



Call for Experiments

Expedition 'Dutch Cemetery 1595' At Nosy Manitsa, Madagascar

A team of Dutch and Malagasy archaeologists and geophysicists plan to explore the little island of Nosy Manitsa at the Southwest of Madagascar to locate and research 'the Dutch cemetery of 1595'.

It will be the first time this remote and undeveloped site will be documented during a challenging and adventurous expedition.

The team offers other scientists the unique opportunity to contribute to this expedition by donating an experiment to be conducted on site and retrieve research data in return. We invite researchers to join our expedition!

Why is this expedition organized?

The team has proof that Dutch sailors were buried on the island near Madagascar during their voyage in 1595 to Bantam in East India. They died unfortunately of scurvy, and amongst them was one of the ship captains. Finding this cemetery is expected to be the only tangible evidence of the most important first maritime trade mission of the Dutch. These sailors were pioneers of the Dutch Golden Age.

The island lies in a very remote area and it will take days to reach it. Landrovers will travel overland through arid country with Baobab trees, unique animals and hundreds of kilometers of rough terrain and sandy plains. The team will sail to the island with dugout sailing boats of the local fishermen. The expedition is an archaeological survey led by the Universities of Leiden and Antananarivo, Madagascar. The expedition will take three weeks to complete. It will be filmed as a documentary and broadcasted the next year on Dutch television. Additionally an education program will be developed to teach the history of the Dutch maritime exploration in schools.

What is the opportunity for you?

Because of its exclusive characteristics the expedition to Nosy Manitsa provides a real opportunity for other scientists, companies and explorers to join. This will be the first time that an international scientific team will visit this area and there will be a lot to learn about the local situation.

If you are interested in this part of Madagascar, then you do not have to organize a complex and expensive expedition yourself. Instead, just put your experiment on board our mission and our team will do the job for you. To support your research, we can work exclusively for you during part of the expedition. We offer you a package that will turn this research expedition into yours!

For a fixed price we will take your experiment to Madagascar and we report to you the results according to your requirements. Of course we need you to train one of our team members. Together we decide on how we deliver the results to you.



So what do we offer exactly?

We will do your experiment as a one-person job. Of course we can ask someone to assist, but only one person will be in charge of your experiment as a door-to-door service. This means that our team member will be briefed by you with training and instructions, before the expedition takes place. We will bring your experiment to the expedition location, act according to your instructions, and bring back the results to you personally.

The standard research package will include:

- Intake and training session of max. four hours
- Twelve hours of research time on site during the expedition
- A fixed price of 2500 euro

You can decide what activities will be performed during your research time and when to spend these hours during the expedition. It is possible for you to divide the research time over multiple days or a specific geographical area. You can also buy extra research time but then we will discuss the available options and planning. Shipping extra equipment for the experiment is not included in the package and will be calculated additionally.

So what areas and topics could be interesting for you?

Your experiment can be any field but we give you some suggestions here ...



How can you apply?

Please send us a brief outline (max. 500 words) of your experiment proposal. Tell us what institution or company you represent and if you want the standard research package or extend this. Provide us with a shortlist of equipment and weight to be carried on to the expedition location. Adding a curriculum vitae and/or recommendation letters with the application will help us to make an assessment.

We will get in touch with you about the details of the experiment in case we need more information to decide about the feasibility of the experiment on site.

Calls are accepted until September 1st 2015, and we will decide within two weeks after if your experiment is admitted to the expedition.

Send your application by mail to:
Expedition Dutch Cemetery 1595

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