



MAGNIFICENT NORTH

Group Retreat

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



ITINERARY

North Madagascar • Karlyn Langjahr Group Retreat

13 DAYS • 12 NIGHTS

26th Oct – 7th Nov 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fully escorted with a local guide. They will help you spot much of the unique wildlife on offer!
- We will discover 4 of Madagascar's outstanding National Parks & Reserves
- Visit Andasibe National Park and hear the call of the Indri – Madagascars largest lemur
- Explore the astounding fields of spiky limestone tsingy in Ankarana National Park.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Tour Style | Nature, Wildlife and Spiritual Adventure |
| Tour Start | Antananarivo |
| Tour End | Antananarivo |
| Accommodation | Hotel, Bungalows |
| Included Meals | 13 Breakfasts, 12 Dinners |
| Difficulty Level | Medium |

ADVENTURE OF THE MAGNIFICENT NORTH



Unearth Madagascar's magnificently wild Northern region. Go truly off the beaten track on this adventure; passing through the remotest of villages and national parks, seeing striking diverse landscapes and spotting incredibly unique Madagascan wildlife.

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 Northern Madagascar on this exceptional off-the-beaten-track, nature guided expedition.

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.

Pioneer work in some of the world’s most spectacular, remote and extraordinary places worldwide.

RETREAT LEADER – KARLYN LANGJAHR

Karlyn Langjahr is a Spiritual Ecologist infusing her 18+ year professional career in wildlife conservation management and education with her background in the healing arts of yoga, meditation, energy work. Her approach to bringing ancient spiritual practices of ritual, devotion and ceremony are very grounded and approachable. She particularly loves helping others bridge the worlds of the unseen and seen to invite more ease, grace and trust while navigating life's uncertainties and instabilities. Karlyn's favorite entities to work with are the spirits of nature, especially animal spirits, and the guides, guardians and ancestors of the lands. After living, working and traveling all over the world, Karlyn made New Mexico her permanent home base and loves supporting her community's reconnection to themselves and their own inherent divinity through nature-based spiritual ecology experiences in the most magnificent treasures on Earth.



ITINERARY

North Madagascar • Nature Guided Adventure



DAY 1 : 26 October : 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.

Welcome Circle & Opening Ceremony with introduction and intention setting

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!

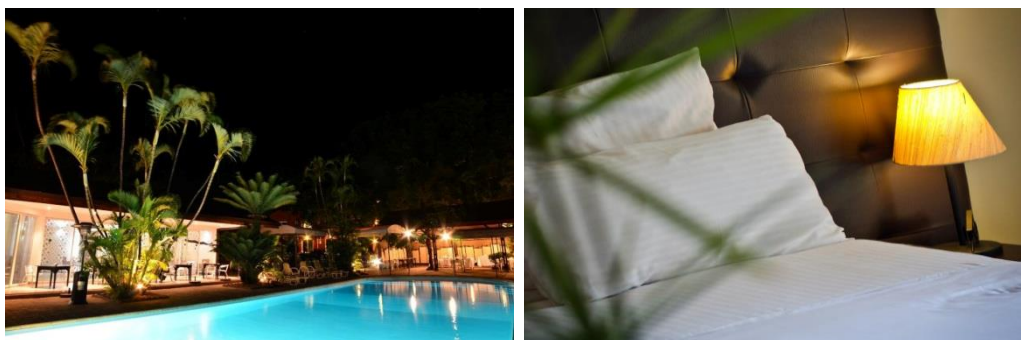


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Relais des Plateaux
<http://www.relais-des-plateaux.com/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
N/A



Distance:
Airport Transfer



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 2 : 27 October : 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.

Morning invocations & grounding meditation; some teachings on animal spirits in the vehicle en-route to reptile & insect farm; briefing on the direction of East and element of Air before our night wildlife walk .

Sahatandra River Hotel

<http://www.sahatandra-river-hotel.mg/index.php/fr/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
150km (5hrs Driving)



Activity:
Wildlife Encounters



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DAY 3 : 28 Oct: Discovering the beauty and wildlife of the unforgettable **Andasibe National Park**

Today we will explore Andasibe National Park – a perfect place to experience Madagascars Eastern rainforest.

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.



Morning songs/ chants & movement practice to invoke spirits of nature before our forest trekking; the role of ancestors in wildlife in Malagasy culture; journal reflection on our encounters and what came through



Overnight:
**Sahatandra
River Hotel**



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Walking and Wildlife

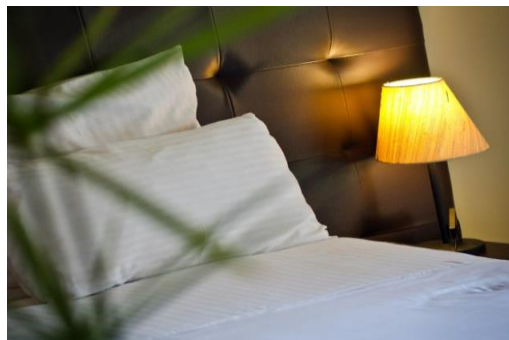
DAY 4 : 29 Oct : Andasibe - Antananarivo

After another morning to explore we head back to Tana.

Optional morning yoga practice; some teachings on Guides/ Guardians/ Keepers of the Lands; briefing on the direction of South and element of Earth after returning to hotel in Tana.

Relais des Plateaux

<http://www.relais-des-plateaux.com/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
5 hrs



Activity:
Wildlife and Travel



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DAY 5 : 30 Oct : Tana to Diego to Amber Mountain

Today you will transfer to the airport where you will take the flight to Diego. Here you will be met by your Northern guide and will transfer to Jofreville – home of the Amber Mountains.

Journal prompts for our travels; teachings on Halloween. This evening we have the opportunity to walk around the lodge grounds and enjoy some sky gazing.

Nature Lodge

<https://www.naturelodge-ambre.com/en/>



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
2 hr flight / 1 hr drive



Activity:
Travel, Exploring, Wildlife

DAY 6 : 31 Oct : Amber Mountain

Today you will be able to visit the Montagne D'Ambre or Amber Mountain 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.



Morning briefing on the direction of North and element of Fire; evening guided Shamanic Journey in honor of Samhain (Day of the Dead) or focus on New Moon in Scorpio



Overnight:
Nature Lodge



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
n/a



Activity:
Exploring, Wildlife

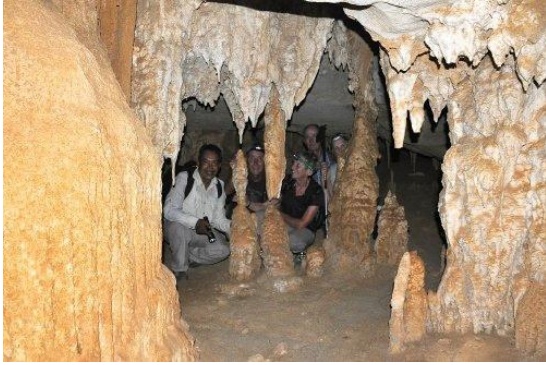


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DAY 7 : 1 Nov : Hit the road towards Ankarana and delve into some incredible caves



Another opportunity to visit the Amber Mountains before we head to Ankarana.

This afternoon we will visit Perte de Riviere – which is the gateway to a series of caves leading to the ocean.

Teaching on the Underworld energies and spiritual connection between Gaia and Cosmos with meditation to connect to star nation portals within Gaia; evening devotional movement & breath practice

Ankarana Lodge
www.ankarana-lodge.com



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
50km (5 hrs Driving)



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 8 : 2 Nov : Exploring and unearthing the striking landscapes of Ankarana Reserve

Today will be spent exploring this amazing park along with the Tsingy and the canyons. 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).

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.



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Teaching on the theme of bridging the unseen and seen worlds in our daily lives and practices; quiet reflection time to play with connecting to any spirit of nature and receive codes/frequencies of the lands



Overnight:
**Ankarana
Lodge**



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
n/a



Activity:
Exploring / Wildlife

DAY 9 : 3 Nov : Arriving at quaint **Ambanja** to explore and revel in its beauty and tranquility



Today we will head for Ambanja (and its coastal town Ankify). Upon arrival in Ambanja, you may choose to go for peaceful bike ride around the plantations, relax on the beach or even partake in a mangrove canoe trip.

Ambanja boasts a stunning location on the Sambirano river and is a buzzing, farming community with plantations, with crops like coffee, ylang ylang pepper and vanilla but most importantly for the community, cacao. There is a local airport and a small maritime harbor at Ankify which notably is the gateway to the Islands of Nosy Be and Nosy Komba.



Tonight we will sleep in bungalows on the beach, to experience north coast Madagascar in true off-the-beaten-track style and wake up to a beautiful view.

integration time; briefing on the direction of West and element of water upon arrival to the coast; personal activity of choice!



Overnight:
Bungalow



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
4hr driving



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 10 : 4 NOV : Ankify to Nosy Be

Today your guide will leave you and you take a small boat to Nosy Be. Upon arrival at the harbour you will be met by a taxi for your short drive to your hotel



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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.



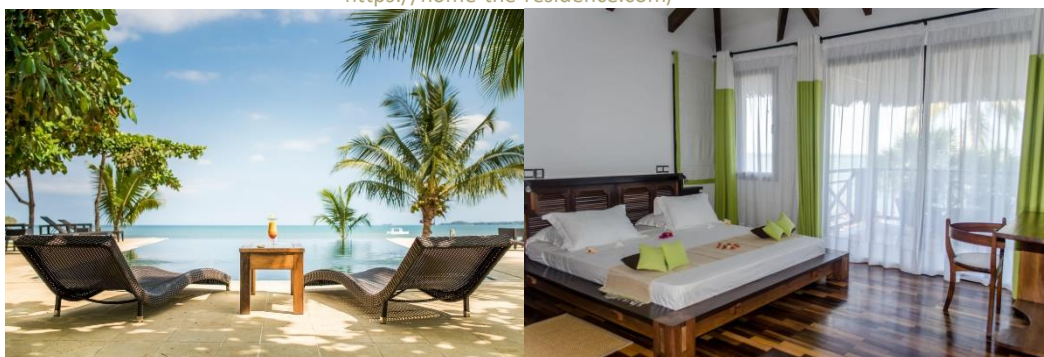
Your accommodation here is a 5 bedroom (all with private bathrooms) private villa with a pool. There is also a restaurant and communal pool.

The importance and symbolism of confluence (Sambirano River with Indian Ocean); Cacao ceremony for heart opening; teaching on a Rites of Passage (e.g. birthdays) and their role in shifting intentions into embodiment.

"optional dance party (for Karlyn's birthday)"

Home Residence – Beach villa

<https://home-the-residence.com/>



Please note, while you are at staying at the beach in Nosy Be, your time is at your leisure and you are not accompanied by a Pioneer guide. Any additional activities you choose to do are at your own risk and have not been assessed by Pioneer Expeditions.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
**Approx. 1hrs 30
boat ; ½ hr drive**



Activity:
Exploring and Wildlife

DAY 11 : 5 NOV : Nosy Be

This morning you will enjoy a boat trip. You will spend the morning heading out to find and then hopefully snorkel with whale sharks. You will then enjoy a picnic lunch before heading off to Nosy Sakatia where you will be able to snorkel with turtles before transferring back to your hotel.

boat trip to snorkel with whale sharks and sea turtles; teaching on the influences of Lemurian & Atlantean civilizations on Earth today



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Personal Preference



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DAY 12 : 6 NOV : Nosy Be

This morning you will be collected and enjoy a visit to Lokobe Nature Special Reserve . Afternoon at leisure.

Morning yoga before setting out for Lokobe Special Nature Reserve; teachings on forest energies and faerie realms; afternoon at leisure; optional evening meditation practice. Closing



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B,D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Personal Preference

DAY 13: 7 NOV : End of Trip

Transfer to the airport in time for your flight home from Nosy Be.

Ceremony and blessings & offerings to the land (assuming we have time before check out? otherwise move that to previous night)



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Onward Journey/Flight Home

NB: This is the Wild North and is not on the usual tourist route, so the accommodation quality does vary and some of the drives are long.

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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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)
- Water during tours
- Accommodation as described
- English speaking Madagascan naturalist guide from day 2 – 4 ; day 5 - 9
- Local guides within the national parks
- Driver and vehicle day 2 – 4 ; day 5- 9
- All transfers
- Internal flight ticket
- All entrance & NP fees

Not Included

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Alcoholic and soft drinks (water included)
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours in Ambanja

