

# Madagascar Construction

*Work in the heart of this rural African community, building and developing sustainable education infrastructure for local children whilst putting a smile on the faces of the people you meet!*

Madagascar's dramatic forest landscape is home to a fascinating diversity of life, with baobab and aloe trees, lemurs, chameleons and a whole host of other species that are found nowhere else on earth! Its fantastically beautiful coastline boasts coral reefs rich in marine species, perfect for diving and snorkelling, and silky sanded beaches ideal for soaking up the bountiful sunshine. Madagascar's culture is vibrant and diverse; you will find bustling markets full of multicoloured produce and hospitable locals shouting their wares.

Overall schools in Madagascar are basic and teachers are in high demand; therefore your contribution will be extremely valuable. This project represents a real opportunity to improve their livelihoods and standard of educational facilities, and improve the future prospects of the next generation. The experience of being involved in such a worthwhile and wonderful project will surely have an enduring effect on your outlook on life.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Awaken your creativity & initiative as you immerse yourself in local culture and learn new skills
- Discover strange and beautiful Madagascar
- Live in the Volunteer House located in central Hellville
- Make lifelong friends with your team mates and co-workers

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Madagascar
<b>Activities</b>	Contribute towards village community project Build better lives for local Madagascans Daily manual construction work Community education & development Improving schools' infrastructure and facilities Painting classrooms
<b>Transport</b>	Airport pickup weekly on a Monday. Alternative start dates possible, additional £50 applies for pickup, please speak to an adviser Internal ground transfers weekly on a Monday
<b>Accommodation</b>	Shared communal accommodation in the volunteer house in Hellville

## **WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?**

Some of the most important work that needs to be done in local Malagasy communities is setting up basic infrastructure. The project will help to improve the infrastructure and quality of educational facilities in Madagascar. Brighter classrooms, up cycled classroom facilities and wall displays help to promote a positive, inspiring and pleasant working environment for the school children and teachers.

This project often helps with improvements that are needed in our partner institutions and exact tasks and work at any given time is always led by the school staff and students.

## **WHAT WILL I BE DOING?**

You don't need any previous building experience, though you should be physically fit and willing to work hard in order to take part in this project.

Whilst on your placement, you will contribute to a number of on going projects aimed at improving the local educational infrastructure. Such projects may include painting walls or murals or improving classrooms and playground facilities or sanitation and waste management facilities.

You will be working from Monday to Thursday in a small team of like-minded individuals. The day-to-day work programme will vary according to the time of your visit and the stage of the improvement work. Whatever your contribution, you are sure to find this project incredibly rewarding when you see the progress the project has made. The programme also gives you the opportunity to meet the communities you are working in during your free time, exploring the country whilst getting to know the people.

The people you are helping will be hard working and appreciative of your contribution to their community, and will be incredibly responsive to your presence on the project. Although the work may occasionally be arduous, it will be rewarding and fulfilling, giving you an unforgettable experience and the opportunity to make a real difference!

Whatever you decide, you are sure to gain huge satisfaction from inspiring these communities, whilst significantly enhancing your own skills and experience.

## **Volunteer Itinerary\* – Madagascar Community Projects**

Frontier Madagascar currently delivers a range of different projects working with local partners around the island of Nosy Be. All of our projects are based in the town of Hellville and the villages that surround our field research camp in Ambalahonko. If you're on a community project you'll be based at our volunteer house in Hellville during the week but you'll transfer to the camp on Friday to enjoy some free time with the rest of the Frontier team and explore the area where our research projects operate. We come back on Saturday morning and then have Sunday as our day off, when we can go and relax on the beach, have a dunk at the waterfalls or enjoy any number of other beautiful spots around the island.

Whether you're a volunteer on our Construction, Teaching or Physiotherapy Programme you'll always be a member of team unity and as such you might well find yourself getting involved in some aspects of other concurrent projects. The times in the schedule are likely to change, and will differ

depending on the phase of the project cycle upon your arrival, but to give you a little taste of what life on a Frontier community project can be like, you can see a sample timetable for a day in the life of a community volunteer below.

**06:15 to 07:15** - Up and out, school and other project activities start at 7:30! After a leisurely scrum for the shower we have a communal breakfast and get ourselves prepared for the day.

**07:30 to 11:20** - Morning activities, which could entail teaching at our partner primary school, doing menial tasks with our other partners or looking after handicapped children.

**11:20 to 14:30** - Lunch time! During the heat of the day Madagascar shuts down for lunch. If you're in town we'll eat together at the Volunteer House, but if you're away at an out-of-town location lunch will be provided at your workplace.

**1430 to 1630** - Afternoon sessions of lessons - teaching, building etc.

**1630 to 1800** - Break time when we can plan our activities for the week or just kick back with a book.

**1800 to 2000** - In our evening classes we teach English, deliver health awareness sessions and share some games with the folks at the local youth club.

**2030 to 2200** - Dinner and a movie at the volunteer house, as we unwind after the day.

**2200 to 2230** - Scrum for an evening shower, brushing the gnashers and off to bed! Zao dia kajo (I'm tired)...

*\*This itinerary should only be considered as an example of the kind of activities and timescales to expect. Actual itineraries may vary depending on the season and the requirements of the project.*

## **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 and your accommodation at the volunteer house.

Independent travellers arriving on dates other than weekly on a Monday can arrange a separate airport collection at the extra cost of US\$85 by contacting your volunteer coordinator.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

During the project you'll live in a wonderfully located volunteer house in the centre of Hellville, where you will enjoy a unique and memorable living experience. The house is approximately a ten minute walk from the local primary school where we base the majority of our work and has all of the principal amenities one would expect from such a setup – equipped kitchen, flushing toilet and running water shower! House life is however very simple, unsophisticated and fun and will give you as much as you are prepared to put into it. The 'community' feel of the house is excellent and you will be made to feel right at home.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EATING?**

You will be provided with 3 simple and nutritious meals a day, which will consist largely of locally

sourced fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, rice, beans and noodles, most of which is purchased from the nearby market and thereby helps to support the local economy. Luxuries such as chocolate, peanut butter and Nutella are available in the town, so can be accessed if you wish to treat yourself every once in a while!

Part of your role in the volunteer house will be to help with the cooking. Creating spectacular meals over our marvellous gas stoves will become second nature: so get your cookbooks out now and start thinking up recipes!

## **COSTS**

1 week	US\$ 545
2 weeks	US\$ 695
3 weeks	US\$ 945
4 weeks	US\$ 1,295
5 weeks	US\$ 1,645
6 weeks	US\$ 1,895
7 weeks	US\$ 2,145
8 weeks	US\$ 2,395
10 weeks	US\$ 2,845
20 weeks	US\$ 4,945
Extra week	US\$ 295
Christmas week	US\$ 295

## **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](mailto: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.*