



## **Remote River Expeditions**

### **Madagascar: Vezo Coast by Sail**

#### ***A Journey of Exploration and Contrast – Traditional & Modern Sailing***

#### **Exploring the Remote Coast and Forests of the Southwest**

**15 Days**

#### **Highlights**

- ✚ Sailing, snorkeling & exploring Madagascar's Southwest coast**
- ✚ Traditional sailing pirogues**
- ✚ "Nyota Ya Kosini" – the "Southern Star" 42' catamaran**
- ✚ Extensive island and reef exploration**
- ✚ Visits to Belo sur Mer and many coastal villages**
- ✚ Walks and exploration of the vast baobab forest**
- ✚ Excellent birding in the estuaries and mangroves**
- ✚ Picturesque Beach & Island Camping**
- ✚ Wonderful meals and of course fresh seafood**
- ✚ Andranomena Special Reserve**
- ✚ SCUBA option**

On our southward voyage we explore Madagascar's seldom visited southwestern coast with traditional Vezo pirogues, outrigger sailboats. Staying close to land we make stops to explore remote villages and the vast baobab forests of the southern Menabe Region. For our return journey sail our 42' catamaran further offshore and island hop our way north. We'll make frequent stops to snorkel and explore numerous islands include: Andraimitaroka, Mahelohalo, Andravova, Andriangory and several smaller islands off the coastal village of Belo sur Mer.

#### **Itinerary**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Area / Activity</b>
Day 1	En route to Madagascar.
Day 2	Arrive Antananarivo. Meet and transfer from Ivato Airport to the Mahavelo Hotel (or Similar). Trip orientation and welcome dinner. (D)
Day 3	Morning flight from Antananarivo to the coastal town of Morondava. Upon arrival we travel north by 4x4 vehicles passing through the Avenue of the Baobabs to the Andranomena Special Reserve. The reserve is a wonderland of baobabs, lemurs and lakes. We enjoy a picnic lunch in the forest and walking in the reserve. Later in the day we return south to Morondava and the lovely Chez Maggie Hotel for the night. (B,L,D)
Day 4	Our sailing adventure begins as we board traditional Vezo pirogues and start our southbound sail and paddle on the Mozambique Channel. Our first port of call will be the small coastal village of Ankevo sur Mer. After visiting to the village and surrounding area we'll set up camp on the beach for the night. (B,L,D)



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### **MADAGASCAR**

- Day 5 Continuing south, with several stops along the way, we reach the coastal village of Belo sur Mer. The picturesque village is home the Vezo boat builders where the craftsmen construct traditional 'boutry' the large masted cargo and passenger sailboats which ply the waters of the west coast. We overnight in Belo sure Mer at the Doro Hotel (or similar). (B,L,D)
- Day 6 Full day in Belo sur Mer. Along with having time to explore the nearby mangroves we'll explore the village and visit the boutry builders' construction site. Here boats in all phases of completion are found under the coconut trees which dot the harbor. As time allows we may also have an opportunity to visit the extensive forest of the Kirindy Mike National Park. Overnight in Belo sur Mer. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 Early morning we board our pirogues and continue south to the village of Manay. Along with visits to the nearby lakes of Ambondro and Sireve (22 species of waterfowl – 3 locally endemic!) we'll explore the extensive mangroves and dunes of the area. Our camp for the night will be on the secluded estuary dunes. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 Rising early we once again travel south following the coast with frequent stops for forest walks before reaching the southern most part of our voyage, Andronopasy. Using our pirogues we'll explore the extensive and seldom visited mangrove forest before making our beach camp for the night.
- Day 9 At Andronopasy we make the change over from traditional sailing vessel to our 42' catamaran "Nyota Ya Kosini" ("Southern Star") and begin our return journey. With the larger boat we sail further off shore as we make our island hopping northward journey. Our first port of call will be the island of Andriamitaroka with its inviting coral reef just right for swimming and snorkeling. Island camping or sleeping onboard the 'Southern Star'. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 Continuing north we visit and explore numerous outer islands including Mahelohalo and Angorahoka. Upon reaching the island of Andriangory (or Nosy Be - Big Island) off shore of Belo sur Mer we settle in to explore, swim and snorkel in the vast coral reef surrounding the island. Island camping and sleeping onboard the boat.
- Day 11 Full day exploring, snorkeling, and relaxing on the big island of Andriangory. For the night we have the option of staying another night on the island or heading to the mainland and staying at a hotel in Belo sur Mer. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 On our last day of sailing we continue north past numerous islands and come full circle, we arrive at Morondava and the tranquil comfort of the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,L,D)
- Day 13 A relaxing day in Morondava. and enjoying the gardens and swimming pool at the Chez Maggie.
- Day 14 Return flight to Antananarivo. Overnight Hotel du Louvre or similar. Farewell sunset dinner celebration with live music at the Grill du Rova at sunset overlooking the capital. Hotel overnight.
- Day 15 Transfer to Ivato Airport for outbound flights.

### **End of Services**



## Remote River Expeditions MADAGASCAR

### Our Vessels

#### Southbound / Vezo Priogues

- ✚ Traditional Vezo outrigger sailing pirogue
- ✚ Length: 18'
- ✚ Width: 3.5'
- ✚ Equipped with basic sails and paddles
- ✚ Supplemental first aid supplies and communications gear.

#### Northbound – “Nyota Ya Kosini (“Southern Star”)

- ✚ Polynesian design Catamaran built by James Wharrem
- ✚ Length: 42'
- ✚ Width: 20'
- ✚ Berths: 4 doubles
- ✚ Kitchen Facilities
- ✚ Simple toilet
- ✚ Fitted with snorkeling & camping equipment
- ✚ Safety & Communications: Extensive first aid supplies; Iridium Sat phone; fire extinguishers; inflatable emergency raft

**SCUBA Option:** Snorkeling gear is included and at several locations SCUBA equipment will be available for an additional charge.

The **Nyota Ya Kosini** is also available for small group sailing and diving charter April through November.

**Morondava:** Largely an undiscovered gem, with a long sandy beach (safe swimming at any tide) offering opportunities for good body-surfing sets. You can go sailing in an outrigger canoe or paddle in the mangroves, stroll in town, and stay late at the beachside *bdite*. It's an indescribable delight to be on a coast, facing west to the sunset, breathing that crisp dry air that makes you feel so good. Excellent seafood may be washed down with a cold Three Horses beer or a Lazan'l Betsileo vin gris.

**Includes:** Expert leadership and excellent naturalist guides; airport transfers and all ground transportation as per the itinerary; all hotels and meals outside Tana (except for some lunches as noted above); park entrance fees; local guides; river trip; camp and cook staff; camping and commissary equipment (except sleeping bag); and room occupancy taxes.

**Excludes:** International flights; domestic flights\* ; visas, airport taxes; some meals in Tana; insurance of any kind; tips; excess baggage; cost of immunizations; diving and beach activities in Ifaty and items of a personal nature (water, sodas, alcoholic drinks, laundry, etc).

**Cost:** TBA

**ITINERARY:** *Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. If the trip is delayed because of bad weather, cancelled or delayed flights or delays on other modern transportation, sickness, or other situation for which Remote River Expeditions or its agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included. Please read the Limitations of Liability paragraph in our Booking Information.*