



## LUXURY HONEYMOON

A Romantic Escape



# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



**DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

## ITINERARY

## Madagascar • Luxury Honeymoon

**15 DAYS • 14 NIGHTS**

**Antananarivo – Masoala – Tampolo Point – Nosy Mangabe – Nosy Be – Tsarabanjina – Antananarivo**

*This itinerary can be **tailored** to suit your exact requirements*

## HIGHLIGHTS

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

- Kayaking to & snorkelling amongst the coral reefs of spectacular deserted tropical islands off of **Masoala**.
- Relaxing at a **stunning jungle eco-lodge** surrounded by beautifully untouched tropical wilderness & wildlife.
- Beachcombing and exploring the expansive **pristine rainforest** of the lush & remote Masoala Peninsula.
- Relaxing in tranquilly on the divine remote beaches of the **gorgeous private Island - Tsarabanjina**.
- Enjoy a massage and a romantic candle-lit dinner as you unwind and bask in the best of **natural beauty**.
- Experience the best of bare-foot luxury and great **diving/snorkelling** opportunities in unspoiled reefs.

Tour Style	Honeymoon
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Antananarivo
Accommodation	Hotel, Island Resort & Forest Lodge
Included Meals	10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 9 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Easy/Medium

## RAINFOREST & PARADISE ISLAND ROMANCE



Tailor your perfect honeymoon with our experts. This luxury honeymoon idea comprises 2 of Madagascar's stunning and unique locations including the luxurious Masoala Forest Eco-Lodge, accessible only by foot or by sea and with a maximum capacity of just 12 guests, the lodge is a haven of tranquillity. As well as a private waterfront villa on the powder soft beaches on the exclusive Tsarabajina, with its laid back atmosphere, barefoot chic, this unspoil Madagascan island offers a chic Robinson Crusoe style experience.



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# MADAGASCAR *an overview*

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. We will see much of the unique flora and fauna of Southern Madagascar on this exceptional nature guided tour.

## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

We are driven by a passion for adventure travel and wildlife which we love to share, it's reflected in our uniquely wonderful itineraries. We can offer you new experiences that no one else can provide and we create for you, the most incredible adventure holidays imaginable.

Madagascar is truly our specialty; we know it inside-out, in order to provide you with your dream Madagascan adventure... so you can enjoy it as much as we do! No one can organise dream holidays with a difference quite like Pioneer Expeditions.

## ITINERARY





## 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.

Example Hotel:

Maison Gallieni



Overnight:  
Hotel



Meals:  
N/A



Distance:  
Airport Transfer



Activity:  
Personal Preference

## DAY 2: Arrive at Maroantsetra and catch the boat across the Bay Antongil

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your charter flight to Maroantsetra early morning. Upon arrival at Maroantsetra airport, you will be met and transferred to the boat for the exciting voyage across the Bay d'Antongil to the Masoala Forest Lodge. The journey takes around 2 hours, passing the tropical island of Nosy Mangabe, with the possibility of dolphin and whale sightings in season and the thickly forested mountains as a dramatic backdrop to the destination.

*The Antongil bay is the largest bay in Madagascar. It is at the northern end of the east coast of the island and for administrative purposes it is within Analanjirofo Region. The bay is about 60 km long and 30 km wide, and is formed by the Masoala peninsula on its eastern side. At the northern end of the bay is the island of Nosy Mangabe and the town of Maroantsetra.*



Upon arrival in paradise, we will be welcoming ashore before freshening up and settling into our luxury lodge. Lunch will be served in the beach house.

The afternoon activities include exploring the beaches and coastal forest in the lodge area and potentially enjoying a swim in the pristine sea, before taking a guided walk along the coast past Tampolo Point, with the possibility of spotting white-fronted brown lemurs in the coastal forest.

This evening we will return to base for sundowners around the fire on the beach and dinner at the lodge.



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## Masoala Forest Lodge



Overnight:  
**Masoala Forest Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, D**



Distance:  
**Airport Transfer (incl. 2hr Boat)**



Activity:  
**Beach and Wildlife**

### DAY 3: Masoala Forest Lodge – Coastal Forest Walks, Tampolo River & Nocturnal Walk

A relaxed start and breakfast on the sea deck for today before departing on a guided walk through the coastal forest, in search of more birds and mammals. After a couple of hours walk, we will enjoy a swim into the crystal clear water of the cascades of the Tampolo River at the foot of the forested mountains. We will return to camp on a traditional dugout canoe paddled down the shady river.

After lunch, enjoy a relaxed afternoon on the private beaches or snorkel on the coral reefs. Then we will join a guided nocturnal walk with the intriguing possibility of seeing some of the secretive nocturnal wildlife such as Leaf-tailed Gecko, Dwarf and Mouse lemurs and maybe even the elusive Aye-Aye.

Dinner will be served at the lodge.



Overnight:  
**Masoala Forest Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**N/A**



Activity:  
**Walking and Wildlife**

### DAY 4: Masoala Forest Lodge – Sacred Island, River Kayaking & Malagasy Culture



After breakfast, be ready for an exploration by sea kayak or boat of the calm water and fantastic rock formations of Tampolo point. We will stop on the beach at the “Sacred Island” where we will relax or swim. Then we will kayak into a pristine mangrove and forested river, with the chance of spotting Blue-spotted stingrays in the shallow water or perhaps the Lesser bamboo lemurs crossing the river. After a picnic lunch on the beach, we will head



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back the camp by kayak or boat, for an evening of entertainment and high spirits with the visit of the traditional Malagasy music and dance group from the local village.

We will enjoy the sundowners around the fire on the beach and have dinner at the lodge.



*Overnight:*  
**Masoala Forest Lodge**



*Meals:*  
**B, L, D**



*Distance:*  
**n/a**



*Activity:*  
**Culture/Kayaking**

### DAY 5: Masoala Forest Lodge - Betsimisaraka Culture, Birdwatching Pirogue Trip & Evening Beach Fire

After breakfast on the sea deck, we will have a short guided walk through the coastal forest trails and farm land of the nearby village of Ambodiforaha. This is an opportunity to experience the local Betsimisaraka culture and sustainable way of life in the rainforest. You can visit their traditional houses and kitchens and perhaps see baskets, mats or hats being woven, vanilla, cloves, coffee or rice being prepared and pop in for a quick visit to the village school, co-funded by the lodge.



After lunch at the lodge, you have the option of a stroll down the beach to the Tampolo River and enjoy a peaceful pirogue trip on the cool shady river to observe the birdlife.

This evening will involve sundowners around the fire on the beach and dinner at the lodge.



*Overnight:*  
**Masoala Forest Lodge**



*Meals:*  
**B, L, D**



*Distance:*  
**N/A**



*Activity:*  
**Personal Preference**

### DAY 6: Last adventure-filled day at Masoala Forest Lodge



You will take an early breakfast on the sea deck before board the boat for the voyage to the island of Nosy Mangabe.

Once ashore on the densely forested island, we will explore the network of trails with our guide with a chance of spotting Black and white-ruffed and White-fronted brown lemurs, leaf-tailed geckos and perhaps a Madagascar tree boa. We can view the traditional Malagasy tombs in a cave and the engraved rocks on the "Plage des Hollandais".



*Overnight:*  
**Hotel**



*Meals:*  
**B, L, D**



*Distance:*  
**Boat Transfer**



*Activity:*  
**Wildlife and Beach**



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## DAY 7: Flight back to Antananarivo

This morning can be spent at leisure before transferring back to Maroansatra airport in time for your flight back to Tana. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, D**



Distance:  
**Short boat / flight**



Activity:  
**Personal Preference**

## DAY 8: Flying north to the charming paradise island of Tsarabanjina via neighbouring Nosy Be

This morning you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Tsarabanjina. Upon arrival you will be met by a hotel representative and transferred to the Island resort.



Overnight:  
**Island Resort**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**2 ½ hr flight + boat**



Activity:  
**Personal Preference**

## DAY 9 - 13: Spend time enjoying the mesmerising beauty of Tsarabanjina

These days can be spent at your own leisure and as honeymooners, there are a number of gifts available to you including a t-shirt, a sarong, a soubik for the beach. In addition, as part of your stay, you will be able to enjoy a candlelight dinner on the beach on one of the nights as well as a 30 minute massage per person during your stay.



Overnight:  
**Island Resort**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**N/A**



Activity:  
**Beach & Personal Preference**

## DAY 14: Time to fly back to Antananarivo for the last time

Catch the ferry back to Nosy Be before transferring to the airport in time for your flight back to Antananarivo. Upon arrival in Tana, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, D**



Distance:  
**Short Boat Ride + 2 ½ hr flight**



Activity:  
**Personal Preference**



## DAY 15: End of Trip

Transfer to airport in time for flight home. If you are on the Air France or Air Kenya trip which leaves early morning of day 16, you can opt to have a day use room &/or driver/guide for the day (not included).



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. 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.





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Meet and Greet on arrival to Tana airport</li> <li>■ All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)</li> <li>■ Accommodation as described</li> <li>■ All inclusive at Masoala</li> <li>■ All Inclusive at Tsarabanjina Constance Resort</li> <li>■ All transfers in air conditioned vehicles with an English speaking driver / guide</li> <li>■ Charter flight ticket to / from Masoala</li> <li>■ Domestic flight ticket to / from Nosy Be</li> <li>■ National Park entrance fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meals other than mentioned</li> <li>➤ International flights</li> <li>➤ Tips</li> <li>➤ Personal expenses</li> <li>➤ Alcoholic and soft drinks when not in all inclusive</li> <li>➤ Personal expenses</li> <li>➤ Optional tours/activities</li> <li>➤ Insurance</li> </ul>

## ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Name
<b>Night 1</b>	Antananarivo	Hotel	<i>Maison Gallieni</i>
<b>Night 2, 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Masoala Rainforest Peninsula	Lodge	<i>Masoala Forest Lodge</i>
<b>Night 7</b>	Antananarivo	Hotel	<i>Maison Gallieni</i>
<b>Night 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 &amp; 13</b>	Tsarabanjina	Island Resort	<i>Tsarabanjina Constance Resort</i>
<b>Night 14</b>	Antananarivo	Hotel	<i>Maison Gallieni</i>



# 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 (this includes Masoala) 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





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# THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

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Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto: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](http://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.

