Cebu Heritage Tours • Itinerary

7 Nights ~ 8 Days: Madagascar’s Wild East: Lemurs, Canals & Humpback Whales

An expedition across Madagascar’s wild east — from rainforest treks and lemur encounters to Indian Ocean crossings and seasonal humpback whale sightings off Sainte-Marie Island.

PRICING	TOTAL TOUR DAYS	ARRIVAL PORT	DEPARTURE PORT
Ask us for a quote	**8**	**Antananarivo**	**Antananarivo**

Countries Covered: **Madagascar**

Tour Overview

Madagascar’s Wild East: Lemurs, Canals & Humpback Whales

Family | Leisure | Small Groups | Wildlife/Nature Clubs

- **Experience:** 7 nights & 8 days of rainforest treks, wildlife encounters, scenic canals, and island exploration.
- **Accommodation:** Mantasoa 1N | Andasibe 2N | Tamatave 1N | Sainte-Marie 2N | Antananarivo 1N.
- **Kickoff:** Begin in **Mantasoa**, 70 km east of Antananarivo, and explore **Nosy Soa Reserve**.
- **Rainforest Adventure:** Trek **Andasibe-Mantadia National Park** and **Vokona Private Reserve**, discovering lemurs, chameleons, and vibrant forest life.
- **Coastal Journey:** Drive to **Toamasina** (Tamatave), soaking up eastern Madagascar’s shoreline landscapes and culture.
- **Island & Marine Highlights:** Cross via road and boat to **Sainte-Marie Island**, where pristine beaches, pirate heritage, and seasonal humpback whale sightings await.
- **Return to Capital:** Fly back to Antananarivo for a final overnight and farewell dinner.
- **Safety & Comfort:** Hand-to-hand operator assistance throughout ensures a smooth, worry-free journey.
- **Season & Weather:** Best June 15 – October 15 (cool, dry season; whale migration peak).

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- **Packing Essentials:** Casuals, outdoor shoes, sweater, shawl/scarf, pullover/windcheater.

Trip Itinerary

Tour Program

Day 01 — Arrival in Antananarivo | Transfer to Mantasoa

Accommodation: Mantasoa | Meals Included: Dinner

Midday arrival at **Ivato International Airport**, Antananarivo.
Meet and assist by your Scopus representative.

Transfer by road to **Mantasoa**.
Distance: 70 km | Approx. 2 hours.

Arrive and check in at your lakeside hotel.
Evening at leisure.

Dinner and overnight in Mantasoa.

Tana to Anadacibe, Madagascar

Antananarivo (Tana), Madagascar

Rickshaw, Antsirabe, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar Central Highlands

Antananarivo, french name Tananarive, short Tana, Very poor capital and largest city in Madagascar, Madagasikara republic. View to top of Central Antananarivo.

Day 02 — Nosy Soa Lemur Experience | Andasibe Rainforest

Accommodation: Andasibe | Meals Included: Breakfast | Sandwich Lunch | Dinner

08:00 – Transfer by private boat across Lake Mantasoa to **Nosy Soa Park**.
Boat transfer: approx. 35 minutes.

Enjoy a relaxed guided walking tour (approx. 1.5 hours) through the park's forest trails, offering close encounters with:

- Brown Lemurs
- "Dancing" Sifakas
- Ring-tailed Lemurs

Return by private boat to Mantasoa (35 minutes).

Continue by road to **Andasibe** (approx. 2 hours).

Packed light lunch/sandwich en route.

Dinner and overnight in the Andasibe–Mantadia forest area.

Day 03 — Vokona Reserve & Analamazaotra Primary Forest

Accommodation: Andasibe | Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

07:30 – Transfer to **Vakona Private Reserve**.

Enjoy a guided 1.5-hour visit with close encounters featuring:

- Bamboo Lemur
- Black & White Ruffed Lemur (locally known as Varika/Farikata)
- Sifaka
- Ring-tailed Lemur

The reserve also offers sightings of chameleons, waterfowl, and seasonal wild guavas growing naturally in the forest.

10:00 – Transfer to **Analamazaotra Special Reserve**, part of **Andasibe-Mantadia National Park**.

Explore one of Madagascar's remaining primary forests — an intact, self-regulating ecosystem largely undisturbed by human activity.

Enjoy a 3-hour guided walk in search of the largest living lemur species, the remarkable Indri Indri, known for its haunting territorial calls echoing through the canopy.

Transfer back to the hotel.

Lunch at hotel (à la carte, payable directly by guests).
Dinner and overnight in Andasibe.

Chameleon in the primeval forests of the Andasibe National Park, Eastern Madagascar

Crab spider photographed in Andasibe madagascar.

Day 04 — Andasibe to Tamatave | Mahambo Coast

Accommodation: Mahambo. | Meals Included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

07:30 – Early departure by road to **Toamasina** (Tamatave).
Approx. 6 hours transfer.

Sea-front lunch at Chez Christian (payable directly).

Continue south to **Mahambo**.
Approx. 3 hours 30 minutes.

Free afternoon at Mahambo Beach to relax by the Indian Ocean.

Dinner and overnight in Mahambo.

Bridge made of wooden bars on country road, grass growing on hills both sides - typical view when driving 4wd off road vehicle near Andringitra park, Madagascar

Toamasina, Madagascar, April 30, 2017: Traditional rickshaws near the market in the downtown of Toamasina

Small village in the mountains in the north east part of Madagascar

Fishing nets in pangalanes - Madagascar

A cafe and a pus-pus taxi in Madagascar

Day 05 — Mahambo to Île Sainte-Marie

Accommodation: Sainte-Marie | Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Transfer by boat to **Nosy Boraha** (Île Sainte-Marie).
Approx. 4 hours crossing (sea conditions dependent).

Arrival on **Sainte-Marie Island** and transfer to hotel.

Free afternoon at leisure by the beach.

Overnight in Sainte-Marie.

Seascape of Sainte Marie Island (Nosy Boraha), Madagascar

Seascape of Sainte Marie Island (Nosy Boraha), Madagascar

Aerial view of Sainte Marie island, Madagascar

Day 06 — Whale Watching & Pirate Heritage

Accommodation: Sainte-Marie | Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

07:30 – Boat excursion for whale watching (seasonal: typically July–September). Approx. 1.5 hours at sea.

Return for breakfast.

Transfer to Ambodifototra (approx. 30 minutes).

Visit the historic Pirate Cemetery at **Pirate Cemetery**, including the tomb marked with the skull and crossbones at St Pierre.

Lunch in Ambodifototra (à la carte, payable directly).

Return transfer to hotel.

Dinner and overnight in Sainte-Marie.

Interaction MB-La mère saute tandis que son baleineau navigue-Cetamada-Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar-2016

Interaction MB-La mère saute tout près du rostre du baleineau-Cetamada-Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar-2014

Day 07 — Return to Antananarivo

Accommodation: Antananarivo | Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Transfer to Sainte-Marie Airport.

Commercial flight to **Ivato International Airport**, Antananarivo.

Meet and assist by Scopus representative.

Transfer to hotel and check-in.

Optional visit for local handicrafts and produce shopping.

Farewell dinner in Antananarivo.

Overnight in Antananarivo.

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view of madagascar

Day 08 — Departure

Accommodation: NA | Meals Included: Breakfast

Check out and transfer to the airport for return flight.

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view of madagascar

Tour Highlights

High value tours, activities & attractions

Nosy Soa Park

Close interaction with Lemurs

Know More >>

Andasibe Mantadia National Park

"Almost the whole park is formed by primary forest which has never been modified by human beings. It is also a refuge for many animals and plants. Thus, it is not uncommon to come across a multitude of species: lemurs, birds, chameleons, and insects of all kinds."

Know More >>

Nosy Boraha

Sainte-Marie Island is known for its authentic and preserved character, whale watching, beautiful beaches, and history.

Know More >>

Tour FAQs

Know more about this tour

1. "Operator hand to hand protocol": what is it?

The Operator hand-to-hand protocol is a service approach where guests are personally handed over from one operator or local contact to the next throughout the journey. This ensures that travelers do not need to worry about finding drivers, guides, or local contacts at each stop. While this service comes at an additional cost, it guarantees a smooth, hassle-free, and fully enjoyable tour experience.

2. Who can travel on this tour?

The tour is open to adult passengers from all countries. Minors must be accompanied by an immediate family member or legal guardian.

3. What are the travel requirements?

Travelers must have a valid passport with at least six months' validity from the start date of the tour. An entry permit or visa may be required depending on nationality, in accordance with Madagascar's visa policy. Travelers are also strongly advised to have health insurance valid for the duration of the journey, preferably a "cash-free" policy for seamless medical assistance if needed.

4. How safe is Madagascar?

Madagascar is generally very safe for travelers. There are no large carnivores or poisonous reptiles, making outdoor exploration safe. The local population is friendly, welcoming, and easygoing. While public transportation exists, it is often irregular and is not recommended for tourists on short holidays; private transfers or guided transport are preferred.

5. Are credit cards accepted in Madagascar?

Credit cards are not widely accepted throughout Madagascar. While some hotels and larger establishments may accept VISA, many vendors prefer cash payments. Other cards, such as MasterCard, American Express, and Diners Club, are accepted only at a limited number of locations. Travelers are advised to carry sufficient local currency for purchases and small transactions.

6. Should cash be carried in local currency?

Yes, it is advisable to carry at least USD 100 in local currency (Malagasy Ariary). As of April 2024, the exchange rate is approximately 4,500 MGA = 1 USD. The best place to exchange money is upon arrival at the airport, and our team can assist you with this process.

7. How much cash can be carried into and out of Madagascar?

Visitors and residents may bring up to 400,000 MGA in local currency and an unlimited amount of foreign currency. Amounts exceeding EUR 7,500 must be declared to the customs authorities. Similarly, travelers may take up to 400,000 MGA in local currency out of Madagascar and an unlimited amount of foreign currency, provided a written declaration is submitted at customs.

8. What are the other important entry regulations in Madagascar?

Items allowed duty-free:

- 500 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 500 g of tobacco
- 1 bottle of alcoholic beverages

Prohibited items:

- Illegal drugs
- Weapons, explosives, ammunition, knives, and other deadly weapons
- Plants or plant products without prior permission
- Meat and meat products
- Pets or animal products without prior permission
- Electronic equipment
- Counterfeit money or goods
- Pornographic materials

Restricted items:

- Guns and ammunition intended for re-export require an export permit from the local “Chef de Province.”
- Perfumes are subject to duty regulations and cannot be imported duty-free.
- Fruit and vegetables must be declared, and an entry permit is required.
- Protected plant species and materials are prohibited.
- Animals must undergo a sanitary inspection upon arrival and have a valid veterinary certificate confirming good health and absence of contagious diseases. Dogs over three months and cats over six months must be vaccinated against rabies (within specific timeframes) prior to entry.

9. Are foregin insurance policies accepted in Madagascar?

Yes, foreign insurance policies are accepted and it is a mandatory requirement to travel on this tour. Travelers are advised to carry proof of valid coverage for the duration of the journey.

10. How much does this package cost?

The cost of the tour depends on several factors, including the class of accommodation, travel dates, and meal plans. Please submit a booking request, and we will provide a personalized price offer for your consideration.

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