

Malagasy Discovery



Days: 15
Price: 990 EUR
International flight not included
Comfort: ★★★★★
Difficult: ★★★☆☆
Must see Travel with children
Fauna & Flora

Come with us to discover beautiful **Madagascar, the Great Island** ! The perfect trip for a first overall sight of this country with outstanding landscape, and always welcoming population.

Our trip begins East, with a nice overview of the richness of the **humid forests of the Atsinanana Region**. The **Andasibe National Park** counts among the last portions of **primary forest in Madagascar**, which are truly fascinating environments : their very high rate of **endemic species**, both fauna and flora (lemurs, orchids, chameleons, birds...), ranks them amongst some of the most interesting and unique habitats in the World.

We will then turn back to reach the **Road National 7** and head South towards **Ambatolampy**, a village well-known for aluminium crafts. Along the way, the road reveals beautiful landscape of rice paddle fields, for a complete change of scenery : red brick houses, winding road lined with small waterfalls...

As we continue our way South, discovery keeps filling up our eyes and spirits : from the silk worm workshops of the **Manandona Valley** to the wooden houses with rich ornaments and sculptures of **Ambositra**, passing by the thick forest of the **Ranomafana National Park**, and the canyons of **Isalo National Park**, we meet at each corner of the road with a completely different landscape.

Our journey finishes peacefully at **Ifaty fishing village**, on the **Mozambique Channel**. Deep feeling of ease and peace, on a beautiful beach lined with turquoise water on one side, and baobab forest on the other...

Day 1. Arrival in Antananarivo, the malagasy capital



Paris Roissy CDG ♻️
✈️ 8500km - ⌚ 10h
Antananarivo ♻️

Paris Roissy CDG - Antananarivo

- Flight to Antananarivo, dinner on board, arrival during the night at the Ivato Antananarivo airport. Program developed with **Air Madagascar** for international flights.

🏠 Accommodation | Green Palace guest house | Ivato

Day 2. Arrival in Antananarivo and departure towards the East, Andasibe



Antananarivo ♻️
🚗 150km - ⌚ 3h
Andasibe ♻️

Antananarivo - Andasibe

- A member of the Détours Madagascar Team welcomes you upon arrival early in the morning at **Ivato Antananarivo airport**. Transfer and settling down at your hotel to finish the night.
- Departure to **Andasibe**, driving East on the Road National 2 which connects the capital to **Tamatave**, main harbor of the Great Island. Various stops possible along the way, to take a walk, visit some villages and discover the local fauna and flora, rich and exploding in thousands shades of green in this part of Madagascar.

Arrival at the beginning of the afternoon in **Andasibe** and settling down at the hotel. Strolls around the village and the surroundings of the National Park, which we will visit the next morning, are possible. Nocturnal visits of private or community reserves are also possible (not included).

☕ Breakfast	Green Palace guest house Ivato
🏠 Accommodation	Andasibe Forest Lodge Andasibe

Day 3. Discovering Andasibe National Park and meeting with the Indri Indri Lemur



Andasibe 📍

- Discovering the **Andasibe National Park**, conservation site of the **Indri-Indri**, the biggest of all lemurs still alive. We will start our exploration of the primary forest of Andasibe with the former Périnet Reserve, today called **Mantadia Reserve**. It offers visits between 2 to 6 hours long, according to our fitness. We may choose between 5 different tours, which we will choose directly on site with the local guide.

The **Mantadia Reserve** is accessible outside rain season, **from April to November** (sometimes not easily accessible in July/August). It is crossed by 3 rivers, Iofa, Sahanody and Vohitra, and if going a bit further we can also discover a sacred waterfall, allowing us to find out about some elements of the local culture.

A lot of species of animals can be observed, among which 11 other lemur species such as the **Bamboo Lemur**, **Sifakas**, but also chameleons, birds... Flora is also of great interest, with many varieties of **orchids** such as eulophiella, and also rosewood, palm trees and **medicinal plants**.

☕ Breakfast	Andasibe Forest Lodge Andasibe
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🏠 Accommodation	Andasibe Forest Lodge Andasibe

Day 4. Driving South towards the Manandona Valley and Mount Ibity



Andasibe 📍
 🚗 240km - ⌚ 4h 30m
 Ambatolampy 📍
 🚗 100km - ⌚ 1h
 Manandona 📍

Andasibe - Ambatolampy

- We leave **Andasibe** towards the **Central Highlands**, driving on a sinuous road lined with small waterfalls and terrace rice fields, heritage of the Indonesian culture, and its villages with red brick walls. We drive through **Ambatolampy**, well known for the aluminium crafts.

Ambatolampy - Manandona

- We continue our route to the beautiful **Manandona Valley**, on the foothills of **Mt Ibity**, where we settle down in a cottage with simple comfort (bathroom outside and bucket shower).

☕ Breakfast	Andasibe Forest Lodge Andasibe
🍴 Dinner	Gîte villageois Manandona
🏠 Accommodation	Gîte villageois Manandona

Day 5. Strolling around the Manandona Valley, on the foothills of Mount Ibity



Manandona 📍

- From our lodge, we set foot to discover the typical environment of the Highlands. Snuggled up at the foothills of the powerful **massif of Ibity**, the **Manandona Valley** is rich and prosper. The earth is generous, and rice is the main crop.

After climbing higher following ascending tracks, we come back to the bottom of the valley to **meet the locals**. All of them are **rice farmers** and own zebus, some of them raise **silk worms**, others are **smiths**, **basket makers or carpenters**. Traditional crafts are everywhere.

Our **guides** are part of a local organization which works for this region's development. They will tell you everything about their activities, **habits and traditions**, and local development.

13km - ⌚ 5h
Manandona 📍

🍳 Breakfast	Gîte villageois Manandona
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🍷 Dinner	Gîte villageois Manandona
🏠 Accommodation	Gîte villageois Manandona

Day 6. Passing by Ambositra and its wooden crafts, and driving to Ranomafana the Thermal City



Manandona 📍
🚗 70km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Ambositra 📍
🚗 152km - ⌚ 3h 30m
Ranomafana 📍

Manandona - Ambositra

- After breakfast, leaving the **Manandona Valley** to continue our way South. pour continuer vers le sud. We rejoin the RN7 and visit the city of **Ambositra** to discover the wooden crafts, close to the art of the Zafimaniry tribe. Meeting with the local craftsmen who realize incredible work out of wood.

Ambositra - Ranomafana

- After lunch, we continue on to **Ranomafana**, and its national park, which shelters many species of endemic lemurs, birds, reptiles and plants. We will visit it the next day. We reach the village of Ranomafana at the end of the day.

🍳 Breakfast	Gîte villageois Manandona
🏠 Accommodation	Chez Gaspard Hôtel Ranomafana

Day 7. Exploring the Ranomafana National Park and continuation to Fianarantsoa



Ranomafana 📍
🚗 62km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Fianarantsoa 📍

- A morning to discover the forest of **Ranomafana**, with its very rich and diverse fauna and flora (lemurs, reptiles, orchids, rosewood ...). The **National Park of Ranomafana** covers about 41 600 ha of tropical rain forest. Registered on the World Heritage UNESCO List, this forest shelters an exceptional endemic biodiversity, among which many rare and endangered species.

You may be lucky enough to glimpse a few of the **26 species of lemurs** classified in the forest, as well as **birds, butterflies, bats, chameleons, reptiles, amphibians**. We also find a great diversity of medicinal plants, orchids and carnivore plants.

Keep your eyes open!

- We hit the road again towards **Fianarantsoa**, the historical and cultural capital of the **Betsileo region**. It is the Malagasy city which gathers the highest number of cultural monuments and schools.

Just like Antananarivo, the city is divided in three parts:

- The Upper town, where used to be the **Palace of the Merina Governor**, and where we can admire today protestant churches, a Lutheran school, the brick Tuscan-style Cathedral, the Jesuit school of Ambozotany, and the Antsenakely Square where is held a small market, as its name indicates.
- The New town : the administration neighborhood, where is also held the *zoma* (Friday's market).
- The Lower town **Ampasambazaha**, heart of the city where are located the trading Chinese and Indian neighborhoods.

Fianarantsoa is also well known for its tea plantations and its vineyard.

🍳 Breakfast	Chez Gaspard Hôtel Ranomafana
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🏠 Accommodation	Villa Sylvestre Hôtel Fianarantsoa

Day 8. Pirogue stroll on the Matsiatra river



Mahasoabe 📍
- ⌚ 2h 30m
Sahambavy 📍
🚗 20km
Fianarantsoa 📍

Mahasoabe - Sahambavy

- Departure to the village of **Mahasoabe**, located about 20 km Est of Fianarantsoa.

Once we get there, we meet with the sailors. Starting our descent on a traditional pirogue, which will last for 2 hours and a half. The river slithers between rice fields and granite mountains. We will stop a few times to meet the locals and **discover their rural lifestyles**. We might also be able to spot various **aquatic bird species**.

Reaching the **village of Iseta**, we will hike across fields and villages, and get back our car to **Sahambavy**.

In the afternoon, we will visit the **unique tea plantation of Madagascar in Sahambavy**, and do a tea tasting. The factory was built in 1978 by the Malagasy State. It was then privatized by an Anonymous Society. About 20 tons of humid leaves are being collected there daily on average, on the 355 ha of plantations, among which 94 ha are held by local farmers.

Back to Fianarantsoa at the end of the day.

Duration : +/- 2h30 of navigation, +/- 1h30 walking, +/- 1h car transfer.

Distance : 40 km

🍳 Breakfast	Villa Sylvestre Hôtel Fianarantsoa
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🏠 Accommodation	Villa Sylvestre Hôtel Fianarantsoa

Day 9. Anja Community Reserve's Lemur Catta; and Ranohira, doorstep of Isalo National Park



Fianarantsoa 📍
🚗 60km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Ambalavao 📍
🚗 12km - ⌚ 30m
Anja 📍
🚗 240km - ⌚ 5h
Ranohira 📍

Fianarantsoa - Ambalavao

- Across the patchwork of terrace rice fields and diverse crops where all shades of green are present, road to **Ambalavao** famous for its vineyards.

Ambalavao - Anja

- We make a stop at **Anja's reserve** : a forest of ficus, lianas and orchids developed in between a spectacular rock chaos, sometimes forming caves used as shelter by animals.

The rocky slopes have been colonized by succulent plants such as **kalanchoes** and **pachypodiums**.

In this lush green paradise live in small colonies the makis catta, this lemur with a striped tail which represents Madagascar. They spend a lot of time on the ground, are not too wild and so easily observable.

The profit of Anja's reserve are managed by the AMI (Anja Miray) organization, and are donated to finance **social and economical projects**, which purposes are to improve crop yield, crafts development, health and education towards the villagers.

Duration of the visit : about 01h walk.

Anja - Ranohira

- Continuation to the south to **Bara** country and crossing of the largest plateau of Madagascar, the **Horombe desert**, before seeing the village of **Ranohira** that we reach late in the afternoon.

🍳 Breakfast	Villa Sylvestre Hôtel Fianarantsoa
🏠 Accommodation	Isalo Ranch Hôtel Ranohira

Day 10. Hiking across Isalo National Park



Ranohira

- A beautiful day of hiking, discovering the **Isalo National Park**, between **deep canyons**, plateaux, **natural swimming pools**... We should be able to spot many **endemic species of lemurs, birds, reptiles, plants and butterflies**.

Isalo National Park was created in 1962, and is classified in the category of Exceptional Parks. Its area is 100 km large from North to South. It is unique in Madagascar thanks to its geological formation, dating from the Jurassic period. This mountain massif made of continental sandstone and dug with deep canyons, welcomes a **rupicolous vegetation (Aloes, Euphorbias, Pachypodium...)**.

You can also find there an **exceptionally rich fauna**, where most species are **natives**, such as **rock reptiles, makis and other lemurs**.

The main **ethnic group** in this region is the **Bara**, living essentially of **farming zebus** and agriculture. Considered as descendent of the Bantu, the Bara are livestock breeders but also **fierce warriors**, proud and ready to give up their life to defend their freedom.

☕ Breakfast	Isalo Ranch Hôtel Ranohira
🍴 Lunch	Picnic during the hike
🏠 Accommodation	Isalo Ranch Hôtel Ranohira

Day 11. Exploring the fishing village of Ifaty, on the Mozambique Channel



Ranohira

🚗 300km - ⌚ 4h 30m
Ifaty

Ranohira - Ifaty

- Road towards **Tulear**. We cross the villages of **Ilakaka** and **Sakaraha**, still on top of the **Horombe plateau**, small towns which used to be quiet, until a huge **sapphire reservoir** was discovered there, turning these quiet towns into mining cities worthy of the **American Far West Gold Rush**.

First sight of the baobabs and crossing the **Mahafaly** limestone plateau, with its famous and impressive burials called « **Aloalo** », painted with naive everyday-life scenes.

Visit of Tulear and lunch. Road early in the afternoon to **Ifaty**, about thirty kilometers north of **Tulear**, to join the **Vezo fishermen** countries.

☕ Breakfast	Isalo Ranch Hôtel Ranohira
🏠 Accommodation	Hôtel de la plage Ifaty

Day 12-13. Free stay at Ifaty, on the Capricorn Coast



Ifaty

Also

12 13

Ifaty, Mangily, Madiorano and **Ambolimailaka** are small villages that face the majestic lagoon of **Ranobe** with turquoise water, renowned for its coral reef. They are here as seaside resorts.

Free stay, activities to see at the hotel or with your guide: hiking in the backcountry of the dry forest to various varieties of endemic spiny, **euphorbia**, **Didiéracées**, **pachypodium** and of **Baobabs**.

The visit can be done in zebu charette or on foot; or relax to enjoy the beach, a beautiful invitation to swim in this beautiful lagoon.

Will also be at the rendez-vous: **excursion featured, balade in traditional dugout canoe, trolling, water skiing, snorkeling**... Or simply walk along the beach, meet the locals and discover in depth the life of these fishing villages.

Activities and transfers at your own charge, to give you more flexibility according to your envies at that time. Possibility to organize excursions on demand, please consult us.

☕ Breakfast	Hôtel de la plage Ifaty
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Day 14. Back to Antananarivo, Boarding on your international flight



Ifaty - Tulear

- Free time before your transfer to **Tuléar** airport.

Tulear - Antananarivo

- After a wonderful stay by the seaside, return flight to **Antananarivo**. Transfer to Tulear airport to take the flight connecting **Tulear** to **Antananarivo**.

A member of the Détours Madagascar team welcomes you upon arrival at Ivato Antananarivo airport.

Antananarivo - Paris Roissy CDG

- According to your flights schedule, option to take a last stroll around the capital city Antananarivo with your driver guide, to the crafts market.

In the evening, transfer back to the airport for your international flight back home with **Air Madagascar**. Assistance to boarding and farewell... Night flight.

Ifaty 📍
 🚗 45km - ⌚ 1h
 Tulear 📍
 ✈️ 935km - ⌚ 1h 30m
 Antananarivo 📍
 ✈️ 8500km - ⌚ 10h
 Paris Roissy CDG 📍
 Antananarivo 📍

🍳 Breakfast

Hôtel de la plage | Ifaty

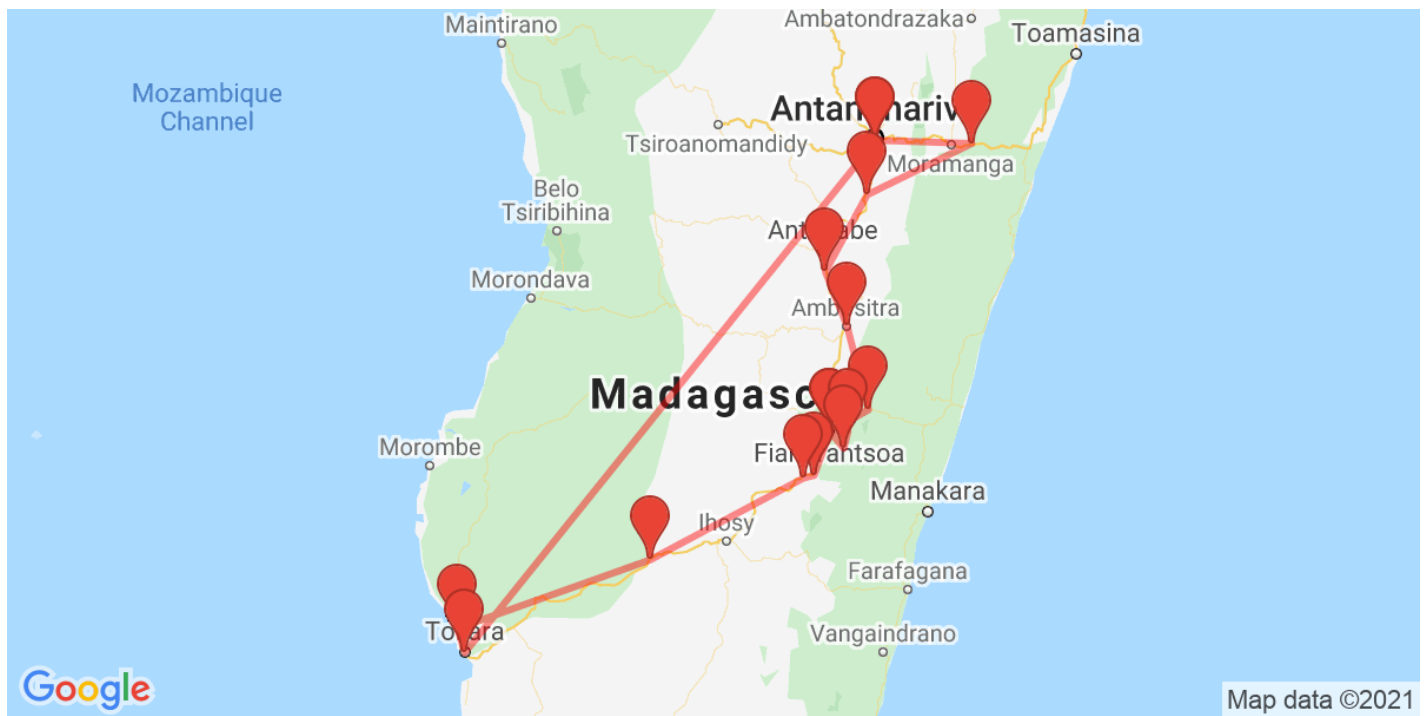
Day 15. Arrival in Europe, See you soon !



Paris Roissy CDG 📍

- Arrival early in the morning in Europe. *Misaotra* and see you soon !

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-8	SS
1480 EUR	1180 EUR	990 EUR	250 EUR

Price without domestic flight Tuléar > Antananarivo.

Included

- The services of an English speaking driver-guide during the all trip, except in Ifaty on D12-13,
- Transportation in 4x4 vehicle (or mini-bus according to the group's size), with gas included, during the all trip, except in Ifaty on D12-13,
- Accommodation in a double/twin room in mentioned hotels (or equivalent, according to availability upon booking),
- All breakfasts from D2 to D14,
- Dinners at the cottage (mandatory Half Board) on D4 and D5,
- Picnic lunches on D3, D5, D7, D8 and D10,
- The pirogue and sailors on the Matsiatra river,
- Mentioned activities and visits, except during the free stay in Ifaty,
- Entrance fees to parks and reserves, including mandatory local guide fees,
- All mentioned transfers.

Not included

- International flights,
- The domestic flight Tuléar > Antananarivo,
- Meals on international flying days,
- All lunches and dinners, except dinners on D4-5, and picnic lunches on D3, D5, D7, D8 and D10, which are included,
- The vehicle, guide and activities during the free stay in Ifaty,
- Non-mentioned activities,
- The single room supplement,
- Drinks (mineral water, sodas, beers...) during and outside meals,
- Tips and personal expenses,
- First Aid costs, Cancellation and Repatriation Insurance,
- Visa fees.