



LUXURY HONEYMOON

A Romantic Escape

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Madagascar • Luxury Honeymoon

16 DAYS • 15 NIGHTS

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

*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	Nosy Be
Accommodation	Hotel, Island Resort & Forest Lodge
Included Meals	16 Breakfasts, 13 Lunches, 13 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.

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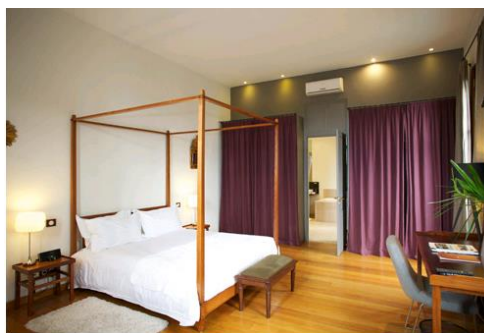
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DAY 1: Tongasoa eto Antananarivo!

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.

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.



Once ashore, explore the densely forested island with your guide on a network of trails providing a chance to spot Black and White-ruffed lemurs, White-fronted Brown lemurs, and leaf-tailed geckos.

After a picnic lunch on the beach, you embark on a second boat trip across Antongil Bay to the Masoala Forest Lodge. During this approximately two hours journey, enjoy the dramatic rainforest backdrop along with the possibilities of dolphin sightings and, seasonally, whale sightings (July-October).

Once you have settled comfortably into your bungalow, meet the



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other guests for sundowners around a fire on the beach.

After dinner, your guide meets you to discuss possible excursions for day 2.

Masoala Forest Lodge



Overnight:
Masoala Forest Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Airport Transfer (incl. 2hr Boat)



Activity:
Beach and Wildlife

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

Awaken early for coffee and breakfast on the sea deck before setting off on the day's adventure.

Today, take a quick boat ride up the coast to the primary rainforest in search of the Red-ruffed lemurs, Dwarf chameleons, Helmet Vangas, and other wildlife endemic to the forest.

After some hours in the dense forest with the giant hardwoods and majestic tree ferns, return to camp by boat for a well earned lunch and rest.

Your afternoon activities could range from snorkeling on the nearby, highly diverse coral reef to a sunset paddle out to a scenic outlook (and the chance of a close encounter with Green Turtles) to relaxing in a hammock underneath our beach-front palm trees.

After dinner, a guide nights walk provides the only opportunity to spot some of the secretive nocturnal wildlife, such as Dwarf and Mouse lemurs, Leaf-tailed geckos, or even the elusive Aye-Aye



Overnight:
Masoala Forest Lodge



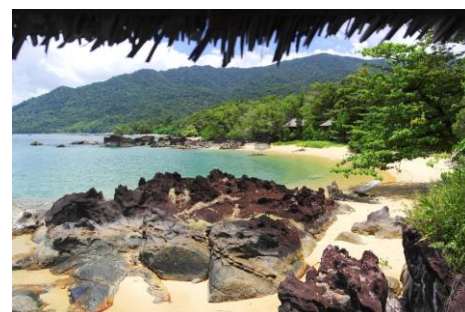
Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Walking and Wildlife



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



A relaxed start to the day and breakfast on the sea deck. Depart on a guided walk through the coastal forest, in search of more birds, mammals and reptiles. After a couple of hours walk, take a welcome swim in the crystal-clear water of the Tampolo Cascades at the base of the forested mountains. On your way back to the lodge, our staff paddles you down the serene, shady Tampolo river in a traditional

dugout canoe. In the afternoon, take a short walk along the coast to the nearest village for our “Meet the People” excursion. Start with a visit to the village school that is supported by the lodge. Continue with a guided tour of Ambodiforaha village for a window into local rural life followed by a traditional song and dance performance by the ladies of the village. If interested, you can bring some small money with you to purchase handicrafts and locally-produced spices. Continue your Malagasy cultural education back at the lodge with delicious traditional Malagasy dishes served for dinner. Try your luck again spotting elusive nocturnal species on a private reserve night walk



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

Breakfast on the sea deck. Traverse the unusual rock formations of Tampolo point by kayak. Stop for a swim on the beach at the “Sacred Island” and then continue your paddle 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.



Paddle back to the lodge for lunch and spend another afternoon lounging in our beach hammocks or exploring the lodge's various reefs.

Or you can make use of your voucher for a massage in the Masoala SPA – a present from the lodge to our honeymooners that can be used anytime one your stay.

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



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DAY 6: Masoala Forest Lodge



Breakfast on the sea deck.

Board the boat for a 30-minute voyage through the Tampolo Marine Reserve to the mouth of the Antalavia River. The forested coastline viewed from the boat is stunningly beautiful with countless deserted beaches.

On arrival, go for a swim or snorkel the reef in pristine water with high visibility. See if you can spot a Blue-spotted stingray on the seafloor or a lobster tucked away in a crevice.

When you've had your fill, the boat will ferry you to another beach nearby from which you will take a leisurely stroll along a riverbank to the cascades of the Antalavia River. Here, refreshingly cool, clear water

forms perfect swimming pools, over-hung by the lush forest with a chance of seeing White-fronted brown lemurs leaping through the canopy.

After a picnic lunch on the beach and a short rest under the trees, you have the choice of returning to camp by boat or on foot.

Sundowners around the fire on the beach and dinner in the lodge.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Boat Transfer



Activity:
Wildlife and Beach

DAY 7: Masoala Forest Lodge

With the Ngalawa Sailing outrigger pirogue we will sail you to one of the beautiful lonely beaches.

Equipped with snorkelling kit, sunscreen, beach mats, towels and the picnic basket you will have a whole day to relax, sun bath and explore the reefs.

Alternatively, take the opportunity to return to the primary forest in search of more endemic wildlife.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Short boat / flight



Activity:
Snorkelling

DAY 8: Last adventure-filled day at Masoala Forest Lodge

A day to spend as you choose – perhaps sun bathing on one of the private beaches, birding and mammal spotting on the private forest trails at the lodge, or relaxing with a good book and a cold drink in the hammock on your private veranda. Tonight we set up a romantic private dinner for you on the sea deck or the beach.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Short boat / flight



Activity:
Personal Preference



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DAY 9: 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 10: 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 11 - 15: 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 16: Flight Home

Catch the ferry back to Nosy Be before transferring to the airport in time for your international flight home from Nosy Be. Please note Ethiopian Airlines flies from Nosy Be. If you prefer to fly with a different airline we can organise a flight back to Tana instead.



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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.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

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








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



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.

