



14 Day Madagascar - a World Apart



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 unique - a real melting pot of different nations with some very 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 your Malagasy Adventure.

DAY 1: ANTANANARIVO

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Antananarivo. Rest of day at leisure.

Overnight in the IC HÔTEL SUITE JUNIOR * ON BB or similar.**

DAY 2: TANA / MORONDAVA: DOMESTIC FLIGHT MD

Early flight to Tana, meet and greet on arrival, and transfer to ICHOTEL where you will be given a full briefing of the tour. Afterwards, transfer to the airport for the flight to Morondava and transfer to your hotel. Morondava lies in the beach. The Morondava area was the centre of the Sakalava kingdom, a prosperous rice-growing area, it is also known as a seaside resort, with a laid-back atmosphere - many different cultures and religions manage to intermingle in this region which makes it very special.

Overnight in the RENALA AUX SABLES D'OR HÔTEL or similar on BB.

DAY 3: MORONDAVA - BEKOPAKA: 200 KM: 8 HOURS

In the morning drive to Belo through the Baobab forest and the red soil of the west. You will arrive in Belo around noon and then be transferred by boat to Bekopaka where you can experience the life of Malagasy people in the driest part of the country. Arrive into Bekopaka around 18.00.

Overnight in the hotel ORCHIDEE DE BEMARAHA ON BB or similar.

DAY 4: TSINGY DE BEMARAHA

After breakfast enjoy a day excursion to visit the Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve (World Heritage Site), which is in the east of Antsalova, south-east of Maintirano.

Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve comprises karstic landscapes and limestone uplands cut into impressive 'tsingy' peaks and a 'forest' of limestone needles, the spectacular canyon of the Manambolo river, rolling hills and high peaks. The undisturbed forests, lakes and mangrove swamps are the habitat of rare and endangered lemurs and birds. The flora consists of a dry western deciduous forest, plants typical of these dry limestone areas, such as species of Aloe and baobab *Andasonia* and the red-flowered flamboyant tree *Delonix regia* which is so widely planted in the tropics. Madagascar's sole native banana *Musa perrieri* grows here – so do plants which grow in stones – such as different species of *pachypodium* and orchids. *Pachypodium* is a genus of succulent spine-bearing trees and shrubs, native to Africa and many produce spectacular flowers. The fauna offers the opportunity to see the stump-tailed chameleon *Brookesia perarmata* and the Madagascar grey-throated rail. The reserve is also the only protected area where the endemic nesomyine rodent is known to occur. There are 53 species of birds including the goshawk, and seven species of lemur, including Decken's sifaka *Propithecus verreauxi deckeni*.

Overnight at the ORCHIDEE DE BEMARAHA ON BB or similar

DAY 5: BEKOPAKA – MORONDAVA: 200 KM

After breakfast, we enjoy a 4 x 4 drive back to Morondava – famous for its baobab and dry western forest. Along the way, we stop in ALLEE DES BAOBABS for photo – this is the region of splendid Grandidier's baobab, *Andasonia grandidieri*. You arrive into Morondava in the afternoon.

Overnight at the hotel RENALA AUX SABLES D'OR or similar ON BB

**DAY 6: MORONDAVA – TANA: DOMESTIC FLIGHT MD**

This morning after breakfast we transfer to the airport to fly to Tana. On arrival into Tana you will be taken on a tour of the city.

Overnight at the PAVILLON DE L'EMYRNE ON BB.

DAY 7: TANA – ANDASIBE (DOMESTIC FLIGHT):145 KM: 4 HOURS' DRIVE

Today we enjoy a scenic drive to Andasibe through the green landscape of the east. This journey brings us to the humid part of the country with many primary forests and lakes. Stop and visit the Pyrereras Private Park which is home to endemic reptiles and primates. In the evening you will experience a night safari to watch night active lemurs and other creatures.

Overnight at the VAKONA FOREST LODGE ON BB OR SIMILAR

DAY 8: ANDASIBE NATIONAL PARK:

This morning enjoy a visit to the National Park of Andasibe to see the Indri Indri - the biggest lemurs on Madagascar. This 810 ha reserve has many examples of endemic fauna and flora and contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, endemic creatures such as chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. In the afternoon you visit a Betsimisaraka (The-Many-inseparable) village, the second largest tribe in Madagascar, to see how they cultivate rice and work on vanilla plantations.

Overnight at the same hotel

DAY 9: ANDASIBE – ANKANIN'NY NOFY: 132 KM: 4 HOURS' DRIVE

Drive to Ankanin' ny nofy after breakfast, stopping in Brickaville en route. Continue on to Manambato where you take a boat to Ankanin' ny nofy. We cross the Rasoabe Lake and then the Pangalanes channel where we can see many birds and the luxuriant vegetation of the east. Arrive around 14.00.

Overnight at the HOTEL PALMARIUM **ON BB OR SIMILAR

DAY 10: ANKANIN'NY NOFY: 210 KM: 6 HOURS' DRIVE

Today is a free day. Ankanin' ny nofy means 'nest of the dreams' and is surrounded by a huge, blue lake. Relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. You can also visit the Palmarium - a private park of about 46 ha housing many lemurs – such as propithecus verreauxi, eulemur coronatus, macaco.

Overnight at the HOTEL PALMARIUM ON BB OR SIMILAR

DAY 11: ANKANIN'NY NOFY – TAMATAVE – SAINTE MARIE: DOMESTIC FLIGHT

Early in the morning we sail along the Pangalanes channel. This is a good chance to see how the local people live and travel in bamboo pirogues along the channel. Arrive into Tamatave at around noon and transfer to the airport to fly to Sainte Marie.

Overnight at the PRINCESSE BORAH LODGE* ON HB OR SIMILAR**

**DAYS 12 AND 13: SAINTE MARIE**

Enjoy a couple of days at leisure in Sainte Marie. Sainte Marie, known as Nosy Boraha, is an island off the east coast of Madagascar - the main town is Ambodifotatra. The channel between Sainte-Marie Island and Madagascar is a hot spot for whale watching and substantial groups of humpback whales (Megaptera) migrate from the Antarctic to this idyllic breeding place. These quiet giants arrive in July to find conditions favourable for the growth of their young and well suited to their courtship and acrobatic games before departing around October toward the cold seas.

Sainte Marie was also a popular base for pirates throughout the 17th and 18th centuries as it was not far from the maritime routes along which ships returning from the East Indies sailed in transit, their holds overflowing with wealth. The pirates were attracted Sainte Marie as it has many bays and inlets protected from storms and the island had abundant supplies of fruit.

Sainte Marie is ideal for walking, cycling, snorkeling and diving. There are also interesting sights in and around Ambodifotatra and the Baie des Forbans - you can visit the Catholic Church built in 1837 and the Pirates' Cemetery.

Overnight in hotel IN PRINCESSE BORAH LODGE* ON HB OR SIMILAR**

DAY 14: SAINTE MARIE – TANA: DOMESTIC FLIGHT: TANA - UK: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

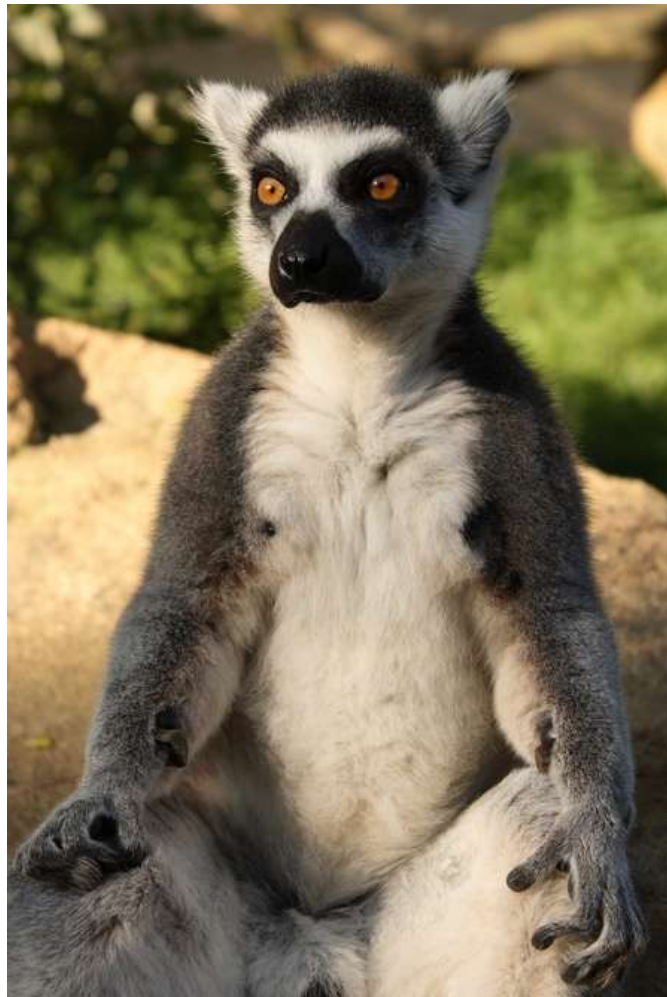
Transfer to the airport to fly back to Tana. On arrival you have a day room at ICHOTEL. In the evening transfer to the airport for your international flight to the UK.

INCLUDED

Accommodation in double room based on bed and breakfast
English speaking guide during days 1 - 11
Entrance fees with a local guide in the National Parks/Reserves
Transportation throughout the tour and airport transfers
All excursions detailed in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

Any excursions not in detailed in the itinerary
Personal expenses such as drinks, laundry and tips
Travel travel insurance



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