



## MOZAMBIQUE: The fabulous archipelago of Bazaruto and Vilanculos

Mozambique, located on the east coast of southern Africa, is a beautiful country and boasts palm-fringed beaches, an endless array of coral reefs and unique flora and fauna.

With over 2,500km of pristine beaches, as well as beautiful tropical islands, Mozambique is the ideal destination for relaxing on semi-deserted beaches.

The archipelagos of Bazaruto and Quirimbas are some of the most romantic and secluded destinations in the world with spectacular lodges.

Mozambique is internationally famous for its amazing marine life, with the coast surrounded by coral reefs and a great diversity of species, the country is a perfect destination for those who want to snorkel or dive and admire a variety of sharks, whales and dolphins.

## Itinerary

### Vilanculos

Vilanculos is a lovely and charming coastal town, where life flows to the rhythm of the rising of the sun and the changing of the tide, the people are welcoming and happy to proudly show their culture, in Vilanculos you can breathe the typical African atmosphere.

The town of Vilanculos offers some stunning beaches and crystal clear waters which attract water sports, snorkelers and kite surfers in particular, from all over the world.

Mozambique's beautiful palm-lined beaches are wonderfully free of crowds and offer great snorkeling, diving, and sport fishing.

Traditional sailing dhows are still a common means of transport used by locals but are also used for romantic sunset cruises, an experience not to be missed.

A canoe tour on the Govuro River, a waterway that has no access to the sea and is home to spectacular birdlife, is another of the excursions that Vilanculos offers.

Vilanculos is also the perfect place to sample the cuisine of the region, savory dishes influenced by Portuguese cuisine such as the peri-peri sauce that goes perfectly with fresh fish from Mozambique.

In Vilanculos there are interesting markets where you can get lost and grasp the essence of



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the daily life of the locals.



### **Bazaruto archipelago**

The Bazaruto archipelago is a group of five islands located off the coast of Vilanculos: Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, the desert island of Santa Carolina and Bangué.

Known as the pearl of the Indian Ocean, the archipelago is the tropical paradise par excellence thanks to its white beaches lined with palm trees and warm, blue seas.

The archipelago of Bazaruto is also one of the most important marine sanctuaries along the coast of East Africa and represents a series of critical habitats for many rare and endemic species, most of the archipelago is in fact located within the marine area protected area of the Bazaruto National Park, established in 1971.

The archipelago is home to incredible marine life, including 500 species of marine and



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coastal molluscs, 2,000 species of fish and nine species of marine mammals, including whales, dolphins and the endangered dugong.

Migratory species also exploit the park's productive marine environment and include whale sharks, great white sharks, manta rays and whales and humpback whales.

### **The Bazaruto archipelago is the largest marine reserve in the Indian Ocean for good reasons:**

- The reserve has over 2,000 species of fish
- Over 100 hard and 27 soft coral species can be found
- Over four species of whales and five of dolphins are found here
- Bazaruto has the largest remaining dugong population in
- East Africa, raising the profile of the area to a global marine conservation priority
- Crocodiles can still be observed in the islands' shallow inland lakes

The coral reefs surrounding the chain of islands offer unparalleled opportunities for snorkeling and diving, with dolphins, sea turtles, manta rays, whale sharks and over 2,000 species of fish populating the crystal clear waters, while flocks of flamingos and pelicans populate the shores and inland salt lakes.

Two Mile Reef is one of the best diving sites in the world while The Aquarium, a huge protected natural pool, is a paradise for snorkelers.

## **Useful Info**

The climate in Mozambique, influenced by the monsoons of the Indian Ocean and the warm currents of the Mozambique Channel, is generally tropical and humid.

The best time to travel to Vilanculos and [Bazaruto](#) is the period from May to October, as this is the dry season.

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This 12-day trip to [Sri Lanka](#) allows you to visit both the archaeological and cultural sites of the country and to enjoy the beautiful safari in the nature of this fantastic island.

Sri Lanka boasts a thousand-year history and offers visitors numerous fascinating archaeological sites.

During the trip you will visit the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site of **Sigiriya** with the ruins of an ancient palace, you will be enchanted by the beauty of **Polonnaruwa**, the ancient capital and of **Dambulla** with its incredible temples carved into the caves.

You will have the opportunity to visit the cities of **Kandy** and **Colombo** which are home to interesting temples and monuments.

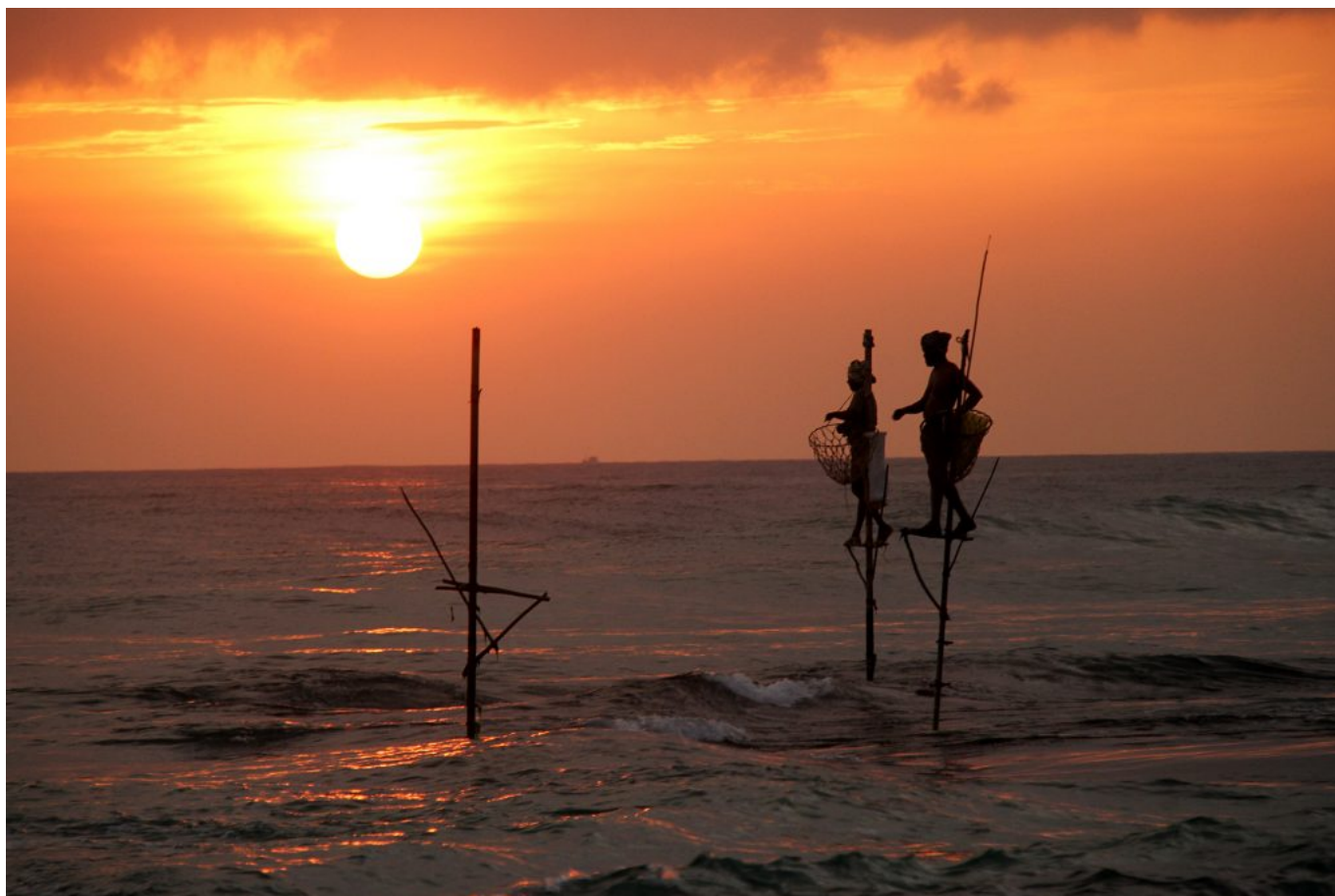
The safaris in search of leopard, elephant and shy sloth bear will be a fantastic experience, we will visit the **Yala National Park** and the **Kaudulla National Park** or the nearby **Minneriya National Park**.





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Finally a bit of relaxation on the splendid beaches of **Galle** where you can observe the traditional wading fishermen.



## Itinerary

### Visit of Sigiriya in Sri Lanka

Sigiriya, also known as Lion Rock, is a spectacular rock formation on top of which are the ruins of a fortified palace built by King Kasyapa.

The climb on the rock is fascinating and you can admire the wonderful frescoes that decorate the surfaces of the rock; it is believed that the frescoes occupied an area of 140 meters in length and 40 meters in height.

The entrance to the royal area takes place through a portal formed by two huge lion's paws,



today only the paws remain but it is believed that in the past the structure had the shape of a seated lion.

## **Visit of Dambulla in Sri Lanka**

Dambulla is the largest of Sri Lanka's cave temple sites, dating back to the 1st century BC. and contains over 150 Buddha images, lightly lit to create the magical atmosphere.

A series of five caves, most of which have been hewn by hand and some of the incredible series of Buddha statues are still embedded in the rock.

The magic of Dambulla lies in its mystical atmosphere, the monks dressed in orange robes silently parade among the tourists and the effigies of the Buddha seem to smile and bless those present.

## **Visit of Polonnaruwa**

Polonnaruwa a medieval city, a UNESCO heritage site, is the old capital, it has well-preserved monuments that provide clear evidence of the glory of Sri Lanka's past.

Among the most important monuments is the Royal Palace complex including the Royal Palace and the Audience Hall, the spectacular Gal Vihare complex of four huge Buddha images, carved from a single granite slab.

Here are also some of the best examples of Hindu influence: the temples of Shiva, the intricate statues of the Hindu gods, the fascinating Buddhist temples, the Lankatilleka and Watadage, the Galpotha, the lotus bath, the Kiri Vihare Dagoba and the remains of a former temple are other impressive sights.

## **Safari in Yala National Park**

Yala National Park is the most famous park in Sri Lanka thanks to a spectacular landscape overlooking the ocean and above all for the high concentration of wild animals.

Yala National Park is the protected area with the highest concentration of leopards in the world, and protects numerous animal species including Indian buffalo, elephants, crocodiles, wild boars and deer are the most common animals in the park.



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There are many ornithological varieties such as the blue peacock with its fascinating plumage and the Indian tantalus belonging to the stork species.

The territory of Yala has areas of savannah similar to that of Africa, marshes and lakes infested with crocodiles, long ocean beaches and dense forests.

## Useful Info

The period of **tropical cyclones**, which bring heavy rain and wind, runs from April to December, with two peaks in May and November.

Sri Lanka is characterized by a **tropical climate**, hot and humid all year round, but the best times to visit the country are February and March.

Camera and binoculars for safaris; sunscreen, sunglasses and snorkeling equipment for the sea area.

To enter the temples it is necessary to take off your shoes and dress respectfully so no too deep necklines or clothing considered "extravagant".

The Trans-African is an epic journey that, crossing the African continent, allows you to discover the various ecosystems, populations, traditions and beauties of Africa.

**Our Trans-African adventure itinerary crosses Africa from south to north, touching 12 countries**, each with unique characteristics and iconic destinations; **we will cross deserts, forests, savannas and mountainous areas** in search of wild animals, populations that still live following a traditional lifestyle, the scents, flavors of the many cuisines and architectural masterpieces.

But it will not be just a journey for its own sake, **it will be an opportunity to really help the populations and realities involved in the protection and conservation** that we will encounter along our travel itinerary.

In fact, **the mobile clinic of a non-profit organization in Turin will accompany us by providing assistance to villages** where doctors and medicines are difficult to find, **we will also stay overnight or visit structures that deal with animal conservation**, from the Cheetah Foundation that deals with cheetahs in Namibia to David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust that takes care of orphaned elephants in Kenya, the Giraffe Center also in Nairobi, the





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Khama Rhino Sanctuary in Botswana, passing from a sports association that helps children and young people to grow up in a healthy environment by practicing sports in Tanzania by pushing them away so from the street.

The entire journey of the Trans-African, with departure scheduled for August 2022, will last **108 days**, but we have divided the route into **5 stages**; it is also possible to participate in just one stage or as many as you wish, in this way it is possible for everyone to participate in this great adventure.

## Trans-African route from Cape Town in South Africa to Victoria Falls

**The first stage starts from Cape Town in South Africa and reaches the Victoria Falls in Zambia / Zimbabwe**, it is a stage that includes a **double itinerary**, you can choose the route that crosses Namibia or the further east route that crosses Botswana.

**The itinerary from Cape Town to the Victoria Falls is an interesting stage from both a landscape and a naturalistic point of view.**

**South Africa** will welcome us with one of the most beautiful cities in the world **Cape Town**, we will visit the **Cape of Good Hope** where ideally two oceans meet; South Africa will also give us the infinite landscapes of the **desert area of the Karoo**, the pristine beaches of the **West Coast**, ancient colonial and commercial villages and **the dynamic Johannesburg**.

**Namibia** is the land of wide open spaces, **the oldest desert in the world**, the second largest canyon in the world and a national park famous for its landscapes and the animals that inhabit it: the **Etosha National Park**.

**Botswana** is home to the highest concentration of elephants in the world, one third of the elephants on the planet are found in this country, mainly in the **Chobe National Park and in the Okavango Delta**.

In Botswana we will also have the opportunity to glide silently along the canals of the [Okavango Delta](#) aboard the traditional boats made from a tree trunk: the **mokoro**.

**Namibia** and **Botswana** are also the land of the **San** people, known as the Bushmen, an ancient people who have inhabited these inhospitable lands for thousands of years and who still live a simple life following ancient traditions.



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**Zambia**, along with Zimbabwe, is the home of **Victoria Falls**, one of the most stunning natural spectacles in the world.



## Trans-African route from Victoria Falls to Nairobi in Kenya

The second stage of our Trans-African will take us from **Victoria Falls** through Zambia, we will discover the green Malawi and the wild Tanzania with its spectacular national parks; finally, after visiting the [Amboseli National Park](#), in Kenya, we will reach **Nairobi**.

Zambia, in addition to the Victoria Falls, also boasts national parks of the highest level, rich in biodiversity and with very high concentrations of animals, we will visit the South Luangwa National Park, also known as the leopard park.

We will then arrive in **Malawi** where we will visit the **Nyika National Park** and **Lake Malawi**, which offers crystal clear waters and colorful fish and which is located in the pit of the Rift Valley.

### Tanzania

**Tanzania is the country of nature safaris**, its parks and nature reserves are famous for their breathtaking landscapes and for **the highest concentration of lions in the world** and for the incredible natural event that takes place every year: the Great Migration.



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In [Tanzania](#) we will visit **three very interesting populations** for their ceremonies, traditions and rites of passage; we will visit the **Hadzabe**, a primitive people of hunter-gatherers, we will meet the **Datoga**, skilled blacksmiths whose women show off particular scarifications and finally the **Maasai**, perhaps the warrior people among the best known in the entire African continent.

The second stage will end by taking us from the **Ngorongoro** plateau to the salty expanses of the **Amboseli National Park** in Kenya where the last African Big Tuskers are located, that is, the elephants with enormous tusks that sometimes even touch the ground.

In **Nairobi**, the capital of Kenya we will go to visit the **Giraffe Center**, an organization that works to save the rare Rothschild giraffes, the **David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** and the elephant orphanage and **Kazuri** an association that helps lonely women and single mothers, offering them a job in the production of terracotta jewelry.

The second stage of our Trans-Africa adventure ends in Nairobi.





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## Trans-African route from Nairobi in Kenya to Abbis Abeba in Ethiopia

The third stage of our Trans-African starts from the city of Nairobi in [Kenya](#) and heads north where we will explore the arid lands of the **Samburu National Park** and the savannahs and acacia forests of the **Lake Nakuru National Park**; from here we will continue towards the shores of Lake Victoria from where we will enter the land of the gorillas: **Uganda**.

The forests of Uganda are one of the last paradises to observe **mountain gorillas**, but Uganda also offers splendid **4×4 safaris and boat trips** to observe the animals.

After discovering and admiring the wonders of Uganda we will return to Kenya and head to the remote areas of the north; here is Lake Turkana, a turquoise gem set in the desert, also



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some of the traditional populations live in this semi-desert area: the Turkana, the Rendille and the Pokot.

### **Ethiopia**

From the far north of Kenya we will enter **Ethiopia** and we will get lost in that **kaleidoscope of cultures and populations that is the Omo Valley**.

[The Omo Valley](#) is a magical place where many populations live who have ancestral traditions, practice very interesting and different ceremonies and rituals from one tribe to another.

We will meet the **Hamer**, famous for the ritual of transition to adulthood of the boys called the **Bull Jumping**, we will enter a **fortified village of the Konso people**, we will go to the banks of the Omo river to admire the **elaborate body painting of the Kara** and finally, in the Mago National Park, we will meet **the Mursi famous for the lip plates**, worn by women as a beauty accessory.

Finally, we will reach **Addis Ababa**, the capital of Ethiopia, with the Ethiopian Orthodox churches and cathedrals and the very interesting National Museum which displays the skeleton of Lucy, the most famous and best preserved hominid ever.



## Trans-African route from Abbis Abeba in Ethiopia to Khartoum in Sudan

The fourth stage of our Trans-African starts from Addis Ababa and runs along the roads that lead north, we will then visit the destinations of the so-called **Historical Route of Ethiopia**: the city of **Lalibela with its incredible rock-cut churches**, we will visit **Lake Tana with the richly frescoed monasteries** and we will go to **Gondar, an ancient city** that still has numerous castles and palaces.

At this point we will leave Ethiopia to reach **Sudan** where the **legendary Karthoum** and





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the desert where **the pyramids of the Black Pharaohs** stand out, the archaeological site of Meroe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site will be one of the most evocative places we will visit.

We will sleep in the desert to admire an incredible starry sky and visit mysterious ruins swallowed by the sand.

## **Trans-African route from Khartoum in Sudan to Cairo in Egypt**

The fifth and last stage will take us **from Karthoum**, through its desert and its archaeological sites, **to Cairo**, Egypt, making a journey through millennia of history that have made this land **an open-air museum**.

We will visit **northern Sudan** and sleep in the desert admiring the starry sky without the slightest light pollution, we will also explore **the ruins of ancient caravanserais** where the caravans, which crossed the desert, found a safe place to rest and stock up on food and water.

**Egypt** will welcome us with one of the most significant monuments of Ancient Egypt: **the Temple of Abu Simbel**.

From the shores of Lake Nasser we will reach **Aswan to embark on a three-day Nile Cruise** that will take us to **Luxor** after visiting the temples that rise along the way.

**In Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens** will show us their masterpieces painted on the walls of the tombs and the **Temples of Luxor and Karnak** will show us the majesty and architectural ingenuity of Ancient Egypt.

We will then reach the **Red Sea in Hurgada** for a little relaxation and to enjoy the beauty of the crystal clear waters of the sea and its spectacular coral bottoms; from here, through the desert, we will reach Cairo, the last stage of this great adventure.

**In Cairo** we will visit the **Giza Plateau with the Pyramids and the Sphinx**, the new **Egyptian Museum, the Citadel and the colorful and famous souq of the city**.

In Cairo, a 108-day journey will end across a continent that will smile at us, invite us to enter their homes, offer us exquisite dishes and leave indelible memories in our memory.



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For more information or to travel with us: [www.transafrica-adventure.com](http://www.transafrica-adventure.com)



Sudan is an original, mysterious and unique destination, still unknown to the most, this is the area where African and Arab cultures meet.

The history of Sudan is very linked to that of Ancient Egypt and the Nubian black pharaohs gave birth to a powerful dynasty, the Nile river crosses the Sahara desert and along its valley there are very interesting archaeological sites of the Egyptian and Meroitic civilizations, the most of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The magnificence of the archaeological ruins and the grandeur of the pyramids fascinate those lucky enough to venture into these desert lands.

People of Sudan are extremely friendly, welcoming and the large markets are fascinating places where you can learn about some characteristics of Sudanese daily life.

## Itinerary

### Old Dongola

[Old Dongola](#), the ancient Christian capital of the Makuria Kingdom, is now a deserted city located on the east bank of the Nile.





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Dongola was founded in the 5th century as a fortress, but an inhabited center soon developed around it; later with the arrival of Christianity it became the capital of Makuria and several churches were built.

The ruins of churches, monasteries and a cathedral are still visible today.



### **Karima, ancient Napata and the necropolis, Jebel Barkal**

[Jebel Barkal](#), Jabal Barkal or Pure Mountain, is a relief that rises in the desert on a wide bend of the Nile near the fourth cataract and represents the maximum limit of Egyptian expansion to the south, in the territory of Nubia, under the reign of the pharaoh Thutmose III.

In this place, the ruler founded the city of Napata, which about 300 years later became the capital of the independent kingdom of Kush.

Napata was the main center of the Kushite kingdom and here the great temple of Amun was erected at the base of the sacred Jebel Barkal mountains which became the center of





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worship of the god.

The royal necropolis of the ancient city of Napata had a large number of pyramids divided into three different places.

A first block of pyramids was placed on the western side of Mount Jebel Barkal where today we can see ruins of ancient pyramids of unknown royals.

Another site is in El Kurru, about ten kilometers south of the Pure Mountain where it is possible to visit one of the two tombs carved into the rock under the pyramids, partially collapsed, and totally decorated with images of the Pharaoh, the gods and multicolored hieroglyphic inscriptions.

Finally, the necropolis of Nuri on the east bank of the Nile where there are the pyramids of 19 kings and over 50 pyramids of queens.



El Kurru



Nuri

## Royal Necropolis of Meroe

Around the third century BC the Royal necropolises were moved from Napata to Meroe, which is located 3 km from the Nile on some hills covered with yellow sand dunes.

The site of the Royal Necropolis of Meroe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has more than 40 pyramids in good condition; these monuments of the Meroitic Kingdom are among the



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most important finds of the entire African continent.

The Nubian pyramids do not have a mortuary inside like the Egyptian pyramids, the actual tomb is dug below the pyramid itself and is connected to the outside via an inclined tunnel.

In front of the pyramids there is a small votive chapel with the walls entirely decorated with bas-reliefs showing the life of royalty and gods.



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### **Mussawwarat El Sufra and Naga**

The site of **Mussawarat** is located in a beautiful valley crowned by hills, on the site you can see the ruins of a very large temple that once played a role of exceptional importance; its main feature, the “Great Enclosure” is made up of numerous buildings and surrounding walls that surround a temple built in the 1st century AD.

A curiosity is given by the large number of elephants represented on the walls which suggests that this animal played an important role in this area.

**Naga** is one of the two centers that developed most during the Meroitic period, here there is a temple dedicated to Apedemak: a wonderful building with bas-relief decorations depicting the god with the lion’s head, the Pharaoh, nobles and various images rituals.

A short distance away is a small and unique building with arches and columns, called a kiosk, in which Egyptian, Roman and Greek styles can be seen at the same time.

Not far from the kiosk there is another temple dedicated to Amon with numerous statues of rams and beautiful doors decorated with bas-reliefs.



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### **The city of Khartoum**

Khartoum is the capital of Sudan and of the state of Khartoum. It is located at the confluence of the White Nile which flows north from Lake Victoria in Uganda and the Blue Nile which flows west from Ethiopia.

Khartoum looks like a busy city, a mix of peoples and traditions, typical African markets and new skyscrapers.

Don't miss the noisy camel market where you can attend animated negotiations and take splendid photographs of the funny and extravagant animals.





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Sierra Leone is a fascinating and rapidly growing country after a troubled past which has seen it isolated from the rest of the world but which has left its traditions intact.

The capital Freetown: *the city of free men* was founded by freed slaves in the Americas who crossed the ocean a second time to return to mother earth Africa and here gave birth to an economic and cultural elite called Krio.

The Sierra Leoneans are a friendly people, loving life and willing to show different aspects of their culture such as the female society of masks and the Poro, the most difficult of male initiations.

In the still intact forests, the diamond hunters, who have made these lands famous, work tirelessly in search of the precious stones.

The forests not only hide precious diamonds but also a good presence of wild animals including many primates, some endemic species and the adorable pygmy hippo.

The country is renowned for its splendid beaches of fine sand considered the most beautiful in West Africa.

## Itinerary

### Makeni and the Temne tribe

Makeni, main city of the north province, is famous for the market where local goods and colorful cloths can be found.

Near Makemi we will visit a typical village of the Temne ethnic group to attend amazing traditional male and female dances.

A Temne settlement contains a central meetinghouse surrounded by circles of mud-and-wattle houses with thatched roofs.



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### **Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary**

Tiwai Island is a small island of only 12 square kilometers where you can immerse yourself in one of the few stretches of native rainforest in West Africa that is home to a remarkable variety of plants, animals and above all primates.

In this incredible natural context with small boats we will glide along the river, immersed in a wild and grandiose landscape, we will also take a walk in the primary forest to discover plants, animals, colobus, chimpanzees and the rare and endemic vervet Diana.

If we'll lucky, we will also be able to meet the shy and endangered pygmy hippo.





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### **Boijabo**

Boajibu is a city in the eastern province of Sierra Leone and capital of the Chiefdom of Simbaru or the district of Simbaru.

In this area we will meet a woman who plays the role of village head, one of the few "Paramount Chief" ladies.

In the Simbaru area we will visit the surroundings villages to discover traditional dances. We can attend the Mende masks' dance from the Sande secrete female society and the ones form the [Poro male society](#).



## Diamond mines

Visit to a diamond mining site where we can learn about the various stages of research, the miners use sieves, spades and buckets.; a very hard work.

The artisanal miners work in a group, one member dives into the river with the bucket in order to scoop up mud from the riverbed while a second holds him down so that the tide won't pull him away. Lastly, the third member of the group gathers the bucket and pours it into a pile. After enough mud has been collected, he begins to sift through it in search of diamonds.







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### **Banana Island**

Boat excursion to the Banana Island archipelago, a small corner of paradise on the Atlantic Ocean.

We will stop in Dublin to visit a traditional village; Dublin is one of the three islands that together with Ricketts and Mes-Meheux form the archipelago.

A tasty lunch in a typical restaurant on the beach will be a unique experience.

Stews, smoked fish, peanuts and banana leaves: just some of the tastiest components of Sierra Leone cuisine; the country's food is a reflection of its complex history, drawing from the flavors of Africa, the West Indies and the Americas.

One thing that most meals have in common is a large serving of rice.

### **Freetown, the city of free men**

The country's vivacious capital, Freetown, is a harmonious blend of mountains, sea and city; it is a bustling port city full of colorful architecture.

A visit to the National Museum is essential to learn about finds related to the traditional rites of secret societies and the mysterious Nomoli stones.

There are many points of interest that Freetown offers such as the Cotton Tree, symbol of the city, and the general market the Bo's Big Market known for local craftsmanship and where you can buy beautiful fabrics from West Africa, learn curious anecdotes from herbal remedies pros and taste *poyo* or palm wine.

The stone and wood architecture, typical of the Krio cultures, is interesting; the origin of the Krio dates back to 1786 when the British brought the first 308 slaves freed in the Americas to the coasts of Sierra Leone

The surroundings of the city offer beautiful beaches and Bunce Island, one of the most important hubs of the slave trade in West Africa, which remained active until the British colonization which prohibited slavery.

A large fortress, now in ruins, was used to gather the slaves before they were embarked to the New World.



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[Require your personalized itinerary](#)

Twelve days dedicated to exploring the majesty of the Kalahari desert in [Botswana](#), we will use a reserved **mobile camp** to totally immerse ourselves in the wilderness and live an authentic adventure, in the evening at the camp the atmosphere is incredible with the fire pit in the center that takes us back to the times of the first explorers.

Starting from Maun we will go south to enter the **Central Kalahari Game Reserve**, an area of the Kalahari basin of over 52,000 square kilometers that offers spectacular views and a sense of total adventure.

The animals present in the area are examples of adaptation to extreme climates and conditions.

We will then continue in the Nxai Pan National Park, a park famous for its huge baobabs and savannah and pan that flood during the rainy period, creating an incredible scenery.



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After exploring [Nxai Pan National Park](#) we will continue our adventure to Kubu Island which is part of the [Makgadikgadi Pans](#) complex.

Finally we will reach Nata for a fantastic day at the Elephant Sand Camp for a close encounter with elephants.

The safari ends in Kasane where it will be possible to take a boat safari on the Chobe River.

### **The pluses of our mobile camp safari in Botswana:**

- 4 × 4 safari car open on the sides for greater visibility with up to 6 people on board;
- we camp inside the national parks and not outside the gates, this implies that we are always “at the center of the action”;
- the cost of our safari includes everything: all the entrances to the national parks and reserves, the cost of the car and its refueling, the staff who set up and dismantle the camp, the food shopping and the cook who cooks all the meals , the professional safari guide.

## **Itinerary**

### **Central Kalahari Game Reserve**

**The Central Kalahari Reserve** is a large protected area, it is a remote and isolated place where you have the feeling of being out of time, where tourists are few and often you have the privilege of observing animals alone without other cars such as happens in other parks.

The grassy and sandy plains of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve are endless and apparently lifeless but the reality is different, in the reserve you can observe numerous animal species that have adapted to live in an extreme context: there are lions, hyenas, leopards, giraffes, oryx, some elephants and numerous species of antelope.

During the dry season, the water holes are an ideal place to observe the animals that come to drink.

The night is the ideal time to observe the stars, there is no light pollution and even the silence is absolute interrupted only by some distant call.

We will spend 4 days exploring the expanses of the Central Kalahari and enjoying incredible sunsets.





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### **Nxai Pan National Park**

Nxai Pan National Park is always part of the basin of the great Kalahari Desert, it is famous for its majestic baobabs and for the animals that populate its vast savannas.

Numerous species of animals can be observed in the park, elephants are present in good numbers as well as giraffes that unite to form large herds that elegantly furrow the savannas of the park; other animals present are zebras, the magnificent kudu, ostriches, wildebeest, springboks and other species of mammals.

The baobabs are the main attraction of the park, they are majestic and very ancient, they have grown on islands that come out of the flooded plains during the rainy months; the fact of being on these small hills makes them even more spectacular and impressive.





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### Kubu Island

**Kubu Island** is a granite outcrop no more than 10 meters high that rises above a white saline expanse that extends as far as the eye can see.

On this small island, which in the past was one of the islands of a dried up lake, numerous baobabs grow which make the place very suggestive and fascinating.

At dusk it is possible to observe some brown hyena venturing out in search of food.

Camping on Kubu island is a unique and unforgettable experience.



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Benin is a West African state rich in traditions and ancient ceremonies, the state religion is voodoo and **January 10** is a special day during which the population celebrates ancestral cults, in particular all the voodoo adepts gather in the Ouidah region in the south of the country for the famous **Voodoo Festival**.

Festival attendees are dressed in traditional costumes and white is the predominant color, enlivened by the colorful glass beads.

The climax of the voodoo festival is reached with the arrival of Dagbo Houno, the chief priest of Ouidah.

Dances, libations, masks characterize the celebration.

The trip will continue showing the best of Benin, we will know the **Taneka** and **Somba** who build houses like small clay castles, the Fon and the **ancient kingdom of Abomey**, the ethnicity of the **Tofinou** and the important **Fetish of Dankoli**, an important place of



voodoo worship.

## Ouidah, Voodoo Festival

In Benin, January 10 is the day of the [Voodoo Festival](#), during which traditional religion and its cults are honored, in particular in the Ouidah region there are voodoo celebrations that bring together **thousands of adepts, traditional leaders and feticheur**.

Ouidah is considered one of the capitals of African voodoo, in this city, an ancient port of the slave trade with a decadent Afro-Portuguese architecture, the Temple of the pythons and the Catholic Cathedral cohabit opposite each other.

In Ouidah we will visit: the **Temple of the Pythons** who are venerated as voodoo protectors of the city, the Portuguese Fort transformed into a museum on the slave trade and finally the **Slave Road** traveled by thousands of slaves before being embarked in the direction of the new world.

## Ganvie and the Tofinou people

Across **Lake Nokwe**, aboard motorized boats, you reach **Ganvie**, an extensive and delightful village on stilts whose inhabitants, of the Tofinou ethnic group, build their huts on teak poles and cover the roofs of the houses with a thick layer of leaves.

The isolation in which they live has allowed them to preserve their original building habits and rules.

Fishing is the main activity of this population; in the pirogues, which men, women and children lead with ease with the help of long sticks, daily life is marked.





## Abomey, the ancient Dahomey kingdom

**In Abomey** we'll visit the Royal Palace; its walls decorated with bas-reliefs representing symbols of the ancient Dahomey kings.

The Royal Palace is now a museum listed on the Unesco World Heritage List, the palace displays items belonging to the ancient rulers: thrones, cult altars, statues, costumes and weapons.

Kingdom economy was for a long time based on the slave trade: a permanent state of war made it possible for the kings to capture thousands of prisoners whom they then sold as slaves.

The royal army included a female troop famous for its boldness and aggressive fighting spirit; at the height of their power there were up to 4.000 women in the palace harem.



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In the middle of the royal courtyard there is a temple built with a mixture of clay, gold dust and human blood

### Tribal masks

The journey will take us to traditional villages where we will witness ceremonies and dances with traditional masks that represent as a link with the spirit world.

### Zangbeto masks

The Zangbeto mask is a large mask covered with colored straw and **represents non-human spirits**, the forces of nature and the night that inhabited the world before man.

Who wears the masks is part of a secret society and their identity is unknown to the non-initiated, the heavy masks prevent from recognizing the person wearing it guaranteeing secrecy.

The presence of the mask is a feast for the village as it guarantees the protection of spirits and drives away threatening presences.



## Egun masks

Egun masks **represent the spirits of the deceased**; they are masks from the tradition of the Yoruba people who believe in ancestor worship.

Who wears the masks belongs to a secret society of priests, the initiates wear heavy colored masks and have the task of bringing spirits back to the world of the living.





## Gelede masks

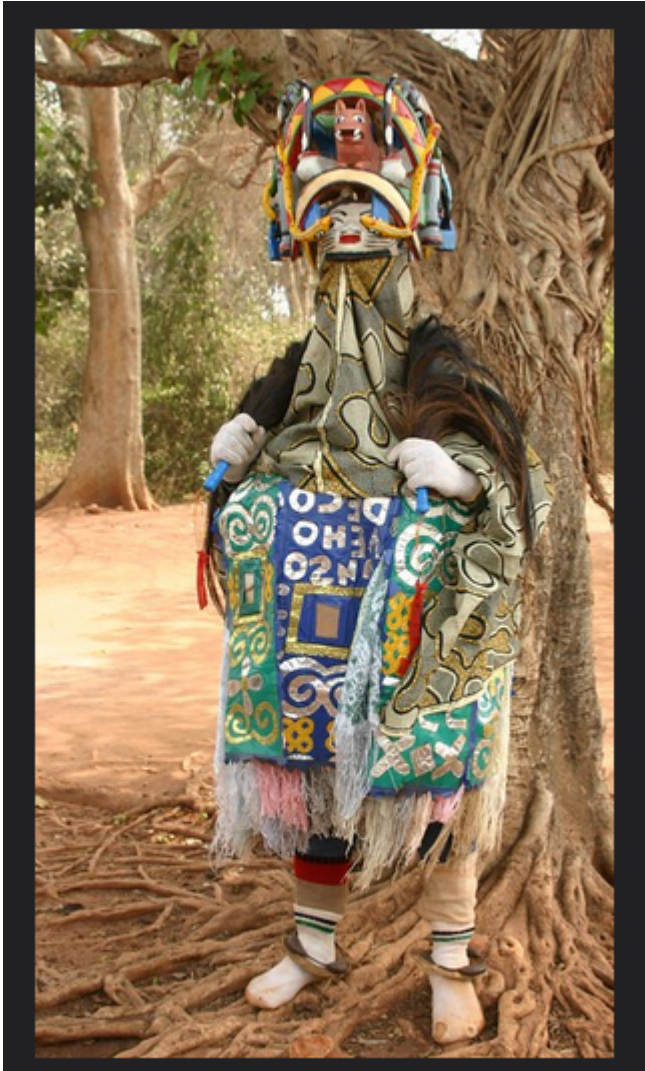
Gelede masks are part of the Yoruba traditions and **refer to the cult of the Great Mother, the primordial spirit source of all existence.**

The dance of the Gelede masks is believed to serve to propitiate the fertility of the land and women but also to teach virtuous behavior for the life of the village.

Gelede masks are worn with a costume made up of layers of elaborate and colorful cloth and with a carved and painted wooden headdress.



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### Taneka and Somba villages

[The traditional Taneka villages](#) are particularly interesting for their complicated social structure and an ancient example of multicultural and religious coexistence while the [fortified houses of the Somba](#) have been declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.

[Book with us your next trip](#)

Malawi is a landlocked country, running down the end of the Great Rift Valley that cut the African continent from North to South; a perfect destination for safari and beach.



## MOZAMBIQUE: The fabulous archipelago of Bazaruto and Vilanculos

Dominated by Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa, the surrounding country is exceptionally beautiful with dramatic scenery that includes rocky outcrops, high mountains, plateaus and views across what is considered to be Africa's most beautiful lake.

Malawi is known as the ***Warm Heart of Africa*** and as people, the Malawians live up to this name; they are extremely friendly and welcoming.

There are many market scenes, road side stalls, cottage industries that a visitor can comfortably visit.

With both the scenery and the culture Malawi is a great country to visit.

## Itinerary

### Liwonde National Park

**Liwonde National Park** is considered to be one of the **top birding locations** in Southern Africa.

The park offers some of the most scenic game viewing, beautiful riverine surroundings and varied bird watching you could wish to find.

A great deal of the terrain is Shire River floodplains, much loved by the healthy population of Elephants in this park; they are best viewed during your boat safari on the Shire River.

Explore the Shire River and lagoons is an excellent opportunity for sightings of elephants, hippo, crocodile and bird life.

**Birding is rewarding**; specialities include: Lillian's lovebird, brown breasted barbet, osprey, palmnut vulture, Pel's fishing owl and Livingstone's flycatcher.

Also available is a viewing hide on a tributary of the Shire River and also some interesting visits to the local school and surrounding rural communities.





## Majete Wildlife Reserve

**Majete Wildlife Reserve** is [Malawi](#)'s only **Big 5 Reserve** and also one of the largest protected areas, and covers an area of over 700 sq km.

The reserve is located within the Miombo woodland ecoregion and much of the higher lying areas in the west of the park are dominated by Miombo/Brachystegia woodland. Mixed Combretum woodlands and mosaics of riparian forest can be found in the East of Majete.

The activities on offer include game-drives, boating safaris, bush walks, hiking **Majete Hill**, cultural tours, birding trips on the **Shire River** and game-viewing from a hide.



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Sit on the private deck and marvel at the sights and sounds of the river

### Lake Malawi National Park

The Lake Malawi National Park was established in order to protect the cichlid fish unique to the area. In 1984 the park was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Lake Malawi is the world's **most ecologically diverse lake**. Its crystal clear waters are home to more than a thousand species of fish, including hundreds of species of colourful cichlids.

**Various water-sports** such as snorkeling, fishing, sailing, kayaking, waterskiing, wake boarding and fun tube are offered.

A sunset cruise onboard the dhow is a great experience; [book now!](#)





## MOZAMBIQUE: The fabulous archipelago of Bazaruto and Vilanculos



Sunset on the dhow

Namibia is a fascinating country where large spaces leave you speechless and where the sense of freedom is contagious; **the immensity of the Namib Desert, the animals and safaris in the Etosha National Park, the majesty of the Fish River Canyon** are the highlights of this trip.

A 12-day trip to Namibia allows you to grasp the essence of this beautiful African country.

**Namibia is a mostly desert country**; in fact, here is the **Namib Desert**, the oldest desert in the world that occupies a large part of the country's territory; the tall orange dunes lie along the coast and plunge into the cold Atlantic Ocean.

The rest of the country is also semi-desert and is part of the Great Kalahari basin.

**Etosha National Park**, in Northern Namibia, contains a large dried up salt lake and a





## MOZAMBIQUE: The fabulous archipelago of Bazaruto and Vilanculos

portion of savannah where animals are concentrated and where safaris are carried out.

The trip also allows you to enjoy breathtaking views and travel along some of the most scenic roads on the continent; it will also take you to admire the majesty of the **Fish River Canyon**, the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon in the USA.

This itinerary also allows you to learn about the culture of the native populations of Namibia such as the **San** and their petroglyphs, as well as the cities and ancient settlements of the European colonizers, walking through the streets of **Swakopmund** is like diving into a corner of Bavaria.

## Safari at the Etosha National Park in Namibia

[The Etosha National Park](#) is a wonderful and unique natural and protected area, the landscapes are spectacular and dominated by the immense expanse of the pan, the great dried up salt lake.

The park is home to numerous animal species, it is an **unmissable destination for nature and animal lovers**, safaris at **the Etosha National Park** always give great satisfaction, especially during the dry season, in the months from June to October, during which the animals are concentrated near the pools making sightings rather simple.

*Great white place*, as it is called in the local language, is a protected area that hosts lions, hyenas, leopards, zebras, rhinos, kudus, the endemic black-faced impalas and the “ghost elephants” called like this because they use the sand of the pan to protect their skin and then they turn white.



## Swakopmund and the Skeleton Coast

**Swakopmund** is a wonderful **historic town** overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, with its sloping roofs and its decidedly German architecture giving it a particular atmosphere, it seems a bit like being in Bavaria and in fact there is no shortage of excellent breweries.

Not far from Swakopmund is **Cape Cross**, where you can see the **largest colony of sea lions** in the Southern hemisphere, an unforgettable experience; it is estimated that the sea lions present on the beach and in the waters of Cape Cross are a variable number between 80,000 and 100,000 specimens.

North of Swakopmund and Cape Cross is the infamous and feared [Skeleton Coast](#), here there are several wrecks of ships, some rusty remains of some mysterious instrument and stretches of sand; not everyone decides to go into this extreme and inhospitable territory, but it is possible to spot the wreck of Zeila before arriving at the **Spectral gate of the Skeleton Coast**.



## Exploring the Namib Desert at Sossusvlei

The **Namib Desert** is the oldest desert in the world and a magical and indescribable place; here it is possible to admire the large orange sand dunes, such as the famous **Dune 45**, **Dune 17** and above all the **Big Daddy**, the highest dune; it is possible to climb the dunes to enjoy indescribable views from the top. Also not to be missed is the visit of the vlei, especially the **Deadvlei** where the black skeletons of ancient trees stand out against the red of the dunes and the white of the salt of the dried up pools.



## Visit to the Fish River Canyon

The **Fish River Canyon** is a wonder of nature, carved and shaped over millennia by the Fish River; admiring the majesty of this place, from the numerous vantage points, leaves you speechless.

The Fish River Canyon is **the second largest canyon in the world**, after the Grand Canyon, and, in addition to the views, it offers the opportunity to observe different animals that live both on the banks and on the bottom of the canyon.

## Useful Info

The climate of [Namibia](#) is mostly desertic, especially along the coast, in the Southern part of the country and in the North-East, while it is sub-tropical in the North on the border with





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Angola and in the Caprivi Strip; however, there is a rainy season in the months from December to March, even if the rains are infrequent and are often short but intense showers.

Namib Desert area receives very little rainfall while temperatures are regulated by the cold Benguela ocean current.

The best time to enjoy a trip to Namibia is **from March until December**.



The Republic of Madagascar is a beautiful and large island located in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of East Africa.

**Madagascar** is one of the most unusual and interesting places on the planet, it is rich in nature and wildlife; there are few countries in the world that offer the same biodiversity as Madagascar.

Madagascar hosts 11,000 species of endemic plants, 80% of which are found only on the Malagasy island; the same goes for the fauna: there are some unique endemic animals such as the fossa, a skilled predator, and many species of lemurs.



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The cute lemurs are one of the reasons to visit Madagascar, the endemic species of lemurs present on the island do not exist anywhere else in the world.

North Madagascar is a perfect tourist destination for beach, wildlife and nature lovers, offering everything that is unique about Madagascar: from Madagascar's endemic fauna, such as lemurs and chameleons to the rainforest, stunning turquoise lagoons, beaches and iconic baobabs.

The Northern part of Madagascar is also home to the famous cocoa plantations of Madagascar and the ylang-ylang tree.

During this 12-day trip you can also relax on the paradisiacal beaches of **Nosy Be** and **Diégo-Suarez** and enjoy numerous water activities.

### **Visit to Diego Suarez and the 3 bays in Madagascar**

You will visit three wonderful bays: Sakalava Bay, the Dunes Bay, a quiet and uncrowded place, with a beach of fine white sand, a wonder of nature, and finally the Pigeon Bay.

There is the opportunity to walk along these three bays and discover the local fauna and flora; moreover the crystalline sea is a unique spectacle.

Then you visit the military camp with its lighthouse and its cannons, a legacy from the colonial era.



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## **Visit to the Montagne d'Ambre National Park in Madagascar**

You will discover the first National Park of Madagascar, the Montagne d'Ambre; this park was created in 1958 and is located in the heart of a volcanic region.

The Montagne d'Ambre is a real biological treasure as it protects a magnificent tropical forest, that is preserved from any negative human impact; in addition, a rich and complex nature thrives in this national park.

This park is in fact populated by several endemic bird species and by the smallest chameleon in the world, that measures only 5 centimeters.

Obviously there is no lack of lemurs, here there are different species; moreover it is also possible to meet other mammals, such as the fossa that looks like a puma, but it is necessary to be quite lucky to meet it.





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During the visit, the botanical path is followed, where you can admire different species of plants and shrubs such as canariums, ficus and orchids.

### **Visit to the Tsingy Rossi in Madagascar**

A dirt track heads into an arid area with shrub savannahs until it reaches the Tsingy Rossi, colorful and surreal rock formations that were created by erosion.

The Tsingy Rossi are one of the most impressive and iconic places in the Northern region, they are distinguished by the red earth that is present in this area and for their shapes, that are less pointed than other tsingy on the island: the rock formations look like brick colored blades. and the landscape is unique, it seems to be on planet Mars instead of on Earth.



### **Visit to the Ankarana National Park in Madagascar**

Ankarana National Park is one of the most visited parks in Madagascar and is famous for



## MOZAMBIQUE: The fabulous archipelago of Bazaruto and Vilanculos

the tsingy that are present in its territory and for the largest underground network of rivers and caves in Africa, some of which contain caves where crocodiles live.

The park has great trails, with beautiful landscapes and many animals.

The main attraction of the park is the landscape with its pointed pinnacles and the various caves; the most famous cave in the park is that of Andrafiabe, that is 11 km long and is crossed by more than 100 km of tunnels and passages.

Eleven species of lemurs live among the forests, mountains and incredible rock formations of Ankarana that can be encountered during excursions.

## Trip at Nosy Be in Madagascar

Nosy Be in the Malagasy language means large island, located off the [North-West](#) coast of Madagascar and a paradise for beach, snorkel and diving lovers.

It is impossible not to fall in love with the white sand beaches, the blue sea, the wonderful coral reefs and the endemic fauna of the island.

From Nosy Be it is possible to make excursions to **Nosy Iranja Be** and **Nosy Iranja Kely**; these two islands are connected by a bank of very fine white sand that, during high tide, disappears into the ocean, to reappear only during low tides.

Nosy Be is a [paradise island](#) with its turquoise water, white beaches and lush, bright green vegetation, a wonderful trip in Madagascar.

Turtles, today as centuries ago, go to the beaches of Nosy Iranja to lay their eggs, the name Nosy Iranja means precisely the island of turtles; but here you can also admire numerous types of birds, from terns to herons, and you can witness the passage of some sea eagles.





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### Useful info

Being in the Southern hemisphere, Madagascar has the seasons reversed compared to Europe: all of Madagascar has a **rainy season in the months from November to March**, with a minor impact in the South-West of the country that has an arid climate; while the **dry season is in the months from April to October**.

The rains are often afternoon showers typical of the tropical zone, for the rest of the day the sun shines even during the rainy season, especially in the morning.