

# Madagascar: Off the Beaten Path

AN ECOLOGICAL HOTSPOT WITH THRILLING ENDEMIC SPECIES



Wilderness Travel



## TRIP DATES

### 2025

April 19-May 3, 2025

May 17-31, 2025

August 30-September 13, 2025

September 6-20, 2025

September 20-October 4, 2025

September 27-October 11, 2025

October 4-18, 2025

October 11-25, 2025

October 18-November 1, 2025

November 1-15, 2025

### 2026

April 18-May 2, 2026

May 16-30, 2026

August 29-September 12, 2026

September 5-19, 2026

September 19-October 3, 2026

September 26-October 10, 2026

October 3-17, 2026

October 10-24, 2026

October 17-31, 2026

October 31-November 14, 2026

# Madagascar: Off the Beaten Path

Madagascar has been isolated from mainland Africa since the time of the dinosaurs and possesses rare life forms found nowhere else, including over 100 species of lemur to wildly colorful chameleons ranging from thumbnail-sized to two feet long! In this unique world, we bring you into seven environments, from sandstone canyons to mountain rainforests, with your choice of guided walks each day, whether a photo-paced stroll or an invigorating hike. You'll hear the haunting calls of the "singing indri" deep in the forest, meet wildlife researchers, visit reforestation projects—and even plant a seedling on the famed Avenue of the Baobabs!



# What Makes This Trip Special?



## MADAGASCAR'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE ITINERARY

You'll enjoy ample time to encounter endemic wildlife in Madagascar's widely varied ecosystems, ranging from lush Ranomafana (with its critically-endangered golden bamboo lemur) to the dry deciduous forest of Zombitse-Vohibasia, a biodiverse area that's the only place on earth to see Hubbard's sportive lemurs and Appert's greenbul (a pretty little pink-billed warbler) in the wild.

## WATCH THE SUNRISE AT THE AVENUE OF THE BAOBABS

Almost everyone who visits Madagascar hopes to see the Avenue of the Baobabs, but many itineraries skip the site because it's a bit remote. We visit both at sunrise and in the slanting afternoon light, so you can get great photos of the magnificent trees here.



## RARE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES

Watch for "dancing" sifaka, "singing" indri, and many other species of lemurs, as well as the exotic, unusual birdlife (such as the endemic Amber Mountain rock thrush), chameleons of all sizes (one is as small as your thumbnail!), and other remarkable reptiles. Our expert local guides know where to find the wildlife, no matter how well camouflaged.

## PARTICIPATE IN UNIQUE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Travel to a fishing village by outrigger canoe, talk with local women weavers and see their hand-loomed designs, visit with traditional wood carvers and paper makers, and dance to live Malagasy music.



## CHAMELEONS!

Madagascar is home to more than half of the world's 150 species of chameleons, including the huge, colorful Parson's chameleon and the tiny, one-inch *Brookesia micra*. While you can find chameleons everywhere you go, this itinerary includes visits to the six specific sites we recommend for viewing a wide range of species.

## FLEXIBLE HIKING AND PHOTO OPTIONS

Photographers who want that perfect shot may opt for leisurely walks, while those who prefer a physical challenge can take longer hikes. We offer optional early morning outings for birders and night walks to observe nocturnal species, and we provide additional guides in the parks and reserves so you can choose your own pace.



## EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Your Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders live in Madagascar and have an extraordinary devotion and life commitment to conservation. Experienced naturalists, they delight in sharing their unique perspectives and deep environmental understanding. You'll also have benefit of their friendships and the insider access they provide as you explore villages and markets, learn about community projects, and speak with local experts.

# Highlights of Madagascar: Off the Beaten Path

## MEET THE “FATHER OF MAN” AT ANDASIBE

The three-foot-tall indri lemurs, whose Malagasy name is *babakoto*, or “Father of Man,” are renowned treetop acrobats whose eerie “songs” carry for miles as one troop calls another to establish their territories.

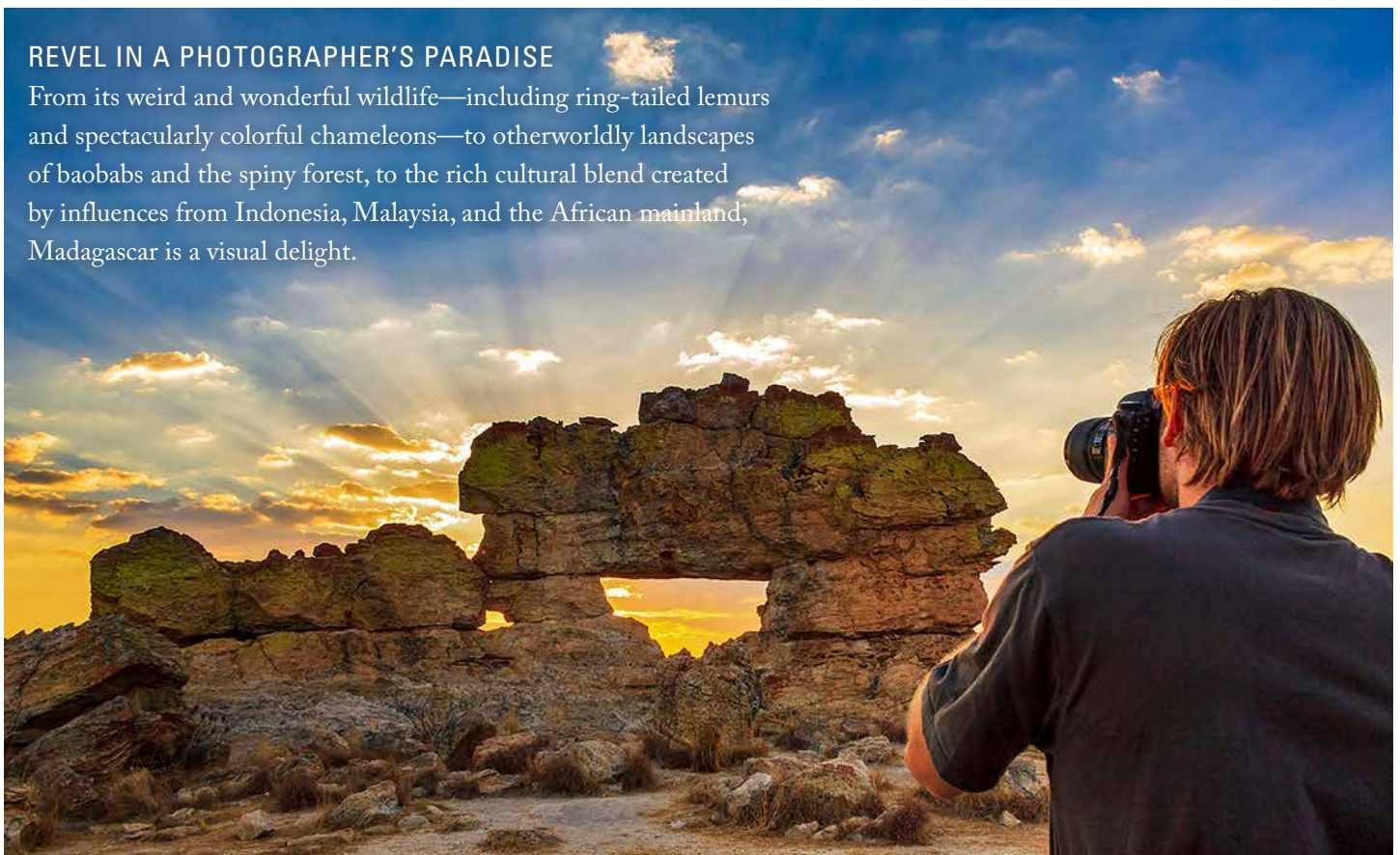


## PARTICIPATE IN A REFORESTATION PROJECT

Learn about the country’s unique environmental challenges in Andasibe. We’ll meet our guide’s son, who has been involved with reforestation for eight years, and a local man who has worked as a seed collector for 20 years. You’ll have an opportunity to plant a seedling, supporting local conservation efforts.

## REVEL IN A PHOTOGRAPHER’S PARADISE

From its weird and wonderful wildlife—including ring-tailed lemurs and spectacularly colorful chameleons—to otherworldly landscapes of baobabs and the spiny forest, to the rich cultural blend created by influences from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the African mainland, Madagascar is a visual delight.



## WATCH THE SUNRISE AT THE AVENUE OF THE BAOBABS

See an iconic site in the perfect light. We'll visit this photogenic area for two days, with opportunities to view it both at sunrise and during the afternoon "golden hour."



## EXPLORE ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Isalo is considered one of the best national parks of Madagascar. In this dramatic sandstone landscape dotted with stalagmite pinnacles, stunning gorges, canyons, and caves, enjoy an optional hike to a hidden waterfall cascading into a natural emerald-green pool fringed by old-world pandanus trees.



## THE TASTES OF MADAGASCAR

An enchanting blend of French, Indonesian, and African influences, traditional Malagasy cuisine is delicious, and we'll be sure you sample the best of it. We visit a market to see ingredients ranging from golden-hued turmeric to fragrant local vanilla, and even have a cooking class right in the kitchen of a popular restaurant.



“The trip was excellent, I’d highly recommend it. Really fun—the local guides and Trip Leader were all wonderful. I am so glad Wilderness took care of everything. ”

*Kathy W., Minneapolis, MN*

## Itinerary

### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 15 days
- Arrive:** Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Depart:** Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Lodging:** 14 nights hotels and wildlife lodges
- Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Cultural Adventures, Walking, Wildlife and Natural History
- Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Easy to moderate nature walks, rugged road travel

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ANTANANARIVO

Arrive in the capital city, Antananarivo, often called simply “Tana,” where you are met for transfer to the Hotel Carlton for a trip orientation and cocktails. This evening, our Welcome Dinner is at a restaurant with sweeping city views and we’ll enjoy a private performance of Malagasy singing accompanied by the valiha, Madagascar’s national instrument, a type of zither crafted from bamboo. Overnight at the Hotel Carlton...D

### DAY 2 LA MANDRAKA / ANDASIBE-MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK

Heading out of the capital today, we travel through highland countryside to the upland rainforests of Andasibe, stopping along the way at La Mandraka Nature Farm, where we are introduced to the incredible variety of Madagascar’s reptiles (La Mandraka has a breeding project for chameleons). We continue to Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, a rainforest reserve created to protect the Indri, the largest living lemur species. The forests here hold a wealth of lush fern and orchid species, fantastic birdlife, and colorful reptiles including huge Parson’s chameleons. Tonight we set out for an evening walk for a glimpse into the fantastic nocturnal world of Madagascar’s forests—we’ll look for dwarf, woolly, and mouse lemurs, plus frogs and chameleons. Overnight at Mantadia Lodge...BLD  
Approximate driving time: 4 hours, not including stops en route



### DAYS 3-4 “SINGING” INDRI INDRI AT ANDASIBE

Andasibe is famous as the home of the indri, a black-and-white lemur whose haunting treetop calls carry for miles as one troop answers another. These three-foot-tall primates, whose Malagasy name is babakoto, or “Father of Man,” are the largest of lemurs and renowned treetop acrobats, although they spend much of the day sleeping in the canopy. We get an early start on the trail to see the indri and hear its “singing.” Common brown lemurs, grey bamboo lemurs, and woolly lemurs are also found here, as well as several species of the small, nocturnal tenrec, an insectivorous mammal resembling a hedgehog. Our hikes give us a good opportunity to become familiar with the special flora and fauna of Madagascar’s eastern rainforests. While we are at Andasibe on Days 3 and 4, we offer optional early morning birding walks as well as one or two additional guides on the hikes so avid photographers have time to take pictures and trip members who prefer easier trails can enjoy a more leisurely pace. We’ll visit Analamazoatra Reserve, home to nine species of lemur, and the forests of nearby Mantadia, where we may see the beautiful diademed sifaka. One afternoon we will visit Andasibe village and its reforestation project, with tea at a local guide’s home.

*“A very interesting trip, with a great variety of sights and experiences and a very knowledgeable guide.”*

*Joe C., Escondido, CA*

Overnights at Mantadia Lodge...BLD each day

### DAY 5 LEMUR ISLAND / ANTANANARIVO

A morning visit brings us to Lemur Island, a home for orphaned lemurs who would not have survived on their own. Because they’re cared for by rangers, the brown lemurs, bamboo lemurs, and black-and-white ruffed lemurs that live here are habituated, allowing close encounters and excellent photo opportunities. This afternoon we return to Tana, with dinner on your own and the evening at leisure. The Trip Leader will be happy to make restaurant recommendations, depending on how fancy or local you want to go. Overnight at the Hotel Carlton...BL

Approximate driving time: Andasibe-Antananarivo, 4 hours

### DAY 6 MORONDAVA / AVENUE OF THE BAOBABS

Fly by private charter to the seaside town of Morondava, with its markets bursting with colorful displays of fruits, vegetables, and spices. In the mid-afternoon, we’ll head to the stunning Avenue of the Baobabs, where these majestic trees, which can live thousands of years and grow to well over 100 feet in

circumference, push high into the sky. In collaboration with a local reforestation project, we'll plant baobab seedlings in this spectacular setting, then relax with Malagasy sundowners as we enjoy the sunset beneath these majestic trees. Dinner and overnight are at the beachside Hotel Palissandre Cote Ouest in Morondava...BLD  
Approximate flying time: 1.5 hours

### DAY 7 AVENUE OF THE BAOBABS / KIRINDY FOREST

Today we're up early to watch the sunrise at the Avenue of the Baobabs and explore the dry, deciduous Kirindy Forest. The highly threatened ecosystem here is habitat for the Verreaux's sifaka—a statuesque, white lemur with a black face and “hat”—as well as several endemic chameleons; it is also the most likely place to see the elusive cat-like fossa, Madagascar's largest carnivore. The late afternoon is free so you can relax at the beach listening to the lapping waves and feeling the sea breeze. Watch the sunset, or schedule a massage at the hotel Palissandre Cote Ouest's spa if you wish...BLD

Approximate driving time: Morondava-Kirindy, 3 hours each way

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*“Our trip leader was amazing. We couldn't figure out how he timed everything so perfectly! He's a treasure and a fabulous representative of WT and Madagascar.”*

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*Laurie B., Washington, NJ*

### DAY 8 FIANARANTSOA / RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

In the morning, we fly by private charter from Morondava to Fianarantsoa, where we board our vehicles for a scenic two-hour drive to Ranomafana. We'll pass rolling hills, green rice paddies, and colorful villages en route, and there's time to stretch our legs and meet local farmers along the way.

Ranomafana, one of Madagascar's richest rainforest reserves, is set majestically on the edge of Madagascar's High Plateau. This lush rainforest shelters many species of lemurs, including red-bellied, black-and-white ruffed, red-fronted brown, eastern bamboo, and Milne-Edwards' sifaka—as well as the rare golden bamboo lemur, which primatologist Patricia Wright discovered here. Afternoon visit to the ValBio Center, a world-class research station set on the edge of the park.





Overnight at Hotel Thermal...BLD

Approximate driving time: 2 hours, plus stops en route

Approximate flying time: 1.5 hours

## DAY 9 RANOMAFANA: RAINFOREST AND RARE SPECIES

We'll enjoy a morning walk as we look for lemurs, geckos, and chameleons such as the nose-horned, carpet, canopy, and Perinet chameleons. Ranomafana is also home to a multitude of bird species, including the blue coua, broad-billed roller, velvet asity, and slender-billed flufftail. The terrain in this densely forested park is sometimes steep and the trails can be slippery, but the rewards of seeing this exotic wildlife make it well worth the effort. We offer guided options each day for easier, slower hikes (ideal for photographers), more challenging hikes, and early morning birding excursions, or you can birdwatch on your own from the ValBio Center. Afterwards visit the botanical garden at Ranomafana. Overnight at Hotel Thermal...BLD

## DAY 10 RANOMAFANA / AMBALAVAO

In the morning hike in Ranomafana. After lunch visit the nearby women's weaving cooperative and drive to Ambalavao.

We continue our overland journey south into the tapia woodlands and palm savannas of the high plateaus today, passing through stunning scenery. Overnight at Betsileo Country Lodge, set near Anja Reserve...BLD

Approximate driving time: 4 hours, plus stops en route

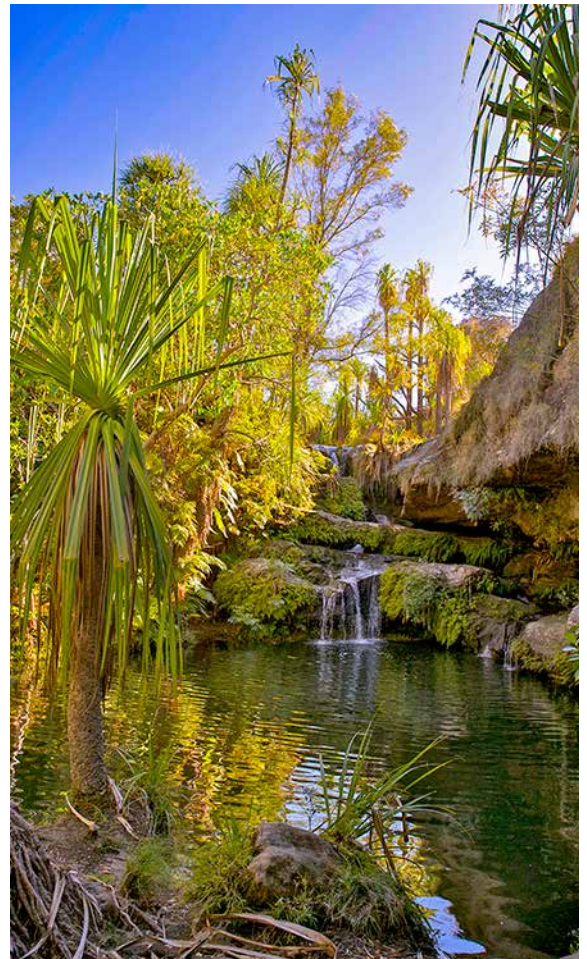
## DAY 11 ANJA RESERVE / RING-TAILED LEMURS / ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Drive to Isalo with a stop at Anja Reserve, a community-run park that is home to some 500 friendly ring-tailed lemurs. We'll take a one-hour hike on a flat trail with rock outcrops graced by these delightful creatures (great for photo ops!). Arriving in Isalo National Park in the early afternoon, we check into our hotel for dinner. Overnight at Le Jardin du Roy, one of the nicest properties in Madagascar...BLD

Approximate driving time: 5 hours, plus stops en route

## DAYS 12-13 LEMURS / THE WINDOW OF ISALO / WATERFALL HIKE / ZOMBITSE-VOHIBASIA

Isalo's landscape is dominated by a Jurassic sandstone massif eroded by the elements into surreal ridges with impressive gorges, canyons, and stalagmite pinnacles. The park shelters ring-tailed, red-fronted brown, and Verreaux's sifaka lemurs, as





well as endemic plants and sacred Bara burial sites in the high cliffs.

In the morning, enjoy a hike to the Piscine Naturelle, a refreshing natural pool surrounded by leafy pandanus trees, with magnificent views of the sandstone peaks along the trail. We'll return to the hotel around 2:00 pm with the rest of the afternoon at leisure to relax by the pool or sample the hotel's spa services. In the evening, we watch the sun set behind a natural rock formation known as the Window of Isalo.

The next day we drive to Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park (1.5 hours), a rare example of Madagascar's dry deciduous forest, where both baobabs and orchids are common. The

park acts as a transition zone between the dry and the humid forests of Madagascar and as a result has a high level of biodiversity. We may see Appert's greenbul, a rare endemic

bird found in this forest, and Standing's day gecko, also endemic to the park. Return to Isalo for a late lunch. Overnight at Le Jardin du Roy...BLD each day

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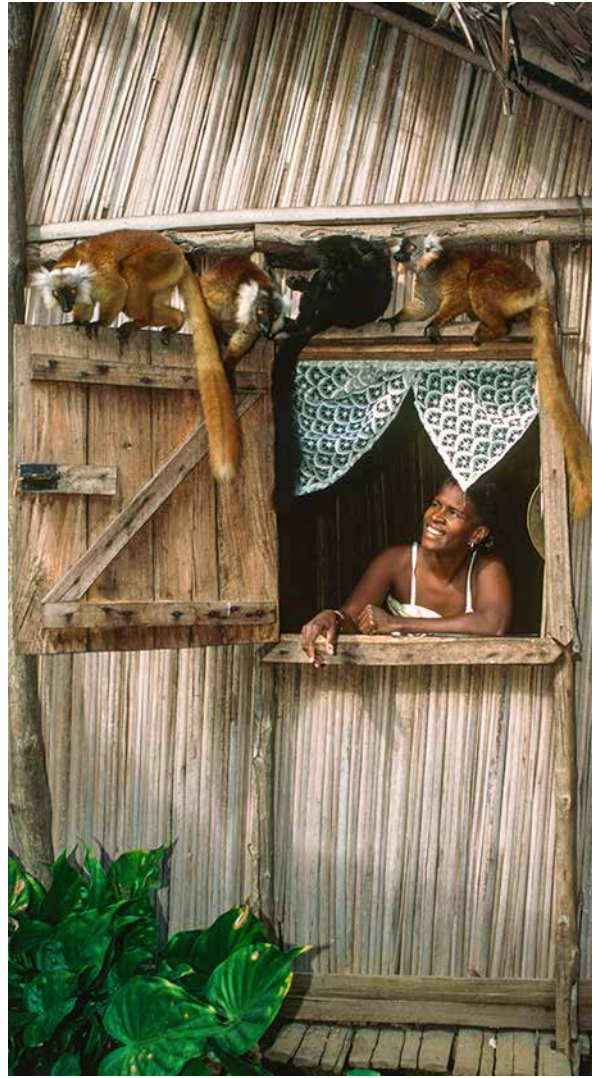
*"I thoroughly enjoyed this trip. There was a great mix of experiences in Madagascar. Obviously a lot of planning went into making it a memorable trip. Thank you!"*

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*-Marilyn G., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL*

#### DAY 14 ISALO / ANTANANARIVO

Fly by private charter from Isalo to Tana. In the evening gather for our Farewell Dinner. Overnight at the Hotel Carlton...BLD



## DAY 15 COOKING CLASS / DEPARTURE

This morning before you depart today, you have the option to join a fun Malagasy cooking class at a restaurant close to the airport. Those who participate in the class will head out early to visit a local market with the restaurant's crew as they purchase the day's ingredients. If you don't want the early start, you may go directly to the cooking class at around 10:00 am. At the restaurant, your class will be right in the kitchen, and the Malagasy staff will show you how to create dishes with the striking flavors that characterize Malagasy cuisine. You'll dine on the delicacies you prepared, or enjoy a dish that you didn't have an opportunity to sample during the trip. Transfer to the airport for homeward-bound flights...BL

# Ankarana and Amber Mountain Pre-trip Extension

## DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADAGASCAR

Afternoon arrival is in Madagascar's capital city, Antananarivo—often referred to simply as “Tana.” You'll be met and transferred to Les Relais des Plateaux, conveniently located near the airport. Meals today are on your own.

## DAY 2 AMBER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK / CHAMELEONS

We fly to Diego Suarez, then take a short drive to Amber Mountain National Park, a biologically diverse reserve with its own unique microclimates: the montane rainforests here are home to huge green tree ferns, crystal-clear crater lakes, picturesque waterfalls, and a wealth of wildlife, including endemic species not found in the south of Madagascar. We'll see Sanford's brown lemurs and some of the 35 species of endemic birds, more than 40 species of butterflies, and 1000 species of flora that live in the park. It's also home to 60 species of reptiles, including photogenic leaf tailed geckos and the planet's smallest chameleon (about the size of a fingernail). We'll look for huge Parson's chameleons, colorful panther chameleons, blue-nosed chameleons, globe-horned chameleons, stump-tailed chameleons, and many others—this may be the best place in the world to see chameleons in the wild. Afterward, we return to Diego Suarez and overnight at the Hotel Allamanda...BLD

## DAY 3 ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK

In the morning we drive for about 2.5 hours to Ankarana and check in at the Ankarana Lodge. Simple but comfortable, the lodge is ideally located near the park, and is frequented by brightly-colored chameleons and several species of lemurs—it's a great spot for photography. After lunch at the lodge we enjoy the afternoon at Ankarana National Park, a reserve with spectacular landscapes, including the unique eroded limestone towers that make up the famed *tsingy* terrain. Overnight at Ankarana Lodge...BLD

## DAY 4 ANKARANA / HIKING THE TSINGY

In the morning we visit Ankarana National Park, hiking for two to three hours on a flat, easy trail. We should see many crowned lemurs (the reserve harbors one of the largest and least disturbed populations of this distinctive primate, endemic to northern Madagascar) as well as the inquisitive ring-tailed mongoose, fossa, tenrecs, and the Madagascar striped civet. Ankarana is outstanding for reptiles, with 50 species including endemic and threatened geckos—plus 10 species of frogs. There's also an option for a longer hike today (for early risers). It's challenging, but rewards you with superb views of

the *tsingy* formations—you can even see them from above as you cross a long, hanging bridge on this route. We've hired an additional guide so you can relax at the campsite and look for the local lemurs if you decide not to hike. We return to Ankarana Lodge for overnight...BL

## DAY 5 ANKARANA / TSINGY

This morning, enjoy a return drive to Diego Suarez. After lunch, visit the Bay of Sakalava, a popular kitesurfing destination, as well as the Bay of Dunes and Bay of Pigeon out to the Orangea beach. We arrive at the Allamanda Hotel before sunset for overnight...BL

## DAY 6 ANTANANARIVO

In the morning we fly to Antananarivo and transfer to the Hotel Carlton, with the remainder of the day at leisure. Lunch and dinner are on your own...B



## DAY 7 ANTANANARIVO / DAY 1 OF THE MADAGASCAR: OFF THE BEATEN PATH TRIP

Join the first day of the Madagascar: Off the Beaten Path trip...B

## 2025 ANKARANA AND AMBER MOUNTAIN PRE-TRIP EXTENSION LAND COST:

From \$3,385 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$4,890

Single supplement: \$690

Internal airfare (non-refundable): \$890 (subject to change)

**Extension Cost Includes:** Local English-speaking naturalist guide, accommodations and meals as noted, internal flights as noted, fees for parks and reserves, land transportation as noted.

**Does Not Include:** Gratuities, items of a personal nature such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, phone, laundry, etc.

# Anjajavy Extension

## DAY 1 ANTANANARIVO / ANJAJAVY LODGE

Depart Antananarivo on a scheduled charter flight to the airstrip at Anjajavy Lodge, set along the isolated Anjajavy Peninsula on the northwest coast of Madagascar. The flight takes approximately one hour and 40 minutes, and you'll be met on arrival for transfer to the lodge.

Anjajavy consists of 24 two-story rosewood villas dotting a long, sandy beach on the lodge's private estate. The villas are air conditioned and have a spacious terrace facing the sea, a living room, and a breakfast nook. There is a large swimming pool overlooking the ocean. Fresh fruits, crabs, shrimp, and local fish are on the restaurant's menu, with indoor or outdoor dining available. Private dinners can be organized by staff on the veranda, poolside, or on the beach.

In the late afternoon around 5pm, enjoy tea time at the Oasis, a specially designed native garden surrounded by trees that are a playground for wild lemurs as well as parrots, sunbirds, Malagasy kingfishers, and Malagasy paradise flycatcher.

At 7 pm, head out for an hour-long guided night walk, an opportunity to learn about the nocturnal wildlife of the forest. Overnight at Anjajavy Lodge...D

Note: Scheduled charter flights depart on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. This extension requires a minimum 3-night stay.

## DAYS 2-3 ANJAJAVY RESERVE

Deciduous dry forest is one of the world's richest and most distinctive tropical dry forests, sheltering communities of rare and endemic faunal and floral species and scattered with small traditional villages. The Anjajavy forest is home to chameleons, frogs, and common brown lemur, as well as nocturnal species such as sportive, and mouse lemur. More than five lemur species can be seen on walks in the Anjajavy Reserve (and even while you're on the deck of your villa). Birdlife includes flocks of grey-headed love birds, vangas, crested couas, and vanga parrots.

Activities on these days can be tailored to your taste. Enjoy a walk through the towering baobab forest or through a tsingy labyrinth, or cove to cove hikes along the cliff path. Some walks you can do on your own and some require a lodge guide. Mountain bikes are offered, as are guided catamaran trips. Single and double kayaks are available for a paddle along the



south coast of the reserve. More than 135 bird species have been recorded at Anjajavy, many of them rare or endangered; for birders, an early morning trip accompanied by a birding guide is a memorable experience. An optional excursion is offered out to island-dotted Moramba Bay for fishing, snorkeling, or swimming. The bay has one of the largest coral reefs outside Australia. Visit the nearby fishing village that is home to many of the friendly people employed by the lodge. Overnights at Anjajavy Lodge...BLD each day

## DAY 4 FLY ANJAJAVY / ANTANANARIVO

Depart for the lodge airstrip and fly to Antananarivo to connect to international flight (international flights should depart after 2pm)...B

### 2025 ANJAJAVY EXTENSION LAND COST:

\$2,995 per person, double occupancy

Single supplement: \$1,025

Internal airfare: \$990 (subject to change)

6-day option: from \$4,595 per person

Please note: A 25% non-refundable deposit is required for this extension.

**Extension Cost Includes:** Accommodations, All meals included, Services of guides, Activities as listed, Airport transfers

**Does Not Include:** International airfare; internal airfare, additional hotel nights or extra costs that may be necessitated by airline changes; meals not specified (BLD) after each itinerary day; some optional activities, airport departure tax, items of personal nature (medical immunizations, visas, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc. optional gratuities to hotel staff, transfer agents, drivers, and guides.

# Our Guides

MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our Trip Leaders are all experienced naturalists and passionate conservationists. They are from Madagascar and delight in sharing their insider knowledge—you'll get a unique perspective about the diverse cultures within Madagascar as well as fascinating insights into the flora and fauna of each park you visit. You'll benefit from their local friendships as you meet residents and learn about community conservation projects, and they'll introduce you to local wildlife researchers.



## FELANTSOA NAVALONA

With degrees in history and archaeology from the University of Antananarivo, Naval has been working as a tour guide in his home country for many years. Besides guiding, he is an active member of the Malagasy historian association and has participated in archaeological research projects

about ancient Malagasy civilization. Naval was part of the crew for the documentary *Madagascar Wild*, made by the South African company Home Brew Films.



## VY RAHARINOSY

From sharing his knowledge about the famed Madagascar lemurs and other unique wildlife in the region, to the unique Malagasy culture and environmental challenges, Vy Raharinosy is a wonderful ambassador of his native country. You can often find him traversing to every known

part of Madagascar, where he has been a professional guide since 1998. Vy is fluent in Malagasy and also speaks English and French.

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Our Trip Leader and local guides' depth of knowledge was unbelievable. That's one reason I chose a tour company for Madagascar—it would be very difficult to obtain such quality guiding on ones' own.

— Madeline A., Salt Lake City, UT

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## LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

Every park in Madagascar has its own idiosyncracies: endemic species not to be missed, little-known spots for great photo ops, tricky trails, hidden orchids, etc. That's why it's so important to work with knowledgeable guides who are intimately familiar with their local areas.

Wilderness Travel hires the best local naturalist guides in each park. They are highly trained, with a deep understanding of the flora and fauna in their locations. Many of have helped internationally acclaimed researchers find the most elusive animals, birds, and plants in Madagascar: one guided British naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough; another is a skillful birdwatcher and also specializes in Madagascar's exquisite orchids and succulents; yet another is an expert on Ranomafana's rare and intriguing golden bamboo lemur. Be sure to let them know about any special requests you have.



# Trip Details

## PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2025**

\$8,195 (7-9 members)

\$8,395 (4-6 members)

Single supplement: \$950

Internal airfare: \$2,190-\$2,690 (subject to change)

*Please contact us for future years' pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of beer or wine with dinner
- Complimentary airport transfers for all flights
- Fees for parks and reserves
- Land transportation and entrance fees as noted
- Gratuities to local staff and drivers

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, transfers for independent arrival or departure, airport departure taxes, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional tipping or gratuities to leader, any additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to international airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations, visa fees, emergency medical evacuation insurance (required), and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

### CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

### MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

Please note: Insurance for emergency medical evacuation is required for this trip. Wilderness Travel offers a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan through Travelex Insurance that meets this requirement. For more details, visit our website: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance). Alternatively, you can purchase a different policy on your own, as long as it includes emergency medical evacuation coverage of at least \$250,000 per person. You can compare various options at [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com).

# Accommodations



## HOTEL CARLTON

*Antananarivo, Madagascar Day 1 (1 night), Day 5 (1 night), Day 14 (1 night)*

Set along the shores of Anosy Lake, this contemporary hotel is just a few minutes' walk from the historic city center. Guest rooms have air conditioning and complimentary Wi-Fi, and there is a swimming pool and shaded garden area where you can shift into relax mode, tucked away from the sounds of the city. Enjoy breakfast on the terrace, fresh pastries from the bakery, and world-class wines in the bistro. There's also a fitness center, casino, night club, tennis courts, and beauty salon.

## MANTADIA LODGE

*Andasibe National Park, Madagascar Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)*

The modern Mantadia Lodge has a beautiful setting on a high ridge overlooking a private rainforest. Guest bungalows have sliding doors opening onto a private patio, and the lodge's restaurant was designed with large windows to take in the spectacular views. There is also a lounge, large outdoor terrace, and bar. The calls of indri lemurs in the surrounding rainforest can often be heard from the property, and there is good birdlife all around.



## HOTEL PALISSANDRE COTE OUEST

*Morondava, Madagascar Days 6 to 7 (2 nights)*

Ideally located on Nosy Kely beach, this beach hotel offers a relaxing atmosphere, with clean and spacious air-conditioned, thatch-roofed beachside bungalows featuring lovely views of the sea. Enjoy a swim in the small swimming pool, and linger a while after dinner to gaze at the sunset and the glittering night sky.







## HOTEL THERMAL

*Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar Days 8 to 9 (2 nights)*

Set on the edge of Ranomafana National Park, this comfortable 21-room hotel was formerly a health resort. Spacious guestrooms are air-conditioned and feature amenities including TV, safe, and mini-bar. Make time to take a stroll on the lovely grounds. The hotel is committed to sustainable tourism development in cooperation with the local community.

## BETSILEO COUNTRY LODGE

*Ambalavao, Madagascar Day 10 (1 night)*

Nestled amid foothills of the mountains stands the Betsileo Country Lodge. Guest rooms range from bungalows set in the peaceful garden to standard rooms attached to the main building. All rooms have airy windows, nice beds, and en-suite bathrooms. The staff is friendly and helpful and there is a nice restaurant and bar on the property. If you have time, take a dip in the swimming pool.



## HOTEL LE DARJIN DU ROY

*Isalo National Park, Madagascar Days 11 to 14 (3 nights)*

The park-like setting and thoughtful design of Jardin du Roy makes it blend beautifully into the landscape. Architectural details include Madagascan motifs worked into stone-built walls. Guest rooms are large, clean, and comfortable, with mosquito nets and a veranda or balcony. The high-ceilinged open lobby has hand-crafted stonework, with a comfortable bar and lounge at one end and the dining room at the other. Service is attentive and efficient.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Madagascar: Off the Beaten Path* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Antananarivo, Madagascar

**Suggested Airport:** Ivato International Airport (TNR)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, by 3:00 pm

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer is provided to the Carlton Madagascar Hotel for all trip members, even if you arrive early. There is a Welcome Dinner on Day 1.

## DEPARTURE

Antananarivo, Madagascar

**Suggested Airport:** Ivato International Airport (TNR)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 15, anytime

A complimentary airport transfer is provided for all flights.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Madagascar. Flights to Madagascar are still limited but the following carriers do offer service to Madagascar. You may need extra days before or after your trip (Wilderness Travel can book additional services for you).

There is no longer direct service from Johannesburg, South Africa to Antananarivo, Madagascar. That routing may resume in the future but is currently not available.

### We recommend:

**Ethiopian Airlines** offers several flights a week from Addis to Antananarivo. Website: [www.ethiopianairlines.com](http://www.ethiopianairlines.com)

**Kenya Airways** offers several flights a week from Nairobi to Antananarivo (Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays). Website: [www.kenya-airways.com](http://www.kenya-airways.com)

**Air France** offers several flights a week. Air France sometimes has flight schedule changes or cancelled flights so you may need to be flexible in the event of schedule changes. Website: [www.airfrance.us](http://www.airfrance.us)

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exitto Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada, or [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your air ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you have checked your schedule with our office.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward the email confirmation from the airline so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for the trip.

## INTERNAL FLIGHTS

We need to issue your internal flights as soon as you are confirmed on the trip. Your Trip Leader will handle your international ticket. We will need a PDF copy of your passport page emailed to us.

## EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Please contact our office to book these reservations.

# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 2+, Easy to Moderate. It features day hikes in national parks, with accommodations that range from city hotels to basic wildlife lodges. You should be fit, healthy, and ready for adventure because the walking trails in Madagascar's parks can be quite slippery and muddy and temperatures can be extreme. Several of the travel days involve long drives and road conditions can be rough.

### A Special Note About Travel in Madagascar

Traveling in Madagascar is always an adventure! Changes and delays are all part of the experience. We will make every effort to follow the Detailed Itinerary as described, but please note it may be rearranged due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, including internal flights that are often subject to delay, cancellation, and last-minute schedule changes. In addition, travelers should be aware that there is a scarcity of medical facilities outside of Antananarivo and they may not be up to international standards. A spirit of adventure and a flexible, cooperative attitude are musts. Your reward is an unparalleled experience of one of the world's most intriguing countries and its fascinating wildlife.

## WEATHER

Madagascar has a tropical climate with many microclimates, so the weather can vary greatly depending on the time of year and region of the country. The north and south tend to be warm and dry, while the highlands, including the capital, Antananarivo, are cooler. Daily temperatures typically range from the low 60s to the high 80s. Our departures are set for the dry season (April–November), where you can expect warm weather (don't forget your sun protection), but also some rain and muddy road conditions.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/)

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Antananarivo	79/61	78/61	79/60	76/58	73/54	69/50	68/48	70/48	74/51	80/54	81/58	80/60
Tulear	90/73	90/73	90/72	86/68	84/63	81/59	81/59	82/59	82/63	84/66	86/68	88/72
Morondava	90/73	90/73	90/73	90/70	86/63	84/59	84/57	84/59	86/64	88/68	90/72	90/73
Rainfall - Inches												
Antananarivo	11.8	11.0	7.0	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	2.4	5.3	11.3
Tulear	4.0	3.7	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	4.0
Morondava	9.6	8.0	3.7	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	6.6



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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