



RING-TAILED LEMUR BY IAN SEGBARTH

MADAGASCAR

Exotic Madagascar: Wildlife & Culture of the Red Island

14 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **MAR - OCT**

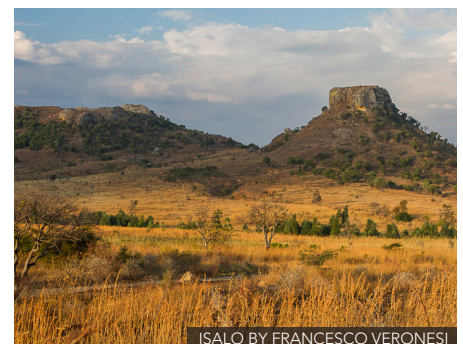
Madagascar inspires the imagination with its dancing lemurs, strange-looking baobab trees, and colorful reptiles and insects. On this exploration of the “eighth continent,” you’ll have the chance to observe the island’s endemic flora and fauna up-close, especially its many lemur species, from the giant Indri to the diminutive mouse lemurs. Along the way, you’ll delve into the spiny forests, canyons, red hills, and beaches that make Madagascar’s landscapes so distinct. Take guided hikes in national parks, learn about the Malagasy way of life, and relax in the turquoise waters off the coast of the “Great Red Island.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with Madagascar’s unique and unusual wildlife, including chameleons, geckos, tortoises, lemurs, and rare birds.
- Hike in the 102,000-acre Ranomafana National Park and learn about flora, fauna, and research efforts at Centre ValBio, a leading field research facility run by renowned primatologist Dr. Patricia Wright.
- Seek out the world’s largest lemur, the Indri, in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.
- Admire a variety of endangered palms, precious woods, orchids, dwarf baobabs, and other unique flora while exploring national parks, research stations, and an arboretum.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



ISALO BY FRANCESCO VERONESI



ANTANANARIVO

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE

Depart the U.S. for Madagascar.

DAY 2 - IN TRANSIT

In transit flight.

DAY 3 - ANTANANARIVO

Arrive in Madagascar on a late night flight. After clearing immigration and customs, and exchanging money at the airport, meet your local guide and transfer to the hotel. Check in and rest after the long flight. *We recommend considering a stopover in Paris en route or coming in a day early to rest. *Overnight at Relais Des Plateaux.*

DAY 4 - ANDASIBE

This morning have a program orientation after breakfast and then transfer to Andasibe. En route your guide will talk about the importance of the national parks and community reserves that will be visited in the coming days. Arrive at the hotel late in the afternoon and take an evening walk in the Mitsinjo Analamazaotra Forest Station. Mitsinjo is a community-based reserve managed by local families and a great place to see the extremely endangered *Ravenea louvelii* palm in its natural habitat. Explore the trail system, and then as darkness descends, continue walking in search of nocturnal wildlife. With luck, have a chance to observe the locally endemic Goodman's mouse lemur. Common encounters also include the greater dwarf lemur, leaf-tailed geckos, and an impressive sample of Andasibe's amphibian diversity such as the tree frogs *Boophis viridis* and *Boophis pyrhus*. Return to the hotel for dinner accompanied by guests from the Mitsinjo community. *Overnight at Vakona Forest Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - ANDASIBE

This morning, have breakfast while listening to the peculiar call of the endangered Indri; reaching up to three feet tall, it is the largest living lemur species. Andasibe is an ideal place to observe the Indri, as there are some Indri families there who have been habituated to humans. Considered a sacred animal in Madagascar, the Indri is the focus of several origin myths. In addition to the Indri, 13 lemur species can also be seen: woody lemur, grey bamboo lemur, diademed sifaka, brown lemur, red mouse lemur, red-bellied lemur, black-and-white ruffed lemur, and aye-aye. These forests are also home to 15 other mammal species, more than 100 types of birds, 50 species of reptiles, and 80 amphibian species. *Overnight at Vakona Forest Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - ANDASIBE

Rise early for breakfast and then enjoy a full day exploration of the Analamazaotra Special Reserve in Andasibe. The primary forests of Andasibe-Mantadia contain a dense humid forest covered with lianas, moss, tree ferns, and more than a hundred orchid species. Other common plants growing here are *Pandanus utilis*, traveler's tree, tambourissa, bamboos and some precious wood, like



INDRI INDRI BY PELIN KARACA

Palisander and Ebano. Conservation of the forest is a critical challenge in this region due to the graphite mines inside the park. Discuss conservation initiatives as they relate to natural resources. This afternoon, visit Lemur Island, founded by Vakona Lodge to provide sanctuary for displaced lemurs that were former pets and not suitable for reintroduction into the wild. The lemurs are isolated on the island, which is frequented by human visitors. The local guide will provide important information about this project that provides guests with the unique opportunity to touch and be photographed with lemurs. Dinner at the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Couleur Cafe. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ANTANANARIVO

This morning have breakfast and then check out of the hotel and transfer to Antananarivo to explore the capital city with a local historian. See the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fun continues with a traditional lunch in an open-air restaurant accompanied by traditional dancing and singing by a local dance troupe. Explore the site and then check in at the hotel and have dinner. *Overnight at Royal Palissandre. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - ANTSIRABE

This morning after breakfast, transfer to Antsirabe; en route visit the small town of Ambatolampy to visit the aluminum pot factory and experience a taste of Malagasy life. The “factory” is a small scale, mostly outdoor production of the pots that are used all over the island for cooking over open fires. It is surprising to learn that one craftsman can make as many as 20 of these robust pots per day. Visit the local market where the guide will explain the seasonality of foods available and how commerce works. Have lunch at the Rendezvous des pêcheurs in town and then continue to Antsirabe. After checking in, have dinner at the hotel joined by local Malagasy community members with translation by the guide to discuss women’s issues and programs. *Overnight at Guesthouse Madalief. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to the mountainous Ranomafana National Park, situated on the edge of Madagascar’s High Plateau with elevations ranging from 1,640 to 4,921 feet. Ranomafana contains a variety of forest types and is part of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage Site. Ranomafana has served as a model for subsequent parks and reserves in Madagascar and abroad. En route, visit some workshop in Ambositra to admire their work and discuss local commerce in rural Madagascar. Check in at the lodge and have dinner. Afterward, take a walk in

search of nocturnal species on the outskirts of the national park along the roadside in search of chameleons and mouse lemurs. *Overnight at Setam Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

This morning, after breakfast, hike in the 102,000-acre Ranomafana National Park. Please note that hikes are moderately difficult uphill hikes on the way in and often include off-trail experiences. The rainforest is home to the critically endangered greater bamboo lemur, golden bamboo lemur, and 11 other lemur species, plus species of precious wood, palm trees, orchids, and carnivorous plants. This afternoon, have lunch at Centre ValBio (CVB), a world-famous research station established in 2003 and managed by Stony Brook University. Run by Dr. Patricia Wright, the accomplished American primatologist and conservationist, the CVB focuses on biodiversity, community health,

environmental arts, and reforestation. After lunch there will be a presentation on the flora, fauna, and research efforts at ValBio. *Overnight at Setam Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, head to the Great South and Madagascar’s most visited park, Isalo National Park. The drive is along some of the best roads in the country and the scenery is breathtaking. Expect to spend most of the day driving. En route stop at Anja Community Reserve, which is managed by the local community and a vital example of sustainable tourism in

Madagascar. Explore the reserve, then have lunch in a nearby restaurant. After a long day of driving, check into your hotel, have dinner, and relax in anticipation of Isalo National Park, whose 200,000-plus acres contain sandstones, canyons, fauna and flora, natural swimming pools, and waterfalls. *Overnight at Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day exploring Isalo National Park, a continental sandstone plateau dating to the Jurassic Period. This trek is full of varied landscapes with different forms of sandstones and dotted with the famous dwarf baobab. After an hour walk with short climbs, stop to rest in a spectacular valley resembling California’s famous Death Valley. The overlook shows miles of azure sky, rocky desert, and winding greenery. Continue to the natural pool with its white sandy bottom and tropical vibe for a swim before making the trek back to the starting point. Transfer back to the hotel for a sundowner. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*



MALAGASY WOMEN BY STEPHANIE KOWACZ

DAY 13 - IFATY

Today venture to Zombitse National Park and witness the results of a widespread environmental problem in Madagascar: deforestation. After a long history of “slash-and-burn agriculture” in the region, only a small area of protected forest remains. As a result, flora is particularly abundant here; baobabs and several orchids are especially common. Time permitting, visit Antsokay Arboretum. Created in 1980 by Swiss amateur biologist Hermann Petignat, the 100-acre site is dedicated to conserving the country’s endemic fauna. Continue to the seaside town of Toliara, situated near the Tropic of Capricorn. Settle in and have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Le Paradasier. (BLD)*

DAY 14 - IFATY/FAREWELL!

Rise early today for a special sunrise walk in Reniala Private Reserve, a protected area 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 which only occurs in southwestern Madagascar. The reserve contains more than 2,000 plant species, including impressively old baobabs, one of which is 41 feet in diameter. The reserve also has 65 species of birds; rare endemics such as the Red-capped Coua and the Blue Vanga can be easily seen. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast, and explore the beach or hotel amenities. This afternoon, return to Reniala and continue exploring the flora and the tortoise park. Enjoy a special farewell dinner this evening under the baobab trees in the reserve. Later, return to the airport for your overnight flight home. *Day room at Le Paradasier. (BLD)*



LAND PRICING

\$5,295 (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, guide and driver, and carbon offset.

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

Valid for travel in 2020.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. 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. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world’s cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Madagascar will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.

