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Valid for departures: From January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2020



Madagascan Discoverer Trip Notes

Ways to Travel: Guided Group, Tailormade Adventures

Destinations: Madagascar

Programmes: Culture

Trip Code:
AZMA



17 Days Flight Inclusive

15 Days Land only

16 Min age

Trip Overview

Madagascar is home to countless endemic species of flora and fauna and has some truly incredible scenery. We visit the primary forest at Andasibe, where we hope to see the rare Indri, Madagascar's largest lemur, as well as some of Madagascar's unusual nocturnal wildlife. We also visit thousand-year-old trees at sunset at the famous Alley of Baobabs. A real highlight of the trip is the time spent trekking in the Tsingy of Bemaraha - home to unique wildlife and magnificent scenery.

At a Glance

- 14 nights standard hotels, all en suite
- Travel by private bus, 4WD and internal flights
- Some long drives on poor roads

Trip Highlights

- Walk amongst the pinnacles of the Grands Tsingy of Bemaraha
- The chance to see lemurs in their natural habitat
- Sunset visit to the 'Alley of Baobabs'
- Isalo National Park, with its amazing rock formations, spectacular canyons and natural swimming holes
- Incredible wildlife in the Andasibe National Park

Is This Trip for You?

Madagascar is a rewarding destination with its wealth of flora and fauna, however, before you decide to travel, we would highlight the following issues for you to consider:

Travelling by vehicle in Madagascar can be uncomfortable as some of the road quality varies. The majority of the roads are well-surfaced, but it is worth noting that Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world and the infrastructure reflects this. Some roads will be better than others, and at times a little patience, humour and flexibility may be required! We do have some longer drives but the diverse scenery more than makes up for time spent on the bus. We break up our road journeys with stops at villages, to take photos and to stretch our legs. There will be a lot of very early starts and long days on this itinerary.

Parts of Madagascar are mountainous. You need to be prepared to walk in hilly surroundings for periods of up to four hours. The trails are fairly gentle in Andasibe but steeper in all of the other national parks. We include a visit to the UNESCO site of the Tsingy of Bemaraha with some stunning scenery and wildlife. This area is however quite remote and you should come prepared for this. Those suffering from vertigo and claustrophobia may find some parts of the walks in this area challenging.

The tourist infrastructure in Madagascar is new and some services are limited. It is not unusual for there to be changes to accommodation or internal flights and for this reason, the order of the itinerary (but not the content) may sometimes change. However, what tourism does exist is of a pleasantly good standard and you may be impressed by the level of services in some of the places we stay.

Adult min age: 16

Min group size: 4

Max group size: 16

Itinerary



Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Start Antananarivo; overnight.

There are no included activities today so you are free to arrive at any time.

Accommodation: Residence Lapasoa or similar

Standard Hotel

Day 2

Morning city tour in Antananarivo; afternoon drive to Andasibe; guided night walk.

This morning we will embark on a short city tour of Tana by bus. With its bustling markets and ancient town on a hill with freestone churches and ancient royal places, it is unique among the world's other capitals. Built around Anosy Lake, Tana offers much of interest set against a backdrop of terracing with outstanding views from the Queen's Palace.

We will arrive in Andasibe around 3pm and we will then visit the Vondron'olona Miaro Mitia Ala Reserve. This is a community run reserve where you are able to see several species of lemurs and birds. The reserve is an untouched paradise for endemic animals and plants. There are groups of Indris which we hope to see here in their natural habitat, and their white-headed relatives, the Diademed sifakas, jump between the tree tops. For reptiles and amphibian lovers, the reserve offers countless frogs along its crystal clear river and several amazing chameleons can be found in the forest.

In the early evening we take a twilight/nocturnal walk, looking out for the nocturnal species of lemur as the torchlights pass by their eyes.

Accommodation: Sahatandra River Hotel or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3

Morning trek in Andasibe National Park; return to Antananarivo.

Today we will explore the park and go in search of wildlife on a 4 hour walk in Andasibe National Park, also known as Perinet. The park is home to the teddy bear-like Indri, the largest of Madagascar's lemur species, as well as other forms of flora and fauna and a wide array of bird life. Listening to the piercing yet melancholy cry of the Indri in the morning is an evocative sound and for those who are prepared to follow them through the thick rainforest, the reward is often a close-up view of these beautiful creatures. A group of five Diademed sifaka have recently been re-introduced to Andasibe from Mantadia, and if we are lucky, we may spot one of these unusual creatures.

In the afternoon we return to Madagascar's capital, known simply as 'Tana' to the locals. On the way we visit the Peyreiras centre in Mandraka which houses an outstanding collection of butterflies, chameleons and frogs.

Accommodation: Au Bois Vert Hotel or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4

Fly to Morondava; visit Alley of Baobabs.

We depart early today to catch a flight west to the coastal town of Morondava, known for having one of the finest climates in Madagascar. This afternoon, we will pick up the 4WD vehicles and then visit the famous 'Alley of Baobabs'. We then we drive to Kirindy dry forest reserve where we spend the night.

Accommodation: Gite de Kirindy or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5

Drive to Bekopaka, with a visit to Kirindy dry forest reserve.

Today we visit the Kirindy Reserve, which is home to the giant jumping rat, seven lemur species, and the Fossa. Then we travel approximately 9 hours on a dirt road to Bekopaka. We travel past baobab forests, desert, and local villages, and cross the Tsiribihina river by local ferry boat. The western landscape is arid but has a beauty all of its own.

Accommodation: Olympe de Bemaraha or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6

Morning trekking in Grands Tsingy; afternoon return to Bekopaka.

We depart early this morning to the amazing Grands Tsingy. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990, the area has unique geography, well-preserved mangrove forests. The Grands Tsingy is famed for its pinnacles, a forest of limestone pillars; some of its needles are several hundred metres high! The karst landscape and deciduous forest are a refuge for rare and endangered species and in the park there are over 11 species of lemur, 90 species of bird and 50 types of reptile, some of which we might be lucky to spot on our hike. In the afternoon we will head back to Bekopaka and relax at the hotel or enjoy a swim at the hotel pool.

Please note that while our time in this area is a real highlight for most, this is a demanding walk and those suffering from vertigo and claustrophobia may find parts of the walk challenging. In some places we will go through caves and narrow chasms; harnesses are used for the more challenging parts of the climb for safety reasons.

Accommodation: Olympe de Bemaraha or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7

4WD to Morondava; sunset at 'Alley of Baobabs'.

After breakfast we will head back south by 4WD vehicles to Morondava by road and ferry. The journey will take us approximately 12 hours. We will pass by the Sakalava tribe tombs along the way - specially known for the very unusual paintings and carvings that decorate the outside of each tomb. We will stop at the famous 'Alley of Baobabs' again where we plan to spend sunset. This is the best time to see these amazing trees as the colours at this time of day are spectacular, making for a perfect photo opportunity. After sunset we spend the night in Morondava.

Accommodation: Renala au Sable d'Or or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8

Drive to Antsirabe.

Today is a long travel day through the fascinating scenery of Betsiriry Plateau, some plains of savannah, and intercepted by some villages. We arrive at our destination by early evening. Antsirabe is at an altitude of 1500m and has a cooler climate. The warm springs and thermal baths here were a real draw in the 19th century.

Accommodation: Chambres du Voyageur or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9

Drive to Ranomafana.

This morning we depart early. We will do a short rickshaw tour along Independence Avenue then do a sightseeing tour of Antsirabe, including a visit to some craft centres. From here we continue to drive to Ranomafana. Parc National de Ranomafana (approximately 40,000ha), with its rain forested hills and abundant wildlife, has long been considered one of Madagascar's highlights, and is one of the most visited of the country's national parks. Its entrance lies about 7km from Ranomafana village. Altitude in the park ranges from 800m to 1200m. In addition to its densely forested hills, Ranomafana's terrain is characterised by numerous small streams, which plummet down to the beautiful Namorona River. Although much of the region has been logged, the easternmost part of the park retains relatively large areas of primary forest.

Accommodation: Centrest Hotel or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10

Morning visit Ranomafana N.P.; afternoon visit Ranomafana village.

Today we spend the morning (approximately 5 hrs) exploring Ranomafana National Park. We hope to spot Golden bamboo lemurs who are unique to this park, as well seeing other lemurs such as the Eastern woolly lemurs, the Red bellied lemurs, the Grey bamboo lemurs, and the Red-fronted brown lemurs. This park is also home to other mammals including tenrecs, bats and some of the carnivores such as mongoose and the Malagasy striped civet.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Ranomafana Village, where we will see typical Tanala tribe houses as well as the public thermal bath.

The evening is spent on a night walk along the roads in the hope of spotting some of the nocturnal lemurs, chameleons and other animals.

Accommodation: Centrest Hotel or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11

Drive to Ranohira, visiting Anja N.P. en route.

Today we drive to Ranohira. The scenery changes dramatically as we head to the small town of Ranohira, a journey of approximately 11 hours. We stop in Ambalavao to visit Anja National Park along the way - a small reserve where several families of Ring-tailed lemurs can be seen in the wild.

Accommodation: Isalo Ranch or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12

Full day trek in Isalo N.P.

We spend the day exploring Isalo National Park. Isalo is a vast region of wind-polished and water-scoured rock towers, deep canyons, gorges and oases often described as Eden. During our time here we will go walking in the magnificent Canyon des Makis in search of cheeky Ring-tailed lemurs and the Verreaux's Sifaka. We also visit the 'Piscine Naturelle' (natural swimming pool), a beautifully lush spot within an arid landscape, where we can swim and relax. Perhaps the magic is just to soak up the sheer beauty of the park, the combination of coloured eroded rock forms, strange plants and enveloping silence make this one of the most captivating places in Madagascar. (Please note that Isalo is a big national park and there will be a certain amount of driving involved today. Driving to the Canyon des Makis takes around 1.5 - 2 hours).

Accommodation: Isalo Ranch or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13

To west coast and beaches; overnight in Ifaty.

We drive to Tulear, among the dry forests of the west and the spiny desert of the south, and we pass both the 'Mahafaly tombs' and the 'Antandroy tombs', briefly observing their ornate decorations. Antandroy and Mahafaly are reputed to be the most impressive of all Malagasy tombs, with the Antandroy tombs being large and brightly painted, relating to the life story and wishes of the deceased. They are also topped with zebu skulls which were sacrificed during the funeral festivity - a ceremony of great significance. Mahafaly tombs are characterised by their wooden sculptures known as 'Aloalo', relating to the life of the deceased and their unfulfilled dreams, as well as their rank within the clan. After a brief stop in Tulear, we continue past the coastal town of Ifaty to Ifaty beach where we spend the night.

Accommodation: Hotel de la Plage or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14

Free time for relaxation or optional activities at Ifaty beach.

Today we have a free day. Running all the way around the south-west Malagasy coastline, Ifaty beach lies on one of the world's largest barrier reefs and is an excellent venue for scuba diving. Between late June and early September, whales can be observed off Ifaty's beautiful white beaches and the offshore islet of Nosy Ve is a terrific place for snorkelling. Protected by coral reefs, the beach and waters beyond the hotel offer a welcome place to rest.

Accommodation: Hotel de la Plage or similar

Standard Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 15

Fly to Antananarivo and end

Today we transfer to Tulear airport for our flight to Antananarivo which will arrive in the afternoon. Depending on the flight schedule, you may have free time to explore Antananarivo on your own. Those on the group flights will be transferred to the airport in the late evening for the very early flight the next morning.

Please note that flight delays on the internal flight are not uncommon - we strongly advise not to book your international flights to depart before midnight.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotels

We use tourist class hotels throughout the trip which are simple but comfortable. Most of the hotels have mosquito nets in the rooms. Please note that although all of the hotels are said to have a reliable electricity and water supply there may be instances in which you experience some gaps in supply - this is more a reflection of life in Madagascar than the standard of the hotel. Please be aware that some hotels do not have 24 hr electricity, and in some, hot water is not always available. There is WiFi in most of the hotels but often this is only in the communal areas and not in the rooms.

Single supplement from \$912.00 AUD

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

The food in Madagascar is generally of a good quality, particularly so by the coast where the seafood is excellent. A one-course lunch/dinner should cost £4-6 while a three-course lunch/dinner should cost £9-12 . Please allow approximately £250 for meals not included, plus a little more if you enjoy a drink with dinner! Malagasy lager is reasonably priced and easily available. Malagasy wine is also reasonably priced but is not to everyone's taste. It is sometimes possible to get hold of French or South African wine. A delicacy in Madagascar is the various flavoured rum's which are widely sold and very reasonably priced. Please note that if you eat neither fish nor meat, your food options will be rather limited (i.e. omelette, cheese, pasta, vegetables and rice) on this trip. Breakfasts are usually simple: eggs, a baguette, jam and coffee or tea, and sometimes fruit. You may wish to bring something to supplement your morning meal (e.g spread, peanut butter etc).

Transportation

Travel is mainly by small private bus. Most of this trip is on well-surfaced roads with only the occasional poor and bumpy section while in the national parks. There are several days where the drives are long but we make plenty of stops along the way and time passes quickly. There are two internal flights, one from Antananarivo to Morondava and one from Tulear to Antananarivo. We also take 4WD vehicles from Morondava to Bekopaka and back again. We use 4WD vehicles on this section of the trip as the road is a dirt road and is very uneven (though the surrounding landscape and destination more than make up for it!)

The driving distances are as follows. Approximate driving time including stops in is brackets:

Antananarivo - Andasibe: 135 km (4-5 hours)

Morondava - Kirindy: 60 km (dirt road, 2 hours)

Kirindy - Bekopaka: 175 km (dirt road, 7 hours driving plus 1 hour ferry crossing)

Bekopaka - Morondava: 235 km (dirt road, 10 hours driving plus 1 hour ferry crossing)

Morondava - Antsirabe: 475 km (12 hours)

Antsirabe - Ranomafana : 250km (10 hours)

Ranomafana - Fianarantsoa - Ranohira: 370km (11 hours)

Ranohira - Ifaty: 275km (6 hours)

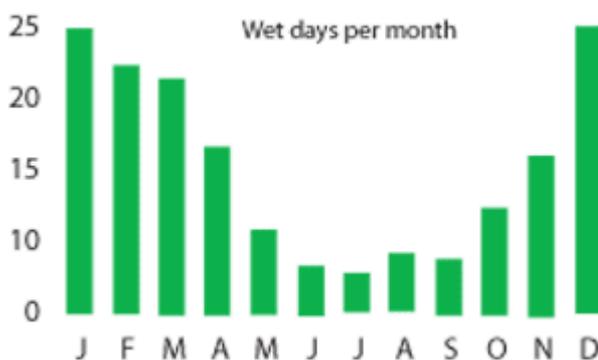
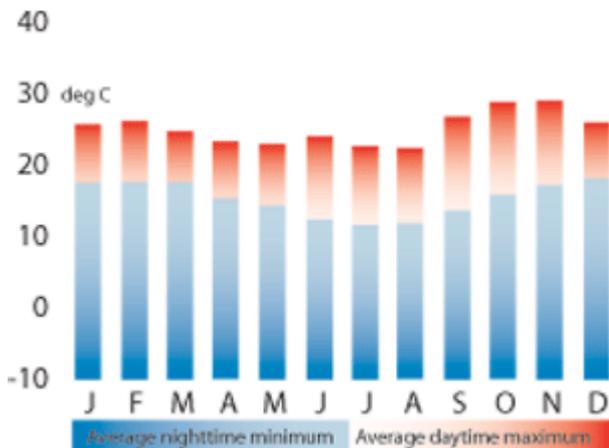
Weather & Seasonality

Weather Information

Madagascar has a tropical climate with two seasons - rainy and dry. The driest season extends from April to October. It can be cold on the central plateau (including Antananarivo) in the evenings, and in the rainforest areas, so you should bring warm clothes (fleece and waterproof). There is considerable regional variation but coastal areas will normally be very hot and dry. Expect daytime in the shade temperatures up to 38°C from October-December and up to 30°C during the trips running from April-June and September.

Weather Charts

Antananarivo



Joining Instructions

Travelling flight inclusive from London: 17 days

The group flight from London is an overnight flight departing the day before Day 1 of the itinerary.

Flights from London

We normally use the scheduled services of Kenya Airways (depending on availability). As flight timings and schedules change regularly we recommend you call one of our specialist sales staff or your agent to confirm up-to-date timings. Please note timings may change at a later date and cannot be confirmed until approximately two weeks before departure.

Travelling land only: 15 days starting and ending in Antananarivo

Your trip normally starts at our accommodation in Antananarivo in the afternoon of Day 1 of the itinerary. Details of how to reach the start point are provided in the Final Joining Instructions - sent approximately two weeks before departure.

Please note that security conditions at the airport in Antananarivo do not allow for the leader to be able to access the airport building. The leader will be waiting directly outside the building to meet you on arrival.

Regional Flights

The Flight Inclusive price is based on a London departure, but we are happy to tailor this to your local or regional airport. **Please ask about flights from local or regional airports. (/au/regionaldepartures)**

If booking regional flights other than with Exodus, you must allow a minimum connecting time (in addition to the international check-in time) of 1 hour at Gatwick, and 1.5 hours at Heathrow; this is longer than the official minimum, but baggage handling is known to be subject to delays.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Transfers Details

Airport transfers are included for those on the group flights. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if Exodus has booked it.

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight - please check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense.

Location start: Antananarivo

Location end: Antananarivo

What to Take

Essential Equipment

Lightweight clothing, to include at least one pair of long trousers and a long-sleeved shirt (for protection against mosquitoes and scratchy plants)

Walking boots or training shoes with good tread

Rain jacket (all year round)

Warm layers

Warm sweater or fleece jacket (as nights can be chilly)

Sunscreen

Sunhat

Sunglasses

Torch/flashlight for use when camping, wildlife viewing at night and for powercuts.

Antibacterial gel

At time of writing the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 23kg. We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage.

Internal flights in the destination country are subject to a weight limit of 18kg, with a 5 kg limit on hand luggage.

As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

Water Included

Plastic bottles are a big issue in many countries where recycling isn't yet widely available; they often end up in landfill sites or get burnt, both processes are harmful to the environment and we would like to reduce our impact here. For your trip we provide an alternative to single-use plastic bottles in order to reduce the amount of plastic used. This means that safe drinking water will be available throughout so all you need to do is bring a bottle to re-fill along the way. Please add this to your packing list!

Optional Equipment

Water bottle

Binoculars

Camera

Daysack

Swimming costume

Earplugs if you have trouble sleeping

Mosquito repellent

Gloves to use in the Grands Tsingy

Some clients might find walking poles useful.

Please note that tampons are virtually impossible to get hold of in Madagascar.

Due to laws in Madagascar about the dispensing of medicine, the guides are not able to carry any basic medicines should you feel unwell. These include Paracetamol, Imodium and Aspirin. Although they are available to buy in Madagascar, if you believe you may need these we advise you to bring them with you from home.



Practical Information

Passport

Madagascar

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for UK passport holders, and other nationalities should check with their travel agent or the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visa

Madagascar

Visas are required for entry to Madagascar. 30-day tourist visas may be obtained at the airport on arrival. If obtaining a visa at the airport, you should ensure that an entry stamp is recorded in your passport. The visa fee is payable in US dollars or Euros (US\$37/€35).

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

Vaccination

Madagascar

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements. Recommended vaccinations are: Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A. Malaria prophylaxis is essential and we suggest that you seek advice from your GP or travel health clinic about which malaria tablets to take. Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available for Dengue, and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

Bilharzia is known to occur in some of the lakes or rivers visited on this itinerary, we therefore advise all to take advice from your guide or leader locally before venturing for a swim.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of the UK, North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> (<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>)

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the UK we strongly recommend the **Exodus travel insurance policy (/au/insurance)**, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

Local Time

Madagascar's Timezone: Indian/Antananarivo EAT (GMT +03:00)

Electricity

Madagascar's Electricity: 127 & 220 Volts. Plug types C,D,E,J & K; establishments often take two round pin plugs.

Madagascar uses the standard Europe non-grounded electric two-prong power plug / type C or E.

Money

Madagascar's Currency

The national currency of Madagascar is the Ariary (MGA), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (September 2017) of approximately 3877 to the GBP, 2936 to the USD, 2421 to the CAD, 3535 to the EUR, 2370 to the AUD and 2136 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

ATM machines are only available at the airport and in the towns of Antananarivo, Antsirabe and Fianarantsoa on this trip.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

A Visa card (not Mastercard) can be used to obtain a local currency cash advance at some banks, but note that we advise you to bring your spending money in £, Euros or US\$ cash as these are easiest to change to local currency. There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into the country, provided it is declared on arrival.

Please note you cannot rely on credit cards for payment as they are rarely accepted.

All money should be exchanged at the airport on arrival.

Any unused Ariary must be exchanged before checking in departures only US\$ and Euros are accepted.

Optional Excursions:

Ifaty

Scuba diving: Single dive - Approx. £40 or 155,000 Ariary per person

Snorkelling - Approx. £12.50 or 50,000 Ariary per person

Whale watching (July-September) - Approx. £35 or 140,000 Ariary per person (minimum 4 people)

Kayaking - Approx £9 or 35,000 Ariary per person.

Tipping

Our local staff are paid well and fairly for their work with Exodus. You may feel that your leader has performed well over the course of your time in Madagascar and want to show your appreciation of their services. If you would like to tip your leader we suggest a figure of approximately £2 per person per day.

It is also courtesy to tip any extra guides/ drivers you may have over the course of the trip, though certainly not compulsory. Shortly after arrival the leader will suggest to the group that they donate a sum of 200,000 Ariary per person towards a kitty on arrival. This money is then used for tipping local guides, hotel porters, drivers etc and will be distributed by the leader.



Exodus Community

Join the Exodus online community

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view the range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups which have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Community Travel Forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our holidays are really like and you'll be entered automatically into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the **Community (/au/community)** you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy, so what are you waiting for?

Important Information

On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorise them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 16 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Exodus office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the **essential information (/au/about-exodus/essential-information)** in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

As fuel prices, airport taxes and exchange rates fluctuate, and airlines manage their rates to match demand, it is proving harder than ever to guarantee our Flight Inclusive prices. Although we endeavour to keep our website as accurate as possible, daily fluctuations mean that our Flight Inclusive price may be out of date. For accurate prices we recommend that you contact one of our Travel Experts, or your Travel Agent.

TRAVEL AWARE -STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the NHS have up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/> (<https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>)

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/> (<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>)



Advice can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our **Travel Safety Advice (/au/travel-safety-advice)** page.

Please note, although this trip doesn't visit any FCO no-go areas, it does visit a region close to an area where the advice is not to travel. If joining this trip, or if planning any additional travel pre or post tour in the area, you should ensure you visit their website to familiarise yourself with the advice. Any independent travel to these areas is entirely at your own risk and is likely not to be covered by your insurance.

How to Book

1. Check availability

Go online to check availability, or contact us by phone or email.

2. Secure your place

You can provisionally hold a place on this trip, usually for between three and seven days.

3. Complete your booking and payment

When you're ready to book, go to www.exodus.co.uk ([/au/homepage](http://www.exodus.co.uk)) for online booking, book over the phone or you can complete a booking form (available online or on request by calling us). We accept all major credit and debit cards, or you can pay by cheque. Book with confidence: Exodus is fully licensed and bonded as a tour operator. We hold Air Traffic Organisers Licence

(ATOL) number 2582 issued and bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). We are also bonded to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and we are members of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) and ABTA - The Travel Association. This means you can book your Exodus holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid from the "Current as" date on page one. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure; if there are any updates that significantly impact the inclusions or itinerary bookers will be written to separately. All customers will also receive a link to the most up-to-date version of the Trip Notes with their Final Joining Instructions pre-travel.

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