



## LUXURY MADAGASCAR

Wildlife and Beaches

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

## ITINERARY

Madagascar • Luxury South East Flying Circuit

12 DAYS • 11 NIGHTS

Antananarivo - Ifotaka-Mandrane River Camp - Fort Dauphin  
- Manafiafy beach – Antananarivo

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the rainforest's weird and wonderful nocturnal creatures on after-dark rainforest walks
- Explore the serene mangroves and wetlands by kayak or motorboat.
- Get up-close to some fantastic nature with both whale and bird watching outings.
- Swim & snorkel in crystal waters of the Indian Ocean
- Roam the south-eastern rainforests and marvel at the abundance of wildlife and world-class nature.
- Look out for the Sifaka Lemurs & Warty Chameleons.
- Relax and unwind in your hammock overlooking the fabulous & unspoilt Manafiafy beach.

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Nature Expedition
Tour Start	Antananarivo
Tour End	Antananarivo
Accommodation	Hotel, Luxury Camping, Lodge
Included Meals	10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 9 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

## THE REMOTE AND WILD SOUTH IN STYLE



The perfect blend of beach and jungle await you at two uniquely luxurious lodges enclosed by nature. Experience the sensational wildlife, rainforest walks, azure blue seas and adventure opportunities at your leisure.



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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 fantastic! 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 Eastern Madagascar on this great 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

Your exceptional holiday begins with a charter flight to Ifotaka – a small town in Madagascar's South Eastern forest, which is home to an abundance of unique wildlife comprising a varied ecosystem made of coastal rainforest and flooded forests, as well as lemurs, birds and reptiles. Your home here will be at the secluded Mandrare River Camp, a camp which is close to the wildlife and the local Antandroy tribe. A luxurious outpost lost in culture and nature. All the luxurious tents have a private terrace to provide you with uninterrupted views of the spiny forest.

After five days here spent animal watching, trekking, enjoying the local culture and relaxing, we fly to the azure blue waters of the peninsula of Fort Dauphin and the powder soft Manafiafy beach. With its relaxing atmosphere, barefoot chic, this Madagascan beach offers a stylish relaxed experience. Your home here is on a private island enclosed by tropical plants and your time can be spent relaxing on the beach, in your hammock, whale and bird watching or exploring the underwater environment –being one of the top dive (& snorkel) destinations Madagascar has to offer.

### Luxury Madagascar • South East Flying Circuit



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## 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 this city.*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**N/A**



Distance:  
**Airport Transfer**



Activity:  
**Personal Preference**

## DAY 2 - 5: Flying south to Ifotaka and the Mandrare River Camp, tucked away on a picturesque river bank

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Ifotaka early morning.

You are met on arrival at Ifotaka airport and transferred to Mandrare River Camp. Here you will spend the next four nights on an all inclusive basis. The journey takes around three hours, with the possibility of lemur, bird and reptile sightings in season, the proximity to local tribes, the Mandrare River and the Mandrare Valley rainforest as a dramatic backdrop to the destination.



On arrival at the camp, you are welcomed ashore and settle into camp. After freshening up at your accommodation, lunch is served in the beach house.

Some of the activities you can choose to participate in are: exploring the sacred forest in the camp area, enjoying the traditional market, taking a guided walk in the forest, with the possibility of spotting sifakas and warty chameleons in the forest.



These can be undergone either as daytime activities or nighttime activities.



Overnight:  
**Mandrare River Camp**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**3 hour flight + short drive**



Activity:  
**Wildlife and Culture**



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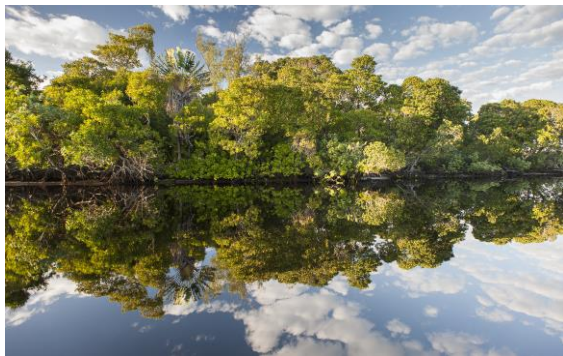
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## DAY 6 - 9: Onwards to Fort Dauphin and the sensational Manafiafy Beach where rainforest meets the ocean

Today we will head out on the next part of our adventure from Ifotaka to Fort Dauphin by plane and transfer to Manafiafy beach. On arrival you will be able to relax and discover the rainforest's weird and wonderful nocturnal creatures.

Manafiafy Beach offers sparkling blue seas, verdant rainforests, abundant wildlife and distant mountains. The sheltered bay provides the perfect spot for swimming and snorkeling (equipment provided) with its calm waters and coral based sea life.

This trip also offers many activities including trips into the mangroves and wetlands by motorboat or kayak, picnic lunches on one of the nearby uninhabited islands, day and night walks in the littoral rainforest. We also can go whale watching by motorboat and see these amazing mammals close-up.



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**1 hr flight + 2 ½ hrs drive**



Activity:  
**Beach and Wildlife**

## DAY 11: Flying back to Antananarivo

This morning you will transfer back to Fort Dauphin Airport in time for your flight back to Tana. Upon arrival at the airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival in Tana you can visit the handicraft market, before transferring to your hotel.



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, D**



Distance:  
**2 ½ hrs Drive + Short Flight**



Activity:  
**Personal Preference**

## DAY 12: End of Trip

This morning you will be transferred to the airport in time for your 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. Please note times given are approximate driving times and do not include stops, the journey times are therefore longer. When driving times are given, this is only an indication. It aims to reflect the actual driving time (and doesn't include stops, lunch, and 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 Mandrare River Camp</li> <li>■ All Inclusive at Manafiafy River Beach</li> <li>■ Charter flights</li> <li>■ All transfers</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	Example
<b>Night 1</b>	Antananarivo	Hotel	<i>Relais des Plateaux</i>
<b>Night 2, 3, 4 &amp; 5</b>	Ifotaka	Luxury Camp	<i>Mandrare River Camp</i>
<b>Night 6, 7, 8 &amp; 9</b>	Mahatalaky	Lodge	<i>Manafiafy Beach and Rainforest Lodge</i>
<b>Night 10</b>	Antananarivo	Hotel	<i>Palissandre Hotel</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 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



# 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.

