

The best way to become familiarized with customs, surroundings, atmosphere and more of this rich and colourful country.

You will dive into the local culture and learn the Malagasy language. Discover the charm of the city, visit colourful markets, explore the city and taste exotic and cosmopolitan cuisines. Walk around the foot of Mont Passot and hike to its peak, tour in Hell - Ville and much more.

Culture
Learning
Leisure
Community Engagement
Physical Demand

Program Description

Nosy Be Culture Week gives you an original experience of the Malagasy lifestyle in Nosy Be. Your week will be filled with trips to various cultural and natural hotspots in Nosy Be.

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks): 1
Max duration (weeks): 1

Aims & Objectives

The purpose of this program is to help you get an understanding of the manners, norms, and etiquette that is inherent in Malagasy society as well as show you around and introduce you to your new surroundings, helping you feel right at home in this warm and friendly community.

Schedule

Monday

You will have an introduction to our team in Madagascar, exposure to our Code of Conduct, House Rules, Liability Waiver and Evaluation Forms. Also, you will get to know about Madagascar and Nosy Be, the country and its culture. After having lunch you will walk around the foot Mont Passot and hike to its peak for sunset.

Tuesday

After breakfast, you will walk from AMBATOZAVAVY to MARODOKA across NOSY BE's rural areas. You will enjoy a picnic lunch and join a local dance and have pastry class afterwards. In the evening join the Malagasy language lessons and learn some basics to make you feel comfortable to communicate with the locals.

Wednesday

On Wednesday morning, you will visit a place where a banyan tree grows. It's where people from NOSY BE and even the mainland make sacrifices to the ancestors to ask for blessings. When their "prayers" are answered, they come back to this Sacred Tree to wrap it with red and white linen.

In the afternoon, you will walk through Hell-Ville. Visiting the marketplace, discovering the old part of the town where the King lives, enjoying the colonial architecture of the houses at Court de Hell.

Thursday

In the morning, join a painting class with a local traditional painter who will guide you. After lunch, you will continue your language lessons through the afternoon.

Friday

On Friday morning, you will join Ampasipohy by car and by pirogue after. Once there, you will walk to the LOKOBE Community Forest's entrance spotting lemur species, birds and reptiles in lowland rainforest.

After lunch, you will go either to fish with a local fisherman or to the field. As for the former, you will discover the local way of fishing. For the latter, you will work in vanilla, pepper or pineapple fields.

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Starting Dates

During 2020

This program starts every week.

During 2021

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:

Maximum age: -

Minimum English level: Basic

CRB required: On Signup **Passport copy required:** On Signup

Resume copy required: No **Required qualification:** None

Additional Requirements

Yellow fever vaccination is mandatory for all participants arriving in Madagascar.

Participants below 18 should have parental consent and participants above 65 should have medical clearance to take part in this program.

Additional Equipment

Dress Code

- Cover up as much as possible in the spirit of the local culture to avoid embarrassment.
- Your clothes must not be too short, too tight or too revealing. Kindly make sure your shoulders and legs are covered.
- It is completely fine to wear western clothes as long as they fit the local standards
- Be thoughtful of the graphics, symbols or text printed on your clothing and avoid wearing clothing styles that might be inappropriate
- Be thoughtful to poor communities by not displaying expensive items and clothes
- Wearing local clothes could help you build a good working relationship with the community