

# TONGA SOA

# WELCOME TO MADAGASCAR!





Practically untouched, colourful, wild and unique in its diversity:
This is how Madagascar presents itself to the visitor, who wishes to experience something special.

Fauna and flora with over 80% of endemic species of both animals and plants offering a real natural paradise. With such a variety of landscapes and panoramas you get the feeling of experiencing a mini round the world trip.

The many faces of Madagascar vary from tropical rain forests to barren steppes. From monumental sandstone formations to crystal clear lakes, picturesque terraced rice paddies to remote white sandy beaches. A kaleidoscope for all the senses!

Madagascar with its 592 000 sqkm, is the fourth largest island in the world. Almost a minicontinent, larger than Great Britain and Ireland put together. The red island lies in the Indian Ocean, some 600 km off the Mozambique coast.

With its 18 tribes, who still preserve their traditional ways, the island is a melting pot of cultures. The majority of the population lead a very simple life, intertwined with the cycles of nature.

If you approach them, you'll find cordiality, warmth and zest for life, which will amaze and touch you. It'll be a souvenir that you'll carry forever in your heart and will never forget.









### Experience Madagascar with the experts

Whatever you want to discover in Madagascar we'll make it possible, adapting to your individual ideas and time schedule. We'll take you on our tours to the most beautiful landscapes and let you experience Madagascar close up. Skilled drivers and English speaking guides upon request will take you around and show you the secrets and customs of this beautiful land. We can also organize special tours like bird watching, whale watching, bicycle tours etc.

Madagascar is slowly opening up to tourism, but is still far from the perfect package holiday destination. This makes it original and exciting, but also gives it some limitations, which you'll have to accept. Including the need to reserve your trip early, especially during the peak months of July through to November.

The available hotels range from a simple guesthouse to the five star hotels with all the creature comforts. The service quality cannot be compared to European standards, but are amply compensated by a genuine smile!

The road network is being improved little by little. Many roads can be used all year round with a normal passenger car. Some dirt tracks require a robust 4WD vehicle and a skilled driver.

### With us, you are in the best hands

We organize and plan your trip starting with the meet and greet until you take your flight back home. This includes the routing, hotel reservations, domestic flights, park entrances and may also include the long haul flight from Paris.











#### The colourful north

Diego Suarez, the largest city and the business centre of the north, lies picturesquely in a bay with a great view of the Malagasy "sugar hut".

The 3 bays, the Windsor Castle, the emerald sea and the 18 000 hectare large national park Amber mountain are the highlights of the region. Many species of lemurs, birds, endemic plants and impressive waterfalls are to be found in the park.

On the way to Ankify is a worthwhile excursion to the red Tsingys and the national park of Ankarana. The cave in the park is a holy place where the local natives hold ritual celebrations.

Off the north coast there are many tropical dream islands such as Nosy Be, Nosy Iranja, Nosy Tsarabanjina and Nosy Sakatia, with beautiful white coral sand, palm trees, deep blue and turquoise waters.

The most well-known of these islands is Nosy Be, which is developing into a rising paradise for travellers. Hotels for every taste, numerous water activities, quad biking, Ylang Ylang plantation, Lemurialand and the Lokobe reserve promise varied days out.

Divers will find ideal conditions on all islands, especially around Nosy Sakatia and in the under water reserve of Nosy Tanikely.



#### The tropical east

Rain forests with their deep green treetops, rare orchids and exotic fauna shape the east of Madagascar.

Various national parks invite you and offer a natural kaleidoscope of colours. You can see for example the national parks of Marojejy and Masoala. The biosphere reserve of Mananara where the Aye Aye can be seen. The reserve of Andasibe/Périnet with the largest of the lemurs, the Indri, and the Ranomafana national park with its golden bamboo lemurs.

Another site along the east coast is the 600 km long Pangalanes canal. It replaces the road here in this remote area, and on its waters goods are transported just like in the old times by pirogue. A boat trip on the canal will let you experience the everyday life of the locals, and leave you with deep impressions.

Off the coast in the east, you'll find the enchanting islands of Sainte Marie and the IIe aux Nattes on its southern tip. You can swim here in the crystal clear waters, or relax on the white coral sand beaches. Off Sainte Marie island or in the bay of Antongil, you can also see the spectacle of passing humpback whales from July to September.

Be prepared for some tropical rain showers in the east.



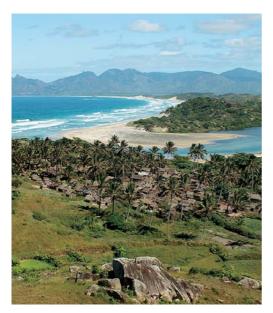












#### The wild south

The road to the south offers a lot of diversity. You drive first through winding roads towards the highlands, alongside rice paddies, vegetable fields and shady forests.

Further south, you'll see the enormous Andringitra mountains with its high walls, inviting the rock climber to spend days or weeks there. You can also make nice hikes there, and see the nearby Anja reserve with its colony of Katta lemurs. Further on, you'll pass by a chain of hills called "the bishop's hat" due to its form. The flat steppe of the plateau of Horombe will remind you of some areas in Africa.

A real highlight along this tour are the monumental Isalo mountains with its canyons and towers, a breathtaking sight!

Even more adventurous is the sapphire eldorado llakaka, a rampant shanty town which conjures up images of the gold rush in California, in the last century. The trip carries on to the Zombitse national park, where you'll see the first Baobab trees.

Next you'll approach the harbour city of Toliara. If you wish to relax, you can go to the nearby blue lagoons of Ifaty or Anakao.

For succulent and cactus lovers, it is worthwile making the rough trip to Ft Dauphin by 4WD car. For the others, it can also be reached by a short domestic flight from Toliara. Ft Dauphin and its surroundings are ideal for wind- and wave-surfing, but also for excursions. To name but a few: Nahampoana and Berenty reserves, national park of Andohahela, sisal plantations, and the wild and unspoilt area around the lake Anony with its sand dunes, etc. Very beautiful is also the cove lined fishing village of Evatra and the unspoilt bays nearby.





#### The magical west

World-famous is the Baobab Avenue near the city of Morondava. It is known as one of the landmarks of Madagascar. Let it cast its spell on you and experience a magic moment, when the sunset throws its golden-red rays on these giant trees.

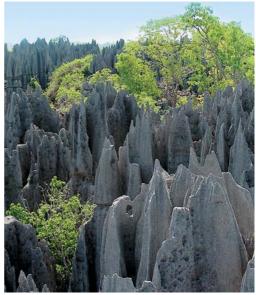
At the nearby Kirindy reserve, you can observe lemurs, geckos, birds and much, much more. A safari down the Tsiribihina river takes you along where you can see turtles, crocodiles, lemurs and birds. After a bit more than two days, you'll reach Belo/Tsiribihina, which can also be reached from Morondava by a dirt track.

From there, the tour continues by 4WD to the Tsingys, sharp limestone formations, not unlike a moonscape, which are part of the UNESCO world nature sites. The Tsingy are also home to birds, reptiles, lemurs and rare plants.

Another option to get to the Tsingys of Bemaraha is a canoe trip on the Manambolo river from Ankavandra.









## We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Your Madagascar expert on site:



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# We can adapt the tour to suit your requests!

We'll be pleased to send you our tour proposals which can be adapted individually to your ideas.

## Other options in our program are:

- Whale watching
- Bird watching
- Mountain bike or motor bike tours
- Deep sea fishing
- Diving
- Beach holidays on Madagascar's islands or Mauritius
- Honeymoon tours
- Combined tours: Madagascar/South Africa; Madagascar/Mauritius. Other countries upon request

