



Remote River Expeditions ~ Madagascar



Mangoky River / Rainforest & The West

Our custom island journey provides a comprehensive look at the wonders of the Great Red Island and its unique (often surprising) ecosystems, flora, fauna, and cultures.

Featured in the book: [1,000 Places to Visit Before You Die](#) by Patricia Schultz

18 Day Program
(13 & 15 Day programs also available)

Highlights include:

- **7-Day Mangoky River calm water float**
- **East, Central, Southwest & Western Regions**
- **Andasibe (Perinet) National Park ~ eastern rain forest**
- **4-wheel drive camp en route to the river**
- **Mozambique Channel – (beach, spiny forest, reef diving)**
- **Cities and towns: Antananarivo, Toilara, Ifaty, Morondava**
- **Kirindy Forest Reserve ~ western red forest**
- **Avenue of the Baobabs**
- **Expert local, international and multi-lingual naturalists/guides**
- **Small group (max 12) - excellent food**
- **Fully inclusive (exceptions noted below)**



Day	Location / Activity
1	Arrive Antananarivo. Remote River Expeditions representative will meet you at Ivato Airport for the transfer to our hotel. Orientation and welcome dinner. Overnight IC Hotel (or similar). (D)
2	Morning drive to Andasibe (Perinet) National Park (see notes below) crossing the famous cliff of La Mandraka with a panoramic view of the Anjoro plain. Andasibe is the domain of the Indri Indri, the tallest living lemur, smaller Fulvus, Bamboo and Rubriventer lemurs can also be seen. The primary forest offers a wide variety of endemic birds, orchids, fern trees, pandanus and many palms. We'll take an evening walk for nocturnal lemurs, chameleons, and birds (nightjars & owls). Accommodation at the Hotel Feon'ny Ala. (B,D)
3	Early morning walking safari in Andasibe National Park . Following lunch we return overland to Antananarivo and overnight Overnight IC Hotel (or similar). (B,D)
4	Early transfer to Ivato Airport for our flight from Antananarivo to Toliara . In Toliara we met by our 4x4 vehicles and begin overland journey to the Mangoky River. Traveling northeast to the town of Sakara we leave the tarmac and follow a sandy track north crossing the Fiherenena River. 4x4 Camp. (B,L,D)
5	After a quick breakfast we continue north as the road follows the plateau dotted with huge Mahafaly tombs. After a full day traveling overland we stop briefly in the quiet village of Beroro for last minute shopping and a cool drink before camping at or near put-in for the Mangoky River. Camping. (B,L,D)



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6 – 11

We begin our calm water river journey on the majestic **Mangoky River**. On the river we meander between several ranges of wooded hills on our way west toward the Mozambique Channel. This section of the Mangoky from **Beroroa to Bevoay** is a very remote area of Madagascar and passes through perhaps the world's largest baobab forest. We travel approximately 160 kms on the river, paddling the calm water at times aided by a steady current.

Paddling is not strenuous and the moderately paced exercise provides a real sense of accomplishment. Along with enhancing fitness paddling stimulates the appetite for tasty meals prepared on the open fire. We also take along a small outboard motor to use in the event of low water and to speed our progress downstream as needed.

We enjoy incredibly vast sandy campsites, superb views of the surrounding mountains and a soothing hot spring toward the end of our float. On our frequent side hikes we spot a variety of wildlife along the way including exciting birds and lemurs. Camping. (B,L,D)

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After our last full day on the river we arrive at **Paradise Camp**. We'll take a late afternoon walk to a nearby village, passing a small baobab forest and local rice local fields. This will be our last night camping on the river. (B,L,D)

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Bevoay / Ifaty. Early morning we spend a short time on the river before we meet the 4-WD vehicles at near the village of Bevoay. After packing up rafts and other equipment we begin our long drive south to the coastal town of Ifaty. Upon arrival to Ifaty we check into our hotel for a welcome shower followed by a fresh seafood dinner and the setting sun over the Mozambique Channel. Overnight Eco Hotel (or similar). (B,L,D)

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Full day in **Ifaty**, we have time to explore the nearby 'spiny forest' and enjoy a relaxing day on the beach. Optional activities include: sailing on the Mozambique Channel and visiting nearby coral reefs for snorkeling and SCUBA diving. Lunch is on your own. Overnight Ikotel Hotel (or similar). (B,D)

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Ifaty / Morondava / Kirindy Forest Reserve. Early morning we drive south to Toilara for our flight to Morondava. Upon arrival to Morondava we transfer to the Chez Maggie Hotel for breakfast and a bit of relaxing on the beach. Mid-afternoon we travel north to the **Kirindy Forest Reserve** (see notes below). Afternoon and nocturnal walks in the forest. Overnight in rustic bungalows (or camping) in the forest. (B,D)

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Early morning walk for birds and the lovely light and sounds as the forest awakes. Following breakfast and a welcome cup of coffee we'll travel south returning to **Morondava** with stops at the **Baobabs in Love** and the **Avenue of the Baobabs**. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,D)



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- 17** The tranquil coastal town of **Morondava** is largely an undiscovered gem and gateway to many of the wonders of the western Menabe Region of Madagascar.

The **Chez Maggie Hotel** faces west and is located directly on the Mozambique Channel with a long, clean and inviting beach outside your door. Along with exploring Morondava; options include: sailing a local dhow pirogue or paddling in the nearby mangrove swamp. Or you may prefer to lounge by the pool, stroll to the market, and end your day enjoying a cool drink with the setting sun.

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

- 18** Free morning and transfer to the airport for our flight from **Morondava to Antananarivo**. Day room in Antananarivo and transfer to Ivato Airport for outbound flights. (B)

End of Services

Please Note: The exact dates and itinerary may vary according to international and domestic flight schedules.

~ **Meals:** B= Continental Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner

Tour Notes

- ~ Based on two travelers on double or twin accommodations
- ~ Cost will vary according to group size (maximum 8)
- ~ Small group surcharge may apply
- ~ Single supplement fee will apply
- ~ Half board throughout and full board on the river
- ~ Subject to change and availability.

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. We strongly recommend travel insurance.*



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Tour Notes

Andasibe (Perinet) National Park

East of Antananarivo Mantadia National Park, crossing the famous cliff of La Mandraka with a panoramic view of the Anjiro 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>

Spiny Forest (Near Ifaty ~ north of Toliara)

Pachycaulous stems are common amongst the succulents, seen in *Adansonia*, *Pachypodium*, and *Moringa* spp. Spines are abundant among many plants, including the genera *Allaudia*, *Pachypodium*, *Mimosa*, and *Didierea*, and serve several functions.

http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/at/at1311_full.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.

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>

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'! Betsileo vin gris.

<http://www.madagascar-vision.com/salon800/page2d.asp?CAT=1&STAND=1075&PROC=3&PAGE=6822>

hez Maggie Hotel & Restaurant

A romantic hide-away in a comfortable garden setting. Your home away from home on the beach! The Chez Maggie is a small, intimate property located directly on the beach in the heart of Madagascar's Menabe (Western) Region. With a long, clean and inviting beach just outside your door the Chez Maggie is a wonderful home base from which to explore the area; perfect for family vacations and honeymoons. The relaxed setting features: 2-story chalets and bungalows; extensive gardens; superb cuisine; swimming pool; full service bar; and wondrous sunsets. The air conditioned rooms are spacious with tiled bathrooms, and hand-picked artwork.

www.chezmaggie.com