

MADAGASCAN ADVENTURE



TRIP OVERVIEW

Marvel at enigmatic baobab trees, meet the tribal Antakarana people, explore the limestone fantasyland of Ankarana National Park and encounter lemur families and vibrant chameleons amongst striking forest flora.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Madagascar. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Please note that this itinerary applies to departures from June 2020

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: UK to Antananarivo D

Depart London on your overnight flight to the Madagascan capital of Antananarivo, via Mauritius.

Day 2: Antananarivo D

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 3: Antananarivo B/L/D

Spend this morning on a sightseeing tour of the city before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is at leisure to wander through the city's bustling markets, admire the old town's colonial architecture or undertake an optional excursion.

Day 4: Antananarivo to Antsiranana B/L/D

This morning fly to Diego and transfer to the National Park of Amber Mountain for a leisurely wander along the park's scenic trails. In the afternoon continue to Antsiranana for an evening at leisure.

Day 5: Antsiranana B/L/D

In the morning, transfer to the fishing village of Ramena and cruise upon the Emerald Sea towards a sheltered bay overlooking the Indian Ocean's inviting waters. Unwind upon the golden shores of this paradise or snorkel in search of reefs, before savouring freshly caught fish cooked before your eyes.

Day 6: Antsiranana to Ankarana National Park B/L/D

Following an early breakfast, drive to the Ankarana National Park, where a breathtaking layered formation of limestone pinnacles cultivate the forestfilled canyons and subterranean rivers below. Stop off en route at local villages to experience the unique tribal traditions of the Antakarana people.

Day 7: Ankarana National Park B/L/D

Following breakfast, enjoy a full day exploring Ankarana National Park. Spot the mighty Boabab trees, traverse walkways with dramatic backdrops, peer into the bat's grotto and take centre stage within the naturally carved rock amphitheatre.

Day 8: Ankarana National Park to Nosy Be B/L/D

After breakfast depart for the Millot Plantation in Ambanja, for a fascinating insight into a century of devotion to the world's finest cocoa. Observe the production process each plant undergoes by hand, taste organic cocoa beans, and tour the village that is supported by the plantation. Finally, take a boat trip to the exotic island of Nosy Be and arrive at your hotel.

Day 9: Nosy Be B/L/D

A day of island hopping awaits, commencing in the tropical retreat of Nosy Komba with a visit to the island's Lemur Park. Peruse the market of Ampangorina which presents a vibrant selection of local crafts before continuing to Nosy Tanikely, a protected marine reserve revered for its colourful corals, tropical fish and green sea turtles.

Day 10: Nosy Be B/L/D

Embark on a traditional rowing boat through the mangrove swamp, before arriving at the Lokobe Special Reserve. Your guided tour of the forest gives you the best chance to observe famed Madagascan wildlife including striking chameleons, red owls, and black lemurs nestled amongst vanilla orchids. After lunch return to your hotel on Nosy Be for the remainder of today at leisure.

Day 11: Nosy Be B/L/D

Today is at leisure to unwind upon the island's idyllic beaches or continue with an optional excursion.

Day 12: Nosy Be to Antananarivo B/L/D

This morning catch a flight back to the Madagascan capital for a day at your own pace. Later this evening, enjoy a farewell meal in a local restaurant.

Day 13: Antananarivo to UK or extension

This morning, transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK, via Mauritius.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP



Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to camps. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Madagascar. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Madagascar you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Mercure Voyage**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ **Mercure Voyage** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your local English-speaking guide will be in each city with you should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Mercure Voyage

Telephone Number: 00261 20 22 237 79

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

For stays of 30 days or less a Visa will be required and is purchased upon arrival. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Tour Guides - Local guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you always have first-hand knowledge.

Tipping

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately £3 per person per day (Approximately AR10,000). This is a total of £36 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

Electricity Supply

The electricity supply is 127V-220V. You will need a two pin round plug adapter in Madagascar.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.



Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

Email: mercureto@mercure-voyages.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Mercure Voyage**

Mrs Sylvie Rasoanialala: 00261 32 07 220 49

Fabiola: 00261 32 05 221 55

Mihaja: 00261 32 05 281 28

Physical Accessibility

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Madagascan Adventure is rated as 3 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Advanced. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number as

soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 5, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 5 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Madagascar is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA), however it is advisable to take Euro's and change small amounts of money at a time into Ariary, as it can be difficult to change money back. We strongly recommend exchanging money

at the BFV/Societe Generale Bank, when in Madagascar. Do be aware that it is illegal to exchange money at the markets. Credit Card's are not widely accepted in Madagascar. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £100- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Please note

Visitors are advised not to wear any military-style clothing and not to photograph government buildings such as military barracks or police stations.

WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent*
- High factor sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Light rain coat/waterproofs

- Torch
- Antibacterial soap
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

* During your visit to the national parks, you may only be able to interact with animals if you have all natural insect repellent.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Ivato International Airport, Antananarivo** via Mauritius with **Air Mauritius (MK)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 4**.

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 20KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before

departure.

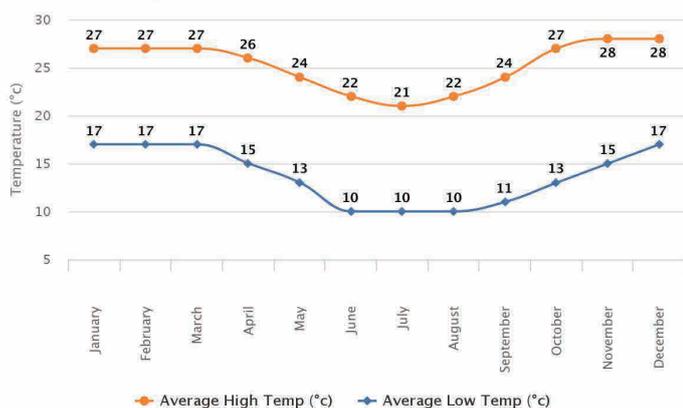
Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Antananarivo



Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Nosy Be



MAURITIUS EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 7 night stay is on the paradise island of Mauritius — home to world renowned beaches, a kaleidoscope of cultural influences within its bustling capital and luscious rainforests that open up for nature trails.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Mauritius.

Hotel

Your stay will take place at one of the following hotels on All-Inclusive: **3★plus Casuarina Resort & Spa**. The Casuarina Resort & Spa is a member of Worldhotels Comfort Collection, and occupies an idyllic spot a short distance from a white sandy beach beside a coral reef in an enclosed lagoon at Trou aux Biches. The delightful traditionally thatched restaurant opens onto the pool area. Hotel Information: Trou-aux-Biches, Mauritius
Contact Number: 00230 204 5000

4★ Jalsa Beach Hotel & Spa. Overlooking the Indian Ocean and the stunning sandy lagoon on the beautiful east coast of Mauritius, the Jalsa Beach Hotel & Spa is the perfect choice for those looking for a peaceful and relaxing holiday. The hotel has a large pool, situated in gardens running down to the sandy beach where a range of watersports are available. Hotel Information: Coastal Road, Poste Lafayette 41519, Mauritius
Contact number: 00230 402 7300

5★ Outrigger Beach Mauritius Resort. Set amidst the picturesque nature reserve of Bel Ombre, overlooking the Indian Ocean on the Southwest coast of Mauritius, this idyllic resort offers total relaxation in lush tropical surroundings. An array of land and water sports are on offer and an 18-hole championship course is close by. Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Electricity Supply

The electricity supply is 220V and uses the same 3-pin system as the UK.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Mauritius is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Visas

A visa is not required for British citizens visiting Mauritius. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Currency Exchange

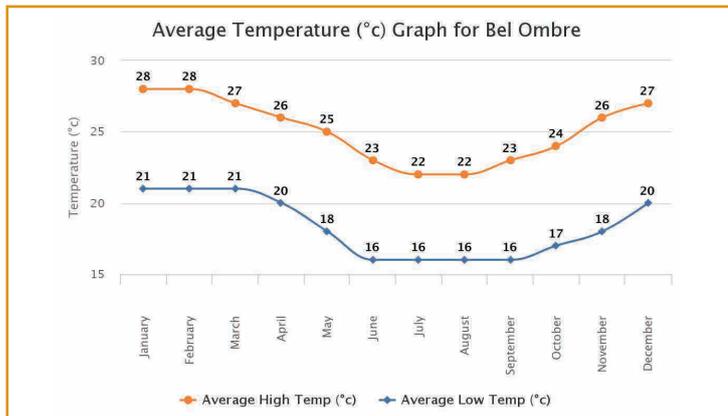
The currency in Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR, however it is possible to pay in Euros at larger establishments. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases, laundry service and souvenirs.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



5★ Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort

ANDASIBE EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Known as a luscious haven for endangered and rare species, immerse yourself in the beauty of Andasibe National Park on this fascinating 3-night mini tour, keeping a close eye out for the park's famous and enchanting lemur residents.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Andasibe.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

Day 13: Antananarivo to Andasibe B/L/D

Journey to the lemur kingdom of Andasibe National Park this morning before delving into a biodiverse haven, immersing yourself in sightings of Madagascar's largest lemur en route to an afternoon exploration of the Analamazaotra Reserve.

Day 14: Andasibe B/L/D

After breakfast, visit the thriving Vakona Private Reserve, where the rare Indri Lemur reside amongst lush greenery and tranquil lakes. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring this natural paradise before returning later this evening to catch a glimpse of the Reserve's charming nocturnal residents.

Day 15: Andasibe to Antananarivo B/L/D

After a morning at leisure, depart Andasibe National Park and travel towards Marozevo. This afternoon, cast your eyes on a vibrant display of brightly coloured butterflies, Chameleons, reptiles and birds at the Peryeras butterfly farm.

Day 16: Antananarivo B

Following breakfast, transfer to Ivato International Airport for your return flight to the UK.

Hotel

Your stay will take place at one of the following hotels on All-Inclusive:

Vakona Forest Lodge

Nestled underneath the rainforest canopy in the heart of Andasibe National Park, this superb lodge boasts comfort and tranquility and offers spectacular views of the thriving biodiverse forest.

Address: Andasibe National Park, Madagascar

Contact Number: 00261 20 22 624 80

Palissandre Hotel and Spa

Perched upon a hillside in the City of the Thousand, this fantastic hotel boasts excellent guest facilities including an outdoor swimming pool and comfortable air-conditioned rooms, equipped with wireless internet, electronic safe and a minibar

Address: 12 Lalana Andriandahifotsy, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Contact number: 00261 20 22 605 60

Tour Guides

Your stay in Andasibe is escorted by a local tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases, laundry service and souvenirs.

