

Espace Mada Tour Operator

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Tour Number DIR2690
Tour Name PEPPER David - Big Boucle + East - V3
Client dpepper@lovethvendee.co.uk
Start Date 15/06/2023
Arrival Antananarivo
Departure Antananarivo

Head of File : Guillaume

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 15/06/23 Antananarivo

Meet at the airport (arrival 15h15 on Air Mauritius flight number MK288.) and transfer to your hotel

Chalet Des Roses BB

Day 2 16/06/23 Antananarivo - Miandrivazo

Departure at 8:00 am, head to the "thermal town" of **Antsirabe**, down the road we stop at the village of **Behenjy** which is famous for its "foie gras", **Ambatolampy** known for its artisanal factories of aluminum objects like canner. Arrival in Antsirabe around noon, free lunch; 2:00 pm we hit the road to the West to arrive in the late afternoon / early evening in the village of **Miandrivazo**, at the royal time, the king Radama awaited his first wife, who was a daughter of Sakalava King's. Miandrivazo is located at sea level, and considered one of the hottest cities in Madagascar. Installation at the hotel. (If you travel on Tsiribihina River the day after, briefing with your guide around 7:00 pm (Step 390 kms, 7h00)

Princesse Tsiribihina DBB

Day 3 17/06/23 Miandrivazo - Tsiribihina

Departure around 9am from **Miandrivazo**, Transfer to the heart of the savannah, for the Pier near the village of **Masiakampy**. (count 1 hour, 20 minutes of tar, 40 minutes of track). The crew welcomes us on the barge. Barges are motor barges formerly used for the transportation of tobacco. They were then arranged for the transport of tourists. At the back of the barge is the cockpit and the kitchen. Passengers have benches on the lower deck where meals will be served. A staircase leads to the Solarium equipped with deckchairs.

The cruise will begin in the middle of the morning, we will cross vast cultivated plains, will sail along the banks and **gorges of Tsiribihina** and will cross the villagers of the river; they are part of the "**Sakalava**" ethnic group, their huts are built mainly of reeds, and roofs made of rice straw or palm leaves. In the late afternoon, refreshing stop and **swim at the waterfall of Nosy Ampela** (women's island), a small corner of paradise that houses families of lemurs. The **Camp** will be set up nearby on a large sandbar.

Descente de la Tsiribihina LDBB

Day 4 18/06/23 Tsiribihina

The barge continues its navigation in the heart of the **meanders of the Tsiribihina river**. We will meet piroguiers, motor barges for the freight of local products and by means of transport and exchange for the villagers. In the day, stop at **the village of Begidro** famous for its old tobacco concessions. The peasants still cultivate it in a traditional way; you can visit the warehouse. We resume the cruise, landscapes follow one another: cliff bats (Kina Kina), the giant capoquin, rice fields, the village of Berevo, more modern, with a Catholic school, a dispensary and a gendarmerie. At the end of the day, stop for 30 minutes to the village of Ambatomisay to see our **first Baobabs "Andasonia Za"**. The crew will put up the **Camp** on a beach that can change from one year to another, depending on the rains. After dinner, we will participate, around a campfire, in a traditional dance show.

Descente de la Tsiribihina LDBB

Day 5 19/06/23 Tsiribihina - Bekopaka Bemaraha

The landscapes are confused with tamarinds, mango trees, jujube trees, ricins, sensory mimosas, balsas, and date palms. **Last day of our cruise** to greet once again herons, fishermen, drongos, green bee-eaters, teals, humpback ducks. Arrival at the end of the morning at Bereketa pier in **Belo sur Tsiribihina**; lunch on board the barge. We join the **4x4** which has left Morondava in the morning. It will take more or less 4 hours of track to reach **Bekopaka**, starting point for excursions in **Tsingy Bemaraha**. (120 kms stage, track - 4 hours)

Orchidées du Bemaraha DBB

Day 6 20/06/23 Bekopaka Bemaraha

After breakfast, we will go for an excursion on a traditional pirogue all along the **Manambolo river**; it lasts around 1 hour and a half. We will see caves, Vazimba Tombs (Vazimba were the first ethny leaving in Madagascar), birds. Then we will visit the "**small Tsingy**", walk through the famous world unique limestone. This ballad is a very easy level, lasts around 2 hours. After the visit, we come back to the hotel.

Orchidées du Bemaraha DBB

Day 7 21/06/23 Bekopaka Bemaraha

In the morning departure with the 4WD from Bekopaka to join the starting point of "**Grands Tsingy**" (17 kms of very a bumpy road), it will take from 1 to 2 hours driving according the season). **The trip is called "Andamozavakay"**, it takes around 4 hours It is not a trek but a slow and observation walk. This doesn't require a particular physical condition, but it is not good for those subject to vertigo or claustrophobia. During the hike we will discover: secondary forest, caves (bring a headlamp) of the diaclases, panoramic views of this unique massif in the world. We cross a suspension bridge. The set is perfectly safe and very well laid out by the National Park that provides safety harnesses. Back to the hotel after the visit.

Orchidées du Bemaraha DBB

Day 8 22/06/23 Bekopaka Bemaraha - Morondava

Departure at 7:30 am, we return on track to join **Belo sur Mer**. Lunch advised at the restaurant "**Mad Zebu**," one of the best in Madagascar. We will take a ferry boat and cross again the Tsiribihina (45 minutes crossing). It will remain 2h30 to 3 hours to reach Morondava. On the way, we will stop at the **Sacred Baobab**, a tree with a thousand years of notoriety. End afternoon we will stop at the **baobabs alley** to enjoy the sunset and take pictures. Arrival at the hotel early in the evening. (Step 220 kms - 7-8 hours of track)

Sun Beach Hôtel DBB

Day 9 23/06/23 Morondava - Belo sur Mer

In the morning, transfer by car to reach **Belo sur Mer** known for its traditional sites. The landscape consists of 'bush' and skeletal vegetation that are resistant to prolonged drought. You will cross the first stepping Kabatomena, about 150m wide then that of Maharivo. Installation at the hotel. (117 kms - 4 to 5 hours)

Entremer DBB

Day 10 24/06/23 Belo sur Mer

Free activities at Belo sur Mer .The hotel can organize or advise excursions like "construction sites of the dhow and fishermen town" , Excursions by foot (Menaky - snorkeling, salt port) by sailing canoes (Menaky, coral islands - snorkeling, whale) or by motorboat (Islands, Park Moth - flamingos, baobabs), and by car (Salines, Ankoasifaka - sifaka, grave) "

Entremer DBB

Day 11 25/06/23 Belo sur Mer - Morombe

Departure early around 5am for a very long day on track (approximately 11 hours) to reach the town of **Morombe**. Halfway we cross the river **Mangoky**. You can split the day into 2 with intermediate night in **Manja**, only one choice of hotel on-site very simple. (Step 260 kms - 11 hours)

Auberge Chez Laurette DBB

Day 12 26/06/23 Morombe - Salary

We will begin a very nice track for the coming days, probably the most beautiful coast of Madagascar. In the mid-morning for a little break after the exhausted track, we can stop at **Andavadoaka** (very beautiful coves) . Majestic baobabs and casuarina forests will line the track. Then continuation to **Salary** quiet and beautiful site. Installation at the hotel. (Step 130 kms - 3h30).

Salary Bay DBB

Day 13 27/06/23 Salary

Free activities in Salary. The hotel offers different land and seaside activities: scuba diving historical theme with vestiges of British Portugaises and wrecks, whales outing in July / August, excursion on pirogue (meetings with Vezo, nomads of the sea), the forest Mikeas of isolated tribe refusing all contact with civilization.

Salary Bay DBB

Day 14 28/06/23 Salary - Tuléar (Toliary)

We take again the track which portions along the coast and offer magnificent views of the Mozambique Channel. We pass by **Ankasy** and **Ifaty** to reach **Tulear**. Installation at the hotel. (Step 120 kms - 4 hours)

Victory DBB

Day 15 29/06/23 Tuléar (Toliary) - Ranohira (Isalo)

Head to **Ranohira** in the morning , desert landscape where thorny plants emerge. We visit the **Arboretum of Antsokay** at the entrance to the South Tulear grouping typical flora and many endemic medicinal plants in Madagascar. Passage of the country Mahafaly, overlooking the famous tombs of the same name, topped by large carved posts called "Aloalo". Crossing villages gems of researchers which the best known is Ilakaka, the city sapphire. Installation at the hotel in the one site **Isalo** Western décor which presents a variety of majestic landscapes, impressive canyons, rock formations carved by erosion. (Step 215 Kms - 4h).

Isalo Ranch DBB

Day 16 30/06/23 Ranohira (Isalo)

The **Isalo National Park**, criss-crossed by rivers and tributaries, covers 81,540 hectares. This ruiniform massif is a plateau of continental sandstone dating from the Jurassic. Heavily eroded, only witnesses fragmented by the sandy valleys and canyons remained. A truly exceptional show! There are several possible walking tours in the park. For example, you can take a walk in the morning and another in the afternoon or even make a complete loop during the day, a village association can prepare you a lunch in the middle of nature. We include 2 circuits that can be combined including:

- **The natural pool (Piscine Ntuelle)**: easy level, takes place in half a day, the water is very clear, you can swim there (fresh from June to August). From the pool, the park guide will take you to a lookout 10 minutes from the site (panoramic view of the Isalo)
- **The waterfall of the Nymphs (Cascade des Nymphes)**: easy level up to the waterfall, it can be extended via rugged paths to the black and blue pools in the heart of lush vegetation.

Isalo Ranch DBB

Day 17 01/07/23 Ranohira (Isalo) - Andringitra / Vallée du Tsaranoro

We continue the descent to the National 7 about 5 hours. We pass through countries ethnicity "Bara", zebu breeders. **Crossing the Horombe tray**. Before the arrival of Ambalavao, bifurcation towards the **Tsaranoro Valley**. (Step 210 kms, 5 hours)

Camp Catta DBB

Day 18 02/07/23 Andringitra / Vallée du Tsaranoro - Fianarantsoa

A guided tour in the **Valley of Tsaranoro**. The walks are not lacking on the site and you can choose on the spot according to your physical condition. Among these, the chameleon circuit is more complete (duration maximum 6 hours) you will cross the Sacred Forest Tsaranoro cemetery of the inhabitants of the valley. The morning, you will have a good chance to see lemurs Catta reheating the sun. After climb towards Tsaranoro , we turn to go cross the stream that comes from the top. A short break for refreshing and we go back along the stream up lead on the board. Then you branch off on left towards the top of Langer called "The Chameleon". A last slope steep , we must be carefull , reaching the edge where you can enjoy the scenery while at leisure. Picnic, or just a snack in depending on the time, then you descend towards the village of Morarano, the car gets you. If step falls on a Wednesday or Thursday morning you can attend one of the largest markets of the Zebu: thousands of heads are delivered twice a week. Special entertainment prevails. Drive to **Ambalavao**, the capital of zebu is also known for its factory Antaimoro Paper and beautiful silk weaving shop. Continuation to Fianarantsoa we cross the vineyards (possibility of wine tasting "Lazan' ny Betsileo"). . Installation at the hotel in downtown (Step 130kms - 1h30)

Villa Sylvestre DBB

Day 19 03/07/23 Fianarantsoa - Antoetra

Visit of the **Upper Town of Fianarantsoa**: the original site of the city with its traditional houses and many churches.

Espace Mada

Highland road in the heart of Betsileo. Landscape of rice field terraces. Before arrival at Ambositra we take a bifurcation to **Antoetra** which is the birthplace of **Zafimaniry** country. Installation in a very nice Ecologie. (Step 180 kms, 3h30)

Sous Le Soleil de Mada DBB

Day 20 04/07/23 Antoetra - Antsirabe

Guided walk around the village of **Antoetra**; Immersion in Zafimaniry country. Then we reach **Ambositra** artisanal capital. It will remain 1h30 of road before arrival at Antsirabe. Installation at the hotel (Step 132 kms - 2 h)

Chambre du Voyageur DBB

Day 21 05/07/23 Antsirabe - Andasibe

Early departure from Antsirabe to Andasibe through the capital, we take a device that prevents the city center. The landscape of the Highlands with its terraced rice fields and hills gradually give way to the lush forests of the East. Short break long the way at the **farm of Pereyras**. It's a private reserve for breeding reptiles (lizards, **chameleons**, snakes, amphibians) and butterflies including the world's largest butterfly the Comet, and various insects. Continuation to **Andasibe** (Step 310km - 6h)

Feon'ny Ala DBB

Day 22 06/07/23 Andasibe

In the morning visit of **Analamazaotra National Park** (The Périnet) .Little, medium or big circuit according your physical condition (Tours can last from 2 to 6 hours). The reserve of Analamazaotra is known for its **lemurs "indri indri"**, the biggest lemur of Madagascar, its powerful cry wakes the forest. An indri can perform a jump of 10 meters. In the afternoon we go to the **private reserve of Vakona** (islands of lemurs and the crocodile park) canoe trip in the islands and back to the hotel.

Feon'ny Ala DBB

Day 23 07/07/23 Andasibe - Akanin'ny Nofy

In the morning we head to **Manambato** , located on the Rasoabe lakeside in order to take boat for crossing the **Pangalanes to Ankanin'ny Nofy**, a paradise between water and forest, during the ride, bird watching, water plants, rice paddies, fish water fishing soft. Installation in Ecologie. (Step 160 kms - 3 hours, crossing by boat from 30 to 45 min)

Palmarium DBB

Day 24 08/07/23 Akanin'ny Nofy

Visit of the private **reserve of Palmarium** in the morning, **a dozen species of lemurs** playing in full freedom in the reserve, Indri, Sifaka, Coronatus, Varecia, variegata, Propithecus. A wildlife and rare endemic tree and a beautiful flora (orchids, carnivorous plants, ebony, mahogany, traveler's trees) ... the best specific palm in Madagascar, including the rarest varieties (Dypsis, Ravenea, Orania but Voanioala and Lemurophoenix). Relaxation on the site in the afternoon. Then leave the hotel around 17:30 for outing in order to see **the Aye-Aye**. Arrive on site, we will observe the beginning of their activity and the search for their meal ... At the same time, a guide will explain the Aye-Aye phenomenon and nightlife. The visit will last about an hour, we come back to the hotel in the evening.

Palmarium DBB

Day 25 09/07/23 Akanin'ny Nofy - Mahambo

We go back by **boat to Manambato**, the driver is already there. Continue by road to Mahambo through hills and green mountains made up of bamboo, traveler's trees, palm tree. We cross the coastal **city of Tamatave**, it's the largest port of Madagascar, continue towards Foulpointe along the east coast of the island and lush. Arrival in **Mahambo** by mid / late afternoon. Installation at the hotel at the edge of a lagoon. Mahambo is known for its lobsters that restaurants offer in season. (Step 175 kms, 4h30)

La Pirogue - Mahambo DBB

Day 26 10/07/23 Mahambo - Sainte Marie

In mid-morning transfer by boat to **Sainte Marie** (around 2 to 3 hours crossing) .Transfer land to the hotel. Île Sainte Marie is known for its authenticity and preserved its groups of **humpback whales**, its romantic history and hospitality of its inhabitants.

Boraha Village DBB

Day 27 11/07/23 Sainte Marie

Stay at the hotel that can offer you all kinds of excursions: from July to mid September there is a " **Safari Whales Watching**", outing to "Iles aux nattes" or "the island with mats", to the cove, island tour by bike or car.

"**Safari whales watching**" : Just a few steps from the coast and further out to sea, It's spectacular! During these three months (July-September), only concerned about their amorous jousting cetaceans perform amazing leaps above the water, or hit the surface of the water with their pectoral fins, or probe and show their flukes, or come to the surface to observe what is happening there, and later in the season the mothers with their calves await us ... An unforgettable experience to live absolutely!

Iles aux Nattes or "Nosy Nanto" is located in south of Sainte Marie. It is separated by beautiful clear water and blue lagoon which surrounds the island to fully mats and separates the Indian Ocean by a large and beautiful coral reef. One of the characteristics of the island , the existence of Blévec lighthouse, from which the view is magnificent and extends over the reefs and the East Coast. Iles aux nattes one of the unmissable places in Sainte Marie. Upon crossing pirogue, the scents of tropical flora promise you an unique moment of escape ..

Boraha Village DBB

Day 28 12/07/23 Sainte Marie

Stay at the hotel. Optionnal activities.

Boraha Village DBB

Day 29 13/07/23 Sainte Marie

Stay at the hotel. Optionnal activities.

Boraha Village DBB

Day 30 14/07/23 Sainte Marie - Antananarivo

Transfer at the airport. Domestic Flight for correspondance to Tananarive. [Flight TZ 531 15h20 - 16h30](#) Assistance airport and transfer to youyr hotel./

Chalet Des Roses BB

Day 31 15/07/23 Antananarivo

Pick up at your hotel and transfer airport. ([international Flight schedule at 5 pm](#))
