



Madagascar

Mountains & Rivers – Pic Boby to the Sea

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Do something extraordinary.....

Itinerary	Mountains & Rivers • Pic Boby to the Sea
13 Days • 12 Nights	Antananarivo –Lemur Forest – Tsaranoro Valley – Andringitra – Antanifotsy – Ankarimbelo – Manakara – Ambositra – Antsirabe

HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌿 Summitting and conquering Pic Boby – Madagascar’s highest climbable mountain
- 🌿 Experiencing the incredible Rural highlands & Malagasy backcountry by trekking the wilderness
- 🌿 Become fully immersed in Madagascar’s dense tropical rainforest - truly off-the-beaten-track
- 🌿 Participating in a thrilling paddle down to the Indian Ocean

TOUR ESSENTIALS

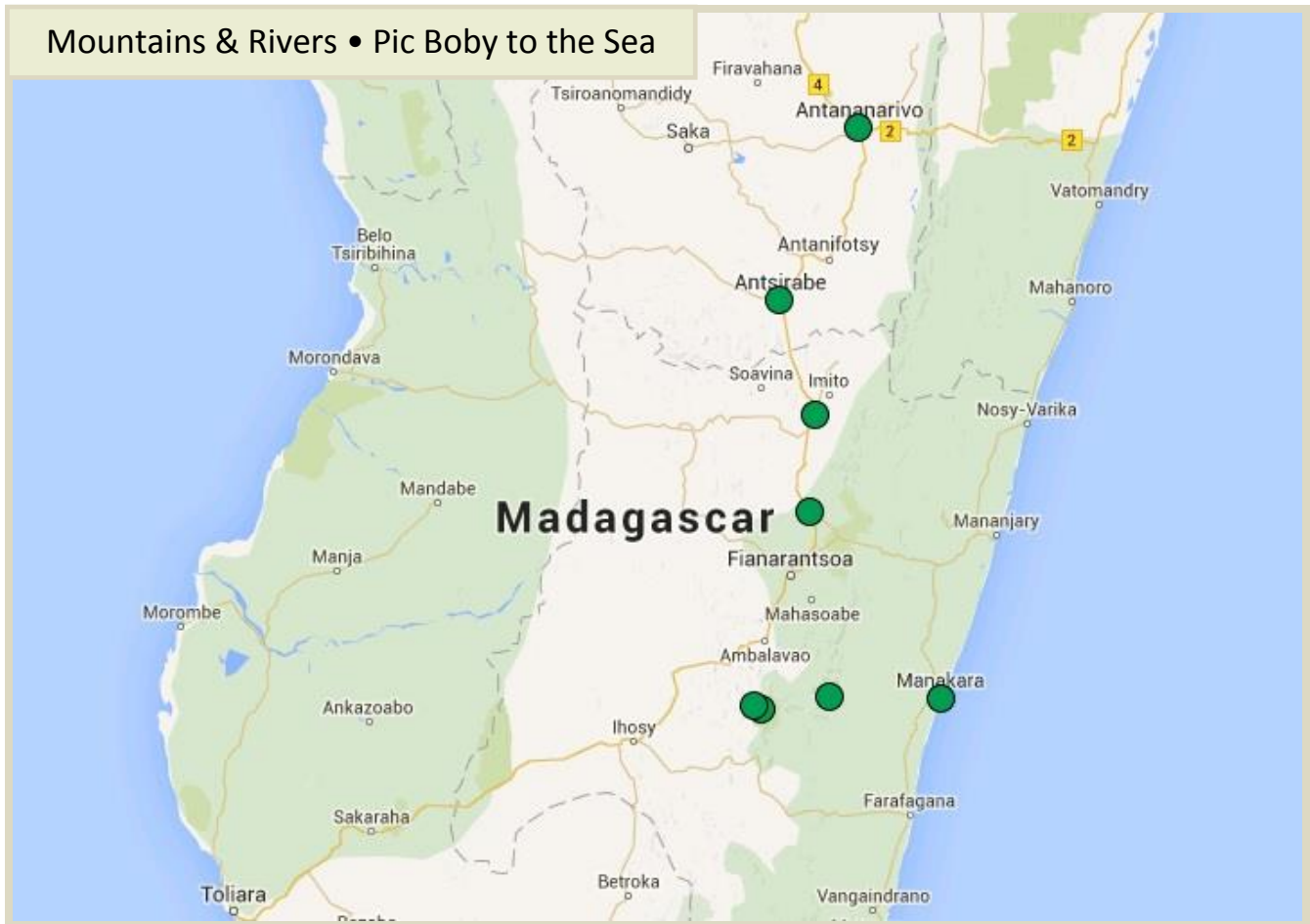
Tour Style	Trekking Adventure
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Antananarivo
Accommodation	Hotel, Camping, Bungalow
Included Meals	13 Breakfasts, 12 Lunches, 12 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Hard

This is an unforgettable trek through this mysterious land. Long series of adventures from the dry western side of the island to the moist eastern tropical rain forests while summiting Madagascar's second highest mountain in the country at 2658m – the mighty Pic Boby. This is not an easy stroll through gentle backcountry. We're tackling the steepest terrains on sometimes poorly marked trails, the pace has to be steady with long days on the trails, mostly camping out, we could face some serious white-water, so not for the feint hearted! That doesn't mean you need Indiana Jones type of profile, but be ready to get out of your usual comfort zone - The price for an exceptional adventure, something you won't ever forget.

Overview

Madagascar is a one-off; there is no other place like it. Its landscapes, animals and plants are simply extraordinary! Near the equator with an astonishing array of habitats, ranging from rainforests to deserts and from mountain tops to mangrove swamps, it is one of the most important countries for biodiversity on the planet. The tropical climate is a perfect host to the process of nature and, like nowhere else, the variety and richness of life has flourished.

Map



Itinerary

DAY 1: ANTANANARIVO & AMBOHIMHASOA (D)

After arriving in Antananarivo we will head to Ambohimahasoa. Tonight we will spend the night in Lemur's Forest camp/lalatsara Bungalows which are set in a managed forest (within a private eco-reserve).



An ecotourism site situated in the Highlands of Madagascar, the Lemur forest is easily accessible, located beside the N7! In the lemur forest, there is plenty of unspoilt nature, a huge variety of birds, reptiles and orchids and not to forget the 6 species of lemurs and 7 species of chameleons that reside there. There is so much wildlife to see, amongst the beautiful rainforest and the goal of the site is to restore and protect fauna and endemic flora.



Overnight Camp

DAY 2: LEMUR'S FOREST & TSARANORO VALLEY (B,L,D)

This morning we will explore the forests. Several species of lemur can be found here including the Milne Edwards Sifaka. In the afternoon we will drive to Tsaranoro.

Visiting the Tsaranoro Valley is a fantastic opportunity to see Madagascar in all its natural glory. Prepare to be enchanted by the astounding landscapes, stunning red land and the beautiful and awe-inspiring Massif of Andringitra. You will be able to see many kinds of orchids, three sorts of palms including one kind which is endemic to the Andringitra, chameleons, lizards, snakes, batrachians, birds including the famous peregrine falcon as well as the especially friendly Catta (ring-tailed) Lemurs living in small families around the camp. The spectacular rock walls of the massif and the mind-blowingly beautiful valley offer numerous climbing routes and hiking trails and a thriving village which can be visited.



We will also have the chance to visit Tsarasoa, which is the base for our local agents reforestation effort (a passion which is shared (via wood-en-stock) by Pioneer Expeditions). Here we will have the opportunity to visit and see the reforestation effort for ourselves. Depending on the time of year we may also get to plant some young saplings.

Overnight - Camp

DAY 3: ANDRINGITRA MASSIF – PIC BOBY (B,L,D)



We will spend today exploring this stunning area on foot and meeting all the locals. A full 6hr hike with steep trails and great boulder gardens on the way to Pic Bobby.



Overnight - Camp



DAY 4: ANDRIAMPOTSY & ANTANIFOTSY VIA PIC BOBY (B,L,D)

This is summit day and another 6 hour steep descent trek. Tonight we will be sleeping around 1600m at a simple hotel - Tranogasy.

Overnight – Hotel Tranogasy

DAY 5: CROSSING HIGHLANDS (B,L,D)



Today will we experience a full day crossing highlands, rural backcountry, rice fields, zebu herds, small clusters of mud red houses and great mountainous backgrounds.

Overnight

DAY 6: TREKKING TOUR (B,L,D)

Today we will reach the eastern rainforest limit and will have to dive in, hardly following overgrown trails.



Overnight

DAY 7: RAINFOREST TREKKING (B,L,D)

That's a full day deep in rain forest and muddy/slippery/steep trails. Somehow we might reach the edge of it and merge in a spectacular circus of waterfalls.

Overnight

DAY 8: ANKARIMBELO (B,L,D)

We will begin trekking at a more relaxing pace to reach the village of Ankarimbelo and ready ourselves for the next leg of the journey. Tonight we will sleep on a sandy beach along Matatana River.

Overnight



DAY 9 & 10: EXCITING PADDLING (B,L,D)

We will be experiencing two full days on the Matatana river. If you have never paddled before you'll have to carry/line the boats on quite a few occasions. The rapids are not excessively difficult but a few ones do need a bit of experience and/or good self control. The river remains mostly navigable for most and we can eventually set the less experienced ones with a guide.

Some longer portages will be handled by locals.

Overnight

DAY 11: MANAKARA (B,L,D)

We reach a potential pull out about midday and literally stuff the whole expedition in the back of a lorry. The tracks take us down to Vohipeno on the east coast and off to Manakara. Hotel Parthenay will be most welcome after those long nights out.

Overnight - Hotel

DAY 12: AMBOSITRA (B,L,D)

Today we will drive back to Ambositra.

Ambositra is a city in central Madagascar. High on a plateau surrounded by misty green peaks, It is also the arts-and-crafts capital of Madagascar and there are over 25 artisans' shops, selling woodcarvings, raffia baskets, polished stones, marquetry (objects inlaid with colored woods) and paintings. Ambositra is a picturesque and lively town, full of tall red-brick Betsileo houses lining its crooked streets.

Overnight - Hotel L'Artisan

DAY 13: ANTSIRABE & FLIGHT HOME (B,L)

We can stroll a couple of hours before setting off and discover the woodworks of local craftsmen. We'll have an early lunch in Antsirabe before heading back to Tana in time for your flight home.

Antsirabe is a tidy, well maintained town which combines the tranquility of a small European provincial town with the exuberance of traditional Malagasy buildings. The third largest city in Madagascar, Antsirabe is known for its relatively cool climate (as the rest of the central region of the country), its industry and the high concentration of pulled rickshaws.



NB: *This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions. We can also tailor itineraries to suit your exact requirements. When driving times are given, this is only an indication. It aims to reflect the actual driving time (and doesn't include stops, lunch, traffic). The road journeys, while often long, are one of the great ways to experience Madagascar. There is so much life on the road and many photographic opportunities along the way from a natural and people perspective.*



Important Information

INCLUDED

- 🌍 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🌍 Accommodation as described
- 🌍 Tea/ Coffee / Water while camping
- 🌍 All equipment
- 🌍 Porters
- 🌍 English speaking guide from day 1 – day 13
- 🌍 All transfers
- 🌍 All entrance fees
- 🌍 All camping equipment

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned
- International flights
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic and soft drinks (water included)
- Sleeping Bag

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION

7+ hours

SEASON

April - December

BEST TIME TO GO

September – December

GROUP SIZE

From 2 – 8 people

RESPONSABILITY

As part of our commitment to responsible travel and in conjunction with Woodenstock.org we finance a tree nursery and orchard in Italavina – which is a long term reforestation project.

EXPEDITION SCHEDULE

This is run as a private trip, so we are able to suit your dates and requirements. We can also tailor the trip to suit.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Difficult' level (7+ of activities per day). This means that you will need an above average level of fitness.

