



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

TREKKING & ADVENTURE

15 days / 14 nights

November 2021

Discovery of the west of Madagascar and the north makay trekking.

Head to Miandrivazo, we stay overnight in Antsirabe. We continue the ride the next day to join Masiakampy where we embark on a boat by lunch time. We navigate in the afternoon. We spend two days on a river trip on Tsiribihina, the boat crew preparing all the food we take on board. We spent nights in a tent on the riverbank. Our 4WD then took us towards Bemaraha National Park to visit the Great Tsingy which is one of the most amazing spots.

Drive to Morondava, stop in the famous Baobab Avenue when the sun is setting to make spectacular photos. End the journey in Morondava.

In the second part, we went all over the south of Makay, from Mangoky River to Andranomita cave, so we went around and started from the north to discover new faces of the massif. We got so excited to find that we went back again and again, now we know it enough and we are able to take you for an unusual trek.

Leaving Morondava and Tsiazorambo, we head straight to the massif and spend 5 days on spot with a guide and porters' crew. Huge plateau, canyons, long faults of sandy rivers, it is a passionating discovery of this exceptional site.



Highlights

- Two days by boat on the Tsiribihina river;
- Evening parties and nights camping on riverbanks;
- Adventures in the amazing Tsingy of Bemaraha;
- Sunset cocktail at the Baobabs Avenue;
- Five days trekking of Makay Mountains;
- Exploration of the canyons and cliffs;
- And enjoy the evening under the austral sky.

Travel identity card

- Duration: 16 days
- Support crew: English speaking Guide
- Accommodation: hotels and tent
- Meals: Full board during the trek
- Vehicle: boat and 4WD
- Period: from May to November

Day 1 – Antananarivo --- Arrival



Welcome by the guide at the hall at the airport.

Transfer to our hotel in town.

Your accommodation in Tana: PALISSANDRE HOTEL www.hotel-palissandre.com

Day 2 – Antananarivo > Antsirabe



After breakfast, we start heading south passing through Antananarivo. Rice fields and typical villages of the Highlands represent the landscape right after Antananarivo. We stop in Ambatolampy to discover how amazing the work of aluminum is to make cooking pots for the whole country. Lunch in the restaurant.

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

Distance: 170 km Duration: +/- 3h30 drive

Your accommodation in Antsirabe: www.plumeriahotelantsirabe.com

Day 3 - Antsirabe > Tsiribihina River by boat



Start after breakfast.

We pass through Betafo and Mandoto villages. We make a quick stop to have a look at gold washers from the bridge. We are in the midwest, in the Itremo region. We take a track after Miandrivazo village towards Masiakampy pier. Our barge and the crew are waiting for us to go down the river.

Lunch on board. We leave the riverbank straight and by the river meanders, we run into the bush. It is only the beginning of the cruise.

Distance: 270 km with 30 km of track Duration: +/- 5h drive

Your accommodation during the river trip: NIGHT IN TENT

Day 4 - River trip on the Tsiribihina



It is a large and quiet river; we go forward slowly with a relaxing and peaceful mood. We set up our camp on the white sand at water's edge in the evening. The crew prepares the meal and serves it onboard. Passengers can move around, play cards, read books or go up to the solarium roof for a sunbathing and admire the scenery... Often the locals come to us in the evening and play local music and dance.

Distance: +/- 120 km

Your accommodation during the river trip: NIGHT IN TENT

Day 5 - Tsiribihina River > Bekopaka



Breakfast on board. We continue the descent in the morning and get closer to many villages and the river is more frequented. We come alongside Belo / Tsiribihina and still lunch aboard and finally bid farewell to the crew. We get our 4WD at the landing stage. An uncomfortable track leads us to Bemaraha Tsingy National Park, a hundred kilometers takes half a day drive. Cross the Manambolo River to get to Bekopaka village.

Distance: 100 km of track **Duration:** +/- 5h drive

Your accommodation in Bekopaka: www.soleildestingy.com

Day 6 – Tsingy of Bemaraha - Full day visit



This is one of the most extraordinary sites!

TSINGY is a real cathedral of limestone, this dense network of faults, cracks and blocks of limestone carved in blades is one of the most spectacular landscapes of Madagascar. The formation of this massif of the middle Jurassic began there is 200 million years, during the period when the sea still recovered this region of Bemaraha. Then this immense plate of corals and shells lifted up itself. Exposed outdoors since 5 million years, the rain, with its work of erosion sculptured the rest. Among these marvels, there are 6 species of lemurs, reptiles and 53 varieties of birds. It is also the housing environment of one of the smallest sorts of

chameleons, the “Brookesia Perarmata”. This day, together with guide and porter, is dedicated to the discovery of this site of the most surprising.

Duration: from +/- 3 to 6h walk

Your accommodation in Bekopaka: SAME AS THE DAY BEFORE

Day 7 - Bekopaka > Morondava



We drive to Morondava and cross Manambolo and Tsiribihina rivers by ferry. It can take a little time sometimes ...

We pass through the famous “Allée des Baobabs” just before we get to Morondava town.

We are there at the right time, the sun is low, raking light, and smooth trunks reflect the orange rays of the sun. Great pictures in perspective. We continue to Morondava, and we settle into our hotel by the sea

Distance: 200 km **Duration:** 7h drive and 2 ferry boat -- in total: 9 hours

Your accommodation in Morondava: <http://www.palissandrecoete-ouest.com>

Day 8 - Morondava > Tsiazorambo



We leave Morondava to continue towards Malaimbady and for arrival to Tsiazorambo.

This road was recently improved, scenic savannah, and many villages. The rice plains of Menabe marching on our way. The ride is decorated with pictures breaks, small stops to meet people.

Gradually, the scenery changes, the mountains peeled by erosion take place and the arid landscape of the middle west Sakalava. We have lunch along the way and take a sometimes-difficult track to reach the northern tip of the massif.

Arrival in Tsiazorambo in the afternoon. Overnight in tents.

Distance: 170 km + 30km of track **Duration:** 7h drive

Your accommodation in Tsiazorambo : NIGHT IN TENT

Day 9 to 13 – Trekking and explorations in the Makay



This part of the massif has been prospected in 2013; we've been dragging on more than fifteen days there searching for the best spots, camp points and viewpoints. We have good knowledge of the south and center part, but we are particularly impressed by this area.

Now we guide you inside these huge straight faults where sun rays rarely get through and amazing plants grow along the walls. We've discovered several traces of big crocodiles there.

Sakapaly river runs right through these mountains, we "navigate" inside those canyons and put up our camp on the white sandbanks.

Our hike passes inevitably inside sections of forest where lemurs can be observed easily but difficult to get close.

This trek is quite a sustained pace, there is no particular difficulties apart from the heat, the walk in the soft sand or in the water up to the knees, short going up hills but very steep, going down hills inside canyons might need ropes, underhand itching plants, pebbles rolling under shoes, numerous saka-saka, deep cliffs where it is better not to have vertigo, pass rocks piles with stability and nimbly.

So no difficulty ... apart from being isolated, we are indeed far from everything here, so these 8 days of trek are just unprecedented.

In addition to all that, several evening campfires with guides and porters will be unforgettable moments. Nights are in tents or under the stars of the southern sky.

Duration: from 6 to 7h of trek per day

Your accommodation: SAME AS THE DAY BEFORE

Day 14 - Massif of Makay > Miandrivazo



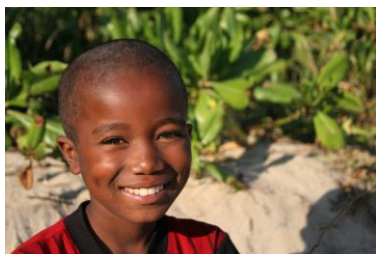
All good things must come to an end, we leave the local crew and Makay with regret. We join back Malaimbandy on the track, then the main road to Miandrivazo where we've been for quite some time. We are back in our little bungalow by the pool.

Arriving in the afternoon, we take time to rest.

Duration: +/-6h drive **Distance:** 200 km (80 km of track)

Your accommodation in Miandrivazo: <https://www.princesse-tsiribihina.com>

Day 15 – Miandrivazo > Antananarivo



Drive to Antananarivo via Antsirabe where we visit local artisans; work of zebu (cow) horn, shaping and polishing, transformed to tat jewelry and different inside decoration items ; miniature workshop (bicycle, cars ...) recycled tins and cans. Lunch in town and drive along Ankaratra massif towards Antananarivo.

Distance: 400 km **Duration:** 7h drive