



Remote River Expeditions Madagascar

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A Taste of Madagascar

Tsiribihina River ~ Kirindy Forest ~ Ave of the Baobabs ~ Morondava

~ Programs including the Andasibe National Park & Tsingy de Bemaraha also Available ~



7 Day Program

Day 1 Antananarivo. Early morning meeting in with your guide and depart south through the highlands to **Antsirabe**. This is a volcanic region of rocky hills and grassland of zebu herds, and kasana and rice plantations. After lunch we head west we leave the highlands we descend into the Menabe (western) Region to the town of **Miandrivazo**. Overnight Baobab Hotel. (L,D)

Day 2 After a short visit in the village and final shopping we board our pirogues (local canoes) and begin our trip on the **Tsiribihina River**. No previous experience is needed as there are no rapids and the river remains calm throughout the journey. Local Malagasy paddlers propel pirogues as we travel downstream and we enjoy sandy camps along the river at night. Camping. (B,L,D) **(See notes below)**

Day 3 -4 Tsiribihina River. Camping on the river. **See notes below.** (B,L,D)

Day 5 Complete river trip at **Antsiraraka** and travel overland to the **Kirindy Forest**. Afternoon and evening walks in the forest. (B,L,D) **(See notes below.)**

Day 6 Early morning walk in the forest (especially good for birds!) Then after breakfast we drive south to the coastal town of **Morondava** with stops at the **Avenue of the Baobabs** and **Baobabs in Love**. Largely an undiscovered gem, Morondava is a very relaxed and tranquil coastal town on the Mozambique Channel. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,D) **(See notes below.)** [Chez Maggie Hotel](#)

Day 7 Transfer to the airport for outbound flights or on to other destinations. (B)

End of Services

Includes: Expert leadership and naturalist guides; all ground transportation; all hotels and meals outside Antananarivo (except as noted above); Kirindy Park entry & local guide fees; river trip; camp and cook staff; camping and commissary equipment (except sleeping bag) and room occupancy taxes.

Excludes: Domestic or 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: and any services not listed as included.

Note: Accommodations at the Kirindy are 'rustic' bungalows not all with en suite facilities. Camping is also an option.

Tsiribihina River

The Mahajilo and Mania Rivers crash and tumble out of the highlands, joining near the town of Miandrivazo to form the tranquil Tsiribihina—“where one must not dive”—western Madagascar’s biggest river. On its way to the Mozambique Channel, the Tsiribihina cuts through the limestone Bemaraha Plateau in a series of forested gorges, rich in endemic flora and fauna.



Along the way we enjoy this tranquil river, stopping for forest walks, birding, and exploring the amazing streams coming off the Bemaraha, with waterfalls, blue-water grottos, and travertine chutes.

Lemurs found along the river include the red-fronted lemur and Verreaux’s sifaka, with mouse lemurs and lepilemurs spottable by night. We pass fruit bat roosts and sandstone cliffs whose ledges and eaves attract peregrine falcons and barn owls. On the sandbars we see flocks of knob-billed and white-faced whistling ducks and many herons.

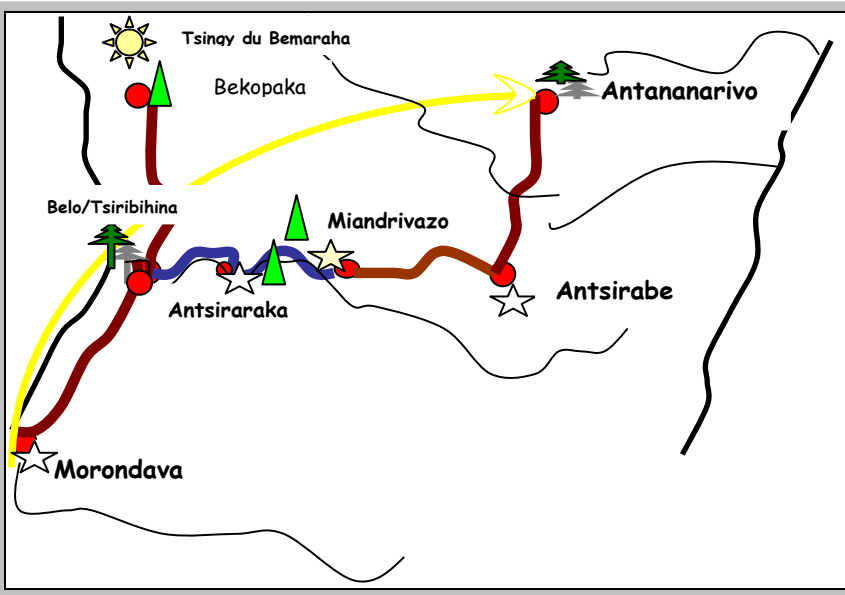
Endemic couas and vangas lurk in the riverside forest, while the cuckoo-roller noisily circles the heights, sharing the skies with the very rare Madagascar fish eagle, the Mad. Harrier hawk and the Mad. kestrel. The night audio is punctuated with the distinctive and ubiquitous calls of the Mad. nightjar and Mad. scops owl, and the plinking of bats.

More Photos:

<http://remoterivers.com/en/docs/gallery.php?id=tsiri&title=Tsiribihina+River&ct=9&overview=gallery-madagascar.php>



Tsiribihina River ~ Route Map



-  BICYCLE
-  PIROGUE
-  HOTEL: Miandrivazo & Morondava (only)
-  BIVOUAC
-  EXCURSION
-  Vehicle & 4X4

Kirindy Forest Reserve

The 25,000-acre Kirindy Forest has the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world. It is also the best western-reserve for seeing Madagascar's endemic dry forest species. The forest is a very rich reserve and home to the Fossa and Giant Jumping Rat.

Dominated by majestic baobab trees, (*Adansonia grandidieri*), the forest is home to the world's smallest known primate as well as dozens of amphibian and reptile species (and no poisonous snakes).

The Kirindy boasts more than 60 species of birds. Possible endemic 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, and Banded Kestrel.

Along with a stunning variety of unique flora the Kirindy Forest is home to 8 lemur species; a variety of tenrecs species; the narrow-striped mongoose; giant jumping rat and fossa.

More Information:

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



Morondava

A variety of options are available in **Morondava**. 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. **Included optional activities:** paddling in the mangrove swamps, dowha sailing or boat rides on the Mozambique Channel. After enjoying the setting sun over the Mozambique Channel we sample the excellent cuisine of Le Masoandro Restaurant at the Chez Maggie.

Morondava: is a wonderfully friendly, safe, and relaxed town. The Chez Maggie Hotel is located on Nosy Kely where the 'mora mora' ('slowly slowly') spirit is alive and well.

The **Chez Maggie Hotel** is a romantic hide-away in a comfortable garden setting. Located directly on the beach on the Mozambique Channel, the hotel features:

- 2-story chalets and large spacious bungalows
- air conditioning
- superb cuisine
- swimming pool
- full service bar
- wondrous sunsets.

www.chezmaggie.com

info@chezmaggie.com



Pre & Post Trip Options

If you have more time there are a variety of great pre & post trip options. We highly recommend spending a bit more time in Morondava at the end of the program at the [Chez Maggie Hotel](#), with its wonderfully relaxed setting and superb restaurant it's just a place to reflect on the journey and recharge the batteries before moving on.

We're also happy to assist with arrangements and services for all areas of Madagascar including:

- [Andasibe National Park](#) ~ Home of the Indri-Indri
- [Tsingy de Bemaraha](#) ~ A World Heritage Site
- [Belo sur Mer](#) ~ Sailing & Diving
- [Ifaty](#) ~ Spiny Forest & SCUBA
- [Masoala National Park](#) ~ Eastern rainforest
- [Berenty](#) ~ Lemurs, lemurs...
- [Isalo National Park](#) ~ Trekking

Avenue of the Baobabs



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