

Madagascar East & West

Pangalanes Canal, Kirindy Forest, Andasibe-Mantadia, Antananarivo



Explore the contrasting sights and sounds of Madagascar's eastern and western coastlines on this 13-day journey beginning and ending in Tana.

The East & West coasts of Madagascar provide a dramatic contrast. While the East Coast receives plentiful rainfall and is defined by its lakes and canals, which sustain a lifestyle and economy that revolves around fishing and trade, the West Coast has a much drier climate and is notable for its vast forest reserves as well as its beautiful beaches. This is where you will find the famous Avenue of the Baobabs, Tsingy forests, and the magnificent Fossa.

Our Madagascar East & West itinerary takes in the best that both coastlines have to offer.

Day 1: Arrive Antananarivo

On arrival in Tana you will be met and transferred to the Gassy House Hotel for one night (B&B basis).

The Gassy House Hotel

The Gassy House Hotel is located close to the airport with views that overlook the village of Ivato and surrounding rice fields. It's a quiet hotel, with 36 en-suite rooms, and a large swimming pool set in pleasant and colourful gardens. All rooms feature internet access, private bathrooms, and open onto a verandah overlooking the gardens.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Day 2: Tana to Morondava

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the morning flight to Morondava, where you will be met on arrival by your driver/guide and transferred to Chez Maggie for one night (B&B basis).

Chez Maggie

This tranquil retreat was one of the first properties to be built on Nosy Kely. It offers spacious bungalow accommodation in a pretty garden setting.

Chez Maggie is west-facing with plenty of beach front.

Facilities at Chez Maggie include restaurant, bar, swimming pool and laundry service, while the available activities include sea kayaking, fishing and boat transfers to Belo sur Mer.



Day 3: Morondava to Kirindy

After breakfast at Chez Maggie, depart with your driver for Kirindy, stopping along the way at the iconic Avenue of Baobabs.

Arrive Kirindy this afternoon and check-in at the Relais du Kirindy for 1 night (B&B basis).

Relais Du Kirindy

Opened in 2017, Relais du Kirindy is located just outside the Kirindy Nature Reserve and is the only luxury lodge option in the region.

If offers accommodation in 20 bungalows, each of which opens onto a large terrace and is furnished inside with mosquito nets, fans and large double beds. The rooms are en-suite with hot running water and showers.

There's a large pool and terrace with loungers and an outdoor bar, overlooked by the lodge restaurant which offers a good-standard international menu.



In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely walk in the Kirindy Reserve, where the wildlife viewing is generally excellent.

The 25,000-acre Kirindy Forest has the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world. It is also perhaps the best reserve in western Madagascar for seeing several of the island's endemic dry forest species.

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!)

The Kirindy Reserve protects more than 60 species of bird. Species endemic to Madagascar that are present within the Kirindy Reserve include white-headed vanga, Coquerel's coua, sickle-billed vanga, cuckoo roller, Madagascar nightjar, and banded kestrel.

As well as a stunning variety of plant and bird life, the Kirindy Forest is also home to eight lemur species; several species of tenrec and shrew; the narrow-striped mongoose; giant jumping rat and the rare, magnificent fossa.



After dinner you can take a walk to view the nocturnal species of the forest and hear the sounds of the night. The clear skies of the Kirindy Reserve also provide magnificent opportunities for star gazing.

Day 4: Kirindy to Morondava

Enjoy a morning walk in the forest before departing for Morondava, stopping en-route to photograph the amazing and ancient Baobab trees.

Arrive back at Chez Maggie and check-in for one night (B&B basis).

Day 5: Fly Morondava to Tana

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Tana, where you will be met on arrival and transferred to the Gassy House Hotel for one night (B&B basis).

Day 6: Tana to Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

After breakfast you will meet your driver/guide and depart for Andasibe through the green landscape of the east. This area is the humid part of the country with many primary forests and lakes. You will arrive at your hotel, Lemurs Lodge, early afternoon. Check-in for 2 nights (B&B).

Lemurs Lodge

This attractive lodge is located close to the park. The cozy chalets, some with a seating area or balcony, offer garden views and a terrace. A continental breakfast is served daily, and Wifi is available throughout the property.

Day 7: Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

After breakfast, venture into Andasibe-Mantadia National Park with your guide on an early morning hike.

Andasibe is a huge tropical rainforest where 9 species of lemur can be spotted. Other notable fauna and flora include chameleons, tenrecs, and a wide variety of orchid flowers.



With any luck you'll encounter Andasibe's most famous resident, the Indri Indri, or Babokoto. These are the largest lemur on Madagascar, known especially for their spectacular whooping calls. (The name "Babakoto" is derived from a local legend; it is said that one day a small boy called Koto slipped from a tall tree in the forest while trying to collect bees. He was saved and returned to his village by the forest lemurs, and from that time the Indri Indri was called "Babakoto", or father of Koto).

Adult male and females Indri Indri stay together for life, along with their young. A female Indri gives birth to a single offspring every 2-3 years. No one knows how long an Indri may live, but their lifespan is estimated to be between 25 and 40 years. Adults are from 70-90cm tall and weigh from 7-10kg.



After the hike, continue to Andasibe village, a typical Betsimisaraka settlement, for a guided tour. During the tour, you'll have the chance to learn more about the Betsimisaraka, the second largest tribe of Madagascar, whose livelihood revolves around cultivating rice and vanilla.

Day 8: Andasibe – Ankanin’ny Nofy

Leaving Andasibe this morning, you drive east to Manambato, a quiet village situated on the banks of Lake Rasoabe, and the gateway to the Pangalanes Canal. From Manambato, transfer by boat to the Palmarium Hotel, where you stay three nights (B&B basis).



Palmarium Hotel

Situated on the shores of Lake Ampitabe, the Palmarium is a charming bungalow hotel that offers easy access to Akanin'ny Nofy (Palmarium Park) and the Pangalanes Canal.

Only accessible by boat, the peace and tranquillity of the Palmarium is hard to find elsewhere and the staff really go out of their way to make your stay pleasant. There are lemurs that visit the hotel regularly and, whilst not fully tame, they are a delight to watch.

Each of the Palmarium's 17 bungalow rooms enjoys a private veranda with hammocks and a view of the lake.



Day 9: Ankanin’ny Nofy

Explore Ankanin'ny Nofy Reserve in the company of an experienced wildlife guide. This park occupies 50ha of land on Madagascar's eastern coast, bounded by Ampitabe Lake and the Indian Ocean, in the Pangalanes Canal.

You will be able to discover the endemic flora and fauna of Madagascar, such as rare palm trees and plants such as orchids and mahoganies. One of the most fascinating of the plants is the

carnivorous Pitcher Plant. There are reptiles and 9 different lemur species (Indri, sifakas, common brown, black, red, sleeping, bamboo, crowned and black and white ruffed).

Other activities include visits to the wild beaches and nearby fishing villages.

Day 10: Ankanin'ny Nofy - Tamatave - Île Sainte Marie

Depart the Palmarium after breakfast and take the boat to Tamatave, where you will be collected by your driver and transferred to the airport. Check-in for the flight to Isle Sainte Marie.

On arrival on the island, you will be met and transferred to Princesse Bora Hotel, where you stay 3 nights in a villa (half-board).



Princesse Bora Hotel

This lovely beach property offers charm and luxury in abundance.

The 20 villas are built from natural materials - stone, rose wood and with a traditional thatched roof, or "ravimpotsy" - so as to blend in with their setting. All rooms feature a private terrace with mahogany table and chairs and a shaded hammock. Inside they are equipped with generous double beds, fans and en-suite bathrooms.

Hotel facilities include a open-air bar and restaurant, spa, a fabulous 25-meter pool, and a second natural swimming pool, built on the beach and accessed by a long pontoon.

Various activities are available at the Princesse Bora.

Snorkelling & kayaking equipment is free to use, as are the hotel bikes, which are great for exploring the island. Excursions can also be arranged to remoter parts of the island.

Every year, from the beginning of July to the end of September, the hotel organises daily whale watching trips. This is a great opportunity to discover these mammals in the company of an experienced eco-guide. There are departures every morning from the beach of the hotel - the trips typically last 3 hours.



Days 11 & 12: Île Sainte Marie

The next two days are at leisure to explore Île Sainte Marie and to relax at the Princesse Bora.

Île Sainte Marie, or Nosy Boraha, is a narrow granite island 57km long and 8km wide, situated just off the east coast of Madagascar. It used to be a haven for pirates during the 16th century (the queen of the island was even married to one!), and to this day the island retains a charmingly laid-back, raffish character.



Sainte Marie's beautiful white-sand beaches are shaded by coconut palms and its bays and coves protected by coral reefs. Surrounding the main island are several mostly-uninhabited islets.

Much of the main island of Sainte Marie can be explored by bicycle, though walking excursions to explore the historic sights in and around Ambodifotatra and the Baie des Forbans, including the 19th century Catholic Church and pirates' cemetery, are also popular.

During the winter months (from June to the end of September), the sea around Île Sainte Marie is host to an annual natural spectacle, as large numbers of humpback whale travel north from the Antarctic to the warmer waters around Ile Ste Marie to calve and nurse their young.

Day 13: Departure

Transfer to the airport to catch the morning flight to Tana. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Gassy Country Hotel for day use.

At the appropriate time you will be transferred to the airport to check in for your international flight departure.

If your flight schedule requires it, we can arrange for an additional night in Tana.

Please see price guide overleaf.

Price Guide

The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,545 per person**, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- Domestic flights (Tana-Morondova-Tana / Tamatave-Sainte Marie-Tana incl. taxes)
- Boat transfer from Manambato to Palmarium/to Tamatave
- Accommodation and meals as described
- Entrance fees and special guides for the visits mentioned
- All transfers (by private 4WD vehicle and boat)
- National Park entry fees

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Optional excursions
- Meals other than those mentioned
- Drinks with meals
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance – ask us for a quote
- Items of a personal nature

