

TSARA KOMBA LODGE... and its marvellous diving sites!



The seabed surrounding the islands north of Madagascar abounds with riches. It is a very special area for diving.

Whether you are a seasoned diver or complete beginner, we offer you the opportunity to dive to the depths of the fascinating underwater life of the Mozambique channel, inhabited by one of the biggest underwater biodiversities in the planet.

First dives, certification to levels 1, 2 and 3 and all kinds of explorations are on the menu. A boat, equipped for this activity, enables you to reach many renowned diving sites around Nosy Be.

Here are a few descriptions regarding the different spots that you can discover.



The Wreck at Ankify.

Maximum depth: 17m - Diving time: 40 min

Level 1 necessary.

A small, 17 m coastal vessel that sank during the 80's. The wreck is in iron, covered with shells. The hull is covered with coral and sponges and harbours a colony of red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), sheltered by a huge shoal of snappers.

By swimming around the fish, you come across the wreck and the rest of the group of divers. King fish, jack fish and barracuda animate this spectacle by breaking through the different shoals of smaller fish. There is a huge grouper weighing about 100 kilos which lurks around the scene, and sometimes spotted eagle ray come to rest here. Moray eels live in the hull and the shoals of grunts and snappers (red carp) remain in the shade near the propeller.

Jo Langouste Point.

Maximum depth: 17m

Diving time: 45-50 min - Level 1 necessary.

This reef situated south of Nosy Komba, rests on a base of 17 m and rises up about ten or so metres from the surface and is teeming with life. Within the reef there is plenty of spear-fishing. Thousands of snappers swimming together in shoals cover the reef, which attracts pelagic predators such as Jack fish, king fish, barracuda, etc. Here there is a wide range of coral and sponges, many crayfish and several varieties of mollusc. Huge "corbeilles" black coral and often large spotted eagle ray are to be found in the hard sand at the bottom of the reef. There is not one type of coral that cannot be located here and during one dive you will see tens of thousands of fish.



The 4 wrecks.

Depth: 28 m - Diving time: 35 min
Level 2 or advanced necessary.

Here there are 4 wrecks which were sunk deliberately. The oldest wreck, Zaida, a wooden 17 m boat which is very well embedded, 2 sailing boats of 7 and 13 m, and a 17 m trawler, all of which harbour dozens of red lionfish (*pterois volitans*).

Two groupers weighing several kilos each, shoals of barracuda, shoals of hundreds of jack fish and batfish accompany you up to the surface. Also to be found are large ribbontail ray, eagle ray, spotted eagle ray or big guitar ray. Look all around you - everything is possible!

Gorgone.

Depth: 18 m - Diving time: 45-50 min - Open-water diver or level 1 necessary.

This site is a field of giant gorgonian coral, 2.3 metres high, through which you zigzag. Innumerable varieties of coral, sponges and alcyonaria are to be found, where green and hawksbill turtles, crayfish, large groupers, little blue-spotted rays and lots of crocodile fish live. Sea worms or Christmas tree worms. If you search carefully, you may be able to spot a seahorse and molluscs of all kinds. Huge barracuda and lots of King fish float by and maybe even a passing Mobula ray....

Tropical reef.

Depth: 20 m

Diving time: 45 min

Level 1 necessary.

Shoals of barracuda and jack fish. Great clumps of coral which shelter hundreds of species, crayfish and often give out special lights. Small blue-spotted ribbontail ray and shoals of snappers.



Banc d'Héloïse.

Maximum depth: 20 m

Diving time: 50 min

Level 1 or open-water diver necessary.

A very pretty reef, teeming with life and between 10 and 20 m deep. Black coral, whip coral, all kinds of sponges, turtles, crayfish, ribbontail ray, pelagic hunters, zebra sharks and clumps of

coral which abound with life. Green, yellow and red starfish are to be found here, with dolphins occasionally leaping up to the surface!

Tani Kely

Depth of site: from 2 to 20 m

Diving time: 50 min to 1 hr - Level necessary: 0

A small island inhabited by fruit bats, tropicbirds and a few lemurs. All around the island, the reef has colonised the seabed. Each face displays coral architecture with different colours and lights. Shoals of fish and turtles come to greet the new divers who dive along the edge of the beach, just up to the shade of the coconut trees - not very far, in any case!



The Tanikely underwater reserve is a paradise for the novice diver because of the accessibility of dives and the spectacle that presents itself, but the diversity of species and the amount of fish to be found surprises even the most experienced of divers. Here you can find enough fish, coral, alcyonaria, starfish and shellfish to fill up entire books!

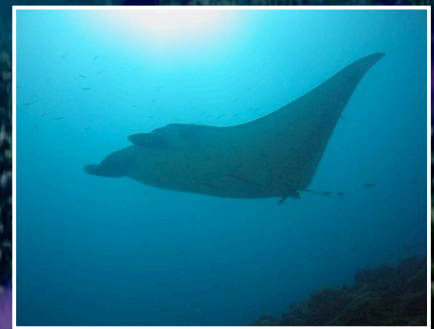
Manta point.

Depth: 20 m - Diving time: 40 min

Open-water diver or level 1 necessary.

Vast stretches of sand next to great depths of sea and scattered with large clumps of coral where manta ray come to be "cleaned" by the tiny blue and black labrids. Many garden eels (heteroconger) to be seen and, if you happen to be around during the month of November, probably a whale shark or humpback whale.

There are small sharks and big groupers, plus many sea unicorns and blue and even olive-coloured triggerfish.



Rosario.

Maximum depth: 20 m

Diving time: 45 min

Open-water diver or level 1 necessary.

Situated near the cliffs, this is the frontier with the open seas. Often to be seen are nursing or white-tipped reef sharks, hidden under the coral massifs or a passing short-nosed blacktail shark. You may even spot a large

ribbontail ray just before a marlin. Also to be found here is big gorgonian coral, a small tunnel and pretty coral. And if, from time to time, you look up, you will see a horde of bonito on the hunt. Not taking into account the shoals of all kinds of species of fish, crayfish and all the surprises that a dive in Madagascar offers.