



24 Day Best of Madagascar Accommodated with Camping Tour

Take an in-depth journey into Madagascar and learn what makes this island nation so incredible. Madagascar's wildlife has developed in isolation for millions of years, and the vast majority is endemic to the island as a result. There are 33 species of lemur and you'll have an opportunity to meet them as you travel the country visiting remote national parks, pristine beaches, winding rivers and towns and cities with a culture all their own.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Antananarivo
- Miandrivazo
- Tsiribihina River Trip
- Belo-sur-Tsiribihina
- Small Tsingy Walking Circuit
- Manombolo River Canoe Ride
- Big Tsingy Trek
- Sunset at Baobab Alley
- Traditional Madagascan Cuisine
- Andasibe National Park
- Mitsinjo Night Walk
- Pereyras Nature Farm
- Andasibe National Park - guided walk
- Antsirabe
- Ambositra – Village Visit
- Ranomafana National Park
- Rainforest Walk
- Fianarantsoa - Betsileo: village visit and walk
- Ambalavao – Anja Community Reserve
- Antemoro Paper Factory visit
- Beautiful Sandy Beaches
- Tsimanampetsotsa National Park

ITINERARY

24 Days Madagascar

DAY 1 ANTANANARIVO

Tonga soa! Bienvenue! Welcome to Antananarivo, Madagascar's crowded but charming capital. Your adventure officially begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm. If you decide to arrive early, take some time to get acquainted with the city. With cobbled streets, wooden houses and impressive churches, 'Tana' has a distinctly romantic air. Perhaps wander the streets of Haute-Ville or visit the permanent Analakely street market. After your welcome meeting this evening, you might like to head out with your new friends for dinner in one of Antananarivo high-quality restaurants.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

Meals Included

None

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

DAY 2 MIANDRIVAZO

Be prepared for a long drive as you begin the journey west this morning. Maybe kick back with a book or get to know your fellow travellers during the 7-hour drive to Miandrivazo, a small city that will act as the starting point for your adventure down the Tsiribihina River. On arrival, check in to the hotel and listen to a briefing on essential information for your two-day cruise. Head out to pick any extra supplies you may need or desire for the next few days, then get some rest in preparation for tomorrow.

There will be no access to banks or cash points from Miandrivazo to Morondava. Meals on your river excursion are included, however drinks and gratuities for your river crew are not. Meals in Bekopaka are at your own expense. We would suggest 100 -120 Euro for meals and services not included in your tour price for this section of the trip. Please ask your Tour Leader for further advice.

We would suggest carrying a sleeping bag (basic blanket is provided) or sleep sheet for your river camping experience, a towel and a waterproof jacket. Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat are highly recommended.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

DAY 3 TSIRIBIHINA RIVER EXCURSION

Rise and shine for the 35-kilometre drive to Masiakampy, where you will find a traditional barge waiting to escort you along the Tsiribihina River. These flat bottom boats were once used to transport tobacco, but without that precious cargo they make a comfortable way to cruise along the water and access the remote reaches of western



Madagascar. For the next few days, you'll have the chance to spot wildlife on the banks and in the water, enjoy easy walks to hidden waterfalls and stop off in rural villages. Climb aboard and meet the crew, then settle in and enjoy some lunch as you travel through flat farming plains and enter the dramatic gorges of the Tsiribihina, stopping in the afternoon to trek to a waterfall before returning to a large sandbank to set up camp.

River camping for the next two nights is a simple wild camping experience. Sleeping mats are provided and one single blanket. Travellers may wish to carry a sleeping bag and or sleeping sheet. These items are not available for hire. There are no bathroom facilities, a bush toilet is the only option for the next three days, there will be limited fresh water on the boat for washing.

Included Activities

Miandrivazo – Tsiribihina River trip

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner

Accommodation

Camping (1 nt)

DAY 4 TSIRIBIHINA RIVER EXCURSION

Enjoy a full day gliding along the water today, travelling into the heart of the river and waving to the locals on the banks and barges as you pass. In the absence of roads, nature flourishes along the river in this part of Madagascar – watch out for herds of zebus crossing the river, and flashes of colour as you look for bee-eaters, herons, and egrets in this bird lovers' paradise. Stop occasionally for a village walk or a short trek for some lemur spotting before setting up camp at a village along the shore. This evening light a campfire and enjoy some traditional Malagasy music and dancing with the locals.

Included Activities

Miandrivazo – Tsiribihina River trip

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner

Accommodation

Camping (1 nt)

DAY 5 BEKOPAKA

Enjoy one last morning along the Tsiribihina river before disembarking the boat and bidding farewell to the crew. Make a quick stop at Belo-sur-Tsiribihina, a small village nestled in the marshes and mangroves of the Delta, to check out the market and grab some lunch before beginning the 2.5-hour drive to Bekopaka. Arrive, check in to your hotel and settle in for the afternoon. Perhaps enjoy a swim or a refreshing shower and rest your weary limbs. Tomorrow you'll be taking on the Small Tsingy.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)



DAY 6
BEKOPAKA/THE SMALL TSINGY

Rise early, pick a comfortable outfit and pack some snacks, as today you'll spend up to five hours trekking through the Small Tsingy, located in Bemaraha National Park. Scramble and navigate through a labyrinth of limestone formations that resemble a forest made of rock. Stop at two lookout points along the way for photo opportunities and a chance to take in the impressive surrounds. In the afternoon, unwind with a float down the Manambolo River on a pirogue (wooden dugout canoe) under the shadow of these towering rock cliffs. Enjoy an easy afternoon cave stroll, taking the sight of stalactites, stalagmites and the eerie tombs of the Vazimba – said to be the earliest inhabitants of Madagascar.

Included Activities

Small Tsingy Walking Circuit
Manambolo River Canoe Ride

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1nt)

DAY 7
BEKOPAKA/THE GREAT TSINGY

Embrace another early start this morning and prepare for another action-packed trip to the Great Tsingy. Getting up early again might be a struggle, but it's the best way to beat the heat and more intense crowds. Largely unexplored until the 1990s (the name Tsingy is very roughly translated as 'place where one cannot walk barefoot' in Malagasy), the area is now easier to navigate due to a series of bridges, semi-permanent climbing plugs and other equipment. Feel your heart stop as you pass over a sheer drop via a suspended bridge, a truly breathtaking experience that those with vertigo may wish to skip. Animals lovers should keep an eye out for 11 species of lemurs, 100 species of birds and 45 endemic reptiles and amphibians, including the Madagascar iguana and Antsingy leaf chameleon.

Included Activities

Big Tsingy Trek

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1nt)

DAY 8
MORONDAVA

There is a long day of travel ahead, so grab that book or download a podcast and prepare to keep yourself occupied as you cross the Manambolo River and the Tsiribihina River by ferry, arriving in the laid-back seaside town of Morondava in time for a spectacular sunset in the Avenue of the Baobabs. These cartoonish, towering trees are native to Madagascar, and the variety you'll see lit from behind this evening are *adansonia grandidieri*, the tallest of them all. Watch the sky turn pink and yellow and finally cast these trees – many of which are up to 800 years old – in shadow. Spend the night in Morondava and take a well-deserved rest.

Included Activities

Sunset at Baobab Alley

Meals Included

1 Breakfast



Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

DAY 9 ANTSIRABE

Depart this morning for Antsirabe, the capital of the Vakinankaratra region. It's another drive that will last around 8 hours, and after an orientation stroll around the city and included dinner at the hotel, it's up to you whether you'd like to relax or explore further. The town is fairly quiet after dark, but there are a few places to grab a nightcap if you so desire. If you're so inclined, perhaps head to travellers favourite Le Pousse Pousse, where the booths are made from rickshaws, or ask your leader for recommendations.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nts)

DAY 10 ANTANANARIVO

Enjoy breakfast and then hit the surrounding region on a soft trek, a good way to limber up after a few long days of driving. Discover the beauty of the local lakes, including the emerald-green waters of Tritiva, an extinct crater surrounded by verdant forest. Hike through the lakes district, sitting down for a picnic-style lunch along the way. Later, continue to Antananarivo. Perhaps spend your last evening on this trip indulging in some fine Malagasy food with your fellow travellers. There's plenty of international cuisine on offer in 'Tana', but why not toast to your Malagasy adventure with a Three Horses Beer and a bowl of Madagascar's national dish, romazava (a one pot rice and meat sensation).

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

DAY 11 ANTANANARIVO

Enjoy a free day in Antananarivo. As this is a combination trip, there may be members of your group departing today and new travellers joining. You're already a seasoned traveller in Madagascar, so why not take them out for some local food and a drink and get excited about the next leg of the journey.

As this is a combination trip, your group leader and the composition of your group will change at this location. There will be a group meeting to discuss the next stage of your itinerary and meet your new fellow travellers

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

Optional Activities

Antananarivo - Ambohimanga Rova Tour (per person; minimum 2) (including transport, entry, guiding) - EUR90
Antananarivo - Lemur's Park - EUR80



DAY 12
ANDASIBE NATIONAL PARK

Leave Antananarivo in your dust after breakfast, heading for Andasibe National Park (approximately 4 hours). Stop en route at Pereyras Nature Farm – a private reserve that's home to chameleons, frogs, snakes and so much more wildlife. This evening, you'll have an opportunity to take night walk through the forest at Mitsinjo – a privately-owned reserve, where you'll encounter nocturnal species including endemic butterflies and lemurs.

Pereyras Reserve is named after the French entomologist and naturalist Andre Peyrieras. Often likened to a zoo as animals are kept in cages, this reserve is also a research centre and a centre of reproduction for certain species. We have included this in our trip as the reserve has many different and rare species which are facing extinction in the wild. It is popular spot with visitors and some of the rangers may encourage visitors by offering to hold chameleons and put them on shoulders for photos this is not something we endorse or encourage.

Included Activities

Andasibe National Park - Mitsinjo night walk
Andasibe National Park - Pereyras Private Reserve

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Lodge (1 nt)

DAY 13
ANDASIBE NATIONAL PARK

Andasibe is the most visited park in Madagascar and famous for the 11 species of lemur that call it home. Aside from lemurs, you'll find endemic birds including the long-eared owl and the rufous-headed ground roller, as well as the smallest living chameleon – brookesia minima – and many times types of reptiles, insects and frogs. This region is popular thanks to an abundance of unique wildlife, and you'll have an opportunity to discover them during a guided walk through the national park.

A visit to Lemur Island an initiative of the Vakona Forest Lodge is possible today. It is often communicated that the lemurs on this small river island are individuals rescued from the captive wildlife trade, we are not clear if this is true. Lemur Island is quiet, it is located within a rain forest environment, and the number of visitors is regulated, however we emphasise that this is an Optional Activity and will not suit all our travellers. Income from visitors to the park does assist with the preservation and conservation of these captive Lemurs.

If visiting the island, we would also not encourage giving food to the Lemurs in exchange for a photograph.

Included Activities

Andasibe National Park - guided walk

Meals Included

None

Accommodation

Lodge (1 nt)

DAY 14
ANTSIRABE

Drive to Antsirabe (approximately 6-7 hours). Antsirabe maintains a Malagasy touch with all the tranquillity of a small European town, thanks to the contrast of its bustling street markets and Colonial-style facades. Located in the highlands, it's a popular spa town thanks to the hot springs and thermal baths, and the colourful rickshaws known as 'pousse-pousse' are a popular form of transport.



On arrival check into your hotel and enjoy a group dinner in the Gazebo within the grounds of the Guest House. Our Accommodation this evening is in Gite Madalief (Guesthouse Madalief). This guesthouse is run by an inspiring Dutch lady who established an orphanage in Madagascar - the guesthouse helps to support her work and offers employment to some former residents of the orphanage.

Dinner is included this evening.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Accommodation

Guesthouse (1 nt)

**DAY 15
AMBOSITRA**

Make the short journey to Ambositra this morning, home to the third-largest ethnic group in Madagascar – the Betsileo people. Take a visit to the nearby Sandrandahy villages and explore the process of silk production, which is an important part of Malagasy culture. The use of silk was once reserved exclusively for royalty, but now everyone is free to wear it though its use is more often used for the dead. When a Malagasy is buried, their body is wrapped in a large, silk sheet known as a 'lambamena' and, after a few years, the family traditionally return to the tomb to exchange the sheet for a new one. This custom is known as famadihana, and each village specialises in one step of the production. Enjoy a local lunch before spending a free evening in Ambositra.

Included Activities

Ambositra - Village Visit
Ambositra -Manandriana Village Lunch

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 16
RANOMAFANA**

Travel this morning to Ranomafa National Park, a journey of about 5 hours. Located in the southeastern part of Madagascar, this park is home to a number of rare species. Ranomafana means 'hot water' in the Malagasy language and the area is haven for small mammals, birds, reptiles and insects, as well as palms, bamboo, orchids and carnivorous plants. It's home to 13 species of lemur, including the famous golden bamboo lemur, which was first reported in the area in 1985 and is one of the reasons why the government decided to protect this forest. Enjoy some free time on arrival, and you may want to consider taking an optional night walk once the sun goes down. Your accommodation tonight is a small cottage located within the park's boundaries.

Perhaps consider visiting the thermal springs after which the town is named. Located across the Namorona River. The outdoor swimming pool fed by the springs is popular spot to take a dip.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Cottage (1nt)

**DAY 17
RANOMAFANA**

Continue exploring Ranomafana, this time on a guided walk. Keep your eyes peeled for lemurs, striped civets,



mongooses, goshawks, geckos, frogs and butterflies. You may even spot an incredible net-casting spider or the world's smallest chameleon. Relax into the day, and once again spend the night within the park. Your activities in the National Park include two guided walks, please discuss duration and walking conditions with your Leader.

Included Activities

Ranomafana National Park - Rainforest walk

Meals Included

None

Accommodation

Cottage (1nt)

**DAY 18
FIANARANTSOA**

Travel this morning to Fianarantsoa – a colourful town known for its markets and handicrafts. This heritage site is a must-see, with its long, paved roads, labyrinths of small paths and old houses with flower-studded balconies and tiled roofs. Take a day visit to a typical Malagasy village for an insight into how the majority of the island's population live, then take a local walk to explore the surrounding countryside, which is dotted with rice paddies and vineyards that produce Fianarantsoa's famous wine. You'll get a chance to sample local cuisine with a lunch stop in the villages then, in the afternoon, visit the historical old city of Fianarantsoa on foot.

The Betsileo Village visit includes a walk through the local countryside, the duration of the walk is usually 2.5 hours, whilst not a difficult walk parts of the walk are in full sun and we recommend a hat, sunscreen and of course carrying drinking water. Please discuss any concerns with your Leader.

Included Activities

Fianarantsoa - Betsileo: village visit and walk

Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 19 - 20
ISALO NATIONAL PARK**

Drive approximately 8 hours west toward Isalo National Park. You'll stop at the Anja Community Reserve on your way – a great spot to observe lemurs and learn a little more about the local culture. The local villagers will be your guide on this excursion, and your leader will be able to translate all the knowledge they can pass on to you. Isalo is known for its variety of landscapes, from rainforests and rolling plains teeming with life to strange geological formations and deep-cut canyons. And of course, there are a variety of lemur species roaming around the place because – well, this is Madagascar. Spend a couple of days exploring the park, which is home to over 80 species of birds, 30 species of reptiles and 14 species of mammals including three lemur species – ring-tailed, red-fronted and Verreaux's sifakas lemur.

Included Activities

Ambalavao - Anja Community Reserve
Ambalavao - Antemoro Paper Factory visit
Isalo National Park - guided walk

Meals Included

2 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (2 nts)



**DAY 21
ANAKAO**

You'll be up early today (approximately 5.30 am) to travel to Toliara Harbour, from where the group will take a boat to Anakao. Imagine perfect white sandy beaches beside turquoise waters, and that's Anakao – a small, laid-back town in which fishing is the main occupation. Enjoy a free day taking it easy on the beach, soaking up some sun and swimming in the clear waters of the Mozambique Channel. You're on island time now – so chill out and bask in the golden glow of Anakao. Lalandaka Eco Lodge has bungalow style accommodation. In true eco fashion, there is no running water in the bungalows and there is no hot water in the camp. Each bungalow is regularly supplied with a bucket of fresh water for washing and flushing the toilet.

Optional Activities

Anakao- Nosy Ve Excursion Canoe and Entry - MGA40000

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Bungalow (1 nt)

**DAY 22
ANAKAO**

Today is another free day of leisure in this paradise. Consider taking a full-day tour of Tsimanampetsotse National Park – a birder's paradise named for its spectacular lake. More than 100 species of bird can be found here, including pink, greater and dwarf flamingos, as well as the gray-brown mouse and white-footed sportive lemurs. Maybe paddle a canoe out to the mirage of Nosy Ve instead and check out the beaches and reef, or just hang out in Anakao town and make the most of its convenient beaches.

Optional Activities

Anakao- Tsimanampetsotsa National Park (Entry) - MGA45000

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Bungalow (1 nt)

**DAY 23
ANTANANRIVO**

This morning, transfer to Toliara by boat for the flight back to Antananarivo. Flights in Madagascar can be delayed and often experience late schedule changes. You need to be prepared that there may be some waiting time in Tulear today depending on the scheduled flight time for the day and your scheduled boat transfers, but this is all part of the fun. Back in Antananarivo this evening, enjoy a celebratory night with your new travel companions – perhaps toast Madagascar with a local beer or two.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 24
ANTANANARIVO – DEPARTURE DAY**

With no activities planned for today, your adventure ends today after breakfast and you are free to leave at any



time, provided you comply with the hotel's internal check-out policy. Departure transfers are available for pre-booking with us.

Meals Included

1 Breakfast

Tour Information

Pre-Departure Information Booklet:

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure Booklet to help you prepare, below is some basic tour information

Joining point

Hotel Belvedere
Lot IF 27 bis Isoraka
Antananarivo
101
MADAGASCAR
Phone: +261 347986638

Belvedere Hotel is centrally located in Antananarivo, perched on a hill with views of the city, and within walking distance to shops, restaurants and banks. Rooms are equipped with private ensuite, air-conditioning, TV, phone & mini-fridge. Hotel facilities include restaurant, bar, and WiFi access.

Finish point

Hotel Belvedere
Lot IF 27 bis Isoraka
Antananarivo
101
MADAGASCAR
Phone: +261 347986638

Accommodation

Hotel (14 nights) Lodge (3 nights) Camping (2 nights) Eco-lodge (2 nights) Guesthouse (2 nights) dge (2 nights) Camping (2 nights)

Meals

Your group leader will endeavour to cater for specific dietary requirements where possible, and vegetarianism and gluten intolerance will be catered for in most instances. Please notify your group leader of any dietary requirements in your group meeting at the start of the trip.

For those suffering from particular food allergies, your group leader will endeavour to disclose to their fullest knowledge the main ingredients in dishes being consumed. It is, however, your personal responsibility to ensure that you do not ingest any foods to which you are allergic.

Alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages are not part of included meals.

Transport

Private Vehicles, Boat, Plane, Ferry

Luggage

We advise clients to be as light as possible when travelling through Africa. Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap will suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags or backpacks with wheels are convenient although we recommend your bag has carry straps. You'll also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day trips. Lodges rarely have suitcase ramps meaning wheels are sometimes more of a hindrance and also impact on the case fitting in the lockers. On booking the pre-departure info will have a packing guide to help you prepare.



Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details.

- General Enquiries & Reservations - info@detourafrica.co.za
- Toll Free US/Canada - 1-800-287-0823
- Toll Free UK - 0-808-134-9963
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