



## Remote River Expeditions



### Madagascar 2008 – The Island of Contrasts

“West Meets East” / 14 Days

**Day 1** En route to Madagascar.

**Day 2** Arrive **Antananarivo**. You will be met upon arrival to Ivato Airport and transfer together to the Mahavelo Hotel (or similar) for welcome dinner and overnight. Dinner on own.

**Day 3** After breakfast transfer to Ivato Airport for flight from **Antananarivo to Morondava**. Transfer to the Nosy Kely and the Chez Maggie Hotel.

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. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. [www.chezmaggie.com](http://www.chezmaggie.com) (B)

**Day 4** Following an breakfast we travel north overland to deciduous forestland of the **Kirindy Forest** also known as the ‘Swiss Forest’. Afternoon and night walks in the forest. Overnight in the rustic bungalows in the 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. (B)

**Day 5** Early morning and afternoon walks in the **Kirindy Forest**. This is the most rewarding natural area for seeing Madagascar’s endemic western dry forest species.

In afternoon we head back south and visit the **Baobabs in Love** and enjoy a romantic sunset visit at the world famous **Ave of the Baobabs** before returning to **Morondava**. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B)

**Day 6** **Morondava** is Largely an undiscovered gem and a most tranquil coastal town. We enjoy a relaxing day in this most tranquil coastal town. Optional activities are available: paddling in the mangrove swamps 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. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,D)

**Day 7** Following breakfast we transfer to the airport for our mid-morning flights; crossing the island from **Morondava** to the town of **Maroantsetra**, gateway to the Masoala National Park. This Park is located along Madagascar’s savage northeast coast and is the newest national park in the country. The rough coast line once supplied sanctuary for pirates of the Indian Ocean - today it protects the natural wonders of Malagasy rainforest, breathtaking coral reefs and innumerable abandoned bays, beaches and small islands. Hotel Coco Beach

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**Day 8 - 12 Masoala National Park.** Lodge based sea kayaking, snorkeling and forest walks. Kayak to Nosy Behento, a classic deserted tropical island situated at the southern tip of the Masoala Peninsula. We kayak, with a support boat, to various spots around the peninsula, including deserted islands, up the Fampotobe River and into the heart of the Masoala Peninsula.

Here we pass stunning coastlines of sandy coves separated by rocky, forested headlands. We will also take time to snorkel the amazing waters and discover the littoral rainforest on nature walks. One of the areas we visit is Antalavia, about 50 km from Maroantsetra, is in a protected bay at the end of 10 km long beach. A cool fresh water stream flows through the beach into the sea and great cascades leads steeply into the heart of the high land rain forest. [Masoala Forest Lodge](#)

**Day 13** Return by boat to **Maroantsetra** for overnight at the Hotel Coco Beach.

**Day 14 Masoala- Antananarivo.** Relaxing morning and afternoon flights to Antananarivo. Transfer downtown to for sunset farewell dinner and celebration at the Grill du Rova overlooking the capital. Connect to outbound flights.

### End of services.

- **Exact program will vary according to international flight arrival and departure times.**

### Note on the Itinerary

**Includes:** Expert leadership and naturalist guides; domestic flight Morondava to Tana; airport transfers and all ground transportation; all hotels and meals outside Tana (except as noted above); Tana city tour; Perinet and Kirindy 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; visas, airport taxes; lunches and dinners Days 1, 3, 4, 9 & 10; entrance fees and guide services in the Tsingy de Bemaraha; insurance of any kind; tips; excess baggage; cost of immunizations; drinks (water, sodas, alcoholic drinks); and items of a personal nature laundry, etc).

*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 or its agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included.*

### Tour Notes

#### **KIRINDY FOREST**

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. Along with a stunning variety of unique flora the forest is home to 8 lemur species.

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

#### **Masoala National Park**

This area offers a great rain forest experience with many lemur species and endemic birds along with geckos, chameleons and other forest inhabitants. Another great stop over after a day of paddling is Nosy Behento. This small remote tropical island is located at the southernmost tip of the Masoala Peninsula at the end of the long barrier reef. The lagoon within the reef is part of a nature reservation and its protected waters are ideally snorkeling and exploring. The island is covered of dense forest, a combination of Ravinala palms, coconut palms and different kinds of hardwoods. On the highest point of the island provides a wonderful lookout point over the lagoon and the peninsula.

[www.masoalasafd.com](http://www.masoalasafd.com)

