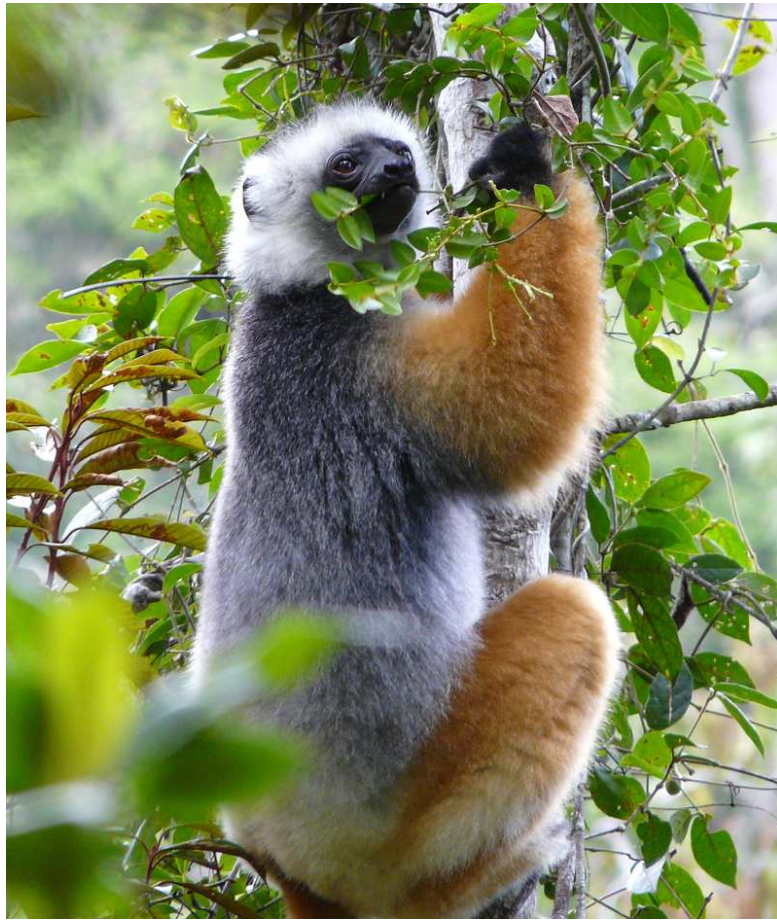


Reef & Rainforest



Madagascar's Magnificent Wildlife & Landscapes

11-Day Group Tour - Led by Local Naturalist Guide

07 – 17 October 2012



Madagascar's Magnificent Wildlife & Landscapes Group Tour

11-Day Itinerary

For those who prefer to enjoy the benefits of land-based travel, we highly recommend this classic overland route in Madagascar, promising a plethora of diverse and unforgettable experiences. The tour promises multiple enchanting encounters with various species of lemur, birds, chameleons, geckos and other wildlife, whilst enjoying the diverse and captivating landscapes, different forest types, strange flora, charming people, and fascinating culture of this other-worldly country.

Wildlife areas visited include ANDASIBE-MANTADIA (aka Perinet / Analamazaotra), RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK, ANJA PARK, and ISALO NATIONAL PARK.

We stop at various places of interest en-route to allow a good insight into the local ways of life of the Malagasy people.



The small group size (maximum 10 people) allows minimal impact and good wildlife-viewing, along with great camaraderie and ability to share experiences with like minded people. A reasonable level of fitness is beneficial as some of the walks – although taken at an easy pace to suit the group and the nature of wildlife watching – can be moderately strenuous due to the terrain.

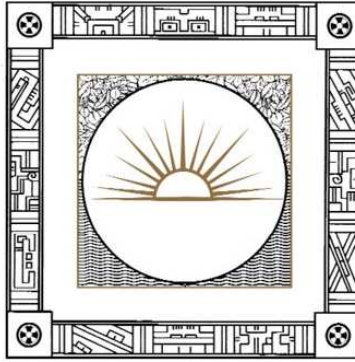


MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES GROUP

11 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDE

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

- 07 Oct Depart **LONDON**. Change aircraft in **PARIS**. Continue to **ANTANANARIVO (TANA)**. O/n **RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB**.
- 08 Oct Today visit to **AMBOHIMANGA PALACE**. Drive to **PERINET RESERVE** (aka **ANALAMAZAOTRA / ANDASIBE**). Evening walk for nocturnal wildlife. O/n **VAKONA LODGE, FB**.
- 09 Oct Drive to **MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK**. Morning to explore the forest. Return to the hotel. Evening wildlife walk. O/n **VAKONA LODGE, FB**.
- 10 Oct Morning visit to **PERINET RESERVE**. Then enjoy the Orchid Park. O/n **VAKONA LODGE, FB**.
- 11 Oct Today drive thorough interesting scenery, stopping at places of interest. Arrive at **ANTSIRABE**. O/n **COULEUR CAFÉ, FB**.
- 12 Oct Drive to **RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK** via **AMBOSITRA**. Night walk for nocturnal wildlife. O/n **SETAM LODGE, FB**.
- 13 Oct Morning and afternoon to explore the **TALATAKELY** and **VOHIPARARA** areas of **RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK**. O/n **SETAM LODGE, FB**.
- 14 Oct Drive to **ISALO NATIONAL PARK**, visiting **ANJA PARK** en route. O/n **JARDIN DU ROY, FB**.
- 15 Oct Day to explore **ISALO NATIONAL PARK**. Trail choice to be discussed with your guide, according to the group's interests/fitness. Walks may include a visit Canyon des Makis / Rats or hike the Crêtes trail. Perhaps visit **NAMAZAHA** and walk through stunning scenery to the **PISCINE NATURELLE**. O/n **JARDIN DU ROY, FB**.
- 16 Oct Drive to **TULEAR**. Visit the **ARBORETUM D'ANTSOKAY** if time allows. Fly to **TANA**. Afternoon visit to **TSARASAO TRA LAKE** if times allows (depends on the Tulear to Tana flight schedule). Day use of a room at **RELAIS DES PLATEAUX HOTEL** before transfer to the airport
- 17 Oct Depart **TANA**. Change aircraft in **PARIS**. Fly to **LONDON**.



MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES SMALL GROUP TOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

07 Oct Depart LONDON and fly to PARIS. Change aircraft and fly to ANTANANARIVO (TANA). Met on arrival at the airport and 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).

08 Oct Morning excursion to AMBOHIMANGA HILL, about 20 km 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.



Later, 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!). The reserve is an excellent example of eastern rainforest habitat with many nature trails. Temperatures may become quite cool, especially in the evening and early mornings. 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.



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09 Oct

Drive 30 minutes to MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK, to the north. Morning to explore the NATIONAL PARK in search of 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 in search of nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.



10 Oct

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.



11 Oct

Pick up from the hotel and commence the drive back towards TANA. Continue through Merina villages and mosaics of rice fields to ANTSIRABE, an attractive Hauts Plateaux spa town founded by Norwegian missionaries and noted for its rickshaws and thermal baths. O/n COULEUR CAFÉ, FB. A relatively new hotel, perhaps the best in Antsirabe. There are five comfortable bungalows with private bathroom, surrounded by beautiful gardens. There is a small restaurant serving traditional Malagasy cuisine.



(3).../ MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES GROUP

12 Oct

Drive through Bestileo country to AMBOSITRA, stopping to visit the woodcarving centre - origin of the intricate inlaid wood designs that are found throughout Madagascar. Continue to RANOMAFANA, arriving and transfer to the hotel. Ranomafana is an exceptionally rich high-altitude rainforest reserve where the very rare golden bamboo lemur and eleven other lemur species exist. O/n SETAM LODGE, FB. Located close to the entrance of the National Park, this lodge offers good views to the forest. 20 bungalows each have a small lounge and private bathroom. Evening walk to spot dwarf lemur, lepilemur, striped civet and other nocturnal species (bring torches). O/n SETAM LODGE, FB.



13 Oct



Morning and afternoon wildlife-viewing expeditions in the rainforest of RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK. Visit the areas of Talatakely and Vohiparara. The trails can be steep and tough but generally the going is moderate. O/n SETAM LODGE, FB.

14 Oct

Morning pick up from the hotel and drive south to ISALO NATIONAL PARK, with various stops en route including FIANARANTSOA, AMBALAVAO, and a visit to the paper factory in ANTEMORO which involves important traditional skills for the tribe in this area (Picnic lunch included). There will also be a visit to the community-managed ANJA PARK to see habituated ring-tailed lemurs, offering good photographic opportunities. Arrive ISALO late in the afternoon and transfer to the hotel. O/n JARDIN DU ROY, FB. The hotel, on the edge of ISALO NATIONAL PARK, blends in wonderfully with its surroundings. New and luxurious – this is one of the best hotels in Madagascar, uses beautiful stonework throughout. There is a large swimming pool in a lovely natural setting and a wonderful restaurant offering beautifully presented food and service.



(4).../ MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES GROUP

15 Oct Day to explore the spectacular ISALO NATIONAL PARK. The Park, a runiforme limestone massif, contains wonderful scenery and unusual plants like the endemic 'elephant's foot' *Pachypodium rosalatum*, and is a sacred burial ground for the Bara tribe. Trail choice to be discussed with your guide, according to the group's interests/fitness. e.g. take a short walk in the CANYON DES MAKIS and/or RATS where three species of lemur may be found (including the ring-tailed lemur and 'dancing' Verreaux's sifaka). Or take the 4km CRÊTES (CRESTS) TRAIL, with fascinating geological formations such as the Queen of the Isalo, the Wolf, the Boot, and the Tsingy of Isalo. Perhaps visit NAMAZAHA, a good place for bird watching, then continue the walk through wonderful scenery to the PISCINE NATURELLE (natural swimming pool) a beautiful lush oasis fringed by pandanus trees, where one may swim in a clear freshwater pool under a waterfall. O/n JARDIN DU ROY, FB.



16 Oct Morning transfer to TULEAR passing through Zombitse National Park and sapphire mining shantytown of Ilakaka en route. If time allows visit the ARBORETUM D'ANTSOKAY, containing many of the strange flora endemic to Madagascar, particularly focusing on the spiny forest plants of the south. As well as admiring the extraordinary adaptations, you will learn about the various practical and medicinal uses of the plants to local people. Transfer to the airport and catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to TANA. Met on arrival at the airport.

If time allows, enjoy a visit to TSARASAOTRA LAKE (aka. LAC ALAROBIA) in a district of Tana for some unusual Hauts Plateaux birdwatching. Numerous dimorphic egrets and squacco herons can be found alongside the more familiar great- and cattle egrets. Ducks are abundant with white-faced whistling ducks, red-billed teal, knob-billed ducks, fulvous whistling ducks, hottentot teal, and with luck the rare endemic Meller's duck. Also found are swamp warblers, red fody, coucal, Madagascar kestrel and manikins and other endemics.



Transfer to RELAIS DES PLATEAUX HOTEL for day use of a room. Later, pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport to check in for your departing flight.

(5).../ MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES GROUP

17 Oct Catch flight to PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE. Connect with flight to LONDON.



MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES GROUP

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

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
07 - 17 October 2012	£2,495	£375

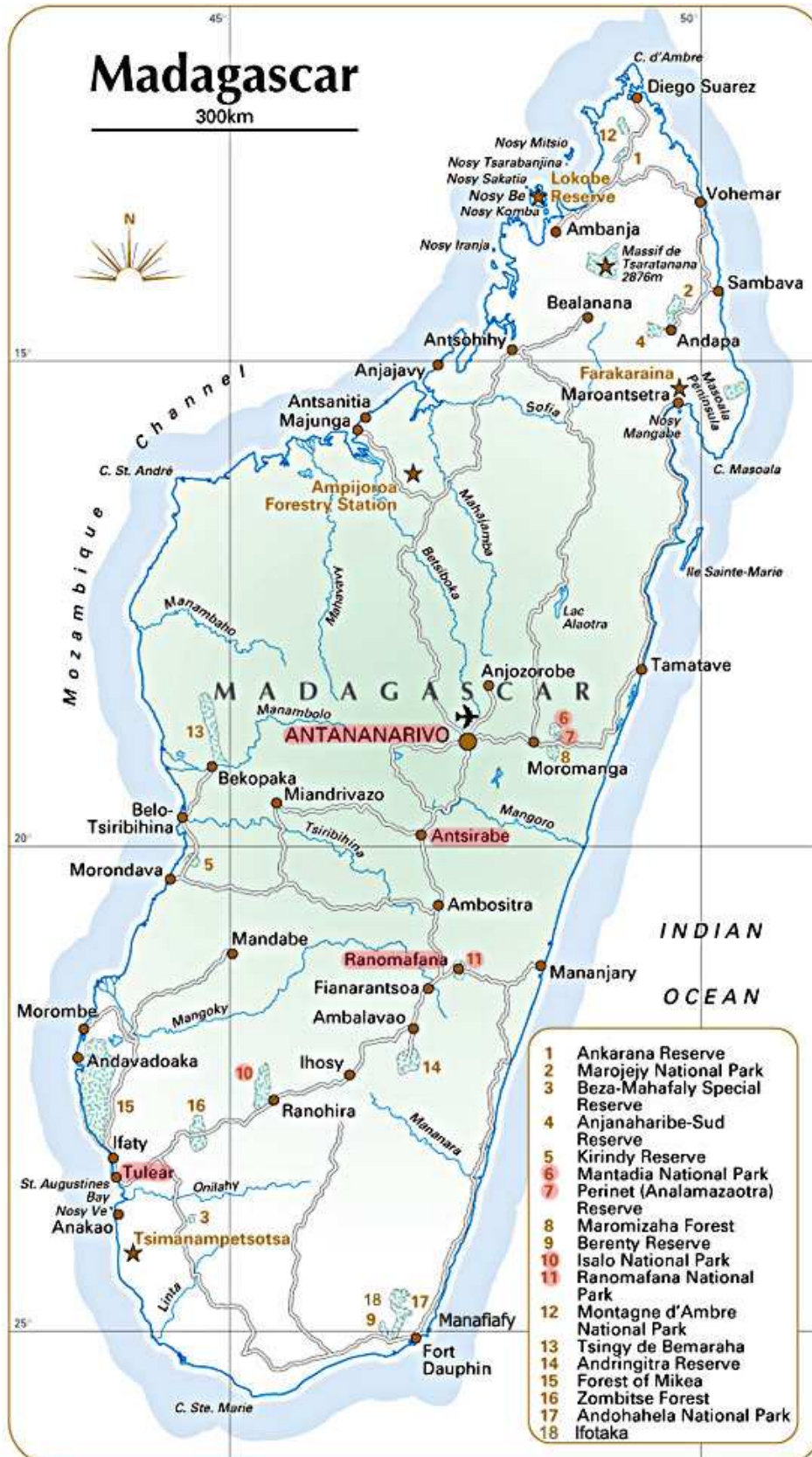
Please call 01803 866965 if you have any queries, would like to secure your place on the tour, and/or if you would like to extend the tour to include other locations in Madagascar or perhaps add safari in South Africa for large African wildlife.

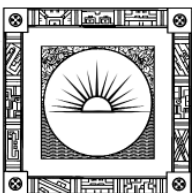
NB: If you would prefer your flights to depart from a regional airport in the UK e.g. Manchester, Birmingham, or from Paris or any other airport please let us know as we will be pleased to look into the options for you.



MADAGASCAR'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPES SMALL GROUP TOUR

LOCATIONS MAP:





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 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: 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: Tips / gratuities are payable locally.

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

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 www.familytours.co.uk

E-mail: mail@reefandrainforest.co.uk

