



MEJDI TOURS

Islands of Change: Madagascar's Nature, Colonial Past, and Local Futures

(Scheduled Group Departure)

Dates & Pricing:

July 17 - 27, 2026 (\$6,250 per person, + \$1,100 single room supplement)

Extension Tour: July 27 - 30, 2026 (\$2,490 per person, +\$450 single sup.)

May 7 - 17, 2027 (\$6,415 per person, + \$1,250 single room supplement) Extension
Tour: July 16 - 29, 2027 (To Be Announced)

Included: 10 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary or similar
1 MEJDI-Trained local guide throughout the tour
All ground transportation in private jeeps (3 travelers per vehicle)
1 domestic round-trip flight: Antananarivo ⇌ Morondava
Airport transfers upon arrival and departure
Meals listed in itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 10 dinners
Bottled water during all touring and light drinks at meals
All site entrance fees and activities as per itinerary
Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers, porters, restaurant staff)
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not included: International airfare
Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$1,100
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Individual airport transfers outside of the group transfer
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section



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Overview

From misty rainforests echoing with the haunting call of the Indri lemur to vibrant city streets brimming with history and energy, this immersive journey across Madagascar offers a rare glimpse into one of the world's most biodiverse and culturally rich landscapes. You'll traverse the capital of Antananarivo, trek through primary forests of Andasibe and Mantadia, and witness the legendary Avenue of the Baobabs. Along the way, meet local conservation leaders, artisans, and villagers who are working to protect their land and heritage.

MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of destinations—the diversity of its people and their stories—in a way that benefits local communities around the world. We specially design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. So you don't just visit new places; you become part of them. These human experiences and how we treat the people we meet are what sets MEJDI apart.

- **Historical Dialogue with Malagasy Scholar**
Gain insight into Madagascar's journey from monarchy to colonization to independence in a conversation with a University of Antananarivo historian
- **Reforestation with the GUERP Association**
Plant trees alongside local conservationists working to restore Madagascar's endangered forests.
- **Lecture with Primatologist and Conservation Leader**
Gain unique insights into Madagascar's endemic species and local conservation efforts, guided by one of the world's foremost experts on primates and community conservation.
- **Visit to a Local Village and School**
Meet students and young leaders to hear about life in Madagascar and share stories across cultures. This exchange fosters mutual understanding and supports local educational initiatives.
- **Support for the VOIMMA Association & Artisan Cooperative**
Engage with artisans and community members at a cooperative that provides economic empowerment through crafts. Your visit helps sustain local livelihoods and traditions.



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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Antananarivo

Welcome to Madagascar! Upon arrival in the capital, Antananarivo, you'll be greeted by MEJDI representatives and transferred to your hotel.

Settle in and begin acclimating to the rhythm of this highland city.

This evening, gather for a **group dinner** and orientation as we begin to explore Madagascar not just as tourists—but as learners, listeners, and guests.

Hotel: Radisson Blu, Antananarivo or similar (Dinner included)

Day 2: Uncovering Histories—Royal Legacy and Resistance

Explore Tana's layered urban landscape, from bustling **Independence Avenue** to the **colonial architecture** of the **French Quarter** and the panoramic heights of the **Royal City**.

At day's end, we'll engage in a powerful **conversation with a historian** from the **University of Antananarivo**—unpacking the country's shifting identity from monarchy to colonization to independence, and the challenges of modern governance.

Hotel: Radisson Blu, Antananarivo or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 3: Journey to Andasibe—Village Life and Grassroots Action

Travel eastward to **Andasibe**, passing lush countryside and small villages.

Along the way, visit a renowned reptile farm, then arrive in Andasibe for two days of deep **ecological immersion**.

This afternoon, join the **GUERP Association** in a hands-on **reforestation project**, directly supporting local biodiversity efforts.

Conclude the day visiting a **women-run craft cooperative** supporting traditional livelihoods.

Hotel: Manjarano Hotel, Andasibe or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)



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Day 4, Monday: Mantadia Primary Forest

Today you'll visit the **Mantadia primary forest** (located about 1.5 hrs drive - bumpy road).

Mantadia is part of the larger **Andasibe-Mantadia protected area** and is known for its rich biodiversity, including the iconic **Indri indri**, the **largest living lemur species**. The park features dense **tropical forest, waterfalls**, and **diverse flora**, including rare orchids and ferns.

Hotel: Manjarano Hotel, Andasibe or similar (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 5: Lemur Calls and Forest Walks

Rise early to meet the Lemurs again in **Analamazaotra National Park**.

After lunch, continue to **Lemur Island**, where you'll come face-to-face with **rescued species**.

This evening, we'll take a night walk through **VOIMMA Forest** to search for **nocturnal wildlife**. As we reflect, consider what it means to protect the vulnerable—not just in nature, but in human society.

Hotel: Manjarano Hotel, Andasibe or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 6: Conversations with Conservationists

This morning, return to GUERP for a dialogue with **Dr. Jonah Ratsimbazafy**, President of the International Primatological Society and one of Madagascar's foremost conservation voices. Learn about the links between **scientific research, education, and policy reform**. In the afternoon, journey back to the capital to prepare for our westward exploration.

Along the way, stop in a **local village** to meet **young students**, learn about their lives, and hear their hopes for the future.

Hotel: Radisson Blu, Antananarivo or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 7: From Highlands to the Coast—Arrive in Morondava

Fly west to **Morondava**, a coastal town where **mangroves meet baobabs**.



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This afternoon, meet with the **FANAMBY Association**, whose work in the **Menabe Antimena Protected Area** bridges **environmental conservation** with **community empowerment**. This is a chance to understand conservation as a local story—not just an international cause.

Hotel: Palissandre Côte Ouest, Morondava or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 8: Into Akiba Forest—Baobabs and Beyond

Today's journey leads us to the **Akiba Forest**, where we'll walk beneath the towering, intertwined "Lover's Baobabs" and share a **picnic lunch** in a secluded glade. This protected area, managed by FANAMBY, is home to endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.

As the sun dips low, we'll arrive at the iconic **Avenue of the Baobabs** for a sunset that defies words.

Hotel: Palissandre Côte Ouest, Morondava or similar (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 9: Plant Stories and Tortoise Trails

Visit **Zazamalala Botanical Garden** to learn how local communities use **medicinal plants** and sustain critically **endangered species**. Hear how ecological knowledge is passed across generations, and meet the team behind **tortoise conservation** efforts. Spend the afternoon resting by the sea or exploring **Morondava's vibrant coastal neighborhoods**.

Hotel: Palissandre Côte Ouest, Morondava or similar (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 10: A Sweet Farewell—Chocolate & Reflection

Fly back to Antananarivo for a delicious final experience: a **hands-on chocolate-making workshop** with a **local cooperative** working in **ethical agriculture**. Trace the **bean-to-bar journey** of Madagascar's famed cacao and create your own treats to take home.

As we gather for our **final meal together**, we'll reflect on the people, stories, and places that have transformed us.

Hotel: Radisson Blu, Antananarivo or similar (Breakfast and Dinner included)



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Day 11: Departure

Enjoy a leisurely morning and group transfer to the airport. While your time in Madagascar ends today, the connections and insights gained will resonate long after your return home.

(Breakfast included)

Optional Extension

Sainte Marie Island

Included: 3 nights' accommodation at Princesse Bora Lodge, Sainte Marie (Executive Villa with sea view - double occupancy)
1 domestic round-trip flight: Antananarivo ⇌ Sainte Marie
Roundtrip arrival/departure transfers
Meals listed in itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
Whale watching excursion (non-private, eco-friendly boat)
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not included: International airfare
Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement - \$350
Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers, porters, restaurant staff)
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Additional excursions or services in Antananarivo
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section



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Itinerary

Day 1: Antananarivo to Sainte Marie – Island Welcome

Fly from Antananarivo to Sainte Marie. Upon arrival, transfer to your oceanfront lodge. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hotel: Princesse Bora Lodge, Executive Villa or similar (Dinner included)

Day 2: Whale Watching Experience (July–September)

Embark on a guided whale-watching excursion (non-private), with opportunities to observe breaching humpbacks and other marine life in season.

Hotel: Princesse Bora Lodge, Executive Villa or similar (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 3: Leisure Day – Choose Your Island Adventure

Spend the day at your pace — Your hotel offers a variety of excursions (not included): spa treatments, snorkeling, diving, kayaking/paddle boarding, visiting Île aux Nattes, or discovering the Pirate Cemetery and local vanilla farms.

Hotel: Princesse Bora Lodge, Executive Villa or similar (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 4: Sainte Marie to Antananarivo – Departure

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Antananarivo.

(Breakfast included)