

Nosy Be: Dive & Nature Discovery

An 8-Day Upmarket Package incorporating Scuba Diving & the Nature of Nosy Be



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Highlights

Nosy Be, Scuba Diving, Sakatia Island Excursion, Mont Passot and Domaine De Florette Nature Walk

Departure

Departs every day (flight dependant) from January to December.

Itinerary

Meal Key

B – Breakfast **L** – Lunch **D** – Dinner

Day 1: Arrival at Nosy Be - Madagascar

D

On arrival to Nosy Be airport, you will be met and transferred by car (45 minutes) to the Ravintsara Wellness Hotel. Located on the northwest of Nosy Be in a four hectare parkland of endemic plants and trees, Ravintsara combines luxury and peacefulness. If you feel like relaxing, the hotel offers a wonderful spa and wellness area. Enjoy your first tropical dinner on the island listening to the calls of the exotic bush.

Days 2 – 5: Ravintsara Wellness Hotel - Nosy Be

BD

Eight dives have been included in your package, allowing for 2 dives per day. Your non-diving hours will be spent at your leisure, enjoying the island, taking walks, snorkelling, and for the more adventurous there are a number of optional activities available. Included in your tour is a half-day excursion to the Island of Sakatia, a short 10 minute boat ride from Nosy Be. After a delicious lunch you may spend the afternoon relaxing on the pristine white beach or snorkelling in the warm waters before you are transferred back to your hotel.

Days 6 - 7: Domaine De Florette – Nosy Be

BLD

After your underwater experiences have come to an end you will be collected and transferred to the Domaine De Florette in the heart of the nature of Nosy Be. This guest house is run by a Franco-Malagasy couple and located in the middle of the island in a 30 hectare secondary forest. A guide will be at your disposal for the discovery of this generous and wild landscape. During your nature walk your guide will teach you of the medicinal values of the plants as well as search for the variety of spiders, chameleons, beetles and bugs hidden away in this tropical paradise. The tour also includes visits to the Ylang Ylang distillery and the Sakalav museum teaching you about the history of the island and its cultures.

Day 8: Nosy Be – Antananarivo – Home destination

B

After breakfast you will be transferred from Domaine De Florette to Nosy Be airport for your flight to Antananarivo, where you will connect to your flight departing for your home destination.

Pre-departure information

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Departure:

When arriving in Nosy Be in the morning of Day 1 of the tour you will be picked up from the airport and embark on your tour. Should you arrive prior to day 1, pre tour accommodation can be arranged and you will be picked up from your hotel on the morning of day 1. (Pick up time will be confirmed on arrival).

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be in mid - upper range hotels. Please note that Madagascar is a country which is in its infancy when it comes to tourism. Accommodation is limited therefore all the above mentioned accommodations are subject to availability and we reserve the right to change these using similar accommodation of the same or higher standards.

Ravintsara Wellness Hotel is a four-star resort focused specifically on the combination of nature and luxury. Located only 35 minutes away from Nosy-be airport it faces Sakatia island on the west coast. Each individually designed bungalow is set amongst a 5 hectare peaceful and relaxing tropical garden.

The Hotel has 20 bungalows (sea and garden view) and are all equipped with air conditioning, fan, safe, minibar, flat screen TV with satellite channels, Internet, telephone, king size bed and a desk. The comfortable bathrooms are equipped with double sinks, a Jacuzzi and a shower and separate toilets.

Domaine De Florette is Located near the village of Andrafiarena which means "place where trees grow raffia red". This intimate idyllic lodge is situated on top of a hill next to Mont Passat and is in the centre of a 30 hectare plot with an impressive variety of trees, fruit and flowers all of export quality. Each room offers a splendid view over the Mitsio archipelago, the mainland and the neighbouring islands. The Domaine De Florette is a real haven of peace and the perfect location to explore and enjoy the nature of Nosy Be.

Spending money:

Clients are advised to bring enough money to cover their beverages and meals, as well as the purchase of curios and additional entertainment.

Ariary (AR) is the local currency in Madagascar, and upon arrival, it is recommended to change money at airport banks. They are always open at each international flight arrival and their rates are similar to the rates of the banks in town.

Credit cards (almost only VISA CARD) are only accepted in big hotels, restaurants and some shops mainly in Antananarivo. An ATM (only VISA CARDS) is available at the airport in Antananarivo. Don't rely on ATM machines, they are often out of order, so keep some cash in Euro for emergency. It is better to carry Euro than US\$.

Traveller's cheques (TC) such as Thomas Cook, American Express etc. are not recommended, as there have been false Traveller's cheques in circulation and many banks refuse to take them.

First Aid:

The lodges and the dive school are equipped with a comprehensive medical first aid kit for emergencies. Please bring your own medical supplies for minor ailments (small cuts, bites etc). Preventative Malaria medication should be taken before and during the trip - we advise you consult a doctor prior to departure.

Luggage:

Maximum baggage allowance on the plane will be 20 kg. We recommend you placing important items such as medical supplies, and also a change of clothes in your hand luggage. This is in case luggage gets delayed into Madagascar.

Scuba diving equipment:

Sakalav Diving has a comprehensive selection of well maintained diving equipment. Should you wish to bring your own equipment, please note the weight allowance of 20kg for flights to Nosy Be.

Please note: Scuba diving equipment is not always available in the full range of sizes and makes, so bringing your own dive gear can be a sensible precaution. There are no Hyperbaric (decompression) chambers in Madagascar, so it's best to be extra-careful when tackling challenging spots.

Insurance:

It is compulsory for all travellers to have insurance covering their personal requirements, medical expenses and personal possessions. This is to be arranged before leaving your home country.

Clothing and other items:

Shorts	Track suit	Walking shoes
Light trousers	Swimming costume	Sandals
T-shirts	Wide-brimmed sun hat	Camera and film
Warm clothes	Long-sleeved shirts	Water-resistant jacket
Torch and spare batteries	Insect Repellent	High factor sunblock
Disinfectant hand-wipes	Sun glasses	Diving certification
1 st -aid kit (incl Immodium)		Diving Log book

Due to the hot and humid climate, it is advisable to take appropriate light-weight breathable clothing.

Visas:

A visa is required to enter the territory of Madagascar: Tourists staying in Madagascar for less than 90 days will be able to receive a free visa upon arrival. Please check if your passport is still valid (at least 6 months before expiry date). You can easily obtain a visa at the airport of Antananarivo. Please note that, to get a visa at the airport, you do not need to bring photographs.

Gratuities

If you feel you have been looked after well by your crew or guides, and you wish to show your appreciation for their services, a monetary tip is very welcomed by those in Madagascar. Here follows some suggested guidelines:

- Around EUR 4 per person, per day (10,000 Ariary) for a guide or a guide/driver.
- Around EUR 2 (5,000 Ariary) for a park guide, depending on your satisfaction.
- Around 5% of the bill at a restaurant
- 200 Ariary per bag for a porter.

As Euro coins cannot be changed into local money in Madagascar, it is advisable to tip in Ariary.

We would ask that you please reserve your generosity for tipping for services only, and not providing free handouts to children or adults, as this encourages begging.

Information on areas visited

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<u>Madagascar</u>	<u>Nosy Be</u>	<u>Sakatia Island</u>	<u>Scuba Diving</u>	

Madagascar

Its teeming fertile forests and geographical isolation, have served to preserve and propagate 'nature's design laboratory' in a mix found nowhere else on earth. Madagascar's forests are a shimmering, seething mass of a trillion stems and dripping leaves.

Nosy Be

15 km away from the northwestern coast of Madagascar lies the 321 km² large island Nosy Be. Here you can still discover a little paradise, which has been spared of mass-tourism. Climb on Mount Lokone (450 m) or Mount Passot (350 m) and you will be able to see Nosy Be in all its beauty: its jagged coasts, the numerous bays and lovely coves, the deserted beaches and the crystal clear water.

Furthermore you should experience the amazing underwater world of Nosy Be which offers excellent snorkeling and diving opportunities or do a day trip to the nearby islands, for example Nosy Komba where you can watch the 5,000 black lemurs that roam this island and eat delicious fruits from wild growing lemon, orange, bananas, papayas and mango trees.

Sakatia Island

Sakatia Island offers its visitors the unspoiled tropical fauna and flora typical of this area. At only 6.5 km long and 2 km wide at its widest point, it has a population of 300 habitants, with no roads and only foot paths, where one can wander at leisure and explore its beauty and deserted beaches. The island is fringed by a spectacular coral reef to be enjoyed by snorkeler or scuba diver alike.

Scuba Diving: Sakalav Diving School:

The Dive Centre is Padi and CMAS approved, affiliated to DAN Europe and offers Scuba diving, CMAS and PADI diving courses, from discover snorkelling / discover scuba diving to Dive master as well as specialty courses, Night Diving, Underwater Photography / Video, Environmental Diving, Search and Recovery, ASHI first aid and CPR.

Nosy-Be is the most popular island of Madagascar. On its north there is the Archipelago of the Mitsio and to its south the Archipelago of the Radama. In its immediate surroundings: Nosy Sakatia, Nosy Tanikely, Nosy Iranja and Nosy Fanihi, offer excellent diving.

Also known as "The perfume" Island, Nosy Be offers a large variety of local marine life: soft and hard corals, turtles, mantas, whale sharks, barracuda, etc.

Typically, the best season for diving is from April to January, with extra preference for October to December as whale-sharks are more likely to be encountered during that time period.