early bird, you may try your luck again before the departure to Manambato. Manambato a village in the edge of the Lake Rasoabe; after an hour cruising on the Canal des Pangalanes you will arrive in the Lake Ampitabe where the Bushhouse Hotel is located. Lunch will be served at the hotel and a wide range of excursions are available from the hotel.

Lunch & Dinner and Overnight Bush House Hotel (or similar)

Day 12: Akanin'ny Nofy

Optional excursions either on foot or by boat are available. Enjoy a visit in the private reserve of Antsikalaloty 'The Palmarium'- an escorted visit during which you will be able to admire several species of lemurs and a stunning flora. Discover the Betsimisaraka fishermen village, with its school specially looked after by Bushhouse Hotel.

Lunch & Dinner and Overnight Bush House Hotel (or similar)

Picnic lunch or lunch

Day 13: Akanin'ny Nofy – Tamatave – Ste Marie

Transfer by boat to Tamatave by crossing the Pangalanes Canal. After disembarking in Tamatave you will be transferred to the airport to fly to Ste Marie, A marvelous authentic island in the Tropics, near the East coast of Madagascar. An old den of pirates and royal dynasties with a past filled with history and poetry. The calm waters of a lagoon of the Indian Ocean.

Dinner and overnight at Princesse Bora (or similar)

Day 14 and 15: Ste Marie

A large range of activities are available. If you're fond of diving, enjoy a diving sessions on coral reefs to observe the exuberant marine animal-life and the many tropical fish species which also inhabit the wrecks. You can also practice snorkeling, canoes, catamaran, water skiing, wake ... or going in excursions

Lunches, dinners and overnights at Princesse Bora (or similar)
(or picnic lunch)

Day 16: Ste Marie – Antananarivo

Return to Antananarivo by plane.

Bemaraha

Classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990, Bemaraha, which occupies part of the limestone plateau bearing the same name, became a national park in 1997. The scenery offered by its Tsingy is one of the most spectacular in Madagascar with its faults, cracks sculpted into sharp peaks and ridges. Millions of years ago, these regions were engulfed in the sea. Corals and shells piled up and knit together to form a 200 m thick immense plate. Waters withdrew progressively and the limestone settled in the open cracks to form joints and canyons. The rain starting is long eroding work on and deep beneath the surface. On the roof of the Tsingy, temperature may be as high as 50° whereas from the depths of the canyons, vegetation is striving to grow upward for sunlight and vital photosynthesis.

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.

Sainte Marie

Stretching from the small port town of Soanierana Ivongo, Sainte Marie benefits from a less wet and a middle climate than the normally rainy east coast. 7 other islets with names evocative of far away seas are mostly clustered around the southern part of the main island. Yesterday the island of cloves, Sainte Marie is today the island of humpback whales. These famous creatures travel over 5 000 km from Antarctica to gather in the waters surrounding Sainte Marie from July to September. The Garden-Island is also a sanctuary of nature with its primary forests and its riches in flowers,