



## Remote River Expeditions ~ Madagascar

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### Tsiribihina River ~ Kirindy Forest Reserve ~ Avenue of the Baobabs ~ Morondava

~ All programs include multi-lingual naturalist guides & one night accommodations at the Chez Maggie ~

~ Programs including Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park & Belo sur Mer also available ~



### Tsiribihina River

The Mahajilo and Mania Rivers crash and tumble out of the highlands, joining near the town of Miandrivazo to form the tranquil Tsiribihina—"where one must not dive"—western Madagascar's biggest river. On its way to the Mozambique Channel, the Tsiribihina cuts through the limestone Bemaraha Plateau in a series of forested gorges, rich in endemic flora and fauna.

Along the way we make stops for forest walks, birding, and exploring the amazing streams coming off the Bemaraha, with waterfalls, blue-water grottos, and travertine chutes.

### 6-Day Program

**Day 1** Early morning depart Antananarivo with private vehicle and travel south through the highlands to **Antsirabe**. This is a volcanic region of rocky hills and grassland of zebu herds, kasana and rice plantations. Then leaving the highlands we descend into the Menabe (Western) Region to the town of **Miandrivazo**. Meet RRE guide and orientation dinner. Overnight Baobab Hotel (or similar). (L,D)

**Day 2** After an early breakfast we board our pirogues (local canoes) and begin our trip on the **Tsiribihina River**. No previous experience is needed as there are no rapids and the river remains calm throughout the journey. Local Malagasy paddlers propel pirogues as we travel downstream Camping. (B,L,D) **(Notes below)**

**Day 3** **Tsiribihina River**. Camping on the river. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** Complete river trip at **Antsiraraka** meet 4X4 vehicle and overland to the **Kirindy Forest Reserve**. Afternoon and evening walks in the forest And continue to Morondava. Overnight Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,L,D) **(Notes below.)**

**Day 5** **Morondava**. Largely an undiscovered gem, Morondava is a very relaxed and tranquil coastal town on the Mozambique Channel. Afternoon excursion to the **Baobabs in Love** and sunset at the **Avenue of the Baobabs**. Overnight at the Chez Maggie Hotel. (B,D) **(Notes below.)** [Chez Maggie Hotel](#)

**Day 6** Transfer to the airport for outbound flights or on to other destinations. (B)

### **End of Services**

Please [contact](#) RRE for quote.

## Canoes, Comfort & Cuisine

- ~ The pirogues (local canoes) are outfitted with cushions, backrests and umbrellas (for sun protection).
  - ~ Camps are usually white sand beaches along the river and we do our best to make camping as comfortable as possible.
- ~ We provide quality camping gear including: Thermarest Sleeping Pads; Timberline tents and sleeping bags.
  - ~ We take great pride in providing superb meals and know you will be duly impressed!



### **Inclusions**

- **English (French) speaking naturalist guide**
- **Ground Transportation:**
  - Tsiribihina – Morondava: Toyota Landcruiser 4x4's (or similar)
  - Included: vehicles; driver; fuel; driver accommodations & food; and vehicle insurance.
- **Accommodations:** Options as outlined.
- **River Trip:** Full board; camp and cook staff; camping (Thermarest sleeping pads, tents, sleeping bags) and commissary equipment; drinking water on river segment only.
- **Meals:** B = Continental Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner
- **Kirindy Forest Reserve:** Entry & local guide fees.
- **Morondava:** Half board at the Chez Maggie Hotel.
- **General Inclusions:** Outbound airport transfer; room occupancy taxes (where applicable).

### **Exclusions**

- Domestic or International flights
- Visas
- Cost of immunizations
- Airport taxes
- Insurance of any kind
- Drinks (Except as noted in inclusions)
- Tips (customary)
- Excess baggage
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, drinks, etc)
- Any services not specifically listed as included.

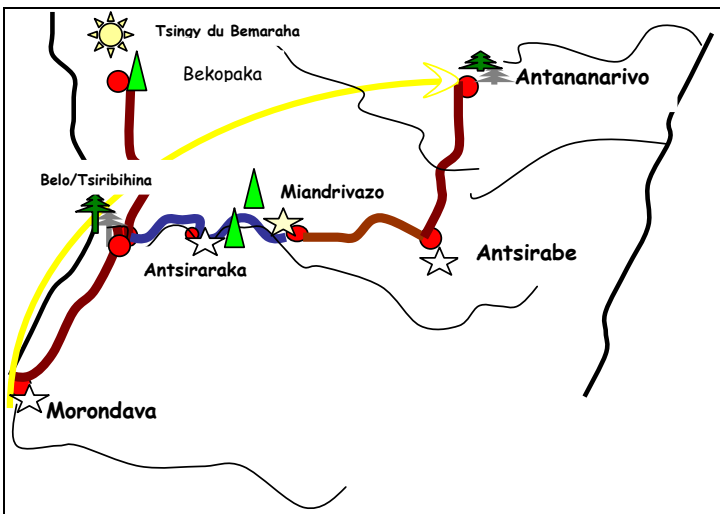
Please [contact](#) RRE for quote.

## Flora & Fauna

Lemurs found along the river include the red-fronted lemur and Verreaux's sifaka, with mouse lemurs and red tailed sportive lemur spottable by night. We pass fruit bat roosts and sandstone cliffs whose ledges and eaves attract peregrine falcons and bam owls. On the sandbars we see flocks of knob-billed and white-faced whistling ducks and many herons.



Endemic couas and vangas lurk in the riverside forest, while the cuckoo-roller noisily circles the heights, sharing the skies with the very rare Madagascar fish eagle, the Mad. Harrier hawk and the Mad. kestrel. The night audio is punctuated with the distinctive and ubiquitous calls of the Mad. nightjar and Mad. scops owl, and the plinking of bats.



## Kirindy Forest Reserve



### Kirindy Forest Reserve

The 12,500 ha Kirindy Forest Reserve has the greatest density and diversity of primates in the world. It is also the best western-reserve for seeing Madagascar's endemic dry forest species. The forest is a very rich reserve and home to the Fossa and Giant Jumping Rat.

Dominated by majestic baobab trees, (*Adansonia rubrostipa et za*), and asoniana Grandidieri are found just next to village of kirindy .the forest is home to the world's smallest known primate as well as dozens of amphibian and reptile species (and no poisonous snakes).

The Kirindy boasts more than 60 species of birds. Possible endemic sighting include: White-headed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, White-breasted Mesite, Coquerel's Coua, Crested Coua, Sickle-billed Vanga, Chabert's Vanga, Cuckoo Roller, Grey-headed Lovebird, Madagascar Nightjar, and Banded Kestrel.

Along with a stunning variety of unique flora the Kirindy Forest is home to 8 lemur species; a variety of tenrecs species; the narrow-striped mongoose; giant jumping rat and fossa.

#### **More Information:**

<http://taniko.free.fr/parks/kirindy.htm>

#### **More Photos:**

<http://remoterivers.com/en/docs/gallery.php?id=tsiri&title=Tsiribihina+River&ct=9&overview=gallery-madagascar.php>

### Pre & Post Trip Options

If you have more time there are a variety of great pre & post trip options. We highly recommend spending a bit more time in Morondava at the end of the program at the [Chez Maggie Hotel](#), with its wonderfully relaxed setting and superb restaurant it's just to place to reflect on the journey and recharge the batteries before moving on.

We're also happy to assist with arrangements and services for all areas of Madagascar including:

- [Andasibe National Park](#) ~ Home of the Indri-Indri
- [Tsingy de Bemaraha](#) ~ A World Heritage Site
- Belo sur Mer ~ Sailing & Diving
- Ifaty ~ Spingy Forest & SCUBA
- [Masoala National Park](#) ~ Eastern rainforest
- Berenty ~ Lemurs, lemurs...
- Isalo National Park ~ Trekking

#### **Note on the Itinerary**

- The itinerary is subject to change with schedule and availability of domestic flights. Accommodations are subject to change due to availability. Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. If the trip is delayed because of bad weather, cancelled or delayed flights or delays on other modern transportation, sickness, or other situations for which Remote River Expeditions / Chez Maggie or their agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included. We strongly recommend travel insurance.

## Baobabs & Morondava



Traveling from the Kirindy Forest to Morondava we stop at the **Baobabs in Love** and the world famous **Avenue of the Baobabs**.

The Avenue is an extraordinary stand of huge baobab trees *Adansonia grandidieri* and one of the most visited sites in Madagascar.

Some of the trees are over 800 years old and reach a height of 30+ meters.

It is a photographers paradise and especially beautiful at sunset and sunrise.

**Morondava:** is a wonderfully friendly, safe, and relaxed town. The Chez Maggie Hotel is located on Nosy Kely where the 'mora mora' ('slowly slowly') spirit is alive and well.

The **Chez Maggie Hotel** is a romantic hide-away in a comfortable garden setting. Located directly on the beach on the Mozambique Channel, the hotel features:

- 2-story chalets and large spacious bungalows
- air conditioning
- superb cuisine
- WiFi
- swimming pool
- full service bar
- wondrous sunsets.

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