

THE BEST OF MADAGASCAR

16Days -13Nights



Itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK on international flight.

Day 2: Arrive in Antananarivo. Met at the airport and transferred directly to the hotel and check in.

Dinner and night at Carlton Hotel <https://www.carlton-madagascar.com/>

Day 3: Antananarivo – Andasibe (145km) Departure to Andasibe. The route takes us along high gorges and undulating plains. The journey to the east is more wooded because it experiences higher levels of precipitation.



En route, visit the private reserve of Peyreras, a refuge for many species of chameleons, insects, reptiles, amphibians, frogs and snakes typical of the island.

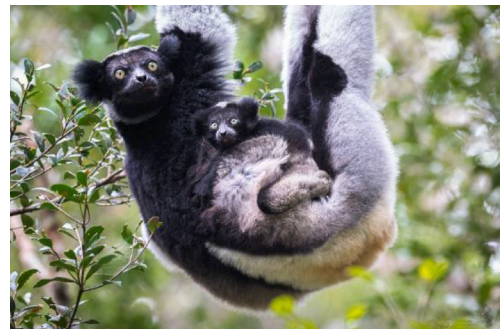
Continue the journey to Andasibe where we will check in to our hotel and have lunch.

In the afternoon we will explore Vakona Reserve. This reserve is an island of security for up to 60 groups of lemur, numerous species of birds and crocodiles.

In the evening we will take a night tour of the reserve to see the diminutive nocturnal mouse lemur.

Dinner and night at Vakona Forest Lodge <https://hotelvakona.com/>

Day 4: Andasibe – Antsirabe (218km) After breakfast we take an incursion into the forest to see the Indri Indri and hear their haunting singing call as they are crying. There will also be many birds, indigenous only to Madagascar, to observe. The forest of the Analamazaotra is the sanctuary of the Indri Indri, and other lemur species. Ferns are especially dense. There are also epiphyte plants, which take their moisture and nutrients from the air, and orchids. This is a fascinating walk on cleared paths through primary forest.



After this excursion into the forest we embark upon our journey to Antsirabe. The landscape is typical of the highlands, with vast fields of rice and wheat, and charming laterite coloured villages. We will take lunch on the way.

Depending on time, we will stop at a traditional workshop making pots with rudimentary materials.

Continue to Behenja to taste the famous and delicious Malagasy foie gras.

Arrive in Antsirabe “the place of salt”. Check in to our hotel.

Dinner and night at Royal Palace <https://www.leroyalpalace.mg/>

Day 5: Antsirabe – Ranomafana (260km) In the morning we will take a short tour around Antsirabe before heading off to Ranomafana. We will visit some ateliers, craftsmen who make miniature bikes, semi-precious stones etc. It is possible that we might do this tour on rickshaws.

Stop at Ambositra, centre of the Malagasy handicraft trade, well-known for its wood carvings of the Zafimaniry Tribe. The area is a UNESCO Heritage site.

Lunch

Continue through the Ranomafana Forest, a vast area of eucalyptus trees. On arrival at Ranomafana we check into the Thermal Hotel. In the evening we will make a nocturnal visit to observe the smallest nocturnal chameleon and lemur.

Dinner and night at Thermal Hotel <https://thermal-ranomafana.mg/>



Day 6: Ranomafana – Ranohira (358km) After breakfast we leave for Fianarantsoa. We take a half day incursion into the Ranomafana National Park, situated in a mountainous region where we can enjoy the rich biodiversity of this humid forest, characterized by numerous euphorbia, epiphyte plants, palm trees and orchids. The fauna is rich: the haplemur Aureus was recently discovered and the reserve is its unique sanctuary. There is also a huge variety of birds, many of the endemic of

Madagascar.

We continue our journey through rice and tobacco plantations. There is the possibility of visiting vineyards. At Ambalavao we will visit the Antaimoro rice paper workshop.

Lunch on the way.

15km from Ambalavao we will visit the Ny Anja associative villagers' park, home to many ring-tailed lemurs. The visit will allow us close observation of the beautiful monkeys.

Passing by the Porte du Sud we embark on a journey through strange natural shapes, large savannahs. We discover a new world of unexpected landscapes, home to big herds of zebus.

We arrive in Ranohira in the late afternoon, check into our hotel, Relais De La Reine <https://www.lerelaisdelareine.com/>

Dinner and night at Relais De La Reine



Day 7: Ranohira Isalo Park Breakfast at the hotel. We visit the interpretation centre of Isalo National Park before hiking into this attractive natural treasure. It has spectacular lunar scenery of continental sandstone of the Jurassic era, deep canyons and home to a wide variety of mammals, reptiles and frogs. Our walk takes us to the lemur canyon and a surprising natural swimming pool, which invites us to relax and bath. We will take lunch in this beautiful spot.

By the end of the afternoon we will enjoy the sunset through the Fenetre de l'Isalo.

Dinner and night at Relais De La Reine

Day 8: Ranohira – Tulear – Ifaty (273km) After breakfast we depart for Tulear, passing through spiny bush adapted to long periods of dryness. This scenery is very characteristic of the south. Along the road we will see the typical Mahafaly and Antandroy's tombs. Magnificent Aloalo grave poles made of carved wood with geometrical designs on the top. We will also witness daily native life. The arid vegetation of the south has a large variety of succulents and euphorbs.

Upon arrival in Tulear we will visit the seashell market. We will take lunch here.





Continuing our journey to Ifaty, we will stop at the impressive arboretum Antsokay, a botanical park for the collection of endemic spiny plants of south west Madagascar, a paradise for botanists and also home to many lizards and chameleon.

Dinner and night at Paradisier
<https://www.paradisier.net/>

Day 9: Ifaty After an early breakfast, we head off to visit the Reniala Reserve (Boabab Reserve). It is a reserve that harbors a remarkable endemic biodiversity of flora and fauna, and is a meeting point for many scientists.

Lunch

In the afternoon we will have some free time to relax on the beach.

Dinner and night at Paradisier



Day 10: Ifaty – Tulear – Tana We will have breakfast in the hotel before transferring to the airport at Tulear for a flight back to Antananarivo. On arrival we will transfer to the hotel in time for lunch.

The rest of the day will be free to explore Antananarivo.

Dinner and night at Carlton Hotel

Day 11: Tana – Nosy Be (the perfumed island) Transfer to the airport for a flight to Nosy Be. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to the Vanilla Hotel and Spa for check-in. The rest of the day will be free.

Full board accommodation at Vanilla Hotel and Spa <https://vanilla-hotel.com/>

Day 12: Nosy Be/Lokobe Visit of Lokobe National Park. The reserve is home to the black lemur (the male is dark brown, almost black, while the female is a lovely chestnut colour with white tufts around her ears and cheeks) and several other lemur species. We are also likely to spot boa constrictors, owls, chameleons and many wonderful plants, vanilla orchids, travellers' palms and more.

Picnic lunch

Dinner and night at Vanilla Hotel and Spa.

Day 13: Nosy Komba and Nosy Tanikely Today we visit the famous Nosy Komba and Nosy Tanikely, the island of lemurs and a submarine reserve.

First stop: Nosy Komba is the second biggest island behind Nosy Be. We will visit the Lemurs Park and the Fishermen's village. We will also see the table cloths market, then have time for some shopping with the famous sculpture of Nosy Komba with its colourful stalls.



Second stop: Nosy Tanikely is a protected submarine natural reserve. Snorkelling equipment is all you need to dive into a real life sized aquarium. A few steps from the beach you can see all kinds of corals, anemones, multi-coloured fish, shellfish, and, if you are lucky, turtles. Bathing, strolling to the lighthouse in order to see giant bats, lemurs, lizards, chameleon and butterflies all contribute to a fantastic experience.

The picnic lunch will involve special seafood.

Dinner and night at Vanilla Hotel and Spa.

Day 14: Nosy Be - Antananarivo In the morning we will take an excursion to Nosy Sakatia, orchids island. Nosy Sakatia is the most authentic island of Nosy Be (protected and classified by the Ministry of Environment). Accompanied by a local guide, we will discover the inside of the island during a one and a half hour trek. We will see blazing, flamboyant flowers, coffee trees, pepper pots, vanilla, tree of the "traveller", pineapple, anacardier, mangos, Jacques fruit, guava, eucalyptus, raphia, orchids, healing plants etc.



Picnic lunch on the beach,

In the afternoon we will transfer by motorboat to Nosy Be and take a flight back to Antananarivo.

Dinner and night at Carlton Hotel



Day 15: Antananarivo and international flight home After breakfast we have a city tour where we will visit the Royal Palace. From high up in the palace we have a panoramic view over the city. Afterwards we will visit the Lisy Art Gallery, a great place to buy some of those last minute souvenirs.

Lunch

After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our international flight home.

Day 16: Arrive UK

Cost on Full Board basis

Price per person in double/twin room approx. £1850 Single Supplement £500

Cost includes:

- All transfers mentioned in the itinerary
- Vehicle with a driver and an English speaking professional guide
- All accommodation and meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Tourist taxes and tourist vignettes
- All entrance fees and local guide during visits
- Local park and guide entrances

Not included:

- Beverages
- Personal items
- Tips at time of services
- Travel insurance
- International and domestic flights (International flight cost approx. £750, domestic flights approx. £250)