

# Magical Madagascar

LEAPING LEMURS, RARE BIRDS, AND EXOTIC FLORA



Wilderness Travel



# Magical Madagascar



## TRIP DATES

2024

July 5-18, 2024

July 26-August 8, 2024

2025

July 4-17, 2025

August 1-14, 2025

Watch long-limbed sifaka lemurs “dance” down a forest trail in front of you, see playful ring-tailed lemurs, and listen to the hauntingly eerie calls of the indri in treetop canopies. These lemurs, along with many other species, are completely unique to Madagascar. Separated from Africa and the Indian subcontinent millennia ago, this island-nation’s animals and plants evolved in such isolation that literally four out of five of all its species are found nowhere else on the planet!

Wilderness Travel has created a fascinating journey that explores this distinctive island in depth. You’ll hike through the lush rainforest at Amber Mountain and otherworldly landscapes like the Dr. Seussian spiny forest at Berenty Reserve and surreal tsingy pinnacles at Ankarana, see an exotic display of orchids, photograph colorful chameleons up close, and observe fascinating birdlife, such as songbirds that forage in mixed-species flocks.

No place on earth surpasses Madagascar’s combination of unusual species, extreme biodiversity, and unique habitats. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime natural history adventure!



# What Makes WT's Magical Madagascar Trip Special?



## MADAGASCAR IN DEPTH

This itinerary gives you ample time to explore Madagascar's parks and reserves in depth. You'll spend time with singing indri lemurs in Andasibe's montane forest, get in some birdwatching and hike to the spectacular *tsingy* pinnacles at Ankarana, take amazing photos at Lemur Island, and hike through the lush green landscapes at one of Madagascar's most biodiverse hotspots, Amber Mountain.

## UP-CLOSE VIEWING AT BERENTY RESERVE

Berenty is one of the best places in Madagascar for wildlife photography, with six species of lemurs, including Vereaux's sifakas and curious ring-tails. (The IMAX film *Island of Lemurs* includes scenes of Berenty's sifakas.) The reserve is also home to more than 100 species of birds, and our itinerary includes an optional early-morning bird walk.



## 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 and Appert's greenbul), 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.

## WALK THROUGH STUNNING LANDSCAPES

From the surreal *tsingy* limestone pinnacles at Ankarana National Park to the odd, Dr. Seussian spiny forest at Berenty Reserve, many of Madagascar's landscapes seem downright otherworldly. We'll also hike through the lush rainforest at Amber Mountain National Park, with its huge green tree ferns, cascading waterfalls, and crystal-clear volcanic lakes.



## 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 Magical Madagascar

## 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

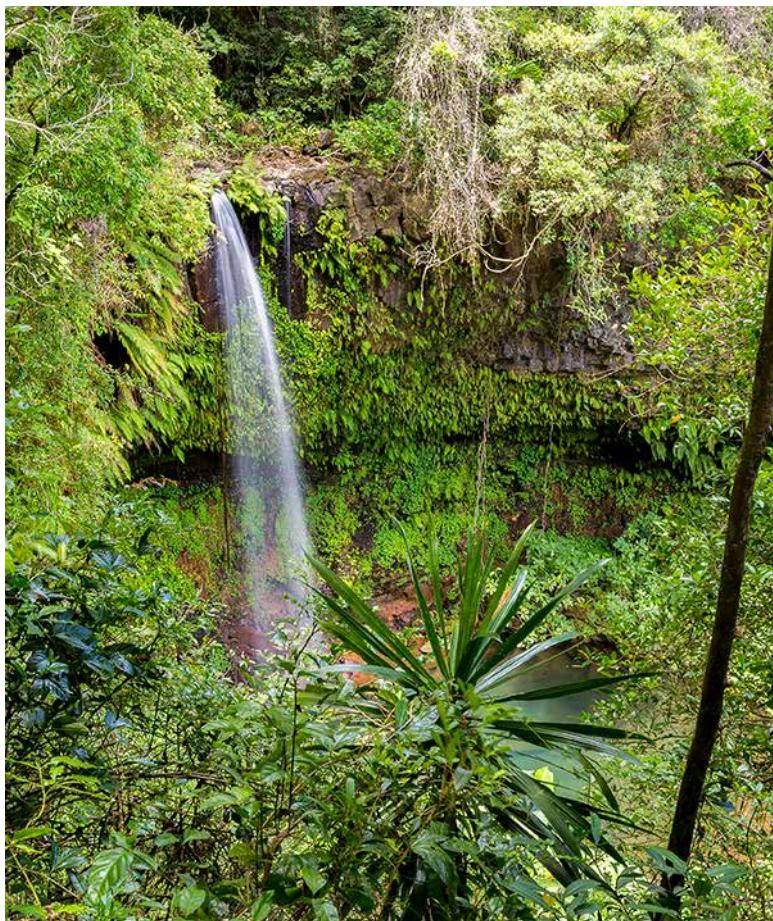
From its weird and wonderful wildlife—including ring-tailed lemurs and spectacularly colorful chameleons—to otherworldly landscapes of baobabs and the spiny forest, to the rich cultural blend created by influences from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the African mainland, Madagascar is a visual delight.





## NATURE WALKS AT AMBER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

One of Madagascar's most biodiverse hotspots—with 75 species of birds, 25 species of mammals, 35 species of frogs, and 40 species of butterflies—Amber Mountain is known for abundant waterfalls, crystal-clear crater lakes, huge bird's nest ferns, and the world's smallest chameleon.



## HIKE TO THE TSINGY AT ANKARANA

These fantastic spiky karst formations create a spectacular landscape in Ankarana, which is an important refuge for the distinctive crowned lemur and the small insect-eating songbirds that forage together here in mixed flocks. (*Tsingy* translates to English as *Where one cannot walk barefoot.*)



## 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.





## Itinerary

"This is a wonderful wildlife trip that I highly recommend. Playing with lemurs was fantastic!"

*Bobbie B., Acworth, GA*

### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 14 days  
**Arrive:** Antananarivo, Madagascar  
**Depart:** Antananarivo, Madagascar  
**Lodging:** 7 nights hotels, 6 nights wildlife lodges  
**Meals:** All meals included except 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)  
**Activity:** Walking, Wildlife and Natural History  
**Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 Easy to moderate walking, rugged road travel, cultural exploration

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ANTANANARIVO

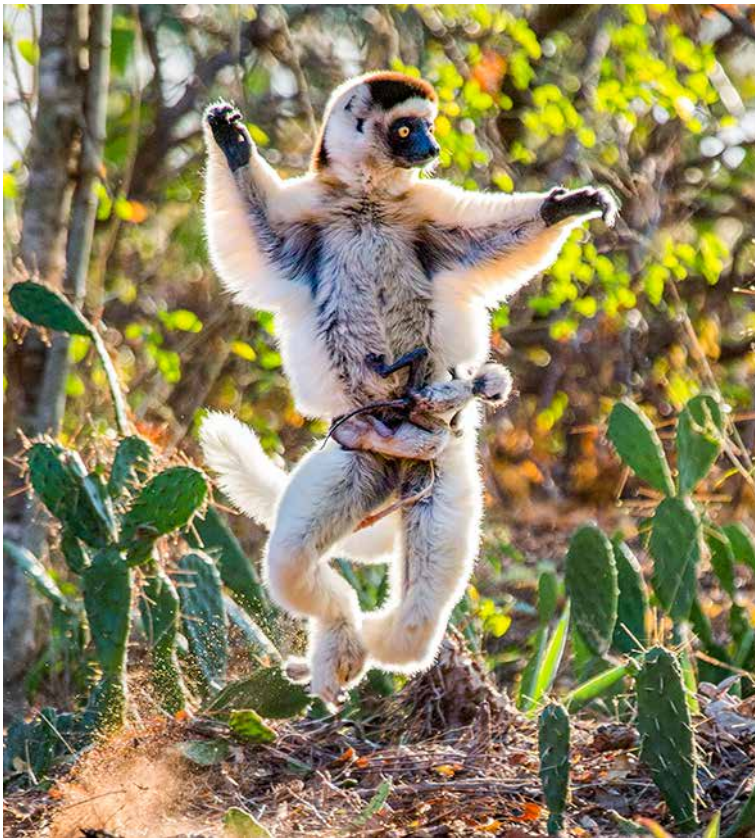
We arrive in the capital city, Antananarivo, often called simply "Tana," and are met and transferred to the Relais des Plateaux hotel near the airport. We meet for an orientation and cocktails before enjoying our Welcome Dinner...D

### DAY 2 CROWNED LEMURS OF AMBER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

A morning flight brings us to Diego Suarez (Antsiranana), a peaceful town with French colonial-style architecture. We head to Amber Mountain National Park, with a full day to walk the paths of this biologically diverse reserve whose montane rainforests shelter huge green tree ferns, crystal-clear crater lakes, picturesque waterfalls, and a wealth of wildlife, including endemic species like crowned lemurs and Sanford's brown lemurs that are not found in the south of Madagascar. As we hike deeper into the forest we'll look for orchids and the Amber Mountain rock thrush (a pretty songbird with a blue head and red breast). We'll likely see camouflaged leaf-tailed geckos and tiny stump-tailed chameleons, too—this is one of the best places to see the island's amazing chameleons. There are 60 reptile species in the park, 35 frog species, more than 40 butterfly species, and 1,000 varieties of plants—a botanist's delight. After lunch, you may choose to hike a different forest trail or return directly to the town of Diego Suarez, with the afternoon at your leisure. Hikers will return to the Hotel Allamanda in Diego Suarez in the late afternoon for our dinner...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 1 hour each way





## DAYS 3-4 HIKING IN ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK / TSINGY FOREST

Today we drive to Ankarana National Park to see the tsingy—spectacularly eroded limestone towers the area is famous for.

Over the next two days we'll enjoy hikes in Ankarana's dry forest, with 11 species of lemurs and nearly 100 species of birds. Keep an eye out for the rufous-colored Malagasy paradise flycatcher and the vibrant blue vanga. We may see—and hear—greater vasa parrots, which feed in large, noisy flocks and have unusual mating and chick-rearing behaviors. The park is also outstanding for reptile and amphibian sightings, with 60 species, including endemic and threatened geckos.

After lunch on Day 3 we'll set out on an afternoon hike. We have two options for hiking; the first requires some scrambling up the limestone rocks, but rewards us with superb views of the tsingy formations. The second is on the Perte des Rivières trail, where we should see many crowned lemurs (the park harbors one of the largest and least disturbed populations of this distinctive primate, endemic to northern Madagascar)

*"It was a true adventure! The country was gorgeous to see and experience, the people were all so friendly, and the experience with the lemurs was off the charts!"*

*Jennifer R., Fort Lauderdale, FL*

as well as Sanford's brown lemurs, the inquisitive ring-tailed mongoose, fossa, tenrecs, and Malagasy civets or striped civets. On our evening walk, we may also see a rufous mouse lemur or the Ankarana sportive lemur. Dinner and overnights are

at the nearby Ankarana Forest Lodge, a rustic lodge conveniently located near the park...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 3.5 hours on a rough road

## DAY 5 ANKARANA'S DRY FOREST WILDLIFE / BIRDS AND LEMUR

After breakfast, we return to Diego Suarez. Dinner is on your own tonight; your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations. Overnight at Hotel

Allamanda...BL

Driving Details: Approximately 3.5 hours on a rough road

## DAY 6 DIEGO SUAREZ / ANTANANARIVO

We explore the colorful morning market in Diego Suarez and have an early lunch before flying to Antananarivo. In the afternoon, we enjoy a lecture about biodiversity and have some time to relax at the hotel. Dinner is at a local restaurant and our overnight is at the Le Relais des Plateaux...BLD



Please Note: Due to weight restrictions on the charter flight that you will take from Tana to Berenty, please pack a small bag for Berenty for the 2 nights. Lock and label the bag(s) that remain behind in Tana. Our staff will transfer it to the Hotel Carlton and it will be given to you when you return to the capital. Do not leave any valuables or cash in your stored bag.

#### DAY 7 SPINY DESERT OF BERENTY PRIVATE RESERVE / NIGHT WALK

In the morning, we fly by private charter to an airstrip at the Berenty Reserve (avoiding the 4 hour drive from Ft. Dauphin). Upon arrival, enjoy a short walk around Berenty before lunch. After lunch, we continue our exploration of Berenty with an afternoon and night walk before dinner in the reserve. A small private park that preserves a third of Madagascar's remaining tamarind forest, Berenty is a superb place to see a variety of lemurs, from friendly ring-tails to acrobatic sifakas, known for their death-defying tree leaps and the sideways hops they use to get around on the ground. Many of the lemurs here are exceptionally tame, and we have wonderful photographic opportunities. This evening we set out on a surreal night walk in the spiny forest. Meals and overnight are at Berenty Lodge on the edge of the forest... BLD

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*"Wilderness Travel did a great job finding the well-hidden gems in rural Madagascar."*

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*Melissa K, Fairfield, CA*

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#### DAY 8 BERENTY PRIVATE RESERVE

Our explorations today bring us deeper into this remarkable reserve with walks that reveal flying foxes, fruit bats, huge multi-colored chameleons, and radiated tortoises. We can also visit the small but comprehensive cultural museum.

With our local naturalist guides joining us, we have several hiking options, including early morning walks to see the reserve's abundant bird life, or walks paced for avid hikers or photographers. The ring-tailed lemurs at Berenty are very curious, making them easy to photograph from a close distance. Be ready for surprise encounters with white sifaka lemurs as they "dance" across our path. Berenty's fantastic birdlife includes grey-headed lovebirds, crested and giant couas, Madagascar bulbuls, paradise flycatchers, Madagascar white-eyes, Madagascar cuckoo shrikes, and the bright red and yellow sparrow-like fody. Meals and overnight are at the Berenty Lodge on the edge of the forest...BLD

#### DAY 9 BERENTY PRIVATE RESERVE / ANTANANARIVO

We spend some time this morning exploring the reserve before boarding our private charter to Antananarivo. Upon arrival in the city, we will be transferred to the Hotel Carlton. The afternoon is at your leisure for relaxing at the





hotel or shopping at a nearby boutique. Dinner is at a local restaurant with sweeping city views as the well-known group Vilon'Androy plays traditional Malagasy melodies. Overnight at the Hotel Carlton...BLD

#### DAY 10 COLORFUL CHAMELEONS / ANDASIBE

We head out of Tana, with a stop outside the city to visit an inspiring school run by a local Malagasy couple. The schoolchildren's parents are employees of the on-site metal workshop, which displays beautiful artisanal crafts, an important income-generating activity for the community. We continue through highland countryside to the upland rainforests, stopping 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, whose montane forest has a wealth of lush fern and orchid species, fantastic birdlife, and colorful reptiles including huge Parson's chameleons. Common brown lemurs, grey bamboo lemurs, and woolly lemurs are 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 experience the unique flora and fauna of Madagascar's eastern rainforests. And on this evening's night

walk we'll get a glimpse into the fantastic nocturnal world of Madagascar's forests—we'll look for dwarf, woolly, and mouse lemurs, plus frogs and chameleons. Dinner and overnight are at Mantadia Lodge or Manjarano Lodge...BLD  
Driving Details: Approximately 4 hours to Andasibe

#### DAY 11 "SINGING" INDRI LEMURS / LEMUR ISLAND

Andasibe is famous as the home of the indri, the black-and-white lemur whose haunting treetop song carries for miles as one troop calls to another. These three-foot-tall primates, whose Malagasy name is babakoto, or "Father of Man," are the largest lemurs and renowned treetop acrobats, although they spend much of the day sleeping in the canopy. With ample time in this wonderful wildlife reserve, nearby Analamazoatra Special Reserve, and Mantadia National Park, we have several opportunities to see the indri and hear them "singing." We also visit 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. Dinner and overnight are at Mantadia Lodge or Manjarano Lodge...BLD

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*"Beyond expectations on all fronts!"*

*Karin E., San Jose, CA*

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## DAY 12 ENDANGERED SPECIES / LEMUR ISLAND

Our morning hike is in the primary rainforest of Mantadia—we'll watch for diademed sifaka and black-and-white ruffed lemurs, two endangered species that have been reintroduced to the park in an effort to build viable populations in this protected area. In the afternoon, we'll visit the village of Andasibe and join a reforestation project where there is a local effort to reunify the Analamazoatra special reserve and the Mantadia forest. We'll finish the day with an afternoon tea at our guide's home—and try some home-made Malagasy donuts. Dinner and overnight at Mantadia Lodge or Manjarano Lodge...BLD

## DAY 13 LEMUR ISLAND / RETURN TO TANA

This morning, we have another opportunity to visit Lemur Island. After lunch in Andasibe, we drive back to Tana and gather for a Farewell Dinner at La Varangue. Overnight at the Hotel Carlton...BLD

## DAY 14 COOKING CLASS / DEPART

This morning you'll join a fun Malagasy cooking class at a restaurant close to the airport. Those who wish can head

out early, stopping by a local market with the restaurant's crew to pick out the day's ingredients. If you'd prefer to skip the early start, you may go directly to the cooking class at around 10:00 am. The class will take place in the restaurant kitchen where the Malagasy staff will show you how to create dishes with the striking flavors that characterize Malagasy cuisine. Dine on the delicacies you prepared, or enjoy another dish that you didn't have an opportunity to sample during the trip. Afterwards, transfer to the airport for homeward-bound flights, or join our Isalo Extension...BL

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*"This was our first experience with a group tour—what a great introduction! We did this trip to see wildlife, and were delighted with what we got to see. Beautiful country, wildlife, and people—thank you for making our first group trip unforgettable!"*

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*-Susanna F, Lincoln, MA*

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# Trip Details

## PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$6795 (8-9 members)

\$7395 (4-7 members)

Single supplement: \$890

Internal airfare: \$2390-\$2790 (subject to change)

*2025 Trip Costs: Please call for details*

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 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of beer or wine with dinner
- Complimentary bottled water
- Fees for parks and reserves
- Land and boat transportation, airport transfers, and entrance fees
- Gratuities to local naturalists and drivers

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional activities, 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, travel insurance, 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 evacuation is required for this trip. Call for more details.



# Isalo National Park Extension

Explore Isalo National Park, with its grassy plains punctuated by eroded sandstone massifs that have been sculpted by wind and water into wonderfully weird forms reminiscent of the landscapes of the American Southwest. This rugged area shelters many species of lemurs—including sifakas, ring-tailed lemurs, and red-fronted brown lemurs—and some 80 species of birds.

## DAY 1 THE WINDOW OF ISALO (DAY 14 OF MAGICAL MADAGASCAR TRIP)

From Antananarivo, transfer to the airport and fly to Tulear on the southwestern coast of Madagascar. On arrival, you are met by your private Isalo guide for a drive to Isalo National Park, with a sunset photo-stop en route at the Window of Isalo, where the sun sets through a naturally formed “window” in the rock. Dinner and overnight at Jardin du Roy Lodge...BLD

## DAY 2 RING-TAILED LEMURS / HIKE TO WATERFALLS

After a visit to the national park office, we arrive at the entrance to Canyon Namaza for a picturesque hike up to Cascade des Nymphes, where a spectacular hidden waterfall cascades into an emerald-green pool. On return, enjoy a picnic and a photo session with ring-tailed lemurs near the park entrance. The afternoon is at leisure, or we can visit the park’s museum, with its excellent displays of the geologic formations, endemic plants, and the culture and customs of the Bara tribe. Meals and overnight are at Jardin du Roy Lodge...BLD

## DAY 3 ISALO NATIONAL PARK

We have a morning hike to the piscine naturelle, a refreshing natural pool surrounded by leafy pandanus trees. Return to the Jardin du Roy Lodge for dinner and overnight...BLD

## DAY 4 SPINY FOREST ARBORETUM / TANA

We drive back to Tulear, stopping en route at the Arboretum d’Antsokay, with its comprehensive array of spiny forest plants, birds, radiated tortoises—and possibly a lemur or two. Fly to Antananarivo and transfer to the Releais des Plateau (conveniently located near the airport). Dinner is on your own this evening...BL

## DAY 5 DEPART

Transfer to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flight...B

## 2024 ISALO NATIONAL PARK EXTENSION LAND COST

\$2,990 (3-5 members)

\$3,390 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$590

Internal airfare: \$690 (subject to change) (non-refundable)

Need minimum of 2 trip members

**Extension Cost Includes:** Local English-speaking 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.





# Other Extensions

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Magical Madagascar* webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/madagascar-ankarana-andasibe-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/madagascar-ankarana-andasibe-tour/)

## CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

The town where modern South Africa was born has a glorious location on the mountainous Cape Peninsula along the blue waters of Table Bay. There is much to see, from Table Mountain to the famous botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres. Close by is Stellenbosch and Franschhoek wine country and the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the African continent ends.

The itinerary can be customized as needed, please call for details.

*4 days. From \$1795.*



## GORILLA TRACKING IN RWANDA'S PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS EXTENSION

Join your ranger-guide for the exhilarating experience of tracking and observing the mountain gorilla clans that reside in the spectacular montane forests of Parc National des Volcans, where researcher Dian Fossey was based for 13 years. The hiking terrain ranges in altitude from 3,800 to 8,500 feet and preserves one of the largest natural forests in East Africa.

*5 days. From \$3395*



# 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.



### 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.



### TOUSSAINT RAZAFIMAMPIONONA

Toussaint has made a career of introducing people to the natural wonders of his home island of Madagascar. He worked for over a decade as a guide and park ranger in two of the island's incredible national parks: in the stunning sandstone formations of Isalo National Park, near the village of Ranohira where he was born, and in the tropical rainforests of Ranomafana National Park, located on the eastern coast. Toussaint speaks English, French, Italian, and Spanish, and in his free time, founded a local association in his home village to aid the Betsileo tribe. He enjoys reading, especially books about wildlife.

## 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.



# A Day in Madagascar

There is so much to see and experience in Madagascar—it is critical to have a well-designed trip so you can experience each park without rushing. We have put extensive research into designing itineraries that provide an in-depth exploration of Madagascar's parks.



## A DAY IN ANDASIBE

On this program, we visit Andasibe National Park, a wonderfully diverse wildlife reserve. Below is a sample day with Wilderness Travel. Please note that the hikes, activities, and extra guides are included at no additional charge.

### 5:00 AM—OPTIONAL BIRDING HIKE FOR EARLY RISERS

Optional birding hike with local guide. More than 100 bird species make their homes in Andasibe, so you can look for most of the country's rainforest-dependent endemic birds right here. Enjoy fresh tropical juices with your full breakfast at the lodge.



### 8:30 AM—FOREST WALK WITH INDRIS AND CHAMELEONS

Visit Analamazoatra Special Reserve, known for its black-and-white indri lemurs whose haunting cries echo through the forest. The park also teems with a vibrant collection of butterflies, birds, orchids, and ferns. Watch for diademed sifaka lemurs, red-bellied lemurs, and the enchanting eastern bamboo lemurs, as well as Parson's and other striking chameleons hiding in plain sight. It's also home to many plants used medicinally by the Malagasy people; your guide will be proud to point them out and explain their uses.



### 11:30 AM—UP-CLOSE PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AT LEMUR ISLAND

Visit Lemur Island, where orphaned lemurs are cared for by rangers. Because they're habituated, the brown lemurs, bamboo lemurs, and black-and-white ruffed lemurs that live here are friendly, allowing close encounters and excellent photo opportunities. There's time to freshen up, share photos, and swap stories before a hearty lunch at the lodge.

### 2:30 PM—PLANT A NATIVE SEEDLING

Visit the Voi Forest Project, a community-run organization that aims to promote sound environmental management while enhancing local livelihoods (a Wilderness Travel donation helps support the project). Plant a seedling of a native tree species, adding to the more than 200,000 trees supporters have started here. Afterwards hike in the forest or enjoy afternoon tea with our local guide's family.



### 6:30 PM—EVENING NATURE HIKE AND DINNER

Head out on an evening walk with a local guide for a glimpse into the fantastic nocturnal world of Madagascar's forests. We'll watch for dwarf lemurs, woolly lemurs, and mouse lemurs; birds like the Madagascar long-eared owl and Madagascar nightjar; and many species of frogs and chameleons. Then re-live the day's adventures at dinner—a three-course meal with your choice of beer or wine—before tucking into our comfy accommodations.



# Accommodations



## LE RELAIS DES PLATEAUX

*Antananarivo, Madagascar, Day 1 (1 night), Day 6 (1 night)*

Located near the international airport, this modern hotel offers light and airy rooms, excellent food, a good gift shop, and a swimming pool for a relaxing dip.



## ALLAMANDA HOTEL

*Diego Suarez, Madagascar, Day 2 (1 night), Day 5 (1 night)*

Set right on the waterfront of beautiful Diego Suarez Bay just a short walk from the center of town, the 24-room Allamanda offers a peaceful ambiance, with air-conditioned guest rooms with private balcony and many amenities. The outdoor swimming pool is a great place to relax and take in views of the sea, especially at sunset. Be sure to check out the bar—it's noted for its drinks using homemade rums!



## ANKARANA LODGE

*Antsiranana, Madagascar, Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)*

Situated just outside Ankarana National Park, Ankarana Lodge has comfortable bungalows with air-conditioning, comfortable beds, open-beam ceilings, and attached bathrooms. Though more basic in amenities and decorations, it more than makes up for that with its location—the lodge is known to be frequented by brightly-colored chameleons, different types of lemurs, and other creatures! If you have time, be sure to take a refreshing dip in the lodge's pool.



## BERENTY LODGE

*Berenty, Madagascar, Days 7 to 8 (2 nights)*

The only accommodation near the Berenty Private Reserve, remote Berenty Lodge offers simple accommodation in 12 wooden thatched chalets with en suite bathrooms. While relaxing in the lodge's pleasant tea garden, we can watch habituated ring-tailed lemurs and dancing sifakas at play. The lodge's restaurant serves traditional Malagasy-style food and French cuisine; electric generators are switched off after 10 pm.





## HOTEL CARLTON

*Antananarivo, Madagascar, Day 9 (1 night), Day 13 (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.



## LODGES IN ANDASIBE

*Days 10 to 12 (3 nights)*

In Andasibe, we stay at one of the following based on availability

### MANTADIA LODGE

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.



### MANJARANO LODGE

Set in the heart of more than 400 acres of private reserve stands to newly constructed Manjarano Lodge and Spa. The main lodge has an airy lobby and wonderful restaurant serving a seasonal menu. 10 bungalows are dotted throughout the property—six are set near the lake four are located on the hillside—and each has a large private balcony with sweeping views over the lake. Enjoy relaxing on the balcony at sunset and if you have time, be sure to take a dip in the two-tiered pool overlooking the sprawling landscapes.

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 *Magical Madagascar* 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 to the Carlton Madagascar Hotel is provided 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 14, 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.

### We recommend:

The **South African Airways** schedule (via Johannesburg) works best for this trip. Website: [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

### Other airlines:

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

**Kenya Airways** offers daily flights a week from Nairobi to Antananarivo. Website: [www.kenya-airways.com](http://www.kenya-airways.com)

**Air France** flights have been subject to change without notice and usually require extra nights in Paris and in Antananarivo. We do not recommend Air France unless you have flexibility in the event of schedule changes. Website: [www.airfrance.us](http://www.airfrance.us)

If you plan to visit Mauritius, you may want to consider **Air Mauritius** ([www.airmauritius.com](http://www.airmauritius.com)) or **Emirates** (to Mauritius) with connecting flight on Air Mauritius. [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)

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 ranging 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. 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
Fort Dauphin	86/73	86/73	84/72	81/68	79/64	75/61	75/61	75/61	77/63	81/66	82/68	84/72
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
Fort Dauphin	7.9	6.4	8.6	5.8	5.3	4.7	5.8	4.5	3.1	4.1	5.7	5.8



## 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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