



## **Mangrove conservation 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)

## **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.

## **Program description :**

In this exciting program participants will be involved in important work to maintain and preserve Nosy-Bes' wildlife heritage, mangrove conservation.

The Mangrove Conservation program in Nosy-Be is a project that seeks to protect and restore mangrove forests in the region. The program is designed to provide you with an opportunity to learn about mangrove ecosystems, their importance, and the threats they face. You will be involved in various activities, including data collection, nursery management, and tree planting.

The program will commence with an orientation session where you will be introduced to mangrove ecosystems, their importance, and the threats they face. You will also receive training on data collection and nursery management. The program will also involve regular field trips to the mangrove forests where they will collect data on tree species, growth rates, and other ecological parameters. Participants will also be involved in propagating mangrove trees in nurseries and planting them in degraded areas.

After this you can begin our community environmental education outreach program, helping to highlight the importance of the mangroves and its sustainability to the local communities and schools.

## **Your Role - General Information**

As a participant, you will work in a supportive and inclusive team environment, where you will have the opportunity to take on a wide range of tasks. These may include planting mangrove trees, monitoring water quality, conducting surveys, and assisting with community outreach programs. We welcome all levels of experience, and the subject matter expert will provide comprehensive training and assistance in all aspects of the project. It is essential to have a flexible attitude and be open to working in a diverse cultural setting.

Throughout your week, your main tasks would be,

- Planting young mangrove seedlings, removing invasive species, and monitoring mangrove health
- Maintenance work in the plant nursery and planting terrestrial trees around site
- Data collection of the terrain, tree health and environmental changes.
- Fish catch survey and identification of species present in the mangrove channel.
- Develop material for outreach and educational programmes; posters, presentations, videos etc. Engage with the local community and participate in community outreach activities, such as visiting the local community center. You will learn about the local culture and traditions while helping to raise awareness about the importance of mangroves.
- All activities are supported by our subject matter expert that is on hand to assist you with the training you may need.
- Daily activities will be planned by our subject matter expert on-site as per requirements and needs.

Finally, during the mangrove plantations and other activities, be careful and mindful, do not harm marine life and mangroves, and ask assistance from your local coordinators for tasks that you are not sure with and of course to enjoy and make the most of your stay and make memorable learning experiences.

## **Schedule**

### **Monday to Friday**

Your day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 4:00 PM, with daily activities planned by the subject matter expert based on current project needs. Activities are designed to be engaging, impactful, and adaptable to local requirements.

- 07.30 am Breakfast at the accommodation.
- 08.00 am – noon Activities of the program's general duties.
- 12.00 pm – 01.00 pm Packed lunch at the site.
- 01.00 pm – 03.00 pm Activities of the program's general duties.
- 03.00 pm Depart to the accommodation.
- 07.30 pm Dinner at 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.

## 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.

**Mandatory Orientation Day :** On the Monday of your first week at this location, you will join our 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.

## 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)

## About Nosy Be

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