



## Conservation of lemurs in Madagascar



**Availability :** Available all year.

**Project Start & End Days :** Mondays

**Project Work Days :** Monday to Fridays (weekends are free)

**Age Requirement :** Must be 18 years or over.

**Nearest Airport :** Fascene Airport (NOS) arrival on Sunday

## **Location of Projects :**

Nosy Be is an island off the northwest coast of Madagascar. Nosy Be is Madagascar's largest and busiest tourist destination. It has an area of 320.02 square kilometers and its population is estimated at 73,010. Nosy Be means "big island" in the Malagasy language. The island was called Assada during the early colonial era of the 17th century.

Here you'll find volcanic lakes, lemurs, rum distilleries, Ylang Ylang plantations and breathtaking coral reefs that are practically begging to be explored. In May, come to experience the four-day Donia Music Festival. Perfectly located on the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia, Nosy-Be evokes feelings of discovery and adventure, the rich and endemic biodiversity will have begging for more. There are many spots that are perfect for ones who seek a golden opportunity to swim among turtles, stingrays or manta rays.

## **Programs descriptions :**

The lemur experience and conservation project aims to educate the public about the importance of protecting lemurs and their habitat, especially the Nosy-Be lemur population. Participants who are interested in ecological research and conservation work should take advantage of this project. Active participation in the research and long-term management of lemur populations would be required in a controlled sanctuary.

Because of widespread deforestation, the destruction of their natural habitats, and poaching, lemur populations in Madagascar have been declining over time. Through habitat restoration, population monitoring, and public awareness campaigns near the program locations, the conservation project in Nosy Be seeks to address these issues.

Lemurs face an alarming level of endangerment, with a staggering 98% of lemur species on the brink of extinction. Shockingly, 31% of these species are classified as critically endangered..

At this location, nature lovers have the ideal chance to get up close and personal with different species of lemur. In addition to routine duties like feeding the lemurs and maintaining the environment, specific data collection that creates an ever-evolving database of the lemur population will be carried out under the direction of a subject matter expert. Consolidate the necessary information by opening a file for each lemur. Additionally, details about species like turtles and chameleons will be included in a database of records. The factors of age, sex, breeding, behavior, distinctive traits, and physical characteristics will be combined.

With the aid of specific information, the park veterinarian will be able to determine the appropriate care each resident requires. You will be able to communicate in English and raise sanctuary visitors' awareness of lemurs.

Additionally, you would assist in creating awareness campaigns aimed at educating the local community on the importance of protecting the lemur population and its habitat.

## **Your Role as volunteer**

As a participant, you have a significant impact on Nosy Be's conservation efforts as well as the health of lemurs living in a controlled environment. Your contribution aids in the preservation of this special environment and its inhabitants. Before you begin your volunteer work, it is essential to understand your role, responsibilities, and expectations.

Your general duties will include the following:

- Assist in the food preparation and feeding of the lemurs.
- Assist in cleaning the areas where the lemurs are
- Assist in the care of other species in the sanctuary.
- Create, add to, and follow up the database of the lemurs and other species that inhabit the sanctuary (Age, sex, breeding, daily behavior, identification markers and physical characteristics)
- Converse and offer insights to visitors coming to the sanctuary in English.
- Create a seamless handover of this program for the next batch of participants to continue evolving this program in Nosy Be under the guidance of the subject matter expert.

Thus, make your life's purpose completely worthwhile and take this meaningful program and enjoy and experience Nosy Be popular wildlife known as the Lemurs.

## **About the accommodation :**

Our center is located in the **suburbs of Ambondrona, in Nosy Be**. It has a spacious dining room, two lounge areas (Ground floor and First Floor) where you can hang out with fellow participants. Similarly, a large balcony area is also available for you to spend some quality time especially after a long hours of your project activities.

Furthermore, there is a refrigerator which you are welcome to use to store your personal food and beverages.

## **Food Arrangements :**

All the meals served inside the accommodation are homestyle, vegetarian-friendly and you can expect that they will be a mix of Western and Malagasy food, consisting mainly of vegetarian dishes including rice and vegetables. You can expect to have a chicken dish about twice a week. You can also use the kitchen facilities to cook for yourself or eat out at any of the local restaurants at your own expense.

If you are a picky eater or allergies, have dietary restrictions, or if you think that you will not be satisfied with the local dishes provided, you might want to consider

supplementing our menu with your own western type foods and snacks that are more to your liking.

## Facilities

- **ATM** - The closest ATM to the Center is about 10 minutes away by Tuk-Tuk from the accommodation.
- **Supermarket** - The closest local supermarket is around 10 minutes away by Tuk-Tuk from the accommodation.
- **Medical Center** - The closest Medical center is around 15 minutes away by Tuk-Tuk from the accommodation.

## Arrival

Our transfer coordinator meets you at the meeting point at the airport upon your arrival and arranges your transfer to our accommodation in Ambondrona, Nosy Be. Our representative will be standing in the arrivals area with your name sign.

## Departure

Due to the many different personal plans and return flight times people have, we have found it logistically simpler to send participants to the nearest bus station and allow them to make their own way; whether it is to do more travelling or return to the airport. We do not cover your transfer costs to the airport.

## Mandatory Orientation Day

On the Monday of your first week at this location, you will join the orientation day, to familiarize yourself with the surroundings as well as the local culture. Your program will continue as usual from Tuesday onward throughout the rest of the week.

## Schedule

### Monday

After breakfast, you go over the team introductions, projects, center orientation, dos and don'ts, code of conduct, child protection policy, and media consent guidelines. A presentation on culture on Nosy Be and a basic Malagasy lesson thereafter

You will travel to Hell-Ville after lunch to access banking services, currency exchange, and mobile phone connections.

## **Tuesday to Friday**

Meanwhile, from Tuesday to Friday, your daily routine will commence at 7:30 and end at 4:00 in the afternoon. Please kindly refer to the schedule below. However, your tasks varied every day of the program, which is also provided below.

- 07.30 am: Breakfast at the accommodation
- 08.00 am: Depart from the accommodation
- 08.30 am: Report to the Lemur Experience & Conservation program
- 09.00 am–12.00 pm: Activities pertaining to the program
- 12.00 pm–1.00 pm: Packed lunch at site
- 01.00 pm–04.00 pm: Activities pertaining to the program
- 04.00 pm - Depart for the accommodation
- 7.30 pm - Dinner will be served at the accommodation.

## **Equipments**

- Comfortable clothes that you do not mind getting wet or dirty.
- Modest outfits covering knees and shoulders (respecting local customs)
- Comfortable walking shoes, sandals, and water shoes
- Sun hat, fleece sweater, and a windproof rain jacket (weather-dependent)
- Passport (ensure it's valid for at least six months beyond your stay)
- Flight information, insurance details, vouchers, visas, and vaccination certificates
- First-aid kit with essential medications, sunscreen, insect repellent, and rehydration tablets
- Toiletries (travel-sized shampoo, soap, toothbrush, etc.)
- Day pack, small travel towel, and reusable water bottle
- Money belt and bag locks for added security
- Personal entertainment (books, playing cards, music player, or e-reader)

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