

# The great reawakening of Treasure Island

s an island world, the Eighth Continent, Madagascar both amazes and fascinates. Madagascar is a sanctuary bursting with life, an ode to the beautiful and rare in a magical setting. In its highlands, primeval forests, deep lagoons, towns and villages, there is an explosion of colours, shapes and sounds to be found nowhere else on earth but

Madagascar invites you to travel. One of those rare destinations with the art of conjuring up our dreams of getting away, discovering the unknown, meeting new

Madagascar leaves a mark in the hearts of visitors that never

That is the most beautiful treasure of all.







Madagascar's natural heritage is incredibly rich. This island continent is the 4th largest in the world. 80% of its wildlife and plant life is endemic, who can say more?

For over 30 years, the national parks and protected areas have been working to preserve, study and hand down this heritage, a real treasure for humanity. Its beauties are so bountiful that a lifetime would not be enough to encompass them all.



The wealth of unique biodiversity fosters the development of outstanding plant and wildlife:

- 43 National Parks
- 294 bird species
- 6 endemic baobab species, out of only 8 in the world
- Around one hundred lemur species
- Over 1,000 species of orchids



### Birdwatching

Madagascar is a paradise for birdwatchers.

Madagascar's wealth is not in quantity, but quality. The island is home to just over 290 species of birds, but almost half of them can only be seen here. Some of them are extremely rare, such as the Madagascar eagle Haliaetusvociferides or "Ankoay" as it's called in Malagasy, the world's rarest bird of prey.

As part of UNESCO's World Heritage, there are some outstanding sites ike the Marojejy National Park.



Birdwatching is a year-round activity, especially from October onwards. Our selection of the best birdwatching spots:

- Tsimanampetsotsa National Park: a nature reserve with colonies of pink flamingos, plovers and other waders
- Ankarafantsika National Park: 129 bird species including 75 endemic ones such as the Fish Eagle, the Striped Bellied
- Analamazaotra Reserve: 108 bird species
- Isalo National Park: 77 bird species including the Benson blackbird, a highly protected endemic species
- Amber Mountain National Park: 77 listed species including the Madagascar Crested Ibis and the Madagascar Red Owl
- Tsarasaotra Park in the capital for bird lovers: many species of duck, herons ...

## Trekking & Hiking



Some will leave from Cap d'Ambre and trek down to the deep south, as far as Cap St. Marie ... Over 1,600 km of unforgettable adventures.

Others turn their steps towards Makay. With its maze of deep canyons lined with luxuriant vegetation, towering red cliffs, and forests that shelter lemurs and birds.

All go through a Tsingy, a unique, spectacular mineral treasure, a giant maze, geological souvenirs of ancient erosion.





#### Scuba-diving

There are lots of perfect spots for diving trips! The most important are in the Nosy Be area which has high-quality diving spots. A perfect opportunity to swim with turtles, stingrays or manta rays.



#### **Outstanding marine biodiversity**

Madagascar's marine biodiversity is outstanding. There really is an extraordinary profusion of fish varieties.

The Great Island has several diving centres that organize excursions to meet the marine animals in these waters: coral fish, sea turtles or even

The underwater creatures that hide among the small rocks or the colourful coral off the coast are also worth exploring. The hard part will be picking your spot. From north to south, each seabed is more beautiful than the next one. And the water temperature is 24C - 30°C all year round!

In the south of the island, off Tulear, you'll have the colourful wonders of the world's second largest barrier reef all to yourself.

In the Mozambique Channel between Madagascar and Africa, there are lots of wrecks within diving range, from 5 to 25 meters deep. North-west of the Great Island, here is Nosy Be, nicknamed 'the Perfume island'. Its diving spots are the most famous. ...



Beginners can go snorkelling in the shallow waters off Nosy Be or

Well-known bays dotted with fishing villages:

- Ambola and Itampolo: grandiose bays south of Tulear
- Salary: a quiet, beautiful bay north of Tulear
- Beheloka: a beautiful bay with turquoise waters south of Anakao Andavadoaka: a rocky headland, coral islands with a backdrop of
- Ifaty and Mangily, Anakao
- The islands of Nosy Be, Nosy Tanikely, Nosy Iranja, the Radama and Mitsio Archipelago



Madagascar waters are full of fish and thrills are in store for you. All the feistiest, ferocious fish swim in the waters of the Great Island: amberjack, bonito, dogtooth tuna, dolphinfish, grouper, red snapper, trevally, kingfish, sailfish ..

All kinds of fishing are done here: jig, popper, hand-line, driftline...



Water sports in sublime spots and the best conditions are all to be had in Madagascar. Wind, seclusion, sun, sandy beaches, lagoons; the Great Island is the ideal destination to enjoy the thrills of surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing. The magnificent waves in the south-west and northeast, and the local trade wind in Babaomby in the north, are highly prized by kitesurfing world champions and fans of this water sport. The ideal time to enjoy the pleasures of water-skiing in Madagascar is from April to November.

#### whale watching



From June to November, the annual humpback whale migration takes them to the warm waters of the Mozambique Channel and the Indian Ocean. The east, north-west and south-west coasts of Madagascar are excellent starting points for watching these sea mammals.

In Sainte-Marie, Nosy-Be, Majunga, Anakao Tulear or Fort-Dauphin, many tourist operators have whale-watching excursions during the day, when you can get as close as possible to these sea mastodons as they rise from the water and hear their powerful blow.

Seeing them give birth only a few kilometres off the Madagascar coast is a unique, unforgettable experience. A must-do while holidaying in the southern winter.

#### Motorbike, quad, mountain bike trekking

- Tuléar and surroundings
- Diégo-Suarez Iharana (Bush Camp) and Anivorano
- Nosy-Be Sainte-Marie
- Ranomafana Park

