

MASOALA FOREST LODGE ACTIVITY GUIDE

Primary Rainforest – Standard

Duration: 4 h

Suggested time: 7:30 – 11:30

Activities: Boat, moderate to difficult hike (steep sections on a good trail)

Guide: Required

Lunch: At the lodge

Recommended shoe type: A comfortable (hiking) shoe

Recommended equipment: Long trousers or shorts and mosquito repellent, water bottle, rain jacket

Possible highlights: Red-ruffed Lemurs; White-fronted brown lemurs; Helmet Vanga; Panther, Brookesia, and Parson's chameleons; dense forest; giant hardwood trees; majestic tree ferns; Giant Millipede; many medicinal plants; Pigmy King Fisher; Ground roller.

Primary Rainforest – Long

Duration: Full day

Suggested time: 7:30 – 15:30

Activities: Boat, moderate to difficult hike (steep sections on a good trail)

Guide: Required

Lunch: Picnic (Sandwiches and snacks)

Recommended shoe type: A comfortable (hiking) shoe

Recommended equipment: Long trousers or shorts and mosquito repellent, water bottle, rain jacket

Possible highlights: Red-ruffed Lemurs; White-fronted brown lemurs; Helmet Vanga; Panther, Brookesia, and Parson's chameleons; dense forest; giant hardwood trees; majestic tree ferns; Giant Millipede; many medicinal plants; Pigmy King Fisher; Ground roller.

Kayak Trip around Nosy Ndraindra (Sacred Island)

Duration: 1 h 30 min

Suggested time: 16:00 – 17:30

Activities: Kayaking (~5 km, roundtrip)

Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: None

Possible highlights: The view of the forest from the sea, Sea Turtles, jumping Bonito, Flying Fish, the Sacred Island, sunset on the water, fishermen in their traditional canoes hauling in the day's catch.

Coastal Forest Walk

Duration: 2 – 4 hours

Suggested time: 8:30 – 12:30 or 14:30 – 17:00

Activities: Easy hike on flat ground and along beaches

Guide: Required

Lunch: At the lodge

Recommended shoe type: Comfortable hiking shoe or sandals with straps (you might cross a small river)

Recommended equipment: Long trousers or shorts and mosquito repellent, water bottle, rain jacket

Possible highlights: See the remains of the railway a French company built between 1896–1960, several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, Mangrove forest, Pandanis, air rooted “walking trees”, Bamboo lemur.

Ambodiforaha Village Visit (Any day of the week)

Duration: As long as you like (usually about 2 hours)

Activities: Easy walk (flat coastal trail); learning more about the Betsimisaraka culture and way of life; seeing the rice fields, coffee trees, and other crops.

Guide: Not required but highly recommended

Recommended shoe type: Flip flops or sandals (you might cross a small river)

Ambodiforaha “Meet the people” Visit (Fridays only)

In addition to the standard village visit above, this excursion includes a stop at the local school and a song and dance performance by the women of the village. After the performance is an opportunity to purchase locally made handicrafts and locally produced spices.

Duration: 2 h 30 min

Suggested time: 14:30 – 17:00

Activities: Easy walk (flat coastal trail), school visit, village visit, local dance group

Guide: Not required but recommended

Recommended shoe type: Flip flops or sandals (you will cross a small river)

Snorkelling at the Lodge's Reefs

Duration: As long as you like

Suggested time: Anytime. The water is usually calmest in the early morning and from mid-afternoon.

Insider Tip: Ask at reception where to go and we will point out the nicest reefs.

Recommended equipment: Snorkelling gear (available at the reception)

Possible highlights: Moray Eel, Fire Fish, Giant Clams, Boxfish, Lion Fish, Cushion Stars, Needle-spined Urchins, Trumpet Fish, Parrotfish, Sea Cucumbers, large variety of coral, and much more!

Canoe Trip

Duration: 2 h

Suggested time: 9:00 – 11:00 or 15:00 – 17:00

Activities: Traditional canoe, easy hike (mostly flat),

Lunch: At the lodge

Recommended shoe type: Flipflops, sandals or comfortable (hiking) shoes

Possible highlights: Kingfisher, volcanic rock formations, the magical silence on the river, Mangrove forest, Rose wood, Palisandre, Nelicorvi Weaver's nests, fresh water fish, bamboo lemurs

Sunset cruise

Take a cruise aboard our dugout outrigger canoe to the Point, then slowly sail back while enjoying a cold drink and taking in a breath-taking sunset. Keep an eye out for jumping schools of fish and Sea Turtles!

Duration: 1 h 30 min

Suggested time: Afternoon, from 16:00

Guide: not required

Recommended shoe type: none

Tip: choose a beverage for the trip, we will have a cooler box and ice on board

Possible highlights: The peace and quiet, hopefully a stunning sunset, jumping Bonito or Flying Fish, White Herons and Kingfisher on the rocks.

MFL Private Reserve – River swim

Please ask at reception and we will explain the route to you.

Suggested time: Any time, very nice to cool off on a hot day

Activities: Easy to moderate hike, swim

Guide: not required

Recommended shoe type: Sandals/flip-flops

Possible highlights: Little bridges over small rivers, several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, Bamboo lemurs, Tenrecs, frogs, walking trees, the swim in the river

Kayaking and Snorkelling

Duration: 3 h

Suggested time: 9:00-12:00

Activities: Kayaking, snorkelling, beaching

Guide: Required

Lunch: At the lodge

Recommended shoe type: None

Insider Tip: Use water-resistant sunscreen. Multiple destinations are possible. Ask your guide or a manager for more details.

Possible highlights: A huge variety of corals and fish, Stingrays, Turtles, Eels, Spiny Lobsters.

Mangrove river kayak trip

The Mangrove river is a pristine and untouched destination. The paddle from the lodge to the river offers wonderful sea- and landscape views. The river itself provides a navigational adventure as you wend and wind your kayak through rocks, half-submerged trees, and a plethora of other flora all while enjoying the blissful serenity of the river interrupted only by birdsong.

Duration: 3 h

Suggested time: 9:00 – 12:00

Activities: Kayaking (8-10 km, roundtrip)

Guide: Required

Lunch: At the lodge

Recommended shoe type: None

Recommended equipment: Water bottle,

Insider Tip: Use water-resistant sunscreen on your legs or keep covered. It's easy to burn out on the water.

Possible highlights: Sea Turtles, stunning views of the peninsula, a short stop at the sacred island, many species

MFL Private Reserve – Green Route

Duration: 30 min

Suggested time: Any time

Activities: Easy walking

Guide: Recommended

Recommended shoe type: Anything comfortable or no shoes

Possible highlights: Several bird species (various Coua, Paradise Fly Catcher, Madagascar Magpie Robin, etc.), White-fronted brown lemurs, Tenrecs, frogs, crabs.

MFL Private Reserve – Yellow Route

Duration: 45 min

Suggested time: Any time

Activities: Easy walking

Guide: Recommended

Recommended shoe type: No shoes, comfortable closed-toe shoes, or sandals/ flip-flops

Possible viewing highlights: Several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, Tenrecs, Frogs

MFL Private Reserve – Red Route

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested time: Any time

Activities: Easy walking

Guide: Recommended

Recommended shoe type: No shoes, comfortable closed-toe shoes, or sandals/ flip-flops

Possible viewing highlights: Several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, Tenrecs, Frogs

MFL Private Reserve – Blue Route

This hike includes fording a waist-high river for approximately 20 meters.

Duration: 2 h 30 min

Suggested time: Any time

Activities: Easy to moderate hike

Guide: Recommended

Recommended shoe type: Water shoes, sandals/ flip-flops, anything easy to remove at the river crossing

Possible highlights: Little bridges over small rivers, several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, Tenrecs, frogs, walking trees.

Private Candlelit Dinner on the Sea Deck

Enjoy a private table on the sea deck accompanied by sweeping views of the starry night sky, a cooling breeze coming off the sea, and the soothing sound of the waves lapping against the rocks beneath you. Simply make a reservation at reception at least 2 hours in advance of dinner (18.30).

Massage

Duration: 45 min (Back/neck or legs/feet), 60 min (full body)

Suggested time: Please inquire at reception for availability.

Note: When it is time for your massage, please put on your bathrobe and come to reception. We will walk you to the massage tent which is located on a small, private beach nearby.

Price: 45 min = 50.000 Ar (~€15); 60 min = 80.000 Ar (~€25)

Cap Masoala Day Trip

(Not included in the Masoala Adventure Package)

Spend an action-packed, adventurous day exploring the pristine tropical coastline of the Masoala Peninsula. Take our boat past miles of tropical rainforests and picturesque, isolated beaches until you reach the Cap and its lush, deserted island. Snorkel in a vast, crystal-clear lagoon that is rich in tropical sea life and home to an expansive coral reef. Relax and enjoy a picnic on a beautiful, unspoiled beach. And explore the wild that could straight out of "Robinson Crusoe".

Duration: Whole day

Suggested time: 8:30 – 16:00

Activities: Snorkelling, hiking, beaching, swimming, exploring

Lunch: Picnic lunch on the beach

Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: Flip flops/sandals, hiking bottle

Recommended equipment: Hat/sunglasses, sunscreen, swimwear, snorkel gear

Price: €120 per person, minimum 2 people.

Antalaviana day trip

Travel by boat to Saholaina—a beautiful beach with coral rich waters great for a snorkel or a swim. Then make your way down the Antalaviana River to its cascades where you can swim in clear, cool rock pools under the waterfalls. After a relaxing picnic on the beach, begin your adventurous coastal walk back to the lodge (~3 hours/11 km). En route you will ford rivers, explore the village of Marofotra and surrounding plantations where the locals grow vanilla, cloves, pineapple, cinnamon, and pepper, see the remnants of a colonial railway, and learn much about the history of the region.

Duration: Whole day

Suggested time: 9:00 – 16:00

Activities: Snorkelling, beaching, swimming, exploring, village visit, fording rivers and easy walking (long, but mostly flat and shaded)

Lunch: Picnic lunch on the beach

Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: Flip flops/sandals, hiking bottle,

Recommended equipment: Pack a hat, sunscreen, swimwear, snorkelling equipment, hiking bottle. If you would like to take your camera, ask at reception for a drybag-backpack.

Note: we will pack towels for you

Price: €60 per person, minimum 2 people. (This excursion is included in the 7,10 and 11 night packages)

Whale Watching by Boat

Duration: 1-3 hours

Season: June to September

Suggested time: Please enquire at reception as best viewing times vary.

Activities: Boating

Guide: Recommended

Recommended shoe type: None

Possible highlights: Humpbacks breaching and singing, a mother travelling with her calf

Note: We can put a box on the boat for your camera if you like for quick protection of rain **Price:** 180 Euro per boat

Whale Watching by Kayak

Duration: As long as you like

Season: June to September

Suggested time: The best time is when you have already spotted whales. Ask a manager for a kayak and get out there as quickly as you can!

Guide: Not required

Insider tip: Your best chance for a close encounter is to guess where the whale will surface next and paddle to that spot *before* the whale. Simply following them can be very difficult as they are much faster than you! By kayak you can get very close if you are lucky. It is a truly incredible experience.

Possible highlights: Humpbacks breaching, whale song, a mother travelling with her calf