



m o m o t a s
reisen expeditions holidays

Enjoyable Bike Tours to Madagascar

Madagascar – The last Eden

Cycle in a small group or choose an individual arrangement. We propose small cycle groups starting in Antananarivo on Saturday, 24 June, 5 August and 16 September 2017

Duration of this bike ride is 15 days / 14 nights. This tour is designed for regular cyclists who are looking for longer distances of 65 – 110 km per day. Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, lies in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Mozambique. The international conservation community has singled it out as one of the most ecologically rich countries on the planet – the last Eden. This bike ride takes us on an 8 days cycle, about 650 kilometres in total, in the east of this amazing island. We cycle through highland villages and paddy fields, the lush tropical fruit plantations and coastal trails up as far as the tropical island of Ile Sainte Marie. The terrain is an exciting combination of tarmac and dusty red-earth dirt road trails. Far away from the modern comforts of daily life, this will be an unforgettable experience.



Included services:
 English-speaking tour manager on the bike
 Mechanic (with a minimum of six cyclists)
 Road book
 Bike rental accordingly reservation
 Hotels in double or twin rooms with private facilities, depending on availability
 Full board Day 2 – 12
 Half board Day 13, 14
 Breakfast Day 15
 Mineral water during cycling,
 All cars and buses, all transfers
 Local guides
 Mechanic (with a minimum of six cyclists)
 Entrance fees in the parks

Not included:
 International and domestic flight,
 Bike rental accordingly
 All other drinks, mineral water in hotels, restaurant and on no cycling days
 Private expenses,
 Additional beach activities, etc.
 Insurance

Two or three cyclists	Four to five cyclists	Six cyclists or small cycle group
2990 Euro per person sharing	2555 Euro per person sharing	2350 Euro per person sharing

Single room surcharge 480 Euro

Bike Rental 190 Euro



Rock Machine
 Torrent 70
 MTB
 29" and 30 gears



Cube
 Attention
 SL29 MTB
 29" and 30 gears

Flight Toamasina – Antananarivo not included

Complementary information:

From / to Antananarivo
 Duration: 16 days / 15 nights
 Cycling: 8 days and short distances
 Distance: about 650 km, from which 120 km are dirt road
 National park: Andasibe-Mantadia National park

Beach: Two days
 Best season: from April to November. From July to October is a chance to see whales.
 Domestic flight not included
Requirements: good cyclist, team spirit.
 The tour can be changed according to circumstances.

Typically you will be sharing your experiences with between six to 12 likeminded bikers and you'll have a cycling tour manager with you. Whether you are travelling alone or with friends its good value, and a great way to meet new people. While the itinerary is scheduled there is some flexibility and you'll have plenty of privacy. This trip will appeal to travellers of all ages who enjoy meeting new people as well as

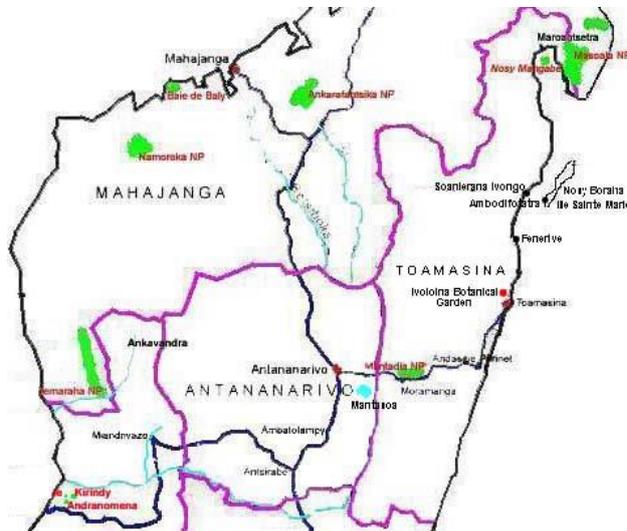


experiencing new cultures.
 If you woul prefer an individual tour please ask for an offer.

Madagascar was formed by continental drift rather than volcanic eruption (it tore off the African mainland around 165 million years ago). A narrow coastal strip in the east is where most of the rainforest grows; the central plateau in the high altitudes is cool; and there are plains and low-lying plateaux to the west. Madagascar is a continent with wide changes of micro climates, vastly different habitats and a huge number of endemic species.

Don't forget: You're on holiday. We are flexible in distances and timings. If you need to do some extra miles we will be happy to arrange this for you. If you think a bit less is fine, the support car is mostly near.

Please bring a sense of adventure when travelling to Madagascar. It is a developing destination and we will be cycling through remote areas where hotels, infrastructure and travel services are often basic. Be prepared to go outside your usual comfort zone and you will be richly rewarded. Discovering the real Madagascar at close hand is what this challenge is all about.



Highlights:

Cycling 650 km from the capital of Antananarivo to the unspoilt tropical island of Ste. Marie

- **Cycling the suburbs of Antananarivo**
- **Indri reserve**
- **Andasibe-Mantadia NP**
- **Walks and Exploration at Mahavelona (Foulpointe) Beach**
- **Tropical Island of Ste. Marie**

Towns: Antananarivo – Moramanga – Toamasina – Mahavelona (Foulpointe)

Madagascar is a third world country which is not fully geared up to tourism. You should therefore be prepared for changes to the route and accommodation right up to the last minute and remember that facilities will not be same as Europe.

Detailed itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive in Madagascar

Arrive in Ivato, Antananarivo airport. You are free to arrive at any time. Meet and greet and transfer to the hotel where we stay. Tana is a charming collection of colourful houses, often



crooked and stuck awkwardly to the slopes. These unique buildings are made up of crooked roofs, weathered brick walls and ramshackle wooden stalls.

Day 2, Antananarivo, approximately 65 km

On our first day in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, we will have a bike-fitting in the morning. Afterwards we will make a small excursion by bike to the surroundings of Antananarivo. After driving on a bypass road, we will head west, for a good 20

kilometres until we reach a private park. Here we will see for the first time on our tour lemurs and other animals.



Day 3,

Antananarivo – Lac Mantasoa approximately 70 km

We will start by cycling out of Tana on a busy section of road with a slight bit of uphill. Once out of the city, the roads become much quieter and for most of the day we will be cycling on good tarmac roads, undulating through villages and lush green rice paddies. We will then come to a dirt road section, starting with a few km of cobblestone. It will mostly be uphill for a few km until we reach the top, where we have great views on the surroundings of Tana before retracing our route back to the main road and continuing on towards Lac Mantasoa. As we cycle past highland villages, the scenery changes and roads are lined with grey eucalyptus trees contrasting against the bright red earth. After 48km we will turn south in the direction of Lake Mantasoa. From here we will cycle 13 km on dusty off-road trails to the small village of Mantasoa. From here we will follow a bumpy road which is for the most part broken up tarmac with potholes and sharp ascents and descents. The hillsides are covered with eucalyptus and pine trees and as we cycle up to a height of 1,300m the views across the lake are worth the effort. We reach the lake and skirt round the shores to our overnight hotel overlooking the lake.

Day 4,

Mantasoa – Andasibe approximately 88 km

We retrace the last 13km of yesterday's off-road trail to rejoin our route. After a few steep undulations we turn away from the lake and back to a landscape dotted with rice paddies and huts. After Ambatoloana we rejoin a good tarmac road. The road is mainly downhill and winds between lush forest and bamboo. There are flat and undulating sections for the rest of the



morning. After a picnic lunch we cycle through the village of Moramanga and up a long hill followed by a zigzagging downhill stretch of road. The next 20km are gently undulating. We will cycle through the village of Andasibe then the final 6km is a beautiful off-road trail through the forest to our overnight stay.

Day 5,

Andasibe-Mantadia NP, approximately 34 km

We begin with a very early morning breakfast and cycle a few km to the Andasibe-

Mantadia National Park. We change into our walking shoes for a guided walking tour around the forest to visit the Indri Lemurs and enjoy the flora and fauna. We follow the strange cries of the Indri and hope to see the whole family. We also have the opportunity to see many plants and other lemurs as well as birds. After lunch we cycle by bike in a different part of the park called Mantadia. Here we take a walk in the primary rainforest before we cycle back to our hotel.

Day 6,

Andasibe – Ranomafana-Est, approximately 70 km

We rejoin our bikes and head for the main road. We cycle on the road with some long gradual uphills and downhills with some stunning panoramic views over the surrounding hills. The scenery changes again and our route is lined with lush banana and mango plantations, lychee trees and the endemic Ravinala palm, whose enormous fan-like leaves are used for roofing in the area. The air becomes noticeably hotter as we descend. After lunch we cycle a short distance to the small town of Ranomafana Est where we stay the night in simple bungalows.





**Day 7,
Ranomafana-Est – Manambato,
approximately 60 km including 7 km dirt
road with some difficulties**

Today we will cycle to the little hamlet of Manambato. First, we will cycle on tarmac till we pass through the larger town Brickaville. The last 7 km we make a final push to come over the bumpy dirt road through the village Manambato to the shores of Lake Rasoabe. We will stay here for the night.

**Day 8,
Manambato – Toamasina (Tamatave),**

approximately 104 km (7 km tough dirt road)

We will cycle back to the main road, this time uphill and on a poor-quality dirt-road. For the next 30km the road is mostly flat, straight and lined with lychee trees and bamboo forests. As the day progresses, the road begins to gently undulate. We are now deep in the lush eastern plains of Madagascar as we cycle through palm tree plantations and an array of tropical fruits – banana, mango and papaya. For the last 20km, the road levels out and we approach Madagascar's second largest town, Toamasina (often still called Tamatave) – a lively port, buzzing with life. In the suburbs, we regroup and cycle together on a badly maintained tarmac road packed with markets, cyclists, cars and pedestrians. Then we turn off onto a quiet road which leads to our next overnight stop.

**Day 9,
Toamasina (Tamatave) – Mahavelona (Foulpointe), approximately 57 km**

The road is flat, quiet and rural with little traffic. It will be another hot day so there will be plenty of water stops throughout the ride. Eventually we will reach sand dunes and follow the beautiful coastline northwards, passing modest resorts and the occasional village. As we cycle up the



coast, we continue crossing the river; a lagoon separates the road from the coast. The final kilometre cuts across a dirt road trail to the beach and to our resting place for the night.

**Day 10,
Free morning
Mahavelona (Foulpointe) – Fénérive-
Est, approximately 42 km (3 km dirt
road)**

Morning free to relax on the beach, take a pirogue out to the reef, play a game of tennis or a round of golf. After an early light lunch, we have a day off from challenging terrain as we cycle half a day on mostly wide,

flat paths with few more small hills than yesterday. The road winds round this lush landscape towards the town of Fénérive. 3 km before the village we turn off and cycle towards the ocean to our accommodation situated right on the beach. There is unfortunately no hot water available. The setting is idyllic, overlooking the sea and a nearby island.

Day 12,

Nosy Boraha (Ile Ste. Marie), approximately 42 km dirt road

Our final day will be one of mixed emotions! A real treat as we cycle across and around much of this beautiful, virtually untouched island for the whole day, but on the flipside the dirt road terrain will be gruelling, and we will have to negotiate lots of sharp ups and downs, deep potholes, rocks and sand. We set off early, heading north and uphill towards Ankirihiry. The first few km of the day are on tarmac but we soon come to the challenging dirt road which stays with us for the rest of the day. On reaching Ankirihiry we turn inland for 5 km to cross the island from one side to the other. With the Indian Ocean now on our left we cycle south towards Anfiaty and Marofilao eventually reaching the port of Ambodifotatra. We continue south to our finish line at our hotel which will be our base for the next two nights. After celebrating the finish line, we enjoy a well refreshing drink next to the glittering Indian Ocean. What better way to complete this spectacular challenge in Madagascar. This evening we celebrate the end of the challenge and toast our achievement.



Day 13,

Day 14,

Nosy Boraha (Ile Sainte Marie)

Free days to relax at the tropical island of Ste. Marie. Swimming pool, tennis, mountain biking, beach volleyball, badminton, ping pong ... visit to the pirate cemetery on the island or islet Iles aux Nattes. Even a small nature park is located not far from the hotel. From June to October you may observe whales.

Day 15,

Ste. Marie – Tana

Flight from Ste. Marie to Tana

Leisurely walk to the airport to catch a flight to Antananarivo. – *End of service at the airport.* –

Photos: © Cycle Madagascar™ Hariniaina Razafimampanana, Antsirabe, page 2, Klaus Sperling, Antsirabe, page 4 (up), Ludovic Abraham, Tel Aviv, page 1, 3, 4 (middle), 5, 6, 7 and 8

The proposed hotels lodges and guest houses:

(The information comes usually from the hotel or a third party).

We will mostly be staying in upper middle class hotels, boutique hotels, fine 3-star hotels or comfortable lodges with a special charm, but sometimes, we will have to give up the comforts of these more comfortable hotels and live in smaller, simpler hotels, guesthouses and lodges. In remote areas, electricity is often only available on an hourly basis. The standard of accommodation is not the same as in Europe.

Town, city or place, short description



Antananarivo, Orchid Hotel is ideally situated five minutes from Ivato airport making it a perfect hotel for one night stays or early morning departures. Built on two floors with elevator access, the rooms are spacious with a/c, modern bathrooms, mini bar, TV, telephone, Wi-Fi, safe. Most of the rooms have impressive views over the rice paddies. Restaurant and a large terrace with great views and a huge moon shaped swimming pool. Adjacent to the pool is a gym.



Antananarivo, Motel Anosy – Solimotel is a quiet place in the centre of the city. The hotel has two restaurants, bar, pool, tennis court. Room Service. Wi-Fi. Only a few steps to Anosy lake and the city centre.



Mantsoa, Ermitage. The hotel is set within 32 hectares of magnificent pine forest overlook in Mantsoa Lake, 60 km from the capital Antananarivo. Double, twin and triple rooms. Restaurant and Bar, Lounge with a beautiful store fire place. Sports facilities, Massage salon, Horse Riding, Tennis Court, Volley Ball, Bowling, Basketball, Table tennis, Nature trails, Water sport, and Boat excursions. If you are not enticed with our sports activities treat yourself to relaxing massage.



Andasibe, Orchidée. Located in the centre of Andasibe. Very simple, nice and quiet hotel. A good way to take part in the daily life of the Malagasy population. Just walk down the main street to see the market.



Ranomafana Est, Mirindra. Some simple bungalows on the main road.



Manambato, Espace Vacances Andrianina invites you to enjoy this little piece of paradise. Discover its sandy beaches that stretch to the horizon on Lake Rasoabe. Enjoy a warm climate and many activities in this simple, authentic and friendly place. You have the opportunity to taste local delicacies in the restaurant or cook on site. To complete the stay, the hotel offers various sporting activities.



Toamasina (Tamatave), Sunny Golf is located at a walking distance from the beach and close by the airport. Enjoy all the activities the hotel has to offer (Golf, horseback riding, pools, fitness centre, bar and restaurant located onsite) and relax in a peaceful setting.



Mahavelona (Foulpointe), Manda Beach will offer you a warm and comfortable stay with a welcoming atmosphere. Situated north of Toamasina, this traditionally built hotel complex with its rooms and bungalows, is surrounded by lush greenery with a swimming pool, and tennis and other games available, along the beach of Mahavelona (Foulpointe).



Fénérive Est, La Ruschia Village. Nice bungalows by the sea, some km from city centre. The village has kilometres of beaches lined with coconut trees, where you may go for a walk and enjoy the wonderful view of the ocean.



Nosy Boraha (Ste. Marie), Natiara Residence. Built in harmony with the sea and forest, the Residence is a true paradise for nature lovers. The well-maintained villas have all the amenities, including a large private terrace overlooking the sea. From the villas you can watch the beautiful sunset on the horizon and enjoy a drink. The kitchen focuses on 'healthy eating'. It is a natural cuisine, ideal for gourmets looking for good and wholesome food. Experience the luxury of feeling at home.



Nosy Boraha (Ste. Marie), Vanivola. The Hotel de Charme is a small island paradise for holiday makers looking to get away. Imagine endless stretches of white sandy beaches, and turquoise oceans as far as the eye can see. Because island living is so relaxing, guests are encouraged to put their feet up and enjoy a tranquil holiday experience. For nature lovers, there are many fantastic sights not to be missed. Of course those wanting to get out and explore are welcome to investigate the vast array of activities and sights on the island and on the surrounding islands. Because the ocean is so warm, water sports are a popular way to pass the time. Go diving, snorkelling and fishing or simply ride in a boat and enjoy the vast and beautiful ocean.