

# ACACIA AFRICA

## MADAGASCAR DHOW SAILING – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code MDS8

NOSY BE – NOSY BE

8 DAYS

Tour Starts – **Pick up on arrival at Hell-ville Airport**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Nosy Be  
Ankazoberevina Island  
Whale Sharks (In Season)  
Nosy Iranja  
Russian Bay  
Mahalina  
Lokobe Reserve  
Kalakajour  
Snorkelling at Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve  
Nosy Komba



Explore the exquisite islands of northern Madagascar on this seven day sailing voyage aboard a beautiful dhow. Snorkel the reefs, camp on remote islands and enjoy the fascinating wildlife and laid back pace of life in this corner of the Indian Ocean.

### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary.

**This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.**

Duration: 8 Days  
Countries visited: Madagascar

#### DAY 1 Hell-ville, Nosy Be Local guesthouse

On arrival at the airport you will be met by the skipper, tour guide and captain of the dhow and transferred to your hotel in Hell-ville, set high up on a hill with great views over the surrounding area. Hell-ville is the main town of Nosy Be island in northern Madagascar. The town has a relaxed air and the people here are very welcoming. Many women in the area still follow the tradition of wearing face masks made from ground powder. Time here is free for you to settle in; you may like to stroll around the town's markets and pick up an early souvenir or wander down to the waterfront to watch the fishermen bringing in their catches of the day; seafood being a central part of the Malagasy diet. You have this evening at leisure to enjoy a meal at the hotel or in a local restaurant.

#### DAY 2 - 7 Islands of the Nosy Be Archipelago Bx6 Lx6 Dx6 Dhow Sailing & Camping on shore

Today you will be picked up from the hotel by your guide and transferred to the dhow, where you'll meet the dhow crew and others on the cruise (maximum 10). After time to settle in and a short briefing, we leave the port and begin our voyage! Depending on the season and tide and weather conditions, so our route will change, but we will endeavour to visit a number of the following islands around the Nosy Be Archipelago, an area of extreme beauty, seldom visited islands and pristine reefs. Our dhow is newly built, but lovingly created following

traditional designs. We plan to enjoy the whole of our voyage under sail, but we have a motor should we need it. Our days are mainly spent sailing and stopping in bays to swim. We have fishing lines on board and kayaks, should you wish to use them and much of the food we eat as we go along is fresh out of the ocean or natural produce from the islands we visit.

Our route will incorporate some of the following destinations (weather and tide dependant):

**Russian Bay (also known as Ambavatory Bay)**, is located on the mainland and is a beautiful and remote place opposite the Nosy Be archipelago. Enjoy the fantastic marine life here. You may like to try snorkelling or fishing and if lucky you may even spot a whale (in season – October to December) or a rare whale shark. The tropical woods are great for walks and harbour abundant birdlife, reptile and lemurs.

**Nosy Iranja (Island of Turtles)** sits beside Nosy Iranja Kely, connected by a 1.5km long sand bar, negotiable on foot at low tide. The larger of the two islands, it is peaceful and remote, with crystal clear waters, good fishing, wonderful walks and fantastic opportunities to sea kayak and explore on foot. It is also a breeding reserve for hawksbill turtles.

**Kalakajour** offers wonderful opportunities to spot wildlife, with a dense, impenetrable forest on its south coast and beautifully clear waters explorable by kayak. While we usually camp close to the beach, we may use A-frame bungalows here.

**Mahalina**, is a pretty island where there is time to explore its mangrove swamps in kayaks. This precious ecosystem is a haven for birds, fish and crustaceans who shelter from predators among its tangled root system and thick vegetation. We camp on a nearby beach where there is more chance to swim and enjoy the sunset over the nearby coastline. We may also use A-frame bungalows while here, instead of tents.

**Lokobe Reserve** is an idyllic tropical conservation area, 740 hectares in size, and home to the last original Sambirano forest on the Island. We have the chance while here, to walk through this lush forest, home to lemur species including the black lemur and the Nosy Be sportive lemur as well as the panther chameleon and Malagasy tree boa.

**Nosy Tanikely** is home to a marine reserve teeming with underwater flora and fauna, allowing us the chance for some superb snorkeling. The warm waters here harbour rich reefs of marine life including manta rays, turtles, napoleon fish, grouper and coconut crabs, with fantastic visibility. While there is plenty to see in the water with luck we may be able to spot ring-tailed lemurs while stepping on to terre firma.

**Nosy Komba** is an island with quaint villages, craft markets and famously habituated lemurs who may even take a jump onto your shoulders!

## DAY 8 Hell-ville Bx1

Today we return to the port of Hell Ville. After fond farewells to the skipper, crew and the trusty dhow you will be transferred to the airport, from where you can take your onward flight to Antananarivo and beyond.

## TOUR INFORMATION

***This tour offers a complete getaway break in a stunning and remote area of the world. While Nosy Be is growing as a beach destination, many of the islands we visit have few visitors and the reefs and forests we encounter are pristine. If you like the idea of sailing, relaxing on beaches, taking bush walks and eating fresh seafood (maybe caught by yourself) then this is the tour for you! Families welcome.***

### TOUR STYLE

Adventure Tour

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, camping equipment, sleeping mattress, meals as indicated, airport transfers, services of skipper, chef and three dhow crew.

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, departure airport transfer, sleeping bag or sheet, snorkel, kayaks & fishing line hire, tips, soft drinks, optional activities & items of a personal nature.



## MONEY MATTERS

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending at the beginning and end of the tour in Hell-Ville but there is little to spend money on for the rest of the tour. Budget for souvenirs and meals in Hell-ville. All meals on the dhow are included and Hell-Ville restaurants are modest and substantially cheaper than western prices. Regarding spending money, please read the advice below.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euros, which on arrival in Antananarivo can be changed into the local currency. The best currency is US dollars in clean, post-2001 edition notes.
- **Local Currency** is the Malagasy Ariary. This came into affect in 2005 but the old currency, the Malagasy Franc, is sometimes still quoted in markets and rural areas. 1 Ariary = 5 Francs.
- **Travellers cheques** can make suitable emergency funds while travelling, but can only be cashed in Antananarivo. Credit cards can be used in limited places in Antananarivo.
- **ATM machines** are not found in Hell-ville. There are a few in Antananarivo but are unreliable.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

### TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is not obligatory but at your own discretion, if you are happy with the work of your crew.

### INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## Country Information - MADAGASCAR

### Facts

Capital:	Antananarivo (meaning 'town of the thousand warriors')
Size:	587 040 sq km / 364 787 sq miles (fourth largest island in the world)
Population:	18 040 341 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Malayo-Indonesian, Cotiers, French, Indian, Creole, Comoran
Languages:	French, Malagasy
Local time:	GMT + 3
Seasons:	Hot and wet (October-April), dry (May-September)
Currency:	1 Malagasy Ariary = 5 (old currency) Malagasy Francs
Telephone:	Country code 261, international access code 00
Electricity:	220V / 50 Hz, round two pin plug or round pin plug and receptacle with male grounding pin

## Points of Interest

### Nosy Be

One of the main islands of northern Madagascar, this island is connected by an airport and so welcomes a number of tourists every year. However, the island's main **town of Hell Ville** is a largely a typical modest Malagasy town and has a population 30,000. Most people get their income from working in fishing, sugar cane production and at the island's rum distillery. Tourism is playing an increasing part in the island's economy. The town has a popular local market which also sells curios. On the island is also **Lokobe Reserve**. This 740 hectare area of pristine forest is home to the last remaining Sambirano forest on the Island. While the Nosy Be is inhabited by the black lemur, the Nosy Be sportive lemur, the panther chameleon and Malagasy tree boa, it is the black lemur's survival that is threatened by further deforestation in this area.

### Islands Around Nosy Be

The islands around Nosy Be are arguably, the jewels of northern Madagascar and show an environment little touched by the outside world. There are small accommodation projects on some of the islands but largely the beaches of this region are pristine, the wildlife and birdlife prolific, and the waters clean and abounding in marine life. The area is wonderful for snorkellers and divers, offering the chance of encounters with dolphins, turtles, manta and stingrays and the docile white tipped reef sharks among others. Nosy Iranja is home to the breeding ground of the endangered Hawksbill Turtle and Nosy Tanikely is a protected marine zone which should ensure the longevity of this area as a world class marine ecosystem.

## Antananarivo

Often abbreviated as Tana, this city has a distinct French flair to it. It spreads out over 12 hills and is divided into different levels. Set on the highest hill is the **Queen's Palace** and the **Royal Village** called Rova. The Residency of the Merina Dynasty, who united Madagascar in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is a national monument today and offers superb views over the city. On Fridays you can visit the **Zuma market** which is held on the lowest level and claimed to be amongst the biggest in the world, if not the biggest. The **Tsimbazaza Zoological and Botanical Garden** hosts lemurs, birds, reptiles and various plant species. Enjoy walking down the cobbled streets soaking up the atmosphere; also make sure to sample the exquisite French cuisine.

## Useful Malagasy Words

Madagascan belongs to the family of Austronesians languages which makes it related to Indonesian and Polynesian. The most striking feature for foreigners is the length of its words. The British missionaries codified this language using the letters of the English alphabet. The Malagasy alphabet is therefore quite similar to the English alphabet with the following exceptions: the Malagasy alphabet is missing the letters C, Q, U, W and X. The letter A is always short (as in *watch*). The letter E sounds like a long A (as in *pace*). The letter I is pronounced like a long E (as in *bean*). The letter J sounds like *dz*. Finally, the letter O sounds like *oo*. Here's a list of English phrases and the Malagasy translation:

<b>Hello</b>	Manao ahoana	<b>Village</b>	Vohitra
<b>I'm hungry</b>	Noana aho	<b>River</b>	Ony
<b>I'm thirsty</b>	Mangetaheta aho	<b>How much?</b>	Ohatrinona
<b>I'm tired</b>	Vizako aho	<b>Go away!</b>	Mandehana!
<b>Where is</b>	Aiza	<b>Thank you</b>	Misaotra
<b>Road</b>	Lalana	<b>Goodbye</b>	Veloma

## Other Interesting Facts on Madagascar

### Lemurs – what are lemurs?

Lemurs are the most endangered group of primates in the world and endemic to Madagascar. Before man arrived on the island about 1500 years ago, there were nearly 58 different types of lemurs. Today, only 32 remain.

## ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS



### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.




### PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

**If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you.** If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to [acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com](mailto:acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com)

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

**Legalities:** You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)

<p><b>Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd</b> 23A Craven Terrace London W2 3QH</p> <p>UK Tel. +44 (0)20 7706 4700 Fax. +44 (0)20 7706 4686 SA Tel. +27 (0)21 556 1157 Fax. +27 (0)21 557 5983</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@acacia-africa.com">info@acacia-africa.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.acacia-africa.com">www.acacia-africa.com</a></p>	 The logo for Acacia African Adventure features the text 'ACACIA AFRICAN ADVENTURE' in a stylized font. 'ACACIA' is in a smaller font above 'AFRICAN', which is above 'ADVENTURE'. The text is set against a background of a silhouette of an acacia tree and a sunset or sunrise over a horizon.	 The logo for ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) consists of a circular emblem divided into four quadrants by a stylized globe. Below the emblem, the letters 'ABTA' are written in a bold, serif font, with the full name 'Association of British Travel Agents' in a smaller font underneath.	 The logo for ATTA (African Travel & Tourism Association) features a silhouette of the African continent in the center. The text 'african travel & tourism association' is written in a circular path around the top of the continent, and 'atta' is written in a stylized, lowercase font across the bottom. Below the continent, the text 'Incorporating the Indian Ocean Islands' is written in a smaller font.
--	--	--	---