



Remote River Expeditions Madagascar



Escape to Western Madagascar

Rainforest / Manambolo River / Tsingy de Bemaraha / Kirindy Forest

15 Day / Detailed Itinerary

(13 & 17 day programs available)

Highlights Include:

- **Andasibe (Perinet) National Park:** Eastern Rainforest reserve
- **Manambolo River Journey:** Calm water float
- **Tsingy de Bemaraha:** A World Heritage Site
- **Kirindy Forest:** Western Dry Forest
- **Morondava:** Avenue of the Baobabs. Activity options: sailing, paddle in the mangroves
- **Chez Maggie Hotel:** A wonderful garden setting on the beach, swimming pool, superb cuisine
- **And of course, lemurs, lemurs, lemurs...**

Day 01 Arrive **Antananarivo**, Meet and transfer together to the Relais Des Plateaux (or similar) for overnight. Dinner on own.

Day 02 Early morning drive to **Andasibe (Perinet) National Park**, crossing the famous cliff of La Mandraka with a panoramic view of the Anjiro plain. Optional visit to **Peireyras Farm** (cameleons, butterflies, crocodiles, snakes) at Marozevo. This is the domain of the Indri Indri, the tallest living lemur, smaller Fulvus, and Rubriventer lemurs can also be seen. After dinner we take a night walk for nocturnal lemurs and birds (nightjars & owls). Accommodation at the Hotel Feon'ny Ala. (B,L,D)

Day 03 **Andasibe – Antananarivo - Ampefy. (135km)** Early morning walk in the forest. Overland via national road Number 1 crossing through the highland scenery, visit the famous "Geysers" in the region of volcanic Analavory. Visit the beautiful waterfall then drop to the "Chute de la Lily". Afternoon excursion to the "îlot de la vierge" in the middle of Lake Itasy or the central Madagascar. Overnight at the Hotel Kavitaha on Lake Itasy. (B,L,D)

Day 04 **AMPEFY - BERAVINA (220km)** Early start, after breakfast to Tsiroanomandidy (good road / about 100km) across the full and dry mountains. Then rough 4X4 road crossing the high mountain Bongolava. Beautiful mountains and dry forest, visit "Tavolomana" in the small village of Horombato. We often see lemurs along the road and stop for a picnic lunch before arriving in the village of Beravina. Camping or basic accommodations. (B,L,D).

Day 05 **BERAVINA - AKAVANDRA (120km)** We continue on tough 4X4 to Ankavandra. Along the way we pass through the beautiful landscape of the western region; mountains; dry forest, visit on the road fossilized wood and then lunch at the village of Ankondromena ("red bananas"). Arriving in Ankavandra where we camp for the night. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - 7 **Canoeing on the Manambolo River.** On the river we'll use local pirogues (outfitted with padded seats and umbrellas) paddling each day from camp to camp. No previous experience is needed as there are no rapids and the river remains calm throughout the journey. You are welcome to assist with the paddling or enjoy the view and leave the paddling to your Malagasy river guides. Camping. (B,L,D)

Day 08 **Gorge Camp.** The landscape changes abruptly as we go deeper into unspoiled parts of Madagascar passing into the spectacular "Gorges of Manambolo River". Spending of the day in a canyon where a small river with clear blue-green water meets the brown water of the Manambolo, creating a striking contrast. This is really a fascinating place and we enjoy bathing and exploration the tropical deciduous forest harboring a great variety of wildlife. The vertical rock cliffs on both sides of the river create an astonishing silent and wonderful evening campsite. Camping. (B,L,D)

Day 09 After breakfast we continue downstream through the imposing gorge, between limestone walls and overhangs on which we can see peculiar vegetation, much birdlife, and the shrill cries of black parrots resound against the cliffs. This is our last day of canoeing. At midday, we come out to **Andadonay (near Bekopaka)** and an opportunity to enjoy a cold drink.

In the afternoon visit to the '**Petite' Tsingy de Bemaraha**. This is Madagascar's largest reserve, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, certain fascinating raised limestone plateaus decorated with chaotic razor sharp pinnacles with the underground cave systems and many succulents growing in the crevices. Tanakoay Lodge (or similar). (B,D)

Day 10 After the breakfast, we enjoy a full day visit to the '**Grand' Tsingy** before returning to Bekopaka. Tanakoay Lodge (or similar). (B,D)

Day 11 Following an early breakfast we travel overland from **Bekopaka**, with a lunch stop in the town of Belo Tsiribihina. (lunch not included). After crossing the Tsiribihina River by local ferry boat we continue south through the deciduous forestland to the **Kirindy Forest**. After dinner we take an evening walk in the forest.

Overnight in rustic bungalows (or camping) in the forest. (B,D)

Day 12 Early morning walk in the forest (especially good for birds). The Kirindy boasts more than 60 species of birds. Possible sighting include: White-headed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, White-breasted Mesite, Coquerel's Coua, Crested Coua, Sickle-billed Vanga, Chabert's Vanga, Cuckoo Roller, Grey-headed Lovebird, Madagascar Nightjar, Henst Goshawk and Banded Kestrel.

In the late afternoon we continue south visting the **Baobabs in Love** and sunset at the famous **Ave of the Baobabs** before reaching the costal town **Morondava**. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 13 Largely an undiscovered gem we enjoy a relaxing day in the tranquil coastal town of **Morondava**. Our home base is the **Chez Maggie Hotel**, a romantic hide-away in a comfortable garden setting. The hotel features: air-conditioned 2-story chalets and bungalows; superb cuisine; swimming pool and a full service bar. Lunch is on your own but included optional activities are available: paddling in the mangrove swamps, fishing or dowha sailing on the Mozambique Channel.

The choice is yours: stroll along the beach, swim in the warm water of the Mozambique Channel, lounge by the pool, or take a walk through town for local flavor and shopping. After enjoying the setting sun over the channel we sample the excellent cuisine of Le Masoandro Restaurant at the Chez Maggie.

Farewell dinner celebration and overnight at the **Chez Maggie Hotel**. (B,D)

Day 14 Following breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight from **Morondava to Antananarivo**. Afternoon city tour and visit to Ambohimanga (the Blue Hills). Overnight Relais Des Plateaux (or similar) (B)

Day 15 Morning free. Transfer to Ivato Airport for outbound flights.(B)

End of services.

Notes:

- ~ Meals: B =Continental breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner
- ~ Based on 2 traveling on twin or double accommodations
- ~ Half-board throughout; Full board Days 2 - 9
- ~ Subject to change and availability

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Tour Notes

Includes: Domestic flight Morondava / Antananarivo; English speaking naturalist guide; all ground transportation; all hotels & meals (except as noted above); Andasibe NP, Tsingy de Bemaraha NP, Kirindy Forest entry & local guide fees; river trip; camp and cook staff; camping and commissary equipment (except sleeping bag); water provided on the river; and room occupancy taxes.

Excludes: International flights; visas, airport taxes; insurance of any kind; tips; excess baggage; cost of immunizations; drinks (water, sodas, alcoholic drinks); items of a personal nature (laundry, excess baggage, etc) and any services not listed as included.

Note on the Itinerary

The itinerary is subject to change with schedule and availability of domestic flights. Accommodations are subject to change due to availability. 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 situations for which Remote River Expeditions / Chez Maggie or their agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included. We strongly recommend travel insurance.

Mantadia (Perinet) National Park: East of Antananarivo Mantadia National Park, crossing the famous cliff of La Mandraka with a panoramic view of the Anjoro plain. On the way we'll visit the Peireyras Farm for an introduction to some of the unique wildlife of the island including butterflies, crocodiles, lemurs and reptiles. Day walking safari within the fauna reserve of the Analanmazaotra rainforest. This is the domain of the Indri-Indri, the tallest living lemur. Walking safari in the primary forest of the park we enjoy other lemurs numerous endemic birds, orchids, fern trees, pandanus and many palms. Smaller Fulvus, Bamboo and Rubriventer lemurs may also be seen. Night walking safari for nocturnal lemurs (bush baby) and birds (nightjars and owls).

- 1) <http://taniko.free.fr/parks/andasibe.htm>
- 2) <http://homepage2.nifty.com/wwgkanda/MAD/birdperi.html>
- 3) <http://homepage2.nifty.com/wwgkanda/MAD/mamlperi.html>

TSINGY DE BEMARAHA: This is Madagascar's largest reserve (152 000 hectares.), classified as one of the world wonders by UNESCO. The fascinating raised limestone plateau is decorated with a frail, chaotic razor-sharp collection of pinnacles, the "Tsingy". Areas of deciduous forest also provide the chance to see brown lemurs and a variety of birdlife, we may also meet the rare all white Decken's sifaka.

Please Note: The site of Bemaraha is managed under special UNESCO regulations in order to protect the fragile site from damage. Access is restricted and the areas we are allowed to visit vary from time to time. In keeping with regulations we will visit what areas we can, including areas outside the protected area including Tsingy de Andadoany.

http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected_areas/data/wh/bemaraha.html

KIRINDY FOREST: The 25,000-acre Kirindy Forest has the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world. Probably the best western Reserve for seeing Madagascar's endemic dry forest species, the Kirindy is home to the giant jumping rat, found only in this area. Dominated by majestic baobab trees, the forest is home to the world's smallest known primate as well as dozens of amphibian and reptile species (and no poisonous snakes). As well the forest boasts more than 60 species of birds and 8 lemur species.

<http://taniko.free.fr/parks/kirindy.htm>

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.

CHEZ MAGGIE HOTEL: For more information on Morondava and the Menabe Region please visit:

www.chezmaggie.com

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