



Remote River Expeditions

~ Madagascar ~



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“Baobab Quest ~ Beyond the Avenue of the Baobabs” ©

Mikea & Antimena Forests and Wildlife of the Menabe Region

A 13 – Day Program

Along with its unique culture and the endearing Malagasy people the "Island Continent" is most well known as the home of lemurs which are found nowhere else in the world.

Next on the list for many visitors are the famous 'upside-down trees' - the Baobabs.

One of the most visited sites to see these unique trees is the ***Avenue of the Baobabs*** in on the west coast just north of the town of Morondava. The world famous 'Avenue' is a truly impressive stand of trees. Whether at sunrise, mid-day or sunset it is truly a photographer's paradise.



Our 'Baobab Quest' goes well beyond the Avenue of the Baobabs for a closer look at these strange and wonderful sentinels in the south-western region.

We experience a full range of amazing baobabs from towering giants; stunted miniatures to seemingly psychedelically painted trees straight out of San Francisco in the 1960's.

Baobab Quest & The Amazing West



Highlights:

- Expert, multi-lingual naturalist guides
- Adventurous 4x4 Journey
- Ifaty, Salary Bay & Andavadoaka
- Spiny Forest:
- Mangoky River
- Ifaty
- Andavadoaka – Morombe
- Kirindy Forest Reserve
- Morondava & Chez Maggie Hotel
- Small group – personalized attention
- Meals on Full Board – with the freshest seafood...
- And of course, lemurs, lemurs, lemurs...

Stunning Beaches on the *Mozambique Channel*
Options Include: Snorkeling, SCUBA, sailing...

90% endemic flora

1-night optional camping with Baobabs & hot springs

Baobabs / Traditional boat builders

"Tsitakakantsa" Madagascar largest living Baobab



Antananarivo to Toliara

From **Antananarivo**, we fly to **Toliara** on the southwest coast and begin our '*Baobab Quest*'.

We start with a visit to the *Arboretum d'Antsokay*. This famous botanical garden has approximately around 900 plant species, 90% of which are endemic to the region.

Varieties include: pacchidiums; pacchibus; didiereaceae; aloes; euphorbiaceae and malvaceae.

Local fauna includes lizards, radiated turtles and Lemur *Microcebus*.

Ifaty & Renala Private Reserve

The **Renala Reserve** is located in the village of **Mangily**, near **Ifaty** 27 Km north of **Toliara**.

The 60 Ha reserve boasts 1,000 endemic plants all adapted species adapted to the dry climate.

This is the '**Spiny Forest**'. It's the best location for seeing *Adansonia Rubrostipis*: the "Fony" baobabs - "heart of the forest" in Malagasy.

We also enjoy our beachfront hotel and beautiful sunsets over the Mozambique Channel.



Ifaty to Andavadoaka

Driving north along the coast with its turquoise blue water we stop for visits to **Mikea National Park** and **Salary Bay** to see the very colorful baobabs. **Andavadoaka** is the home of the 'stunted' baobabs.

In the morning we recommend a Zebu cart excursion at **sunrise** to visit these truly unique trees.

Andavadoaka is a friendly & welcoming village with lovely white sand beaches and pristine water.

Optional Activities: Snorkeling, traditional sailing, fishing...



Andavadoaka to Morombe

En route to **Morombe** we visit a variety of baobabs including:

"Tsitakantsa" = "The tree where one cannot hear the song from the other side".

The tree was first measured in October 2018.

Located near the village of **Ampanihy** this is the largest living baobab in Madagascar.

It is 15.5 meters (50.5 feet) tall **AND** an incredible 28:88 meters (94.5 feet) in circumference!



At **Morombe** we have the option of staying in town or camping along the banks of the *Mangoky River* near the village **Antsiriampioky**.

This is the largest & densest baobab forest in Madagascar and includes three of the western species. Our campsite is in the forest with a natural hot springs nearby.



Mangoky River to Manja – Belo sur Mer

Before continuing north to **Manja** we spend the morning exploring the baobab forest along the *Mangoky River*.

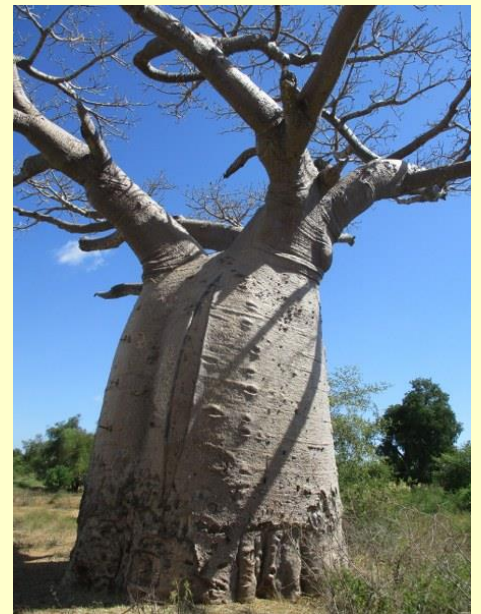
En route to **Belo sur Mer** we witness the transition of spiny forest to the dry deciduous forest, and see several species of xerophyte plant adaptation to salinity of the soil and drought. We stop for lunch in the village of **Andronopasy**. Visit the “Andrenala Mivola” (Grandidieri), the “talking baobabs”.



Belo sur Mer to Morondava.

Visit *Ambararata Reserve* known as its hidden avenue of the baobabs in the heart of the reserve. Discovering the fauna and Flora of the *Menabe Antimena Forest* and civil engagement against deforestations.

On our Baobab Quest we'll see three western species:
Adansonia *Za*, *Rubrostipa* & *Grandidieri*



Bird & Lemur Alert

Along with many baobabs we enjoy a wide range of endemic fauna including many endemic bird species. Lemurs species will include: Microcebus; sifakas; ringtails; brown lemurs; pale fork mark lemur; mirza; fat tailed dwarf lemur; Madam Berth's mouse lemur and sportif lemur (nocturnal species in the Kirindy Forest).

The Avenue of the baobabs

The world-famous ***Avenue of the Baobabs*** is an extraordinary stand of huge Baobab trees, *Adansonia grandidieri*. Located 30 minutes north of the town of **Morondava** (on the west coast), it is one of the most visited sites in Madagascar.

The ***Avenue of the Baobabs*** is a photographer's paradise and especially beautiful at sunset and sunrise.



Customize: We're happy to arrange the itinerary according to how much time you have and other interests. Recommended extensions: [Tsingy de Bemaraha](#) & Andasibe National Parks.

Morondava is a wonderfully friendly, safe, and relaxed coastal town.

Chez Maggie Hotel & Restaurant is a romantic hide-away in a comfortable setting directly on the beach; on the Mozambique Channel.

Where the **'mora mora' – 'slowly slowly'** spirit is alive and well.

The hotel features:

- 2-Story Chalets and large spacious bungalows
- Air-conditioning
- Superb cuisine
- Wi-Fi
- Swimming pool
- Full service Bar
- Wondrous sunsets



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