

# MADAGASCAR - EAST COAST & BAHIE DU COURRIER



Want a change of scenery and discover one of the most magnificent countries in the world? A place where you can combine really awesome fishing, relaxation, nature, excursions, nightlife, awesome culture... with family or friends. Our destination in north Madagascar will satisfy all your dreams in one of the best destinations in the world for extreme popping and jigging. This is the best place to catch your trophy fish!

All trips in this zone are liveboards, due to the remote zones where we are fishing, all days in the water will be starting from our mothership, and fishing from our fully equipped center console boats.

Fishing trips can be customized according to your desires, with or without "days off", day trips by boat or 4x4, all according to your program of choice. All it's possible.

This northern tip of Madagascar and the remote East Coast it's a paradise for fishing because of the weather. This zone, affected by strong winds almost all year, prevents people from coming here to disturb and catch fish during 8 to 9 months per year. We will take advantage of the months when we can go out at the sea, normally with good weather, to make the most of this extreme and wild zone. Trips have always been great in terms of trophy fish and monster size catches, but be ready to face some waves, strong winds, and rough seas at any moment! Anyway, we know what we are doing, our crew are experts, and we always put safety first!

Come to the wild coast of Madagascar and land all your dream trophy fish! Big rewards are waiting for you in this magical place, and we are more than ready to host you! This is going to be the best fishing trip of your life!



# TARGET SPECIES



Anything can happen here! +50Kg Napoleons, +50 GT's, +50Kg Dogtooth Tuna, massive Red Bass, Barracuda, Jobfish, gigantic Groupers of all kinds, Spanish Mackerel, Mahi Mahi, Yellowfin Tuna, Sailfish, Marlin, Emperors, Pompano, Wahoo, Permit, Coral Trouts, Sharks, all kind of Trevallys, weird fish from the reef... the list is endless! Here you will find the best of the Indian Ocean.

Among our popping records are a 63kg GT, 78kg Doggie, 64kg Grouper, +150kg Sharks, 42kg Yellowfin Tuna, 60kg Sailfish, 34kg Spanish Mack, 45kg Barracuda, 252kg Marlin... all popping!

Jigging records are also impressive, like 64kg GT, 86kg Doggie, 120kg Grouper, +60Kg Napoleon, +250kg Shark, 54kg Yellowfin Tuna, 41kg Sailfish, 37kg Spanish Mack, 38Kg Barracuda... all jigging! No live bait or bottom fishing in these records!

We take care and release all the fish after taking the best photos for you, only keeping a few for dinner. We also tag the bigger ones to learn about their behaviors and biology.

The popper is mainly focused on the GT's, Dogtooth Tuna, Red Bass, Wahoo, Spanish Mack, Barra, Coral Trouts, Yellowfin, Groupers and other big surprises. The nearby drop off allows us to hit almost all predatory billfish, numerous and often in exceptional sizes here.

Seasons are open between December to February on the East Coast, and from April to May and October to November on the West Coast (Bahie du Courier). Annual closure goes from June to September due to rough weather and heavy winds.



# ACCOMMODATION



Here you have different options. On the East Coast you can combine day trips with liveaboard trips, or just do liveaboard (recommended). On the West Coast (Bahie du Courrier), you can choose between accommodation in our fully equipped bungalows, comfortable & clean, in the nearby beach, or also liveaboard in our luxury catamarans.

While in Diego, on arrival, the four star Victoria Hotel is our choice, with very spacious colonial-style deco rooms with private bathrooms & balcony, AC, Wi-Fi & tasty breakfasts, ideal to start the day. Everything has been carefully thought out to restore Diego's old-world spirit with a touch of color and modernity.

The Catamarans are an exceptional place to stay while fishing, an unforgettable and unique boat where you can combine comfort & accessibility to the best fishing grounds. Definitely the best way to go on these trips. With family or friends, up to 6 people, our crew will satisfy all your needs. Clean double rooms with private bathroom & hot shower, full equipped, first class cuisine and service, and the best views of the wild coast of northern Madagascar. An experience you will never forget.

This type of accommodation allows us to go fishing in the most remote areas, like untouched banks and reefs in the open sea of the East Coast, North East or North West of the famous Cap d'Ambre, Ankao Islands, the Vohémar region, or other paradisiacal places. You will be able to fish from early morning to the sunset, on virgin hotspots with nobody else around you. These places have the minimum fishing pressure possible. At night, the fishing boat will be attached to the mothership, and we will get shelter behind the reefs or in the bays to spend the night.

All ready and perfect to make the best from your stay!



# BOAT



Fishing can be practiced at the rhythm you like, hardcore or relax, starting from the hotel, bungalows, or the catamaran, aboard our 3 fantastic boats, 10m Open Center Console with dual motors 150HP Yamaha, VHF, GPS, plotter, fish finder, satellite phone... everything!

Our crew is professional and they will take care of you and the fish caught all the time, with assistance, security, first AID if needed, useful advice and expert knowledge of the zone, drinks, snacks and meals aboard, all with friendly and efficient service to make the best from your trip.

We are, by far, the best charter in the zone.



# SURROUNDINGS



Lemurs, baobabs, rainforest, desert, hiking and diving: Madagascar is a dream destination for outdoors & wild world enthusiasts with its unique 5% of all known animal and plant species. The island's signature animal is the lemur of course, but there are many weird and wonderful creatures like the eerie-looking fossa (a cat-like predator), colorful and camouflaged chameleons, oddly shaped insects, vivid frogs, graceful rays and turtles, several species of sharks, and humpback whales during the winter months. Trees and plants are just as impressive, like the distinctively shaped baobabs, the fanning Ravinala (travelers' palm), hundreds of orchids, or the spiny forests of the desert.

The remarkable fauna and flora is matched by epic landscapes of an incredible diversity. You can go from a rainforest like Montagne d'Ambre, to desert in just 200km. Few places on Earth offer such an intense kaleidoscope of nature. There are sandstone canyons, limestone karsts, mountains, fertile hills cascading with terraced rice paddies, forests of every kind and a laterite-rich soil that gave the country its nickname of 'Red Island'. With 5000km of coastline, the sea is never very far, turquoise and idyllic in places, dangerous in others.

It is the world's fourth-largest island and its roads are dismal. For those who relish an adventure, however, this is a one-of-a-kind destination. There are more activities than you'll have time for, like hiking, diving, mountain biking, kitesurfing, rock-climbing... Oh, and there are plenty of natural pools, beaches and hammocks on which to recover, too.

Madagascar has been populated by successive waves of migrants from various corners of the Indian Ocean. This cultural melting pot has evolved into an intricate set of beliefs and rituals that revere ancestors' spirits.

Diego Suarez is the last town in the north tip of Madagascar before the sea. Anchored in its bay, this coast is full of history, traditions & its grandiose nature. All these singular expressions make visitors discover the soul of the country of "Antakarana", with his legendary hospitality. The encounter between two seas, the Indian Ocean and the Mozambique Channel, makes those waters so full of life, and the east coast, one of the most beautiful places in the world. Bay of Courier, was classified recently like a marine reserve, with a paradisiac archipelago completely preserved, where the whales come to give birth.



# OTHER ACTIVITIES



Madagascar's northernmost region is an alluring place, it's remote, host to weird and wonderful geological sights, and has disarming contrasts between very wet and very dry.

Diego Suarez (Antsiranana) is the main gateway town, although it's by no means the only place in which to base yourself when exploring the region. There is plenty of excellent hiking to do in the two national parks of Montagne d'Ambre and Ankarana, and a growing niche of more adventurous sports to try, such as quad biking and kitesurfing.

About 65km south-east of Diego lies one of Madagascar's most awesome natural wonders, the Tsingy Rouges. These scraggly pinnacles, erosion's work of art, are made of laterite, an iron oxide-rich soil with an intense red-brick color. These surreal formations stand on the edge of beautiful canyons: it's a fragile environment, and local authorities have thankfully stepped in to protect the site.

Réserve Spéciale Ankarana is a striking and undeveloped fantasy-land, home to uniquely Madagascan sights & psychedelic fields of spiky tsingy (limestone pinnacle formations) next to dry forests. Running through and under the tsingy are hidden forest-filled canyons and subterranean rivers. The park is famed for its mysterious, bat-filled grottoes steeped in legend and history, where the Antakarana (the predominant ethnic group in northern Madagascar) took refuge from the Merina (the traditional ruling elite from the highlands) during the 18th-century tribal wars.

Parc National Montagne d'Ambre it's easily accessible from Diego. This wonderful national park is literally a breath of fresh air from the arid northern plains. At 1000m, it is generally 10°C cooler than in Diego or Ankarana, even more in winter, and its luxuriant forests could not contrast more with the mineral beauty of the lower grounds. For visitors, the park provides lovely walks in gorgeous forests, with plenty of waterfalls and lakes to rest by.



# USEFUL INFORMATION



Hey! No jokes here! We are targeting huge fish!

Rather be in good physical condition because the day will be tough and exceptional... Motivated beginners are also welcome!

The size of the fish in the Indian Ocean is truly exceptional and it is not uncommon in our region to catch several record fish in the same day. Bring a lot of gear and a lot of replacements. About 50 jiggs from 100gr to 300gr, all size poppers and stickbaits, assist line, lots of hook's, your best dinemas and fluorocarbon leaders, belts, and some painkillers! The GT's can reach 70kg, doggies & groupers more than 100kg, so be ready to lose some lures trying to stop those beasts.

You should seek medical advice from your local doctor before traveling to Madagascar, and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations, despite that there are no mandatory vaccines or endemic sickness to be afraid of. As a guide, Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Diphtheria and Polio are recommended. Malaria it's not common, so it's better to avoid using Malarone because of the side effects that can be terrible. Anyway, it's important to avoid mosquito bites as much as possible, by wearing long sleeves and trousers, sleeping under a mosquito net, and covering yourself in a strong insect repellent containing at least 50% DEET.

Food standards in Madagascar may differ to what you are used to back home, so avoid getting sick by taking some precautions, like avoiding drinking tap water and eat in some non recommended street food places. All our meals and chefs knows exactly how to deal with food and cooking.

Tipping in Madagascar is a nice gesture but it's not mandatory. The standard voltage is 127/220 V, and the plugs required are those with two circular prongs (european). Wi-Fi in the main towns are working well, but forget about it in the catamaran!



# WHAT TO BRING



- Jigging & popping rods & reels, equipped with the best dinema and leaders
- Variety of jigs and lures, hooks, assist line, pliers, belt, terminal tackle...
- All your fishing equipment & apparel
- Your beach clothes, hat, sunscreen, glasses, etc
- Insect repellent (at least 50% DEET)
- Raincoat & wind stopper for the boat
- Passport with more than 6 months of validity
- Cameras
- Cash in € or USD
- Credit Card



# MEDIA & GUIDING



As a Professional Freelance Audiovisual Producer & Fishing / Spearfishing Guide, my job is to promote the best trips around the world, operated by the best companies I work with, always offering the best quality and compromise. I will, simply, bring you the best destinations, personally known, that offer you all the guarantees and adapts to your necessities. If you are a group, great! If you are alone, don't worry, I will find more people to join you! Whatever you want, from hardcore fishing to family holiday, I will provide Expert Coaching, advices & knowledge in the field, to make you catch that "one in a life-time" fish, that sometimes can be so elusive and challenging.

I know where & when to find them, and how to get you on them!

I'm also a professional cinematographer & photographer, and I will be capturing footage of your experience so you can have high quality content of memories that will last a lifetime. My gear allows me to film from the sky, underwater and outside, with the best quality, so forget about the videos & photos, I will be there to capture every moment while in the water.



# WHAT'S INCLUDED & WHAT'S NOT



## Included

- 9 days, 8 nights, in total (basic program)
- 3 nights at the Hotel Victoria\*\*\*\* with breakfast included in double room single use occupancy basis
- 5 nights in the Catamaran (or Beach Bungalows) in a private room fully equipped, all dinner aboard, drink's, taxes entrance fees and tourist vignette
- 6 full days off guided fishing (12h) in our fully equipped boats, with drinks aboard, snack's, lunch, captain, 2 skippers, fuel & all the security items
- Reception, all transfers, and logistics you will need
- Fishing equipment for trolling (lures rods and reels)
- Insurance

## Not included

- Flights
- Fishing equipment for casting and jigging (rental available upon request)
- Tips and extras
- Other meals and drinks in your spare time in Diego Suarez
- Day trips (available upon request)
- Visa on arrival (about 30€)