



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 Pic Boby
- 🌿 Rural highlands & Malagasy backcountry
- 🌿 Full immersion in tropical rain forest
- 🌿 Exciting, challenging paddling
- 🌿 Peak to Ocean

TOUR ESSENTIALS

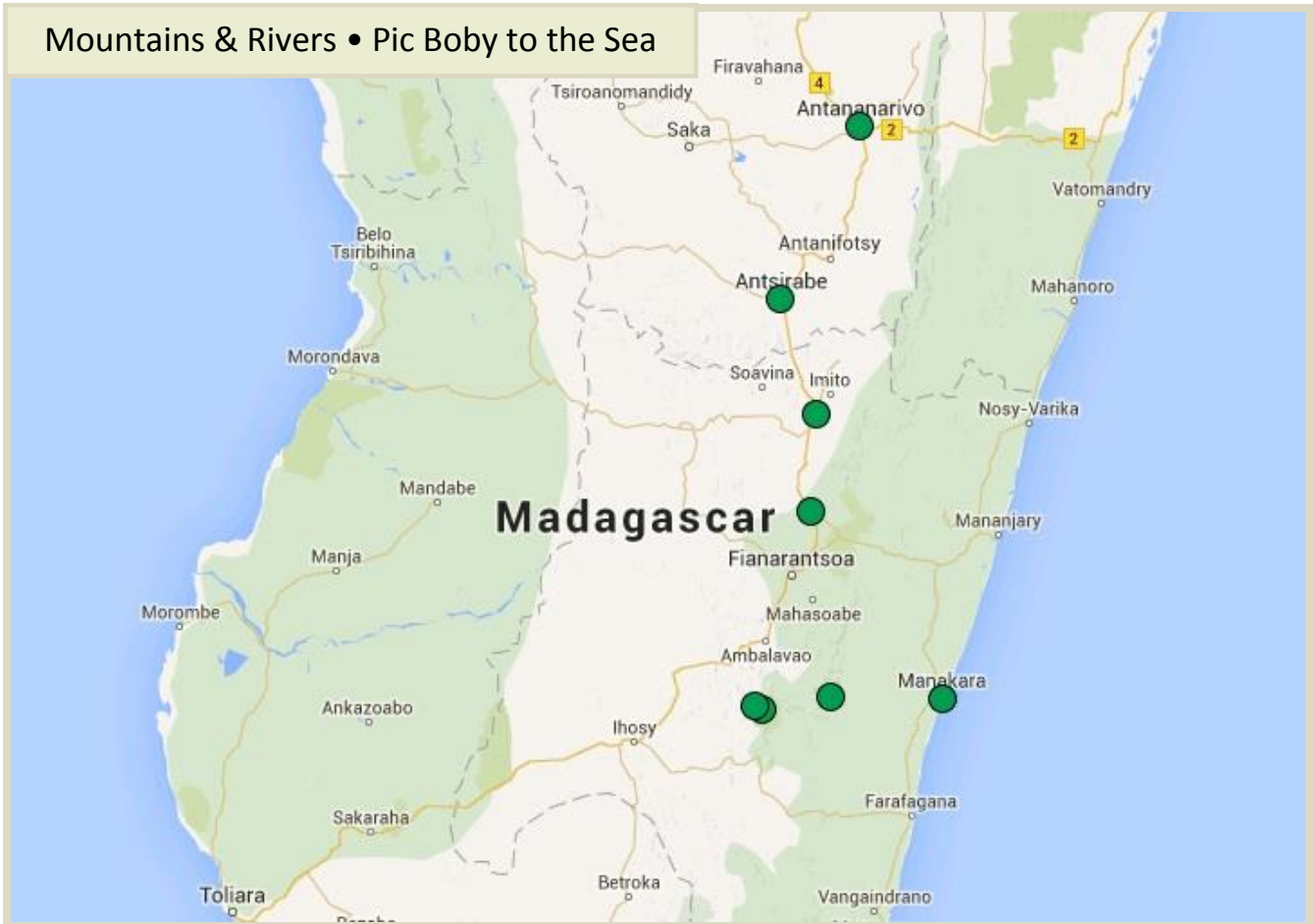
Tour Style	Trekking Adventure
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Antananarivo
Accommodation	Hotel, Camping, Bungalow
Included Meals	13 Breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Hard

This is our most complete trek through this still 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. 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 & AMBOHIMAHASOA (D)

After arriving in Antananarivo we will head to Ambohimahaso. 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.

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 Boby.

Overnight Camp



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

This is summit day and another 6 hr leg with lots of steep descent as we sleep around 1600m at a simple hotel Tranogasy.

Overnight Hotel

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

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 rain forest limit and will have to wade 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)

A more relaxing pace to reach the village of Ankarimbelo and ready ourselves for the next leg of the journey. I mean rigging the boats, maybe do a couple of safety drills. Tonight we will sleep on a sandy beach along Matatana River.

Overnight.

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

Two full days on the river. If you have never paddled before you'll have to carry/line the boats on quite a few occasions. 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,D)

We can stroll a couple of hours before setting off and discover the wood works of local craftsmen. Early lunch in Antsirabe and art market around 3pm. Dinner somewhere around Ivato and airport transfer.

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.



Important Information

INCLUDED

- 🌍 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🌍 Accommodation as described
- 🌍 Water
- 🌍 English speaking guide from day 2 – day 14
- 🌍 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	2 – 5 hours
SEASON	April - December
BEST TIME TO GO	September – December
GROUP SIZE	The price is based on a private trip for a family of 4.

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.
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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.
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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 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.
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