





on the island trade only minimally outside oftheir communities, unlike Nosy Be which is home to resorts accommodating mostly French and Italian tourists. Nosy Mitsio has remained more untouched by modern ways of life. The island is lush with palm trees along the beach where the settlements are built.

The bay is large with plenty of space to anchor in calm and protected waters. It's surrounded by a large expansive white sand beach that extends along the bay with various villages located along the shoreline. Houses in the villages are mostly one-room huts built on wooden stilts with thatched roofs and they

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are clustered together creating an organized community. A short dinghy ride ashore leaving your sailboat behind safely at anchor, you can explore the beautiful beaches and villages on the island. The locals welcome sailors to walk through their village and often barter supplies for local-caught fish and fruit. There are hiking trails to the island's summit where you can enjoy stunning views of the main harbor and look down on your boat resting in the protected waters of the island's lee. Nosy Mitsio is a calm and relaxed paradise and multiple days should be allocated to explore the archipelago when sailing the area.

When anchoring near a remote village such as those on Nosy Mitsio, it is a kind gesture to dinghy ashore with gifts to introduce yourself. Although many of the residents now do business using currency, it hasn't always been this way. It's difficult to spend money if you don't live in Hell-Ville on Nosy Be and the sail from Nosy Mitsio south to Nosy Be on a wooden *Dhow* is a full day's voyage. When appropriate, gifting items to the communities upon your arrival is a sign of respect for

A LOCAL MUSICIAN WALKS THE BEACHES OF NOSY BE USING A HOMEMADE MAROVANY (ABOVE, LEFT). NOSY KOMBA IS FULL OF LEMURS AND LOCAL TOUR GUIDES WILL TAKE YOU TO THEM (BELOW, RIGHT).

is completely isolated and the few villages

anchoring in their community. You can offer school supplies, clothing, or fish caught while trawling behind your boat.

## **TSARABANJINA**

After spending a few days exploring the various islands in the northern archipelago, most sailors turn their itinerary south towards Nosy Be. Along the way is the small island of Tsarabanjina. Surrounded by coral reefs and covered in layers of thick greenery, this small island is located between Nosy Be and Nosy Mitsio, perfectly suited for an afternoon stopover to swim off your boat. Only one suitable anchorage exists here,

which is located off the southern point of the island. Along the beach is an exclusive resort with private bungalows and a bar made from the island's traditional timber. The bar welcomes sailors for tropical drinks and freshly caught seafood dishes. Take note that an overnight in this anchorage is only suitable in very light winds and not recommended by local mariners. Good snorkeling can be found on either side of the beach. The resort itself is private and offers an exclusive ambiance to only a few lucky patrons at a time and sailors are able to experience a taste of it.

## NOSY IRANJA

South of Nosy Be, located a few nautical miles from mainland Madagascar, is Nosy Irania. The island is home to some of the most tranquil turquoise waters and surrounded by mangrove trees that feed into an electric blue colored sea. A well positioned lighthouse has been constructed at the top of this island, which is also home to the school on the island. Nosy Iranja is a hatching ground for both green turtles and hawksbill

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