

# 11 Day Madagascar Baobabs Adventure Accommodated with Camping Tour

Venture into the far reaches of Madagascar on this 11-day journey that reveals the diverse landscapes of one of the most spellbinding countries on the African continent. From the emerald-green crater lakes of the Antsirabe district, to the golden hues of sunset in the Avenue of the Baobabs, experience Madagascar's rainbow terrain as you leave behind the bustle of Antananarivo and traverse remote paths and waterways into the wild. Experience life along the Tsiribihina Delta on a two-day cruise, see the legendary tombs of the Vazimba people while exploring caves, float down the Manambolo River in a dugout canoe and feel the suspense as you peer down into the vast canyon of the Great Tsingy.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Antananarivo
- Miandrivazo
- Tsiribihina River Trip
- Belo-sur-Tsiribihina
- Small Tsingy Walking Circuit
- Manombolo River Canoe Ride
- Big Tsingy Trek
- Sunset at Baobab Alley
- Traditional Madagascan Cuisine

## ITINERARY

11 Days  
Madagascar

### DAY 1 ANTANANARIVO

Tonga soa! Bienvenue! Welcome to Antananarivo, Madagascar's crowded but charming capital. Your adventure



officially begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm. If you decide to arrive early, take some time to get acquainted with the city. With cobbled streets, wooden houses and impressive churches, 'Tana' has a distinctly romantic air. Perhaps wander the streets of Haute-Ville or visit the permanent Analakely street market. After your welcome meeting this evening, you might like to head out with your new friends for dinner in one of Antananarivo high-quality restaurants.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

**Meals Included**

None

**Accommodation**

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 2  
MIANDRIVAZO**

Be prepared for a long drive as you begin the journey west this morning. Maybe kick back with a book or get to know your fellow travellers during the 7-hour drive to Miandrivazo, a small city that will act as the starting point for your adventure down the Tsiribihina River. On arrival, check in to the hotel and listen to a briefing on essential information for your two-day cruise. Head out to pick any extra supplies you may need or desire for the next few days, then get some rest in preparation for tomorrow.

There will be no access to banks or cash points from Miandrivazo to Morondava. Meals on your river excursion are included, however drinks and gratuities for your river crew are not. Meals in Bekopaka are at your own expense. We would suggest 100 -120 Euro for meals and services not included in your tour price for this section of the trip. Please ask your Tour Leader for further advice.

We would suggest carrying a sleeping bag (basic blanket is provided) or sleep sheet for your river camping experience, a towel and a waterproof jacket. Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat are highly recommended.

**Meals Included**

1 Breakfast

**Accommodation**

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 3  
TSIRIBIHINA RIVER EXCURSION**

Rise and shine for the 35-kilometre drive to Masiakampy, where you will find a traditional barge waiting to escort you along the Tsiribihina River. These flat bottom boats were once used to transport tobacco, but without that precious cargo they make a comfortable way to cruise along the water and access the remote reaches of western Madagascar. For the next few days, you'll have the chance to spot wildlife on the banks and in the water, enjoy easy walks to hidden waterfalls and stop off in rural villages. Climb aboard and meet the crew, then settle in and enjoy some lunch as you travel through flat farming plains and enter the dramatic gorges of the Tsiribihina, stopping in the afternoon to trek to a waterfall before returning to a large sandbank to set up camp.

River camping for the next two nights is a simple wild camping experience. Sleeping mats are provided and one single blanket. Travellers may wish to carry a sleeping bag and or sleeping sheet. These items are not available for hire. There are no bathroom facilities, a bush toilet is the only option for the next three days, there will be limited fresh water on the boat for washing.

**Included Activities**

Miandrivazo – Tsiribihina River trip



[www.detourafrica.co.za](http://www.detourafrica.co.za) Contact: +27 21 424 1115

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**Meals Included**

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner

**Accommodation**

Camping (1 nt)

**DAY 4****TSIRIBIHINA RIVER EXCURSION**

Enjoy a full day gliding along the water today, travelling into the heart of the river and waving to the locals on the banks and barges as you pass. In the absence of roads, nature flourishes along the river in this part of Madagascar – watch out for herds of zebus crossing the river, and flashes of colour as you look for bee-eaters, herons, and egrets in this bird lovers' paradise. Stop occasionally for a village walk or a short trek for some lemur spotting before setting up camp at a village along the shore. This evening light a campfire and enjoy some traditional Malagasy music and dancing with the locals.

**Included Activities**

Miandrivazo – Tsiribihina River trip

**Meals Included**

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner

**Accommodation**

Camping (1 nt)

**DAY 5****BEKOPAKA**

Enjoy one last morning along the Tsiribihina river before disembarking the boat and bidding farewell to the crew. Make a quick stop at Belo-sur-Tsiribihina, a small village nestled in the marshes and mangroves of the Delta, to check out the market and grab some lunch before beginning the 2.5-hour drive to Bekopaka. Arrive, check in to your hotel and settle in for the afternoon. Perhaps enjoy a swim or a refreshing shower and rest your weary limbs. Tomorrow you'll be taking on the Small Tsingy.

**Meals Included**

1 Breakfast

**Accommodation**

Hotel (1 nt)

**DAY 6****BEKOPAKA/THE SMALL TSINGY**

Rise early, pick a comfortable outfit and pack some snacks, as today you'll spend up to five hours trekking through the Small Tsingy, located in Bemaraha National Park. Scramble and navigate through a labyrinth of limestone formations that resemble a forest made of rock. Stop at two lookout points along the way for photo opportunities and a chance to take in the impressive surrounds. In the afternoon, unwind with a float down the Manambolo River on a pirogue (wooden dugout canoe) under the shadow of these towering rock cliffs. Enjoy an easy afternoon cave stroll, taking the sight of stalactites, stalagmites and the eerie tombs of the Vazimba – said to be the earliest inhabitants of Madagascar.

**Included Activities**

Small Tsingy Walking Circuit  
Manambolo River Canoe Ride

**Meals Included**

1 Breakfast



#### Accommodation

Hotel (1nt)

### DAY 7 BEKOPAKA/THE GREAT TSINGY

Embrace another early start this morning and prepare for another action-packed trip to the Great Tsingy. Getting up early again might be a struggle, but it's the best way to beat the heat and more intense crowds. Largely unexplored until the 1990s (the name Tsingy is very roughly translated as 'place where one cannot walk barefoot' in Malagasy), the area is now easier to navigate due to a series of bridges, semi-permanent climbing plugs and other equipment. Feel your heart stop as you pass over a sheer drop via a suspended bridge, a truly breathtaking experience that those with vertigo may wish to skip. Animals lovers should keep an eye out for 11 species of lemurs, 100 species of birds and 45 endemic reptiles and amphibians, including the Madagascar iguana and Antsingy leaf chameleon.

#### Included Activities

Big Tsingy Trek

#### Meals Included

1 Breakfast

#### Accommodation

Hotel (1nt)

### DAY 8 MORONDAVA

There is a long day of travel ahead, so grab that book or download a podcast and prepare to keep yourself occupied as you cross the Manambolo River and the Tsiribihina River by ferry, arriving in the laid-back seaside town of Morondava in time for a spectacular sunset in the Avenue of the Baobabs. These cartoonish, towering trees are native to Madagascar, and the variety you'll see lit from behind this evening are *adansonia grandidieri*, the tallest of them all. Watch the sky turn pink and yellow and finally cast these trees – many of which are up to 800 years old – in shadow. Spend the night in Morondava and take a well-deserved rest.

#### Included Activities

Sunset at Baobab Alley

#### Meals Included

1 Breakfast

#### Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

### DAY 9 ANTSIRABE

Depart this morning for Antsirabe, the capital of the Vakinankaratra region. It's another drive that will last around 8 hours, and after an orientation stroll around the city and included dinner at the hotel, it's up to you whether you'd like to relax or explore further. The town is fairly quiet after dark, but there are a few places to grab a nightcap if you so desire. If you're so inclined, perhaps head to travellers favourite Le Pousse Pousse, where the booths are made from rickshaws, or ask your leader for recommendations.

#### Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

#### Accommodation

Hotel (1 nts)



## DAY 10 ANTANANARIVO

Enjoy breakfast and then hit the surrounding region on a soft trek, a good way to limber up after a few long days of driving. Discover the beauty of the local lakes, including the emerald-green waters of Tritiva, an extinct crater surrounded by verdant forest. Hike through the lakes district, sitting down for a picnic-style lunch along the way. Later, continue to Antananarivo. Perhaps spend your last evening on this trip indulging in some fine Malagasy food with your fellow travellers. There's plenty of international cuisine on offer in 'Tana', but why not toast to your Malagasy adventure with a Three Horses Beer and a bowl of Madagascar's national dish, romazava (a one pot rice and meat sensation).

### Meals Included

1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch

### Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

## DAY 11 ANTANANARIVO

This adventure comes to an end today, and you're free to depart after breakfast. If you have arranged a private transfer, please confirm the time with your leader. If you are continuing your travels on our Madagascar Adventure trip, your group meeting will be at 6 pm this evening. Please refer to your trip notes for optional activities available in Antananarivo for today, or simply relax until you meet your new fellow travellers later.

### Meals Included

1 Breakfast

### Accommodation

Hotel (1 nt)

## Tour Information

### Pre-Departure Information Booklet:

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure Booklet to help you prepare, below is some basic tour information

### Joining point

Hotel Belvedere  
Lot IF 27 bis Isoraka  
Antananarivo  
101  
MADAGASCAR  
Phone: +261 347986638

Belvedere Hotel is centrally located in Antananarivo, perched on a hill with views of the city, and within walking distance to shops, restaurants and banks. Rooms are equipped with private ensuite, air-conditioning, TV, phone & mini-fridge. Hotel facilities include restaurant, bar, and WiFi access.

### Finish point

Hotel Belvedere  
Lot IF 27 bis Isoraka  
Antananarivo  
101  
MADAGASCAR  
Phone: +261 347986638



## **Accommodation**

Hotel (8 nights), Camping (2 nights)

## **Meals**

Your group leader will endeavour to cater for specific dietary requirements where possible, and vegetarianism and gluten intolerance will be catered for in most instances. Please notify your group leader of any dietary requirements in your group meeting at the start of the trip.

For those suffering from particular food allergies, your group leader will endeavour to disclose to their fullest knowledge the main ingredients in dishes being consumed. It is, however, your personal responsibility to ensure that you do not ingest any foods to which you are allergic.

Alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages are not part of included meals.

## **Typical Meals During Trekkings**

Breakfasts: Hot drinks (coffee or tea) - bread, jam, honey, season fruits, cereals.

Lunches: Salads (pasta or rice salads with chicken meat) or sandwich with fruit of the season

Dinners: veg soup, rice or pasta with meat in sauce and desert such as pancakes

Packed Lunches: Meat or veg sandwich with fruits of the season

Please Note: Vegetarian food available on request upon booking

## **Transport**

Minibus, 4WD, Ferry, Boat

## **Luggage**

We advise clients to be as light as possible when travelling through Africa. Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap will suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags or backpacks with wheels are convenient although we recommend your bag has carry straps. You'll also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day trips. Lodges rarely have suitcase ramps meaning wheels are sometimes more of a hindrance and also impact on the case fitting in the lockers. On booking the pre-departure info will have a packing guide to help you prepare.

**Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details.**

**General Enquiries & Reservations** - [info@detourafrica.co.za](mailto:info@detourafrica.co.za)

**Toll Free US/Canada** - **1-800-287-0823**

**Toll Free UK** - **0-808-134-9963**

**Toll Free Australia** - **1-800-897-833**

**Other Countries** - **+ 27 21 424 1115**

**SAFARI NJEMA**

