



## **14 Day Madagascar –A Sanctuary of Nature**



**One of the largest islands in the world, Madagascar has been spared from much of the evolution of the rest of the world. Madagascar is different - it is a real melting pot of different nations with some unusual and interesting wildlife. Off the beaten track Madagascar really does await discovery and exploration. Journey to beautiful beaches, jungles and arid semi-deserts on Madagascar – a Sanctuary of Nature.**

### **DAY 1 - ANTANANARIVO**

Arrival day – on arrival you will be met and transferred to the hotel in Antananarivo.

**NIGHT IN IC HÔTEL SUITE JUNIOR \*\*\* ON BB OR SIMILAR**

### **DAY 2 – TANA/ANDASIBE: 145 KM: 4 HOURS' DRIVE**

After breakfast we depart on a city tour of old Tana including the Queen's palace. Drive to Andasibe, through the green landscape of the east. This drive brings you to the humid part of the country with many primary forest areas and lakes. Stop and visit " Pyereras Private Park" a home of endemics, reptiles and primates. Arrival in Andasibe. In the evening enjoy a night safari to watch night-active lemurs and overnight active animals.

**NIGHT IN VAKONA FOREST LODGE ON BB OR SIMILAR**

### **DAY 3: ANDASIBE NATIONAL PARK**

Morning visit to Andasibe National Park to see the Indri Indri - the biggest lemur in Madagascar. This 810 ha reserve has many examples of endemic fauna and flora. It contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds.

In the afternoon, visit of a Betsimisaraka (The-Many-inseparable) village, the second largest tribe to see how this tribe live; they cultivate rice and work on vanilla plantations. Night at the same hotel.

### **DAY 4: ANDASIBE - ANTSIRABE: 282 KM: 6 to 7 HOURS' DRIVE**

We depart for Antsirabe. Founded by Norwegian missionaries who were attracted by the cool climate and thermal springs, the name Antsirabe means 'the place of much salt'. We will experience the sunset on the edge of Lake Andraikiba. **NIGHT IN COULEUR CAFE \*\* ON BB**

### **DAY 5: ANTSIRABE / RANOMAFANA: 210 KM: 6 HOURS' DRIVE**

In the morning we visit local craftspeople that produce wonderful miniature bicycles; we also have a look at the semi-precious stones that are on sale here. We then stop at Ambositra, the centre of the Zafimaniry carving style. We then continue to the Ranomafana National Park where we will go on a nocturnal walk to see the animals. **NIGHT IN SETAM LODGE \*\*\* ON HB OR SIMILAR**

### **DAY 6: RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK**

Ranomafana was originally famous, not for the wildlife, but for the hot thermal springs in the area. After a guided walk in the National Park we will go for a relaxing thermal bath in the springs. **NIGHT IN SETAM LODGE\*\*\* ON HB OR SIMILAR**

### **DAY 7: RANOMAFANA/RANOHIRA: 336 KM: 6 TO 7 HOURS' DRIVE**

We pass through Fianarantsoa on our way to the village of Ambalavao to see the paper fabric. Many people are amazed by the 'medieval' style architecture of the houses here – great for photography. Leaving the rainforests and the mountains behind us we enter a region dominated by large fields before the desert begins. We arrive at Ranohira in the late afternoon. **NIGHT IN JARDIN DU ROY \*\*\* ON HB OR SIMILAR**



**DAY 8: ISALO NATIONAL PARK**

The Isalo National Park area is a wonderful combination of natural sandstone rock formations, rare endemic plants and dry weather – all combine to produce a truly spectacular landscape. In the morning we go on a guided walk of the Isalo National Park. Occasionally lemurs can be spotted. We go to the "fenêtre de l'Isalo" for sunset. **NIGHT IN JARDIN DU ROY\*\*\* ON HB OR SIMILAR**

**DAY 9: RANOHIRA/TULEAR/IFATY: 263 KM: 6 HOURS' DRIVE**

Today we experience another complete change of climate, from arid, desolate conditions in the morning to baobab and spiny forest in the afternoon. We will also have the chance to meet some of the local people with the Antandroy, Mahafaly and Bara tribes all resident of this area. **NIGHT IN HOTEL LES DUNES \*\*\* ON BB OR SIMILAR**

**DAY 10: IFATY**

Just north of the Toliara (Tulear), Ifaty is the ideal place to relax in the sun. Swimming and snorkelling are great ways to spend the next two days and, if you are not interested in sitting in the sun, you can do the "Reniala Park" where you can see reptiles, birds and baobabs in the middle of a thorny bush. . **NIGHT IN HOTEL LES DUNES \*\*\* ON BB OR SIMILAR**

**DAY 11: IFATY – TULEAR – FORT DAUPHIN**

In the morning we leave Ifaty, transfer to the airport and catch a local flight to Fort Dauphin. Then transfer to hotel where you stay. Fort Dauphin lies in the south-east coast of Madagascar. It is doted with two distinct climates which gives it two contrasted landscape: the east humid with its wet and green tropical forest and the south with its dry and deserted plants like the numerous spiny Bush. **NIGHT IN HOTEL CROIX DU SUD\*\*\*ON HB.**

**DAY 12: FORT DAUPHIN – BERENTY**

Morning transfer to Berenty - 80 km from Fort Dauphin. Today we can admire the big contrast between the eastern humidity of Fort Dauphin and the southern dryness of Amboasary. This is also seen in the features of the population, the Antainosy with their Asian origin and the Antandroy with their Bantu origin. Stop over the "Nepenthès" fields, carnivorous plants in Fort Dauphin, then to the triangular palm "Neodypsis Decari", an endemic palm to Fort Dauphin. Visit Berenty Reserve with a special guide. Berenty is one of main reserves where we can see almost all the fauna and flora of the south. It is also known for the kingdom of lemurs such as the ring-tailed lemurs, the dancing lemurs and so many others. Night expedition to explore the reserve and to look for night active animals. **NIGHT IN BERENTY LODGE\*\* ON HB.**

**DAY 13: BERENTY - FORT DAUPHIN: 80 KM: 3 HOURS' DRIVE**

Early start this morning as this is the best time to see birds. See the sifakas opening their arms to see the sun, and enjoy the coolness of the forest before going in to breakfast. The reserve is split into five parcels surrounded by extensive sisal plantations. The total area of about 265 ha is situated along the Mandrare River. The gallery forest is dominated by huge tamarind trees and is suffering from a severe invasion by the alien rubber vine. Berenty is a good place to watch birds, and 83 prominent and nine species are recorded. In the afternoon, drive back to Fort Dauphin. **NIGHT IN HOTELCROIX DU SUD \*\*\* ON HB**

**DAY 14: FORT DAUPHIN - TANA**

Transfer to the airport and catch a local flight to Tana where you have a day room at ICHotel. Transfer back to the Airport for your international flight home.



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