

EXPLORE!

Book with confidence



Madagascar Wilderness Trek

MADAGASCAR - TRIP CODE MF

WALKING AND TREKKING

Why book this trip?

Verdant rainforests and dramatic landscapes are the setting for this holiday in Madagascar. Get off the beaten track, trekking through lush tropical vegetation, granite hills, highland meadows and surreal sandstone landscapes.

- **Wildlife** - See Madagascar's unique wildlife from lemurs to chameleons
- **Remote villages** - Interact with the friendly and hospitable local people
- **Imarivolanitra (2658m)** - Ascend Madagascar's highest climbable peak



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 14
Lunch: 8
Dinner: 8



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)
Porter(s)
Ranger(s)



TRANSPORT
Flight
Minibus



ACCOMMODATION



WALKING GRADE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
10 - 16

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

Trip information

Climate and country information

Madagascar

Climate

The climate is tropical, but cooler in the highlands (dropping as low as 5°C at night in July/August in Antananarivo and Andasibe). The dry season is March to October continuing into November in most areas. The east coast is best March-May and September-November, January-March is cyclone season. The south west area is hot, dry and semi-arid. March-April is the best time for flowers and reptiles. November (spring) is generally the best time for wildlife and birds, but lemurs can be viewed all year round. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+3	2 Pin Round	Christian	Malagasy, French

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Bring light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature, the weather varies in different areas. Temperatures in Andringitra are low in the southern winter and will be down to below freezing at night so bring warmer layers it can also be drizzly and wet. Isalo is drier, it will be hot in the day and cool at night and Ranomafana will be humid and can get wet. Tops made from wicking materials which keep you drier and warmer are recommended as a base layer, and walking trousers are preferable to trousers of heavier material such as jeans. A waterproof jacket is essential at all times in case of rain and wind.

- Breathable wind and waterproof jacket (you may also wish to bring waterproof trousers)
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved tops
- Sunhat
- Long trousers
- Warm sleepwear
- Shorts (if you prefer to walk in them, culturally acceptable)
- Swimwear and towel
- Midlayer Fleece/pullover
- Socks (liner and thicker pair)
- Leech socks (for wetter weather)
- Insulated jacket
- Scarf

When it has rained there may be leeches in the jungle and we recommend bringing your own leech socks which can be bought through outdoor equipment providers or online through retailers such as Amazon.

Footwear

We recommend you bring lightweight walking boots with ankle support, make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

Luggage

18Kg

Luggage: On tour

We recommend for you to travel with up to 3 pieces of luggage: A main piece of luggage that can go in the hold of your international flight, an empty trek bag/holdall that can be used while trekking, and a Day Bag/mall Backpack for carrying your items during the trekking days. Please see below for full descriptions of each bag.

- Main luggage (hold luggage on flight):

You will not trek with your main bag, only carrying it from the hotel room to the bus, porters are provided for the trekking sections. This bag is for all your items and will also need to be used as storage during day and multiple day treks, your non trekking items will be kept in this bag, clean clothes, sandals etc. This bag should preferably have a lock, there will be no access to this bag during trekking days and

nights.

-Trek bag:

This will be used to carry the items that you need for the multiple trekking days. This will be your main luggage bag during trekking nights and needs to hold a maximum of three nights walking and sleeping essentials. Use a strong, soft walled, robust, waterproof trek bag or rucksack that can easily be carried by the porters. The weight limit for the bag and its contents is 18kg but you will probably find that you do not need this much. There will be time the night before leaving for the treks to re-sort your luggage into what you need on the trek. If you pack your gear in plastic bags inside your trek bag they will stay dry in case of rain. It will also be easier for you to sort through. Remember, the less you have to unpack in the evening, the less you have to repack each morning! It is advisable to pack your gear in drytrng plastic bags inside your trek bag so it will stay dry in case of rain

-Small Rucksack/Day bag (hand luggage on flight):

During the course of a trekking day, you do not have access to the luggage, which is being carried for you by the porters. In any mountain region the weather can change rapidly and you must be equipped for this eventuality. Your daypack should be large enough to carry your day things including: waterproofs, fleece, long trousers (if walking in shorts), warm hat and gloves, sun hat, suncream, water bottle, tissues and your packed lunch. Camera equipment can be heavy so think carefully when deciding what to take. A rucksack with 20 or 25 litres capacity is usually sufficient. Please note that a shoulder bag is not practical.

Equipment

-Sleeping Bag: As you do not carry it yourself, this may be down or synthetic, but it must be 3/4 season comfort rating (temperature 0°C to 10°C). A silk or fleece liner helps to keep your bag clean and adds an extra season.

-Sleeping Mat: Basic roll mats are provided but we would advise you bring a thermarest type matt too as the ground can be cold.

-Water Bottle or Platypus/Camelbak hydration system: Water along the trail must never be considered as drinkable until purified. Take at least two 2 litre personal water bottles or a system that allows for this much water, preferably insulated. A personal supply of water purification tablets/drops is essential. Powdered fruit juice can be used to disguise the taste. Energy snacks, including chocolate and sweets, are also recommended whilst on trek.

-Sunglasses

-Sun cream

-Small Torch (with spare batteries and bulb)

-Camera

-Walking poles (if you usually use them)

-Personal toiletries

-Personal first aid kit - On each walk a first aid kit is carried but you should have your own blister kit, supply of plasters, aspirin and other essentials.

-Insect repellent

-Small waterproof dry bag (for items such as your mobile phone)

-Reusable water bottle (minimum 1 litre) - Get 15% discount on a Water-to-Go bottle
www.explore.co.uk/about-us/responsible-travel/water-to-go-discount-with-explore

-Binoculars

Equipment Hire and Trek Training Days: Trek Hire UK hire out a wide range of kit including quality sleeping bags, down jackets, therm-a-rest sleeping mats and walking poles <http://www.trekhireuk.com>. They also run regular trek training and preparation days from their base in the Surrey Hills, ideal for getting an indication of your overall fitness level and also covering advice on kit and altitude.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly you should allow approx. £35.00 per person for group tipping.

International Departure Taxes

Ivato (Antananarivo) Airport:

International airport departure tax is approximately 38Euros

Domestic airport departure tax is approximately 20Euros

There is an additional country departure tax of US\$15.00 per person.

Flight tickets issued after 04 November 2016 will include the departure taxes as part of the ticket. If you have booked your flight ticket independently please check with your travel agent/airline if these taxes are included in your ticket. If any are not you will need to pay for the above taxes locally at the airport in cash.

Madagascar

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£7.00	£12.00	£2.00 - 4.00	£0.50

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Malagasy Ariary.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend taking most of your money in GBP, US Dollars or Euro cash. GBP can be changed at Tana airport and then after that Euro or US\$ will be the preferred cash for exchange outside the capital. Please note that US\$100 bills are not accepted and credit cards are rarely accepted.

Where To Exchange

Limited to Antananarivo, Antsirabe and Fianarantsoa. Your tour leader will advise on arrival.

ATM Availability

Antananarivo only, but ATMs cannot be relied upon.

Credit Card Acceptance

Very limited in Antananarivo and not to be relied upon.

Travellers Cheques

Take some travellers cheques in case of emergencies, though note that they are extremely difficult to exchange. Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currencyexpress.com/explore/>

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Flight, Minibus

Accommodation notes

The accommodation on this tour varies between comfortable hotels and basic camping. We have therefore classified the accommodation on this tour as in the middle of these two categories - simple. The accommodation at the family ran Manja hotel is in simple en-suite bungalows with mosquito nets and electricity and an on-site restaurant offering a variety of dishes. It is fantastically located close to the National Park entrance.

The Isalo Ranch is an eco-lodge located close to the National Park. Accommodation is in en-suite bungalows which are plainly decorated with minimal furnishings, they are built in a traditional style from clay and wood with thatched roofs. The electricity and hot water is solar generated, there is an on-site restaurant, bar and outdoor swimming pool.

The camp sites are all basic wild camping with varying facilities available: Ranomafana camp - tents pitched under fixed shelter, long drop toilet, one washroom, cold shower Imitso camp - no facilities, we set up wild camping toilet and bucket washing with water taken from nearby stream Andriampotsy camp - long drop toilet and rustic shower and bucket washing with water taken from nearby stream Belambo camp - no facilities, long drop toilet, and bucket washing with water taken from nearby stream. If you would like to book a single tent for the camping nights of the tour please let us know. We can provide this at a cost of £30 which should be paid in cash to your Tour Leader when you arrive in Madagascar. If you have booked a single room option for the whole trip, this includes a tent during the camping section.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Madagascar: An entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US & Canadian citizens and can be obtained on arrival. The visa is chargeable at 80.000AR (approximately 30Euros) and issued for 30 days. The visa fee is payable in Euros and we advise to take small denominations and a little extra as the Euro amount is calculated daily by the applicable rate of exchange. Please note GBP sterling is not accepted for the visa fee. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

For a single entry tourist visa you can apply via the e-visa website: <https://evisamada.gov.mg/en/> You will need to print a copy of your evisa approval letter and present this with your passport at immigration upon your arrival. The approval letter will take a minimum of 3 days to be processed so we strongly advise for you to apply within plenty of time (maximum of 6 months prior to your arrival) before your departure. You will be permitted to stay within Madagascar for a maximum of up to 90 days We strongly recommend for you to read the FAQ section on the e-visa website before applying.

Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits)

Regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via South Africa have been updated (Nov19). The law states that visa exempt children travelling for tourism purposes with one or both parents and/or an adult who is not a biological parent require to present a valid passport for each child on arrival. We strongly recommend you to refer to the South African House website for full information and to travel with a copy of these requirements.

Your passport must have at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of your entry into Madagascar and at least 2 blank pages.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your

policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Madagascar

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis A plus Polio and diphtheria. Please note that all travellers aged over 9 months old that have travelled from or have transit via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission, will need to present a Yellow Fever certificate at immigration/borders in Madagascar for inspection. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Following the advice given by the Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we strongly recommend the wearing long sleeved shirts and the liberal application of insect repellent as a precautionary measure to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. These precautions should be taken at all times as the mosquitoes are also active during daylight hours. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES

Day 3	10km	6hrs
Day 4	12km	5hrs
Day 5		
Day 6	5km	2hrs
Day 7	12km	4hrs
Day 8	15km	7hrs
Day 9	5km	2hrs
Day 10	8km	4hrs
Day 11	4km	2hrs
Day 12	2km	2hrs
Day 13		
Day 14	6km	3hrs

 Optional Walks

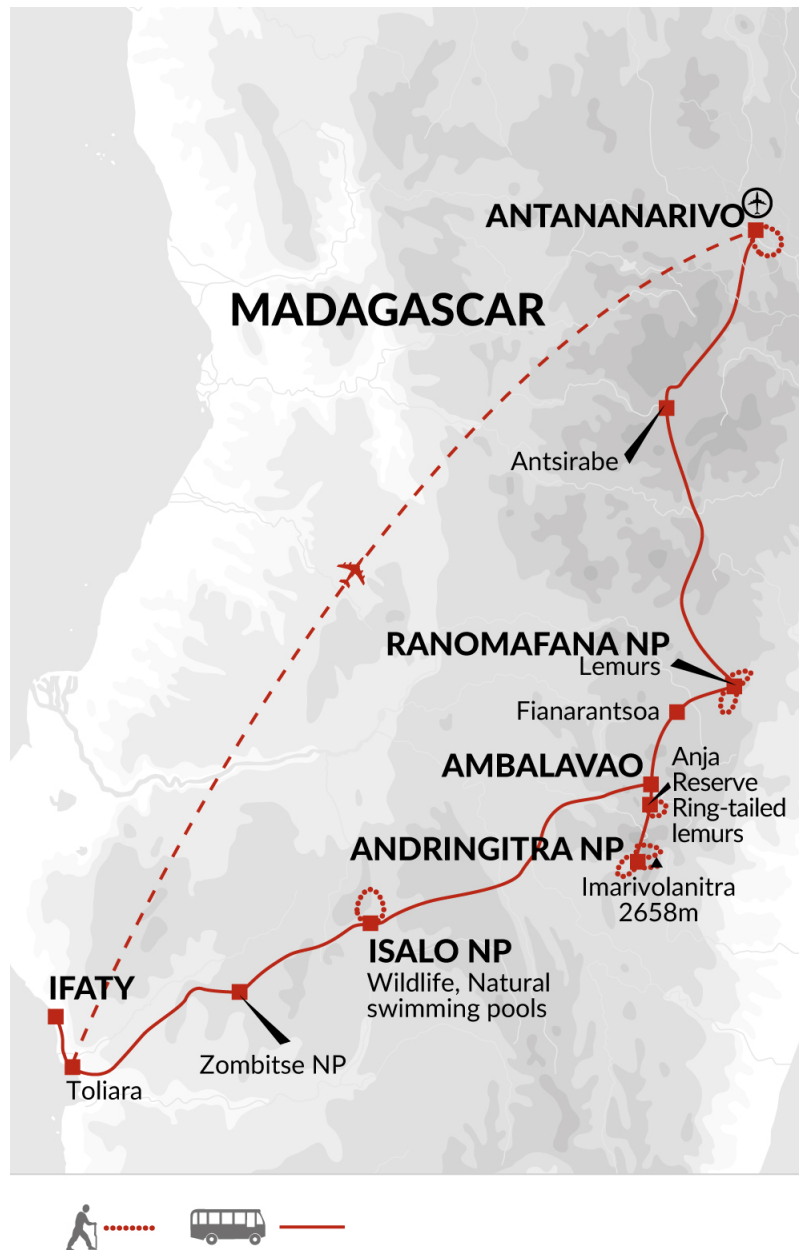
Walking grade

Moderate

Trek details

Walks on 9 days for between 2 to 7 hours. Maximum altitude is 2,658m. Follow well-managed trails through rainforests, grasslands and sandstone outcrops.

Additional Information



Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**