

MASOALA FOREST LODGE ACTIVITY GUIDE

Primary Rainforest – Classic

Duration: 4 to 5 hours

Suggested time: 8:30 -13:00

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. We recommend boarding the boat barefoot or wearing sandals, then putting on your shoes at the park entrance.

Recommended equipment: Long pants and mosquito repellent, water bottle, dry bag and 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; Pygmy Kingfisher; Ground-roller.

Primary Rainforest – Extended

Duration: full day

Suggested time: 8:30 – 15:00

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. We recommend boarding the boat barefoot or wearing sandals, then putting on your shoes at the park entrance.

Recommended equipment: Long pants and mosquito repellent, water bottle, dry bag and 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; Pygmy Kingfisher; Ground-roller.



RECOMMENDED KAYAK OUTINGS

All kayak outings require each person to be accompanied by a kayak guide. We recommend using water-resistant sunscreen on your legs or keep covered. It's easy to get sunburned out on the water.

For All Kayak Outings:

Guide: Each guest must be accompanied by a kayak guide in a double kayak.

Suggested time: Generally speaking, the early morning or late afternoon is best for kayaking because it is less likely to be windy at those times.

Recommended shoe type: None needed, unless planning for a stop at the Secret Cove.

Possible highlights: The view of the forest from the sea, green turtles, jumping bonito, flying fish, sunset on the water, fishermen in their traditional canoes hauling in the day's catch.

Price: included in all packages

Coastal Exploration

Duration: As short or long as you like

Description: A great option for beginners. You will kayak among the granite rocks near shore, and you can turn around whenever you feel like it. You can beach the kayak and go for a swim or a snorkel.

Price: included in all packages

The Secret Cove and Nosy Ndraindra (The Sacred Island)

Duration: 1 h 30 min

Description: An intermediate 5 km. paddle to 2 of the most stunning locations on the Masoala peninsula. The Secret Cove is home to some of the most dramatic granite rock boulders on the peninsula, creating Masoala's version of a tsingy. The Sacred Island is a tiny little island across a narrow, and shallow channel from the coast. There are important tombs on the island. Around the island is the best place for green turtle sightings.

Price: included in all packages

The Mangrove River

Duration: 3 h

Description: An advanced 10 km. paddle to a hidden gem. The Mangrove River is a pristine destination home to the biggest mangrove ecosystem in the area. The paddle from the lodge to the river is one of the most scenic paddles in Madagascar. The river itself provides a navigational adventure as you manoeuvre your kayak between rocks and half-submerged trees. You will enjoy the blissful serenity of the river interrupted only by birdsong. Stops at The Secret Cove and Nosy Ndraindra can be combined with this excursion.

Price: included in all packages



FULL DAY

MARINE RESERVE EXPLORATION

The Mangrove River, 4.5 km south of the lodge, is a pristine destination home to the biggest mangrove ecosystem in the area. Mangroves are rich ecosystems that support the planet and people in unique ways, from storing carbon, to protecting habitats and villages against flooding, and as breeding grounds for fish. The paddle/boat drive to the river offers stunning sea and landscape views. There is the option of snorkelling the nearby reef. A picnic lunch will be provided on the beach with views of the sacred island.

Duration: 3-6 h

Description: This tour can be tailored to your preference of activities.

Part 1: from the lodge to the mangrove river

- WALK: A 4.5 km walk into the forest and along the beaches (about 2 hours)
- KAYAK: An advanced 4,5km. paddle.
- BOAT: take the boat to the mangrove river*

Part 2: Exploring the mangrove river by kayak (optional)

The river itself provides a navigational adventure as you manoeuvre your kayak between rocks and half-submerged trees. You will enjoy the blissful serenity of the river and birdsong.

Part 3: Snorkel at the nearby reef (optional).

Part 4: Lunch picnic

Part 5: Options for the journey back from the mangrove river to the lodge:

- WALK: A 4.5 km walk into the forest and along the beaches (about 2 hours)
- KAYAK: An advanced 4.5km paddle.
- BOAT: take the boat back to the lodge

**The motorboat option is an additional charge of 60 EUR (return) per person.*



GUIDED NIGHT WALKS

Description: A whole new world comes alive when the sun goes down. Our private reserve offers a variety trails that you can explore with guides after dark during your stay. Your chances of seeing nocturnal lemurs and other amazing wildlife during your stay are almost always guaranteed when you are with your guide. You can take a short hike or go out for however long you prefer.

Suggested Time: Immediately after dinner

Duration: 1-2 hours

Recommended Equipment: Raincoat, mining torch or flashlights, shoes or sandals, long pants, camera

Hike Type: Easy, flat trails

Possible Sightings: Mouse lemurs, Masoala Woolly Lemurs, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemurs, Sportive Lemurs, White-fronted Brown Lemurs, Aye-Aye, Scop's Owls, sleeping birds, chameleons, snakes, leaf-tailed geckos, frogs, insects and more.



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: 1h 30 min

Suggested time: Depending on the season between 16:30 and 17:30

Guide: not required

Recommended shoe type: none

Tip: When you reserve, please let us know at reception which beverages you would like to take on the trip. We will have a cooler on board.

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



TAMPOLO RIVER CANOE TRIP

Tampolo River 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: Flip-flops, sandals or comfortable (hiking) shoes

Possible highlights: Kingfisher, volcanic rock formations, the magical silence on the river, mangrove forest, Rosewood, Palisandre, Nelicorvi Weaver's nests, freshwater fish, Bamboo Lemurs

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: optional

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



MASOALA FOREST LODGE PRIVATE RESERVE

The MFL Private Reserve consists of 40 hectares and can be entered from both sides of the lodge property. Seven trails have been marked with wooden arrows. You are welcome to walk these trails either by yourself or accompanied by your guide. As this is private land, we can offer night walks at Masoala Forest Lodge which are possible every evening after dinner.

For all routes:

Suggested time: Any time. Do note that some trails have sections that flood after a big rain. This is indicated in the respective trail descriptions.

Recommended shoe type: Anything comfortable. All trails have uneven terrain, and roots and rocks along them.

Duration: All durations listed are walking times. Budget more time for wildlife viewing and photography.

Possible wildlife highlights: Several bird species (various coua, paradise fly catcher, Madagascar magpie robin, collared nightjar, etc.), white-fronted brown lemurs, lowland streaked tenrec, greater hedgehog tenrec, Madagascar tree boa, frogs, crabs.

Green Trail

Duration: 10 minutes **Length:** 0,34km **Type:** Loop

Difficulty: Easy

Description: This is our easiest trail, but it is not lacking in beauty or wildlife potential. The trail is mostly flat. It can easily be combined with yellow or red trail.

Trailhead: Just beyond the footbridge past Tent 1

Yellow Trail

Duration: 25 minutes **Length:** 0,8km **Type:** Loop

Difficulty: Easy

Description: A trail that takes you to the back of the private reserve and back out to the coast. This trail is flat with one area that floods after a big rain.

Trailhead: Just beyond the footbridge past Tent 1

Red Trail

Duration: 30 minutes **Length:** 1,05 km **Type:** Loop

Difficulty: Intermediate

Description: The red trail splits off into the central section of the reserve. It takes you across a little stream and into some rugged terrain. The final section of the trail floods after rain, but this can be avoided by returning to the lodge on the yellow trail.

Trailhead: Just beyond the footbridge past Tent 1

Orange Trail

Duration: 25 minutes **Length:** 0.77 km **Type:** One Way

Difficulty: Intermediate

Description: A fun straight trail with a handful of bridges. The end of the trail is marked with a sign. At the end of trail sign you have 3 options. If you go right you can swim in the Tampolo River. If you go left, you will find the beginning of the White Trail. Finally, you can turn around and connect to the blue trail or return to the lodge.

MASOALA FOREST LODGE PRIVATE RESERVE



Blue Trail

Duration: 30 minutes **Length:** 0.82 km **Type:** One Way

Difficulty: Intermediate

Description: A lesser travelled trail with diverse terrain. The blue trail is home to large granite rocks covered in foliage, a giant tree and a traditional Malagast footbridge across a small floodplain.

Trailhead: Head towards Tent 7. When you reach the Tent 7 signpost, take the trail going left at the fork. Walk past both groupings of bamboo. Past the second grouping of bamboo, the trail makes a sharp right before entering the reserve. Look for the blue arrow.

Purple Trail

Duration: 25 minutes **Length:** 0,74km **Type:** Loop

Difficulty: Intermediate

Description: This trail explores the southern section of the private reserve. There is a section that floods after rain.

Trailhead: Located on the coastal trail. Start walking on the coastal trail that begins just before the Sea Deck. Continue walking beyond the bridge and the start of the Orange Trail. The beginning, and the end, of the Purple Trail is located 130 meters beyond the Orange Trail trailhead.

White Trail

Duration: 40 minutes **Length:** 0,98km **Type:** One Way

Difficulty: Difficult

Description: This is our most challenging trail, and most adventurous trail. There is a very tough downhill section at the end of the trail, which can be very slippery during or after a rain. This trail is more rugged than the others and the terrain is often uneven. This trail explores the more remote eastern section of the private reserve. There are a few intersections on this trail which will easily get you lost if you take a wrong turn. Please follow the arrows carefully. The White Route ends at the end of the Blue trail, which is also halfway through the Red Route.

Trailhead: See instructions for the Orange Trail. The end point of the Orange Trail is the trailhead for the White Trail.

Night Walk

Duration and Length: Decided by guest (1 hour minimum recommended)

Description: 8 of the 10 lemur species in Masoala are nocturnal. Therefore, a night walk is an essential part of the MFL experience! Guided night walks are offered every evening after dinner. They do not need to be arranged in advance. After dinner the manager will help organize your night walk. Please come prepared for rain because the rain can come suddenly, and at any time.

Possible viewing highlights: sleeping birds, mouse lemurs, white-fronted brown lemurs, woolly lemurs, sportive lemurs, leaf-tailed geckos, sleeping chameleons, and aye-aye (if very, very lucky)

MASSAGE

Please book your massage at the reception.

Massages are available between 8:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Your complimentary 30-minute massage can be **upgraded** to:

- 45 min back and neck massage for an extra 5€
- 45 min legs and feet massage for an extra 5€
- 60 min full body massage for an extra 10€

Additional Massages:

(no voucher)

Back and neck 45 min = 25€

Legs and feet 45 min = 25€

Full body 60 min = 30€

Note: When it is time for your massage, please put on your underwear (no bra) and bathrobe and come to reception. We will walk you to the massage tent which is located on a small, private beach nearby.



PRIVATE DINNER ON THE SEADECK

Enjoy a private table on the sea deck accompanied by sweeping views of the starry night sky, a cool breeze coming off the sea, and the soothing sound of the waves lapping against the rocks beneath you. Simply make a reservation at reception before 16:30.

Price: no extra charge.



TEA TIME

Come and join us for tea
every day between 16:30 and 17:30 on the Sea Deck.

The Sea Deck is spectacularly located on the granite rocks protruding from the sea. The Sea Deck hosts a wraparound view of the forested coastline with its alternating golden beaches and granite rocks that have been uniquely sculpted by the elements over the millenia. This deck provides a venue for breakfasts, teatime, private dinners, drinks or just a place to relax and enjoy the unrivalled view. It also is a fantastic place to watch the humpback whales, or to enjoy a bottle of wine while watching the sunset.

There are no cold beverages or water provided at tea time. You are welcome to bring cold drinks up to the Sea Deck any time.



ANTALAVIANA DAY TRIP

Explore the most beautiful section of coast on the Masoala peninsula. Take an 11 km (30 min.) boat trip to Saholaina-a beautiful beach with coral rich waters great for snorkelling or swimming. Then make your way to the Antalaviana River, a river that cascades down from the densely forested hills above. You can swim in the crystal-clear water at the foot of the falls and sunbathe on a rock. After a relaxing picnic on the beach, begin your adventurous coastal walk back to the lodge (~3 hours/11 km). If you don't want to do the full walk back to the lodge it is possible to do a 4 km or 7 km section of the walk. You can arrange it with your guide.

On your walk back to the lodge you will explore the village of Marofototra.

You will cross multiple rivers and discover many secluded beaches. You will also see the remnants of a colonial railway and learn about the history of the region.

Duration: Whole day

Suggested time: 9:00 – 16:00

Lunch: Picnic lunch on the beach

Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: If you won't be walking back to the lodge then sandals will suffice. If you are walking back to the lodge, you need to consider that you will be crossing many rivers. This will require either that you walk in sandals or water shoes, or that you take your hiking shoes off at each river crossing.

Recommended equipment: Hat, sunscreen, swimwear, snorkelling equipment, hiking bottle and perhaps a foot towel to dry and sand off your feet after crossing a river. You might want to bring a change of clothes in case you get wet. If you would like to take your camera, ask at reception for a drybag-backpack. We will pack beach towels for you.

Price: 1- 4 people = €240, for every additional person €60

This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

This excursion is included in the 7,10 and 11-night packages.



EARLY MORNING

GUIDED BIRD TOURS

Description: Our private reserve offers some of your best chances of bird sightings in the region. You can take a sunrise walkabout with your guide on our trails where you are most likely guaranteed to observe various endemic and migratory bird species on their morning routines. Afterwards, you can enjoy breakfast on the sea deck before your next excursion.

Suggested time: 5:00am-7:30am

Recommended Equipment: Umbrella or raincoat, binoculars, camera, sandals or shoes

Hike type: Easy, flat trails

Possible Sightings: Pygmy and Malachite Kingfishers, Helmet Vangas, Blue Vangas, Blue Couas, Crested Ibis, Nelicourvi Weavers, Magpie Robins, Paradise Fly Catchers, Rufous Vangas, White-headed Vangas, sunbirds, Sparrow Hawks, white eyes, Crested Rails, Whistling Ducks, Crested Drongos, Red-fronted Couas, Collared Nightjars, Cuckoo Rollers, Vaza Parrots, Scaly Ground Rollers, and the pita-like ground rollers

Other wildlife you might find: Ring-tailed mongooses, tenrecs, chameleons, lemurs, and fossa



CAP MASOALA DAY TRIP

Spend an action-packed and 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, uninhabited islands. 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 lunch at idyllic Crusoe's Cabin.

You will boat down the coast to Cap Masoala to Crusoe's Cabin. After a swim and relaxation, we leave to Nosy Behentona, an island of the Marine Reserve, to snorkel the coral reefs and enjoy the wild deserted beach. Then back to the Cabin for lunch and an exploration of the magical point before we board to head back to the lodge.

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: 1- 4 people = €600, for every additional person €150

This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.



WHALE WATCHING



Whale Watching by Boat

Description: The Antongil Bay is one of the largest and best-studied humpback whale wintering sites in the Indian Ocean. The bay serves as a mating and nursery ground for humpback whales and is one of the best places in Madagascar to see these majestic animals in action.

Duration: 1-3 hours

Season: Late June to late September

Suggested time: We recommend being flexible and waiting for a whale sighting from shore before going.

Guide: Recommended

Note: We can put a box on the boat for your camera if you like for quick protection from rain

Price: 1- 4 people = €240, for every additional person €60

This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

Whale Watching by Kayak

Description:

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 songs, a mother travelling with her calf.

Price: no charge



LEARN ABOUT MALAGASY CULTURE

Ambodiforaha “Meet the people” Visit (every Friday)

In addition to the standard village visit above, this excursion includes a stop at our little preschool and a traditional 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)

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 will cross a small river)

Basket Weaving

Maroantsetra is famous in Madagascar for its basket- and hat quality.

Learn how to weave a traditional basket here at the lodge from some of our Malagasy staff.

Duration: 2 h

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

Recommended equipment: we recommend wearing shorts or trousers rather than skirts/ dresses.

Guide: recommended for explanation and translation



NOSY MANGABE DAY TRIP

Boat to Nosy Mangabe (1,5 h – 2h). Explore the densely forested island with your guide on a network of trails providing a chance to spot the “small five”: Black and White-ruffed lemurs, White-fronted brown lemurs, Leaf-tailed geckos, Brookesia chameleon and Yellow-backed mantella frog. Have lunch either at the Nosy Mangabe camp or on route in the forest. Boat back to the lodge.

Duration: Whole day

Suggested time: 9:00 – 15:00

Lunch: at the Nosy Mangabe camp

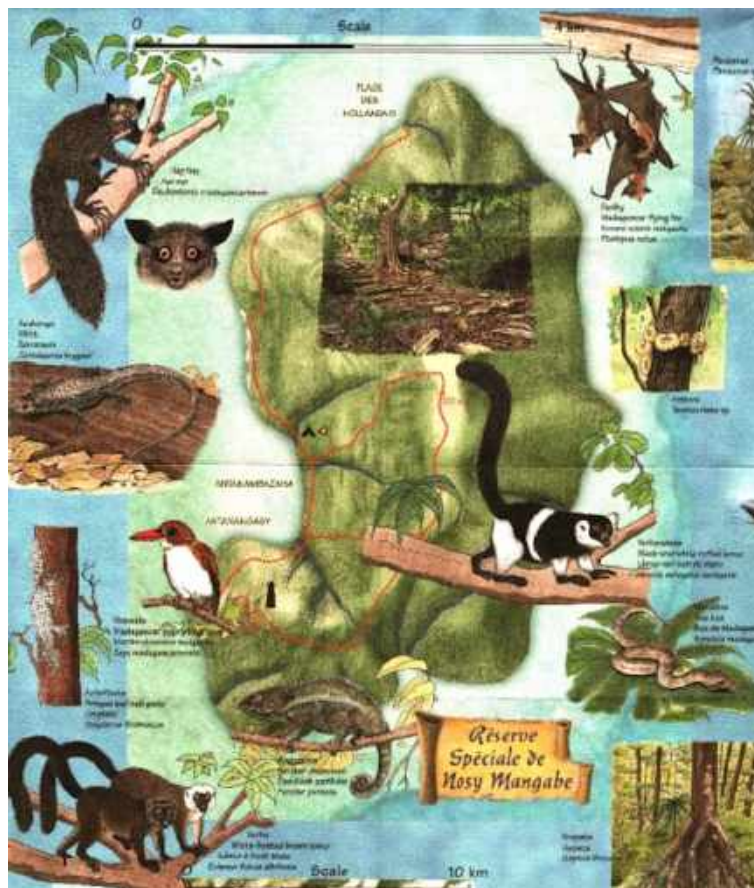
Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: a comfortable hiking shoe. We recommend boarding the boat barefoot or wearing sandals, then putting on your shoes at the islands beach.

Recommended equipment: Hat, sunscreen, long pants and mosquito repellent, water bottle, dry bag and rain jacket. If you would like to take your camera, ask at reception for a drybag-backpack.

Price: 1- 4 people = €600, for every additional person €150

This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.



BEACH FIRE

Join us for drinks at the bon fire every day (when the weather permits)
from 17:30 until dinner.

