

MASOALA FOREST LODGE ACTIVITY GUIDE



Primary Rainforest – Classic

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; Pygmy Kingfisher; Ground-roller.

Primary Rainforest – Extended

Duration: Full day

Suggested time: 7:30 – 15:30

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

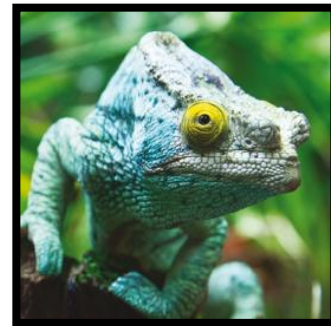
Guide: Required

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; Pygmy Kingfisher; Ground-roller.



RECOMMENDED KAYAK OUTINGS

Notes: All kayak outings are 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.

Coastal Exploration

Duration: as short or long as you like

Suggested time: During the morning or afternoon

Activities: Kayaking, swimming, beaching

Guide: Required

Kayak Trip around Nosy Ndraindra (Sacred Island)

Duration: 1 h 30 min

Suggested time: During the morning or afternoon

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.

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 manoeuvre your kayak between 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

Possible highlights: Sea turtles, stunning views of the peninsula, a short stop at The Sacred Island,



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



TAMPOLO RIVER & TAMPOLO CASCADES

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

Tampolo Cascades

This hike starts along the coastal forest and then cuts inland for an adventure through the beautiful secondary forest. Although the trail does not follow the Tampolo River, you end up at the stunning Tampolo cascades.

Duration: 4 - 5 h

Suggested time: 8:30 – 1:00 or 1:00 – 17:30

Activities: moderate hike (mostly flat); wildlife sightings; swimming in the waterfall

Lunch: at the lodge

Recommended shoe type: running shoes

Possible highlights: walking on the less trodden path to the waterfall, seeing the tallest waterfall in the area

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



MASOALA FOREST LODGE PRIVATE RESERVE



The MFL Private Reserve consists of 40 hectares and can be entered from both sides of the lodge property. Five 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 are able to offer night walks at Masoala Forest Lodge which are possible every evening after dinner.

For all routes:

Suggested time: Any time, **Recommended shoe type:** Anything comfortable or barefoot

MFL Private Reserve – Green Route

Duration: 30min , **Length:** 0,5km **Description:** Easy walking, flat

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: 45min, **Length:** 1km,

Description: Easy walking, flat and some wet areas after rains.

Suggested time: Any time

Possible viewing highlights: Several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, tenrecs, frogs

MFL Private Reserve – Red Route

Duration: 1 hour, **Length:** 1,5 km

Description: Intermediate to difficult, obstacles (e.g. little stream, stepping stones) and wet after rain.

Possible viewing highlights: Several bird species, White-fronted brown lemurs, tenrecs, frogs

MFL Private Reserve – Orange Route

Duration: 2 hours, **Length:** 2,5 km,

Description: Intermediate, flat and some wet areas after rains.

Possible highlights: Little bridges over small rivers, several bird species, White-fronted Brown Lemurs, tenrecs, frogs, wading trees.

MFL Private Reserve – Blue Route

Duration: 2 h 30 min, **Length:** 3 km,

Description: Intermediate, little bridges, includes a waist-high river crossing

Possible highlights: Little bridges over small rivers, several bird species, White-fronted Brown Lemurs, tenrecs, frogs, wading trees.

Night Walk

Suggested time: After dinner

Guide: Highly recommended

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

WHALE WATCHING



Whale Watching by Boat

Duration: 1-3 hours

Season: June to September

Suggested time: Please inquire 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 from rain

Price: €180 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 songs, a mother travelling with her calf.



YOGA

Classes are offered daily by Sam, who is a 500hr Yoga Alliance Certified Hatha Teacher. The classes consist of Hatha, Ashtanga, breathing techniques and meditation practices.

Afternoon Yoga Class

Duration: 1 hour

Time: 15:15 – 16:15

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Equipment: Yoga mats, towels, and water will be prepared for you in the Beach House/on the Seas Deck at class time.

Price: €10 per person per lesson

Private Yoga Class

Duration: 1 –2 hours any time

Day/Time: Flexible, please inquire at reception.

Equipment: Depends on location of the class.

Price: €20 per person per lesson



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: Afternoon, from 16:45

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.



MASSAGE

We offer a complimentary massage, which is a 30 min back, neck and arm massage.

You can upgrade to:

- A back and neck massage is 45 min
- A legs and feet massage is 45 min
- And a full body massage is 60 min

Upgrade rate:

Back and neck 45 min = 20.000 Ar (~€5)

Legs and feet 45 min = 20.000 Ar (~€5)

Full body 60 min = 40.000 Ar (10~€)

And/ or schedule additionally.

Price:

Back and neck 45 min = 60.000 Ar (~€15)

Legs and feet 45 min = 60.000 Ar (~€15)

Full body 60 min = 80.000 Ar (~€25)

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.



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 some tea and a muffin, scone or cake
daily between 16:30 and 17:30 on the sea deck.**

The Sea Deck is spectacularly sited on the rocks overhanging the sea, with wrap around views of the forested coastline with its alternating golden beaches and sculptured rocks. 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.



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 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 an idyllic beach. And explore the wild surroundings that could be 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.

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



ANTALAVIANA DAY TRIP

Travel by boat to Saholaina-a beautiful beach with coral rich waters great for snorkelling or swimming. Then make your way down 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).

En route you will ford rivers, explore the village of Marofotra and surrounding plantations where the locals grow vanilla, cloves, pineapple, cinnamon, and pepper. You will also 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, beach lounging, 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: Barefoot, Flip-flops/sandals,

Recommended equipment: Pack a hat, sunscreen, swimwear, snorkelling equipment, hiking bottle and perhaps a foot towel to dry and sand off your feet after crossing a river.

If you would like to take your camera, ask at reception for a drybag-backpack.

Note: we will pack beach towels for you.

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



BEACH FIRE

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

