

Optional Pre-Tour Extension
Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park
Kirindy Reserve
The Famous Baobab Trees

October 12 - 16, 2019

The Tsingy of Bemaraha, UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the highlights of Madagascar.

Located 200 km north (by a dirty track) of the city of Morondava on the west coast, Tsingy de Bemaraha is a remote region that requires one full day drive to reach the village of Beopaka. From the village we embark on the excursion to Tsingy National Park, encountering the famous Baobab Trees and stopping at Kirindy Reserve along the way. Two strong rivers coming from the Highlands pour along the Mozambique Channel: Tsiribihina and Manambolo. The rivers have dug wide furrows which cut huge limestone plateau, the Tsingy.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fosa, largest carnivorous animal
- Tsingy of Bemaraha magic erosions
- The quiet ambiance of Tsiribihina and Manambolo Rivers
- Impressive beauty of Baobabs Avenue
- The lagoon, mangrove and ballet of dugouts in Morondava

GENERAL DETAILS

- Participant: 2 to 10 people
- Accompanying English –speaking Guide
- The best hotels near the sites
- Vehicle: 4WD
- Meals: Full board

In this beautiful and wide peneplain, baobab trees punctuate the landscape with its' tall and massive presence. The chaotic track passes in the heart of this wooded savannah settings, the laterite road trip is punctuated by two car ferry rides allowing to cross rivers.

Day 1 - Antananarivo > Morondava > Kirindy



Transfer to the airport with our guide for the domestic flight to Morondava.

On arrival drive out of Morondava towards the famous "Allée des Baobabs" on the way to Kirindy. We enjoy some time there and get some nice shots of the splendid scenery.

Continue a few kilometers to the Kirindy Reserve, very interesting for the wildlife and specially the Fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) the bigger predator of Madagascar.

NB : The program might change depending on the flight schedules.

Duration : +/-1h of flight and +/- 2h30 of track (75 km)

Overnight: Hotel Relais du Kirindy

Day 2 - Kirindy Reserve > Bekopaka



After breakfast, we visit the private reserve. It has one of the most endangered ecosystems. The reserve is known for its' giant jumping rat, the Fosa (*Hypogeomys antimena*), the largest carnivorous animal in the country; also for several lemur species, numerous reptiles and endemic species. An unusual flora with many unique species is also found in Kirindy.

Afterwards, we head north driving 5 hours on an uncomfortable but only land track to the Tsingy of Bemaraha National Park classified as a World Heritage of

Humanity site by UNESCO. Lunch at Belo sur Tsiribihina. We go across Tsiribihina and Manambolo Rivers by a car small ferry and have lunch in Belo sue Tsiribihina before we arrive at Bekopaka village.

NB - walk duration : depends on your walking pace

Duration : Kirindy Preserve +/-2h visit and Drive to Tsingy Of Bemaraha +/- 5h of track (140 km)

Overnight in Bekopaka : Le Soleil des Tsingy

Day 3 - Tsingy of Bemaraha



This is one of the most extraordinary sites!

TSINGY is a real cathedral of limestone, this dense network of faults, cracks and blocks of limestone carved in blades is one of the most spectacular landscapes of Madagascar. The formation of this massif of the middle Jurassic began there is 200 million years, during the period when the sea still recovered this region of Bemaraha. Then this immense plate of corals and shells lifted up itself. Exposed outdoors since 5 million years, the rain, with its work of erosion sculptured the

rest. Among these marvels, there are 6 species of lemurs, reptiles and 53 varieties of birds. It is also the housing environment of one of the smallest sorts of chameleon, the "Brookesia Perarmata". This day, with is dedicated to the discovery of this most amazing site.

You can select one of these options:

- Group I: Manambolo River by pirogue and the Small Tsingy
- Group II: Great Tsingy

SMALL TSINGY - Near the village of Bekopaka. No difficulty at all, walking to belvederes for panoramas on Tsingy. We will also have a short hike with a visit of the Gorges de la Manambolo by pirogue (canoe) to the tombs Vazimba.

GREAT TSINGY- 45 minutes from Bekopaka by 4x4 to the foot of the massif, then from there several circuits of 4 or 6 hrwalks. Not really walking, rather climbing via ferrata (a protected climbing route), suspension bridges, passages in caves to access lookouts where the panoramas are superb. The tracks are very well equipped with cables and handrails. You are equipped with harnesses with carabiners. Security is assured, our guides accompany you in addition to the guide of the park. Obviously, this allows you to go a little further in the Tsingy. It is important for you to be flexible, agile, not get too dizzy. Some passages are narrow, some are low, you have to bend and wiggle. Not simple, but not too physically difficult. Guides & porters accompany you.

Duration: from +/- 3 to 6h walk

Overnight in Bekopaka : Le Soleil des Tsingy

Day 4 - Bekopaka > Morondava



We drive to Morondava and cross Manambolo and Tsiribihina rivers by ferry. It can take a little time sometimes ...

We pass through the famous “Allée des Baobabs” just before we get to Morondava town, arriving there at the right time, the sun is low, soft light, with smooth trunks reflecting the orange rays of the sun. Great imagery while we serve a cocktail.

We continue to Morondava, and we settle into our hotel by the sea.

Duration: 7hours of track and 2 ferry boat -- in total: 9 hours

Overnight: Morondava: Palissandre Cote Quest

Day 5 - Morondava > Antananarivo



After the breakfast, depends on the tide, we suggest walk along the beach to Betania, a fishing village.

Or, we walk around towards the market and the beach.
Transfer to the airport after lunch.

Flight to Antananarivo. Transfer to the hotel. Meet the people on the main tour.

NB - The program of this day might change depending on the domestic flight schedules.

2019 PRICE: \$2200 based on min 2 people twin share, Single Room Supplement: \$465
Plus domestic flights (estimates/exact TBD): Tana-Morondava: \$300, Morondava-Tana: \$274

Includes:

Accommodations with breakfast

Kirindy : RELAIS DE KIRINDY: <http://www.relaisdukirindy.com/>

Relais du Kirindy is located near the Kirindy Nature Reserve. From your bungalow, enjoy the quiet and the breathtaking view of the sacred Baobab. Each of the overwater bungalows opens onto a large terrace. For your comfort, each bungalow is equipped with mosquito nets, fans, a shower with hot water and private toilet. The bungalows are beautifully decorated with noble woods of Madagascar in warm tones. Housekeeping is provided daily.

Bekopaka : SOLEIL DES TSINGY: www.soleildestsingy.com

Le Soleil des Tsingy was newly built in July 2013. It offers 9 bungalows in the middle 20 hectares park located on the highest hill of Bekopaka. The terrace gives an impressive view of the surroundings. The accommodation is spacious equipped with king bed or two twins, superb bathroom. The restaurant serves a wonderful menu with a copious breakfast from 6 am for an early start. It is one of the most beautiful structures in this area.

Morondava: PALISSANDRE COTE OUEST: <http://www.palissandrecote-ouest.com>

Located in Nosy Kely on the large beach of Morondava, 29 bungalows with private balconies, scattered in a beautiful coconut grove. The restaurant offers a world cuisine menu; admire a splendid sunset while enjoying a tasty cocktail. As for leisure, there are swimming pool, pedalo, sailboard, snorkeling.

Antananarivo: *Hotel La Varangue* <http://www.hotel-restaurant-lavarangue-tananarive.com/>

OR *Hotel Le Louvre* <http://www.hotel-du-louvre.com/>

- Accompanying English speaking guide during the entire trip
- Driver with 4x4 (4 people per vehicle)
- Full board breakfast / lunch / dinner
- 2 bottles of mineral water per person per day
- Entrance fees in the National Parks and local guides in the parks
- All transfers

Price does not include:

- International flight
- Domestic flights (priced separately)
- Beverages during lunch and dinner
- Tips to driver, guides
- Trip cancellation/travel insurance
- Visa Fee

NOTES:

Flight schedules subject to change which can cause changes in itinerary sequence.

Hotels are the nicest for this area but cannot be compared to international hotels in South Africa for instance.

The drives are on bumpy dirt tracks and pretty much uncomfortable.