

Antsiranana, Diana, Madagascar

Perched at Madagascar's northern tip on one of the world's great natural harbors, Antsiranana — still called Diego Suarez by locals — mixes crumbling French colonial charm with access to some of the most otherworldly landscapes on Earth: red sculpted tsingy, emerald lagoons, and rainforest alive with lemurs.

Mixed: pier or tender

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

Malagasy Ariary (MGA); euros/USD sometimes accepted

Malagasy & French; limited English

Wildlife destination

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Most cruise ships tender to the Port de Plaisance landing; only occasionally do smaller vessels berth at the commercial pier.

Best For: Unique geology (Red Tsingy), wildlife (lemurs, chameleons), colonial city walks, pristine beaches.

Walk to center: ~1.5 km (15-20 min on foot) or a quick tuk-tuk ride from the pier gate.

Don't Miss: Tsingy Rouge for its Martian red rock formations, or the Emerald Sea (Mer d'Émeraude) for snorkeling.

Getting around: **Taxi** \$2–5 USD · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Red Tsingy (Tsingy Rouge)** — The star attraction near Antsiranana: towering spires of red laterite rock sculpted by erosion into an alien landscape.
- Three Bays Tour (Les Trois Baies)** — A scenic half-day looping Sakalava Bay (kitesurfing capital), Pigeon Bay, and Dunes Bay — white sand, turquoise water, and a stop at the Cap Miné...
- Montagne d'Ambre National Park** — A lush volcanic massif blanketed in rainforest, threaded with waterfalls and crater lakes.
- Emerald Sea (Mer d'Émeraude)** — A sheltered lagoon of vivid emerald-green water accessible only by traditional Malagasy pirogue or small boat.
- City Tour & Antsiranana Market** — Walk the colonial-era streets around Place Joffre, browse the lively central market for spices and vanilla, and see the French-era administrative...

BEST WALKS

- Colonial City Center Stroll** 1.5 km · Easy · 30–45 min — From the pier gate, walk north along the waterfront to Place Joffre, the old French colonial square.
- Ramena Beach Walk** Taxi to Ramena (~20 min) · Easy · Beach walk — Take a taxi or organized transfer to Ramena village, a fishing settlement east of the city with a long sandy beach and fresh seafood stalls.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		85°	75°	10d
Jun		83°	72°	4d
Aug		82°	70°	2d
Sep		83°	71°	2d
Oct		85°	72°	2d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:48AM–5:37PM · Jun 6:01AM–5:25PM · Aug 5:56AM–5:38PM · Sep 5:37AM–5:38PM · Oct 5:17AM–5:39PM

Malagasy Ariary (MGA); euros/USD sometimes accepted

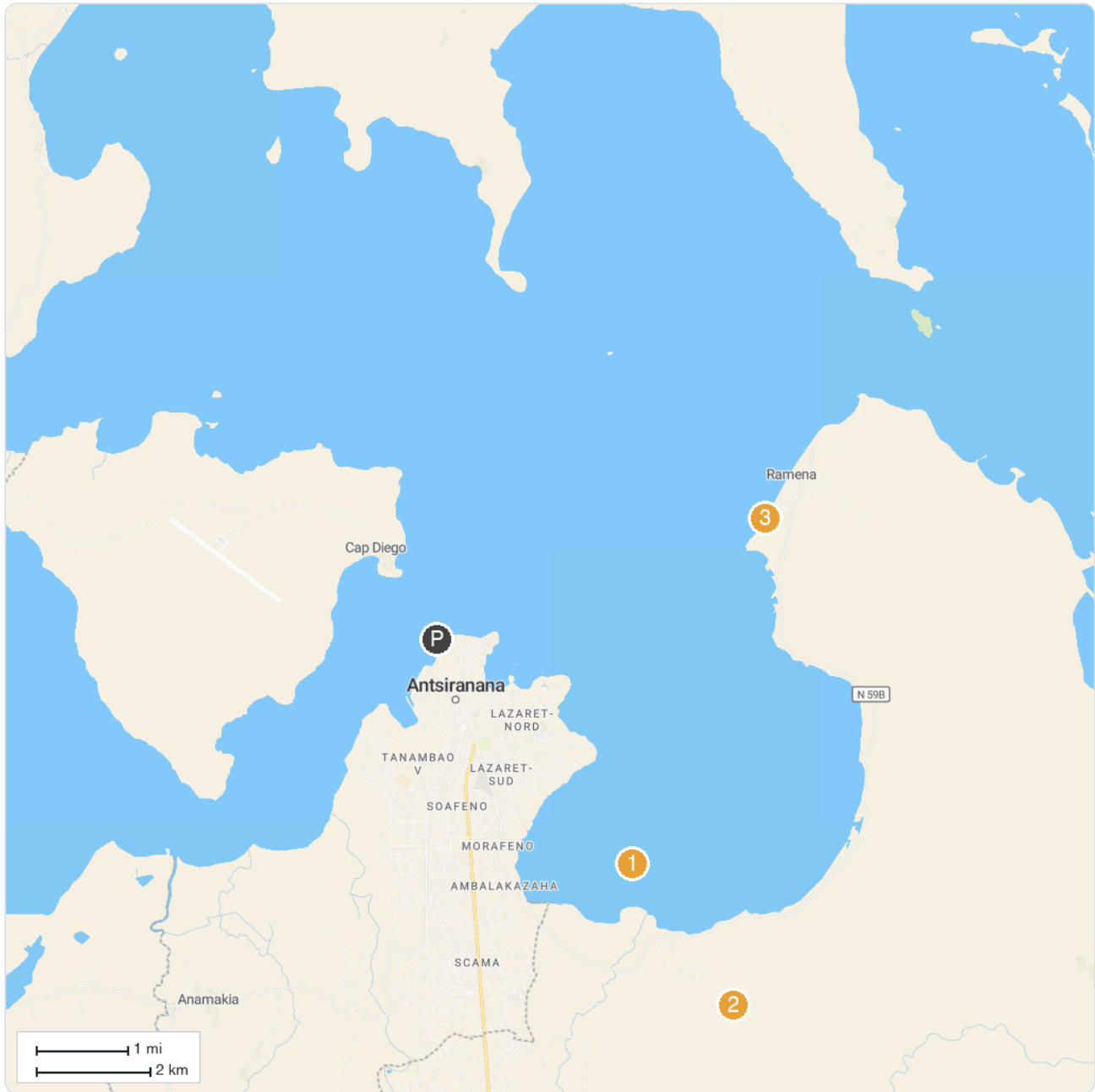
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry local currency. Malagasy Ariary (MGA) is essential for tuk-tuks, market stalls, and local restaurants. ATMs in town can be unreliable — bring euros or USD as backup and exchange at a hotel cambio.
- Tendering means early starts matter. If your ship tenders, join the first wave ashore — there's often only one tender dock operating, and queues build quickly. Book shore excursions through the ship to get priority tender access.
- Bring insect repellent. Madagascar has malaria-risk areas; repellent with DEET is wise, especially for national park excursions. Lightweight long sleeves help too.
- French is your friend. English is rarely spoken outside tour guides. Basic French phrases go a long way — locals genuinely appreciate the effort, and even a 'merci' lands warmly.
- Road conditions are rough.
- Ask before photographing people.

Antsiranana, Diana, Madagascar — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Nosy Lonjo (Sugar Loaf)** A distinctive circular volcanic islet rising from Antsiranana Bay, considered sacred by local Malagasy communities.
- 3** **Ramena Beach** A palm-lined sandy beach about 20 km east of Antsiranana, popular for swimming and known for fresh seafood shacks along the shore.

- 2** **Montagne des Français** A protected dry-forest massif east of town with panoramic views over Diego Suarez Bay and the ruins of Fort Anosiravo at its summit.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**