

# Reef & Rainforest



## **A Gentle Journey In Madagascar**

Group Tour - Led by Kenny Andriamaronjaka

31 October – 14 November 2010



## A Gentle Journey In Madagascar Group Tour

If you wish to experience the varied wonders of Madagascar but at a relaxed unhurried pace whilst staying in a good degree of comfort and sharing your experiences with like-minded people, this is for you.

The itinerary takes in three highly contrasting areas of the country – firstly the rainforest at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (aka Perinet / Analamazaotra) home to the largest lemur, the tail-less Indri whose eerie territorial cry can be heard throughout the forest. This area is also special for other diurnal lemurs such as the beautiful diademed sifaka, nocturnal lemurs such as Goodman's mouse lemur as well as many endemic birds, various chameleons, over 100 species of frog and the masters of camouflage, leaf-tailed geckos.



Then to the spiny forest and gallery woodlands of Berenty – probably the most famous reserve in Madagascar having been featured on many television programmes, and home to the mischievous ring-tailed lemurs and 'dancing' Verreauxs sifakas. Here many lemurs are habituated to humans allowing close approach and great photographic opportunities. It is also an excellent area for bird life with almost 100 species recorded including favourites such as the giant coua and Madagascar paradise flycatcher.

Finally Anjajavy – one of the most luxurious lodges on Madagascar which benefits from its isolated setting by a wonderful beach, with a wildlife-rich private tropical dry deciduous forest reserve behind. Seven species of lemur are found here, including the athletic and beautiful Coquerels sifaka, groups of which come to the lodge's gardens each evening. Birds are plentiful and include the rare Madagascar fish eagle, white-breasted mesite, and seven species of vanga. Visits can be made to deserted coves, sacred baobabs, rich mangroves, areas of Tsingy, Vezo fishing villages and secluded islands.

The bungalows at Anjajavy are superb, as is the food and service and here you may truly relax at the end of what has been a superb wildlife holiday.



## A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP

15 DAYS – LED BY KENNY ANDRIAMARONJAKA  
2010

### ITINERARY IN BRIEF

- 31 Oct Depart **LONDON**. Change aircraft in PARIS. Continue to ANTANANARIVO (TANA).
- 01 Nov Arrive **TANA**. Day use of RELAIS DES PLATEAUX hotel to refresh. Drive to **PERINET RESERVE (aka ANALAMAZAOTRA / ANDASIBE)**. Evening walk for nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 02 Nov Drive to **MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK**. Day to explore the forest with picnic lunch. Return to the hotel. Evening wildlife walk. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 03 Nov Morning visit to **ANALAMAZAOTRA** (Perinet) Reserve and walk in the Orchid Park. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 04 Nov Time at leisure to enjoy the surroundings. Optional excursions available. Then drive back to **TANA**. Excursion to **AMBOHIMANGA HILL**. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.
- 05 Nov Fly to **FORT DAUPHIN** (aka TOLAGNARO). Interesting drive to **BERENTY RESERVE** via pitcher plants, tomb and changing habitats including spiny forest. Wildlife walk at Berenty. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.
- 06 Nov Full day in **BERENTY RESERVE**. Morning in the gallery forest. Afternoon to explore the spiny forest. Nocturnal wildlife walk. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.
- 07 Nov Another day to enjoy **BERENTY RESERVE**. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.
- 08 Nov Return to Fort Dauphin airport for the flight to TANA. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.
- 09 Nov Board the charter flight to **ANJAJAVY** private airstrip and transfer to the lodge. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- 10 Nov Day at leisure at **ANJAJAVY** to enjoy the beach, activities, service and tropical dry deciduous forest reserve with its plentiful wildlife. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- 11 Nov Day at leisure at **ANJAJAVY**. Optional: boat trips, guided forest walks etc. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- 12 Nov Day at leisure at **ANJAJAVY**. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- 13 Nov Return to the private airstrip and fly to **TANA**. Day use of a room at HOTEL RELAIS DES PLATEAUX before flying to PARIS.
- 14 Nov Arrive PARIS, change aircraft and fly to **LONDON**.



## A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR

### GROUP LEADER:

## KENNY ANDRIAMARONJAKA

A highly experienced leader of several years' standing, Kenny's excellent knowledge and never-ending enthusiasm about Madagascar's wildlife and culture as well as excellent spoken English (he has a Masters degree in socio-linguistics) has made Kenny a firm favourite with our clients. For example, previous group members have described Kenny as:

*'Excellent' – he was friendly, knowledgeable, reliable and helpful. He has the most amazing smile!' – Miss K Scott, Hertfordshire*

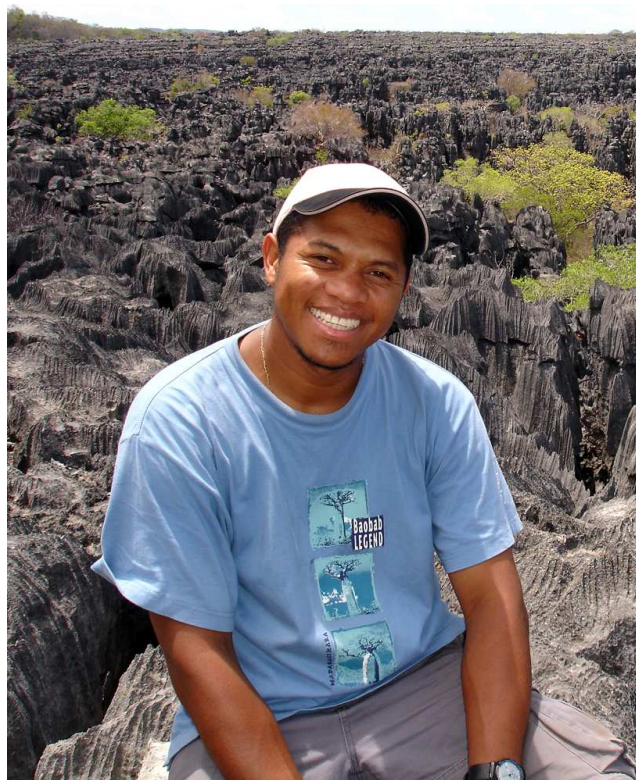
*'Exceptional, always cheerful' - Mr R & Mrs AT, Dorset*

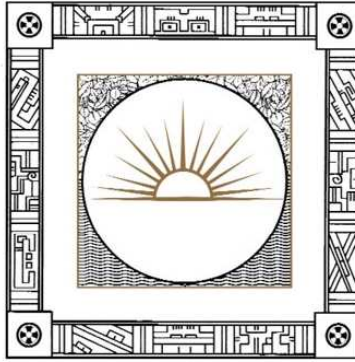
*'Kenny was an excellent guide, very knowledgeable about a broad range of issues and able to speak very clear fluent English. Nothing was too much trouble' – Ms L Scott, Bucks*

*'A gem. He was knowledgeable, enthusiastic and organized...and was invaluable in every way – from explaining history, to negotiating in Malagasy, to locating wildlife' – Ms GC, Chicago*

We know you will enjoy his company and your experiences within Madagascar will be greatly enhanced as a result.

NB: Kenny will accompany the tour for all sections within Madagascar except at Anjajavy where you will be looked after by the management.



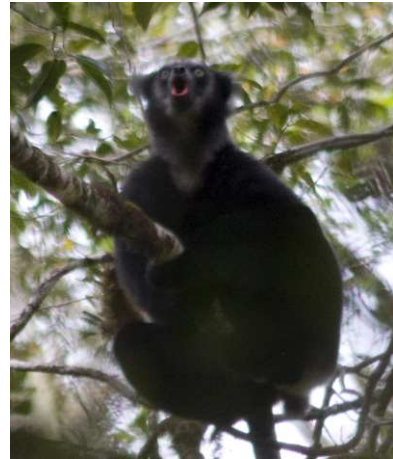


## A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP 2010

### DETAILED ITINERARY

31 Oct Depart LONDON and fly to PARIS. Change aircraft and fly to ANTANANARIVO (TANA).

01 Nov Arrive TANA. Met on arrival at the airport and, after use of a room and the facilities at HOTEL RELAIS DES PLATEAUX to refresh, drive c.3-4 hours to PERINET RESERVE (also known as ANALAMAZAOTRA or ANDASIBE) passing through many villages and rice paddies. Perinet Reserve contains the largest lemur, the indri and seven other diurnal species, as well as chameleons, amphibians and the elusive Aye Aye (evidence of its presence much more easily seen than the animal itself!). Evening walk to spot mouse lemurs as well as pygmy chameleons and other nocturnal species. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB. Located 7kms from the reserve, this is one of the best hotels in Perinet. It has a peaceful and attractive location and is three starred.



02 Nov



Drive to MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK, to the north. Day to explore the NATIONAL PARK in search of two lemurs not present in Perinet, the diademed sifaka and the black and white ruffed lemur, and other wildlife such as the extraordinary leaf-tail gecko. The walking here is a little harder than Perinet, but should be fine if one is fit with no mobility problems. Evening walk near Perinet in search of nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.

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03 Nov Morning walk in ANALAMAZAOTRA (Perinet) Reserve to look for the indri and other diurnal species as well as chameleons and odd insects like the giraffe-necked weevil. Afternoon visit to the Orchid Park. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.

04 Nov Morning at leisure to relax and enjoy the surroundings with OPTIONAL activities available if you wish. Later, return to TANA, and then visit AMBOHIMANGA HILL, about 20 minutes out of TANA to see the old royal palace complex (now the last surviving example of Malagasy royal residences since the ROVA sadly burnt down), which is very atmospheric. Transfer to the hotel. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB. Situated about 10 minutes' drive from the airport, this comfortable three-star hotel set in exotic gardens offers well equipped, en suite rooms including air conditioning, satellite TV and mini-bar, decorated in Malagasy design using local materials. Other facilities in the hotel include a local handicraft shop, restaurant serving French cuisine and local delicacies, bar and swimming pool (heated in the cooler months).



05 Nov Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport to catch a flight to FORT DAUPHIN (aka TOLAGNARO). Met on arrival and commence the drive (c. 3-4 hours) to BERENTY en route stopping to admire pitcher plants, a Mahafaly tomb and the eerie SPINY FOREST, uniquely Madagascan flora with snake-like didieraceae trees, and the bottle-shaped baobabs. Evening walk before dinner to search for nocturnal species. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB. The gallery and spiny forest reserve has many habituated ring-tailed lemurs (beware your bananas), as well as Verreaux's sifakas and brown lemurs. There are tortoise, crocodile and spiny forest plant compounds and many bird species. Walking is level and gentle along wide trails.



06 Nov Morning and afternoon guided walks in BERENTY RESERVE, observing riverine forest, containing many birds such as the hook-billed vanga, paradise flycatcher, ashy cuckooshrike, two species of vasa parrot and souimanga sunbird. Also found are ring-tailed lemurs, sifakas and brown lemurs. Visit to the museum. Evening walk before dinner in search of nocturnal species. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.

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07 Nov Another day to enjoy BERENTY with guided excursions. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.

08 Nov pick up from the lodge and drive back to FORT DAUPHIN. Transfer to the airport to catch the flight to TANA. Met and transfer to the hotel. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.

09 Nov Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch charter flight to ANJAJAVY on the isolated north west coast, north of MAJUNGA. Met on arrival at the private airstrip and transfer to the lodge. Rest of the day at leisure. O/n ANJAJAVY HOTEL, FB. The luxury hotel sits on a beautiful beach at the tip of a peninsula jutting out into the Mozambique Channel, near a small fishing village of the same name. The surrounding dry forest reserve contains endemic species of trees and plants and is a refuge for many animal species including Coquerel's sifaka, mongoose lemur, chameleons, and the very rare Madagascar fish eagle may be found nearby. Wild lemurs visit the lodge most evenings – a very special and rare occurrence in Madagascar offering excellent photographic opportunities. There are many marked paths through the forest, leading to nearby inlets. Nature walks can be taken with or without guides and maps are available at the reception.



Accommodation is in a very comfortable, air-conditioned villa constructed of hardwood and thatch. Each detached villa has a large veranda overlooking the sea, double bed, private bathroom equipped with a large bath-tub, a second storey sitting room (which converts to a second bedroom), safe and mini bar.



There is a swimming pool to augment the warm sea bathing, and other water sports available include catamaran sailing, windsurfing, fishing (pre-booking essential), canoeing and water skiing (some at extra charge). Four wheel drive and boat excursions, hiking and cycling are also possible optional activities. Nearby there are two local villages which may be visited, where you can see the benefits accrued to the populations from their proximity and involvement with the hotel.

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10 Nov Full day at leisure. Perhaps take an OPTIONAL boat excursion to the sacred baobab. NB: Please note Anjavy time is one hour ahead of the rest of Madagascar. O/n ANJAVY HOTEL, FB.

11 Nov Full day at leisure. OPTIONAL: Mangrove boat tour at sunset (depending on tides). O/n ANJAVY HOTEL, FB.

12 Nov Full day at leisure. O/n ANJAVY HOTEL, FB.

13 Nov Pick up from the hotel and transfer to the private airstrip. Catch charter flight to TANA. Met and transfer to hotel RELAIS DES PLATEAUX near the airport for day use of a room and the facilities. Later, pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport and catch a flight to PARIS.

14 Nov Arrive PARIS. On arrival, connect with a flight to LONDON.

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Minimum group size is 4, maximum 10 plus the tour leader.

**A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP, 2009**

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
31 October 2010	£3,985	£695

Please call 01803 866965 if you have any queries, would like to secure your place on the tour, and/or if you would like to extend the tour to include other locations.

NB: If you would prefer your flights to depart from a regional airport in the UK e.g. Manchester, Birmingham, or from Paris or any other airport please let us know as we will be pleased to look into the options for you.



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## IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

NB: All itineraries are subject to change without notice to take into account possible airline flight schedule changes which can take place before departure date or during the tour, and other operational factors.

NB: The quoted price for the above itinerary is based on current airline fares (both international and domestic), fuel surcharges and flight taxes. These (and other tour costs) may be subject to unanticipated increases beyond our control at short notice, either before or after you have booked the tour, in which case the price would need to be revised accordingly.

NB: This tour involves some travel in remote areas. This adds to the adventure and increases the opportunity to enjoy a true wildlife experience. However, due to terrain, weather, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control, some elements of the tour may have to be altered. Times of some activities may need to be changed or even cancelled due to the conditions. If an activity is cancelled it will usually be replaced with an alternative activity that is more appropriate for the conditions. Advance notice will be given for any changes where possible, although at times changes may need to be made whilst the tour is in progress.

NB: With any trip involving wildlife it is impossible to guarantee a sighting, but each trip is designed around known habitats. Every effort will be made to ensure a sighting, but cannot be held responsible if no sighting is made due to the wildlife itself, weather, or any other elements beyond our control.

NB: Prices are based on a specific airlines and specific economy seating classes. Flights are booked on an ad hoc basis and so early booking is recommended to take advantage of the cheapest fare availability. Prices may rise if a more expensive seat class needs to be booked. Please call for information on price variations for using alternative airlines or for seat upgrades.

NB: Adequate insurance cover is mandatory. Please supply us with details of your cover.

NB: Should for any reason the specified tour leader be unable to accompany the group, a suitable substitute will be provided.

NB: All international flights should be re-confirmed at least 72 hours before departure.

NB: The above itinerary and its quoted price are based on specific hotels and lodges. Should there be insufficient availability at the time of booking, alternative hotels and lodges of a similar standard may have to be booked instead, in which case the itinerary and/or price may change.

NB: Inclusive tours and excursions as stated in the itinerary will have been pre-paid. Once full payment has been made and/or clients are actually at their destination, should clients be disinclined to partake of any inclusive tour or excursion, no refunds will be possible.

NB: Excursions marked as 'Optional' are not included in the price.

NB: Despite recent improvements, Madagascar still has some accommodation of a lower standards than that normally expected by western travelers, and a precarious infrastructure including unreliable domestic flights, poor telecommunications and bad roads. Many of our tours visit areas well off the beaten track, and therefore far from medical and other services. Trails can often be arduous and slippery, and campsites are usually very basic. Bookings will only be accepted on the understanding that the client accepts Reef and Rainforest Tours has done everything in its power to ensure there are no difficulties, but has no control over standards of some equipment, available accommodation and services, airline reservation policies, flight schedule changes or possible breakdowns in communication in Madagascar.

NB: Visas are easily obtainable on arrival for UK residents; approximate cost: GBP65 payable in USD or EUR. Please take sufficient currency to pay, or obtain your visa prior to departure from the Malagasy Embassy in London. Please ensure your passport has six months validity from the date of return. **STOP PRESS!** 30-day Tourist Entry Visa fees have been waived for 2009!

NB: Local reserve guides' tips are payable at the reserves (c.£2-3 per full day's guiding per two people). Tips should also be given to your private guide, depending on level of satisfaction (c. £2-3 per day per two people).

NB: In some hotels, English will be spoken either badly or not at all.

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## Reef and Rainforest Tours Ltd.

A7 Dart Marine Park, Steamer Quay, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5AL, UK

Tel: ++ 44 (0)1803 866965 Fax: ++ 44 (0)1803 865916

Websites: [www.reefandrainforest.co.uk](http://www.reefandrainforest.co.uk) [www.familytours.co.uk](http://www.familytours.co.uk)

E-mail: [mail@reefandrainforest.co.uk](mailto:mail@reefandrainforest.co.uk)

