

!  
x

Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Ultimate Madagascar Adventure" (DMUM), [but here are some similar trips](#).

!  
x

This itinerary is valid for departures in 2019. To view the 2020 itinerary [click here](#).



## **Ultimate Madagascar Adventure**

22 days, Morondava to Antananarivo

Trip code DMUM

### **What's included**

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group, Morondava

- Your Local Living Moment: Community Guesthouse and Traditional Dinner, Fiadanana
- Your Discover Moment: Ifaty
- Sunrise and sunset at Baobab Alley
- 4x4 journey between Morondava, Kirindy and Bekopaka
- Guided night walk in Kirindy Reserve
- Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve guided visit
- Canoe excursion on the Manambolo River
- Internal flights
- Andasibe Indri Special Reserve guided walk
- Artisan workshop visit
- Traditional healer visit
- Paper factory visits
- Anja Reserve walk
- Isalo National Park visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing July 4th, 2019 and onwards

# Itinerary

---



**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Morondava

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting.

Please contact your booking agent if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation or road transfer to Morondava.



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.



### Optional Activities - Day 1

Full Day Overland Transfer - Antananarivo to Morondava

Antananarivo - Morondava

Make your transportation easy with this full-day transfer from Antananarivo to Morondava. This 11 to 12-hour overland transfer will provide views of Madagascar from your window, stops for meals (not included) and bathroom breaks. Departure will be around 7 am from your hotel in Antananarivo. Please speak with a GCO for more information on pricing per person/group.

Day 2

## Morondava/Kirindy Forest

An early start to the day to see the sunrise at the Baobab Alley. Continue to Kirindy Forest Reserve, where you may be lucky enough to spot the giant jumping rat, or Fossa, the largest carnivore on the island. This evening, enjoy a night walk, the highlight of a visit to Kirindy.



### Today's Activities

4x4

Morondava - Kirindy Forest

3h-4h

60km

Roads? Where this rough-and-ready vehicle's going, we don't need roads.

Baobab Alley at Sunrise

Morondava

Wake up early as we drive to Baobab Alley and watch the sunrise over these majestic trees. Also referred to as the upside down tree with some reaching heights up to 98 feet tall.

Kirindy Forest Night Walk

Kirindy Forest

Once the sun goes down, grab a flashlight and head out into the forest for a guided night walk. With your guide you'll spot various critters who call this region home. Keep your eyes peeled for nocturnal lemur species, and the elusive Fossa.

Day 3

## Kirindy Forest/Bekopaka

Continue to Bekopaka, our gateway to the National Park of Tsingy de Bemaraha.

Load into 4x4's and head out on sandy roads heading north to Bekopaka, before arriving cross the Tsiribihina and Manambolo rivers by local ferry.

---



### Meals included

Dinner

---



### Today's Activities

4x4

Kirindy Forest - Bekopaka

5h-6h

190km

Roads? Where this rough-and-ready vehicle's going, we don't need roads.

Day 4

## Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

Morning canoe adventure on the Manambolo River, with an afternoon exploring the Little Tsingy's.

---



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner

---



### Today's Activities

Canoe the Manambola River

Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

Canoe along the Manambolo, with stops to visit caves filled with stalactites, stalagmites and the famous tomb of the Vazimba tribe.

Little Tsingy Visit

Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

The National Park of Tsingy de Bemaraha is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, made up of a maze of rock formations indigenous to Madagascar. Today you will have a chance to visit Little Tsingy which is also home to some of the Decken's sifaka and red-fronted brown lemurs.

Enjoy a full day exploring the peculiar rock formations of the 'Great Tsingy'.

Hiking the Great Tsingy is more adventurous than the Little Tsingy and involves sections of scrambling on exposed rocks, crossing hanging bridges and large vertical drops. It is not technically difficult, but should not be attempted by the faint hearted or those suffering from vertigo. (The panoramic views are worth the effort though.) If you do not want to visit Great Tsingy on this day, there are alternatives to spend an additional day in Little Tsingy.



### **Meals included**

Breakfast | Dinner



### **Today's Activities**

Great Tsingy Visit

Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

Spending the day in the Great Tsingy, trekking further into the park. Passing through several hanging bridges with the formations below your feet.

Day 6

## Bekopaka/Morondava

A full day driving back to Morondava, stopping for sunset at the Baobab Alley.

The sandy track leads back to Morondava passing through Baobab Alley in time for sunset.

---



### Meals included

Breakfast

---



### Today's Activities

Sunset at Baobab Alley

Morondava

1h

Great for photographers of any level, is the opportunity to watch the sun set behind these famous Baobab trees.

4x4

Bekopaka - Morondava

8h-9h

255km

Roads? Where this rough-and-ready vehicle's going, we don't need roads.

---

Day 7

## Morondava

Free day in Morondava to relax on the beach, visit the local market, or explore five species of mangroves in a dugout canoe.

Opt for a group farewell dinner as the trip draws to an end.

---



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Morondava

Get active or get lazy– the choice is yours.

Day 8

## Morondava/Antananarivo

Free morning in Morondava, then fly to Tana.

The limited Air Madagascar flight schedule to Morondava can change at any time, and your CEO will have the most up to date flight information available to you, on your tour.



### Today's Activities

Plane

Morondava - Antananarivo

1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Enjoy a free day in Tana to explore, or relax, before heading off to Andasibe.

Meet the group for the rest of your trip, at a welcome meeting in the evening.



## Optional Activities - Day 9

### Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

#### The Prime Minister's Palace Visit

Antananarivo

20000MGA

Located on the highest hill in Antananarivo, the Andafiavaratra Palace was the residency of Prime Minister Rainilaiarivony of Madagascar, who governed the island kingdom in the late 19th century. The site has now transitioned into a museum boasting over 1400 artifacts rescued from the fire at the Rova of Antananarivo, giving visitors insight into Malagasy history.

#### Tsarasaotra Bird Park

Antananarivo

25000MGA

Take a wander around this quiet park located near the city centre. Hang around the lake to catch a glimpse of this park's abundant aquatic bird life.

#### Antananarivo City Tour

Antananarivo

Follow a local guide on a tour of history-rich Antananarivo, the vibrant capital of Madagascar. Get to know the real "Tana" (as locals call it) on a 3-hour walking tour. Explore the colorful, bustling market, and sites such as the Cathedral, and Queen's Palace.

#### Queen's Palace Visit

Antananarivo

15000MGA

3h-4h

Belonging to a complex of seven monuments, the Queen's Palace (also called Manjakamiadana) was destroyed in a fire in 1995. Take a wander around the lasting stone walls of this site, 200m above the city centre. Admission includes entry fee and guide.

Day 10

## Antananarivo/Andasibe

Travel to Andasibe-Perinet National Park with scenic stops en route. Stay in a quiet area near Andasibe and explore the Indri Special Reserve section of this massive area.

Depart the capital and continue east, with stops along the scenic rainforest route of world-renowned Andasibe-Perinet National Park.

Continue on to the national park. With free time over the next two days, opt to visit other small private or community reserves around Andasibe, and go on guided night walks inside those reserves or along the main road. Walk to the little town of Andasibe or simply enjoy the relaxing tranquility of the surrounding forest.

Our accommodation here are simple bungalows with shared facilities.



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Antananarivo - Andasibe

4h

135km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Andasibe

Spend time visit nearby reserves or relaxing in the forest.

Spend the day exploring this national park. Stay in a quiet area near Andasibe and explore the Indri Special Reserve section of this massive area.

Explore the Indri Special Reserve and national park located 1.5km (0.93 mi) from the town of Andasibe. One of the park's primary purposes is to protect the natural habitat of the indri, a large black and white diurnal species that feeds on leaves and fruit. In addition to the indri, the park has 10 other diurnal and nocturnal lemur species, large chameleons, and the rarely seen blue coua.

The flora is just as spectacular with numerous species of trees, palms, and orchids (which flower in October/November).

---

## Today's Activities

Andasibe-Perinet National Park Guided Walk

Andasibe

Explore the Indri Special Reserve and national park located 1.5km (0.93 mi) from the town of Andasibe. One of the park's primary purposes is to protect the natural habitat of the indri, a large black and white diurnal species that feeds on leaves and fruit. In addition to the indri, the park has 10 other diurnal and nocturnal lemur species, large chameleons, and the rarely seen blue boa.

The flora is just as spectacular with numerous species of trees, palms, and orchids (which flower in October/November).

Free Time

Andasibe

Keep exploring or start relaxing— the choice is yours.

---

## Optional Activities - Day 11

Vondron'olona Ifotony Reserve

Andasibe

45000MGA

1h-2h

Take a walk through this nature reserve. Managed by the locals in the area, this area works to preserve species of native plants and animals.

Mitsinjo Park

Antananarivo

35000-50000MGA

Experience the Analamazaotra rainforest. Take a walk through the paths and enjoy the native trees and flowers. Opt to take a view of the park from the top along the tree top canopies, and zip-line back

down! Please note that operational hours are irregular; speak to your CEO about booking this activity in advance.

Andasibe-Perinet National Park Guided Walk

Andasibe

75000MGA

1h-3h

Want to continue your rainforest exploration? Return to Andasibe-Perinet National Park in the afternoon for a walking tour led by a local guide for a chance to spot more animals.

Day 12

## Andasibe/Antsirabe

Travel to the colonial city of Antsirabe, stopping to see rice paddies along the way.

Travel to the ancient colonial town of Antsirabe. Along this stretch of road you will see Merina tombs and the labour-intensive cultivation of rice paddies.

Antsirabe is known as a thermal city because of its volcanic lakes. It's also famous for its precious and semi-precious stones and handicrafts.

Opt to explore this quaint little city upon arrival.

---

### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Andasibe - Antsirabe

7h-8h

305km

Stop to visit some highlights along the way.

Visit Lake Andraikiba before continuing to the small village of Fiadanana. Opt to explore this beautiful village. Listen to a ghost talker, enjoy a stay at a community guesthouse, and dinner with a local family.

After a short visit to Lake Andraikiba, continue on to the small village of Fiadanana. This beautiful village is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes of rice fields and panoramic views of the nearby mountains.

Get to see how the villagers live by interacting with them and enjoy a chance to learn their rituals during an authentic community experience.

Accommodation is in a traditional style house that has been purpose-built to meet the needs of guests. There is a kitchen and a dining/lounge area to enjoy lunch or a drink, and a beautiful veranda overlooking the rice terraces. It is equipped with shared, basic shower facilities and outdoor toilets (a squat toilet and one western-style toilet). This accommodation is basic but, for one night, the experience of living like a local and staying somewhere unique and remote is worth it.



## Meals included

Lunch | Dinner



## Today's Activities

Lake Andraikiba Visit

Antsirabe

Enjoy the views of beautiful Lake Andraikiba.

Private Vehicle

Antsirabe - Fiadanana

1h

25km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Walking

Betafo - Fiadanana

3h

5km

Lace up your shoes and get to the next stop under your own power.

Traditional Healer Visit

Fiadanana

Listen to a ghost talker to learn more about traditional healing and local legends.

## ACTIVITY

Get to know how the villagers live by interacting with them and enjoy a chance to learn their rituals during an authentic community experience. While the accommodation was purpose-built to make room for guests, the building was prepared in a traditional style and still offers the interaction of staying in a typical family home.

Day 14

## Fiadanana/Ranomafana

Learn traditional rituals from the local villagers. Hike back to the bus taking in the stunning views. Continue on to Ranomafana.

Enjoy a local breakfast and take in stunning views of Mt Ifasina.

After, hike back out to the bus (about 3.5km/2.2 mi) and continue to Ranomafana, a little village named after the hot springs in the valley.

The nearby national park is one of the most important mammal sites in Madagascar.



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Today's Activities

Walking

Betafo - Fiadanana

3h

5km

Lace up your shoes and get to the next stop under your own power.

Private Vehicle

Fiadanana - Ranomafana

7h

280km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Opt for an early morning forest walk to get a feel for the incredible wildlife of the area, or explore on your own. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic journey heading south through Madagascar's wine-producing region.

In the morning go for a forest walk, a swim in a hot spring, visit the local town and market, or get a massage.

Enjoy the wonderful changes of landscape along the way to the pleasant rural town of Ambalavao.

Visit a little paper factory where the locals will share their traditional methods of producing this unique, hand-made paper.

If time allows, opt to visit a silk factory in town and learn about the local way of making fabric or clothing from silk, and the process of dyeing it with natural dyes.



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Ranomafana - Ambalavao

3h30m

106km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Paper Factory Visit

Ambalavao

Ambalavao is famous for its "Papier Antemoro", a papyrus-type paper impregnated with dried flowers and sold throughout the island. Visit a little paper factory where the locals will tell us about the traditional methods used to produce this unique, hand-made paper. You can even buy some and use it to write letters to your friends and family back home.



## Optional Activities - Day 15

Thermal Pool Swim

Ranomafana National Park

15000MGA

Take a dip into a pool heated naturally by the hot springs surrounding the Namorona River. Opt for a massage on site to deepen your relaxation.

Town Visit

Ranomafana National Park

Take a trip into town to get a feel for the local hustle and bustle. Stroll around the open market, or shop for a locally-made handicraft.

Silk Factory Visit

Ambalavao

2EUR

Visit a silk factory in town to learn about the local way of making fabric or clothing from silk and the process of dyeing cloth with natural dyes.

Morning Forest Walk

Ranomafana National Park

20-25EUR

Enjoy morning walk in the forest to see golden bamboo lemurs, greater bamboo lemurs, and other lemur species. There's a possibility of seeing reptiles such as the Madagascar boa, chameleons (the largest rainforest species being the Parson's chameleon), or the well-camouflaged leaf-tailed gecko.

Day 16

## Ambalavao/Ranohira

Stop at Anja Community Reserve, known for groups of ring-tailed lemurs. Continue on through the ever-changing landscape to Ranohira and Isalo National Park.

Journey from Ambalavao to the Anja Community Reserve and on through diverse scenery. Travel through the savannah before the massif of Isalo becomes clearly visible.

### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Ambalavao - Ranohira

4h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Anja Reserve Walk

Ambalavao

Stop at the Anja Community Reserve, which known for having some of the most accessible groups of ring-tailed lemurs in the country. Enjoy looking at these fascinating creatures. Breathe in the fresh air and take in the view of the rice paddies.

Day 17

## Ranohira

Spend a full day exploring Isalo National park on foot, stopping at a natural swimming pool and waterfalls.

In the morning, pack a lunch to take into the park with you to eat during a picnic break later in the day - your CEO can help you arrange this.

After a short trek within a small canyon, take a break from the sun and stop at fresh natural swimming pool. Continue on to the "cascades", considered to be amongst the best waterfalls in Madagascar and has a large natural swimming pool.

With a little luck, you may see sifaka, brown lemurs, or ring-tailed lemurs.



### Today's Activities

Isalo National Park Visit

Isalo National Park

7h

Spend a full day exploring this fantastic park on foot. After a short trek within a small canyon, take a break from the sun and stop at a fresh natural swimming pool. We continue on to the "cascades", which are considered to be amongst the best waterfalls in Madagascar and boasts a large natural swimming pool.

If you are lucky, you may see sifaka, brown lemurs, or ring-tailed lemurs. Between September and October (in the most arid zones), you can witness the pachypodium blooms.

You will be able to choose between a shorter and longer section of the trail depending on ability and the group will be split into group accordingly.

Day 18

## Ranohira/Ifaty

Drive through the desert landscape, viewing Mahafaly tombs and giant baobab trees en route. Continue to the beautiful Mozambican Channel beaches of Ifaty.

En route to Toliara, drive through the magnificent wide-open and vast desert landscape. Pass through several unique frontier-style sapphire mining towns, and babobab trees en route.

This drive will also pass by the tombs of the Mahafaly; a local tribe in Madagascar known predominantly for their large tombs. They were built for chiefs and kings and are covered in stones, sculptures, and horns. The more important the deceased, the more horns and statues the tomb is adorned with. One of the largest tombs has over 700 zebu horns! As this is a sacred site we will just be passing by, and photography is not permitted.

Continue on to Ifaty to relax and enjoy the breathtaking beaches of the Mozambican Channel.

While in Ifaty, opt to ride in a dugout canoe, visit the spiny forest reserve, go snorkelling or diving on the reef, or simply relax on the beach.



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Ranohira - Ifaty

6h

250km

Make stops along the way to spot baobab trees and visit the Mahafaly tombs.

Day 19

## Ifaty

Spend two full days enjoying this gorgeous area. Opt to do some hiking or hit the beach.

---



### Optional Activities - Day 19

Dugout Canoe Ride

Ifaty

55000MGA

Head out in a traditional dugout canoe to see the area from a new perspective.

Quad Biking

Ifaty

290000MGA

4h-6h

Hop on an ATV to explore Ifaty. Rates will depend on duration, and if you'd like a guide to accompany you.

Fishing

Ifaty

30000-800000MGA

There are tons of different types of fishing opportunities available in this area. Speak to your CEO to learn more.

Reniala Spiny Forest Reserve Visit

Ifaty

65000MGA

Visit this unique ecosystem belonging to the last pieces of primary forests of Southern Madagascar. Learn more about the plant and animal life in the area, and gaze upon the largest baobab tree in Ifaty. Price includes entry fee.

Snorkelling

Ifaty

65000MGA

2h-3h

Grab a mask and some fins and check out what's living just under the water.

Day 20

Day 21

## Ifaty/Antananarivo

Travel to Toliara for a flight to Antananarivo and an optional last night out on the town.

Due to the unpredictability of local flights, if we are unable to secure your domestic flight, we will instead transport you in 4x4 vehicles. This journey can take approximately 10 hours.

---



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Ifaty - Tulear

1h30m

30km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Tulear - Antananarivo

1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Depart at any time.



## Optional Activities - Day 22

Queen's Palace Visit

Antananarivo

15000MGA

3h-4h

Belonging to a complex of seven monuments, the Queen's Palace (also called Manjakamiadana) was destroyed in a fire in 1995. Take a wander around the lasting stone walls of this site, 200m above the city centre. Admission includes entry fee and guide.

The Prime Minister's Palace Visit

Antananarivo

20000MGA

Located on the highest hill in Antananarivo, the Andafiavaratra Palace was the residency of Prime Minister Rainilaiarivony of Madagascar, who governed the island kingdom in the late 19th century. The site has now transitioned into a museum boasting over 1400 artifacts rescued from the fire at the Rova of Antananarivo, giving visitors insight into Malagasy history.

Tsarasaotra Bird Park

Antananarivo

25000MGA

Take a wander around this quiet park located near the city centre. Hang around the lake to catch a glimpse of this park's abundant aquatic bird life.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group, Morondava
- Your Local Living Moment: Community Guesthouse and Traditional Dinner, Fiadanana
- Your Discover Moment: Ifaty
- Sunrise and sunset at Baobab Alley
- 4x4 journey between Morondava, Kirindy and Bekopaka
- Guided night walk in Kirindy Reserve
- Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve guided visit
- Canoe excursion on the Manambolo River
- Internal flights

- Andasibe Indri Special Reserve guided walk
- Anja Reserve walk
- Artisan workshop visit
- Isalo National Park visit
- Traditional healer visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from activities
- Paper factory visits

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Experience an unforgettable sunrise and sunset at Baobab Alley, discover nocturnal creatures on a night walk in Kirindy Reserve, explore the peculiar rock formations of the UNESCO-classified Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve, explore the Manambolo River in a canoe, search for lemurs and unique wildlife, learn about native flora and fauna in world-famous national parks, savour a local dinner in a rural village.

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Experience an unforgettable sunrise and sunset at Baobab Alley, discover nocturnal creatures on a night walk in Kirindy Reserve, explore the peculiar rock formations of the UNESCO-classified Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve, explore the Manambolo River in a canoe, search for lemurs and unique wildlife, learn about native flora and fauna in world-famous national parks, savour a local dinner in a rural village.

## Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

# What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

## 1. DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Please note that there are limited domestic flight options for internal flights in Madagascar - we are all at mercy of the national carrier's schedule, which is often only released 5 months at a time. Though there is normally one flight a day to and from each centre, we have designed the itinerary to work with past and current flight departure times. However, these schedules may change at any time. If you need any assistance in booking your flights to or from Morondava, please go straight to Madagascar's domestic airline, Tsaradia at: <https://tsaradia.com/en.html>

## 2. HIKING IN GREAT TSINGY

Hiking the Great Tsingy is more adventurous than the Little Tsingy and involves sections of scrambling on exposed rocks, crossing hanging bridges and large vertical drops. It is not technically difficult, but should not be attempted by the faint hearted or those suffering from vertigo. (The panoramic views are worth the effort though.)

## 3. DRONES

Drones are NOT allowed in Madagascar at all, and the use of one can result in fines, or even imprisonment. Please do not bring your drone with you.

## 4. VACCINATIONS

It may be required to show a Yellow Fever certificate upon entering the country visited. Please check in with your local health expert for advice on Yellow Fever and other inoculations required for this area.

## 5. MONEY EXCHANGE

Please note that there are limited ATMs or options for exchanging money in Morondava. Foreign currency is also not accepted in most places. It is best to bring sufficient local currency from Antananarivo.

## 6. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

# What is the group leader like?

Throughout the entire journey around Madagascar, you will be accompanied on your trip by a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). To round out the team, you will be joined by an expert driver. The Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will be the group manager and leader. He/she organizes the trip, and will be there to assist you when needed. He/she will be local to Madagascar, as G Adventures supports local employment, and will have a general knowledge base of the region, history, culture, and wildlife. He/she will take care of the small things so you can concentrate on enjoying your adventure. Your driver is a skilled and experienced driver, and is an integral part of the team. In addition, within the national parks, we engage in expert local guides to lead the hikes and forest walks, and he/she will be able to teach you specifics about the flora and fauna, and of course help to spot lemurs!

# How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg 12

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

## **What are the meals like on this trip?**

When meals are not included, your hotel will have a restaurant or you will be advised of a good local establishment. Part of the excitement of a G Adventures trip is the ability to try local dishes when possible. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is not expensive. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though, and you may choose to explore some local restaurants on your own or with your travel companion(s).

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private minibus, plane, walking, 4x4, canoe.

## **Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?**

The local flights between Morondava & Antananarivo and Tulear (Toliara) & Antananarivo are included in the cost of your tour. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Simple hotels (16 nts), community guesthouse (1 nt, multi-share), huts (4 nts).

## **What is the joining hotel?**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## **What are the joining instructions?**

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

If you have pre-arranged an arrival transfer, look for the driver holding a G Adventures sign in the arrivals hall inside the airport terminal, the sign will not have your name on it, instead our driver will ask for your name as confirmation of your transfer with us. We recommend you to change your money at the airport into local currency, please ask your representative for help. Please avoid any help offered from porters in the airport as they demand compensation for their services and they can be misleading at times. Only accept help from your G Adventures representative.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

## **What happens if I experience problems when arriving?**

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Madagascar)

During Office hours (Weekdays, 8am-5pm Local Time): +261 202 202 012

After hours emergency number : +261 32 07 11511

G Adventures Local Office (Nairobi, Kenya)

From outside Kenya: +254 727 208 832

From within Kenya: 0727 208 832

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What should I take on my trip?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. Your baggage should be clearly labelled and restricted to one soft compact suitcase, backpack, or sports bag, maximum 20kg, plus a daypack. Luggage limits on airlines are strictly enforced and space on vehicles is limited. Porters are not available, so be prepared to carry your own bags. It is important to pack clothes for warm days and cool evenings, though the climate in most centres is pleasant. A set of smart casual clothes is also advisable.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: Please ensure you bring a breathable rain jacket if you are travelling to Madagascar between November and April where the climate is usually hot and rainy.

**When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Some of the hotels will have a laundry service for a fee, and hand washing of clothes can be done in several locations as well. We recommend you bring a non polluting/biodegradable soap, as well as a roll of simple string to act as a drying line for your clothes. If you arrive in the late afternoon, or if there is poor weather, it may not be possible for your clothes to completely dry.

## What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Please note that upon arrival by air or by land to Madagascar, all non-Malagasy nationals must pay a fee of 120,000 Ariary (about 35 EUR/ 37 USD/ 27 GBP at time of writing) for a tourist visa of 30 days or less (adults and children). Payment for this can be made directly at the border or airport and all major currencies are accepted. We advise our travellers to ensure they have close to the exact amount needed in bills (plus a little extra to account for any fluctuations). Cash is preferred. Any change will be given in Malagasy Ariary.

If you arrive into Ivato Airport (Antananarivo), you should make your way to the border control desk closest to the Direction Generale des Impots (DGI) Office where there is an electronic sign indicating the cost of the visa.

The information above is accurate as of February 22nd, 2018, however we always advise our travellers to check with their Embassy/Consulate for the most up-to-date information as fees and policies frequently change. It is the travellers responsibility to have the correct travel documentation.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

It may be required to show a Yellow Fever certificate upon entering the country. Please check in with your local consulate and health expert for advice on Yellow Fever and other inoculations required for this area.

## How much spending money do I need for my trip?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

The currency of Madagascar is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA). We recommend that purchases locally be made in MGA.

Credit cards are useful for cash advances in Antananarivo (Tana), but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs).

Credit cards may sometimes be used for purchases in Tana, but please do not rely on them as a method of payment because they are generally not widely accepted. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies.

International debit cards may work as well, especially if they are linked to major credit card networks (Visa & Mastercard specifically).

While ATMs are available in the capital, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will work.

Some travellers bring two or more cards, to improve their chances of them working at ATMs.

ATMs have limits on how much money can be taken out at a time.

It is best to bring large denominations EUR or USD in 50 or 100 notes to change into local currency.

You cannot pay in USD dollars.

We do not recommend bringing traveller's cheques to Madagascar.

Outside of Tana you will find that it difficult to exchange foreign currency, or find ATMs.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euro and US dollar cash is best, with accessing money via cards second.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Do I need to pay a departure tax?

USD20, usually included in most international air tickets.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

Tipping is an expected, though not compulsory, component of your tour program. The gesture serves as an expression of appreciation for exceptional service, and amounts given are up to your discretion.

Tipping is one of the most direct ways that you can have a positive economic impact within the African community. Although it may not be customary for you, it is an important source of income for those in the tourism industry. Giving a tip should be seen as a formal 'thank you', and the action should in no way be awkward.

The best method of tipping someone that has served the whole group is to plan in advance, and not rush when it comes to saying goodbye. A suggestion would be for each group member to contribute anonymously by putting their tip into an envelope. This often works the best and the group should gather to present the gift to the recipient(s), offering their thanks and showing their appreciation. This method brings the action out into the open, allowing for a friendly and appreciative interaction between the group and the recipient(s).

You may use the following as a guideline, all given in a per person format:

CEO: US\$25 per week

Driver: US\$2 per day

Supply Crew: US\$1 per day

Local guides: US\$1-3 (per couple of hours)

Restaurant/café servers: 10% of the total bill

Hotel Porters: US\$1

Please note that tipping should always be in Ariary if possible, locals find it difficult and time-consuming to have to change EUR/USD tips and therefore always prefer Ariary.

Banks do not accept \$100 USD bills.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Antananarivo

- Full Day Overland Transfer - Antananarivo to Morondava
- Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos
- The Prime Minister's Palace Visit (20000MGA per person)
- Tsarasaotra Bird Park (25000MGA per person)
- Antananarivo City Tour
- Queen's Palace Visit (15000MGA per person)
- Mitsinjo Park (35000-50000MGA per person)

## Andasibe

- Vondron'olona Ifotony Reserve (45000MGA per person)
- Andasibe-Perinet National Park Guided Walk (75000MGA per person)

## Ranomafana National Park

- Thermal Pool Swim (15000MGA per person)
- Town Visit
- Morning Forest Walk (20-25EUR per person)

## Ambalavao

- Silk Factory Visit (2EUR per person)

## Ifaty

- Dugout Canoe Ride (55000MGA per person)
- Quad Biking (290000MGA per person)
- Fishing (30000-800000MGA per person)
- Reniala Spiny Forest Reserve Visit (65000MGA per person)
- Snorkelling (65000MGA per person)

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

We recommend you contact your family physician, or your local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information at least one month before departure. Travellers should also carry a basic first-aid kit and hand sanitizers/antibacterial wipes on their travels. Medical facilities are basic throughout these countries. For your own safety, we strongly recommend that you advise your tour leader of any medical condition that may affect you while travelling with the group. Your tour leader will be able to inform you of local health advisories (e.g. drinking water quality). Please ensure you have all the inoculations recommended by your doctor.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customersolutions@gadventures.com](mailto:customersolutions@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.