

## MANDRARE + NAMOROKA + MASOALA

### Day 1 (Thursday): Arrival in Antananarivo

Upon arrival into Ivato Airport you will be greeted by an English speaking guide from MCC who will accompany you to your hotel in the upper town of Antananarivo. 'Tana' – as the locals call it has fascinating traditional architecture and a more Indonesian influence than the rest of Madagascar. Maison Gallieni is a restored colonial mansion with an elegant mix of modern and traditional décor. Take a dip in the pool and enjoy the lovely views over the city before dinner.

**Overnight at Maison Gallieni in a standard room (Half board)**



### Day 2 (Friday): Antananarivo – Mandrare River Camp (Scheduled charter flight / 07:00 – 09:30)

After breakfast, drive back to Ivato Airport in time for your scheduled charter flight to Ifotaka (2hrs 30 min). Upon arrival you will be met by our guide and vehicle and transfer to the camp (5min). Settle into your tent and enjoy the majestic views over the Mandrare River. Around 5pm you will depart for a night walk in the Forest of Zenavo. This is a fantastic way to see diurnal lemurs bedding down, and the nocturnal lemurs begin to wake in the eerie and prehistoric spiny forest. You will spot sifakas and sleeping white-foot sportive lemurs, then once the sun has set, two mouse lemur species, sleeping birds, chameleons, owls and now active sportive lemurs.

**Overnight at Mandrare River Camp in a luxury tent (All inclusive)**



### Day 3 (Saturday): Mandrare River Camp



After breakfast you will head out to the stunning sacred gallery forest to the south of the camp. Depending on the river depth, you will walk or take a boat across the Mandrare River to reach this largely deciduous forest. Inquisitive groups of ring tailed lemurs and the always entertaining Verreaux sifaka are the highlight of this excursion. Return to camp for lunch and a relaxed afternoon by the pool. In late afternoon, head for a walk through the sacred spiny forest filled with the ancestral tombs of the local Antandroy tribe, as well as an extraordinary array of flora and fauna, unique to the spiny forest. Your English speaking guide and a tracker from the local community will give you an introduction to Antandroy culture and customs. Your visit is followed by sundowners on the Mandrare River banks.

**Overnight at Mandrare River Camp in a luxury tent (All inclusive)**



#### Day 4 (Sunday): Mandrare River Camp

After a cup of tea or coffee head to the Spiny Forest for an early morning walk. Witness the sunlight break through the octopus trees while looking out for the many endemic birds such as crested coua, a variety of vangas and the running coua. Head back to camp for a sumptuous breakfast followed by a visit to the local market or the local village to meet the fascinating Antandroy tribe. Lunch will be served at the camp followed by a relaxed afternoon watching life along the river from your tent terrace. At 5pm, depart for a sundowner amidst the baobabs. Watching the sun set and moon rise with a view across the baobabs to the mountains beyond is a magical experience. In the evening the local village may come to perform beautiful traditional dances, accompanied by singing and music. Song and dance is at the heart of Antandroy culture and is used to accompany the major rituals and events of everyday life.

**Overnight at Mandrare River Camp in a luxury tent (All inclusive)**



#### Day 5 (Monday): Mandrare River Camp – Antananarivo (Scheduled charter flight/ 10:00 – 13:30)



This morning, transfer to the airstrip (5 min) in time for your scheduled charter flight to Antananarivo (20 min Mandrare – Fort Dauphin / 30 min refuelling in Fort Dauphin / 2hrs 30 min Fort Dauphin – Antananarivo).

Upon arrival into Ivato Airport you will be greeted by an English-speaking guide from MCC who will accompany you to your hotel. Ideally situated next to the airport, the Nosy Manga Hotel offers large comfortable ensuite bedrooms equipped with air-conditioning and satellite tv. The hotel is equipped with a roof-top pool, and a stylishly-decorated bar and restaurant area.

In the afternoon, drive to Ambohimanga, 20 km north-east of Tana. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the ancestral home on the Merina kings and queens who united Madagascar under one rule. It is a fortified sacred hill with 16 gates leading to king Andrianampoinimerina's house (ruled 1787 – 1810) and a series of elegant royal summer homes.

**Overnight at Hotel Nosy Manga in a King Standard room (Full board)**



**Day 6 (Tuesday): Antananarivo – Soalala (Scheduled charter flight /08:00 – 09:30) – Namoroka (by road)**

Today, fly to the port town of Soalala by scheduled charter. On arrival you are met by your guide and transfer to Namoroka Tsingy Camp by road (2hrs 30 min) with a stop along the way for a village walk among the mango trees. On arrival, settle into your tent. In the late afternoon, depart for a walk in the forest surrounding the camp. Along with birds, chameleons, Von der Deckens sifakas or red lemur, you may spot fossa or Aye Aye during your walk. In the evening, enjoy sundowners amongst the baobabs.

**Overnight at Namoroka Tsingy Camp in a tent (All inclusive)**



**Day 7 to 9: Namoroka Tsingy Camp**



Three days to explore the tsingy of Namoroka National Park and its surrounding areas. This national park welcomes just 50 visitors per year due to the challenges of accessing it by road. It is one of the more pristine protected areas on the island with an incredible abundance of birds (100 species) and other wildlife. There are 6 lemur species to see including the playful Von der Dicken's Sifaka, Milne-Edwards Sportive lemur, the Red lemur and the incredibly secretive Aye Aye. Depart for an exploration of the unique cave system that stretches under the entire massif. Here, you will encounter rare fossil remains of species such as the Archaeolemur, a giant lemur species with a body mass of up to 26kg which went extinct, along with much of Madagascar's megafauna about 1,000 years ago. Picnic lunch in the shade of the tsingy.

**Overnight at Namoroka Tsingy Camp in a tent (All inclusive)**

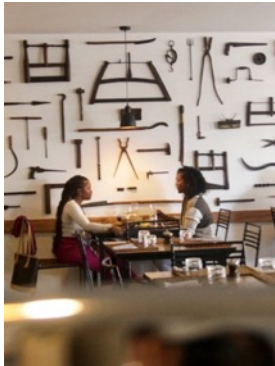


**Day 10 (Saturday): Namoroka – Soalala (by road)– Antananarivo (Scheduled charter flight /10:00 - 11:30)**

After an early breakfast, transfer by road to Soalala (2hrs 30 mins) in time for your scheduled charter flight to Antananarivo. Upon arrival into Ivato Airport you will be greeted by an English-speaking guide from MCC who will accompany you to your hotel. Ideally situated next to the airport, the Nosy Manga Hotel offers large comfortable ensuite bedrooms equipped with air-conditioning and satellite tv. The hotel is equipped with a roof-top pool, and a stylishly-decorated bar and restaurant area.

In the afternoon, drive to Ambohimanga, 20 km north-east of Tana. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the ancestral home on the Merina kings and queens who united Madagascar under one rule. It is a fortified sacred hill with 16 gates leading to king Andrianampoinimerina's house (ruled 1787 – 1810) and a series of elegant royal summer homes.

**Overnight at Hotel Nosy Manga in a King Standard room (Full board)**



**Day 11 (Sunday): Antananarivo – Maroantsetra (Scheduled charter flight @8.25/10.20) – Masoala (Boat)**

After an early breakfast, your driver will take you back to Ivato Airport in time for your scheduled charter flight to Maroantsetra in the north-east. The densely forested Masoala Peninsula contains the largest remaining block of protected rainforest in Madagascar and harbours a wealth of rare and unique species including the red-ruffed lemur, seen only in Masoala. You are met on arrival at Maroantsetra Airport and transfer to the jetty to board a boat for the 2 hour voyage across Antongil Bay to Masoala Forest Lodge. Sightings of dolphins and whales are likely. On arrival at the lodge beach, you are welcomed ashore and settle into your thatch and canvas tree-house. After freshening up in the accommodation, lunch is served in the beach house. The afternoon activities include exploring the beaches and coastal forest in the lodge area and maybe enjoying a swim in the sea, before taking a guided walk along the coast past Tampolo Point, with the possibility of spotting white-fronted brown lemurs in the coastal forest. Return to camp to sundowners on the beach before dinner is served in the beach house.

**Overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge in a tree house (All inclusive)**



**Day 12 (Monday): Masoala Forest Lodge**

After breakfast on the sea deck set off on the day's adventure, walk down the coast and up into the primary rainforest in search of the red-ruffed lemurs, dwarf chameleons and other wildlife endemic to this forest. After some hours in the dense forest with the giant hardwoods and majestic tree ferns, return to camp by boat for a well-earned lunch and rest. The afternoon activity could be a snorkel on the nearby coral reefs, rich in diversity, or a guided sea kayak to the look-out rock at the "Secret Cove" for the sun set, with the chance of a close encounter with bottlenose dolphin or green turtle.

**Overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge in a tree house (All inclusive)**



**Day 13 (Tuesday): Masoala Forest Lodge**

After another relaxed start to your day, depart on a guided walk through the coastal forest, in search of more birds and mammals. Sightings of the incredible scaly and short-legged ground-rollers are regular. Mixed species flocks can contain an incredible diversity of vangas – the islands most celebrated bird family. After a couple of hours walk, take a welcome swim in the crystal clear pools of the Tampolo River at the foot of the forested mountains. Return to camp on a traditional dugout canoe paddling down the shady river. After lunch, enjoy a relaxed afternoon swimming on the private beaches or snorkelling on the coral reefs. In the evening, enjoy a guided nocturnal walk with the intriguing possibility of seeing some of the secretive nocturnal wildlife such as leaf-tailed gecko, mouse lemurs and maybe even the elusive aye-aye.

**Overnight at Masoala Forest Lodge (All inclusive)**



**Day 14 (Wednesday): Masoala – Maroantsetra (Boat) – Antananarivo (Scheduled charter flight @10.35/12.30) - OUT**

This morning you head back to Maroantsetra by boat in time for your scheduled charter flight back to Tana. Upon arrival at Tana airport, you will be met by an MCC staff member, who will assist you in checking in for your outbound flight.

**The Mandrare scheduled charter flights operate on Monday and Friday**

**The Namoroka scheduled charter flights operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays.**

**The Masoala Forest Lodge scheduled charter flights operate on Wednesdays and Sundays.**



**ITINERARY COST: Please Request**

Green Season: 15 May - 20 June

High Season: 21 June - 31 August / 1 - 10 November

Peak Season: 1 September - 31 October

**Cost Includes:**

- Private guide and driver in Antananarivo in air-conditioned car
- All transport in 4x4 vehicles as indicated in the above itinerary
- Scheduled charter flights:
  - Antananarivo – Ifotaka – Antananarivo
  - Antananarivo – Soalala – Antananarivo
  - Antananarivo – Maroantsetra - Antananarivo
- Boat transfer: Maroantsetra – Masoala Forest Lodge - Maroantsetra
- The services of an English-speaking guide in each location
- All meals and accommodation as per itinerary
- All excursions indicated in the itinerary, park fees and community/environmental levies
- All inclusive of meals & all drinks at Mandrare River Camp
- All inclusive of meals & drinks at Namoroka Tsingy Camp

**Cost Excludes**

- All international flights and visa fees or assistance unless otherwise specified
- All tips, other drinks and personal expenses
- Additional activities at Masoala Forest Lodge
- Travel insurance: it is a condition that all clients travelling with MCC must have appropriate travel insurance, including emergency medical evacuation cover and cancellation insurance

**Luggage Restrictions**

- The scheduled charter limits luggage to a total of 20 kg (44 lbs) per passenger (checked in + hand luggage)

**Reservation details**

- A 25% deposit is required to confirm and hold this itinerary
- Final payment is required 45 days prior to arrival date

**Cancellation Policy**

- 145 days or more - the 25% deposit can be carried over for a future booking from the same clients
- 145 - 45 days 25% cancellation fee
- 45 - 30 days 50% cancellation fee
- 30 days or less 100% cancellation fee