



Mandrare River Camp Activities

Mandrare River Camp sits on the banks of the Mandrare River nestled under the shade of Tamarind Trees. The river is the lifeblood of the region and sustains the close by Antandroy village of Ifotaka and its sacred ancestral forests.

A stay at Mandrare River Camp offers insights into the rich Antandroy culture and Madagascar's unique spiny forests.



Ifotaka Community Forest

The endemic spiny forest is like nothing else on earth. The tall spikey Octopus Trees are amongst the unique flora which are home to Verreaux's Sifakas and the Nocturnal, White-footed Sportive Lemurs and Mouse Lemurs.

The sacred spiny forest is protected by the local community in association with WWF.

Departure time: At around 6am.

Equipment: Sun screen, solid footwear, long pants, mosquito repellent and a camera

Duration: Between 2 and 3 hours



Sacred Gallery Forest

Cross the Mandrare River to this largely deciduous Tamarind forest. The vast canopy is home to inquisitive groups of Ringtailed Lemurs and the ever entertaining Verreaux's Sifaka.

If you are lucky enough you might even see the Sifaka's dancing across the ground.

Departure time: At around 9am.

Equipment: Sun screen, sun hat, a camera, long trousers, solid footwear, mosquito repellent

Duration: 2 to 3 hours.



Sacred Spiney Forest

In late afternoon, head for a walk through the Sacred Spiny Forest filled with the ancestral tombs of the local Antandroy tribe, as well as an extraordinary array of flora and fauna, unique to the spiny forest. Your English speaking guide and a tracker from the local community will give you an introduction to Antandroy culture and customs.

A trip through the spiny forest offers more than just wildlife, but a rich cultural experience too.

Departure time: At around 4pm.

Equipment: Sun screen, solid footwear, long pants, mosquito repellent and a camera

Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours.



Night Walk

As the sun sets the dynamic of the the spiny forest changes. The Ringtail Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifaka bed down for the night as a whole host of different and interesting creatures start to stir. Torchlight unveils the shining eyes of White-footed Sportive Lemurs and Grey and Grey-Brown Mouse Lemurs scurrying through the trees looking for their next meal.

Let's not forget the nocturnal birdlife, chameleons, geckos and of course the unbelievably clear starry skies.

Departure time: At sunset.

Equipment: Long pants, solid footwear mosquito repellent and a camera.

Duration: Approx. 1.5 hours.



Lac Anony

A day trip to Lac Anony shows off another dimension to this fascinating area. This salt water lake is separated from the Indian Ocean by a series of large sand dunes and is home to Greater Flamingos and a variety of salt water birds.

Walk along the lake shore stopping for a picnic lunch, scale the 70ft high sand dunes for an incredible view over the lake and sea, even jump in for a swim if the mood takes you.

Departure time: After breakfast around 9 am.

Equipment: Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, a camera, mosquito repellent.

Duration: One day.



Village Walk & Market Visit

Let one of Mandrare's experienced guides take you on a walk through Ifotaka to experience the life of the Antandroy. Explore the tombs of the ancestors and absorb the colours and fun of village life.

A special highlight is the lively and colorful market on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Departure time: Ideally after breakfast around 10am, before the midday sun.

Equipment: Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, money to buy some souvenirs and a camera.

Duration: Between 1.5 and 2 hours.



Local MCC School Visit

Since developing Mandrare River Camp, Madagascar Classic Collection has contributed a percentage of every guest's stay to developing a school for the local community. Visiting the school, meeting the children and imparting some knowledge is always a heart warming and highly appreciated experience.

Donations of books, pens and pencils are always greatly received by children.

Departure time: Ideally after breakfast around 10am, before the midday sun.

Equipment: Sunscreen, sun hat and a camera.

Duration: Around 1.5 hours.



Bird Watching

Mandrare River Camp and the surrounding area are excellent for bird watching.

A gentle walk from the camp to the nearby wetlands always proves fruitful, with, Painted Snipe, Teal, Malachite Kingfishers and various egrets. Early morning walks in the dry season can be very rewarding with large flocks of Sand Grouse, Herons and Egrets.

Departure time: Early in the morning around 6 am.

Equipment: Long Pants, mosquito repellent, sunglasses, a camera and binoculars.

Duration: 1 to 2 hours.



Baobab Sundowner

A short drive from the camp leads to a forest of Baobab trees. Over one hundred Baobabs provide a spectacular photo opportunity for a Malagasy sunset.

As the sun sets and stars come out the local village perform their traditional dances around the bonfire. The perfect end to the day.

Departure time: At around 5.30 pm.

Equipment: Mosquito repellent and a camera.

Duration: Around 1.5 hours.



River bank Sundowner

With views over the Mandrare River the camp is the ideal place to watch the sunset. With snacks and refreshments in hand reminisce on the day's activities as the sun sets over the river.

Departure time: At around 5.30 pm.

Equipment: Mosquito repellent and a camera.

Duration: Around 1 hours.

