

# TRACKS SAFARIS

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## **MADAGASCAR – ONE THOUSAND VIEWS A JOURNEY BY ROAD**



A road version of our Madagascar in One Thousand Views – this itinerary avoids domestic air travel in Madagascar and allows you to see more of the country on the ground.

Enjoy the diversity Madagascar and her stunning landscapes with visits to both private and National Parks with lots of opportunity to meet local people and craftsmen on the way.

**Day 1: Friday: Arrival ANTANANARIVO (TANA)**

On arrival into Antananarivo - the capital of Madagascar – you will be met and transferred to **ICHOTEL on BB** - located in near the airport.

**Evening, meeting and briefing with your Tour Representative at ICHotel.**

**Day 2: Saturday: TANA – AMBOSITRA: 260 km: approximately 7 hours with stops**

After breakfast you will drive southward across the highlands - mainly rice fields and lavaka, which are caused by erosion. Stop in Ambatolampy – ‘the city built on the flat rock’. Traditionally agricultural, the town is also famous for its age-old foundries - a technique transmitted from father to son. Continue to Antsirabe where you will stop for lunch and then proceed to Ambositra driving through terraced rice fields on to your final destination for the night.

**Overnight in Hotel ARTISAN on BB or similar**

**Day 3: Sunday: AMBOSITRA – AMBALAVAO: 222 km: approximately 6 hours with stops**

Before departing for Ambalavao enjoy a quick visit to Ambositra - which is the centre of Madagascar’s wood carving industry. The houses have ornately carved wooden balconies and shutters in different colours. Continue on to Fianarantsoa - the landscape on the way is still dominated by rice fields, pine forests and eucalyptus. Enjoy a short city tour then continue to Ambalavo. Visit the Wine factory, the Paper Anteimoro workshop and the colourful market of Ambalavao.

**Overnight in La Varangue des Betsileo on BB or similar**

**DAY 4: Monday: AMBALAVAO – ISALO: ANJA PARK: 208 km: 6 hours (with stops & visit)**

This morning drive to Isalo with a stop in Anja - a park run by the local village where you will be able to see lemurs. After a two-hour visit of the park, journey on southwards past the famous ‘3 hillocks’ and a huge dome called ‘archbishop's cape’. This is a sacred area for local people and where their ancestors made a collective suicide rather than surrender to Merina's domination. Stop in Ihosy - the capital of Bara tribes - who are nomadic cattle raisers. Then drive on across the huge ‘plateaux de Horombe’.

**Overnight in SATRANA LODGE on BB**

**Day 5: Tuesday: ISALO NATIONAL PARK**

Enjoy a day in Isalo National Park and swim in the famous natural swimming pool there. This park is best known for its strange geological formations, which are composed of sandstone and eroded by the rain and wind and offer some of the most spectacular scenery to be found in Madagascar. It is here where the BARA tribes used to bury their dead until they had enough money to buy a silver coffin. If you are lucky you will have the

opportunity to see the lemur catta during this walk. In the afternoon visit the village of Ranohira and then drive to the National Park museum. Around 16.30 in the afternoon you will drive to the 'The Natural window' to view the sunset between rocks formed like a window.

**Overnight in Satrana Lodge on BB**

**DAY 6: Wednesday: ZOMBITSE NATIONAL PARK: 130km**

An early start this morning with a two-hour drive to Zombitse National Park located about 130km from Isalo. On arrival you will enjoy a 2 or 3 hour walk with a local guide. The habitat is semi-dry forest and shelters 47% of the endemic birds of Madagascar along with 8 species of lemur. The local endemic gecko '*Phelsuma standigui*' can be found at the entrance of the park. The flora is varied and you will have the chance to see *Ficus sp* - a strangling creeper, *Protorhus abrahamia* which is a wood used for making coffins and many species of epiphytes - orchids. Afterwards drive to Andranomaintso, which is well known for its **baobabs** plateaux. Drive back to Isalo in the afternoon stopping off at Ilakaka.

**Overnight in SATRANA LODGE on BB**

**Day 7: Thursday: ISALO – RANOMAFANA: 266 km - approximately 7 hours with stops**

Drive northward to Ambalavao passing through the huge 'plateaux de Horombe' where the local tribe graze the zebu. Then you will cross the massif of Andringitra, which serves as a transition between the dry south and the fresh green highland before entering the land of Betsileo. Just before the town of Ambalavao you will pass through two spectacular granite domes called 'the gate of the south'. Just over an hour later you will reach Ranomafana.

**Overnight in Hotel CENTREST SEJOUR\*\* on BB**

**Day 8: Friday: RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK**

Today enjoy a three or four hour walk in the tropical rain forest of Ranomafana National Park. During your guided walk you will have the opportunity to see up to 12 species lemurs, including the recently discovered "golden lemur", more than 100 birds, reptiles, butterflies and other insects. The area is covered with forest, in the higher areas the trees are festooned with mosses, lichens, and orchids. The afternoon is free – the energetic can visit a Ranomafana village, otherwise this is a great chance to just relax or go for a swim in the pool.

**Overnight in the same hotel.**

**DAY 9: Saturday: RANOMAFANA - ANT SIRABE: 247 km: approximately 6 hours' drive with stops**

Today there is another early departure - after breakfast drive towards Antsirabe. The drive will take you across the highlands - which are characterised by rice fields, a cooler climate and a population with Asian features. Stop in Ambositra - the capital of Zafimaniry - to visit a woodcarving workshop and then continue to Antsirabe in the afternoon. You will arrive into Antsirabe at around 15.00 – enjoy a city tour and visit to a lapidary. Afterwards drive to Andraikiba Lake.

**Overnight in Hotel CHAMBRE DU VOYAGEUR on BB**

**Day 10: Sunday: ANTSIRABE – TANA: 169 km: approximately 3 hours' drive with stops**

After a morning city tour of Antsirabe where you will have the opportunity to visit local handicrafts workshops for some final shopping you will drive to Tana. Stop in Ambatolampy on the way - which is an agricultural city - and visit a pot maker. Arrive into Tana and enjoy a city tour before heading to the **ICHOTEL** for overnight **on BB**.

**Day 11: Monday: TANA – International flight home**

Transfer to the airport for your international flight home – or we would be delighted to arrange an extension for some time at the beach to relax after your journey.



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