



Reef & Rainforest



A Gentle Journey In Madagascar

Group Tour Led by Local Naturalist Guide

23 September – 07 October 2012



A Gentle Journey In Madagascar Group Tour

If you wish to experience the varied wonders of Madagascar but at a relaxed unhurried pace whilst 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.

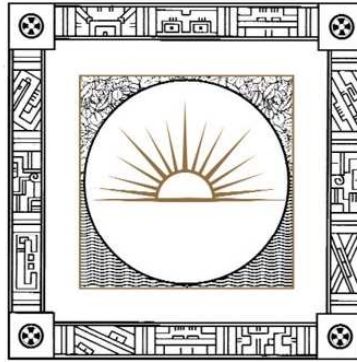


A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP

15 DAYS

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

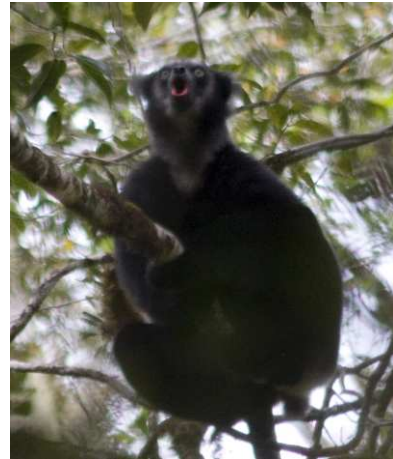
- Day 01 Depart **LONDON**.
- Day 02 Arrive JOHANNESBURG. Continue to ANTANANARIVO (**TANA**). Drive to **PERINET RESERVE (aka ANALAMAZAOTRA / ANDASIBE)**. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- Day 03 Drive to **MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK**. Day to explore the forest with picnic lunch. Return to the hotel. Evening walk for nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- Day 04 Morning visit to **ANALAMAZAOTRA** (Perinet) Reserve and walk in the Orchid Park. Evening wildlife walk. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- Day 05 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.
- Day 06 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.
- Day 07 Full day in **BERENTY RESERVE**. Morning in the gallery forest. Afternoon to explore the spiny forest. Nocturnal wildlife walk. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.
- Day 08 Another day to enjoy **BERENTY RESERVE**. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.
- Day 09 Return to Fort Dauphin airport for the flight to TANA. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.
- Day 10 Board the charter flight to **ANJAJAVY** private airstrip and transfer to the lodge. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- Day 11 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.
- Day 12 Day at leisure at **ANJAJAVY**. Optional: boat trips, guided forest walks etc. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- Day 13 Day at leisure at **ANJAJAVY**. O/n ANJAJAVY LODGE, FB.
- Day 14 Return to the private airstrip and fly to **TANA**. Fly to JOHANNESBURG. change aircraft and fly to LONDON.
- Day 15 Arrive **LONDON**.



A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 01 Depart LONDON and fly to JOHANNESBURG.

Day 02 Arrive JOHANNESBURG. Change aircraft and fly to ANTANANARIVO (TANA). Met on arrival at the airport and 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!). 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.



Day 03



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 to spot mouse lemurs as well as pygmy chameleons and other nocturnal species. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.

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Day 04 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. Visit the Orchid Park which is a favourite home to tiny *Brookesia* leaf chameleons and frogs. Evening walk near Perinet in search of nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.

Day 05 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).

Day 06 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 (please note the road is in a very poor condition), through transitional habitat zones to the eerie SPINY



FOREST, an uniquely Malagasy 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. Accommodation in a simple en-suite bungalow. 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. Please note food and service is basic and electricity operates for limited hours only. However, unlike many reserves, walking is level and gentle along wide trails and the accessibility of the wildlife is superb.

Day 07 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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Day 08 Another day to enjoy BERENTY with guided excursions. O/n BERENTY LODGE, FB.

Day 09 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.

Day 10 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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Day 11 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.

Day 12 Full day at leisure. OPTIONAL: Mangrove boat tour at sunset (depending on tides). O/n ANJAVY HOTEL, FB.

Day 13 Full day at leisure. O/n ANJAVY HOTEL, FB.

Day 14 Pick up from the hotel and transfer to the private airstrip. Catch charter flight to TANA. Met and assisted with check in for the flight to JOHANNESBURG. On arrival, connect with a flight to LONDON.

Day 15 Arrive LONDON.



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

A GENTLE JOURNEY IN MADAGASCAR GROUP

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
23 September 2012	£4,575	£685

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 in Madagascar or perhaps add safari in South Africa for large African wildlife.

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 ITINERARIES

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 exchange rates, airline fares (both international and domestic), fuel surcharges and 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 travellers, 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: Some service providers may require that guests sign an indemnity waiver form and may refuse services if these forms are not signed. Reef and Rainforest Tours cannot give refunds for services not provided due to a refusal to sign such forms.

NB: Visas are now easily obtainable on arrival for EU residents (free at time of writing but subject to change without notice). PLEASE CHECK THE LATEST INFORMATION WITH YOUR LOCAL EMBASSY/CONSULATE.

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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