



# Madagascar The Ride Bike Tour

## a 16 day Africa Bicycle Tour

Experience and explore the wonderful scenery of Madagascar by joining us on the Cycling in Madagascar tour. Pedal and hike Madagascar's southern reaches, explore national parks, home to the inquisitive lemurs teeming with the island's famous animals, and bed down in comfortable safari lodges and resorts! Spent a couple of days to relax along the oceanside at trip's end before flying back home.

This Madagascar Cycling Tour promises you unbeatable views of the tropical landscape as you bike to mysterious crater lakes, past mesmerizing rice terraces, and through lush rainforests. The ambitious route weaves through the towering granite boulders to a national park, where lemurs live among the orchids, ferns, trumpet flowers and bamboos. In the tea growing region, you will cross valleys of cassava and eucalyptus to reach a rarely-visited village where you will learn the art of traditional Antaimoro papermaking and the renowned Zafimaniry carving. Ride along roads that stretch for miles with little or no traffic and through grasslands, fruit farms, and baobab forests to the warm ocean waters. Discover Madagascar from a purely local point of view.

### Day by Day Itinerary

**Day 1** - After arriving in Antananarivo, the day is at your leisure to explore town. The name Antananarivo means "one thousand warriors", as this was the stronghold for ancient King Andrianjaka.

**Day 2** - Our first day is a bit of a transfer to get away from the hustle and bustle of the capital city. We will shuttle to Antsirabe visiting an aluminium pot making factory in Ambatolampy enrotue. The drive takes us along a gravel road in the highlands, past rice and fruit fields. In the afternoon we will get the bikes set up and enjoy a short warmup ride. (B,L,D) (10 mi)

**Day 3** - On a loop ride we cycle to Lake Andraikiba, where former queens of the Merina tribe used to bath. On secluded tracks passing a few typical highland villages, we head for Lake Tritiva. At the edge of the volcano lake there are wonderful views far across the rolling highlands. In the afternoon we visit a local craft shop where unique miniature bicycles are made. (B,L,D) (31 mi)

**Day 4** - After breakfast we cycle further south on the hilly road to Ambositra, passing many rice terraces of farmers who can harvest up to three times a year. Ambositra is the home of the Zafimaniry carving and we will visit a carpenter. Our hotel tonight has been decorated by local artists. (B,L,D) (58 mi)

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**Day 5** - A morning shuttle takes us to a remote track where we ride through a very beautiful valley overlooked towering granite boulders to Ambohimahaso. Climbing up a bit, we ride through villages and eucalyptus forest until we reach the rain forest of Ranomafana National Park. The last few miles are downhill to our comfortable lodge where we stay for two nights. (B,L,D) (53 mi)

**Day 6** - Today we are taking a break from our bike tour. We will discover the Ranomafana National Park by foot. On a hike through the tropically damp park we will discover the interesting, endemic animal and plant world more closely. We will be drawn by rare birds and many species of lemur. The bamboo lemur was first discovered 20 years ago. In the evening we will embark on a small night walk in the park in order to see the nocturnal animals, for example the mouse lemur. (B,L,D) (Walking time: 4-6 hrs.)

**Day 7** - After breakfast we shuttle back to Andovoka, from where we resume cycling. Villagers in this area make their living selling sand dredged from the rivers and weaving baskets. The Lake Sahambavy region is also known for tea growing, exporting their crops to Kenya Mombasa for local consumption. Overnight in charming bungalows surrounded by tea fields overlooking the lake. (B,L,D) (45 mi)

**Day 8** - Starting our ride in Tala Ampano, we cycle on the quiet roads through many small valleys and farms filled with rice and cassava. We pass an open pit mine where the locals prospect for tourmalines. After that the real adventure starts: the former road is only a foot path. Telling by the reaction of the children no tourists have ever made their way up there. We visit a sacred burial ground of a Betsileo family. Overnight stay in Ambalabao, the wine region of Madagascar. (B,L,D) (43 mi.)

**Day 9** - Attached to our lodge is a craft shop, which produces the well-known Antaimoro paper. We leave the busy little town heading further south. The landscape changes into open grassland savannah dotted with enormous granite mountains. We leave the road entering the Tsaranoro Valley leading into the Andringita Mountains. We stay over at a simple safari camp. In the afternoon we hike to a nearby natural swimming spot. (B,L,D)(35 mi.)

**Day 10** - Our walk today starts at edge of the granite Andringitra Massif. This area is well known for many lemurs, like the lively Catta lemur. Once we reach the Peak of the Chameleon we will enjoy spectacular views over this ancient landscape. (B,L,D)



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**Day 11** - We ride back to Ankaramena. The place is well known for its delicious mango and papaya fruits. We load the bikes and shuttle to Ihosy. In the afternoon we cross the huge Horombe plateau towards Ranohira and of those who want to cycle, you can ride the last 14 miles to our charming lodge right at the foothills of I'salo National Park. (B,L,D) (37 mi.)

**Day 12** - On our bike we will discover some of I'salo National Parks bizarre rock formations and interesting flora, for example pachypodium and euphorbia. In the afternoon we will hike (4 hrs.) through the I'salo Canyon to Lemur Forest. Experience deep gorges with crystal clear waters, the well-known "piscine naturelle" and the unique rocky mountains. (B,L,D) (16 mi.)

**Day 13** - We will enjoy cycling in the morning towards the coast, but after lunch will shuttle the rest of the way to avoid very heavy traffic. . In the afternoon we reach Toliara, home to the Vezo a well-known maritime people. Toliara is the most important trade centre in south Madagascar. We stay in nearby Ifaty for three nights in a nice lodge 3\* directly on the sea. (B,L,D)

**Day 14 & 15** - Enjoy a couple of days of leisure on the coast. Warm ocean waters and a reef teeming with fish just offshore provide great snorkeling options. or if you like to see more of the unique plant life take a walk in nearby Reniala Nature Reserve, which is known for the variety of didieraceae, adasonia, euphorbia and baobab trees. (B)

**Day 16** - Depart Tulear Airport to start your journey home, full of fond memories. (B)

### Dates & Prices:

Please check our website for the currently available dates and the applicable pricing.

<https://pedalers.travel/africa-bike-tours-madagascar-cycling-tour.htm>



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### Why Pedalers?

#### **Experience the Heart and Soul of Each Country with Our Local Expert Team**

Our passionate and diverse team of local experts will guide you through their homeland, sharing intimate knowledge and hidden wonders. They are not just guides but also skilled bike mechanics, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable ride. Unlike other tour companies, Pedalers' local crew brings an insider's perspective to the table. You'll be pampered by a friendly team, equipped with the skills to fix anything. A sweep rider and sag wagon provide support, and your baggage travels comfortably with you. Pedalers treats you like family, making your journey unforgettable.

#### **Indulge in Mouthwatering Local Delights on a Culinary Adventure**

Unlock the essence of culture through food as we take you on a culinary extravaganza. Bond with fellow riders over scrumptious dishes at local restaurants specializing in regional cuisine. Family-style dining lets you sample outstanding dishes, carefully chosen by our expert guides. Lunch is satisfying but not overwhelming, and breakfast offers comforting Western delights. Pedalers knows the importance of good food for cyclists, creating a mouthwatering experience that combines riding and dining.

#### **Immerse Yourself in Authentic Accommodations, Where Culture Meets Comfort**

Discover the charm of our handpicked accommodations. Pedalers takes a unique approach to accommodations, ensuring an authentic and immersive experience. Choose between Classic and Première Classe tours, each offering carefully selected lodging options. Classic tours feature mid-priced boutique inns that blend comfort with local character, while Première Classe tours add a touch of luxury to your adventure with upscale lodges and inns. Regardless of your choice, Pedalers' accommodations reflect the local culture, providing a delightful and comfortable stay that complements your journey.

### **Lodging:**

Moderate hotels, resorts and guesthouses (2 star / 3 star). Two nights in safari camp.



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### What's Included:

- 15 nights Accommodation in the area's better hotels (double occupancy)
- Many meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 16
- Service of bilingual Guide(s)
- Full Van Support
- Daily route directions and maps
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off

### Meeting & Flights:

The tour meets in the afternoon of Day 1 at Antananarivo Airport. Guides will meet your incoming flight between 12 noon and 5 pm, please plan your flights to arrive accordingly. The trip ends with shuttles to Toliara Airport anytime on Day 16.

Fly into Antananarivo Ivato Airport (TNR) before 5 pm on Day 1

Fly out of Toliara Airport (TLE) after 9 am on Day 16

For assistance with flights contact our friends at Exito Travel: [help.pedalers.travel/flights.htm](http://help.pedalers.travel/flights.htm)

### Route Conditions:

The route is a mix of paved roads, dirt roads and a few rough tracks. Terrain is a mix of flat, hilly and mountainous sections. We suggest either a heavy duty touring bikes with wider tires or a mountain bike.

### Visas & Travel Documents:

Passports and visas are required for all guests. Visas for stays up to 90 days are obtained upon arrival at Antananarivo Airport. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended departure dates.

For assistance with obtaining your visas contact our friends at VisaHQ: [help.pedalers.travel/visas.htm](http://help.pedalers.travel/visas.htm)