Northern Makay Pilgrimage



Days:	10
Price:	970 EUR International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★☆
Difficult:	★★★☆☆

Hiking Adventure Fauna & Flora

Located in southwestern Madagascar, **the Makay massif** is an exceptional natural site of 4,000 km²! A rocky massif featuring extraterrestrial geomorphology, a labyrinth of deep canyons lined with **primary forests**, new species of fauna and flora… Exploring this site is a privilege! Difficult access and taboos (fady) preventing locals from entering the site have made the Makay massif **a nature sanctuary**!

Before arriving at the Makay massif, we suggest an urban ramble in the Malagasy capital: Antananarivo or the “city of a thousand”. A long trip of 620 km separates us from our main destination. During 5 days, we will discover areas of exceptional richness and beauty, including the Tsiribihina River, small dry forests, atypical villages, a succession of rivers (including the great Sakeny River), a savannah landscape…

On the 6th day, we start our itinerant excursion in the north of the Makay massif, passing through the **Andranomita cave**. Mosses, ferns and palm trees line the gorges. It is a sanctuary for the Fulvus rufus and Prophitecus verraux lemurs. The rivers run along the bottom of the massif and we will camp on the edge of one of them between the large dark cliffs.

The second week of your stay in Madagascar takes us to the deep gorge of **the Samakaly River**. Any trekking and outdoor sports enthusiast will be delighted to explore the varied and exceptional landscapes: savannahs, breaches, canyons, peneplains… You will live a complete change of scenery on the way back to the capital through the highlands’ terraced rice fields!

Day 1. Europe > Antananarivo

AIRFRANCE

Paris Roissy CDG
8500km - 10h
Antananarivo

- Flight to **Antananarivo**. The **Détours Madagascar** team welcomes you to the airport.

  Installation at your hotel in town.

Dinner	Diner on board
Accommodation	Les 3 métis Guest House | Antananarivo

Day 2. Antananarivo > Antsirabe > Miandrivazo



Antananarivo
180km - 4h
Antsirabe

- Early departure from **Antananarivo** towards **Antsirabe**.
  Full west, we reach the town of **Miandrivazo** at the end of the day by the river of **Tsiribihina**.

Breakfast	Les 3 métis Guest House | Antananarivo
Lunch	On road
Dinner	Princesse Tsiribihina

220km - 4h 30m
Miandrivazo

Accommodation	Princesse Tsiribihina

Day 3. From Miandrivazo to the Northern Makay border, Beginning of the trek



Miandrivazo
115km - 2h 30m
Malaimbandy
30km - 2h
Tsiazorambo
8km - 2h 30m
Vinagny Mahemitsy

- We get on the road again until **Malaimbandy**. The road is beautiful, it follows the **river Mahajilo**, which throws itself into the **river Tsiribihina.**

  From the small town of **Malaimbandy**, we ride on a track until reaching the **northern border of the Makay**. This is the starting point of our incredible trek.

- After lunch, we begin our hike. The **river Manampada** is nos behind us, we leave the crops and villages behind as well.

  Going West, across the plateau, we reach the first **sandstone reliefs** of the **Makay**.

  A **shallow lake**, a cave as a shelter and a pretty **white sandy river shore** welcome our campsite for the night.

Breakfast	Princesse Tsiribihina
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

Day 4. Canyons and savannah to reach Ankaromokotry



Vinagny Mahemitsy
12km - 5h
Ankaromokotry

- The sedimentary plateau of the **Makay** is made of brittle sandstone. It is the continuation of the **Isalo massif**.

  The slow and unstoppable work of time, a few tectonic movements helped by flowing waters have patiently eroded these rocks. We start our discovery of this unique mountain range.

  By a river network and a great savannah, we make our way into the **Ankaromokotry** Gorge, from the name of the fruit we can find of the plateau.

  We settle our bivouac on a beautiful sandy beach on the side of the river.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

Day 5. Between faults and plateaux, the Makay sakasaka



Ankaromokotry

- In this unique environment, our hike allows us to enjoy a **surprising nature**. From time to time, we climb on **eroded summits**, where the **views are incredible.**

  We also hike __deep down the canyons__, our feet bathing in the __crystal clear water__ of the rivers flowing on beds of white sand.
  Today we reach the **Ampasimaiky Gorge**, covered with dry sands at the bottom. The important thing is now to settle down our campsite close to a **small spring.**

15km - 6h
Ampasimaiky

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

Day 6. Endless canyons, and the Sakapaly river



Ampasimaiky
12km - 6h
Sakapaly

- In here, **parrots** are everywhere and their cries echo in the long canyons. A few birds of prey such as **buzzards**, **kites** and the **Madagascar Harrier Hawk** hover over the mountains.

  Bats, wardens of this place, go out at nightfall for their silent night shift.

- This spectacular and inextricable geomorphology allowed to **original groups of animals and plants** to develop **away from the rest of the world**, into these **unexplored canyons**. They even developed into **new species.**

  Lemurs are very present in these isolated forests, but we also see them from afar, as they are not used to human presence.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

Day 7. Like in the rainforest, the Pandanus Gorge



Sakapaly
15km - 6h
Andasiberivotra

- Our caravan walks in the cliffs, itinerary without difficulty, we set foot on the plateau. The objective is now to reach a narrow fault, covered with **pandanus**, **palms** and **ferns** that open the way to the great catchment area of **Manampanda**.

  Our progression takes place completely feet inside the water, in a __lush green environment__. The very present __lemurs__, fade in the canopy. At our feet, in the blocks of the river bed, petrified wood show the remains of a __fossil forest__. These silicified controls are very useful for the study of geology, paleobotany and paleo environment. It goes without saying that this unique heritage is to be protected.
  Our tributary reaches the __Manampanda river__, the flow of water suddenly becomes much more important.
  Our bivouac settles on a beautiful sandy beach by the river.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

Day 8. Last half-day of trekking, road to Miandrivazo



Andasiberivotra
8km - 3h 30m
Tsiazorambo
30km - 2h
Malaimbandy
115km - 2h 30m
Miandrivazo

- The **Manampandana river** traces our progress for an hour and then we leave it to reach the plateau. After reaching the crest line, we head towards the **Bara villages** on the northern outskirts of the **Makay massif**. We reach the village of **Tsiazorambo** in the afternoon. Our cars are here!
  This is the end of our unique and unusual journey in this sumptuous **Makay massif**. The evening is dedicated to the conviviality and the joy of having lived a beautiful adventure all together, you, the porters, the rider, the guide and the logistics team Détours Madagascar.
- After lunch, folding tents and taking leave with carriers and trackers. We take again our 4x4 to take the track of the north exit, in order to join the town of **Malaimbandy** before crossing the national 34 which leads us to **Miandrivazo**.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Princesse Tsiribihina
Accommodation	Princesse Tsiribihina

Day 9. From the Bongolava to the Imerina



Miandrivazo
220km - 4h 30m
Antsirabe
180km - 4h
Antananarivo

- In the afternoon we continue to **Antsirabe**, the capital of the Vakinankaratra region.
- Small tour of the city and visit to the **local craftsmen** (making miniatures of bicycles and cars, work of the zebu horn ...) then road for **Ambatolampy**. The rice fields and characteristic villages of the **Highlands** draw the landscape.

  Continuation in the afternoon towards **Antananarivo**. If our timing allows, visit of the crafts market.
  Evening transfer to the airport, boarding assistance on the flight to Paris.

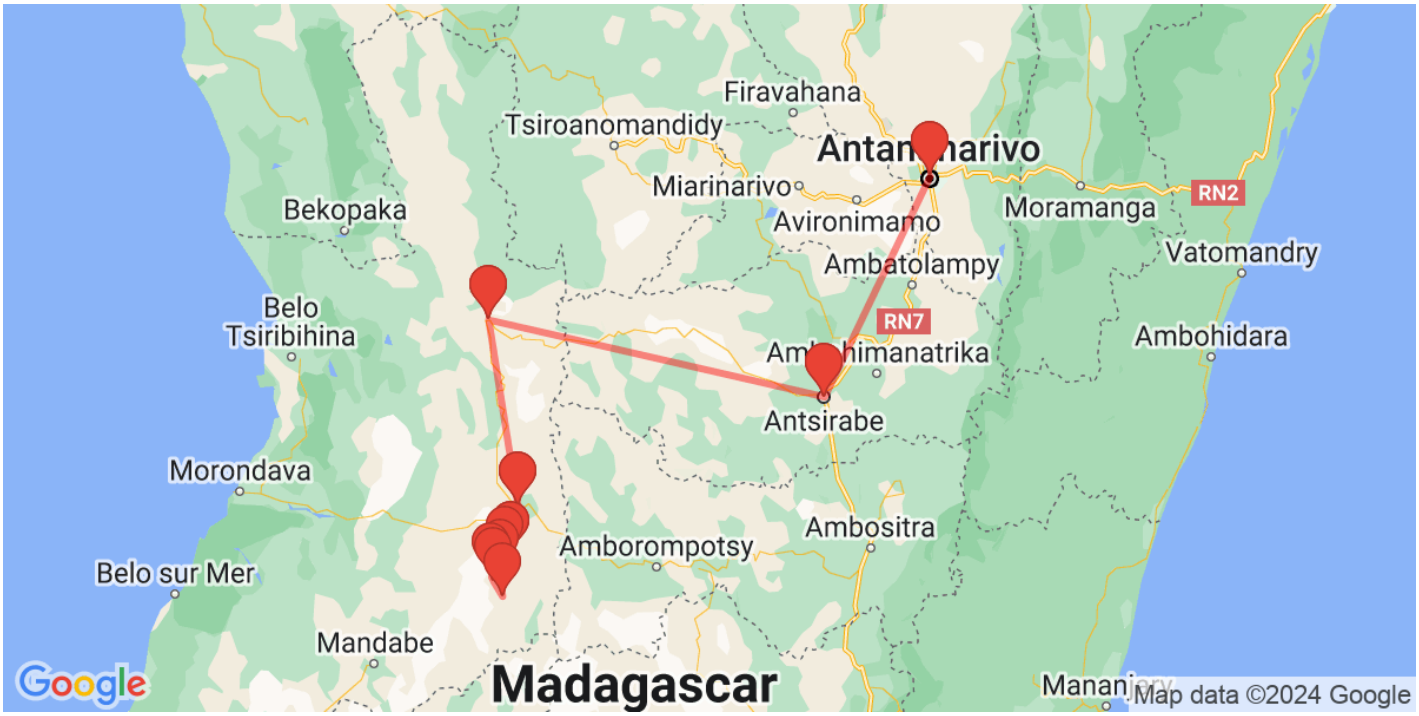
Breakfast	Princesse Tsiribihina
Lunch	On road
Accommodation	Hôtel Au Bois Vert I Ivato

Day 10. Arrival to Europe

- Arrival late in the morning to Europe.

Paris Roissy CDG

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-8	4-4	5-8
1380 EUR	1140 EUR	970 EUR

Included

- Welcome at the airport and transfer to your hotel if flying with Air France,
- Guiding by English speaking driver-guide(s),
- Transportation by 4x4 vehicles or mini-bus (according to the group's size),
- Accommodation in double / twin room in mentioned hotels,
- Full board from breakfast on D2 to lunch on D9,
- Camping equipment (bring a sleeping bag),
- The team of carriers, local guide and cook in the Makay,
- All the logistic for this kind of trip,
- Entrances into the indicated sites,
- All transfers.

Not included

- International flights,
- Transfers at your own charge if flying with another company (Air Madagascar, Corsair, Fly...),
- Activities non mentioned in the program,
- The single supplement (in hotels only),
- Tips, drinks and personal expenses,
- First Aid costs, Cancellation and Repatriation Insurance,
- Visa fees and Exit Territory Tax.

Extra infos

Booking conditions

Booking Conditions

All requests for registration must be made by e-mail from the Local Agency, directly online from the Customer Area accessible from the website of the Local Agency, or the website of our group www.nomadays.fr.

To connect to the Customer Area, simply enter the login and password set during the first connection.

Registration is considered final once the online booking form is completed and upon received payment of the deposit and/or balance depending on the date of registration.

Depending on the services chosen and the regulations of the country, a photocopy of the passport may be requested by the Local Agency. In case of not sending the photocopy of the passport within the time indicated by the Local Agency, it cannot guarantee the proper performance of the reserved services.

Once payment has been made, a confirmation email is sent to the Customer. It includes the confirmation of the regulation as well as the electronic downloadable invoice.

A confirmation letter is sent to the Customer electronically. If the Customer does not receive the confirmation letter, the reservation would nevertheless be definitive as if it is confirmed by the Local Agency.

Payment Conditions

Registration made more than 30 days before the departure date

The Customer must pay a deposit of 30% of the total amount of the reserved services. The balance must be paid no later than 30 days before the date of the beginning of the stay.

Registration made less than 30 days before the departure date The Customer must pay the full amount of the trip at one time.

Methods of Payment

Upon confirmation of your reservation, your local agent will prepare your electronic invoice, hosted on the platform of Nomadays under your own account. Payments are made either:

- By credit card online, free of charge, from the payment links available on the electronic invoice.
- By bank transfer to the account of the travel agency.

The electronic invoice is updated with each payment received and can be consulted at any time from the Customer Area. The electronic invoice is downloadable and printable.