



MADAGASCAR

WITH DR. IAN TATTERSALL

GROUP TRIP: AUGUST 10-23, 2013 | OPTIONAL EXTENSION: AUGUST 23-27, 2013

PREPARED FOR THE LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Cut off from the African mainland well over 100 million years ago, the flora and fauna of Madagascar's teeming forests have evolved independently, almost as though on another planet. The result: nearly eighty percent of its species exist nowhere else on earth. Twelve thousand species of plants and 45 percent of its 270 bird species are endemic. Known as the "Great Red Island", because of the eroding soil that stains the rivers and deltas crimson, you travel in search of lemurs, chameleons, orchids, baobabs, aloes, geckoes, sifakas, and octopus trees. Despite the negative images often portrayed of Madagascar as a result of environmental degradation, it remains one of the most beautiful and fascinating places on earth. You discover Madagascar's rich natural and cultural history from the original settlement of the Indonesian, Malaysian and African peoples, to tribal development, European discovery, pirate influence, creation of separate kingdoms, unification and ultimately independence.



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Saturday, August 10

ANTANANARIVO / ROYAL PALISSANDRE HOTEL & SPA

Arrive Antananarivo on your international flight from Paris or Johannesburg (or other). After clearing customs and immigration you are met and transferred to the Palissandre Hotel located in downtown Antananarivo (known as “Tana” to the locals). Tana is the economical, political and cultural capital of Madagascar. Sitting approximately 3,600 feet above sea level, the landscape is dominated by rice fields and houses made of cooked bricks.

Situated on hillside in the heart of the “City of One-Thousand Warriors”, the Royal Palissandre Hotel opens its doors with Malagasy hospitality. Exotic and elegantly decorated, each of the 46 air conditioned rooms has its own electronic safe, direct phone line, television with local and international channels, wifi, minibar, bathroom and hair dryer. Clear and pleasant, the rooms are dressed in colorful textile prints while the rosewood Palissandre furniture brings warmth and tenderness. A “welcome dinner” is served on the terrace overlooking the city. <http://www.hotel-palissandre.com>



Sunday & Monday, August 11 & 12

ANDASIBE PERINET / VAKONA FOREST LODGE

On the morning of August 11, you are met by your driver for your journey, approximately 3 ½ hours, to the rainforest covered East side of the island. Along the way you’ll pass through the beautiful highland countryside witnessing farms, villages, markets, funeral architecture (tombs) and people. Turning northwards off the main road you finally meet the high-altitude rainforest of Andasibe- Mantadia National Park. This is one of Madagascar’s favorite and most important tracts of forest, and is immensely bio-diverse. Over 300 species of orchid, 20 species of lemur (including the largest of them all, the Indri-indri) occur here, as do numerous species of reptile and amphibian. It is MUST-see national park in Madagascar.

You spend three nights at the elegant Vakona Forest Lodge. This lovely lodge is set in its own garden, overlooking a lake deep in the forest. The haunting calls of the Indri are heard early in the morning whilst the mists roll in. Remember, this is high-altitude forest, so it can be chilly! A huge roaring fire welcomes you to the common area; cocktails and dinner are served here as well. After dinner, you have the option to go for a night walk to look for nocturnal lemur species.



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During your time in this area you explore the two different sections of this incredible park, Analmazaotra Forest and Mantadia National Park, hiking into the wilder parts of the National Park with your local guide. With a picnic lunch included, the day is spent exploring on foot, deep into the forest. Here you may see strange and wonderful creatures such as the giraffe-necked weevil, leaf-tailed geckos, bamboo lemurs, tomato frogs and a myriad of orchid species. A highlight is encountering the Indri-Indri as they make their territorial calls to neighboring groups. A rarity is witnessing the Diadem Sifaka “dancing” through the trees.

During your stay in this area, you have time to explore and interact with amazing lemurs on the hotel-associated Lemur Island. Here, you are able to interact with many species of lemur which have been saved from orphanages around the country. Your specialist guide gives you an in-depth introduction to the biology of the lemurs of Madagascar. The island offers the best possible opportunity to photograph lemurs. www.hotelvakona.com

Tuesday, August 13

ANTANANARIVO / ROYAL PALISSANDRE HOTEL & SPA

After a morning at leisure, you are driven back to Tana and return to the Palissandre Hotel for the night.

Wednesday, August 14

SAMBAVA / HOTEL LAS PALMAS

Today you enjoy a relaxing morning before being transferred to the Tana Airport for Air Madagascar flight #314 departing at 1:25PM, arriving in Sambava at 2:30PM. Upon arrival you are met and transferred to Hotel Las Palmas, located along the beach and just a short distance from the downtown area of Sambava.

Thursday & Friday, August 15 & 16

DARAINA / CAMP TATTERSALLI

On the morning of August 15 you are driven to Daraina and Tattersalli Camp. The camp is located at the edge of the Daraina Forest where you go in search of the Tattersall’s Sifaka. Accommodation is in dome tents on platforms made of local materials. Tents are basic with mattresses and private bathrooms.

Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18

ANKARANA / IHARANA BUSH CAMP

On the morning of August 17, you are driven to Ankarana National Park where you spend the next 2



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nights at Iharana Bush Camp. Located on the edge of a lake, facing a massive Tsingys, and within walking distance of the Mahavavy River, this natural site is rich and unique.

Accommodation here is at the authentic and eco-sensitive Iharana Bush Camp. Inspired by traditional Malagasy architecture, the cottages are built of natural materials- with earthen walls with palm roofs. Each cottage is equipped with private bathroom (shower with cold water and toilet). Each cottage is equipped with a double bed and covered with a mosquito net. Open on one side, you have stunning views of the night sky from your bed.

Your days here are spent exploring the rugged Ankarana National Park. Ankarana in Malagasy means “Those of the Rocks.” Walk to the bat cave where the giant fruit bats live and through fields of unusual “tsingy” or eroded limestone pinnacles. You may see the northern sportive lemur, Amber mountain fork-marked lemur, brown mouse lemur, or northern ring tailed mongoose and possibly Madagascar’s only natural predator- the fosa. The forest is filled with baobab trees, palms, fig trees and many succulents. At night, you may take a walk in the reserve in search of night active lemurs, such as the adorable pilemur. <http://iharanabushcamp.com/>

Monday, August 19

ANTANANARIVO / RELAIS DES PLATEAUX

After breakfast, you are transferred to Diego (4 hours) where you board your Air Madagascar #343/321 departing at 11:40AM back to Tana, arriving at 1:55PM. Upon you are driven to Relais des Plateaux for dinner and overnight. This lovely quaint hotel is the perfect point of rejuvenation. Each of its rooms boast a small lounge area, large bathroom with hot and cold running water, wireless internet connection, and air-conditioning & heating to make your stay as comfortable as possible. There is also an excellent restaurant with a diverse menu situated in the hotel itself.

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 20 & 21

TULEAR / ISALO NATIONAL PARK / JARDIN DU ROY

Enjoy a relaxing morning on August 20 before transferring to the airport for Air Madagascar #712 departing at 1:20PM for Tulear. Upon arrival at 2:30PM you are met and transferred by road (4 hours) to Isalo National Park. Isalo National Park’s sandstone



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canyon massif is impressive in its grandeur and unusual eroded shapes. Succulents and fire resistant trees such as the tapia, on which the endemic silkworms feed, are native here. In the early morning one is likely to spot the black kite soaring regally overhead. The endemic Benson's rock thrush is found only in this area and can be heard singing in the morning from the prominent rock perches. Explore the park with your specialist guide looking for kestrels on rocks and overhangs and the Madagascar Coucal which inhabits the mango trees and Pandanus palms. This area is the traditional land of the Bara tribe, who are cattle herders.

During your stay here you focus on exploring the wonders of Isalo National Park. At the park's entrance you can hike (2 hours) to visit the natural swimming pool (La Piscine Naturelle) if you so desire. The path climbs steeply onto a plateau and then descends sharply to the pool. It is a true oasis with fringed palms, cool welcoming water and a cascading waterfall. There are no lemurs here but you will discover many extraordinary plants and see amazing rock formations. It can be very hot in this area and there is very little shade so make sure to bring plenty of water. A picnic lunch is provided so you may continue exploring without having to return to the lodge for lunch.

You also have the option to explore the Canyon des Singes (or Maki) which is a 10-mile 4x4 drive on rough road into the reserve followed by a forty-five minute hike into the canyon (not too strenuous and much of it is forested). There are Ring-tailed Lemur and Verreaux's Sifaka in dense vegetation here along the streams. Follow the river up the canyon to picnic and stop for a swim if you want. The Isalo Interpretation Center is worth a visit if you are interested in learning about the people who live around the park and the wildlife in the national park itself.

Thursday, August 22

TULEAR / HYPPOCAMPO

In the late afternoon you are driven to Tulear, a relatively modern town designed by a French architect in 1895. Filled with shady tamarind trees, the town sits within the famous "spiny-desert" where weird cactus-like trees fill the landscape. Overnight at Hotel Hyppocampo, a lovely sea-side guesthouse overlooking the Mozambique Channel.

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Friday, August 23

DEPART / IN TRANSIT

On August 23, you are transferred to the airport for your Air Madagascar #740/701 departing for Tana at 10:20AM, arriving at 12:45PM. Upon arrival, connect to your international flight homeward.

ANJAJAVY

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: AUGUST 23-27, 2013

Friday, August 23

ANTANANARIVO / LOKANGA BOUTIQUE HOTEL

On August 23, you are transferred to the airport for your Air Madagascar #740/701 departing for Tana at 10:20AM, arriving at 12:45PM. Upon arrival, you are transferred to the Lokanga Boutique Hotel. This fabulous old 1930's house is located in the oldest section of the city and perched atop the royal sacred hill. Built during the French colonial era of bricks and tiles, with a beautiful terrace, it is oriented west, to contemplate the sunset on the city and rice fields of the Betsimitaratra plains.

Saturday-Monday, August 24-26

ANJAJAVY / ANJAJAVY HOTEL

On August 23, you are transferred to the airport for the 7:00AM scheduled charter flight to Anjajavy where you spend the next 3 nights. Anjajavy is set along the Mozambique Channel in an extremely pristine and diverse environment where flora and fauna offer a perfect reflection of Malagasy nature. The 1,100 acre nature reserve alongside the hotel is home to over 1,800 floral species, most of which are endemic to Madagascar, along with many medicinal plants. Tsingy, the celebrated millennial coral remains, can be found throughout the



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forest and overlooking the bay. The forest is also home to many animal species such as Verreaux's Sifaka, the bird of paradise, chameleon Cuvier's oplure (a type of iguana), and the Madagascar fisher eagle.

This area is ripe for exploration and you have 4 days to explore the tsingy covered forest and discover the principal endemic species of Malagasy flora and fauna. Come across baobab trees, the "hairy crab", concretions and birds, as well as caves full of stalagmites and stalactites. Guests may water ski, go on catamarans, wind surf, snorkel, canoe the sea, or go on a boat trip to visit the local primary school and village of Anjajavy. For something less active, lounge by the swimming pool or in the "oasis," a place where one finds a vast variety of aquatic plants, papyrus reeds, tree ferns, climbing plants, and palm trees that are home to humming birds, lemurs, malachite kingfishers, Malagasy foudis and even the rrongo.

Optional (fee-based) activities include:

- Take a boat tour to nearby Morombe Bay or go on a sunset cruise.
- Enjoy a massage
- Go deep sea fishing or mountain biking

Accommodation is in luxurious two-story rosewood villas, each with a large terrace overlooking the sea, a living room area and breakfast area and a bedroom. The bathroom boasts a vast bath with separate toilet. Anjajavy is Madagascar's only Relais & Chateaux property.

www.anjajavy.com

Tuesday, August 27

ANTANANARIVO / DEPART / INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT HOMEWARD

Today you are flown back to Tana where you connect to your international flight homeward.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Price: \$8,445.00 per person based on double occupancy | **Single Supplement:** \$840.00 per single

(Price valid for CASH payments only- check or wire transfer. If you would like to pay with a credit card, please contact EXPLORE for a valid price)

Price Includes: All ground and scheduled air transportation upon landing in Madagascar; accommodation as stated in the itinerary, guides and vehicle throughout; tourism taxes; all scheduled activities including park fees; meals as stated below; and domestic flights.

- ❖ Royal Palissandre- Dinner & breakfast included
- ❖ Vakona Forest Lodge – all meals
- ❖ Las Palmas Hotel- Dinner & breakfast included
- ❖ Camp Tattersalli- all meals
- ❖ Iharana Bush Camp – all meals
- ❖ Relais du Plateaux – Dinner & breakfast included
- ❖ Jardin du Roy – All meals
- ❖ Hyppocampo – All meals

Price Excludes:

International airfare; all beverages; laundry service; medical immunizations; passport and visa fees if applicable; accident/baggage/ medical evacuation & cancellation insurance; transfers and excursions deviating from the scheduled tour; excess baggage charges; medical expenses; airport departure fees; spa treatments; telephone or fax charges; room service; gratuities to guides and staff; and other items of a purely personal nature.

Excluded Flights:

- ❖ International airfare from USA to Antananarivo, Madagascar & return

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: ANJAJAVY

Price: \$2,950.00 per person based on double occupancy | **Single Supplement:** \$390.00 per single

(Price valid for CASH payments only- check or wire transfer. If you would like to pay with a credit card, please contact EXPLORE for a valid price)

Price Includes: Return air transfers from Tana-Anjajavy-Tana; accommodation, all meals; most activities.

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