



Discovering Our Planet Together



Madagascar Explorer

Discover the Essence of the 'Eighth Continent' in Eight Days

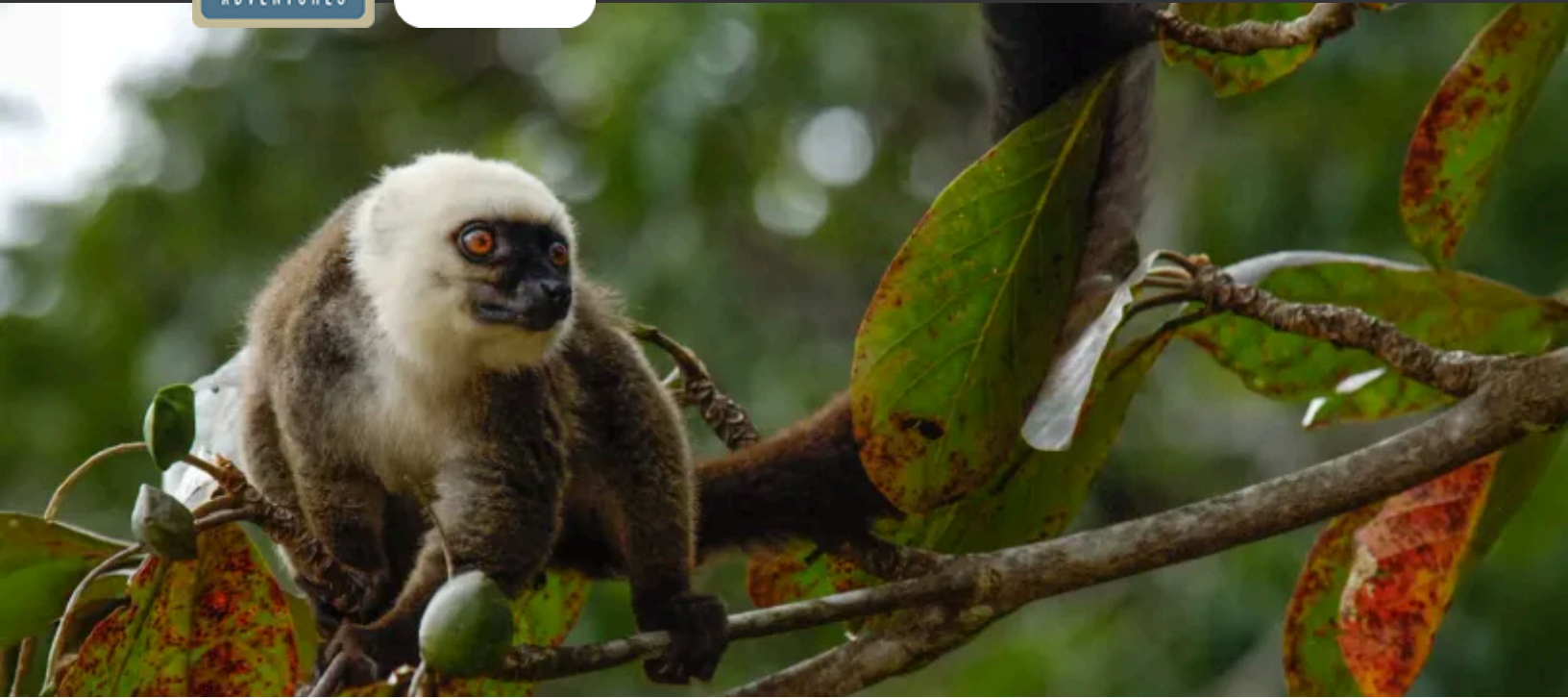


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Trip Details:

Days
8 Days / Jun–Nov

Price
From \$11995

Physical Requirements
Moderate to Difficult

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Among giant tree ferns and bromeliads, a flash of orange darts through the green shadows. Hoots and shrieks echo through the canopy. Intrigued, you look up and spy a red-ruffed lemur. Deep within the primeval rainforests of Madagascar, an astounding menagerie of unique animals thrives, from these ancient primates that hop upright to foot-long panther chameleons that change color to match their surroundings. These creatures live among a multitude of unusual flora found nowhere else on Earth, products of biological isolation over eons. Alone in the Indian Ocean, the island of Madagascar is sometimes called the planet's eighth continent—more than 90% of its species, many of which are rare and endangered, exist only here. Our itinerary reveals a rich sampler of the country's highlights, as we travel by chartered aircraft and private launch into wild places that evoke the dawn of time.

Trip Highlights

Madagascar holds a wealth of unique and endemic species including lemurs, chameleons and tropical birds, which we search for on rainforest forays

From a tranquil seaside lodge accessible only by boat or foot, plumb the depths of Madagascar's largest rainforest preserve

View the distinctive silhouettes of Madagascar's most famous trees—tall, cylindrical baobabs more than 800 years old—against the setting sun



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Antananarivo, Madagascar

Day 2
Private Flight to Maroantsetra /
Masoala National Park

Days 3 - 5
Exploring Masoala National Park
& Tampolo Marine Reserve

Day 6
Private Chartered Flights to
Antananarivo & Morondava /
Avenue of the Baobabs

Day 7
Sunrise at the Baobabs / Fishing
Village / Mangrove Exploration

Day 8
Private Chartered Flight to
Antananarivo / Depart

Madagascar Explorer Itinerary

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Day 1: Antananarivo, Madagascar

Our adventure begins in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Known locally as "Tana," Madagascar's largest city is home to roughly 3 million people, while the balance of the island nation's population lives mostly in rural areas. A transfer is included from the airport to our hotel on the outskirts of the city. An optional day tour of the capital is available for those who arrive early. This evening, meet your Expedition Leader and traveling companions at a welcome dinner.





Day 2: Private Flight to Maroantsetra / Masoala National Park

From Antananarivo, we fly by chartered plane to the small coastal trading town of Maroantsetra in the far northeast corner of the country. Here, we board a private boat across Antongil Bay to the Masoala Peninsula, covered in primary rainforest and protected within Masoala National Park, the largest of Madagascar's conservation reserves. Containing extraordinary biodiversity, the park is part of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage Site, which holds 50% of Madagascar's species and 1% of the entire planet's life forms. It contains the last remaining extensive coastal lowland rainforest in Madagascar, as well as interior mountain rainforest, flooded forest, marsh, mangroves and coral reefs.

Our base for four nights is Masoala Forest Lodge, a blissfully secluded eco-retreat accessible only by sea or on foot. On the edge of a sheltered cove surrounding by Masoala National Park and fronting a pristine beach that stretches for miles, the lodge is one with its environs. It faces the warm, coral-rich waters of the Tampolo Marine Reserve, home to colorful reef fish, endangered green, hawksbill and loggerhead sea turtles, bottlenose dolphins, and from July through September, hundreds of humpback whales that visit Antongil Bay during their long migration. Behind the lodge, a dense, untouched rainforest teems with life. This afternoon, we make our first foray along the beach and into the forest, commencing our quest to spot a wide variety of Madagascar's intriguing wildlife. Eventually it's time for cocktails around the bonfire, as the sky is transformed into shades of orange and rose by one of Madagascar's famous sunsets.



Days 3 - 5: Exploring Masoala National Park & Tampo Marine Reserve

The next three days offer an immersion in the magic of coastal Madagascar. With our Expedition Leader and local Malagasy guides, head into this richly layered ecosystem in search of wondrous wildlife. Coveted bird sightings include helmet vanga, blue coua, nelicourvi weaver and various kingfishers. Lemurs are a highlight and our odds are good to spy red-ruffed lemurs, endemic to the Masoala Peninsula. We are also likely to spot northern bamboo lemurs and white-fronted brown lemurs—some of the nearly 100 lemur species found in Madagascar and nowhere else, as these primitive primates evolved in isolation on the island over the last 50 million years. Our guides also help us look for the greater hedgehog tenrec, brown-tailed mongoose, leaf-tailed geckos, Madagascar serpent eagle and dozens of butterfly species. After dark, forest walks reveal animals that become active at night, including sportive, woolly and mouse lemurs. With exceptional luck, we might glimpse a highly elusive aye-aye, surrounded by a chorus of night sounds created by frogs, insects and nocturnal birds.

In the forest, waterfalls pour off verdant cliffs into crystalline streams. The sea beckons, too, inviting us to snorkel in the clear aquamarine waters of the Tampo Marine Reserve. Or kayak among the islands, basalt formations, reefs and rocky coves fringed with palms as we watch community fishing boats pursue their sustainable daily catch. During our stay, we'll walk along the coast to the mouth of the Tampo River where we board a pirogue—a traditional dugout canoe—to glide up the glassy waterway in search of more intriguing wildlife.

On a visit to the village of Ambodiforaha, meet the people, learn about their culture, and enjoy a song and dance performance. Crafts created by local artisans are available for sale at a small market at our lodge, along with vanilla, cloves and other spices that are hallmarks of Madagascar. We may also visit a reforestation project for a close-up look at how native habitat is being successfully restored to provide a home for returning wildlife. A highlight of our stay is a traditional Malagasy dinner, plus tastings of local rums infused with native fruits and spices.



Day 6: Private Chartered Flights to Antananarivo & Morondava / Avenue of the Baobabs

Today we retrace our flight route to Antananarivo, then transfer to another chartered flight to Morondava on the west coast of Madagascar. On landing, we drive to our hotel, a collection of thatched bungalows overlooking the powdery white sand of Nosy Kely Beach on the Mozambique Channel. The bungalows are set among gardens scattered with coconut palms, perfectly situated to take in the stunning sunsets over the Indian Ocean. On our first evening, however, we enjoy the sunset from a different location: the famous Avenue of the Baobabs, about 40 minutes away by road. These massive trees, which line a dirt path leading to the Tsiribihina River, are a nearly thousand-year-old legacy of the dense tropical forests that once covered this landscape. Over the centuries, as Madagascar's population grew, the forests were steadily cut down, yet these dramatic specimens remain, icons of the country's native ecosystems and cultural heritage. Rising almost 100 feet tall, baobabs have straight, cylindrical trunks that grow up to 10 feet in diameter. Their flat-topped crowns create an evocative silhouette at sunset. With rains, baobabs put out a profusion of flowers, drawing bats, beetles, moths and other insects to feed on their sweet nectar. The baobab's fruit is about the size of a large coconut and is eaten by lemurs as well as humans. The bark of the baobab is used as a fiber for rope, cloth, nets, baskets and paper. The baobab's status as a keystone species holds special importance in its ecosystem, yet in addition to deforestation, climate change also threatens their survival, and we learn about conservation efforts to protect the remaining trees. Of the seven baobab species that grow in Madagascar, six are endemic to the island.

Day 7: Sunrise at the Baobabs / Fishing Village / Mangrove Exploration

Those who wish to rise early may return to the Avenue of the Baobabs at dawn for sunrise photographs. Later today, we visit a local fishing village to meet some of the fishers and learn about this traditional sustainable lifestyle. We also explore a mangrove ecosystem to discover why this threatened habitat holds such importance for Madagascar, which has the second-largest expanse of mangroves in the western Indian Ocean. In addition to providing nesting sites for birds and sea turtles and sheltering commercially valuable crab and shrimp, mangrove forests support connections between ecosystems such as coral reefs and seagrass beds. With stilt-like root systems, mangroves trap mud, filter water and safeguard coastlines against tidal surges. They are also amazing carbon sinks, storing up to four times more carbon than tropical rainforests. However, mangroves are rapidly disappearing, threatened by sea level rise, upstream erosion and deforestation. Since 2007, WWF has partnered with local communities to protect and regenerate these incredibly biodiverse coastal forests, and we learn about their achievements during our visit. Tonight, we conclude our Madagascar discovery with a festive farewell dinner.

Day 8: Private Chartered Flight to Antananarivo / Depart

After breakfast this morning, fly back to the capital city of Tana by private chartered aircraft, then transfer to the international airport to departing flights.



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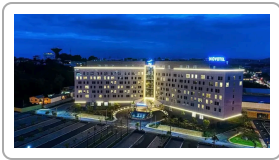
Accommodation Details:

- Novotel Antananarivo
- Masoala Forest Lodge
- Hotel Palissandre

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/africa/madagascar-explorer-safari/accommodations

Madagascar Explorer Accommodations

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Novotel Antananarivo
 Just 15 minutes from the international airport serving Madagascar's capital, this contemporary 5-star hotel features sleek modern rooms plus a swimming pool, fitness center and rooftop terrace Skybar overlooking the courtyard and gardens.



Masoala Forest Lodge
 An ecolodge with tree houses featuring screened walls and en suite bathrooms. Elevated walkways weave through lush foliage to a spacious pavilion with panoramic ocean and forest views.



Hotel Palissandre
 A beach-front resort on the western shore of Madagascar featuring individual guest bungalows with air conditioning and thatched roofs, two outdoor pools and a full-service spa.



The Ideal Addition to Your African Safari—Or a Great Adventure on Its Own

At just eight days, this compact yet diverse adventure offers you a rich experience of Madagascar in about a week—a much shorter duration than most other scheduled tours—making it a perfect extension to an African safari. Find out more about the benefits you'll enjoy on our carefully crafted itinerary:

1

Explore a Biodiversity Hotspot Before the Rest of the World Gets There

Nat Hab is one of few tour operators offering naturalist-guided trips to this less-discovered destination. Madagascar is a truly distinctive option to add to your safari or visit on its own—due to the island nation's isolation in the Indian Ocean, 90% of the species here are found nowhere else! You'll be astonished at the array of unique animals and plants, and you'll witness firsthand how important your presence is to conserving Madagascar's endemic wonders.

2

Chartered Flights are Key to a Superlative Experience When you're tight on time on your quest to see a solid swath of Madagascar in a short duration, chartered flights are the only way to go. The country's national carrier has an abysmal track record for delays and cancellations, so we avoid them, instead arranging private chartered flights that work for our timing. That way, you don't lose out on precious wildlife viewing! It's a costly commitment, but charters ensure we get to where we need to be in a quick and convenient manner.

3

A Very Small Group Ensures Intimate Wildlife Encounters

The best wildlife experiences are always more likely to occur in the presence of fewer people. We explore Madagascar with no more than eight travelers—likely the smallest group you'll find—ensuring a quieter, more wondrous experience in nature.

4

Travel with a Top Naturalist Expedition Leader

Compare the quality of guides and guest-to-guide ratio: You'll travel with a highly experienced Nat Hab Expedition Leader with outstanding knowledge of Madagascar's nature and culture, with support from local guides at our destinations. Our Expedition Leader provides seamless tour management and the integrated perspective of a professional naturalist, while our Malagasy guides add in-depth local knowledge, helping to maximize our wildlife sightings. Our Expedition Leaders get training and resources from WWF scientists—a Nat Hab exclusive! **See Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.



5

Activities Tailored to Varied Physical Abilities

We often divide our groups on hikes and other outings in order to accommodate different physical capacities. Since we explore with a complement of guides, from our own Expedition Leader to various local guides in the places we visit, we're able to split up based on physical challenge, ensuring you won't feel let down or frustrated when other travelers' abilities may not match yours (though all guests must be able to meet our minimum physical requirements for this trip).

6

Distinctive Accommodations Close to Nature

You won't get closer to nature than from our secluded ecolodges that are surrounded by it! Fronting a pristine beach, Masoala Forest Lodge lies within the dense primary rainforest of Masoala National Park, the largest of Madagascar's conservation reserves. And on the west coast, offering access to the famous Avenue of the Baobabs, Hotel Palissandre features individual thatched beachfront bungalows shaded by palm trees.

7

Be Part of a Conservation Success Story

It's not an exaggeration to say that without our presence, and that of other eco-conscious travelers, most of Madagascar's remaining wild habitat would be gone. By demonstrating the economic value of nature tourism, bringing visitors to observe the intriguing species found in Madagascar's remarkably biodiverse forests, we show local communities the value of protecting their wild surroundings. Conservation travel is imperative to the future of nature in Madagascar. And when you travel with us, you're central to that mission.

8

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Nature Adventure

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

9

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10

Natural Habitat Adventures Is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Make It Private or Design Your Own Custom Safari

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. Our in-house safari experts can reserve a private departure for your group or help you design your own custom Africa itinerary—their expertise is second to none! **Click here** to request more info.

Please note that on Madagascar Explorer Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 4 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

When you choose a custom safari, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic African safari on offer. Here are some of the advantages when you go private:

- 1 Your private group of family or friends, with special activities for kids**
- 2 Your own private safari guide**
- 3 Surprisingly affordable pricing**

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$11995

Group Size:
Limited to 8 Travelers

Physical Requirements:
Moderate to Difficult

Madagascar Explorer Dates, Pricing & Info

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2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 2, 2026	Jun 9, 2026	
Jun 16, 2026	Jun 23, 2026	
Jul 7, 2026	Jul 14, 2026	
Jul 21, 2026	Jul 28, 2026	
Aug 11, 2026	Aug 18, 2026	
Aug 25, 2026	Sep 1, 2026	
Sep 8, 2026	Sep 15, 2026	
Sep 22, 2026	Sep 29, 2026	
Oct 6, 2026	Oct 13, 2026	
Oct 20, 2026	Oct 27, 2026	
Nov 3, 2026	Nov 10, 2026	



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$11995

Group Size: Limited to 8 Travelers

Physical Requirements: Moderate to Difficult

Departure	Return	Notes
Nov 17, 2026	Nov 24, 2026	

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 1, 2027	Jun 8, 2027	
Jun 15, 2027	Jun 22, 2027	
Jul 6, 2027	Jul 13, 2027	
Jul 20, 2027	Jul 27, 2027	
Aug 10, 2027	Aug 17, 2027	
Aug 24, 2027	Aug 31, 2027	
Sep 7, 2027	Sep 14, 2027	
Sep 21, 2027	Sep 28, 2027	
Oct 5, 2027	Oct 12, 2027	
Oct 19, 2027	Oct 26, 2027	
Nov 2, 2027	Nov 9, 2027	
Nov 16, 2027	Nov 23, 2027	



Pricing

2026 Prices

› Trip Price

\$11995 to \$12495 (+internal air)



Internal Air Cost: \$3878 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1695. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.

Included

- › **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and camp staff all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- › **Internal air cost includes:** All charter flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Physical Requirements

Moderate

In order to participate fully in this adventure, guests must be able to hike unassisted for at least 3 miles in a single stretch along dirt trails, up and down steep and sometimes slippery slopes, over or around tree roots and occasionally off-trail and into the brush over wet leaves, tree roots and through hanging vines. All wildlife-viewing activities happen on foot and require a combination of endurance, balance and a good view of the trail underfoot. Trekking poles can be very helpful and we will provide them. Most hikes are considered moderate with regard to exertion level, particularly in the rain forest where terrain can be especially rugged and/or slippery. While our longest excursions can last up to four hours, we move at a leisurely pace, interspersing many stops to view wildlife in the trees around us with bursts of more moderate exertion as we trek between wildlife sightings. While all activities are optional, those who can walk longer distances will gain the most from this trip and may see more wildlife species that reside deeper within the forest.



Important Information About This Trip

Madagascar's varied ecosystems offer a range of nature encounters. We will hike in rain forests (which can be hot and humid), take boat rides to view wildlife, and we may have the chance to snorkel, for those who desire. Participation in all physical activities is optional. We ask our guests to understand that the accommodations in Madagascar are not, collectively, of the standard that may be found in other more established African safari countries. Some lodgings are relatively luxurious while others are plain but clean and comfortable. In all cases, we have selected the best accommodation available at each location. Changes to the itinerary may occur in order to take advantage of conditions unique to the season and/or to accommodate unexpected internal chartered flight schedule changes; therefore, itineraries may on occasion need to be rerouted or redesigned without notice.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Getting There & Getting Home

You must arrive in Antananarivo, Madagascar by 5 pm on Day 1 for a 7 pm welcome dinner. You are free to depart Antananarivo any time after 2 pm on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.