

Tolanaro, Madagascar

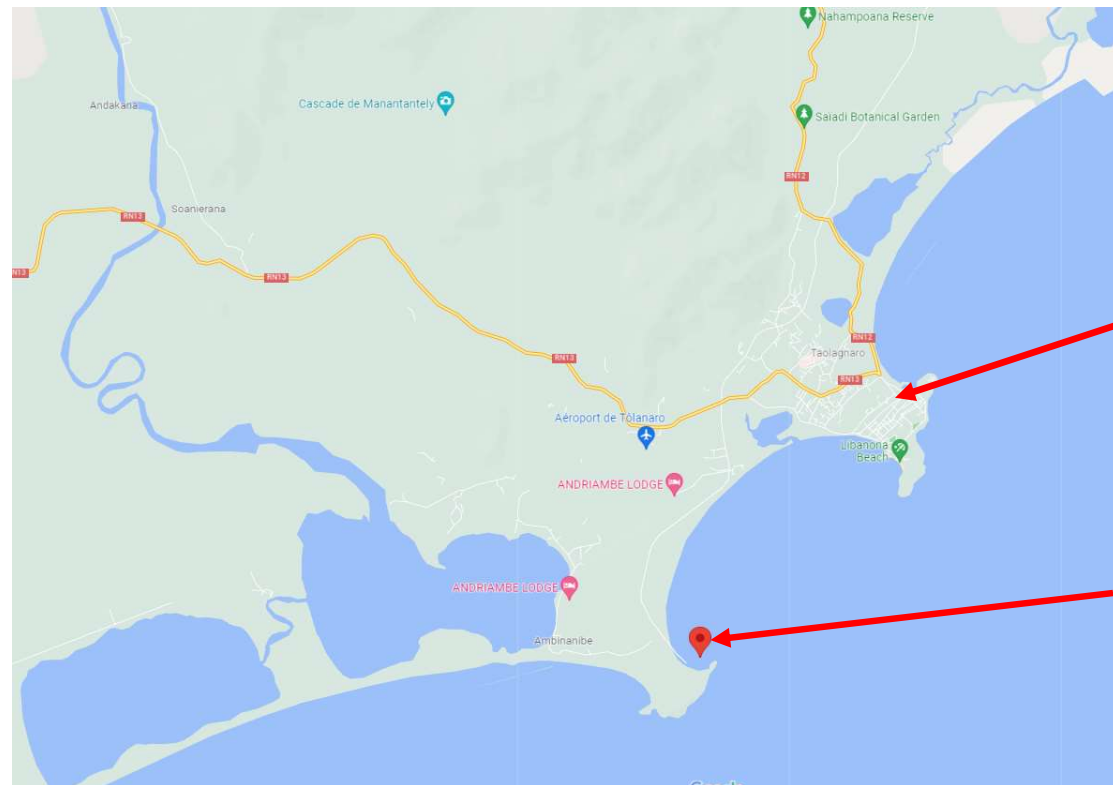
- Sunday, March 5, 2023
- Docked from 8:00AM to 5:00PM
- Also called Fort Dauphin and Taolagnaro
- Tourist Info
 - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/madagascar>
 - <https://www.whatsinport.com/Fort-Dauphin.htm>
 - 3 minute photo collection (no captions):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spvPO2E5IDA>
- Weather
 - March temperatures range 74°-89°F; avg 81°F.
 - 3.18" precipitation with 79% relative humidity.

Tolanaro, Madagascar



Tolanaro

- Madagascar's oldest town, established by France in 15th century
- Population ~46K residents
- On Indian Ocean
- One of the poorest countries in the world (70% of people live below the poverty line)



Tolanaro

Cruise ship dock

Essentials (1)

- **Money** - Malagasy Ariary; AR100 = \$.25 US. Best to rely on cash as credit cards aren't widely accepted.
- **Language** - Entire island speaks 1 language: Malagasy (pronounced "Malagash") but many different dialects. French is 2nd official language. Very few people speak English.
- **VISA** - Required and should be issued by HAL. Not listed as "Visa Required" on HAL booking confirmation. <http://www.madagascar-consulate.org/visainfo.html>
- **Safety** - Violent crime, car jacking, and armed robberies can occur. Don't visit any parks or beaches alone. Petty theft can occur in crowds. Don't display any signs of wealth - jewelry, cameras, phones, etc.
- **Clothing** - Don't wear flashy or designer clothes.

Essentials (2)

- **Cell Service** - Very limited service. Some 4G from Orange & Telma Mobile on main road from cruise pier to Tolanaro and in downtown Tolanaro.
- **Internet** - Fast, but very limited service.
- **Tipping** - If service charge added to restaurant bill, then no tip. Otherwise, 10%.
- **Taxi** - No Uber. To hail a taxi, stand in street and wave your arm. Fares are negotiable (agree on price before you get in cab). Shared taxis are common.
- **Bus** - Not recommended as may not be safe.
- **Car Rental** - Not recommended. Car jacking can occur.
- Children and adults may ask for hand-outs.

Cruise Dock

- We will dock at Port d'Ehola about 6 miles from Fort-Dauphin.
- Typically, there will be complimentary shuttle buses to Tolanaro City.
- There will likely be some taxis available at the dock.



Cruise ship dock

Shopping

- Fort Dauphin market - everything is sold from fish and produce to French baguettes and live animals.
- Avoid street food as hygienic standards tend to be non-existent.

Attractions (1)

- **Nahampoana Reserve:** Lemur habitat with lush gardens and wonderful sights. The lemurs run free. Every lemur species native to the south of Madagascar lives in the park. ~4 miles from Tolanaro, along bumpy road. There is an entry fee and you must hire a guide there. <https://nahampoanareserve.com/>
- **Parc National d'Andohahela:** World Heritage Site with great scenery and wildlife. Rainforest area is beautiful. Largest lemur sanctuary in Madagascar.. ~25 miles from Tolanaro (~1 hour). Entry fee 55,000AR (~\$14) + required guide fee. May not be open on Sundays. <http://www.parcs-madagascar.com/parcs/andohahela.php>



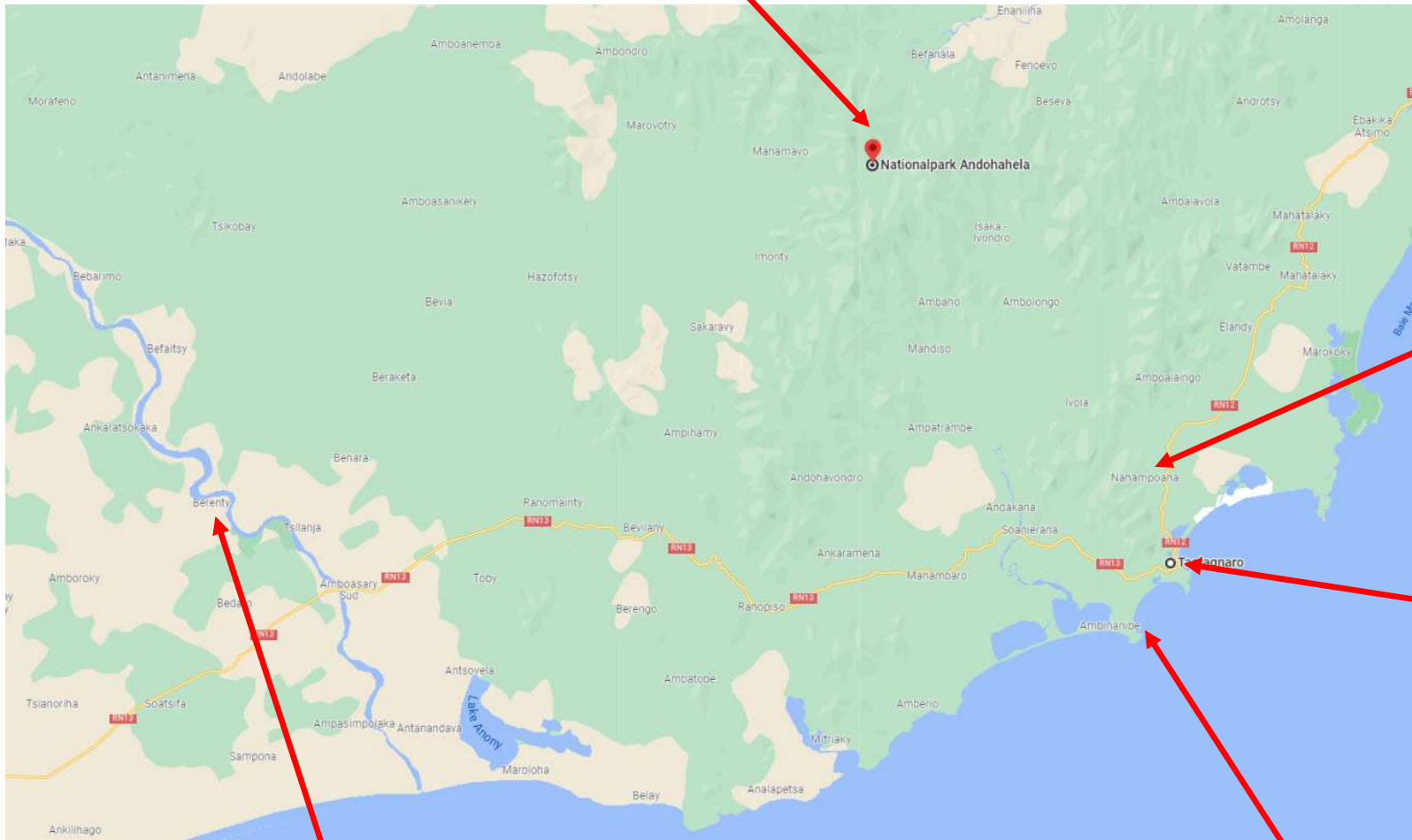
Attractions (2)

- **Berenty Reserve:** Area's major attraction ~56 miles away from Tolanaro (~2.5 hr drive). Private wildlife reserve. Focus on scientific research on lemurs for over 40 years.
<https://www-personal.umd.umich.edu/~fdolins/berenty/>
- **Spiny Forest:** Cactus-like *Didierea* plants endemic in Madagascar.
- **Baobab Trees:** Over time, the Baobab has adapted to its environment. It is a succulent, which means that during the rainy season it absorbs and stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season when all around is dry and arid. This is how it became known as "The Tree of Life".



Tolanaro

Parc National d'Andohahela



Nahampoana Reserve

Tolanaro

Berenty Reserve

Cruise ship dock

Private Tours

- **Nothing listed for Tours By Locals, Viator, etc.**
- **Madagascar Travel and Tours:**
<https://madagascartravelandtours.com/>
- **Madagascar Excursions MAD'EX:** <http://voyagemada.com/>
- **Dodi's Lemur Tours:** <https://www.dodislemurtours.com/>

HAL Tours

- **None listed on HAL website**