AFRIQUE UNIE · TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Comoros in 12 days: a day-by-day itinerary

Twelve days is enough to visit the three islands of the Union of the Comoros at a pace that suits domestic flights, which are few and often rescheduled. Grande Comore offers the Moroni medina, the northern beaches, Lac Salé and the climb up Mount Karthala, one of the most active volcanoes in the Indian Ocean. Mohéli, the wildest island, is all about its marine park and turtles, while Anjouan charms with its old towns and mountains. Here is the detailed itinerary, with the precautions to take.

Day by day

Days 1-2 · Moroni, its medina and old harbour (night : Moroni)
The international airport is at Hahaya, about twenty kilometres north of Moroni. Use the first day to settle in and get cash, as cash machines are unreliable. The next day, explore the medina, a maze of lanes and coral-stone houses with carved doors. Facing the old harbour, where a few dhows still dock, the white-fronted Old Friday Mosque is the most photographed monument in the city. Then walk through the Volo Volo market, at its busiest in the morning, for spices, vanilla and ylang-ylang. The Comoros is a Muslim country: cover your shoulders and knees in town and always ask before photographing anyone.

Day 3 · Northern Grande Comore and Lac Salé (night : Moroni)
Head for the northern tip of the island, about an hour and a half away depending on the state of the road. Lac Salé, near Bangoi-Kouni, fills an old crater right by the ocean: its green water contrasts with the black rock and the nearby sea, and walking around the rim does not take long. Continue to the Trou du Prophète, a cove surrounded by lava flows where, according to tradition, a boat landed at the time of the arrival of Islam. The white-sand beaches of the north coast, around Mitsamiouli, are good for a quiet swim. On the way back, stop at Itsandra, a former royal town beside a pretty beach.

Day 4 · Iconi and the lava flows of the south (night : Moroni)
South of Moroni, Iconi was one of the island's first capitals. A cliff towers over the village: according to tradition, women threw themselves from it to escape raiders from Madagascar in the nineteenth century. Continue along the south-west coast road, where villages alternate with lava fields. At Singani, a flow from the 1977 eruption crossed the village and reached the sea, and you can still walk on the solidified rock between the rebuilt houses. Finish on one of the southern beaches, then head back before dark. Use the evening to confirm the details of the Karthala climb with your guide and check that no volcanic alert is in force.

Days 5-6 · Climbing Mount Karthala (night : Camp on Mount Karthala, then Moroni)
Mount Karthala rises to 2,361 metres and its caldera measures roughly three by four kilometres. The long, demanding climb starts from the villages above Moroni: allow most of a day to go up through the rainforest, then the heathland of giant heather. It must be done with an experienced guide, good shoes, plenty of water and warm clothes, as nights at the top are cold. The camp is set up outside the caldera, at a spot chosen by the guide: camping inside it is strongly discouraged because of gas emissions. At daybreak, the view over the crater and the ocean rewards the effort. The descent takes up the sixth day.

Days 7-9 · Mohéli, its marine park and turtles (night : Nioumachoua)
A short domestic flight links Moroni with Fomboni, the small capital of Mohéli. From there, drive to Nioumachoua on the south coast, the starting point for boat trips to the islets of the marine park, protected since the early 2000s. Snorkelling on the reefs, empty beaches and dense forest fill these three days, best enjoyed slowly. In the evening, an outing organised with the eco-guides of Itsamia village lets you watch green turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs, depending on the season, without torches or flash. From about July to October, humpback whales often pass offshore. Mohéli has almost no tourist infrastructure: expect simple lodgings and bring cash.

Days 10-11 · Anjouan, Mutsamudu and Domoni (night : Mutsamudu)
Fly to Anjouan, directly or via Moroni depending on current schedules. Mutsamudu, the island's capital, hides an old medina of narrow lanes behind its harbour, overlooked by a citadel built in the late eighteenth century to protect the town from Malagasy raids. The next day, cross the island to Domoni, an old town on the east coast with stone houses and ancient tombs, on a mountain road with fine views over valleys planted with ylang-ylang and clove trees. With a guide, a hike to Lake Dzialandzé in the highlands sometimes offers a glimpse of Livingstone's fruit bat, a large endangered bat found only on Anjouan and Mohéli.

Day 12 · Back to Moroni and departure (night : Flight home)
Take the morning flight to Moroni, then head to Hahaya international airport for your flight home. Domestic flights often change time, or even day: ideally, book an international flight in the late afternoon or, better still, return to Moroni the day before. If you have a little time, a last stroll along the seafront or a detour to Itsandra beach rounds off the trip gently. Before leaving, buy some vanilla or ylang-ylang essence locally, two of the archipelago's main products. Finally, check your own country's rules on bringing plant products home.

Getting around

On each island, the easiest option is to hire a car with a driver or go through a local guide: roads are narrow, sometimes in poor condition and poorly signposted. Between the islands, fly whenever possible: the French authorities advise against most sea links, which do not meet international safety standards, and boarding kwassa-kwassa boats is illegal. Domestic flights are few and their schedules change often, so reconfirm them the day before and keep a spare day. Bring cash in euros, easy to change into Comorian francs, as cards are rarely accepted.

When to go

The best time is from May to November, during the dry season: milder temperatures, little rain and good conditions for climbing Mount Karthala. Humpback whales are mostly seen from July to October. From December to April, the hot and humid season brings heavy downpours, and cyclones can hit the archipelago, especially from January to March. During Ramadan, avoid eating or drinking in public during the day.

Practical information

Comoros

Entry	Depends on your passport: visiterafriqueunie.com/en/visa/comoros/
Yellow fever	Certificate not required
Malaria	throughout the country
Currency	Comorian franc (KMF)
Languages	Comorian, French, Arabic
Plugs	type C, E · dialling code +269 · UTC+3
Emergencies	police 117 ou 17 · fire 113 ou 114

Departure checklist

Documents

☐ Passport valid for at least six months after your return, with blank pages
☐ Visa or e-visa (printed if required)
☐ International vaccination certificate (yellow fever if required)
☐ Travel insurance certificate and assistance number
☐ Paper and digital copies of your passport and bookings
☐ Tickets, bookings and addresses saved offline
☐ International driving permit if you are hiring a vehicle

Health

☐ Travel consultation done and vaccinations up to date
☐ Malaria tablets if your doctor recommends them
☐ First-aid kit: plasters, antiseptic, anti-diarrhoea tablets, rehydration salts
☐ Mosquito repellent suitable for the tropics
☐ Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
☐ Personal medication and prescriptions

Money and connectivity

☐ Bank told, Visa or Mastercard (and a backup card)
☐ Cash in euros or dollars, recent notes in good condition
☐ eSIM or local SIM card sorted
☐ Plug adapter for the country
☐ Power bank and cables
☐ Offline maps downloaded
☐ Afrique Unie app installed

In the bag

☐ Light clothes that cover up (sun, mosquitoes, places of worship)
☐ A fleece for evenings, dawn safaris and altitude
☐ Walking shoes and sandals
☐ Head torch
☐ Water bottle (ideally with a filter)
☐ Small daypack and waterproof pouches
☐ Luggage padlock

Before you close the door

☐ Your government's travel advice reread
☐ Trip registered with your consular service (if it offers this)
☐ Itinerary and contacts left with someone close
☐ Online check-in done and baggage allowance checked

Notebook made from visiterafriqueunie.com/en/itineraries/comoros-in-12-days/ · information checked in November 2026 against official sources. Entry, health and safety rules change: check them again before you leave (your country's official advice, the embassy of the country you visit).