

An expedition in the heart of the baobab aforests of southwest Madagascar with Cyrille Cornu



Days:	15
Price from:	2970 EUR International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★☆
Difficult:	★★★★☆
🔦 Adventure 🔦 Fauna & Flora 🔦 Culture	
🔦 Must see 🔦 photographic 🔦	

Lovers of adventure, passionate about biodiversity and baobabs, this trip is for you. Explorer, scientist, world-renowned specialist of baobabs, Cyrille Cornu has designed a tour to bring you to the most beautiful baobab forests of Madagascar.

The trip we propose is located in **the southwestern part of the island between the cities of Morondava and Tulear**. Throughout this journey, you will benefit from the **explanations of the great specialist, Cyrille, who will accompany you and bring you the knowledge necessary to understand the extraordinary diversity of baobabs on the Big Island**. A conference organized as close as possible to the subject in the form of a naturalist journey.

At nightfall, you will have the chance to witness an unforgettable spectacle, **the blossoming of a baobab flower**, you will be able to observe the animals that visit these flowers, you will approach the most beautiful specimens of baobabs in perfectly preserved ecosystems, and finally you will meet the most powerful baobabs of the island but also the smallest. During the expedition,

Cyrille will share with you the fruits of his **years of research**. He will discuss the impact of deforestation but also that of climate change. He will make you discover **many local practices** in connection with the giants, including the one, unique in the world, of the baobab diggers who, in order to survive in an extremely arid region, the Mahafaly plateau, build cisterns inside the baobabs themselves!

Ready for adventures in the heart of **the most beautiful baobab forests on the planet?** In the following program, Cyrille presents you the key moments of the trip he has concocted for you.

Day 1. You get in in Antananarivo, welcome to Madagascar !



Paris Roissy CDG 📍
✈️ 8500km - ⌚ 10h
Antananarivo 📍

Paris Roissy CDG - Antananarivo

- Program elaborated as an indication according to the schedules of arrival of the Company Air France.

A member of Détours Madagascar will welcome you at the **Ravinala airport** in Ivato Antananarivo in the evening. Transfer to your hotel for the night.

Scheduled flight by Air France: departure from CDG @ 10:10am - arrival in Antananarivo @ 9:40pm

🏠 Accommodation

Tsanga Tsanga | Antananarivo

Day 2. En route westwards to Miandrivazo



Antananarivo 📍
🚗 180km - ⌚ 4h
Antsirabe 📍
🚗 220km - ⌚ 4h 30m
Miandrivazo 📍

Antananarivo - Antsirabe

- We will leave early in the morning by 4x4 from the capital Antananarivo in direction of Morondava. We will be crossing the landscapes of the Highlands by taking a winding road lined with a mosaic of fields of various crops and rice fields arranged in terraces.

Along the way, I will show you **how to read the consequences of deforestation in the landscape**.

Antsirabe - Miandrivazo

- After Antsirabe, we will be driving due west towards Miandrivazo. As we go along, mosaics of rice terraces and various crops, hills overhung with red brick houses of the Central Highlands will give way to the arid landscapes of the Sakalava Middle-West and the "peeled" mountains jagged by erosion of the southern Bongolava massif.

Our first day will end in Miandrivazo, a stopover town located on the banks of **the Tsiribihina River**.

🍳 Breakfast	Tsanga Tsanga Antananarivo
🍴 Lunch	On road
🍷 Dinner	Hôtel Princesse Tsiribihina Miandrivazo
🏠 Accommodation	Hôtel Princesse Tsiribihina Miandrivazo

Day 3. Sundowner on the Baobab Alley



Miandrivazo 📍
🚗 235km - ⌚ 4h
Morondava 📍
Kirindy 📍

Miandrivazo - Morondava

- We will take the road to Morondava early in the morning.

About forty kilometers before reaching our destination, we will be observing our **first baobabs** along the national road.

In the early afternoon, we will reach the **world-famous Baobab Alley**.

We will be discovering the "love baobabs" located not far from there before returning to the foot of the alley to watch a sunset.

A good meal will await us at the Relais du Kirindy.

🍳 Breakfast	Hôtel Princesse Tsiribihina Miandrivazo
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Hôtel Trecicogne
🏠 Accommodation	Hôtel Trecicogne

Day 4. Direction to the baobab forests of the Menabe



Morondava 📍
🚗 85km - ⌚ 3h
Belo sur mer 📍

Morondava - Belo sur mer

- In the morning, we will be visiting **the covered market of Morondava** to meet fruit and baobab bark merchants. We will then leave Morondava in 4x4 vehicles in the middle of the morning, driving on a track through savannahs, forests, and salt flats before reaching the village of Belo sur Mer.

A journey punctuated by stops to admire **the baobabs crossed along the track**. The track is quite difficult with its share of fords, rivers and sandy portions. We will be following this beautiful road to get to the village of Belo-sur-mer.

Several baobab conservation projects are underway in this region, with nurseries and income-generating activities for the villagers, in order to raise awareness about the protection of this endangered species.

Once we arrive at our destination, we will join our hotel, the Ecolodge du Menabe, on the edge of the Mozambique Channel.

Moments of relaxation are guaranteed in this little corner of paradise.

☕ Breakfast	Hôtel Trecicogne
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Ecolodge du Menabe Belo sur Mer
🏠 Accommodation	Ecolodge du Menabe Belo sur Mer

Day 5. The dune of Mitea by the sea



Belo sur mer 📍
🚶 20km
Mitea 📍
Mité 📍

Belo sur mer - Mitea

- Early in the morning, we will be **sailing by pirogue with Vezo sailors** to reach the Mitea dune, a site only accessible by sea.

From the top of the dune, we will be able to admire **a forest of baobabs in perfect state of conservation**, forest we will be visiting too.

The day will end with a sunset from the top of the dune which culminates at 42 meters of altitude.

A night visit of the forest will allow us to attend a moment of great beauty, **the blooming of a baobab flower and to surprise, hopefully, some nocturnal visitors of the flowers.**

After a good meal taken around a campfire, we will join our tents planted in edge of sea.

☕ Breakfast	Ecolodge du Menabe Belo sur Mer
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Made by your team
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

Day 6. The baobab path of Kirindy Mitea



Mité 📍
🚗 70km
Kirindy Mitea National Park 📍

Mité - Kirindy Mitea National Park

- After a last climb to the top of the dune to watch the sunrise, we will then return to Belo sur mer.

We will be having lunch at the hotel before taking the road to visit the **Kirindy Mitea National Park, a new UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.**

I designed a baobab trail there about ten years ago, a trail that we will walk together in the heart of one of **the best preserved baobab forests in the world.**

Very different from the forests found north of Morondava, the Kirindy Mitea Park is largely covered by **a primary dry forest**, which marks the transition between the western and southern landscapes. We find several plant species representative of the arid climate of the South including Didiereaceae and Euphorbiaceae, as well as 3 species of baobabs.

The park shelters a littoral part composed of a patchwork of brackish wetland which makes it an excellent center of observation of the birds. A great diversity of landscapes is found on this site, between coastal dunes, islets, mangroves and savannah, sheltering a varied fauna: lemurs, reptiles, fish, birds, bats...

☕ Breakfast	Made by your team
🍴 Lunch	Camping

🍴 Dinner	Made by your team
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

Day 7. Bivouac on the banks of the Mangoky River



Kirindy Mitea National Park 📍
🚗 160km - ⌚ 10h
Mangoky river 📍

Kirindy Mitea National Park - Mangoky river

- We will leave at dawn by 4x4 to reach the famous Mangoky River which naturally delimits the Sakalava and Bara territories.

Bivouac at the feet of baobabs that populate the banks of the great wild river.

🍴 Breakfast	Made by your team
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍴 Dinner	Made by your team
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

Day 8. The giants of Andombiry



Mangoky river 📍
🚗 80km - ⌚ 3h
Morombe 📍

Mangoky river - Morombe

- It was thought for a long time that the biggest baobab of Madagascar lived in the big south in the region of Ampanihy. It is not the case. The record is currently held by **giants of the species grandidieri which live in the forest of Andombiry in the north-east of the city of Morombe**. The visit of this site will constitute one of the strong moments of our trip. I will guide you to meet the giants of Andombiry. There are several hundreds of them living here!

🍴 Breakfast	Made by your team
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍴 Dinner	Chez Laurette
🏠 Accommodation	Chez Laurette

Day 9. The mysterious baobabs of Andavadoaka



Morombe 📍
🚗 75km - ⌚ 3h
Andavadaoka 📍
Andavadoaka 📍

Morombe - Andavadaoka

- We will be following the coastal track bordering the Mozambique Channel to arrive in the late morning in Andavadoaka, beach, fishing village...

The bay of Andavadoaka is one of the most beautiful of the Malagasy west coast.

Its turquoise waters and extremely rich seabed lined with idyllic beaches attract many visitors. Inland, the vegetation is amazing. **Baobabs with strange shapes grow in low thorny forests**. The baobabs here are only a few meters high. They are called **bottle trees** because of their round and squat shape. We will be visiting these baobab stands and try to understand the origin of their particular morphology.

We will stay at the Laguna Blu Hotel, just a few steps from the lagoon. An ideal place to enjoy the warm waters of the Mozambique Channel.

🍴 Breakfast	Chez Laurette
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🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Laguna blu resort madagascar
🏠 Accommodation	Laguna blu resort madagascar

Day 10. Tulear and the Arboretum of Antsokay



Andavadaoka 📍

🚗 205km - ⌚ 5h

Ifaty 📍

🚗 45km - ⌚ 1h

Tulear 📍

Ifaty - Tulear

- We will be following the coastline on a beautiful track before reaching the city of Tulear where we will have lunch at the Oasis restaurant.

In the middle of the afternoon, we will join **the arboretum of Antsokay** created in 1980 by the botanist Hermann Petignat. The visit of the arboretum will allow us to enrich our knowledge on the flora of the south of Madagascar. Night and dinner in the idyllic setting of the arboretum.

🍳 Breakfast	Laguna blu resort madagascar
🍴 Lunch	On road
🍷 Dinner	Auberge de la Table Tuléar
🏠 Accommodation	Auberge de la Table Tuléar

Day 11-12. At the baobab diggers



Arboretum Tuléar 📍

🚗 180km - ⌚ 8h

Ampotaka 📍

Arboretum Tuléar - Ampotaka

- We will leave in the early hours to reach the small village of Ampotaka on the Mahafaly plateau. Around the village, **the baobabs are the object of a unique practice in the world**. Their trunks are hollowed out to form cavities used as cisterns.

In this region without lake or river, where it rains only a few months in a year, these cisterns and their reserves allow the inhabitants to survive in a particularly arid and hostile environment. During two days, we will be taking time to **meet the baobab diggers of Ampotaka and their living tanks**.

Meals and magical bivouac outside of time in the village of Ampotaka.

🍳 Breakfast	<div>11</div> Auberge de la Table Tuléar <div>12</div> Made by your team
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Made by your team
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

Day 13. The baobab "grandmother"



Ampotaka - Tsimanampetsotsa National Park

- In the morning, we will take our 4x4 to reach **the National Park of Tsimanampetsotsa**, a lake saturated with lime sulfate which will reserve us beautiful floral and faunal surprises.

We will penetrate in a forest of baobabs, which gathers various specimens. Especially, **we will be visiting the "grandmother", the oldest baobab known in Madagascar**.

Ampotaka 📍
🚗 60km - ⌚ 2h
Tsimanampetsotsa National Park
📍
🚗 30km - ⌚ 1h
Ambola 📍

An abundant fauna is also present on the spot: birds, reptiles, turtles, and we will have perhaps the chance to cross the famous radiated turtle.

Picnic lunch in the shade of a baobab before continuing our day of discovery of the park. We will be enjoying a magnificent view of the lake while the sky turns red and orange at sunset.

Dinner and overnight stay at the Domaine d'Ambola Hotel.

☕ Breakfast	Made by your team
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Hôtel Le Domaine d'Ambola
🏠 Accommodation	Hôtel Le Domaine d'Ambola

Day 14. Back to Tulear & return flight to the capital



Ambola 📍
🚗 70km - ⌚ 2h
Tulear 📍
✈ 935km - ⌚ 1h 55m
Antananarivo 📍

Ambola - Tulear

- After having experienced a wonderful expedition to discover the baobabs of the southwest, we will be returning back to Tulear by boat, the city of the sun.

We will have lunch at the Oasis restaurant then we will be joining the airport for the returning flight to Antananarivo.

Tulear - Antananarivo

- A member of Détours Madagascar will pick you up.

Scheduled flight with Tsaradia TZ719: departure from Tulear @ 2:35pm - arrival in Antananarivo @ 4:25pm

☕ Breakfast	Hôtel Le Domaine d'Ambola
🍴 Lunch	On road
🍷 Dinner	Tsanga Tsanga Antananarivo
🏠 Accommodation	Tsanga Tsanga Antananarivo

Day 15. Last day in Tana, then return flight to Paris CDG



Antananarivo 📍
✈ 8500km - ⌚ 10h
Paris Roissy CDG 📍
Antananarivo 📍

Antananarivo - Paris Roissy CDG

- Last day in Tana to explore the Capital freely (we can organize city tour or another activity according to your envies).

Your hotel rooms are made available for your last preparations before the return flight to Paris CDG.

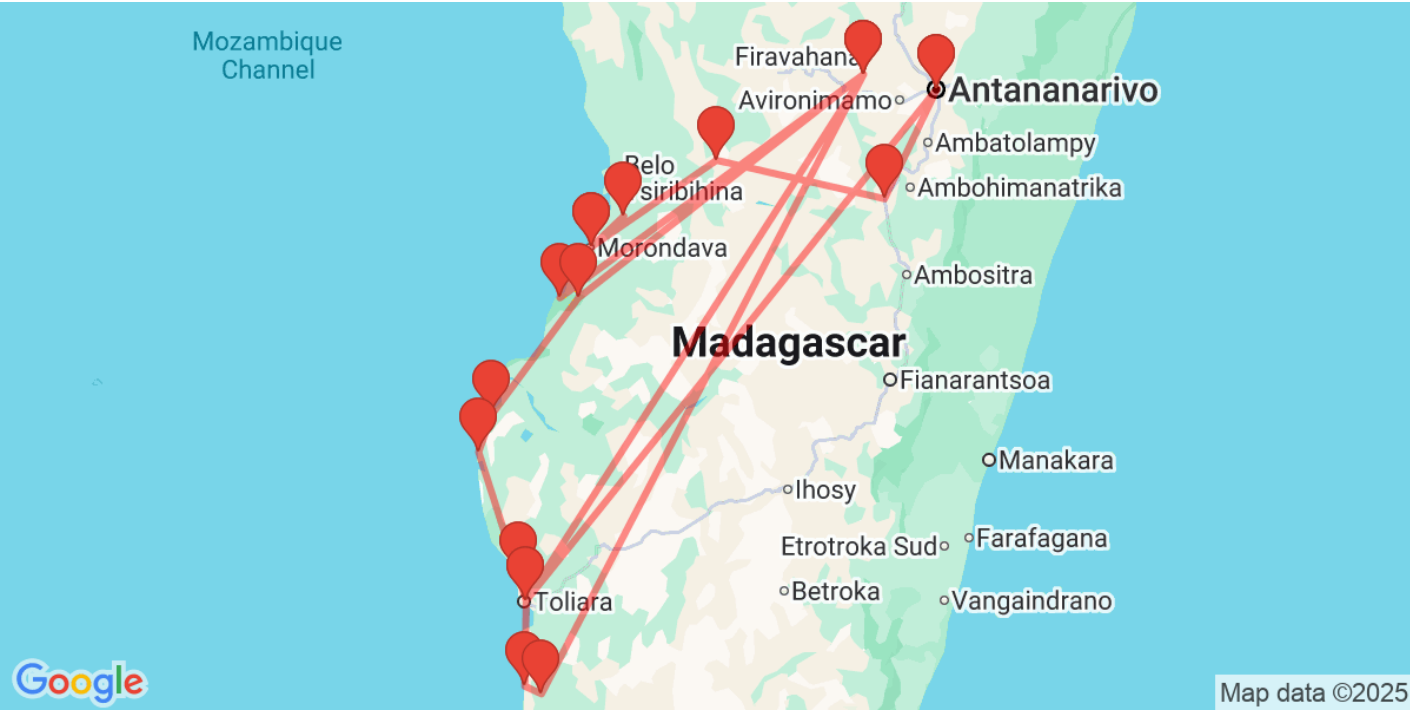
After dinner, we drop you off to the airport. You will fly over the sky of the Indian Ocean with **the feeling of having lived unique moments at the end of the world.**

Scheduled flight with Air France: departure from Antananarivo @ 11:55pm - arrival in CDG @ 9:55am the following day

Misaotra betsaka !

🏠 Accommodation	Tsanga Tsanga Antananarivo
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Itinerary map



Individual price per person

5-8
2970 EUR

- Out of domestic flight from Tulear to Antananarivo on Day 14,
- Extra charge for single room in hotels only is €360 per person

Trip confirmed for a minimum of 5 participants.

Pick up and drop off out of arrival and departure with Air France are not covered.

Included

- Accompaniment by Cyrille Cornu from Day 2 to Day 14,
- Accommodation in double or twin rooms in the hotels mentioned in the program with breakfast at Tsanga Tsanga Hotel in Antananarivo; half board at Princesse Tsiribihina Hotel in Miandrivazo, Ecolodge du Menabe in Belo sur mer; Chez Laurette in Morombe; Laguna Blu in Andavadoaka; L'Auberge de la Table in Tuléar; and Le Domaine d'Ambola.
- Full board during the nights in bivouac,
- The mentioned picnic lunches,
- The logistic team and the cooks for the nights in bivouac,
- The transport in 4x4 with the necessary fuel during the terrestrial stages,
- Entrance fees to the sites indicated,
- The mandatory local guides in the parks of Kirindy Mitea and Tsimanampetsotse,
- The day-use at Tsanga Tsanga Hotel on the last day,
- All transfers from/to airport/hotel.

Not included

- International flights,
- Pick ups and drop offs out of arrival and departure Air France on D1 and D14,
- The internal flight Tuléar>Antananarivo,
- Meals not mentioned in the program: dinners on D1 and D14,
- The activities not mentioned in the program,
- The single room supplement (SS),
- Tips, drinks and personal expenses,
- Cancellation, repatriation and first aid insurance,
- Visa fees.

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.