



Reef & Rainforest



Madagascar's Natural Wonders

14-Day Group Tour - Led by Local Naturalist Guide

09 – 22 October 2012

(Plus 2-day beach extension if desired)



Madagascar's Natural Wonders Group Tour

14-Day Itinerary

Appealing to those with an adventurous spirit and willing to rough it a little in order to explore some extra special locations, this exciting itinerary aims to discover some of Madagascar's iconic sights and most weird and wonderful animals. It is a journey of great variety and reward both scenically and for the breadth of wildlife encountered. We will experience rainforest, tropical dry deciduous forest, baobab forest, tsingy pinnacles and sweeping Indian Ocean beaches. We will search for the world's largest and smallest species of lemur and chameleon (and many in between!) as well as the strange, slinky fosa – predator of lemurs, extraordinary and expertly camouflaged leaf-tailed geckos and vivid and beautiful day geckos and birds – bearing in mind the staggering fact that most of what we discover can be found nowhere else on earth.

Areas visited include ANDASIBE-MANTADIA (aka Perinet / Analamazaotra), KIRINDY (SWISS FOREST) NATIONAL PARK, THE AVENUE OF BAOBABS, MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK, ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK and the island of NOSY BE.

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 essential for your enjoyment as some of the walks – although taken at an easy pace to suit the group and the nature of wildlife watching – can be strenuous due to the terrain and climate.



2 NIGHT TOUR EXTENSION AT L'HEURE BLEUE, NOSY BE

Two nights by the beach are already included in the group tour but it is no problem to add more (you deserve it after all!). This suggested extension adds another 2 nights at the same beach hotel used in the main tour to give you a real chance to feel rested and relaxed before the journey home. It would also allow more time for snorkeling, scuba diving or exploring Nosy Be and offshore islands if you so wish.

NB: Please note there are many lodges to choose from on Nosy Be and surrounding islands/lodges (Tsarabanjina, Nosy Komba, Eden Lodge, Iranja etc) and we would be happy to discuss and arrange alternatives for an extension of any length if you wish, including to additional wildlife reserves if desired.

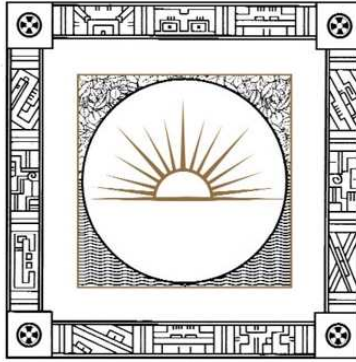


MADAGASCAR'S NATURAL WONDERS GROUP

14 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDE

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

- 09 Oct Depart **LONDON**. Change aircraft in PARIS. Continue to **ANTANANARIVO** (TANA). O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.
- 10 Oct Today drive to **PERINET RESERVE** (aka ANALAMAZAOTRA / ANDASIBE). Visit **MITSINJO FOREST**. Evening walk for nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 11 Oct Drive to **MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK**. Morning to explore the forest. Return to the hotel. Evening wildlife walk. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 12 Oct Morning visit to **PERINET RESERVE**. Then visit the Orchid Park. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.
- 13 Oct Drive to Tana and fly to **MORONDAVA**. Drive to **KIRINDY NATIONAL PARK**. Evening walk in this western tropical dry deciduous forest famed for its nocturnal species. O/n KIRINDY GITE, FB.
- 14 Oct Morning walk in **KIRINDY NATIONAL PARK**. Return to **MORONDAVA**, stopping at the iconic **AVENUE OF BAOBABS**. O/n CHEZ MAGGIE, FB.
- 15 Oct Fly to **TANA**. Visit AMBOHIMANGA PALACE and City Tour. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.
- 16 Oct Fly to **ANTSIRANANA (DIEGO SUAREZ)**. Morning and afternoon walks in **MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK**. Night walk in **DOMAINE DE FONTENAY'S PRIVATE PARK**. O/n NATURE LODGE, FB.
- 17 Oct Morning walk **MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK**. Afternoon drive to **ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK**, detouring to visit the **TSINGY ROUGE**. O/n TSINGY LODGE, FB.
- 18 Oct Day to hike in **ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK** with its limestone Tsingy landscape and tropical dry deciduous forest. O/n TSINGY LODGE, FB.
- 19 Oct Drive to **ANKIFY** and take a boat to **NOSY BE**. Transfer to the hotel and say farewell to your guide here. Rest of the day at leisure. O/n L'HEURE BLEUE, HB.
- 20 Oct Day at leisure on **NOSY BE**. Various optional excursions (snorkelling, diving, explore the island or laze at the beach/pool!) O/n L'HEURE BLEUE, HB.
- 21 Oct Transfer to the airport. Fly to **TANA**. Use of a car to explore Tana (if desired). Day use of a room and facilities at RELAIS DES PLATEAUX HOTEL before transfer to the airport.
- 22 Oct Depart **TANA**. Change aircraft in PARIS. Fly to **LONDON**.



MADAGASCAR'S NATURAL WONDERS SMALL GROUP TOUR

DETAILED ITINERARY

09 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).



10 Oct

Pick up from the hotel and drive (c. 3 – 4 hours) to PERINET RESERVE (also known as ANALAMAZAOTRA or ANDASIBE), passing through many villages and rice paddies. Today explore the community-managed MITSINJO FOREST, part of Analamazaotra that receives fewer visitors than surrounding forest areas. This zone offers an excellent opportunity to see the Indri as well as giant earthworms, chameleons and more. Please be aware the trails here can be steep and slippery. 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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11 Oct This morning drive north to MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK to walk in search of the diademed sifaka and the black and white ruffed lemur, and other wildlife such as the extraordinary leaf-tail gecko. Return to the hotel for lunch. Afternoon at leisure before an evening walk for another chance to discover nocturnal wildlife. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.



12 Oct Morning walk in ANALAMAZAOTRA (Perinet) Reserve. Perinet is home to 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!) as well as odd insects like the giraffe-necked weevil. The reserve is an excellent example of eastern rainforest habitat with many nature trails. In the afternoon, visit the

Orchid Park. O/n VAKONA LODGE, FB.

13 Oct Pick up from the hotel and transfer to TANA airport. Catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to MORONDAVA. Met on arrival at the airport and drive to KIRINDY RESERVE (SWISS FOREST).

The 10,000-hectare reserve is a rare remnant of Madagascar's threatened dry tropical deciduous forest. The reserve contains such oddities as the endangered giant jumping rat (vositse) collected by Gerald Durrell and now resident at Durrell Wildlife (formerly Jersey Zoo), the fosa - Madagascar's largest predator and a member of the mongoose family, and seven species of nocturnal lemur including the fork-marked lemur, Coquerel's dwarf lemur and the smallest of all primates, the pygmy mouse lemur. Also present are the giant jumping rat and the hissing cockroach. (Contd.../)



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(Contd.../) Kirindy boasts the highest density of primates of virtually any forest in the world. Diurnal lemurs include the acrobatic Verreaux's sifaka and red-fronted brown lemur. Kirindy is part of the Manabe forests, also noted for their diverse botany that includes three of the islands seven endemic baobabs, including the

giant baobab and the smallest, the bottle baobab. Birding is excellent, and we should see the Madagascar jacana, Coquerel's and crested couas and sicklebill vangas to name a few. You may also see iguanids and kapidolo tortoises. The trails are broad and mostly flat, making walking easy. Evening walk to spot nocturnal species.



O/n KIRINDY GITE, FB. Accommodation in a rustic bungalow. The toilets are shared, squat and long-drop but showers are en-suite. Your impressive nocturnal wildlife encounters should leave you feeling that the night in basic accommodation was well worthwhile. It can be quite cold at night and bedding is minimal –a light sleeping bag is recommended.

14 Oct

Morning walk in KIRINDY RESERVE in search of the Verreaux's sifaka and red-fronted brown lemur and other wildlife. Return to the gîte for lunch. After lunch, return to MORONDAVA by road, viewing the AVENUE DES BAOBABS at sunset (depending on timing). O/n CHEZ MAGGIE, FB. This small charming beach lodge has attractive rooms with imaginative décor, a small pool and lovely surroundings.



15 Oct

Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to TANA. Met on arrival at the airport and commence an excursion to AMBOHIMANGA HILL, about 20 km from 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, enjoy a tour of the city. O/n RELAIS DES PLATEAUX, BB.



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16 Oct

Morning pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to ANTSIRANANA (DIEGO SUAREZ). Met on



arrival at the airport and transfer south of Diego. Explore MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK with morning and afternoon walks. The park, an isolated mount of rainforest in an otherwise semi-arid landscape, contains many lemurs, as well as birds such as Madagascar crested ibis and kingfisher. Walk the trails in search of lemurs such as

the crowned lemur, Sanford's brown lemur and Montagne d'Ambre fork-marked lemur as well as many birds and reptiles. This reserve is

contains at least 11 species of chameleon, including the tiniest of them all *Brookesia minima* and the beautiful panther chameleon. There are many trails through stunning scenery, some leading to sacred waterfalls. Night walk in DOMAINE DE FONTENAY'S PRIVATE PARK which is excellent for



chameleons, geckos and four species of nocturnal lemur. O/n NATURE LODGE, FB. A small lodge situated just 15 minutes drive from MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK. Accommodation is in one of twelve spacious and tastefully decorated wooden bungalows, each with a private bathroom. Facilities include a restaurant, bar and terrace.

17 Oct

Another morning to explore MONTAGNE D'AMBRE NATIONAL PARK. Then drive to ANKARANA, visiting the spectacular TSINGY ROUGE, an enormous ravine of sharp, ancient rock formations unique to Madagascar, en route (a diversion on a bumpy road approximately 1 hour each way). O/n TSINGY



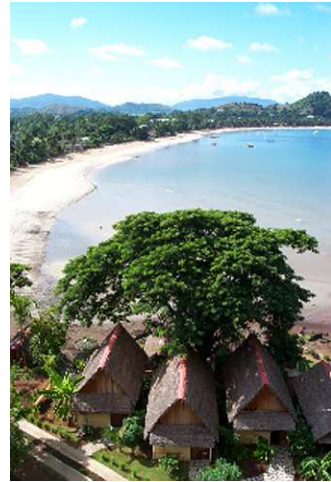
LODGE, FB. A newly renovated lodge, located approximately 1 km from ANKARANA SPECIAL RESERVE, with lovely views over the savannah. The lodge has 12 comfortable bungalows each with air conditioning and private bathroom.

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18 Oct Full day to explore ANKARANA SPECIAL RESERVE, a spectacular area of limestone pinnacles and sunken tropical dry deciduous forest, containing one of the highest densities of primates in the world – it must be one of the country's most exciting reserves. Try to spot the various chameleons, leaf-tailed geckos and northern ring-tailed mongoose. Perhaps hike and climb to LAC VERTE (difficult) or visit the GROTTES DE CHAUVE SOURIS bat cave (each day's itinerary to be decided on the spot). O/n TSINGY LODGE, FB.



19 Oct Morning drive to ANKIFY. Board a boat to NOSY BE. Met on arrival and transfer to the hotel. **Say farewell to your tour guide.** O/n L'HEURE BLEUE, HB. Situated at the quiet end of the beautiful bay of AMBATOLOAKA, the hotel has simple family bungalows and double cabins with private bathrooms and verandas overlooking the bay. There is a swimming pool, bar and restaurant serving set meals. AMBATOLOAKA is quite lively with a variety of good restaurants, bars, small hotels and local agencies that can organise boat trips, bike or car hire and excursions.



20 Oct Full day at leisure. OPTIONAL excursions include: snorkelling, scuba diving, kayaking, boat trips to nearby islands, bicycle, car, quad-bike or motorbike hire or enjoy a visit to LOKOBE NATURE RESERVE, located in the southeast corner of Nosy Be and normally reached by pirogue (canoe), this is an example of lowland rainforest covering 740ha where curious-looking black lemurs, sportive lemurs, and mouse lemurs can be found, as well as the beautifully multicoloured Panther chameleon and tiny *Brookesia minima* – smallest chameleon in the world. This is a popular day trip on the island, and one can also learn how the locals use the forest and its products. O/n L'HEURE BLEUE, HB.



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- 21 Oct Time at leisure. Then pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to TANA. Met on arrival and transfer to RELAIS DES PLATEAUX HOTEL for day use of a room and the facilities. Later, pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport to check in for your departing flight.
- 22 Oct Catch flight to PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE. Connect with flight to LONDON.

MADAGASCAR'S NATURAL WONDERS GROUP 2012

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>
09 October 2012	£3,395	£435

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.

**PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF A SUGGESTED EXTENSION TO YOUR
STAY AT THE BEACH ON **NOSY BE****



2-NIGHT EXTENSION AT L'HEURE BLEUE HOTEL, NOSY BE

EXTENSION DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

- 21 Oct **[MAIN TOUR RETURNS TO TANA]** Day at leisure. OPTIONAL excursions available. O/n L'HEURE BLEUE HOTEL, HB.
- 22 Oct Day at leisure. O/n L'HEURE BLEUE HOTEL, HB.
- 23 Oct Time at leisure. Then pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport. Catch AIR MADAGASCAR flight to TANA. Met on arrival and transfer to RELAIS DES PLATEAUX HOTEL for day use of a room and the facilities. Later, pick up from the hotel and transfer to the airport to check in for your departing flight.
- 24 Oct Catch flight to PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE. Connect with flight to LONDON.



2-NIGHT EXTENSION TO STAY AT L'HEURE BLEUE HOTEL, NOSY BE

<i>Dates Continued from Main Tour</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
21 - 24 October 2012	£195	£95

NB: The price of the extension is based on your taking the tour in conjunction with the main group tour itinerary as above.

NB: Pre- and/or post-tour extensions to different locations on a tailor-made basis may be possible (e.g. should you wish to include additional wildlife reserves and/or stay at a different beach resort e.g. on Nosy Tsarabanjina, Nosy Iranja, Nosy Komba at Eden Lodge at Anjanjano etc.). We can also extend your itinerary to include safari in South Africa for an amazing contrast of wildlife worlds!

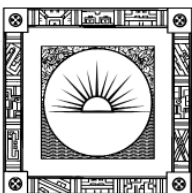
Please call 01803 866965 if you have any queries, would like to secure your place on the tour. We look forward to hearing from you.



MADAGASCAR'S NATURAL WONDERS 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

