



DMC - MADAGASCAR

A team at the office to prepare your trip

Reactivity - Creativity - Availability

A team on the ground to accompany you

Reliability - Safety - Responsibility

MADAGASCAR

HIGHLIGHTS SOUTH & NORTH

16 days / 15 nights

November 2021

The starting point of this tour is to cross the Highlands down to the southwest coast of Madagascar.

We ride on the major emblematic and natural routes of the Great Island. This route is characterized by an extraordinary enchainment of specific landscapes, a diversity of traditional cultures and a very welcoming population.

The second part of our discovery is the North of Madagascar: Diego Suarez bay, Amber Mountain National Park and its lemurs, the tsingy rouses and grey Tsingy of Mahaloka and its cave, it is an ancient coral reef eroded by water and wind. The trip ends with a beach stay in the seaside of Nosy Be: to discover Nosy be surrounding and it's warm and peaceful population.



Highlights

- The amazing diversity of landscapes of the Highlands ;
- The catta lemurs in Anja reserve;
- Visit the beautiful Isalo national park ;
- Swim in the turquoise lagoon of Ifaty ;
- Walk along the splendid three bays in Diego Suarez ;
- Meet lemurs of the Amber Mountain NP ;
- Discover the beautiful red and grey Tsingy of Ankarana ;
- Relaxing stay in Nosy Be beach.

Travel identity card

- Duration : 16 days
- Support crew : English Malagasy guide
- Accommodation : The best hotels of the sites
- Transport : 4WD, minibus or bus, motor boat

Day 1 – Antananarivo --- Arrival



Welcome by the guide at the hall at the airport.

Transfer to our hotel in town.

Your accommodation in Antananarivo : www.hotel-palissandre.com

Day 2 – Antananarivo > Antsirabe



Meeting with your guide.

Get breakfast in the hotel and start heading south passing through Antananarivo.

Rice fields and typical villages of the Highlands represent the landscape right after Antananarivo.

Continuation towards Antsirabe in the afternoon. We take our time for a city tour and experience “pousse-pousse” (Rick-Shaw) riding for those who want, it is the main transport for locals.

Distance: 170 km **Duration:** +/- 3h30mn drive

Your accommodation in Antsirabe : www.plumeriahotelantsirabe.com

Day 3 - Walking in the Highlands



Why Highlands? Simply because it has the emblematic scenery of Madagascar, a unique landscape composed of different hills with crest lines, villages on the slope, houses made of bricks and thatch roof, colorful valley with rice fields: green, ochre, red, beige...

These magnificent hikes take us to the countryside world with authentic colors, meeting local people who enjoy discussing with visitors.

We can see women carrying bucket water on the head as in Africa, farmers working in their rice fields and sometimes we meet blacksmiths working on

the same process for ages.

Duration: from 2 to 4h walk

Your accommodation in Antsirabe : **THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY**

Day 4 - Antsirabe > Fianarantsoa



We keep going on the national number 7 and progress towards the south.

Passing through Ambositra town, we go round the shops and visit Zafimaniry artisans to look for a piece of carved wood or finely done square box marquetry. Walk around town and have lunch in a local restaurant where you can taste local food specialties. We continue to Fianarantsoa, at Betsileo tribe region, we have a winding road; we are at the highest plateau of Madagascar highlands. Arrival at the end of the afternoon.

Distance: 240 km **Duration:** +/- 6h drive

Accommodation in Fianarantsoa : www.villasylvestre.com

Day 5 - Fianarantsoa > Anja reserve > Ranohira



We leave the highlands. At Ambalavao, we visit the Antemoro paper factory.

The secular process to make this paper by the bark of the mulberry tree Avoha (*Bosqueia danguyana*) was introduced in Madagascar in the XVth century by the first Arabic migrants to retranscribe the Koran. It is still made to the same processes in Ambalavao. Meet some lemurs in Anja small Reserve at this huge granite rock foothill. We continue towards the southwest and enter Bara region. We cross the largest plateau of Madagascar constituted by a beautiful herbaceous

steppe, topped with huge termite nests: it is IHorombe. We arrive to Ranohira which is close to Isalo massif and the National Park gate.

Distance: 290 km **Duration:** +/- 5 h drive

Your accommodation in Ranohira : www.lejardinduroy.com

Day 6 - Visit of Isalo National Park



Breakfast at the hotel and drive to Isalo foothill. Hike inside the massif with just a small rucksack. This simple walk takes us to an amazing landscape towards the natural swimming pool. Swim and relax at the pool. We organized a picnic lunch at the Tapia forest.

It is possible to walk around and explore the surrounding mountains summit to enjoy the view.

NB: the level of the walk difficulty depends on the participants' ability and desire. The local guide will advise and recommend you for the best choice.

Duration: from 1h30 to 6 hours of walk according to the chosen itinerary

Your accommodation in Ranohira : SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY

Day 7 - Ranohira > Tulear > Ifaty



After breakfast, we go south until we reach the sea.

We cross Ilakaka sapphire small town where more than 100 000 people has been attracted by the precious stone since 1998.

On the way to Tuléar we make some stops to see Mahafaly tribe typical tombs, which are painted and decorated, also amazing carvings are erected on them.

The Mozambique Channel can be seen from far away before we get into Tuléar. Walk around the market and have lunch in town before we go to the beach at Ifaty.

Distance: 280 km **Duration:** +/- 6h drive

Your accommodation in Ifaty: www.lesdunesdifaty.com

Day 8 - Day at leisure at Ifaty



You can explore different activities from the hotel during the day at leisure on the edges of Mozambique Channel. If you want to make the most of the sea and the lagoon: diving, dugout ride with Vezo fishermen, swim or just leisure. Hikers can discover the inland, specific and extraordinary vegetation composed of euphorbia, baobab, didiereaceae; aloes ... those with thorns are kings in the south.

Your accommodation in Ifaty: SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY

Day 9 – Ifaty > Tulear > Antananarivo



After breakfast and a last swim, transfer to the airport of Tulear.

Flight to Antananarivo

If we have enough time, we stop at the crafts market in Antananarivo for shopping.

Transfer to the hotel. Dinner at the restaurant.

NB: The program of this day might change depending on the flight schedule.

Duration: +/-1h drive in Tulear, +/- 1 h of flight, +/-1h drive in Tana

Your accommodation in Antananarivo : www.hotel-palissandre.com

Day 10 - Antananarivo > Diego Suarez > The 3 bays



Transfer in the airport for the **flight to Diego Suarez.**

Your guide welcomes you at the airport of Diego Suarez. We have time to explore the region. We join the Indian Ocean which opens to 3 beautiful bays by driving along the huge Diego bay. We walk along the beach and make the most of the spot to relax and swim.

We ride back by car at the end of the day to go to Joffre Ville.

Distance: 90 km **Duration:** 1h15 flight; +/-2h drive; +/-3h of walking

Your accommodation in Diego: www.naturelodge-ambre.com

Day 11 - Montagne d'Ambre National park



Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive to the park and start the visit of Amber Mountain National Park with a local guide to this luxuriant forest. This is the first National Park created in Madagascar. It has special vegetation with tree ferns, palms, orchids and several rare species of trees. Waterfalls and crater lakes decorate our walk. There are seven kinds of lemurs in the forest, we can see crowned lemur, Sanford lemur ...We might see chameleons, gecko, leaf tailed gecko and many colorful birds. There is a possibility of walking down heading back to the hotel in the afternoon.

NB: Walk pace and duration depend on the group (minimum 2 hours).The guide will advise you.

Duration: from 2h to 4 hours of walk according to the chosen itinerary

Your accommodation in Diego: SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY

Day 12 - Diego Suarez > the red Tsingy > Iharana



We leave Joffre Ville to reach Mahamasina village. We turn off on the way to visit the red tsingy. The geological history of this formation is the same as Tsingy of Ankarana but with some thousands years of difference. Red Tsingy is due to the erosion of sandstone, instead of limestone for Ankarana Tsingy.

We drive back to the main road and continue until we reach Mahamasina. Drive till on the edge of a lake, in front of the Tsingy massif, within a few miles distance from Mahavavy River. Arrival in our lodge.

Distance: 250 km **Duration:** +/- 5h00 drive

Your accommodation in Ankarana: www.iharanabushcamp.com

Day 13 - Discovering the Iharana Tsingy



We will have half a day to discover the tsingy and its world. By dugout canoe: enjoy the borders of the lake and its luxurious fauna and flora: various bird species such as heron, cattle egret, kingfishers, drongos which are considered as the king of the birds or various colorful and shimmering butterflies.

By hiking: the tsingy-tsingy and mandresy cave (to explore this huge cavity full of stalagmite and stalactite) we will see the panoramic view of Ambatomiloloha. There is a private path with ladders, bridges, guardrails.

The starting point is the camp itself with two choices: depart on foot or on a boat.

The biodiversity, the endemic ecosystem will reveal themselves to you during this thrilling experience. We will see lemurs, butterflies, birds, various colorful flora, invertebrates...

Back in our hotel for lunch. At night, we walk along the Tsingy massif to reach the cliff edge and then, watch the animals which are mainly active at night.

Duration : +/- 30 mn of pirogue, +/-4h walk in the morning and +/-1h nocturnal walk

Your accommodation in Ankarana: SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY

Day 14 – Ankarana > Ambanja > Ankify > Nosy Be



We take the road to the south.

Our route passes through Ambilobe region and its cashews plantations, then Ambanja area follows, with coffee, cocoa and ylang-ylang plantations. Arrival at Ankify port. Boarding on a speedboat for 45 minutes crossing towards Hellville, the capital of Nosy Be.

By taxi we reach our hotel at the beachfront.

Distance: 250 km **Duration:** +/- 6 h drive +/- 45mn speed boat

Your accommodation in Nosy Be : www.ravintsarahotel.com

Day 15 - Day at leisure at Nosy Be



Many activities are possible from the hotel: water sport, fishing, excursion in some islands, boat trips, motorbike or bicycle renting. The hotel reception will advise you and help you with all these activities. We recommend a walk to Mont Passot in late afternoon for a beautiful panorama of the island at sunset, or just lazing around on the beach. Evening at your hotel in front of the sea.

Your accommodation in Nosy Be: SAME AS THE PREVIOUS DAY

Day 16 – Nosy be --- Departure

Transfer to the airport by the hotel.