

MADAGASCAR MOSAIC (14 DAYS)

This safari has been designed to provide nature lovers and photographers with a superlative wildlife experience of Madagascar. From the spectacular Masoala National Park, the largest remaining primary forest in Madagascar, with its magnificent fauna, flora and marine life, to Andasibe, with its wealth of birdlife and lemurs. On this tour we encounter an exceptional diversity of fauna and flora, from the "Indri indri" (Madagascar's largest lemur) to endemic reptiles, fascinating chameleons, colourful frogs and unusual insects. We also explore the Kirindy Reserve and Tsingy National Park, with their remarkable landscapes, and the famous Baobab Alley, the most photographed spot in Madagascar!

Most of the accommodation on this tour is upmarket or we make use of the most comfortable lodges available in each area. One night on this tour is spent in provided tents, allowing us to enjoy and experience the natural wonder of Nosy Manga Be Island. Guests are kindly requested to supply their own sleeping bags for the night at Nosy Manga Be and their own snorkelling equipment.

BASIC ITINERARY

Day	Accommodation
1 Tananarive	Les 3 Metis
2 Nosy Manga Be	Tented accommodation
3 Masoala National Park	Arrol Lodge
4 Masoala National Park	Arrol Lodge
5 Masoala National Park	Arrol Lodge
6 Akinin'ny Nofy	Palmarium
7 Andasibe	Vakona Forest Lodge
8 Tananarive	Les 3 Metis
9 Kirindy	Gite de Kirindy
10 Bekopaka	Camp Croco
11 Bekopaka	Camp Croco
12 Morondava	Baobab Café
13 Tananarive	Royal Palissandre Hotel

Price*: *Please refer to rates page on website.*

* Prices include all domestic flights, airport taxes, accommodation, meals, transport, entrance fees, all listed activities and guide fees. Prices exclude international flight to and from Tananarive, visas & travel insurance, beverages, laundry fees, any optional activities, gratuities and items of a personal nature (such as gifts and souvenirs).

DAY 1: TANANARIVE

Highlights: Day at leisure

After your arrival at Tananarive Airport, you will be met by your naturalist guide and transferred to your guest house. It is best to take a flight on Wednesday from Johannesburg (SAA arrives at 14h05) to coincide with internal flights (there are only 3 flights to Maroantsetra each week). Les Trois Metis is one of the most comfortable guest houses in Tana and has beautiful views over the city. Fully restored to its original Malagasy architectural style, the decor has been entirely made by local artists and craftsmen. The restaurant offers a mixture of French and Indian Ocean cuisine, including many Malagasy specialities.

Overnight at Les 3 Metis.

DAY 2: TANANARIVE TO NOSY MANGA BE ISLAND

Highlights: Bird sanctuary, Boat trip, lemurs and endemic species

Early in the morning, we will visit Tsarasaotra's Private Park, a bird sanctuary that has been declared a RAMSAR site. A haven in the city bustle, this sanctuary is one of the rare protected areas of the highlands. Many bird species, such as the Squacco Heron, Cattle Egret and White-faced Whistling Duck, make their nests here. You will then be transferred to the airport for your 1-hour flight to Maroantsetra. After your arrival, we travel by boat to Nosy Manga Be's Island Park (45 min). The island shelters many lemur species such as Ruffed Lemur and Chirolagus Major, frogs and the Innocuous Boa, which live exclusively on the island. We will enjoy a picnic lunch on the island. At sunset we go for night walk to look for the famous Aye Aye.

Overnight in tents on Nosy Manga Be

DAY 3: NOSY MANGA BE TO MASOALA NATIONAL PARK

Highlights: Boat trip, lemurs, night walk

After breakfast, we travel by boat to the Masoala National Park, where we will discover a number of rare lemurs. The park shelters about ten lemur species including the White-fronted Brown Lemur, the Red Ruffed Lemur and the Golden Bamboo Lemur. We will enjoy a picnic lunch or lunch at Arrol Lodge, our hotel for the night. Arrol Lodge is situated in the rainforest, overlooking the sea, and consists of bungalows with traditional furnishings and private bathrooms. In the late afternoon, we will embark on a night walk in the forest to see nocturnal lemurs such as the Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur and the Mouse Lemur.

Overnight at Arrol Lodge

DAY 4: MASOALA NATIONAL PARK

Highlights: Forest birding walk, snorkelling, whale-watching (seasonal)

Today we will search for rare birds in the surrounding forest, such as the Helmet Vanga, Red Owl, Tylas Vanga, Charbet Vanga and Blue Vanga. The forest also shelters many orchids and palm species. After our walk, we will make our way to the Masoala Marine Park where we will enjoy a picnic lunch and discover a wealth of fish species, dolphins and turtles. It is also possible to spot whales here between mid-July and mid-September.

Overnight at Arrol Lodge

DAY 5: MASOALA NATIONAL PARK

Highlights: Forest reptile walk, traditional village

Today we follow our guide in search of reptiles, coloured frogs and unusual insects. We hope to see chameleons (including *Furcifer lateralis*), Tomato Frogs and Leaf Geckos. After lunch at the hotel, we will go to the Ambodiforaha Village to discover the traditions of the local people and enjoy some of their local dancing. The Betsimisaraka, meaning "those who never separate", are the second largest ethnic group in Madagascar. They live on the East coast, where vanilla, sugar cane and cloves are their main resources.

Overnight at Arrol Lodge

DAY 6: MASOALA TO ANKININ'NY NOFY

Highlights: Boat trip, Pangalane Canal

In the morning we will travel by boat to Maroantsetra where we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Tamatave. After our arrival we will make our way to the restaurant Bateau Lvre for lunch. We will then be transferred to the harbour to catch a speed boat to Ankanin'ny Nofy (2hrs). Our lodge, the Palmarium offers comfortable bungalows with private bathrooms, set near the Pangalane canal and a private reserve. We will spend a leisurely afternoon at the lodge.

Overnight at Palmarium

DAY 7: ANKININ'NY NOFY TO ANDASIBE

Highlights: Palm tree and plant walk, night walk in forest

In the morning we will explore the private reserve which is home to many palm species and carnivorous plants, such as the Nepenthes. Many species of lemurs have been re-introduced to the area such as the Diademed Sifaka and the Crowned Lemur. After lunch at our hotel, we will travel by speed boat to Manambato (1hr) and then drive to Andasibe. Vakona Forest Lodge, the most comfortable in the area, is

located 7km from the Périnet/ Andasibe National Park entrance, overlooking a lake. In the evening we will embark on a night walk in the forest in search of Mouse Lemurs and chameleons.

Overnight at the Vakona Forest Lodge

DAY 8: ANDASIBE TO TANA

Highlights: Forest walk, Indri Indri, birdwatching

In the morning we explore the Andasibe National Park, where we hope to observe the biggest lemur of all, the Indri Indri. About one hundred bird species live in this middle altitude wet forest, including the Souimanga Sunbird and the Brown Mesite. If we are fortunate, we will spot the large Parsoni Chameleon and coloured frogs, such as the Golden Mantella. After the lunch at Feon'ny Ala, we will visit the Vakona Private Reserve. We then make our way back to Tana.

Overnight at Les 3 Metis

DAY 9: TANA TO KIRINDY

Highlights: Crocodile farm, dry-forest, baobabs, night walk

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport to catch your flight to Morondava. After arrival, you will be transferred to the Kirindy Reserve, enjoying a picnic lunch en route. The Kirindy dry-forest boasts many endemic plants adapted to the dry climate as well as palissandre and baobab trees. We are also bound to spot a variety of lemurs, tenrecs, tortoises, lizards, crocodiles and birds (including the Giant Coua and Vangas). At sunset, we will enjoy a night walk where we hope to spot up to six species of nocturnal lemurs, such as Greater Dwarf Lemurs and Fat-tailed Lemurs, Fossa (the only carnivorous predator of Madagascar), Giant Jumping Rat and Ring-tailed Mongoose.

Overnight at Gîte de Kirindy

DAY 10: KIRINDY TO BEKOPAKA

Highlights: Forest walk, birdwatching, chameleons

We begin the morning with a walk in the dry forest, passing through palissandre and baobab trees. We hope to encounter various birds (including Giant Coua and Vangas), giant chameleons, and the only river turtle of the island, *Erymnochenys madagascariensis*. We will then drive to Bekopaka, stopping for a picnic lunch en route.

Overnight at Camp Croco

DAY 11: BEKOPAKA

Highlights: Tsingy rock formations, caves, underground rivers, canyons

The full day is dedicated to visiting the National Park of Tsingy de Bemaraha, and we will enjoy a picnic lunch in the park. The tsingy are very peculiar rock formations that only exist in Madagascar - limestone pinnacles formed by the slow sedimentation of coral and shell, and eroded by wind and water movements. These strange peaks can tower several hundred meters high. The tsingy of Bemaraha is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These "stone forests" contain caves, underground rivers and canyons, where bats, lemurs, birds and specific flora have adapted. The great tsingy are only accessible from July to the end of October, so from April to June and in November we will visit only the small tsingy.

Overnight at Camp Croco

DAY 12: BEKOPAKA TO MORONDAVA

Highlights: Spectacular plantlife, Baobab Alley

We will return to Morondava by four wheel drive, passing through spectacular vegetation. We will enjoy a picnic lunch en route and, at sunset, we will pass through Baobab Alley, the most photographed spot in Madagascar!

Overnight at Baobab Café

DAY 13: MORONDAVA TO TANANARIVE

Highlights: Day at leisure

We will enjoy a leisurely morning and lunch at the hotel. You will then be transferred to the airport for our flight to Tananarive. You will be transferred to the Royal Palissandre Hotel, one of the most comfortable hotels in Tana. With beautiful views from the terrace over the city and the covered market, the hotel offers a swimming pool, spa and massages, and the restaurant serves a variety of inventive and delectable local cuisine. You can spend the afternoon at your leisure. Normally there is no flight back to Johannesburg on a Tuesday (if you are travelling to South Africa), so it is better to add a night at Tananarive and leave on Wednesday.

Overnight at Royal Palissandre Hotel

DAY 14: FLIGHT HOME

Highlights: Artisan's market

We spend the morning at the artisan's market followed by lunch at Chaumiere. You will then be transferred to the airport to catch your flight to Johannesburg at 15h10.