

Madagascar North (with Miavana)



Revel in northern Madagascar's spectacular inland and coastal scenery on this 8-day luxury safari and beach itinerary. Starting in the capital, Antananarivo, you'll journey north to the genteel port city of Diego Suarez, taking in its colonial-era architecture and beautiful bay, before detouring to explore the forested hills of the Montagne d'Ambre National Park, a region famous for its colourful orchids and equally colourful inhabitants, the lemur. From the Montagne d'Ambre National Park, it is a short journey to the otherworldly landscapes of the Ankarana Reserve, where you'll discover dramatic karst formations, or "tsingy", and endemic wildlife.

Your journey ends on the private island retreat of Nosy Ankaô (accessible only by helicopter), where you'll spend four nights at Madagascar's newest and most luxurious beach property, Miavana.

Day 1: Arrive Antananarivo

On arrival in Antananarivo, you will be met and transferred to Lokanga Boutique Hotel for one night (B&B basis).

Lokanga Boutique Hotel

Perched high on Royal Hill, with commanding views over the old city centre, Lokanga is a wonderful retreat set within the heart of the Madagascan capital.

The original 1930s Malagasy townhouse is furnished throughout with antiques and family souvenirs, inviting you to journey back to the early twentieth century. It has just six en-suite bedrooms, all individually styled and decorated with family antiques and the expected modern comforts: WiFi, minibar, winter heating, and satellite television.

Each of Lokanga's rooms has been furnished with a different era in Madagascar's history in mind, from the English colonial room, recalling the English missionaries who once lived on Royal Hill, to the West Indies Room, whose bright saffron colours, cast-iron furnishings and Indian artwork recall the era of the spice trade.



Day 2: Antananarivo to Diego Suarez

An early transfer to the airport for the flight to Antsiranana – or Diego Suarez as it is better known – Madagascar's northernmost port.



Diego Suarez is a city rich in history. It is where the first Europeans landed on Madagascar, and has long served as an important port city. It opens onto the Mozambique Channel and the Indian Ocean, and provides access to some of the island's most stunning bays and beaches.

While many come to Diego to explore its rich, colonial-era history, the city is also the domain of the Antakarana ('those-of-the-rocks') people, fishermen and cattle herders whose rulers descended from the Sakalava dynasty. Their distinctive stilt houses can be seen in and around Diego Suarez, and their culture and unique cuisine are a defining feature of the region.

You will be met on arrival at Antsiranana Airport and transferred approx. 30 mins to the Allamanda Hotel for one night in a premium room (B&B basis).

Allamanda Hotel

The Allamanda Hotel enjoys an enviable location on Diego Suarez' waterfront, just steps from the sea and within walking distance of the town centre. Small and intimate but with all the facilities you would expect

from a top-end resort, the Allamanda offers 24 elegant guestrooms, each with private balcony, air-conditioning and wireless internet access.



The Allamanda's pool is a lovely spot to sit and take in the view of the ocean and the city port at sunset.

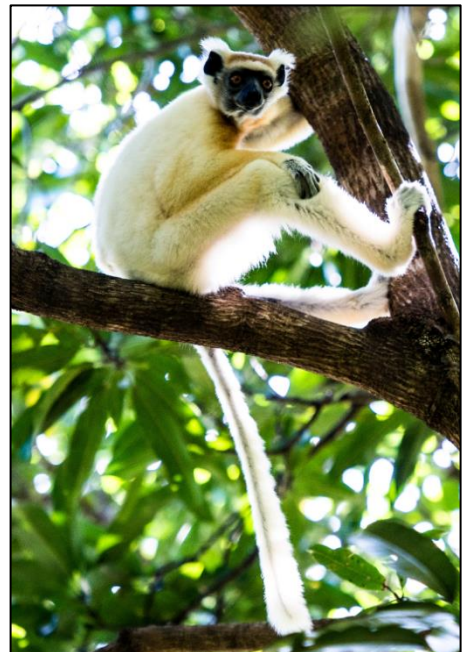
After you have had time to rest and lunch at your hotel, meet with your private driver/guide and depart for the Amber Mountains National Park (37kms). The afternoon will be spent exploring the forested hills of the Amber Mountains on foot, in the company of a wildlife ranger.

Montagne d'Ambre National Park

The Montagne d'Ambre National Park comprises over 18,000ha of tropical rainforest, covering a vast volcanic massif composed mainly of basaltic rocks. It is a region rich with wildlife, much of it endemic.

Stump-tailed chameleons are among the forest's most colourful inhabitants, though they're not always easy to spot! Equally colourful are the Amber Mountain's eight species of lemur, the most distinctive of which is perhaps the crowned lemur. Keen botanists will enjoy discovering the forest's many varieties of orchid.

Among the Montagne d'Ambre's main attractions, however, is its climate. The verdant forest is a haven of freshness, offering an escape from the stifling heat that is otherwise typical of this region. And with several rivers cutting a course through the volcanic massif, the park is as notable for its waterfalls and crater lakes, as it is for its rich vegetation and wildlife. You'll have the better part of the afternoon to explore both, returning to Diego Suarez early evening after 3-4 hours in the park with your guide.



Day 3: Ankarana National Park

Set off early this morning for a guided tour of Ankarana National Park.



Ankarana Reserve

Known for its limestone karst pinnacles, or “tsingy”, along with its extensive cave system and network of underground rivers, Ankarana is one of Madagascar’s most spectacular national parks, a truly alien environment quite unlike anywhere else on earth. Much of the reserve is taken up by dry deciduous forest and savannah plains, but its centrepiece is the “Wall of Ankarana”, a staggering monolith of limestone karst, formed by fossilised coral reef an estimated 150 million years ago.

Ankarana’s vegetation is equally unusual, with a fascinating array of drought-adapted succulent plants, as well as various canopy trees including figs, giant baobab and palms.

The wildlife, too, is stunning. Ankarana Reserve has perhaps the highest density of primates of any forest in the world! Visitors may encounter the crowned lemur, Sanford’s brown lemur, Perrier’s black lemur, the northern sportive lemur

and dwarf lemurs. A variety of chameleon and leaf-tailed Uroplatus gecko can also be spotted in the reserve – if you’re keen-eyed!

After a full-day spent exploring Ankarana, check-in at Iharana Bush Camp, situated just outside the reserve, for one night (half board).

Iharana Bush Camp

Iharana is an intimate camp situated just outside the Ankarana reserve. Accommodating its guests in eight cosy cottages, the traditional Malagasy-built bush camp is a true wilderness retreat, making up for what it lacks in facilities (no TV, no internet and no air-conditioning in the rooms) with its stunningly scenic setting amid exceptional natural beauty – perfect for those seeking a real back to nature experience!

Each of Iharana Bush Camp’s eight cottages is built from earth, palm thatch and chunky wooden beams. The mezzanine-level sleeping area is completely open on one side to allow for nocturnal star-gazing, and features a large double bed draped in mosquito netting, while the bathroom and sitting area are accessible from the ground floor.



Iharana's public areas centre on its thatched lounge and dining room, where a blend of Malagasy and international cuisine is served. The dining area opens onto a large outdoor terrace, the ideal spot for enjoying sunsets over the lake and the Tsingy massif, where the keen-eyed can sometimes spy lemur and exotic birdlife.

Day 4: Miavana

After breakfast, return to Diego Suarez to take the private helicopter flight to Nosy Ankao, the largest of five private islands situated just off the north-eastern coast of Madagascar.

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to Miavana for four nights (fully inclusive, inc. all meals, shared island activities, selected premium wine, champagne, top-shelf spirits and bar drinks).

Miavana

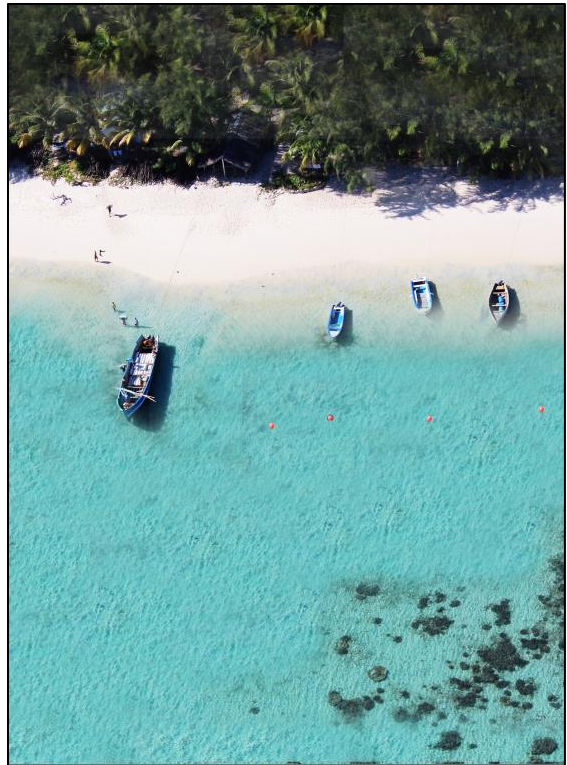
Opened in 2017, Miavana is Madagascar's newest and most luxurious lodge. Comprised of fourteen deluxe villas scattered along the western coast of Nosy Ankao, it offers unparalleled luxury in a fabulously remote setting.

Nosy Ankao itself is part of a five-island archipelago, situated just off the north-eastern coast of Madagascar and accessible only by helicopter. Surrounded by coral reef and with verdant forest inland, it's a natural wonder. The beaches, needless to say, are stunningly beautiful.



Miavana is the only lodge on this private island, and makes good use of its space. The fourteen villas are scattered far apart to ensure privacy; all enjoy an undisturbed view of the sea and sand. Inside, they are beautifully furnished and offer ample space, with the smallest of the villas measuring a generous 400 square metres. Each features an indoor living area, private deck with steps directly onto the beach, and a large double bedroom. Two-bedroom and three-bedroom villas are also available. The main lodge features a French garden, world-class spa, bar with wine cellar, outdoor dining area and pool.

Miavana isn't just a retreat for those seeking luxury pampering. It will appeal to more adventurous spirits, too. With access to otherwise unvisited coral reefs, it's a great location for divers (amateur and experienced divers alike – lessons are offered on-site), while others will relish the opportunity to explore the ocean on a jet ski or take to the skies in a helicopter for an aerial view of the aquamarine bays, beaches, lagoons and channels of the archipelago. Boat cruises, dolphin and whale watching, beach and forest walks are among the other pursuits on offer.



Day 8: Departure

Morning transfer by helicopter to Diego Suarez, where you connect with your flight back to Antananarivo.

In Antananarivo, connect with your international flight home. If departing the following morning, we will arrange for a night at a hotel in Antananarivo.



Price Guide:

Price available on request. Please [contact us](#) for a detailed quotation based on your group size and preferred travel dates.

Includes:

- Accommodation in a double room and meals as per itinerary
- Internal flights and airport transfers
- Helicopter transfer from Diego Suarez to Nosy Ankao and return
- All excursions mentioned in the program

Excludes:

- Visas
- Travel insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Excluded at Miavana - high and premium wines, champagnes on the reserve list, helicopter adventures, deep sea fishing, spa treatments and any privately guided activities or lessons.

