MADAGASCAR

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

ADVENTURE • NATURE • DISCOVERY

This brochure includes some of our most popular trip itineraries
- all of our trips can be tailored to suit
Contact us for more infomation

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

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Key - When to go.....
: Great
: Good
: Ok

MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is one of the most diverse and interesting countries you will ever visit. Its isolation from the African continent has ensured a unique fauna and flora as well as an amazing human cultural heritage.

More than 200,000 forms of life, either flora or fauna, have been recorded on this island. Among them, 150,000 can not be found anywhere else in the world. This unique biodiversity is protected by 19 national parks and numerous special reserves within Madagascar

Its jungles teem with extraordinary wildlife exemplified by the lemur and the fosa – both endemic to Madagascar. Madagascar is home to nearly 60 species of lemur & sifaka - ranging in size from the 25-gram pygmy mouse lemur to the nearly 4' tall indri. It is also home to over 50% the worlds' species of chameleons among other unusual animals

Madagascar is over twice the size of the UK. Its unique geology from the rainforests on the east of the island to the dry spiny forests in the South, and the Tsingy in the North West make for wonderful opportunities for pioneering adventures.

Travel in Madagascar is not particularly easy. Many of the roads are not much more than dirt tracks so a 4WD is essential. Domestic flights are not hugely reliable. When travelling to Madagascar you need to be prepared for the unexpected and enjoy the adventure.

Along Madagascars endless coastline there are world class opportunities for diving, surfing and sea kayaking or simply to relax on one if its many stunning beaches. Pioneer have identified a range of adventurous activities from trekking through dense tropical jungle to kayaking and rafting some of Madagascars largest rivers.

Cap d'Ambre
Montagne D'Ambre NP
Antsiranana
Montagne de Francais
Nosy Mitsio
Ankarana NP
Nosy Be
Ambilobe
Vohemar
Ambanja
Sambava
Bealanana
Marojejy NP
Andapa
Maroantsetra
Ankarafantsika
Nosy Mangabe
Mahajanga
Mandritsara
Cap Saint André
Soalala
Marovoay
Masoala NP
Soanierana Ivongo
Ile Sainte Marie
Amparafaravola
Mananara Avaratra
Tsingy de Bemaraha
MADAGASCAR
Ambatondrazaka
Maintirano
Toamasina
Antsalova
ANTANANARIVO
Soavinandriana
Manjakandriana
Andasibe / Mantadia NP
Avenue des Baobabs
Faratsiho
Antanifotsy
Antsirabe
Mahanoro
Morondava
Fandriana
Kirindy NP
Ambositra
Nosy Varika
Mananjary
Manja
Fianarantsoa
Ranomafana NP
Morombe
INDIAN
Manakara
Ihosy
Andringitra NP
Isalo NP
Farafangana
Ifaty
Anakao
Tulear
OCEAN
Betioky
Beraketa
Amboasary
Tolanaro
Berenty NP
Ambovombe

Pioneer Expeditions strives to make the remote accessible, the challenging achieveable, and the tailor-made affordable.

Who we are

- We are authentic, off the beaten track adventure specialists. Providing carefully selected and inspiring destinations for discerning travellers. Tailor-made trips are our speciality.
- Established in 2006, Pioneer began from a background of organising major international expeditions. We are able to utilise our extensive network of like minded partners to create bespoke adventures all over the world.
- We want to enable people to experience travel in an original and interesting way, to become 'Pioneers' themselves.

Our aim

- We are a well established company that strives to create exceptional experiences for all of our clients.
- We like to listen, create and share.
- We want you to return from a Pioneer trip feeling inspired by the environments, communities and wildlife you have encountered.

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

How we work

- We spend time constantly researching and improving our trips. We work in Madagascar with our local contacts to ensure the very best experience for our clients.
- Pioneer specialises in leading small groups and tailor-made trips which allows us to access remote areas in unique and original ways.
- We work hard to ensure our adventures maintain social and environmental responsibilities. We contribute towards improving the lives of local people; conserving & replenishing the natural environment and preserving the cultural heritage of our destinations. These practices allow our clients to get closer to the local culture, which we believe contributes to a more meaningful experience.

Why choose Pioneer?

Personalised experience; we will work with you to create a tailor made itinerary so you see the world your way, in your time, at your level of activity, and within your budget.

Inspired & **O**riginal adventures borne out of our expedition background.

Nature; get up close and personal to our wonderful natural world in some of the most remote parts of the globe.

Extraordinary **E**xpertise; enjoy the right sort of leadership from local guides with unparalleled local knowledge.

Responsible; know that you are treating the local people and their environment with fairness and respect.

NATURE GUIDED SOUTH WEST

WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Land of the Lemurs

On this tour of the South West we visit some of the best national parks in Madagascar accompanied by a naturalist guide to ensure the best chance of enjoying the unique flora and fauna. This trip can be combined with Avenue des baobabs + Tsingy des Bemaraha.

Highlights

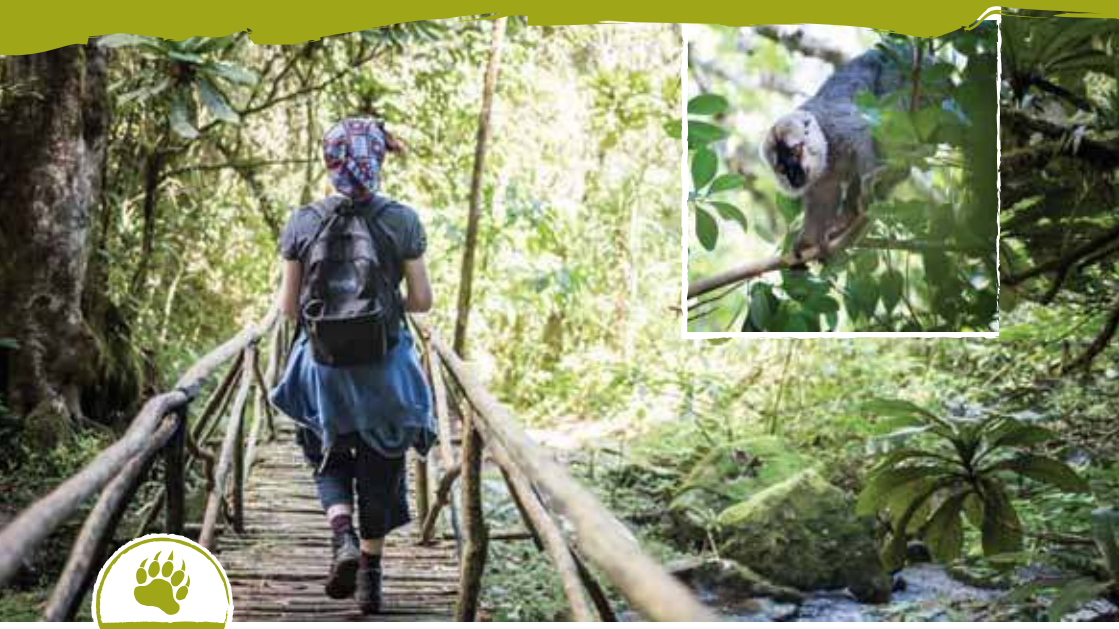
- Explore Ranomafana National Park – home of 12 lemur species
- Experience Andasibe & Isalo National Parks
- Close lemur encounters including the largest lemur – the Indri
- Fully guided trip

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

NATURE GUIDED SOUTH EAST



WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Wildlife & Adventure in Mada's South East

We will explore a combination of rivers, forests & mountains through very different landscapes, cultures, climates and biotopes. The itinerary provides a great chance to enjoy the natural highlights of the red island on foot, canoe, train and by car. All accompanied by a naturalist guide.

Highlights

- Opportunity to see the Milne Edwards Sifaka in Ranomafana
- Train ride through remote Madagascar
- 2 day river trip to get into the heart of the country
- Explore the stunning highlands

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

MADAGASCARS' MAGNIFICENT NORTH

WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

Explore Northern Madagascar

Starting from the last highland forest, we travel through the rugged north west, through many diverse environments and national parks. Accompanied by a naturalist guide you will get the chance to see much of the unique wildlife and environments that Madagascar has to offer.

Highlights

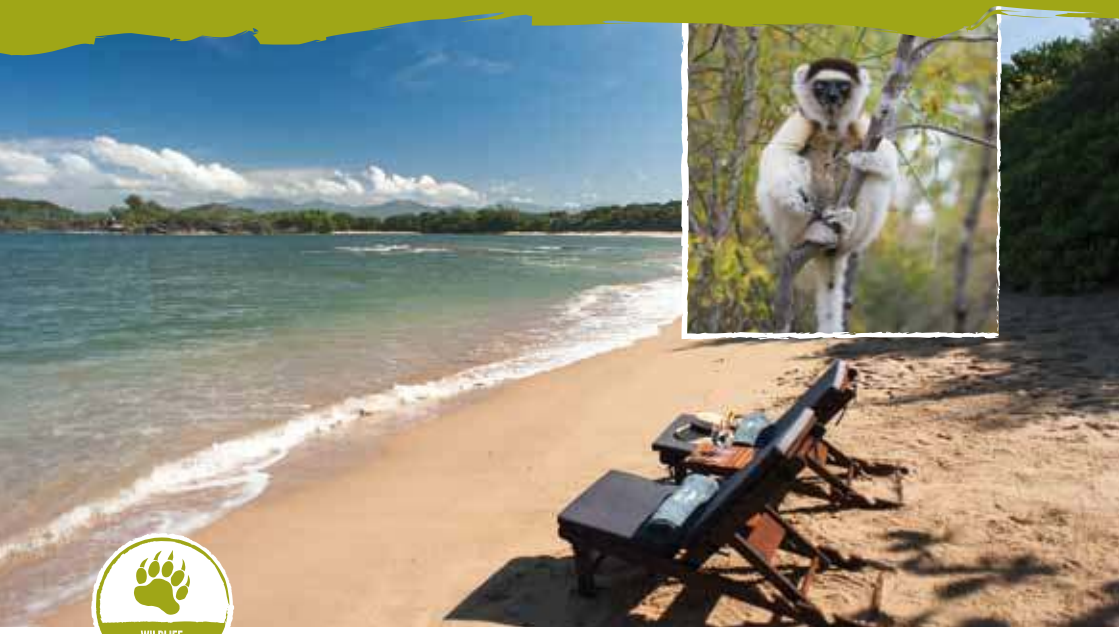
- Visit 5 of Madagascar's national parks/ reserves
- Visit highland, lowland and rain forests
- Explore the tsingy of Ankarana
- Fully guided trip exploring the wild north west

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

LUXURY MADAGASCAR SOUTH EAST



WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

A great trip combining two of South Eastern Madagascar's most stunning areas.

A luxury trip in Southern Madagascar offering a stylish relaxed experience. After 5 days animal watching, trekking & enjoying the local culture in a unique lodge, you will fly to the azure blue waters and the powder soft beaches of Manafiafy. A perfect mix of beach and jungle await you on this unique experience.

When to go

Highlights

- Discover the rainforest's weird and wonderful nocturnal creatures.
- Kayak into the mangroves and wetlands.
- Whale and bird watching.
- Relax in your hammock overlooking the Manafiafy beach.

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Families
- ✓ Solo travellers

SOUTHERN TREKKING AND RAFTING EXPEDITION

KAYAKING & RAFTING ADVENTURES

Madagascar on foot and canoe

A combination of mountains, wildlife and adventure in southern Madagascar. Both on foot and by river, you'll have the chance to explore these isolated areas and encounter some of the locals who live off the land - from farmers to saphire miners. A truly unique adventure !

Highlights

- Trek the mountains of Andringitra and visit local villages
- Lemur spotting
- Canoe & trek along the Benahy river in the canyonlands of Madagascar
- Relax by the Mozambique Channel

When to go

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

MASOALA KAYAKING AND TREKKING

KAYAKING & RAFTING ADVENTURES

Where the rainforest meets the sea

A stunning northern Madagascan adventure, exploring this natural paradise. You can kayak the forested coastline, deserted tropical islands, pristine mangroves and shady rivers overhung by primary rainforest. You can trek the remote Masoala peninsula and snorkel in the azure blue sea.

Highlights

- Sea Kayaking at its best
- Swimming & snorkelling in crystal clear waters
- Explore the remote Masoala peninsula
- Enjoy the wildlife of N.E Madagascar
- Relax in luxury tented accommodation

When to go

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples

EAST COAST TREKKING AND CANOE EXPEDITION

TREKKING ADVENTURES

Off the beaten track in wild Madagascar

A unique expedition trekking 3 days through remote forest and farmland before reaching the Sahatandra river where we spend the next few days riding the rapids, camping and relaxing along the way. There is an optional beach extension at Mahambo (a great surfing destination).

Highlights

- Fully supported trekking
- Observing, from rafts and on foot, the unique endemic flora
- Trekking in remote rainforest and farmland
- Experience wild camping en-route

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

EASTERN CLIMBING TREK

TREKKING ADVENTURES

Intense and varied trek !

This is a great trip for fit trekkers. We trek through the highlands of Madagascar - steep terrain , majestic mountains , dense forest , rockland and stunning waterfalls. We also have a relaxing couple of days canoeing down the Mananjary river.

Highlights

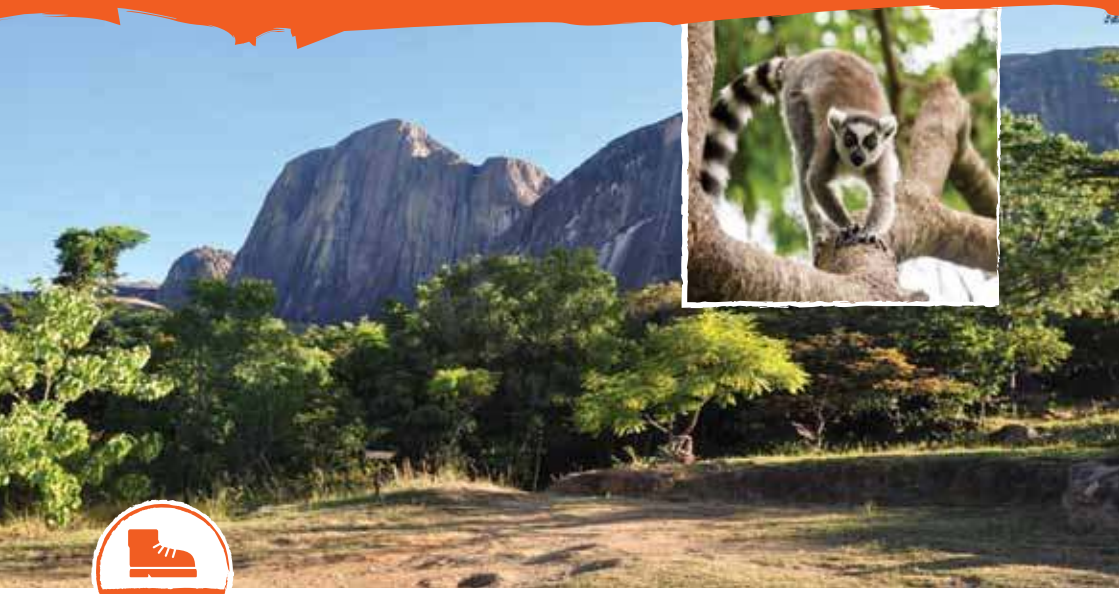
- Trek & climb Madagascar's mountainous regions
- Visit local villages
- Lemur spotting at lalantsara
- Croc spotting on the Mananjary river

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS - PIC BOBY TO THE SEA



TREKKING ADVENTURES

Mountains and Rivers

This is fantastic trek through this mysterious land. A long series of adventures-from the dry western side of the island to the moist eastern tropical rain forests, summiting Madagascar's second highest mountain (2658m) en-route. A stunning and challlenging expedition.

Highlights

- Summiting Pic Boby
- Rural highlands & Malagasy backcountry
- Full immersion in tropical rain forest
- Exciting, challenging paddling on the Matatanana river

When to go

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples

SOUTH WEST FAMILY ADVENTURE

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

Lemurs, baobabs and beaches

We visit some of Madagscar's best national parks and reserves and explore small towns and local communities. We get the chance to see many of Madagascar's unique lemurs, chameleons and wildlife before ending up at Ifaty with its clear waters, white sands and safe beaches.

Highlights

- Lemur spotting in Ranomafana National Park
- Rock scrambling at Anja Reserve
- Explore Isalo National Park & swim in a natural pool
- Beach bungalows at Ifaty

When to go

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Families

NORTH COAST ADVENTURE

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

A action-packed trip in the Wild North

Starting from the highlands, we move on through the green valley of Sambirano to the white sands of Diego Suarez. Rafting , canoeing , hiking in forest , and exploring the Tsingy at Ankarana you'll get plenty of excitement on this 2 week adventure.

Highlights

- Canoe the Sambirano river, camping on the riverside
- 3 day trek in Ankarana
- Flora and fauna at Montagne D'ambre & Ankarana NP
- Relax on the beaches of Sakalava

When to go

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Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Scheduled small groups
- ✓ Couples
- ✓ Solo travellers

FAMILY ADVENTURE NORTH

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

Exploring 'the rugged North'

On this trip, we explore the Northern area of Madagascar - on foot and 4WD to get into the true soul of this unique and diverse country. We stay in eco hotels , huts on the beach and tree houses - a great introduction into wild north of Madagascar.

Highlights

- Raft to Gondwana Island
- Lemur spotting in 4 National Parks
- Multi-actvity trip with culture, adventure and wildlife
- Relax on the white beaches of Sakalava

When to go

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Families

LUXURY HONEYMOON

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

Luxury honeymoon on a heavenly island in Madagascar

A perfect mix of jungle and beach await you on this unique honeymoon experience. From the stunning Masoala Forest Eco-Lodge where you spend your time kayaking , trekking and relaxing, to the azure blue waters and the powder soft beaches of Tsarabanjina.

Highlights

- Exploring the beaches and coastal forest of Masoala National Park
- Swim in the crystal water of the cascades of the Tampolo River
- Stay at Madagascars most exclusive beach resort set on its own island.

When to go

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples

FAMILY ADVENTURE HOLIDAY SOUTH EAST

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

Rivers, mountains & wildlife

An exciting adventure combining forests and mountain trails, waterfalls, camping and eco-lodges. From canoeing on the Mananatana river, rock scrambling in Andringitra and lemur spotting in Ranomafanana - you will see much of the unique flora and fauna that Madagascar is famous for.

Highlights

- Visit Malagasy villages & mix with the locals
- Rock scrambling in Andringitra
- 2 day river adventure canoeing down Mananatana river.
- Lemur spotting in Ranomafana

When to go

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Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Families

ADVENTURE HONEYMOON

MULTI-ACTIVITY ADVENTURES

Adventurous honeymoon and idyllic beach resort in Madagascar

The itinerary provides a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the natural highlights of the "red island" on foot, by canoe, train and by 4WD. After your adventure you relax at a stunning luxury eco resort – all honeymoon itineraries can be tailored to suit.

Highlights

- Perfect mix of adventure and wildlife ; activity and relaxation
- Unique train ride through Madagascar
- Canoe the Faraony river
- Enjoy the stunning private beach & nature reserve at Anjajavy

When to go

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples

MATSIATRA RAFTING DESCENT

EXTREME & SIGNATURE ADVENTURES

Raft the Matsiatra River

A stunning whitewater rafting adventure on the Matsiatra river which is in a remote area of South West Madagascar. This little explored river provides a great backdrop for an adventure like no other , deep in the canyonlands with chameleons and crocs for company.

Highlights

- Rafting descent of the little explored Matsiatra river.
- Observe at close hand from rafts and on foot the endemic flora and fauna
- Relax at the end of our adventurous journey at a luxurious beach resort

When to go

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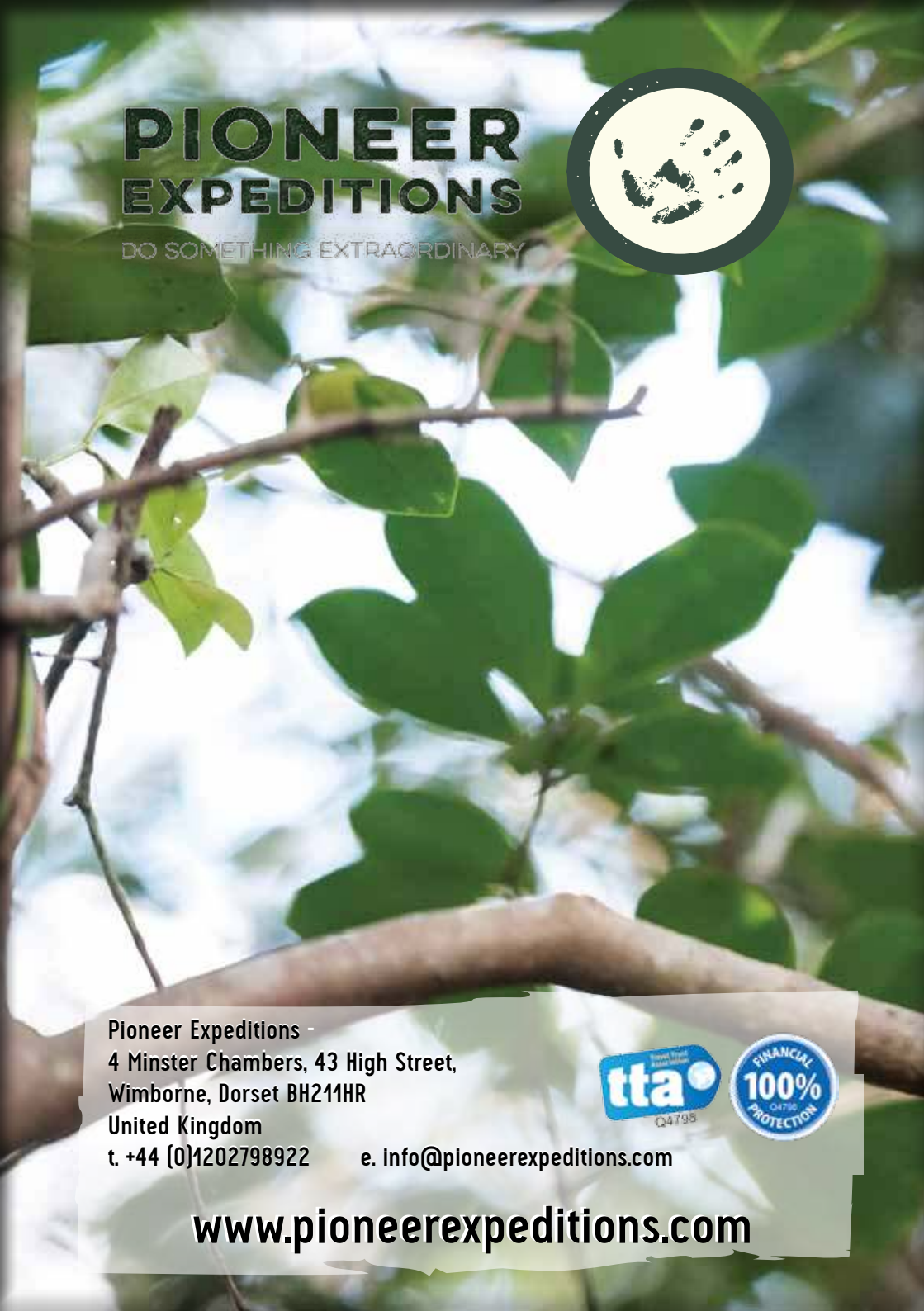
Perfect for...

- ✓ Tailor-made and private groups
- ✓ Couples



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