

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

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Do something extraordinary.....

Madagascar East Coast Adventure

14 Days • 13 Nights - £1795

This is a unique expedition exploring the little visited regions in the East of Madagascar. This trip combines the best that Madagascar has to offer, trekking & camping in remote rainforest, rafting an undocumented river & a 'surfing' break on the beautiful East Coast. During this adventurous tour we will get the opportunity to see some of the amazing Madagascan animals, reptiles and birds, you can also choose an optional extension to allow you an extra day at the Perinet reserve.

Madagascar is a one-off; there is no other place like it. Its landscapes, animals and plants are simply fantastic! Near the equator with an astonishing array of habitats, ranging from rainforests to deserts and from mountain tops to mangrove swamps, it is one of the most important countries for biodiversity on the planet. The tropical climate is a perfect host to the process of nature and, like nowhere else, the variety and richness of life has flourished.

Expedition members do not need previous rafting experience as full training will be given. There are a few days trekking over undulating terrain so a moderate level of fitness is required.

As part of our commitment to responsible travel and in conjunction with Woodenstock.org we finance a tree nursery and orchard in Italavina – which is a long term reforestation project.

Itinerary

Day 1

After arriving in Antananarivo (or Tana, as it is known by the locals) late pm, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel

Overnight Hotel

Day 2 (L, D)

After breakfast, and introductory briefing from your tour leader, we will set off for the Perinet Rainforest Reserve. En-route we will stop at a farm specialising in Madagascan reptiles and butterflies, before arriving at the Vakona Lodge. This afternoon you will get a chance to stroll around the private reserve of this hotel with the opportunity to spot lemurs and crocodiles.

Overnight hotel, all meals

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Days 3,4,5 (B,L,D)

Today our adventure really starts, when we set out after breakfast on a trek through the rainforest towards Lohariandava. A multitude of lemurs inhabit this rainforest including the Indri (the largest lemur), the woolly, greater dwarf, brown mouse, crowned lemur and even the aye aye (although chances of seeing this is very unlikely). This will be a truly remarkable experience and during the next few days we will hopefully have the opportunity to see some of the indigenous species including over 100 species of birds as well as chameleons, geckos, bats and frogs. Each evening our camp will be set up in a rainforest clearing where we will be able to hear and marvel at the cacophony of the night sounds.

We will be hiking an average of 5 - 6 hours per day and will end up trekking approximately 50km.

Camping with all meals.

Day 6 (B,L,D)

After another full day (5-6 hrs) of trekking, we will arrive at Lohariandava. Our rafts and river gear will be waiting for us and we will go through some basic safety and training checks before a relaxing evening at our riverside camp.

Camping with all meals.

Days 7,8,9 (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we will set off on the next part of our adventure - the rafting descent of the Sahatandra river. This little rafted river provides us with a fantastic range of Grade II/III/IV rapids, and we will be able to practice our skills on the first few gentle rapids.

As the river descends and we are confident of our rafting skills we will navigate the numerous stretches of white water.

This river flows through beautiful narrow passages and snakes its way through either dense rainforest or bamboo groves. There are many bamboo lemurs on the shore and an active bird life on the river.

At night we will pitch our tents on the riverside and enjoy campfires, good food and immense Madagascan skies.

Camping with all meals.

Day 10 (B,L)

We set off this morning to paddle the last section of our Sahatandra descent. Upon arrival in Anivorano, we transfer by road to Mahambo area for a beach and surf break!

Mahambo is a small coastal town and is still a relatively new destination on the East Coast. The majority of the population are farmers growing rice, bananas, cloves and lychee plus a small number of fishermen. Until 2003 it remained little-known, and since 2003, and the opening of the first school of Surf, this small town has become a destination for surfers.

Tonight we will take advantage of the relative luxury of a beach bungalow.

Breakfast, lunch and overnight hotel

Day 11 (B)

After the last 9 action packed days, we now get the opportunity to relax looking out onto the azure blue seas of the Indian Ocean.....Or the for restless ones among you, why not take advantage of the rolling waves and thrill of surfing (if you are not already a surfer, this is a memorable place to learn). Or why not try your hand at sea kayaking?

Whilst in Mahambo, you will be able to enjoy your time at your leisure. In the evenings you will be able to enjoy fresh seafood and cold beers in one of the local restaurants. Wherever you go, you will receive the warmest of welcomes from the residents of Mahambo.

Breakfast, and overnight hotel.

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Day 12 (B,D)

We spend another leisurely morning enjoying all that Mahambo and the Indian Ocean has to offer, then we meet up again for short road transfer to the port of Toamasina (Tamatave). Tamatave is Madagascar's largest port and has a beautiful coastline. The town itself has a calm and relaxing feel to it.

Breakfast, dinner, overnight hotel

Day 13 (B,D)

Today, after breakfast we set off back to Antananarivo, more commonly called Tana. This afternoon there will be time to explore this city, which is a crazy mix of African, Asian and French sights. For the first time visitor just a stroll around the bustling streets, with their diverse collection of vendors and stalls, will be a never forgotten experience.

Breakfast, dinner, overnight hotel

Day 14 (B,L)

Today we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Or why not stay a few extra days to explore Tana or other Madagascan sites. We are more than happy to book some extensions to give you the opportunity to visit some more National Parks or assist you with any other places you may wish to visit whilst in Madagascar.

Breakfast, airport transfers

NB: *This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions*

Group Departures

We have the following group departures planned. We are also able to arrange tailor-made departures for 2 or more people

15th – 28th October 2011

6th - 19th November 2011

23rd December 2011 - 5th Jan 2012 (1 extra day – Christmas day - spent in Perinet – additional cost of this Christmas trip is £300)

12th October 2012

9th November 2012

23rd December 2012 (1 extra day – Christmas day - spent in Perinet – additional cost of this Christmas trip is £300)