



Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

ROAMING**BUFFS**



LEMUR CATTÀ

MADAGASCAR

# Jewels of Madagascar

*with the University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association*

July 1 – 16, 2023





BÁOBAB TREES

Madagascar is called the “Red Island” for its ochre-colored soil, but it could easily be “blue” for its sapphire mines, “green” for its lush forests, and any color of the rainbow for the unique flora and fauna that exist only here. You’ll discover all this, as well as the traditions of the Malagasy, the world’s only Afro-Asian culture. Our adventure takes us to national parks, arboretums, and community reserves where lemurs, chameleons, and flying foxes inhabit one of the world’s most fascinating biodiversity hotspots! Join your fellow Forever Buffs for the experience of a lifetime, as we discover the “8th continent” together.

*Dear Forever Buffs and Friends,*

Join us on a lifetime experience to the island of Madagascar! From the moment you arrive, you will sense the difference in this captivating land of unique species, fascinating history, and enduring culture.

Madagascar is a dream destination for botanists and nature enthusiasts alike. Nowhere else on earth will you find as much biodiversity in such a small area, with 70% of its 200,000 species endemic to the island. Our travel experts at Holbrook Travel have meticulously planned our program to the “8th continent” as shown in the detailed itinerary enclosed. You’ll take guided hikes in national parks and community reserves, learn about the Malagasy way of life, and even have a chance to snorkel in the turquoise waters off the coast. You may also opt for a 5-day post-trip extension to pristine Sainte-Marie Island.

Please join us on this expedition to the “Red Island.” As our group is strictly limited – only 10 participants – please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Sincerely,

**Tricia Essenpreis**

Roaming Buffs Travel Director

**CU BOULDER ALUMNI**

Wildlife and Botany of the Mysterious Red Island | July 1 – 16, 2023

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. Fax: 352-371-3710. For questions please call 303-492-2879 or visit <https://www.colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs>.

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_. I/we request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_.

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_.

I request a single room (limited availability).

Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page; additional \$500 deposit required):  Y  N

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  Check  American Express  Discover  MasterCard  VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (check or credit card).





VERREAUX'S SIFAKA

**WHY MADAGASCAR?** 70% of its 200,000 species are found nowhere else on the planet. Unique to the island are more than 50 types of lemurs, 99% of its frog species, and 36 genera of birds.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Lemur Island, a sanctuary for rescued lemurs with opportunities to interact with and photograph these playful creatures.
- Go for a hike amid the sandstone canyons and waterfalls of Isalo National Park.
- Learn about conservation challenges and initiatives across national parks and community reserves abundant with endemic biodiversity.
- Embark on a glass-bottom boat to the Massif des Roses reef, with the chance to go snorkeling amid the coral.
- Explore a diversity of ecosystems to get a glimpse of Madagascar's unique flora and fauna, like lemurs, tree frogs, flying foxes, chameleons, corals, baobabs, and spiny forest, and more.
- Discover the sacred royal village of Ambohimanga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

PHOTOS BY PELIN KARACA, STEPHANIE KOWACZ, IAN SEGBARTH, AND ROD WADDINGTON



BOOPHIS TREE FROG



RADIATED TORTOISES



FLYING FOX

## WHAT THIS TRIP IS LIKE

ACTIVITY LEVEL: 4 | MODERATE-STRENUOUS

This journey provides an in-depth look at an island nation whose culture is unique, and whose flora and fauna are found nowhere else on earth. Your comprehensive itinerary covers five locations with epic landscapes ranging from towering forests to sandstone canyons to rocky deserts and idyllic beaches. But great distances and a poor infrastructure make travel between them taxing. Some days involve long drives of up to 7 hours, often on bumpy, dusty roads. Cultural discovery includes lectures, a folkloric performance, and a visit to a historic fortress-palace. Expect some early mornings and hikes that may last up to 4 hours. The physical ability of your small group will determine our pace. April through October is the dry season, when there is less humidity and average temperatures fall between 68-79°F. Overland transfers use air-conditioned, 4x4 vehicles.

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



MADAGASCAR LANDSCAPE



## JULY 1 - DEPART

## JULY 2 - ANTANANARIVO

Meet our guide and transfer to the hotel to check in and rest after the long flight. *Overnight at Royal Palissandre & Spa. (BLD)*

## JULY 3 - ANTANANARIVO

Enjoy a morning at leisure to recover from long flights. After lunch and program orientation, your guide will give an overview of the history, economy, education, and culture of Madagascar. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Royal Palissandre & Spa. (BLD)*

## JULY 4 - ANDASIBE

After breakfast, drive to Andasibe, admiring the large *Raphia farinifera* palms along the road. On arrival, check in to the hotel and have lunch. Pay a visit to Lemur Island, established by Vakona Lodge to provide sanctuary for displaced lemurs that were former pets and not suited for reintroduction into the wild. The lemurs are isolated on the island and accustomed to human visitors, which offers guests the

unique opportunity to interact and be photographed with them. This evening, enjoy dinner overlooking the Madagascar rainforest. *Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

## JULY 5 - ANDASIBE

Rise early for breakfast and a full-day exploration of the Analamazaotra Reserve in Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. The primary forests of Andasibe-Mantadia contain a dense humid forest covered with lianas, moss, fern trees, and more than 100 orchids species. Conservation of the forest is a critical challenge in this region due to the graphite mines inside the park; we will discuss conservation initiatives as they relate to natural resources. Later today, take an evening walk in the Mitsinjo Analamazaotra Forest Station, a community-managed protected area, to look for nocturnal species of endemic lemurs and tree frogs. *Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

## JULY 6 - ANDASIBE

This morning, have breakfast while listening to the peculiar call of the endangered indri, the largest living lemur species — some reach up to three feet tall! Andasibe-Mantadia National Park 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,



INDRI



the indri is the focus of several myths. In addition to the 13 lemur species that can also be seen at Andasibe-Mantadia, these forests are home to 15 other mammal species, more than 100 types of birds, 50 species of reptiles, and 80 amphibian species. *Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

### JULY 7 – ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast, check out of the hotel, and transfer back to the central part of Antananarivo. Have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Relais des Plateaux. (BLD)*

### JULY 8 – TOLIARA

Transfer to the airport for flight to Toliara, situated near the Tropic of Capricorn. Upon arrival, visit the Arboretum of Antsokay for a look at its more than 900 plant species, 90% of these endemic to Madagascar. Enjoy lunch at the arboretum. This afternoon have a lecture on Madagascar's unique spiny forest, a highly endemic ecoregion that surrounds Toliara, only in the southwestern part of the country. Transfer to hotel and enjoy time to relax before dinner. *Overnight at Moringa Hotel. (BLD)*

### JULY 9 – ISALO

After breakfast, head to Madagascar's most-visited park: Isalo. En route, make a stop at Zombitse National Park and enjoy a picnic lunch. Zombitse is notable for its location in a transition zone between spiny forest and dry woodland regions. It is also classified as an Important Bird Area, with 38 endemic species known to the park. Arrive at the hotel in Isalo, check in and have dinner, then relax in anticipation of the national park's beautiful sandstone landscapes. *Overnight at Le Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*



### JULY 10 – ISALO

Spend the day exploring Isalo National Park, a continental sandstone plateau dating to Jurassic times. This trek is across varied landscapes with different forms of sandstones, dotted with the famous dwarf baobab. After an hour walk with short climbs, stop to rest in a spectacular valley with beautiful views. The overlook

shows miles of azure sky, rocky desert, and winding greenery. The hike becomes more difficult as you trek to a white-sand natural pool. Go for a swim, then hike back to the starting point. Transfer back to the hotel for a sundowner, then dinner. *Overnight at Le Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*

### JULY 11 – IFATY

Early this morning, return to Isalo National Park for a half-day exploration before lunch. After lunch, check out of the hotel and drive to the seaside town of Ifaty. After check-in, have time to relax, followed by dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*



### JULY 12 – IFATY

This morning, embark on a glass-bottom boat to the Massif des Roses (“Rose Garden”) snorkeling site. (*Note: Gear is included.*) Rose Garden is a patch reef approximately 1.8 miles from shore. Just six feet to the top of the reef, Rose Garden takes its name from the rose-shaped coral (*Montipora*), the primary inhabitant of the reef. Other prominent coral colonies include mushroom-shaped coral (*Fungia*) and table corals (*Acropora*); the reef is also home to over 100 species of fish, as well as lobsters, shrimp, rays, and octopus. After returning to shore, have the remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy the beach. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*

### JULY 13 – IFATY

Rise early for a special sunrise walk in Reniala Private Reserve, managed by a local environmental association working to develop ecotourism in the area. Hike some of the trails to explore the spiny forest ecosystem. The reserve contains more than 2000 plant species, as well as impressively old baobabs – including one that is 41 feet in diameter. There are also 65 species of birds; rare endemics such as the Red-capped Coua and the Blue Vanga can easily be seen. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast, and explore the beach or hotel amenities. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner under the baobab trees. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*

## JULY 14 – ANTANANARIVO

This morning after breakfast, transfer back to Toliara for the flight back to Antananarivo. Upon arrival, visit Ambohimanga Royal Hill, a hilltop fortress and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the palace dwellings and learn about the heritage of Madagascar, then head to lunch at an open-air restaurant. The family-style meal will also be accompanied by singing and dancing from a local dance troupe. *Overnight at Relais Des Plateaux. (BLD)*

## JULY 15 – DEPART

Today is a departure day. If you have opted for the 4-day extension on Sainte-Marie Island, you will transfer to the airport in the morning for your short flight to the island. Or, for those interested, visit Lemurs Park, a rescue and rehabilitation center for lemurs. Return to hotel to pack. Dinner included at the hotel. This evening, transfers to the airport for flights back to the US. *Day room at Relais Des Plateaux. (B)*

## JULY 16 – ARRIVE IN U.S.

### PRICING

**\$6,350 per person**

*Price is based on 10 participants in double occupancy. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of \$960 per person.*

#### Your price includes:

- Internal airfare (roundtrip Antananarivo - Toliara)
- 13 nights' accommodations + 1 day room
- 40 meals (14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 13 dinners)
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals; exempt one wine or beer at welcome and farewell meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- Full-time guide for duration of program
- All tips and gratuities
- Private vehicle transportation throughout program
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offset
- Departure tax

Price does not include: international airfare, travel or trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff, drinks purchased on own, or items of a personal nature.

*Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Travel and trip cancellation insurance are strongly recommended (offered through the CU Boulder Alumni Association).*

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION

### ÎLE SAINTE-MARIE

**July 15–19, 2023**

**5 days/4 nights for \$1,525**

*Single supplement: \$240 per person*



Discover the tropical island paradise of Île Sainte-Marie, situated just off the coast of northeast Madagascar. Pristine beaches give way to turquoise waters and colorful coral reefs, with spectacular whale watching during migration season (Jun-Sep). The island's sparse landmarks evoke a fascinating blend of cultures throughout history, and its unspoiled natural beauty offers visitors opportunity for both tranquility and exploration.

#### Your tour price includes:

- Round-trip airfare Antananarivo-Sainte-Marie
- 3 nights' accommodation in a secluded villa at Princess Bora Lodge & Spa
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Whale watching tour
- Time at leisure to explore the island and lodge (some activities at own cost)
- Transfers to/from airport

#### JULY 15 - SAINTE-MARIE

Upon arrival on Sainte-Marie, check in and receive details about the time of your whale watching tour tomorrow. The remainder of the day is at leisure. *Overnight at Princess Bora Lodge. (BD)*

#### JULY 16 - SAINTE-MARIE

Today enjoy a whale watching tour. The channel between Madagascar and Sainte-Marie is a prime spot to see humpback whales during migration. Remainder of the day at leisure. *Overnight at Princess Bora Lodge. (BD)*

#### JULY 17 - SAINTE-MARIE

Time at leisure to explore on own. Excursions are available from the lodge; some activities at own cost. *Overnight at Princess Bora Lodge. (BD)*

#### JULY 18 - DEPART

Transfer to the airport around 2:00 pm for your flight to Antananarivo. Upon arrival, have dinner at a local restaurant then return to the airport for your evening international departure. *(BD)*

#### JULY 19 - ARRIVE HOME



# Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

# ROAMING BUFFS

1202 University Avenue, 459 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309-0459

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

**Not Included in Your-Tour Price** International airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; and travel or trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

**International Air Transportation** Estimated airfare: **\$2,100 from Denver to Antananarivo**. Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2 1/2 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of our operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour "Land Only" is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association (CUBAA) and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

**Cancellations, Changes and Refunds** If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to CUBAA. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$300 charge; Cancel 95-0 days before departure: no refund**. Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

**Health and Medical Issues** We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance, in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, CUBAA and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a no smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

**Required Information** Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. **A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour. Your passport must have at least three blank visa pages to accommodate entry/exit stamps and your visa.**

**Responsibility** The liability of CUBAA as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. CUBAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. CUBAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any IATA and AIC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.