

# Kayaking Sainte Marie



Inspired by Riaan Manser

Created by MadagasCat Charters & Travel

## A Ten Day Guided Kayaking Trip Exploring the tropical islands of Ille Sainte Marie – Madagascar

Sample Itinerary Only

Paddlers – R11 260.00

Non Paddlers – R9 500.00

Non Paddling Children under 12 – R8 700.00

**Day One:** Depart Johannesburg for Ille St Marie via Antananarivo. You will be met and transferred by taxi and pirogue to The Beach House; a self catering home on the tiny island of Ille aux Nattes. You will enjoy a welcome dinner at the neighbouring restaurant and a convivial “getting to know you” evening.

Overnight at The Beach House Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

**Day Two:** Today is spent in orientation and preparation. Walk the beach, enjoy one relaxation treatment of your choice at the Betsy Day Spa (included) and generally chill in a hammock or on the shaded deck. Choose to self cater or eat at one of the local restaurants on the island.

Overnight at The Beach House, Bed and Breakfast

**Day Three:** ( $\pm 7$ km) Set off after an early breakfast and paddle across the channel dividing Ile aux Nattes and Ile St Marie and begin your exploration of the unspoilt east coast. Incredibly protected from the wild Indian Ocean by a coral reef leaving approximately 500m of calm, clear and shallow water between the sea and the land. Stop now and then to enjoy the tiny beaches and coves, take a short walk up the hill to visit the caves and lunch wherever you please observing the local inhabitants catching octopus for their dinner. Your destination for the night is the Mora Mora Hotel – a Malagasy run, luxury “jungle style” hotel with great restaurant offering a mixed menu.

Overnight at the Mora Mora Hotel on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

**Day Four:** ( $\pm 10$  km) A very early departure takes you further north up the coast. More casual stop offs to absorb the wonder of standing in a forested bay – it is easy to imagine yours are the first footprints this white sand has felt. Aim to arrive at your destination as early as you can to allow plenty of time to explore the mangrove fringed lagoon. A local guide will take you over the dunes to an isolated beach with only the ocean between you and Australia.

Overnight at Hotel Paradise D’Ampany on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

**Day Five:** ( $\pm 7$ km) Another early departure but this time it’s your legs that will do the work. Local porters will carry your kayaks across the island (imagine yourself as David Livingstone!) to La Crique on the west coast of the island. The two hour walk takes you on a windy road across streams and through villages offering you

wonderful views of both sides of St Marie. You have the rest of the day to snorkel, swim, relax and interact with the locals in nearby villages.

Overnight at La Crique Hotel on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

**Day Six:** ( $\pm 12$ km) This is the longest paddling day and you travel slowly south, down the sheltered west coast stopping to view the cascades and pools; taking a refreshing dip if the day is not a sacred one. This is the Sainte Marie Channel – the favoured migratory route of the Humpback Whales. They pass through here en masse en route north to breed returning towards the end of September back to the Antarctic. It is most likely that you will site one of these magnificent animals offering photo opportunities next to none other. Overnight at a delightful Malagasy hotel on the beach on a Bed and Breakfast basis. Your chance to sample local life and cuisine – interacting and experiencing Malagasy charm.

**Day Seven:** ( $\pm 7$ km) South again, bypassing the hustle of Ambodifotatra (the “capital” of St Marie). Not the oldest church in Madagascar overlooking the inlet used in ancient times by William Kid and his pirating cronies to hide from the British Navy and to launch raids on passing trade vessels. Further on in the day you will pull into Lakana Hotel with its stilted bungalows over the turquoise water. Here you will overnight on a Bed and Breakfast basis – drifting off to lapping waves and a gentle breeze.

**Day Eight:** ( $\pm 5$ km) A leisurely departure to enjoy your last paddle and reflect on the adventure nearly completed. Arrive back at The Beach House for lunch and perhaps an afternoon of relaxation at the Betsy Day Spa. Spend the evening reminiscing with a barbeque and good company. Overnight at The Beach House on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis.

**Days Nine and Ten:** At leisure! Choose from a variety of excursions and activities. Scuba diving, snorkelling, deep sea fishing, walks, quad/scooter hire, massage, whale watching (seasonal) and glass bottomed boats – perhaps even circumnavigate

Ille aux Nattes with a kayak! Self cater or enjoy the cuisine from one of the island bars or restaurants. Overnight at The Beach House - Bed & Breakfast

**Day Eleven:** Take the one hour flight to Tana and another world. A marvellous mix of French, Indonesian and African cultures – colliding in an explosion of sights, sounds and smells. Paddy Fields in the city centre, cobbled streets, narrow French houses with creaking balconies and Indonesian roof tiles. A photographer’s dream of faces, watercolours and activity. Visit the market or just wander the streets. Overnight at the Irianja Guest House and enjoy a traditional Royal Malagasy dinner.

**Day Twelve:** Transfer to Ivato International Airport in time for your flight back to reality.

End of Services



Photographs and text copyright of MadagasCaT Charters & Travel

## Notes

**Airport Taxes** are excluded but can be estimated at around R1850.00 per person.

**Visas** are free up to the end of 2009. We are still waiting to hear what Madagascar intends to do regarding these in 2010.

**Non Paddlers** can accompany paddlers for the first day up to Mora Mora Hotel in a pirogue. They can join them again occasionally during the trip as they wish but the cost of transport to and from the hotels, and their accommodation, would be to their own expense. Any children under 16 must be accompanied by non paddling adults at all times.

**Age Limit** – no persons under 16 may paddle.

**Indemnity** Paddlers will be required to sign an indemnity.

**Insurance** Paddlers will be required to take out adequate travel insurance.

**Medication** We recommend travellers consult their doctors with regard to Malaria Prophelactyics. No inoculations are required. It is essential to note that Madagascar offers little in the way of good medical care. Travel with a First Aid Kit and basic medication.

**Itinerary** This is strictly at the discretion of KayakingSainteMarie and management thereof and will depend on factors such as weather, fitness, tides etc.

**Group Size** is limited to five paddlers

**Departure** is on Tuesdays from Johannesburg and returning on Saturdays.

**Extensions** to this tour to include other parts of Madagascar can be arranged.

**Cost includes:** return flights ex Johannesburg to Ille St Marie, transfers, accommodation as mentioned, meals as mentioned, six days guided kayaking as mentioned, one relaxation therapy at Betsy Day Spa, Seven Course Traditional Royal Malagasy Dinner in Tana.

**Cost excludes:** passport costs, insurance, meals not mentioned, drinks, extra activities, airport taxes, tips, items of a personal nature.

[info@madagascat.co.za](mailto:info@madagascat.co.za) - [www.madagascat.co.za](http://www.madagascat.co.za)

