



VERREAU'S SIFAKA BY IAN SEGEBARTH

MADAGASCAR

Exploring the Riches of the Eighth Continent

14 DAYS | Choose your dates

About this trip

Journey to the “eighth continent” for a chance to discover the endemic plants and wildlife of one of the world’s most unique biodiversity hotspots – Madagascar! From lemurs and chameleons to giant bats and rare birds, the incredible diversity of Madagascar’s native species inhabit a range of ecosystems across varied and stunning landscapes. Learn about the intersection of culture, nature, and economy as you visit traditional villages, community reserves, and former royal settlements. At national parks and private reserves, meet with local conservationists and leading researchers, including a stop at Stonybrook University’s renowned Centre ValBio to learn more about sustainability efforts in a changing country.

Your students will...

- Visit Lemur’s Park, a botanical park where nine different species of lemur can be observed roaming freely.
- Discover the cultural importance of silk and see how it’s produced in Ambositra.
- Learn about sustainability and biodiversity in Madagascar at the ValBio Research Center in Ranomafana National Park.
- Take guided hikes in Isalo National Park, famous for its canyons, waterfalls, and sandstone formations.
- Go snorkeling in search of colorful fish, lobsters, rays, and octopus at the Rose Garden, a patch reef named for the abundant rose-shaped coral found here.
- Witness the baobab trees—including one reaching 41 feet in diameter—at Reniala Private Reserve.

Educational Connections



Biology



Conservation



Cultural Immersion



Human Geography

What’s included?

- Guide-Driver
- One safari vehicle and guide-driver per 6 participants
- Accommodations
- Activities and park fees
- Meals
- Water
- Carbon offsetting



Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE

Depart from United States.

DAY 2 - IN TRANSIT

Transit via Paris, France.

DAY 3 - ANTANANARIVO

Arrive in Madagascar this morning. After clearing immigration and customs, you'll be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel. Upon arrival, check in and have some free time to rest and freshen up. Next visit Lemur's Park, with lunch at the on-site restaurant. This botanical park, set on 12 acres, was created more than 10 years ago to increase public awareness of the importance of protecting the lemur species of Madagascar. Nine different species can be observed roaming freely here. The trained park guides will share information about the park and different species during the visit. Return to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Belvedere. (LD)*

DAY 4 - AMBOSITRA

This morning, depart your hotel and head south. En route, stop at Ambatolampy to visit an aluminum pot workshop. This small-scale operation is famous for its aluminum pots, which you'll see being used for cooking meals over open fires all over Madagascar during your stay. Next, travel about five to six hours to the small city of Ambositra, famous for its silk and woodcarving. *Overnight at Artisan Hotel. (BLD)*

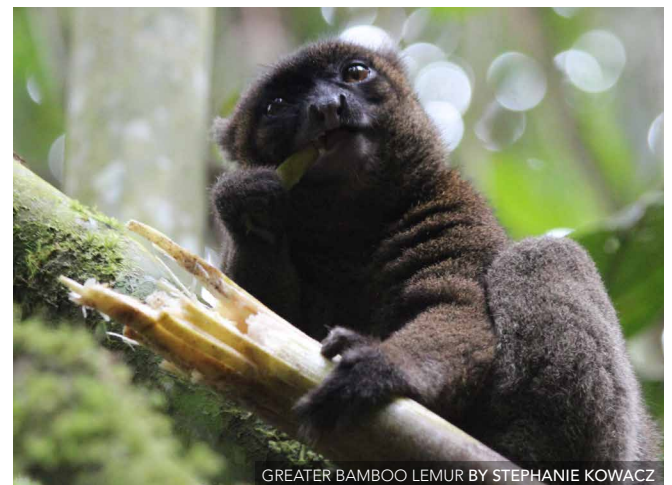
DAY 5 - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, trek into the remote village of Ambositra. Begin the experience with a welcome by the villagers and

lunch in a typical home. Then, learn more about the silk production process. Culturally, silk in Madagascar is very important. Under the former kingdom, silk was only made for the king and queen; no one else was allowed to wear silk except after death, when bodies were wrapped in silk scarves. Afterwards, transfer to Ranomafana, stopping en route for a photo opportunity at the beautiful waterfalls. Check in at the hotel and have dinner at a local restaurant this evening. *Overnight at Hotel Chez Gaspard. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

This morning after breakfast, hike in the 102,000-acre Ranomafana National Park. Ranomafana is one of Madagascar's best known and most important parks. Created in 1991 following the 1986 discovery of the golden bamboo lemur, Ranomafana has served as a model for subsequent parks and reserves in Madagascar and abroad. The rainforest is home to the critically endangered greater bamboo lemur, golden bamboo lemur, and eight other species, including the mouse lemur, gray bamboo lemur, and others. This afternoon, have lunch at Centre



ValBio, a facility run by Dr. Patricia Wright that is now Madagascar's leading field research center. After lunch, attend an informative presentation on the flora, fauna, and research efforts in Ranomafana. After dinner at a local restaurant, take a walk in search of nocturnal wildlife like the mouse lemur and chameleons. *Overnight at Hotel Chez Gaspard. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, begin the journey to the Great South and Madagascar's most visited national park, Isalo. The drive is along some of the best roads in the country, and the scenery is breathtaking. En route, stop at Anja Community Reserve, a 75-acre forest managed by the local community and a vital example of sustainable tourism in Madagascar. The reserve boasts a diverse variety of endemic species, including several families of orchids and saxicolous plants. The target here is the ring-tailed lemur. Have lunch at a nearby restaurant, then continue the journey to Isalo. After a long day of driving, check in at the hotel, have dinner, and relax in anticipation of your visit to Isalo National Park tomorrow. *Overnight at Hotel H1 Ranohira. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day exploring the riches of Isalo National Park. The park itself is over 200,000 acres of beautiful landscapes of sandstone, canyons, natural swimming pools, and waterfalls. The park's main geological formation, the Isalo massif, is a continental sandstone plateau dating back to the Jurassic period. Begin with a hike to the Cascade of the Nymphs, passing through the canyon to the waterfalls inhabited by many rare birds, butterflies, and lizards. From the top, there is a panoramic view over the green canyon. Throughout this trek, you may be able to see lemurs. The highlight is a swim in the dark waters at the base of the falls. Return to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel H1 Ranohira. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Today, begin with the Canyon of the Makis trail circuit, which combines nature and cultural history. Trek over rice fields, incised rocks, gorges, the Canyon des Makis and Canyon des Rats, and the huge Ihorombe plateau, enjoying panoramic views. The hike takes you to a former royal village where you can learn about the history and traditions of the Bara people. Explore the gorges and discover the unique flora of the forest, seeking out the numerous colonies of lemurs and other wildlife. At the end of the trek, take a dip in the canyon's pool. Enjoy a hot picnic lunch, and then trek the Canyon des Singes and

visit its natural pool. This trek is full of varied landscapes with different forms of sandstones, and the trail is dotted with the famous dwarfs baobabs. After an hour walk with short climbs, stop to rest in a spectacular valley resembling the famous Death Valley in the United States. The overlook shows miles of azure sky and rocky and desert valley with greenery winding through the middle. Continue to the natural pool with its white sandy bottom and tropical vibe for a much-deserved swim before making the trek back to the starting point. Transfer back to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel H1 Ranohira. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - IFATY

This morning, continue the final leg southward. Stop at Antsokay Arboretum, a 100-acre site created in 1980 by Swiss amateur biologist Hermann Petignat and dedicated to the conservation of the country's endemic flora. Continue to the seaside town of Toliara, which sits near the Tropic of Capricorn. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - IFATY

Embark on a half-day excursion to the Massif des Roses—or Rose Garden—snorkeling site via a ride on a glass-bottom boat; gear is included. Rose Garden is a patch reef in the middle of the lagoon approximately 1.8 miles from shore. It is 20 feet to the sandy bottom and just six feet to the top of the reef. The site takes its name from the colony of rose-shaped *Montipora* coral

that primarily inhabits the patch reef. Other prominent genera include *Fungia* (mushroom corals) and *Acropora* (table and branching corals). Rose Garden is home to over 100 species of fish as well as lobsters, shrimps, rays, and octopus. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the beach. Have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - ANTANANARIVO

Rise early for a special sunrise walk in Reniala Private Reserve, which is managed by a local environmental association working to develop ecotourism in the area. Hike some of the trails to explore the spiny forest, a unique ecosystem that only occurs in southwestern Madagascar. The reserve contains more than 2,000 plant species, as well as impressively old baobabs—including one that is 41 feet in diameter. There are also 65 recorded bird species; rare endemics such as the Red-capped Coua and the Blue Vanga can easily be seen. Fly to Antananarivo. This evening, enjoy farewell dinner. *Overnight at Au Bois Vert. (BLD)*



CHAMELEON BY TEZA HARINAIVO RAMIANDRISOA

DAY 13 - ANTANANARIVO/DEPART

After breakfast, learn about the history of “Tana” during a bus and walking tour of the city. Accompanied by a local historian, learn about the Imerina royalty, and then continue to the modern city before heading to the sacred village of Ambohimanga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Experience a farewell Malagasy lunch at the Ambohimanga restaurant. Enjoy entertainment by traditional dancers and singers. Return to the hotel and get ready for your transfer to the international airport for your flight home. A day room will be available to use until departure time. *Day room at Au Bois Vert. (BL)*

DAY 14 - ARRIVE USA

After home following your overnight flight.

Program pricing

\$3,360 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

Travel protection

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

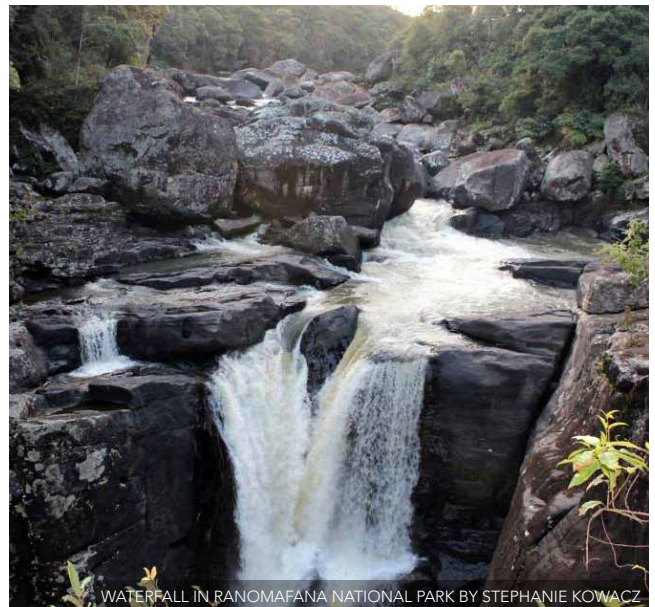
Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

The fine print

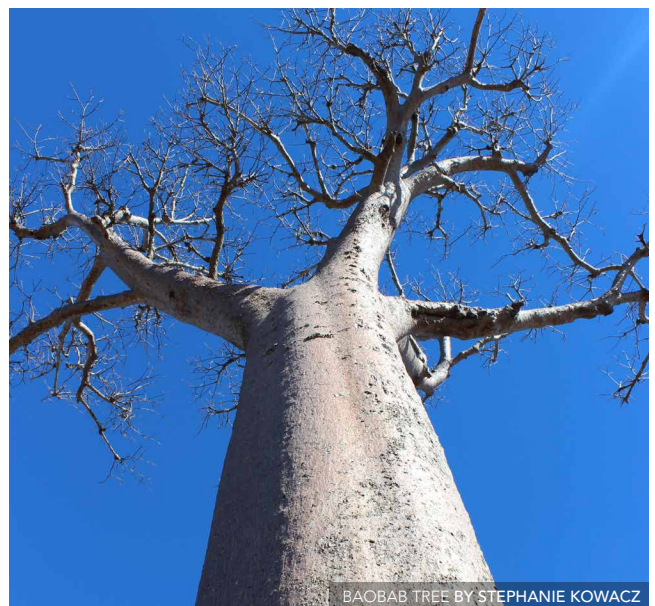
Rates are based on double occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations may be single or double occupancy based on availability. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable.



ON THE ROAD TO ISALO BY STEPHANIE KOWACZ



WATERFALL IN RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK BY STEPHANIE KOWACZ



BAOBAB TREE BY STEPHANIE KOWACZ