



Eastern Madagascar

Includes »

Moramanga	158
Andasibe Area Parks	159
Brickaville	162
Pangalanes Lakes	162
Ambila-Lemaitso	166
Tamatave (Toamasina)	167
Mahambo	173
Soanierana-Ivongo	173
Manompana	175
Ile Sainte Marie	175
Ambodifotatra	178
Ile aux Nattes (Nosy Nato)	181
Mananara	183
Maroantsetra	185
Parc National de Masoala	188

Best Places to Eat

- » Le Bateau Ivre (p170)
- » Piment Banane (p170)
- » La Pirogue (p173)
- » Idylle Beach (p179)

Best Places to Stay

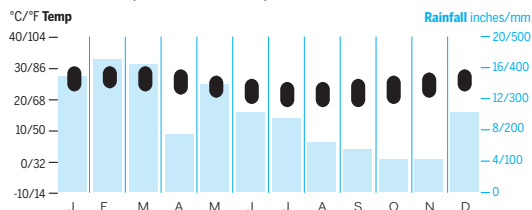
- » Princesse Bora Lodge & Spa (p180)
- » Chez Sika (p181)
- » Masoala Forest Lodge (p189)
- » Ony Hôtel (p166)
- » Le Bon Endroit (p182)

Why Go?

Eastern Madagascar is travel the way it used to be. There is a wildness here of primordial allure, from the misty mountains of Masoala, down the huge coastline with its pounding sea and overhanging palms, to the lush alleyways of the Pangalanes Lakes. When you arrive back home, it all has the quality of a dream. This part of the country is largely cut off from the rest, and from itself, by a degraded transportation network, including some roads out of an engineer's nightmare. Travelling here requires a combination of plane, car, 4WD, dirt bike, scooter, pirogue (dugout canoe), ferry, cargo boat, taxi-brousse (bush taxi), and motorboat. This inaccessibility results in isolated communities and, for the traveller, a constant sense of coming upon undiscovered locales, including entire national parks. There's no doubt it can be frustrating at times, but Eastern Madagascar produces more traveller's tales than anywhere else. If you value that, come here first.

When to Go

Tamatave (Toamasina)



Jun–Oct Vanilla season. Flights can be full in the northeast.

Jul–Sep Whale-watching in the Baie d'Antongil

Dec–Mar Hold onto your hat, it's cyclone season

Eastern Madagascar Highlights

- 1 Hear the wail of the indri in **Parc National d'Andasibe** (p159)
- 2 Take a cargo boat through the **Pangalanes Lakes** (p162)
- 3 Drive the infamous **RN5** (p175) from Soanierana-Ivongo to Maroantsetra
- 4 Watch the elusive aye-aye eat a coconut during a night walk on **Aye-Aye Island** (p184)
- 5 Camp out on the tropical jungle island of **Nosy Mangabe** (p188)
- 6 See breaching humpbacks on a **whale-watching trip** (p180)
- 7 Explore the island of **Ile Sainte Marie** (p177) by quad or dirt bike
- 8 Stay in an ecolodge at **Parc National de Masoala** (p189)
- 9 Do absolutely nothing on **Ile aux Nattes** (p181)

