



MASOALA FOREST LODGE

Activity Guide - Validity: 2026

From the comfort of the lodge you explore the wildlife and beauty of this natural paradise with activities including forest walks, snorkelling, kayaking, traditional pirogues, swimming in the sea and the crystal clear streams, seasonal whale watching, fishing and experiencing sustainable life in the rainforest with the local Malagasy community. The warm, coral-rich waters of the Tampolo Marine reserve, offer exciting snorkelling right off the beach. The sea kayaks are ideal for exploring the islands, reefs, rivers and deserted beaches of the sheltered coastline or just to watch the magic of the sunset on the forested mountains.



HIKES

Hiking in Masoala is a unique and unforgettable experience for nature lovers, offering visitors the opportunity to explore one of the most biodiverse regions in the world and discover the unique flora and fauna of Madagascar. Hiking gives you a great method of connecting with the diverse and pristine rainforests and endless coastlines.



Primary Rainforest - Classic

Duration:	4-5 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 trousers 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 trousers 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.

KAYAK

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:	Morning or afternoon
Activities:	Kayak, swimming, beaching
Guide:	Required
Lunch:	At the lodge
Recommended shoe type:	None
Recommended equipment:	Water bottle
Possible highlights:	Stunning views of the island from the sea

Kayak trip around Nosy Ndraindra (Sacred Island)

Duration:	1h 30 minutes
Suggested time:	Morning or afternoon
Activities:	Kayaking (~5 km roundtrip)
Guide:	Required
Lunch:	At the lodge
Recommended shoe type:	None
Recommended equipment:	Water bottle
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 maneuver 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 hours
Suggested time:	9:00 – 12:00
Activities:	Kayaking (~8-10 km)
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

MALAGASY CULTURE



Ambodiforaha Village Visit (any day of the week)

Duration:	As long as you like (usually about 2 hours)
Suggested time:	Morning
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)

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 hours
Suggested time:	08:30 – 10:30
Activities:	Easy walk (flat coastal trail), school visit, village visit, local dance group
Guide:	Not required but recommended
Lunch:	At the lodge
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 hours
Suggested time:	9:00 – 11:00 or 15:00 – 17:00
Guide:	Recommended for explanation and translation
Recommended equipment:	We recommend wearing shorts or trousers rather than skirts / dresses.

TAMPOLO RIVER



Traditional Canoe Excursion

Duration:	2 hours
Suggested time:	9:00 – 11:00 or 15:00 – 17:00
Activities:	Traditional canoe, easy hike (mostly flat)
Guide:	Required
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

Hike through the forest, along the beaches until you reach a river where you can swim.

Suggested time:	Any time, very nice to cool off on a hot day
Activities:	Easy to moderate hike, swim
Guide:	Required
Recommended equipment:	Sandals/flip-flops, towel, swimwear)
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



FISHING WITH A LOCAL

Experience traditional fishing in a dugout canoe alongside a Betsimisaraka fisherman on Madagascar's remote Masoala Peninsula. Learn time-honored techniques passed down through generations, discover the rhythms of daily coastal life, and try your hand at catching ocean treasures like bonito, king mackerel, kingfish, or even a prized yellowfin tuna.



Duration:	1.5 – 2 hours
Suggested time:	15:30 – 17:30
Recommended shoe type:	Sandals, flipflops, or barefoot
Recommended equipment:	Hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, swimwear, lifejacket, and water bottle. If you would like to take your camera, ask at reception for a drybag.

This activity is weather dependent and is not always available, please enquire at reception before 1pm.

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 minutes
Suggested time:	Depending on the season between 16:30 and 17:30
Guide:	Optional
Recommended shoe type:	None
Tip:	When you reserve, please let us know at reception which beverages you would like
Possible highlights:	The peace and quiet, hopefully a stunning sunset, jumping Bonito or flying fish, White Herons and Kingfisher on the rocks.

REFORESTATION PROGRAM

Give back to the planet by helping us plant endemic trees for lemurs and other local native species! There are areas on our reserve that were deforested for agricultural purposes before we began managing the land. It is our goal to protect and restore the coastal rainforest within the buffer zone outside of the National Park boundaries to increase more suitable environments for endangered wildlife to thrive. We would love for you to join us in our reforestation activities from planting trees to seed collection and nursery maintenance. Please schedule a time and plan with your guide and the activity manager in the office at your convenience

Duration:	1-2 hours
Suggested time:	Anytime during the day
Activities:	Easy hike, flat trails
Guide:	Required
Recommended shoe type:	Comfortable walking or hiking shoe
Recommended equipment:	Raincoat, bottle of water, shoes, sunscreen



MFL 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.



Night Walk

Duration: Decided by guest,
Length: 30-60 minutes.
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 you 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)

MFL Private Reserve - Green Route

Duration: 10 minutes
Length: 0,34km
Type: Loop
Description: This is our most accessible trail, but it is not lacking in beauty or wildlife potential. The course is mostly flat and can easily be combined with yellow or red trails.
Trailhead: Just beyond the footbridge past Tent 1

MFL Private Reserve - Yellow Route

Duration: 25 minutes
Length: 0,8km
Type: Loop
Description: Easy walking, flat 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.

MFL Private Reserve - Red Route

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

MFL Private Reserve - Purple Trail

Duration: 25 minutes
Length: 0,74km
Type: Loop
Description: This trail explores the southern section of the private reserve. There is a section that floods after rain.

MFL Private Reserve - Orange route

Duration: 25 minutes
Length: 0,77km
Type: One way
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.

MFL Private Reserve - Blue route

Duration: 30 minutes
Length: 0,82km
Type: One way
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 Malagasy footbridge across a small floodplain.



SEASONAL WHALE WATCHING

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are known for their long migrations, and one of their most interesting journeys is the one they take to the northern waters of Madagascar to breed and give birth to their calves. Every year, these majestic creatures travel thousands of miles from their feeding grounds in Antarctica to the warm waters around Madagascar, where they mate, give birth, and care for their young before making the journey back to Antarctica. The humpback whale migration to the North of Madagascar is a unique and fascinating event that serves as an important reminder of the incredible abilities and resilience of these magnificent animals.



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:	1-4 people = €386, for every additional person €97. This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

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!
Activities:	Boating
Guide:	Not required
Recommended shoe type:	None
Possible highlights:	Humpbacks breaching and singing, a mother travelling with her calf
Note:	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.
Price:	Included in all packages

REJUVENATE

We offer massages in our massage tent, located on a small private beach nearby. Please enquire to reserve. We will show you to the massage tent, please come to reception when it is time for your massage.

Back and neck 45 min = 25€

Legs and feet 45 min = 25€

Full body 60 min = 30€



TEA TIME

The Sea Deck is spectacularly situated 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 unrivaled view. It also is a fantastic place to watch the humpback whales.

Time:

at "golden hour", in summer from 17:00-18:00,
In winter from 16:30-17:30

Equipment:

consider taking a book or game (we have many
games to choose from in the beach house)

FULL-DAY COASTAL EXPLORATION

An exciting full-day trip lies ahead of you, exploring the most beautiful section of the coast on the Masoala peninsula. Take a 15-minute boat trip past Tampolo Point to a long white sand beach, where you have the option to swim and snorkel. Afterwards, we explore the mangrove river by kayak. Followed by a picnic lunch at the beach. On your return to the lodge, you have the option to either walk, kayak or boat back. We recommend the 4 km walk through the national park which provides you with stunning forest and beach views. You have good chances of seeing white fronted brown lemurs on this walk.



Duration: Whole day

Suggested time: 09:00 - 15:00

Lunch: Lunch picnic at the mangrove river

Guide: Required

Recommended shoe type: Sandals or flipflops

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

Price: Included in the 7, 10 and 11 night packages.



This trip can be booked by 3 and 4 night packages at an extra charge of 1-4 people = €372, for every additional person €97. This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

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:	09:00 – 15:00
Lunch:	Lunch at 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 island's 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 = €965, for every additional person €242. This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

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. Visit the National park protected islands for a swim and snorkel and explore the wild surroundings that could be straight out of ‘Robinson Crusoe.’ This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

Duration:	Whole day
Suggested time:	8:30 – 16:00
Activities:	Snorkeling, hiking, beaching, swimming, exploring
Lunch:	Lunch at Crusoe’s Cabin
Guide:	Required
Recommended shoe type:	Flip-flops/sandals
Recommended equipment:	Hat/sunglasses, sunscreen, swimwear, snorkel gear, water bottle
Price:	Cap Masoala is included in the Expedition Blue Lagoon packages. The day trip can be requested as an addition to other packages at the lodge reception for 1-4 people = €965, for every additional person €242. 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, and explore the village of Marofotora 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:	09:00 – 16:00
Activities:	Advanced 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:	A comfortable hiking shoe. We recommend boarding the boat barefoot or wearing sandals, then putting on your shoes at the island's beach.
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:	Not included in the packages. The day trip can be requested at the lodge reception for 1-4 people = €386, for every additional person €97. This trip is not always available, please enquire at reception.

KIDS ACTIVITIES

We have a wide range of family-friendly activities for children. Please discuss your child's needs and interests with Jessie to arrange any of the following activities:



- Explore the primary forest with a Rainforest Scavenger Hunt
- Ask for coloring sheets and our custom art classes
- Snorkel with kid-sized masks and life jackets (with or without a guide, as preferred)
- Play soccer with children in the village
- Canoeing in the river
- Kayak to a nearby beach
- Sail like a pirate (help the crew)
- Water fun at the MFL beach: play with the red tubes, stand-up paddle board, kiddies' kayak, water polo ball, bouncy ball

- Swing on the big swing
- Build sandcastles and collect shells
- Play Djubi
- Help build the bonfire
- Have lunch picnic at the Tampolo Beach Rivermouth
- Take a short night walk before dinner around the camp
- Plant a tree
- Help out in the endemic tree nursery
- Have fun with the educational activities including lemur card game

