



FAMILY ADVENTURE + BEACHES

Exploration and Relaxation

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

North Madagascar • Family Adventure

15 DAYS • 14 NIGHTS

Antananarivo – Andasibe NP - Montagne des Français – Montagne d’Ambre NP – Ankarana NP – Ankify – Nosy Sakatia

This itinerary can be tailored to suit your exact requirements

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lemur spotting in 3 of Madagascar’s outstanding National Parks and reserves including **Andasibe**.
- Experience an adventure through the striking alien-like fields of spiky tsingy in **Ankarana**. A geological phenomenon and a sight to behold.
- Uncover the thriving wildlife, crater lakes, waterfalls and rich rainforest of **Montagne D’Ambre**, known as the region’s water tower.
- Perfect beaches & paradise ending to your trip at the tranquil, white sand beaches of **Ankify & Sakalava**.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Family Nature and Beach
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Nosy Be
Accommodation	Hotel, Tree house, Eco Lodge
Included Meals	14 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 13 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium
Group Size	Run as Private Departure

LEMURS, TRAILS, TSINGY & TREEHOUSES



The perfect mix with a week of adventure, wildlife and trekking through National parks, followed by a week relaxing on the stunning island of Nosy Sakatia for snorkelling (with turtles!!) and relaxation. Includes a night in a treehouse. Become a part of the adventurous minority as you journey in Madagascar’s far north, experiencing incredible nature and the most remarkable scenery including Tsingy, baobabs and waterfalls. You’ll have the opportunity to spot plenty of lemurs, chameleons and turtles on this fun filled family adventure.

DAY 1: Tongasoa eto Antananarivo!

After arriving in Antananarivo (or Tana, as it is known by the locals), you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Antananarivo is the capital and largest city in Madagascar. It is buzzing with activity and full of people flooding the streets, selling everything you could imagine! Tana (as the locals call it) resembles a Mediterranean hill town and exploring its rich cultural and architectural sites on foot is relatively easy (as long as you are willing to climb hundreds of ancient stone steps) It is a hectic city though and we would recommend a driver / guide if you want to explore!



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
N/A



Approx. Distance:
Airport Transfer



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 2 : Heading to Andasibe National Park to experience our first encounter with lemurs!



This morning we will set off to the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (previously known as Perinet) where you will spend 1 ½ days exploring this wonderful environment. En-route we will stop at a farm specialising in Madagascan reptiles and butterflies, before arriving at our hotel. Depending on time of arrival, this afternoon or tomorrow you will get a chance to stroll around the private island reserve of Vakona Lodge with the opportunity to spot plenty of lemurs. This evening, take a twilight/nocturnal walk, looking out for the nocturnal species of lemur by catching their eyes in the torchlight.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
150km (4hrs Driving)



Activity:
Wildlife Encounters

DAY 3 : Discovering the beauty and wildlife of the unforgettable Andasibe National Park

Today you will be able to explore this area including visiting Analamazaotra (Andasibe NP)

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (formerly known as Perinet) is a 155 square kilometer protected area, about 150 km east of Antananarivo (approx. a three hour drive) consisting principally of primary growth forest. These are home to the teddy bear-like Indri, the largest of Madagascar's lemur species, as well 11 lemur species in total and a wide array of bird life too. Listening to the piercing yet melancholy cry of the Indri in the morning is an evocative experience and for those who are prepared to follow them through the thick rainforest, the reward is often a close-up view of these beautiful creatures. This National Park was inscribed in the World Heritage Site in 2007 as part of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Walking and Wildlife



DAY 4 : Andasibe to Tana to Montagne des Francais

Today you will transfer back to Tana where you will catch your flight to Antsiranana (Diego Suarez). Upon arrival in Diego you will be met by your new guide and transfer to Montagne des Français, just a short 1 ½ hour by road, but a very different environment.

*The Montagne des Français reserve protects deciduous dry forest characteristic of the north of Madagascar. Much of the forest is on a calcareous massif that has been eroded into Tsingy. This is one of the best places to see one of the most beautiful baobabs, *Adansonia suarezensis*. Montagne de Francais is part of the larger Ramena protected area complex and is home to fish eagles and crowned lemurs.*



Tonight we will have a unique experience here as we will overnight in the tree bungalows – literally huts built in trees!



Overnight:
Tree Bungalows



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
3hrs drive
1 hr flight
1 ½ hrs drive



Activity:
Travelling

DAY 5 : Montagne des Francais – Montagne d'Ambre

This morning we will explore this reserve. After lunch we will head to Joffreville, the entrance to the Montagne d'Ambre National Park



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
1 – 2 hrs driving



Activity:
Wildlife and Exploring

DAY 6 : Amber Mountain & Ankarana

Today we will enjoy a trek in the Montagne d'Ambre National Park

This stunning National Park is comprised of a huge tropical forest with waterfalls and volcanic lakes. This islet of verdant forest is a haven of freshness that escaped the stuffy heatwave of this region. There are numerous animals that inhabit this national park including the ring-tailed mongoose, the fossa and 8 lemurs (which are not always easy to see). It is also home to 75 bird species – 35 of them are endemic, 60 reptiles (from leaf tailed gecko's to a number of chameleon species, 35 frogs and 40 butterflies. Due to its relative proximity to Diego, this park can get quite busy (by Madagascan standards) in the high season, however it is really worth visiting.



We will have some lunch and then head South to Ankarana National Park

We will stay at a lodge just outside the park.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 4 hours



Activity:
Trekking and Wildlife

DAY 7 : Exploring and unearthing the striking landscapes of **Ankarana Reserve**



Today will be spent exploring this amazing park. The trails are not easy but are feasible for anyone with a moderate level of fitness and we recommend visiting this park in the dry season (May-Nov). With younger children we can recommend a shorter route in the National park avoiding rope bridges.

Ankarana Special Reserve covers 18,220ha and is known for its limestone karst pinnacles called Tsingy along with its extensive cave system and network of underground rivers. Ankarana possibly has the highest density of primates of any forest (with 11 species of lemurs being found here) and here you may see the crowned lemur, Sanford's brown lemur, Perrieri's (black sifaka) lemur, the northern sportive lemur and dwarf lemurs as well as a variety of chameleons and leaf-

tailed Uroplatus gecko and great flora.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Trekking and Wildlife

DAY 8 : Hit the road towards the **Ankify**

This morning we head to Ankify. After lunch in Ambanja, we will take to our mountain bikes as we explore this area and the Cacao plantation on 2 wheels. At the end of the cycle we will head to the coast of Ankify (a short hop – approx. 20 minutes from Ambanja).

Tonight we will stay at lovely beach bungalows.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
160km (5hrs Driving)



Activity:
Culture and Cycling

DAY 9 : ANKIFY – NOSY BE – NOSY SAKATIA

Your driver and guide will leave you this morning as a private boat will take you to Nosy Sakatia.

Nosy Sakatia, an island away from an island is a nature's paradise. -

Situated on the west coast of Nosy Be, Nosy Sakatia boasts unspoiled tropical flora and fauna. There are no roads, only foot paths on this small island of 6.5 km long and 2 km wide at its widest point. It is perfect for one to wonder and explore its beauty and deserted beaches. The island is fringed by spectacular coral reefs to be enjoyed by snorkelers and scuba divers alike.



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(We recommend Sakatia Lodge as a laid back beach destination, on an island just off Nosy Be. There are however many other options if you prefer somewhere with a pool, on Nosy Be or on one of the other nearby islands).

Overnight Hotel

Sakatia Lodge
www.sakatia.co.za



Please note, while you are at Nosy Sakatia, your time is at your leisure and you are not accompanied by a guide. Any activities you choose to do are at your own risk and have not been assessed by Pioneer Expeditions. We have stayed at the lodge and everything is professionally run. The dive centre is NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors) and DAN (Divers Alert Network) affiliated.

Please also there is no pontoon at Nosy Sakatia – so when disembarking the boat you can expect to get wet up until your knees. We recommend wearing shorts and sandals for the transfer.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
2 hr boat ride



Activity:
Boat, snorkeling, relaxing

DAY 10-14 : NOSY SAKATIA

Days at leisure - Full diving facilities are available at this lodge, you can also snorkel from the shore (where sea turtles feed on the sea grass). There are plenty of excursions you can opt to do, or simply relax on the beach.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
varies



Activity:
Boat, snorkeling, relaxing

DAY 15: End of Trip

Transfer to airport in time for flight home.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Onward Journey/Flight Home



NB: This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions. 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.

On this particular trip there is a minimum age of 8 and some previous outdoors experience is useful.

We can also tailor itineraries to suit your exact requirements including catering for younger children

If this trip isn't quite what you are looking for, we can **tailor itineraries** to suit your exact requirements.

GETTING AROUND

- Transport will consist of 4x4, to give you the most authentic, off-the-beaten track experience. These vehicles are best at tackling the challenging roads that Madagascar primarily consists of.
- Madagascar is notorious for the unreliability of its domestic flights in terms of time. The flights schedules are always subject to change at anytime and can experience cancellations, which are not ideal when following a schedule! ; For this reason we tend to travel by road for the most part.
- Distances and times will of course be lengthy due to the vastness of the island and lack of good-quality road systems throughout the country. However, this all adds to the adventurousness of any Madagascar trip; but is definitely something to be aware of whilst travelling around Madagascar.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included

- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Accommodation as described
- English speaking Madagascan guide D2 – D9
- Local guides within the national parks
- Driver and vehicle D2 – D9
- All transfers
- Internal flight ticket / boat to Nosy Sakatia
- All entrance fees

Not Included

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Tips
- Personal expenses



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EXAMPLE ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night 1	Antananarivo	Hotel	Relais des Plateaux
Night 2 & 3	Andasibe	Hotel	Karibou Lodge
Night 4	Montagne des Français	Tree Bungalows	Tree Bungalow in Jungle
Night 5	Joffreville	Hotel	Nature Lodge
Night 6 & 7	Ankarana	Hotel	Ankarana Lodge
Night 8	Ankify	Beach Bungalow	Le Baobab
Night 9-14	Nosy Sakatia	Bungalows	Sakatia Lodge



WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID...

"Fantastic holiday, many thanks for organising everything. The team were excellent, first class - great guiding from Max, he was perfect for our family"

– -R. Sawtell

"The itinerary, guides and drivers were all spot on. We enjoyed all the parks on the way down to Tulear and managed to see most types of Lemur and Sifakas. The highlights of the trip? Too many to mention really."

–R. Walmsley



Family Adventure North

EXTENSION EXAMPLES

Feel free to **contact us** for more information on all of our Madagascar Extensions. Alternatively, browse through our extension document, available from our website.

1. An adventurous trip ending in paradise with our spectacular **Island Hopping Trip** around **Nosy Be**

Why not add a sublime Island Hopping adventure onto your Madagascar trip and further your time in Madagascar with something a little different. This unique extension combines sunsets, cocktails, white-sandy beaches, swimming, snorkelling, Madagascar vanilla scented air, heavenly turquoise waters, meals under the stars with journeying on dhows (Madagascan sailing boats), nature walks, wildlife and beach camping.

With the air scented with Madagascan vanilla and tranquil, sparkling clear turquoise water, Nosy be is a charming destination for anyone. There are plenty of hotels and excellent restaurants serving seafood feasts on the sand. The sunset over the beach is unbeatable – a real escape from the hustle and bustle of Madagascan city life. Nosy Be means ‘big island’ in traditional Malagasy language and is a fantastic place to dive and snorkel.



(Email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com for costings and more information on these extensions, as well as even more extension ideas)



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WHEN TO GO...

The majority of our Madagascar trips take place March to December, this is when Madagascar is at its best. The weather and climate can change a lot throughout the year and when you go to experience this remarkable country, depends on your preferences.

Madagascar Autumn: **March - May** (Dry and Warm)

- After the rains have passed. Everything is lush and green and fertile
- March is great in the South West, but some roads in the North and West can still be recovering from the monsoon season.
- April and May is the perfect time to visit. Great wildlife, great weather and not too many tourists.

Madagascar Winter: **June - August** (Dry)

- This ideal season for trekking / activities as is the coolest time in Madagascar. Temperature vary in the different areas but typically around 20 degree C
- Evenings (especially in the highlands) can get very cool at night (10 degrees C)
- Good time for seeing lemurs, but due to the cooler weather smaller mammals and reptile will be less active
- July and August can be busier in the national parks due to school holidays.
- August and September are ideal for keen birdwatchers to visit Madagascar.

Madagascar Spring: **Sept - November** (Dry and Hot)

- September to November is highly popular, as even North Eastern Madagascar is dry now.
- August and September are ideal for keen birdwatchers to visit Madagascar.
- It is hotter with very little rain, great for spotting chameleons and lizards, but quite hot for trekking / activities – in November temperatures start to rise rapidly.
- October is particularly perfect for witnessing baby lemurs.
- Main downside with this time of year is that it is the peak season so national parks are busier with more tourists

Madagascar Summer: **December – March** (Hot and Rainy Season)

- The rains start to come. The North East is still relatively dry in December and we offer many Christmas trips.
- January/February should definitely be avoided as it becomes monsoon season - due to the heavy rainfall causing the already difficult roads to become muddy and impassable. The RN7 is still drivable so the 'classic' Madagascar route is still possible for those who can only travel in this season
- This is the best time of year for orchid lovers



*"My favourite time of year is **May** because the rains have finished so everything is lush and green. You don't see many other tourists as they tend to go in September and October, but everything is just beautiful – it's pretty perfect."*

- **Laurenne Mansbridge**
Pioneer Director



MEET THE GUIDES *of Madagascar*

Our guides are at the forefront of your trip, so it's important you know who will be looking after you and showing you the wonders of this extraordinary country. We pride ourselves on having talented, trustworthy, knowledgeable and caring local guides. We have both Naturalist guides and Adventurist guides who will make your trip even more special. Nobody knows Madagascar quite like them!



MAMY
NATURALIST GUIDE

- Mamy is highly experienced and has been working as a guide since 1996.
- His main interests as a guide are fauna and flora, nature and landscapes, forestry, villages and cultures.
- His specialities are Birdwatching and Wildlife!



HERY
NATURALIST GUIDE

- Hery has worked as a guide since 2006, where he trained in the Ranomafana National Park.
- He has a passion for amphibians and reptiles as well as botany. Hery has a particular interest in Orchids!
- His specialities are in Plants and of course, Wildlife.



TOKY
NATURALIST GUIDE

- Toky has been working a guide since 2014, having previously studied Tourism in Antsirabe.
- His main passions as a guide are: Flora and Fauna, Cultures, Geography and History.
- His specialties lie in Madagascan Culture and Geology as well as Wildlife.



JOE
ADVENTURIST GUIDE

- Following a considerably tough childhood, Joe has been happily and successfully working as a guide since 2005.
- His main passions as an adventurist guide are: rafting, kayaking, sea-kayaking as well as trekking.
- Following many years of experience, Joe's specialty lies in river-based activities and adventures.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activity Duration	2 – 5 hours per day
Season	This region is best explored between May and November
Best Time To Go	Sept – Nov
Responsibility	As part of our commitment to responsible travel and in conjunction with Woodstock.org we finance a tree nursery and orchard in Italavina – which is a long term reforestation project.
Group Departures	We are able to arrange tailor-made private departures between May and November.
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. However, as it is a private trip you can dictate your activity level.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you’re interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night’s accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We’ll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

