



CYCLE MADAGASCAR

From the Highlands to the Coast

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Cycle Madagascar • From the Highlands to the Coast

16 DAYS • 15 NIGHTS

Cycling – 8 days

Antananarivo – Antsirabe – Ambositra – Ranomafana NP –
Sahambavy – Amabalavao – Tsaranoro – Ranohira – Isalo NP – Ifaty
(Optional Extensions: **Beach extension** and/or **Morondava extension**)

This itinerary can be tailored to suit your exact requirements

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike in the outstanding **Ranomafana National Park** – home to **12 lemur species**.
- Cycle as part of a **small group** as we experience a different side of Madagascar in a completely unique way, through **remote villages & sensational settings**.
- Close **unforgettable lemur encounters**. Potential of seeing **Madagascar's largest lemur, the mighty 'Indri'**.
- Experience a perfect ending to your trip in the **stunning Indian Ocean coastal town of Ifaty**.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Cycling Expedition
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Antananarivo
Accommodation	Hotel, Eco-Lodge
Included Meals	15 Breakfasts, 12 Lunches, 12 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium
Group Size	Max. 12 people

PEDALLING THE LAND OF THE LEMURS



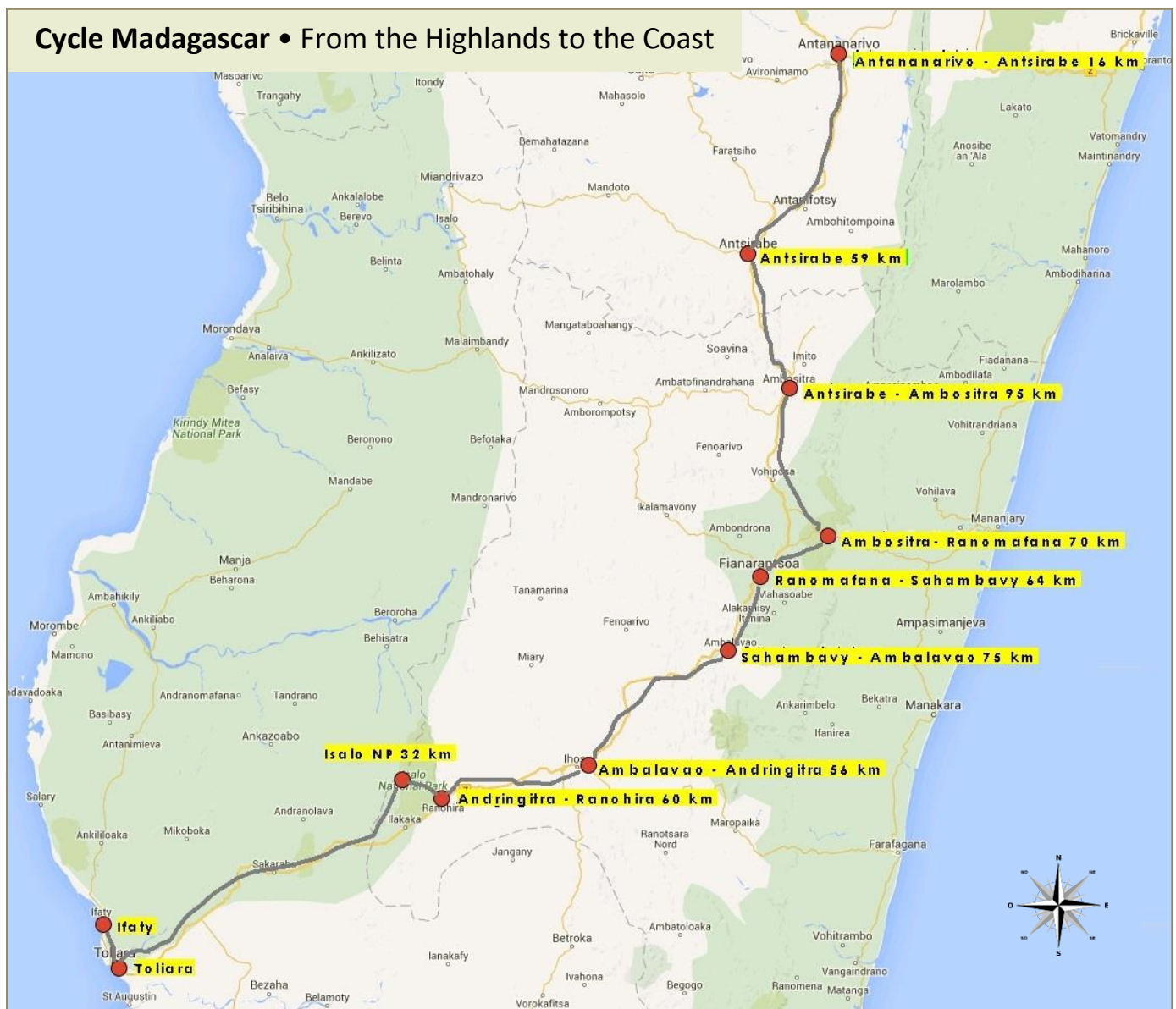
Cycle from the Malagasy highlands to the coast in an unforgettable experience covering 500 km. Get the chance to meet local people, enjoy the unique fauna and flora through villagers and different landscapes. This is a small group trip, however we can also organise private departures to suit. Typically you will be sharing your experiences with between six to 12 like-minded bikers and you'll have a cycling tour manager with you. Whether you are travelling alone or with friends it is a great way to explore Madagascar. Whilst the itinerary is scheduled there is some flexibility. This trip will appeal to travellers of all ages who enjoy meeting new people as well as experiencing new cultures. This itinerary is a well-balanced tour, mixing wildlife, cycling and culture as well as having a mix of tarred road and dirt road.

MADAGASCAR CYCLING *an overview*

This is a small group trip, however we can also organise private departures to suit. Typically you will be sharing your experiences with between six to 12 like-minded bikers and you'll have a cycling tour manager with you. Whether you are travelling alone or with friends it is a great way to explore Madagascar. Whilst the itinerary is scheduled there is some flexibility. This trip will appeal to travellers of all ages who enjoy meeting new people as well as experiencing new cultures. This itinerary is a well-balanced tour, mixing wildlife, cycling and culture as well as having a mix of tarred road and dirt road.

Madagascar is a one-off; there is no other place like it. Its landscapes, animals and plants are simply incredible! 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



WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

We really are one of the few specialists that really “do” off the beaten track and unique adventures in MADAGASCAR. We are driven by a passion for adventure travel and wildlife and Madagascar is one of our main specialities. We know it inside-out, and continuously collaborate with our local partners and tour guides to ensure that you have the best experiences on your dream Madagascan adventure – this focus is reflected in our uniquely wonderful itineraries. Our experts are on hand whether you are looking for a small group trip or a bespoke holiday.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Tongasoa eto Antananarivo!

After arriving in Antananarivo (or Tana, as it is known by the locals), you will be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel. For the rest of the day, you are free to relax or take a wonder around the hotel and its local surroundings.

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 this city.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
N/A



Distance:
Airport Transfer



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 2: Heading south to the charming town of Antsirabe

● About 16 km cycling ●

Transfer to Antsirabe by car. On the way we may stop to talk to the speak to people or observe the rural life. The drive takes us along a gravel road in the highlands, past rice and fruit fields.

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.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
175km (3+hrs Driving) + 16km Cycle



Activity:
Culture & Cycling



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

DAY 3: Cycling Lake Andraikiba – Lake Tritriva – Betafo and back to Antsirabe for the evening.



● **About 63 km cycling, mostly dirt roads** ●

Today we visit the two most known crater lakes in this region - Andraikiba and Tritriva. On the way we have the chance to enjoy the typical landscape of the Merina ethnic group; we pass first Andraikiba (7 km from the city). With a circumference of approx. 5 km it is easy to easily cycle around. After, we continue the fun with our mountain bike along a track to reach another lake, even more spectacular, and full of myths - Lake Tritriva. Before even reaching it, we can see the Mount Tritriva starting from the village of Belazao. We will enjoy our picnic lunch here before returning to Antsirabe.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
63km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture

DAY 4: Cycling south toward Ambositra and its picturesque surroundings

● **About 95km cycling** ●

After breakfast we cycle further south on the hilly road to Ambositra, passing many rice terraces of farmers who can harvest up to three times a year. Ambositra is the home of the Zafimaniry carving and we will visit a carpenter.

Tonight we will stay at a nice hotel, where the rooms have been decorated by local artists.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
95km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture

DAY 5: Heading through valleys and villages to the wonderfully green Ranomafana National Park



● **About 64km cycling, including 25km of dirt road** ●

A transfer by our vehicle takes us to the small village of Camp Robin. From this rural village we ride in a very beautiful valley below towering granite boulders to Ambohimahaso. After two climbs on the short tar section we ride again through villages and eucalyptus forest until we reach the rainforest of Ranomafana National Park. The last few miles are downhill to our lodge where we will stay for the night



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
1hr Drive + 64km Cycle



Activity:
Cycling and Culture



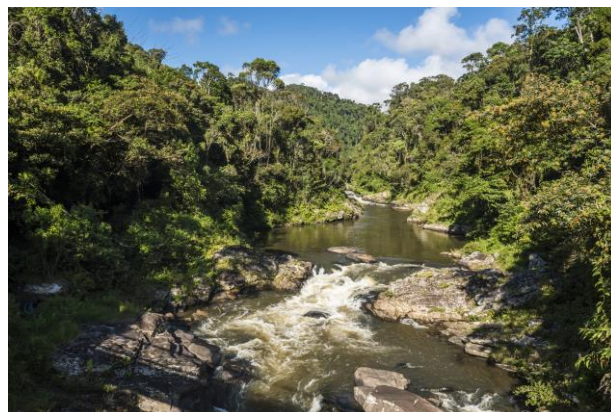
Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

DAY 6: Exploring the magnificent **Ranomafana National Park**

Ranomafana is particularly rich and beautiful, a mountainous subtropical park which contains lowland moist forest, cloud forest and high plateau forest and is the home to a large number of lemur species (13 in total), as well as 118 birds and more than 70 amphibians and reptiles so is really a great place to see some of the unique species living in Madagascar. Lemurs include the brown lemur, golden bamboo lemur and the exceptionally rare greater bamboo lemur which is relatively easy to see in Ranomafana. Wildlife viewing is good all year round but is most productive from mid-Sept to May.



Today you have the opportunity to explore the enchanting Ranomafana National Park and search for lemurs on a full day trek through lush rainforest.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Trekking and Wildlife

DAY 7: Leaving Ranomafana behind for **Sahambavy**, famed for its tea plantations!

● About 44km cycling, including 22km of dirt road ●

After breakfast we drive back up again to Andovoka, and from here we start to cycle. During the journey we will see locals selling piles of sand, gained from the nearby river as well as women weaving baskets. On a good gravel road we reach our hotel right in the centre of a tea growing area. If time allows we can possibly visit the Sahambavy Tea Estate, the only tea plantation in Madagascar. The tea estate created in 1970, set in a pretty valley beside Lake Sahambavy, produces large quantities of tea for both export to Mombasa in Kenya and for local consumption.

We will stay at the Lac Hôtel with a breathtaking view of the island's unique tea plantation (520 hectares) which spreads out as far as the eye can see. The beautiful landscape with the charming lake is the perfect destination for a relaxing stop-off.

Sahambavy is a small town on the railway from Mankarana to Fianarantsoa. Its main attraction is the Sahambavy Lake, nestled at the foot of a hill. It is also famed for the only Madagascan tea plantations.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Short Drive + 44km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

DAY 8: Goodbye Sahambavy. Hello Ambalavao!

● About 85km cycling, including the alternative of 51km easy dirt road ●

We cycle to Fianarantsoa, the former spiritual centre of the country. We will relax here for a while and you will have an opportunity to get souvenirs if you would like. We will then head on, mostly downhill, to Ambalavao. The ride is very scenic, with views into the valleys. Shortly before arrival there are a few more hills.

Our alternative is to cycle to Ambalavao from the hotel Sahambavy 54 km on mostly difficult dirt road. The car cannot follow here. We cross several small valleys with rice and cassava plantations and some eucalyptus forests. It is an adventure, and tourists do not come here; the children have rarely seen light-coloured people and are curious about us. The 9 km long descent to Ambalavao rewards us for the steep climb. In Ambalavao we visit the traditional Antaimoro papermaking. The origin of the copper-coloured paper that feels like fine, silky wallpaper is far back into the past.

Situated in tropical surroundings in the most southern part of the central highlands, near Fianarantsoa, Ambalavao is noted for its houses with wooden balconies with elaborate carvings and tiled roofs. It is also known for its lively cattle market on Monday and Thursdays on the outskirts of town where you will be able to see a large number of Zebu and herdsmen on the roads.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
85km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture

DAY 9: Journeying to the incredibly striking Tsaranoro



● About 54km cycling, including 20km dirt road ●

Near to our hotel is a craft shop, which produces the well-known Antaimoro paper. We leave the busy little town heading further south. The landscape changes into open grassland savannah dotted with enormous granite mountains. Bizarre landscapes of towering cliffs await us in the small nature reserve of Anja with superb scenery, plants, Betsileo history, caves and tombs and ring-tailed lemurs (also known as Catta lemurs). We take an hour walk into the park before we leave the road entering the Tsaranoro Valley leading into the Andringitra Mountains. We stay over at a rustic camp for two nights.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
54km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

DAY 10: Hiking into the dramatically stunning Andringitra Massif

Several tours are available as the ascent of Mount Tsaranoro. After villages, rice fields and hills we reach a sacred forest around which entwines a story. This area is well known for many lemurs like the lively Catta lemurs. Today we walk through the woods to traditional villages in secluded valleys. The mountains are volcanic in origin. It consists of strongly fissured granite. The Andringitra massif is extending in a length of 100 km. We appreciate spectacular views over this ancient landscape.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Hiking and Wildlife

DAY 11: Setting off to Ranohira, located on the edge of Isalo National Park.



● About 85km cycling, including 20km dirt road ●

We ride back to the tarred road to Ankaramena, which is well known for its delicious mango and papaya fruits. In our support vehicle we drive to Ihosy and from there we continue to the plateau of Horombe. To get a better impression of this amazing landscape, we ride the last 20 km to our lodge on the edge of the Isalo National Park.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
1hr drive + 85km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Culture

DAY 12: Unearthing the wonders of the remarkable Isalo National Park

● About 32km cycling, including 20km dirt road ●

After a short ride on tarmac, we will head onto a beautiful sandy path to the national park.

We hope to see lemurs and enjoy the spectacular views of the region. Later we will have the opportunity at, Piscine Naturelle ' to take a bath. After our hike we cycle to the 'Maison du Tourisme' which is a few kilometres along the RN7. From here we have a good view of the Isalo Mountains. Here our bike tour ends.



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

Isalo is the park of the Big South and the most visited parks of Madagascar. It is known for its exceptional landscape. The Isalo National Park protects over 81,000 hectares of widely eroded Jurassic sandstone massif. The grassy plains are surrounded by sandstone ridges. Most of the vegetated areas of the park are covered with dry grassland or sparse, low deciduous woodland, however near streams and in deeper canyons there are also ferns and feathery palm trees. Animal life isn't the parks most prominent feature, but there are a few species to look for including six species of lemur (three nocturnal, three daytime) including the ring tail lemur and the White (dancing lemur) sifaka. It is also home to approx 55 species of bird including the rare Benson's rock-thrush.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
32km Cycling



Activity:
Cycling and Wildlife

DAY 13: Making our way to the gorgeous coastal town of Ifaty via Tulear

We take the support vehicle to Tulear. On the way we see impressive baobab trees which are scattered in this wild environment. We also have a look to the tombs of the Mahafaly and Antandroy. The area around Tulear is the home field of the Vezo ethnic group. They earn their living by fishing. After a short stop in the town we drive to Ifaty, a small fishing village. This invites the warm Indian Ocean for a swim. In the evening we forget all the hardships of our journey through Madagascar and celebrate the end of our bike ride. After dinner your tour manager will leave you.

Facing the Mozambique Channel and the superb coral reef of Ifaty, less than 20 kms from Tuléar, you will discover the beauty of beaches not tainted by mass tourism. Ifaty is a small fishing village with palm-fringed white beaches on the south-western coast of Madagascar, and is an ideal place to relax after visiting the central highlands. The beach is relatively narrow, but the (off shore) snorkeling and diving is good. In July and August, you may see migrating whales pass nearby through the Mozambique Channel. Between May and October, the humpback whales can sometimes be seen with their whale-calves.



Overnight:
Bungalow



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
240km (4hrs Driving)



Activity:
Beach and Wildlife

DAY 14 & 15: Discovering the African paradise of Ifaty and its surrounding fascinations



Today can be spent at your leisure, experiencing what beautiful Ifaty and its surrounding areas have to offer.



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

Just north of Ifaty you can find the Reniala Nature Reserve 'Spiny Forest', a remarkable habitat adapted to the heat and drought of the area giving it the resultant thorny &/or bloated drought resistant trees and plants. The spiny forests inland from Ifaty are of great interest to birdwatchers and botanical enthusiasts alike. Here you will be able to see some very large iconic Baobab trees, an abundance of birds (a true paradise for ornithologists) as well as possibly some locally endemic species such as the long-tailed ground roller and sub-desert mesite. This unique habitat is severely threatened by deforestation and by visiting these sites, you will not only enjoy some of the little remaining spiny forest in Madagascar, but also actively contribute to its conservation (the sites are currently not protected). A visit here can be organized by the hotel, and you can even travel there by pirogue – which we highly recommend.



Overnight:
Bungalow



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Personal Preference/Beach

DAY 16: Back to Antananarivo and End of Trip

We will catch the Air Madagascar flight from Tulear to Tana where this trip ends. We can arrange additional nights accommodation if required.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
Short Flight



Activity:
Flight + Onwards Journey

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.



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.

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



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) ■ Mineral water during cycling ■ English-speaking tour manager from day 1 – day 13 ■ Hotels in double or twin rooms ■ Local guide ■ Mechanic (with a minimum of six cyclists) ■ All cars and buses, All transfers ■ Entrance fees in the parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International flight ➤ Internal flight ➤ Meals other than mentioned ➤ All other drinks ➤ Mineral water on non-cycling days ➤ Personal expenses ➤ Additional beach activities

ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

On this trip we have opted for smaller, simpler hotels and lodges. The Hotels are chosen by location and are simple middle class hotels or rustic lodges with basic facilities. All have a private bathroom with shower and toilet. The standard of accommodation is not the same as in Europe. *(If you are arranging a private trip, we can upgrade the hotels).*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night 1	Antananarivo	Hotel	Orchid Hotel
Night 2 & 3	Antsirabe	Hotel	H1
Night 4	Ambositra	Hotel	Hotel Artisan
Night 5 & 6	Ranomafana	Hotel	Cristo Hotel
Night 7	Sahambavy	Hotel	Lac Hotel
Night 8	Ambalavao	Hotel	Aux Bougainvillées
Night 9 & 10	Tsaranoro Valley	Camp	Tsara Camp
Night 11 & 12	Isalo (Ranohira)	Hotel	Orchidée de l'Isalo
Night 13, 14 & 15	Ifaty	Bungalows	La Mira de Madiorano OR Belle Vue



- **Antananarivo, Orchid** Hotel is ideally situated five minutes from Ivato airport making it a perfect hotel for one night stays or early morning departures. Built on two floors with elevator access, the rooms is spacious with a/c, modern bathrooms, mini bar, TV, telephone, Wi-Fi, safe. Most of the rooms have impressive views over the rice paddies. Restaurant and a large terrace with great views and a huge moon shaped swimming pool. Adjacent to the pool is a gym.



- **Antsirabe, H1** New, comfortable hotel in Antsirabe. We profit from modern furnished rooms with satellites TV. From here we can get with few steps or by Pousse Pousse in the city centre. But also the lively northern part of the town is worthwhile to stroll around.
- **Ambositra, Artisan**, charming hotel a bit out of Ambositra, surrounded by a garden. The interior decoration has been designed in according to Zafimaniry artwork and sculpturing. The hotel offers rooms equipped with hot showers and facilities.
- **Ranomafana, Cristo**. The hotel is situated on the hill of Manerinerina directly on Namorona river that flows through the National Park. The bungalows and rooms are well furnished. You will find everything you need for a pleasant stay.
- **Sahambavy, Lac Hotel**. The hotel is beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Sahambavy, approximately in the middle of Madagascar, at the foot of a hill. Comfortable rooms and charming bungalows, some of them scattered on stilts, in a tropical garden.
- **Ambalavao, Aux Bougainvillées**, A good choice for those seeking for some comfort. Nice, clean rooms with a good restaurant. The hotel shares the same grounds as the Antaimoro paper factory so you can enjoy watching at the manufacturing of the traditional art.
- **Tsaranoro, Tsara Camp** Spacious tents. Each tent is equipped with two beds and a bedside table. There is also the possibility to hang up clothes. Behind each tent there is a small bathroom with an outdoor shower and camping facilities. There are lanterns and candles in the evening . In the centre of this place for relaxing there is a large tent with a restaurant and lounge area. Typical of the region flora and fauna can be explored near the camp.
- **Ranohira, the Orchidée de l'Isalo** is perfectly located in the centre of Ranohira. Massive stone walls, marble floors and original decoration give the rooms their comfort and character. You will feel like sleeping in a medieval castle. The nearby restaurant Le Zebu is affiliated.
- **Toliara-Ifaty, La Mira de Madiorano** Nice bungalow complex overlooking the sea especially busy in the morning. The attractive bungalows are bright and airy. They are built in a traditional style. The hotel is surrounded by a large garden.

OR

- **Toliara-Ifaty, Belle Vue**. Located right in the dunes, the well-appointed hotel enchants its guests with a breath-taking view over the lagoon of Ifaty. It has bungalows type, Waterfront ',with the typical architecture with thatched roofs. The bungalows have a private terrace and are right on the beach. There are also rooms in the main building.

Cycling – Highlands to Coast

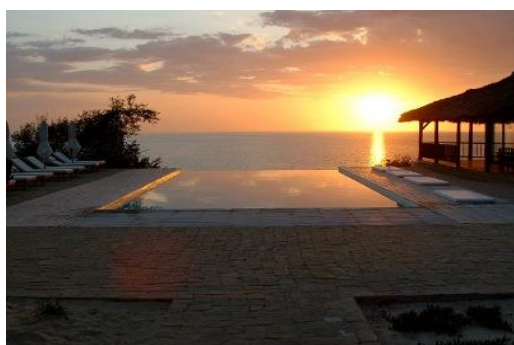
EXTENSION EXAMPLES

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

Here are some of our recommended Cycling Highlands to Coast extensions:

1. A paradise ending to your trip with our **Beach Extensions**

Ifaty



Adding a beach extension to this trip is the best way to unwind on two of South West Madagascar's most beautiful coastal areas. Stay in Ifaty for a bit longer or to experience something different, head south to the glorious beaches of Anakao.

Anakao



Pioneer Expeditions
 Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
 t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

2. Head North for even more adventure with our **Morondava** Extension

Why not add an extension to Morondava onto your Madagascar trip and further your adventure. This will allow you to experience the Tsingy des Bemaraha as well as the Avenue des Baobabs (approx. 7 days needed – email us for details).



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

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.



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

- 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!

Some of OUR NATURALIST GUIDES



MAMY

- 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

- 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

- 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 specialities lie in Madagascan Culture and Geology as well as Wildlife.



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

Mad15

Some of OUR ADVENTURIST GUIDES



MAX



JOE

- Following a considerably tough childhood, Joe has been happily and successfully working as a guide since 2005.
- His main passions as an adventurer 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.

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.



Pioneer Expeditions
Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com