

Madagascar Teaching, Wildlife & Diving

An unforgettable teaching experience, a breathtaking trek through the prolific forests teeming with flora and fauna and scuba diving in one of the best diving spots in the world!

A magical landscape punctuated by forest canopies filled with unknown species and unique creatures such as the minute mouse lemur with its round lamp like eyes, skimming kingfishers catching tiny fish from the limpid forest pools and the curiously coloured tenrec, amongst thousands of other endemic animals. An ocean that teems with an abundance of marine life, providing the perfect environment to discover diving under the glorious warmth of the Madagascan sunshine. Hospitable communities where you will find a culture that evokes the exotic aura of Africa with a distinctly French European flavour.

All this and more is waiting to be discovered within this unique island located in the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. With this project you will experience the best that Madagascar has to offer, with an unforgettable teaching experience in a developing community, a breathtaking trek through the prolific forests stuffed full of flora and fauna and scuba diving over the reef scapes of one of the best diving spots in the world. Join this project for a varied and exhilarating journey through this most tempting of travel destinations!

FAST FACTS

Location	Madagascar
Activities	Helping to teach excited and lively local kids Assemble innovative & effective lesson plans Explore the local forests and learn to survey small mammals, vegetation and amphibians Learn about the elusive lemurs of Madagascar PADI Scuba Diving training from the idyllic beach camp (extra cost applies) Explore the mangrove forests, dense sea grass beds & productive intertidal areas Swim and snorkel on the reefs of Nosy Be to study the various marine life living on coral reefs
Transport	Airport pickup weekly on a Monday. Alternative start dates possible, additional £35GBP applies for pickup, please speak to an adviser Transfer to town centre and beach camp from Nosy Be Airport weekly on a Monday
Accommodation	Communal mixed sex bandas

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Madagascar's Lemurs ([MGF](#))

Madagascar has been isolated for over 165 million years, creating a biodiversity resource of global significance, with over 80% of species found nowhere else on Earth, including leaping black lemur, Hawk's sportive lemur and Claire's mouse lemur, the former being very popular with visitors as a result of the unusual manner in which it traverses open ground. It is mainly found in trees and is a capable jumper, but where, as a result of the dispersal pattern of its favourite trees, it cannot jump, it crosses unjumpable spaces by sashaying sideways on its hind legs with its arms in the air! Sadly these beautiful creatures are threatened – which is why programmes such as this are so vital.

Other interesting creatures found here include an abundance of reptiles, such as tortoises, snakes, iguanas and six species of chameleon. There is spectacular bird life and over three quarters of the flora are endemic, with palms and more orchids than in all of mainland Africa.

This incredible flora and fauna, unique in its ability to resist the region's aridity, has led naturalists to describe Madagascar's forests as "the eighth wonder of the world".

Protecting Marine Wildlife ([MGM](#))

Madagascar's human population has doubled since 1960, leading to increased deforestation and overgrazing, which in turn has caused massive soil erosion and desertification and damage to the marine ecosystems as a result of pollution and runoff.

Through marine SCUBA and snorkel surveys you will map coral, identify reef and commercial fish and record marine species, including fish, dolphins and turtles. Diving under the supervision of a professional dive officer, you will become confident and comfortable underwater. Your results will determine the biodiversity of these waters and help formulate management plans.

Other activities include surveying mangroves, a vital buffer against elements such as tsunamis, and also documenting coastal bird and reptile populations, an important part of the coastal ecosystem.

For volunteers on the marine project for up to 2 weeks you have the opportunity to complete your PADI Open Water training. For volunteers on the project for more than two weeks you'll need to complete the PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water training in order to take part in the marine surveys.

Lack of Foreign Language Teachers ([MGT](#))

The majority of primary school age children and 36% of secondary school age children attend school. However, schools are severely under funded and there is an unequal distribution of educational resources across the country. Often poor and rural communities can only attend seriously disadvantaged public schools, meaning that there is a need for diligent volunteers who are willing to come and teach and make a difference. Depending on the time of year, for example during the long summer holidays, you may be teaching adult lessons to members of the village, held either at camp or in the church.

The vast majority of the population speaks only Malagasy and there is a lack of foreign language teachers. Your help can give children and adults a sense of confidence, encourage their enthusiasm and ambition, and even improve their opportunities for the future. To teach, you will need to be patient, flexible, a confident communicator and able to use your initiative and imagination. It would be helpful to have beginner's level French, but you will have plenty of opportunities to learn! Lessons will be fun and interactive as you develop the pupil's confidence and conversational skills.

Students will be interested in life where you come from. You may be able to get involved teaching

other activities such as sports, music or science, if you are interested and have the relevant skills. There will also be the possibility of working with our field conservation programmes to arrange collaborations for environmental education.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Sample Itinerary

This is a specimen itinerary for a 3 week project and the order and duration of the project components is subject to change. The 6, 9 and 12 week project option will mean more time on each project component. Timing of Marine, Teaching and Forest phases may vary depending on the time of year you depart.

The 2 week project option allows you to take part in your choice of 2 projects from those listed above, each for 1 week.

Day 1 &2: Orientation

Arrive in Nosy Be and receive orientation and briefing by the Frontier staff on the beach camp.

Week 1: Diving and marine conservation

The camp is the sociable hub of Frontier-Madagascar and is perfect for relaxing and enjoying spending time with your group at the end of a busy day of diving. Whilst completing this project, you will be able to gain your PADI Open Water diving qualification (US\$595 extra), an internationally recognised certification. The research programme within the Bay is very exciting and dynamic. The priority for this phase will be BSP (Baseline Survey Protocol) although other activities will be included: Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP), collaborating and adding to underwater species lists, sediment traps – setting and analysing, algae/coral quadrats to monitor phase shifts, benthic surveys to assess the extent of pink line syndrome, nutrient water testing across the bay, mangrove survey work and various types of socio-economic work, such as village workshops for PADI Aware, interviewing local fishermen and study trips to the fish markets. With such a wide array of activities on going you are unlikely to be able to do everything, especially with dive training to fit in, so please be realistic. Diving regularly in the waters of the Indian Ocean over perfect coral reefs, amid spectacular fish, turtles and rays is an experience you will never forget.

Week 2: Forest conservation

You will have the chance to explore the forest of Nosy Be, and maybe even further afield on the mainland or local islands on an infamous satellite camp. You will experience a truly remote environment, spotting rarely seen wildlife along the way. You may have the chance to carry out opportunistic wildlife spotting as you travel.

You could be taking part in any of the following:

- Vegetation surveying
- Small mammal and lemur sampling
- Reptile and amphibian sampling
- Butterfly trapping
- Bird-watching
- Opportunistic observation of birds, reptiles and mammals

Week 3: Teaching English

Your work schedule will cover a comprehensive, varied and enjoyable teaching programme which will engage you fully with your pupils and awaken your creativity and initiative. You may be helping a local teacher at the school as well as being required to take control of your own lessons, which will encourage you to formulate ideas and develop your teaching skills and techniques. You may be involved with activities such as marking pupil's work and producing an inspiring teaching strategy, including preparing homework and assembling innovative and effective lesson plans.

As well as this you, will have the opportunity to help with lots of extracurricular activities which will vary extensively depending on your personal skills and interests – whether it is helping to organise a school show or playing football with the super competitive and highly skilled local kids. You may even get the chance to join the Frontier marine or forest camps for their regular Friday night themed parties, depending on the overall work programme. The teaching programme is demanding but thoroughly rewarding and is excellent preparation for anyone looking at a career in teaching or who is just keen to get exposure to this worthwhile field of work. Whatever you decide, you are sure to gain huge satisfaction from inspiring these communities, whilst significantly enhancing your own skills and experience.

Day 21 Travel to the airport and prepare for departure

You will be dropped off at the airport in time for your return flight.

If this is your first time doing conservation work, don't worry! It will only take a short while for you to feel totally at home on camp and confident with the science work. Although the work is intense, you'll find that living in such a beautiful and inaccessible environment alongside friends who share your passion for conservation will be the experience of a lifetime!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

Volunteers arriving weekly on a Monday will be welcomed by a Frontier representative at Nosy Be airport. From here it's a short taxi or minibus ride from the airport to the centre of the vibrant town of Hellville. If you arrive before noon, you will transfer to your project site and be introduced to the Frontier-Madagascar programme on the same day. If you arrive later in the day, you will stay overnight at the Frontier volunteer house in town and transfer to your project site the following day.

Independent travellers arriving on dates other than weekly on a Monday can arrange a separate airport collection (extra cost US\$60) by contacting the camp staff in Nosy Be.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Your accommodation on the project will vary. During the teaching phase you will be housed in a simple, comfortable volunteer house in Hellville, where our staff and volunteers are all based. Whilst on the wildlife and diving phases, you will be staying on Frontier's beach camp, which is on the shores of the Indian Ocean near to primary rainforest and is the perfect location for socialising and relaxing after an active day of scuba diving or trekking.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

Whilst on the project, you will be provided with three meals a day. Your meals will generally be basic, with beans and rice providing the basis for most meals. Madagascan cuisine is flavoursome but simple; some dishes to look out for include Malagache lobster with rice, Malagache prawn and chicken curry, and a Madagascan speciality called "Sakay". For vegetarians Malagache vegetable soup is delicious and extremely good for you!

COSTS

1 week	US\$ 1,295
2 weeks	US\$ 1,595
3 weeks	US\$ 1,895
6 weeks	US\$ 2,845
9 weeks	US\$ 3,595
12 weeks	US\$ 4,345
Extra Diving Week	US\$ 445
Extra Non-diving week	US\$ 345
Christmas week	US\$ 295

PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water training US\$1,156 PADI Advanced Open Water training US\$561 (at least PADI Advanced Open Water training necessary for marine surveying)

DEPARTURE DATES

Every Monday

Ideally flights to Madagascar and connections to Nosy Be (Fascene) should be arranged for this arrival date.

DURATION

You can join this project for a minimum of 2 weeks

School holidays dates 2018/2019

24 December 2018 - 8 January 2019

Easter holidays

School ends at the beginning of July.

During school holidays a modified program will run, with one to one coaching, educational workshops and extracurricular activities.

CHRISTMAS OFFER

This project is available for the special price of US\$255 per week over the Christmas periods. Placements starting on the 24th or 31st of December 2018 are eligible for this price, subject to availability. Please apply using the orange button below and then tell your volunteer advisor that you wish to take part over Christmas.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

In-country

- Food
- Accommodation
- Airport pickup (for first Monday of the month arrivals). Alternative start dates possible, additional US\$60 applies for pickup, please speak to an adviser
- Transfer to town centre and beach camp from Nosy Be Airport on first Monday of the month. Alternative start dates available
- Local orientation and training
- Dive training PADI Open Water (2 week +) available at extra cost US\$595
- Dive training PADI Advanced Open Water (4 weeks+) available at extra cost US\$561
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up
- Dive training courses run monthly starting on the first Monday of the month. Dive training to PADI Open Water or PADI Advanced Open Water (depending on the duration of your stay) price includes PIC cards, PADI membership and use of Frontier project equipment and diving equipment, including tanks, regs, BCDs, weights, compressor etc
Discounted further dive courses: PADI Emergency First Response (US\$221), PADI Rescue Diver (US\$595), and PADI Divemaster (US\$1,275) qualifications

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Nossi-Be (NOS)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.