




# The Living Eden: Madagascar's Unique Flora and Fauna 2028

11 SEP – 1 OCT 2028

Code: 22844

Tour Leaders **Stephen Ryan**

Fitness Level 

**Level 3 - Challenging**

Among our most physically demanding

Explore Madagascar, one of the world's botanical and zoological hotspots, including the Indri d'Analamazaotra Reserve, Avenue of the Baobabs and the Tsingy de Bemaraha.

## Overview

With [Stephen Ryan](#) explore Madagascar's rich and unique wildlife habitats, venturing into exquisite national parks and reserves ranging from semi-tropical rainforests, succulent and spiny thicket, rocky landscapes of the central west and the spectacular mineral forest (karst spires) of the Tsingy de Bemaraha.

- Learn about Madagascar's fascinating blend of Austronesian and East African cultures.
- View the spectacular Avenue of the Baobabs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Get up close with Madagascar's unique lemur and hear the call of the Indri across the Andasibe rainforest.
- Enjoy invigorating walks in the Andasibe-Mantadia, Ranomafana and Isalo National Parks, as well as the Maromizaha and Indri d'Analamazaotra Reserves, while searching for lemurs, chameleons and strange insects in the forest.
- At the Aboretum d'Antsokay to view a fabulous collection of Malagasy succulents and spiny forest flora. The spiny thicket or 'spiny desert' of southern Madagascar is a globally distinctive ecoregion where ninety-five percent of the plant species are endemic to the region.

Overnight Antananarivo (1 night) • Kirindy Forest Reserve (1 night) • Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve (3 nights) • Morondava (1 night) • Antananarivo (1 night) • Antsirabe (1 night) • Ranomafana NP (3 nights) • Isalo NP (2 nights) • Toliara (2 nights) • Antananarivo (1 night) • Andasibe NP (3 nights) • Antananarivo (1 night).

Group size: limited to 16 participants

### Testimonial

*Sightseeing in Madagascar is not for the frail or faint-hearted but it is immensely exciting and rewarding. The lemurs, geckos, chameleons and frogs are astonishing; it's like an African Galapagos. The forests are hard to get to and challenging to explore but intensely rewarding for the wildlife treasures they reveal, flora and fauna. ASA has selected the best accommodation available in this country, which has yet to recognise the value of tourism, and has appealing infrastructure. Madagascar is right off the comfortable tourist trail, which makes it a very exciting, unusual and rewarding destination. If you are fit, healthy and love wildlife – just go while it's still there to see.*  
Anna, VIC.

### Overview

Visit one of the world's botanical and zoological hotspots with Stephen Ryan, who will be making his seventh trip since the 1990s. Stephen is a renowned horticulturalist, writer and lecturer with a life-long love affair with the plants and animals of this unique land. Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, has a higher percentage of endemic species than any comparable land mass; it has plant species, genera and even families that grow nowhere else on earth. Many natives have, however, made their way into gardens the world over. Among them is the magnificent Poinciana; we will see many more species of the outstanding genus of flowering plants, *Delonix*. Madagascar also has many unique native terrestrial mammal species, including such endearing creatures as lemurs. The exact number of species isn't known, as new ones are regularly discovered or reclassified. However, 86 have been described, from the tiny Madam Berthe's Mouse Lemur – the world's smallest primate at about 30 grams – to the Indri, one of the largest living lemurs, that can weigh in at 9.5 kilograms. Chameleons can be as small as your little fingernail or as big as a kitten. Many do change colour, although not as dramatically as the cartoons would suggest. The

Leaf-Tailed Gecko is possibly the world's most perfectly camouflaged lizard – until it moves, you won't believe it's there. This is the land of the world's largest moth, the Comet Moth, that can measure 20cm from antennae to tail; and who wouldn't love a Giraffe-Necked Weevil with a neck five times longer than its body? We see amazing scenery from the dry canyons and *buttes* of Isalo National Park, where John Wayne would have felt at home, to the pristine rainforests of Ranomafana. We also view the spectacular Avenue of the Baobabs (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the mineral forest (karst spires) of the Tsingy de Bemaraha, and examples of spiny forest at the Arboretum d'Antsokay in Toliara. This land's unique plants and animals are not its only charms. As the last major habitable land mass to be settled by humans, the history, culture and customs unique to the Malagasy people will fascinate all who experience it.

## Leaders



### Stephen Ryan

Horticulturalist, nurseryman, collector, prolific writer and award-winning broadcaster. Stephen brings his profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in France, Madagascar, Ireland, Madeira & the Azores and Australia.

Stephen Ryan is the newly appointed Patron for the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV). He is also the President of the Mt Macedon Horticultural Society, one of the oldest gardening clubs in Victoria.

Stephen Ryan, horticulturalist, author and broadcaster, started working in his father's nursery at the age of ten and at the same time joined the Mt. Macedon Horticultural Society. By the age of 19 he was the president and still is to this day. After completing a Gardening and Turf Management apprenticeship, and achieving an *Award of Merit* as the top Victorian apprentice he subsequently was awarded two scholarships, one in the United Kingdom and the other in New Zealand. On Stephen's return to Australia he ran his family nursery until he started his own nationally recognised nursery Dicksonia Rare Plants a few years later in 1980 and has been a passionate plant collector ever since.

Having started with writing articles for magazines and newspapers, Stephen's media presence has developed to the stage where he does a regular radio slot with Melbourne's 3CR station. In 2002 Stephen was awarded a *Radio Laurel* by the Horticultural Media Association for his segments on ABC Radio 774 3LO. Stephen has often appeared on a variety of television programs, however he is best known for his role for three years as host on ABC Television's *Gardening Australia*.

Stephen lectures and holds seminars both in Australia as well as overseas which have included a lecture that was translated into Spanish as he spoke to an audience in Argentina. As a plant hunter and traveller he has travelled to many places in the world such as Namibia, India, Oregon, England, Ireland, South Africa, Peru, New Guinea and France as well as the aforementioned Argentina. He has also led several tours for ASA to Madagascar, France, Madeira and the Azores.

He has published three books on rare plants that have received rave reviews and his manual contains over 2000 plant entries of rare plants available in temperate Australia. He also contributed to the two large tomes produced in Australia *Botanica* and more recently *Flora*. Stephen's garden and nursery hold three national plant collections, *Cornus*, *Sambucus* and *Acanthus*, for the Garden Plants Conservation Association of Australia. In 2001 the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria recognised Stephen with a John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for "Distinguished Service to Horticulture". Since departing *Gardening Australia*, Stephen is now writing for a New Zealand magazine *Weekend Gardener*, and has started writing another book, which will be on the development of his own garden, 'Tugurium'.



## Itinerary

[Draft Itinerary - program and dates to be confirmed in early 2027](#)

The following itinerary lists a range of sites which we plan to visit. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in flight schedules, road and weather conditions. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches (usually boxed lunches) and evening meals as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch, and D=evening meal. The duration of walks described below are approximate only.

### Discovering Lemurs

Lemurs belong to the suborder Strepsirhini, which also includes bushbabies, pottos and lorises. These groups are the most basal living primates. Ancestral prosimians, possibly resembling today's Mouse Lemurs, are thought to have colonised Madagascar from mainland Africa 50-60 million years ago. In the absence of competition from other non-primate mammals, these species diversified to fill a wide range of unusual ecological niches. There are five distinct families of lemurs: Cheirogaleidae, Lepilemuridae, Lemuridae, Indriidae and Daubentoniidae. The Lemuridae comprises 10 species, divided into two subfamilies: the Lemurinae ('true' lemurs) and the Hapalemurinae (Bamboo or Gentle Lemurs). All species of lemurs are endemic primates of Madagascar. They are the smallest primate in the world, from Ms Berthe Lemur which weighs 30 grams to the Indri, which can weigh up to 9.5 kg. Recently extinct species were much larger. In 2010, five families, 15 genera and 101 species and subspecies of lemurs were officially recognised. Between 2000 and 2008 39 new species were identified. During this tour we shall study several beautiful species including the Indri Indri, Sifaka and some interesting nocturnal species.

### Guiding in Madagascar and visits to the National Parks

Entry to national parks and reserves in Madagascar requires that you be accompanied by a local guide. During visits to the national parks there will be at least two local guides as well as our English-speaking national guide from Wild Madagascar. This will enable us, if necessary, to sub-divide into small groups according to preference and ability levels. If you feel you cannot keep up with the rest of the group or feel

tired, you may return to the entrance of the national park, shorten your visit or take a short-cut to meet the rest of the group at a different place.

### Antananarivo - 1 night

Day 1: Monday 11 September, Arrive Antananarivo

- Airport transfer for participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight (from Mauritius MK288 arriving at 1515hrs)
- Short Orientation tour of Antananarivo
- Welcome Dinner

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 3.15pm in the Arrivals Hall of Antananarivo.

Upon arrival we commence with a short orientation tour of Antananarivo visiting the exteriors of the Queen's Palace and the Prime Minister's Palace.

The city of Tana was built in three stages; the high city was the first area occupied during the royal period, and it is here that the old Manjakamiadana Rova (Queen's Palace) is located. This royal palace complex (*rova* in Malagasy) served as a residence for the kings and queens of the Merina Kingdom during the 17th and 18th centuries and the rulers of the Kingdom of Madagascar in the 19th century. Its religious counterpart is the nearby fortified village of Ambohimanga, which served as the spiritual seat of the kingdom. Originally made of wood, in 1869 the palace was rebuilt in stone by order of Queen Ranaivalona II. In 1995 a fire almost completely destroyed the palace sparing only the stone walls. From its high position the palace offers great panoramic views of the city and the Twelve Sacred Hills.

The Andafiavaratra Palace, also known as the Prime Minister's Palace, is located north of the Queen's Palace. The original wooden palace was built under the supervision of Queen Ranaivalona I. In 1872, it was rebuilt according to the plans of British architect William Pool. The 3-storey palace centres on a large reception hall lit up by a glass dome. Each of the four corner towers includes a bell tower. From 1864 to 1895 the palace was the residence of Prime Minister Rainilaiarivony, who married three queens and exercised ultimate power from here. After Madagascar became independent, the palace was used as army barracks, a court, school of fine arts, presidential palace and finally again as the prime minister's office. In 1976 the palace burnt down. Following extensive restoration it now houses a museum displaying precious items which were saved from the fire of the Rova in 1995 including the red jacket of Radama I, the royal coral jewels, various royal portraits and the diadem of the last queen.

In the late afternoon we transfer to our hotel located in the heart of the government district. This evening we gather for a welcome meal at a local restaurant. (Overnight Antananarivo) D

### Kirindy Forest Reserve - 1 night

Day 2: Tuesday 12 September, Antananarivo – Morondava – Kirindy

- Fly Antananarivo to Morondava
- Journey by 4WD to Kirindy
- Nocturnal guided visit of Kirindy Forest Reserve
- **Fitness Criteria:** Trails are broad and mostly flat, making walking easy. Duration: 2hrs

We take an early morning flight to Morondava, and then travel by 4WD to the Kirindy Forest Reserve.

This 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 collected by Gerald Durrell and now resident at the Durrell Wildlife Foundation, the Fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) – 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 is the hissing cockroach. 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 Menabe forests, also noted for their diverse botany which includes three of the island's seven endemic baobabs, including the Giant Baobab and the smallest, the Bottle Baobab. Birdwatching is excellent, and we should see the Coquerels and Crested Couas and Sicklebill Vangas to name but a few. You may also see iguanids and the Flat-Tailed Tortoise – known as Kapidolo (ghost turtle), currently one of the most threatened of all the world's tortoises.

This evening we take a walk through the reserve to spot some of these nocturnal species. (Overnight Kirindy Forest Reserve) BLD

### Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve - 3 nights

Day 3: Wednesday 13 September, Kirindy – Belo Tsiribihina – Tsingy de Bemaraha

- Early morning Diurnal visit of Kirindy Forest Reserve (2hrs)
- Journey by 4WD to Bekopaka via the Tsiribihina River and Belo Tsiribihina

We will start our diurnal visit of Kirindy forest at around 0730am. We will walk from the camp straight through the forest to spot the two diurnal lemurs and luckily the Narrow-striped Mongoose (*Mungotictis decemlineata*). During the couple of hours walk through the forest, we shall come across most of its resident birds not to mention the reptiles.

By 11.00am we drive northwards to the shores of the Tsiribihina River, where a barge will transport us across the river to the town of Belo Tsiribihina. The river crossing takes about 45 minutes.

Following lunch in Belo Tsiribihina we make the four to five-hour drive to Bekopaka. Our journey takes us across savanna, a grassland home to the Madagascar Harrier-Hawk (*Polyboroides radiatus*). One of the commonest raptors of Madagascar, this is a very large bird of prey. Aside from its size, it is unmistakable with its black and white stripes (called *barring*) on its underside, grey back, long bare yellow legs and bare pink or yellow skin patch around the eye.

A second barge will take our party across the river Manambolo to the village of Bekopaka; we shall spend the next three nights based at the Soleil des Tsingy. Located in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Tsingy de Bemaraha, the lodge is perched on the highest point in this region, offering spectacular views of the surrounding scenery. (Overnight Bekopaka) BLD

Day 4: Thursday 14 September, Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

- The Gorge of the Manambolo River by *pirogue*
- **Fitness Criteria:** The excursion by *pirogue* on the Manambolo River is not suitable for anyone with bad knees. Further details are provided below. Duration: 2hrs
- The Petite (Small) Tsingy
- **Fitness Criteria:** The walk includes a short ascent following a series of iron ladders and wooden

walkways. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 2-3hrs.

The spectacular mineral forest of Tsingy de Bemaraha stands on the west coast of Madagascar. The area, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1990, comprises 1575 square kilometres of canyons, gorges, undisturbed forests, lakes and mangrove swamps. The northern section is designated an Integral Reserve, and therefore off-limits to visitors, but we shall visit the southern section, declared a national park in 1998. This vast forest of rugged and eroded karst pinnacles supports about 90 species of birds, 8 species of reptiles and 11 species of lemurs. Scientists estimate that 86.7% of the flora and fauna are endemic to Madagascar, and 47% are endemic to this region.

This morning we make an excursion by *piroque* (wooden dug-out canoe) to the spectacular Manambolo Gorge, where the river has carved a deep channel through the limestone plateau. As we canoe past dry forest and sheer, vertical cliffs, craggy caves and overhangs, we shall view unusual vegetation, endemic water birds, and hear the shrill cries of black parrots resounding against the rock walls. Madagascar Fish Eagles can sometimes be seen perching in large trees edging the river. The park is generally divided into two parts – the Petit (Small) and the Grand (Big) Tsingy – a distinction based upon on area and also on the height of the pinnacles.

This afternoon we visit the Petit Tsingy. An easy walk through a dry deciduous forest (where you'll get to see plenty of lemurs) takes us to the base of the karst formations. Here a short ascent – following a series of iron ladders and wooden walkways (designed by a French mountaineer) – takes us to the viewpoint that opens up to a vista of the surrounding Tsingy forest. (Overnight Bekopaka) BLD

#### Day 5: Friday 15 September, Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park

- The Grand Tsingy: Adjacent Forest Walk (Option 1)
- **Fitness Criteria:** Option 1: A leisurely forest walk. Duration: 2hrs
- Climbing The Grand Tsingy (Option 2: strenuous)
- **Fitness Criteria:** Option 2: Climbing the Grand Tsingy is long and strenuous and can be very hot during the middle of the day. It includes many steps, cables, walkways, caves, and a fair bit of rock scrambling. You need to be okay with heights. A climbing harness is provided for those undertaking the cables and rock scrambling section. Duration: 4hrs.
- Afternoon at leisure

We depart very early this morning for a one-hour drive to the Grand Tsingy. We may see lemurs and dozens of birds, orchids, aloes, pachypodium and baobabs. The endemic and medicinal plants make the flora of this park unique. On arrival we take a leisurely walk exploring the adjacent forest for birds: Decken's Sifaka (*Propithecus deckeni*), Randrianasolo's Sportive Lemur (*Lepilemur randrianasoli*). At the entrance of the Tsingy we may also search for the Western Ring-Tailed Mongoose (*Galidia elegans occidentalis*). Note: The Grand Tsingy, the outskirts of which are characterised by xerophyte vegetation, may be viewed from below, from quite short distance without needing to climb.

Alternatively, you may wish to take an adventurous (and indeed strenuous) walk traversing the pinnacles either along a harnessed track or following the iron ladder way. A harness clipped to a steel cable is used for safety on the vertiginous and exposed scrambling sections amongst the rock. (Note: no technical climbing experience is necessary).

After visiting the park we shall return to our hotel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to relax. (Overnight Bekopaka) BLD

## Morondava - 1 night

Day 6: Saturday 16 September, Tsingy de Bemaraha – Morondava

- Return journey to Morondava by 4WD
- Avenue des Baobabs

We return to Morondava by road, viewing the sunset in the Avenue des Baobabs. This cluster of towering Grandidier's Baobabs (*Adansonia grandidieri*) is one of Madagascar's most famous views. In 2007 the avenue (together with about 300 baobabs of three species in the surrounding one kilometre) became an officially protected natural monument. *Adansonia grandidieri* is the most majestic and famous of the baobab species and may reach 30m in height. The best-known specimens form the Baobab Avenue. These trees would once have been surrounded by dense forest, but today their isolated silhouettes can be seen for miles across the flat, featureless rice fields. There is now an active program to plant saplings amongst the existing trees. The project suffered a setback late in 2012 when a fire engulfed 11ha of the 320ha reserve, destroying 99 of the 2220 newly planted trees, but no mature baobabs were affected. We overnight in Morondava, a relaxed coastal town located on the Mozambique Channel. (Overnight Morondava) BLD

## Antananarivo - 1 night

Day 7: Sunday 17 September, Morondava – Antananarivo

- Time at leisure Morondava
- Flight Morondava – Antananarivo
- Craft Market of Antananarivo

Following some time at leisure we take a flight back to Antananarivo. We spend the remainder of the day exploring the craft market which has beautiful fossil specimens for sale and stalls selling baskets, woodcrafts and of course, vanilla pods. (Overnight Antananarivo) BLD

## Antsirabe - 1 night

Day 8: Monday 18 September, Antananarivo – Ambatolampy – Antsirabe

- Aluminium Pot Workshops, Ambatolampy
- Rickshaw ride: visit to the semi-precious stone workshops and handicraft sector of Antsirabe

We spend the day travelling from Antananarivo to Antsirabe. South of Tana we make a brief visit to the typical plateau town of Ambatolampy, famous for its aluminium pots. A visit to a local foundry will enable us to view the workers who, out of the blazing hot metal, create small artworks, cutlery and cooking pots. Their skilful technique is interesting to watch. The metal is smelted by one worker in a crucible until it is molten. In the meantime, another member of the team creates the inverted shape of the inside of the pot on the floor of the workshop using a very fine-grained mixture of sand, laterite and powdered charcoal. Once this shape has been completed, a wooden mould is lowered carefully over the foundry sand, and more sand is packed around it. Finally, the molten metal is poured into the cavity between the two to create the pot. The pot is then left to cool – which is a surprisingly quick process – before the mould is removed and the foundry sand is gently swept away to expose the new pot. It is then sanded and burnished to remove the rough edges and reveal the characteristic silvery white colour of the metal.

On arrival, we begin with a short tour of Antsirabe, the third largest city in Madagascar. Located on a high plateau, at an altitude of approximately 1500m, it has a relatively cool climate. Its name, meaning 'where

there is salt', honours the large number of hot springs whose curative qualities were appreciated by the local population when French colonists decided to locate a thermal bath here in the 19th century. It is also renowned for having hundreds of registered rickshaws (or *pousse-pousses* in French) and specialises in the cutting of semi-precious stones. In the town's thriving handicrafts sector, we may view a variety of products including jewellery made from zebu horn, toys crafted from old tin cans, wood carvings, polished minerals, embroidered tablecloths and clothing. (Overnight Antsirabe) BLD

### Ranomafana National Park – 3 nights

Day 9: Tuesday 19 September, Antsirabe – Ambositra – Ambatovaky – Ranomafana

- Wood carving of Ambositra
- Blacksmith village of Ambatovaky

At around 7.00am we depart Antsirabe and continue 90km south to the Betsileo town of Ambositra, whose close proximity to the forest has made it the centre of Madagascar's wood carving industry. Its name means 'the place of the eunuchs', supposedly because the Merina tribe castrated all defeated warriors of the local tribe, the Zafimaniry. The cultural influence of this tribe can be found in the traditional motifs on the local houses with their intricately carved balconies, panels and shutters. We'll encounter many specialised workshops in printmaking, wood carving and marquetry.

The village of Ambatovaky, situated 24km from the entrance to Ranomafana National Park, consists of a small population of farmers and artisans. Here shall visit a local blacksmith before continuing to Ranomafana National Park in the mountainous highlands. (Overnight Ranomafana National Park) BLD

Day 10 & 11: Wednesday 20 September & Thursday 21 September, Ranomafana National Park

- Mornings: Birdwatching and nature walk along the Varibolamena Trails
- **Fitness Criteria:** One of the most difficult trails, it is taxing due to the rough terrain and humidity. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 4 hrs.
- Afternoon: Birdwatching and nature walk along the Vohiparara Trails
- **Fitness Criteria:** The Vohiparara Trail is flatter than the Varibolamena Tail. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: dependent on bird species spotted; approx. 2hrs.

Particularly rich in wildlife, this hitherto unprotected fragment of mid-altitude rainforest and higher-altitude mountain cloud forest first came to the world's attention with the discovery of the Golden Bamboo Lemur in 1986; formal protection followed in 1991. Today this exquisite upland cloud forest is one of Madagascar's top wildlife hotspots. The twelve lemur species that live here include all three Bamboo Lemurs: Grey Bamboo Lemur (*Hapalemur griseus*), Greater Bamboo Lemur (*Prolemur simus*) and the Golden Bamboo Lemur (*Hapalemur aureus*). The Bamboo or Gentle lemurs have grey-brown fur. Their muzzles are short and their ears are round and hairy. Lengths vary from 26 to 46 cm, with tails just as long or longer, and they weigh up to 2.5 kg. Bamboo Lemurs prefer damp forests where bamboo grows and as their name suggests they feed almost exclusively on bamboo. Completely dependent on this low-energy food source, the lemur must lead a very sedentary lifestyle and spend much of its time eating. As with many specialised species, this lemur is unable to adapt to its rapidly changing habitat. Widespread clearing of its rainforest habitat has caused populations to become isolated in the few remaining patches of forest capable of supporting the species. Other residents of the park include the striking Milne-Edward's Sifaka and the robust Black and White-Ruffed Lemur. There are also scores of reptiles and beautiful chameleons.

We shall spend two days in Ranomafana National Park exploring the network of paths through the forests and dense stands of giant bamboo. Expect to see various lemurs, such as Red-Fronted Brown Lemur (*Eulemur rufus*), Red-Bellied Lemur (*Eulemur rubriventer*) and the shy Grey Bamboo Lemur. For the tree lover we will see some of the species of *Dombeya* with their heads of pink or white flowers. Ranomafana is also superb for birdwatchers as many of the rainforest dwelling endemics occur in the park. There are Brown Mesite, Blue Coua and the Velvet Asity. Ranomafana is a herpetologist's paradise, with a variety of chameleons, geckoes, skinks and frogs. The floral diversity is bewildering, with numerous species of palm, bamboo and orchid thriving here.

The Ranomafana National Park trail is considered to be one of the most difficult walks included on this tour due to the roughness of terrain and the permanent humidity. Difficulty will undoubtedly arise while tracking wildlife, in particular Golden Bamboo Lemurs and Milne's Edward Sifaka, the former being very often met only off track – which can be a strenuous endeavour. The terrain where birds are usually encountered is more even. (Overnight Ranomafana National Park) BLD

### Isalo National Park – 2 nights

Day 12: Friday 22 September, Ranomafana – Anja – Isalo National Park

- Ring-Tailed Lemurs of Anja Community Reserve
- **Fitness Criteria:** Relatively easy trail with only slight uphill slopes. The narrow trails follow open vegetation through dry-deciduous forest. Duration: 2hrs

Leaving the rainforest early after breakfast we drive across the desolate central southern interior to Ambalavao, the southernmost town in the highlands, known for its zebu market and home to the famous Malagasy Antaimoro paper attractively decorated with fresh flowers. The town also features red-ochre houses with verandas and beautiful wooden balustrades.

We also stop to visit the community-run Anja Reserve. Known for its superb scenery and intriguing plants adapted to the dry southern climate, the reserve covers eight hectares and is home to about 300 Ring-Tail Lemurs (*Lemur catta*), instantly recognisable by their banded tail, and some intriguing plants adapted to the dry southern climate. The region is sacred to the Betsileo; their ancestors are buried here and it has always been *fady* (meaning taboo in the traditional culture of Madagascar) to hunt the lemurs. The caves here have provided a useful sanctuary in times of trouble and were inhabited up to a century or so ago. We spend a couple of hours in the Anja Reserve following a relatively easy trail through dry-deciduous forest to spot groups of Ring-Tailed Lemurs and various species of reptiles.

In the afternoon we resume our drive towards Ihosy, the capital of the Bara, a local nomadic pastoralist tribe which made itself famous country wide for zebu rustling and polygamist ancestral traditions. From Ihosy and atop the imposing Horombe plateau, encounters with zebu herds on their move to grazing areas or onto weekly held livestock markets are commonplace. Finally we reach Isalo's remarkable landscapes, with eroded 'ruiniforme' sandstone outcrops, giving hints of silver and green reflections of sunlight, and interspersed with endless palm savanna of the endemic Bismarkia Palms (*Bismarkia nobilis*). (Overnight Isalo National Park) BLD

Day 13: Saturday 23 September, Isalo National Park

- Morning nature trail, Isalo National Park
- **Fitness Criteria:** The path to the natural pool climbs steeply and there is little shade along the way. The hiking time for the uphill climb is approximately 1-1.5 hours at a leisurely pace with

stops. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 2-3hrs.

- Afternoon at leisure OR optional trail to the Piscine Noire et Bleu, Isalo National Park.
- **Fitness Criteria:** This 4km walk begins with easy walking, but becomes more difficult towards the end of the canyon due to stream crossings on flattened boulders, cliff ascents on carved steps, followed by a descent to the pools along narrow steps and stepping stones. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 3hrs.

We explore Isalo National Park's fascinating plant community, including some very localised species of palm, aloe and the squat 'elephant's foot' pachypodiums, which flourish on the rock faces. With luck, we'll see some Ring-Tail Lemurs or Verreaux's Sifakas in dense vegetation lining the canyon streams. Isalo offers several options for hikes into rocky canyons and verdant oases, with opportunities to take a refreshing dip in naturally formed pools at the base of hidden waterfalls. We shall look for Ring-Tail Lemurs, Verreaux Sifakas and Red-Fronted Brown Lemurs that have adapted to life in this dry desert climate.

Our early morning trail provides views of xerophytic and sclerophyllous vegetation as well as stunning sandstone runiforme scenery.

This afternoon is at leisure for you to enjoy the lodge's facilities. Alternatively, you may wish to join an optional walk to the 'Piscine Noire et Bleu' (Black and Blue Pools), both fed by narrow waterfalls, located at the end of the Namazaha Canyon. This canyon features riparian (riverbank) vegetation and shelters a variety of birds including the Benson Rock Thrush (*Monticola bensoni*). We begin the trail in a dry deciduous pocket forest that is home to birds, reptiles and insects. At the centre of this forest we may see Ring-Tailed Lemurs, the Red-Fronted Brown Lemurs and a Verreaux Sifaka. (Overnight Isalo National Park) BLD

## Toliara – 2 nights

Day 14: Sunday 24 September, Isalo – Zombitse National Park – Toliara

- Zombitse National Park
- **Fitness Criteria:** An easy walk along the Mandresy Trail; terrain includes loose sand. Duration: 2hrs

We make a very early start to drive to Zombitse National Park. The forest is a very special transition zone between the southern flora and the western deciduous forest. Similar in appearance to the latter, it contains the baobab species of the former. Here we may find our first *Angraecum* orchids and see *Rhopalocarpus*, a large tree and a member of a family unique to Madagascar. The large white Verreaux's Sifakas bound from tree to tree and often allow close views.

In the late afternoon we drive to Toliara, the capital of the Atsimo-Andrefana region. Located on the southwest coast, the city acts as a major import/export hub for commodities including sisal, soap hemp, cotton, rice and peanuts. (Overnight Toliara) BLD

Day 15: Monday 25 September, Toliara – Antsokay – Ambondrolava – Toliara

- Arboretum d'Antsokay
- Mangrove Ambondrolava
- **Fitness Criteria:** An easy walk along boardwalks. Duration: 1.5hrs

At 7.30am we depart for a visit to the splendid Arboretum d'Antsokay, located 12km south-east of Toliara. Created in the early 80s on the initiative of a Swiss amateur botanist, Hermann Petignat, the arboretum is devoted to the conservation of plants from the south-western part of Madagascar. In close

collaboration with many institutions including the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and WWF, it presents a fabulous collection of Madagascar succulents and spiny forest flora. Lunch will be at leisure.

In the afternoon, we will drive northwards of the town of Toliara to the village of Ambondrolava to visit the mangrove which the community protects and restore on a project initiated by [Reef Doctor](#). The visit will be carried out walking along boardwalks, a safe way into visiting the mangrove without sinking into the mud. The one and half hour visit or so will bring awareness of the ecology of the mangroves and our obligation to protect it for future generations. The visit will also give us the chance to observe aquatic birds. In the late afternoon we return to Toliara. (Overnight Toliara) BD

### Antananarivo – 1 night

Day 16: Tuesday 26 September, Toliara – Antananarivo

- Flight Toliara – Antananarivo
- Royal Hill of Ambohimanga
- Time at leisure

Following a morning flight from Toliara to Antananarivo we spend the remainder of the day exploring the city, including the UNESCO heritage listed Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, one of the most important spiritual and historic sites for the Malagasy people. Occupied since the 15th century, it was a fortified political capital, royal palace and royal burial ground. In the nineteenth century, the French colonial authorities made several attempts to undermine the significance and national symbolism of Ambohimanga, all of which proved unsuccessful. (Overnight Antananarivo) BLD

### Andasibe National Park – 3 nights

Day 17: Wednesday 27 September, Antananarivo – Marozevo – Andasibe

- Peyrieras Reptile Reserve (Mandraka Nature Farm), Marozevo
- **Fitness Criteria:** Our visit to the reserve may include an optional ten-minute hike to the top of a nearby hill, where a family of Coquerel's Sifaka (*Propithecus coquereli*) and a group of Common Brown Lemurs (*Eulemur fulvus*) reside. The hillside is quite steep. Duration: 2hrs
- Early evening walk in the VOI Community managed forest of the Reserve of Indri d' Analamazaotra
- **Fitness Criteria:** The night walk starts at around 1800 from the entrance to the VOI preserve. The trail, winding in the understorey of the forest, is reasonably flat. Duration: 1.5hrs

This morning we depart Antananarivo for Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, an important area of protected rainforest and home to the largest of the lemur species, the Indri. En route we stop at the Peyrieras Reptile Reserve, founded by the French entomologist and naturalist André Peyri ras, for a close-up look at some of Madagascar's numerous reptiles and amphibians, including several species of chameleons, snakes, geckos and frogs. We arrive at our atmospheric lodge set on the edge of the rainforest in the late afternoon.

In the early evening we make our first visit to the special Reserve of Indri d'Analamazaotra with a stroll through the VOI community managed forest. Here we search for a number of nocturnal species including various tree frogs, chameleons, the Eastern Woolly Lemur (*Avahi laniger*), Furry-Eared Dwarf Lemur (*Cheirogalus crossleyi*) and Goodman's Mouse Lemur (*Microcebus Lehilahitsara*). (Overnight Andasibe) BLD

Day 18: Thursday 28 September, Andasibe

- Bird watching and nature tour of Maromizaha Reserve

- **Fitness Criteria:** Hiking trails over a mix of flat and hilly terrain. As our plan is to combine birdwatching and wildlife, lemurs in particular, we cannot limit walks to the lower elevation. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 4-5hrs.

Early in the morning, we will visit the Maromizaha Reserve. This protected rainforest area, located just a few kilometres from Analamazaotra-Mantadia National Park, remains largely undiscovered by tourists. However, its biodiversity is truly remarkable. The breathtaking view over Andasibe's rainforests makes every effort worthwhile, and when the haunting calls of the Indri echo through the treetops, the moment becomes absolutely unforgettable.

The Réserve de Ressources Naturelles de Maromizaha is a protected area managed by GERP (Groupe d'Étude et de Recherche sur les Primates de Madagascar). Spanning 1880 hectares, it lies in the central highlands at an altitude of 751 to 1250 meters. Hikes through the reserve lead visitors across a mix of flat and hilly terrain.

The lemur diversity in Maromizaha is just as remarkable as in Analamazaotra-Mantadia National Park, with 13 different species. These include critically endangered diurnal lemurs such as the Indri indri, Diademed Sifaka, and Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, alongside the elusive nocturnal Aye-aye.

With 93 recorded bird species, Maromizaha is a paradise for birdwatchers. Endemic rarities include the Madagascar Rail, Schlegel's Asity, Pitta-like Ground Roller, Rufous Vanga, Madagascar Crested Ibis, and Madagascar Sparrowhawk.

The reserve is also home to Madagascar's apex predator, the Fossa, an endemic carnivore that primarily preys on lemurs and other mammals. As a solitary species with vast territorial ranges, it is classified as vulnerable, as is the Malagasy Civet. Additionally, Maromizaha shelters 30 reptile species and 60 amphibian species.

The flora of the park is equally extraordinary, with an astonishing 90% of its plant species found nowhere else in the world. The lush rainforest is covered in mosses, lichens, orchids, palms, pandanus, tree ferns, and dragon trees, making it a true Garden of Eden. (Overnight Andasibe) BLD

#### Day 19: Friday 29 September, Andasibe

- Birdwatching and nature tour of the special Reserve of Indri d'Analamazaotra
- **Fitness Criteria:** Hiking trails in the reserve are steep in spots and can be sandy/muddy. Group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. Duration: 3-4hrs.
- Lemur Island

This morning we explore the special Reserve of Indri d'Analamazaotra (better known as Perinet), world famous for its population of Indri, whose unforgettable wail can be heard emanating from the misty forest throughout the day, most commonly in the early morning. There are about 60 resident family groups of two to five Indris each. In 2005 the Goodman's Mouse Lemur was discovered here and identified as a distinct species. There are numerous other species to see as well, such as the Bamboo Lemur and the Brown Lemur, the Emerald-Green Parson's Chameleon and a number of rainforest dependent birds.

In the middle of the afternoon, we visit Lemur Island, a tiny reserve owned by Vakona Lodge, home to three species of lemur including the Bamboo Lemur, the Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur and the Brown Lemur. Here we may obtain a close-up view of these endemic creatures. (Overnight Andasibe) BLD

## Antananarivo - 1 night

Day 20: Saturday 30 September, Andasibe – Antananarivo

- Return journey to Antananarivo
- Farewell Dinner

Late morning we commence our return journey to Antananarivo. This evening we enjoy a farewell meal at a local restaurant. (Overnight Antananarivo) BLD

Day 21: Sunday 1 October, Antananarivo TOUR ENDS

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

Following some time at leisure in the morning we transfer to the Antananarivo airport in order to check-in for our late afternoon flight to Mauritius, MK289 which is scheduled to depart at 1700hrs. Note: due to schedule changes, the connecting flight to Perth now operates on Tuesday 29th September. A 2-night stopover in Mauritius will therefore be required. B

## Accommodation

Hotel reservations are currently under preparation. The following should be used as a guide only. WiFi is not available in a number of the locations we will be visiting.

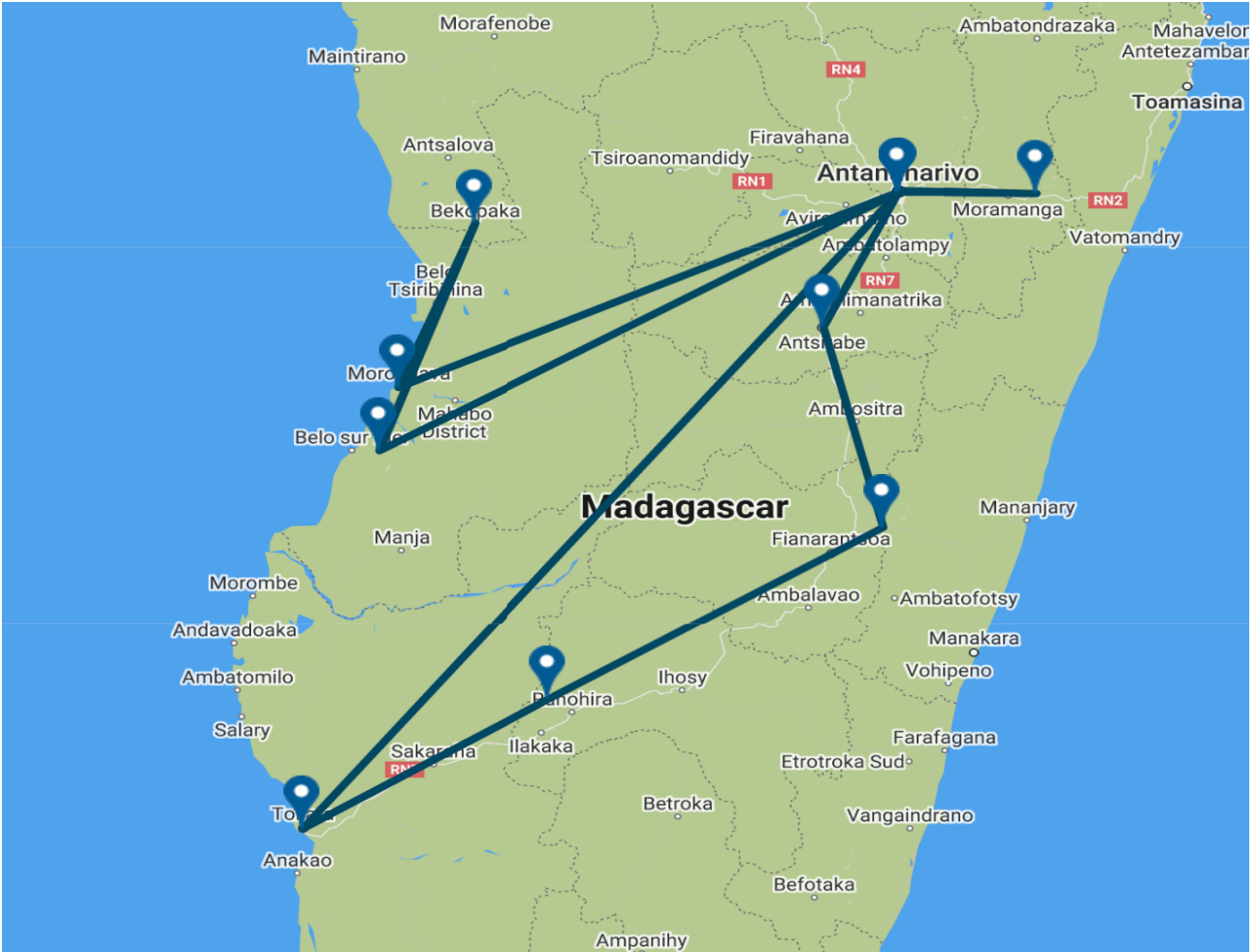
- Antananarivo (1 night): 4-star [Hôtel & Spa Palissandre](#) – a charming hotel located in downtown Antananarivo, with panoramic views over the city. The hotel offers rooms equipped with en suite bathroom. Facilities: outdoor swimming pool, restaurant & free WiFi.
- Kirindy Forest Reserve (1 night): [Relais du Kirindy](#) – located in the forest reserve, offers accommodation in 20 bungalows. Facilities: outdoor swimming pool, bar & restaurant.
- Tsingy de Bemaraha (3 nights): 4-star [Soleil des Tsingy](#) – the lodge, located in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site, offers spectacular views of the surrounding scenery. Accommodation is provided in bungalows equipped with en suite bathroom and fans (no air-conditioning). Facilities: restaurant, bar and infinity swimming pool overlooking the forested valley below. WiFi is not available.
- Morondava (1 night): 4-star [Hôtel Palissandre Côte Ouest](#) – located at Nosy Kely on the beach of Morondava, 30 minutes drive from the Avenue of Baobabs. The hotel offers spacious air-conditioned bungalows, all with a private terrace, and equipped with en suite bathroom. Facilities: bar, restaurant and swimming pool and free WiFi.
- Antananarivo (1 night): 4-star [Hôtel & Spa Palissandre](#) – as outlined above.
- Antsirabe (1 night): 4-star [Couleur Café](#) - providing simple but comfortable accommodation surrounded by gardens or 3-star [Les Chambre du Voyageur](#)
- Ranomafana (3 nights): 3-star [Hotel Thermal](#) – located in the town of Ranomafana, the hotel offers air-conditioned rooms equipped with en suite bathroom, minibar and TV. Facilities: large restaurant and bar.
- Isalo (2 nights): 4-star [Hôtel Le Jardin du Roy](#) – a luxury lodge located on the southern boundary of Isalo National Park. Built from granite to blend in with the landscape, the lodge offers air-conditioned rooms with en suite bathroom housed in eight thatched bungalows. Facilities: outdoor swimming pool, free WiFi & restaurant.
- Toliara (2 nights): 3-star [Hotel Moringa](#) – located in the centre of Toliara. Each room features a terrace or balcony and is equipped with en suite bathroom and WiFi. Facilities: restaurant
- Antananarivo (1 night): 4-star [Hôtel & Spa Palissandre](#) – as outlined above.
- Andasibe (3 nights): 3-star [Mantadia Lodge](#) – situated 2.1km from the Mitsinjo Reserve and 2.4km from the Analamazoatra Reserve. The lodge offers rooms scattered in a garden overlooking the forest. All rooms have a private terrace and are equipped with en suite bathroom, safe and satellite TV. Facilities: swimming pool & restaurant.
- Antananarivo (1 night): 4-star [Hôtel & Spa Palissandre](#) – as outlined above.

*Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Single Room Accommodation

Single rooms will be apportioned to those who book first. Due to the extremely limited accommodation options available in some regions, we may not be able to offer you a single room throughout the tour. Approximately one month prior to departure, rooming lists will be confirmed. If you have booked a single supplement but must forego a single room in some places the single supplement for those hotels will be refunded to you.

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2027

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities including 3- and 4-star hotels, eco-lodges and bungalow-style accommodation.
- Meals, indicated in the itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals include water only.
- Transportation the majority of which will be by 4WD vehicles
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (where available)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Service of Madagasy National Guide and local guides for all national park visits
- Entrance fees to national parks and other sites as outlined in the itinerary
- 3 internal flights: Toliara to Antananarivo and return flight from Antananarivo to Morondava
- Bottled water during all excursions
- Tips for the coach driver, driver's assistant, Malagasy national guide, local national park guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include

- Airfare: Australia - Antananarivo, Antananarivo - Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visa for Madagascar.
- Note: Headset whisperers are not included for this tour as they are not available, and not considered practical for this tour program.



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

### Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

In 2028 this will be one of ASA's most challenging tours.

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace; some days for at least 5-7km.
- negotiate challenging walks through several national parks. Walks can be steep and strenuous, on uneven, muddy/sandy terrain; distances covered depend on wildlife sought and group's ability. The detailed itinerary provides further details for each key activity included and where easier options are available.
- contend with extremely poor road conditions. Over the past 5 years Madagascar has experienced an unprecedented level of road degradation. As a result some days may include 10 or even 12 hours of travel. The route to Tsingy de Bemeraha is by 4WD along an extremely dusty, pot-holed, dirt track.
- contend with a demanding schedule that includes regular early morning starts at 7.00 or 7.30am. A number of nocturnal walks are also included.
- climb several flights of stairs without duress.
- withstand varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.
- travel with realistic expectations. You may encounter:
  - rudimentary toilets outside main cities.
  - changes to the itinerary and daily schedule due to airline reschedules, poor weather or road conditions.

- limited options for changing money.
- The food offer in Madagascar, while good and tasty, does not always cater to special dietary requirements. Please contact ASA in advance of your reservation if you have any queries.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

### National Park Walks

During visits to the national parks the group may be divided into smaller groups based on ability levels. It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. However, during visits to the national parks there will be at least two guides to escort us. We shall also be accompanied by our English-speaking tour guide from Wild Madagascar. This effectively means we have 3 guides escorting us during our visits to the national parks which will enable us, if necessary, to sub-divide into small groups according to preference and ability levels. Whoever cannot catch up with the rest of the group or feels tired, may either return to the entrance of the national park, shorten their visit or take a short-cut to meet the rest of the group at a different place. If you have any doubts about your ability to manage on this program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

### Transportation

Due to current road infrastructure the majority of this tour will be conducted using 4WD vehicles. These vehicles are mainly station wagons (Toyota Land Cruiser or Nissan Patrol). The track to Bekopaka from Belo Tsiribihina is pot-holed and dusty which limits the average speed to a maximum of 20km per hour.

### Weather

We have elected to run this tour in September which falls within the dry season offering pleasant weather with minimal rain making it ideal for wildlife viewing and hiking. Spring officially begins in September.

- Antananarivo and the Central Highlands average high: 24°C ; average low: 13°C.
- West Coast: average high: 31°C ; average low: 20°C.
- South/Toliaria: average high: 29°C ; average low: 16°C.

### What to Bring

- Malaria is a problem in many parts of Madagascar, especially the wetter rainforest areas. Be

prepared and take a good anti-malarial prophylactic (we recommend you avoid using LARIUM, which may cause side effects)

- Mosquito repellent is essential
- Good walking boots are a must
- Head torch
- Trekking day-pack
- Light runners can be useful for evenings and travel days
- A small pair of binoculars or field glasses is a must for enthusiastic birdwatchers
- A good personal first aid kit
- Walking poles
- Sunhat & sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- A small collapsible umbrella for extra shade
- Light clothing for daytime activities
- Pullovers are recommended for the evenings in the central high plateau and in the mountains
- A windbreaker or raincoat is recommended for any trip to Madagascar regardless of the destination and the season.

Prior to departure, tour members will receive detailed practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. See also [smartraveller advice for Madagascar](#).

### Visa Requirements Madagascar

All foreign visitors to the Republic of Madagascar require entry visas. You can apply for this online via the [Madagascar Online Portal for E-Visa](#) website.

### Luggage

This tour requires that you take a minimum of luggage and that your suitcase is suitable for rough conditions. Please consider:

- The majority of excursions are undertaken by 4WD vehicles where your luggage may be carried in racks on top of the vehicle.
- Strict luggage allowance applies to the domestic flights included in this tour.

### Mobile Phones

International mobile roaming is available throughout Madagascar, but is expensive.

### Changing Money

Outside of Antananarivo cash machines are not widely available and many often don't work. Bring cash into the country; Euros are favoured. The local guide will be able to assist you in changing currency.

## Booking Conditions

## ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$200.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$800.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$1000.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$200.00 per person deposit, less a \$66.00 service fee (including GST).



# Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

## Booking before the tour price is available

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD\$200.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD\$800.00 per person applicable for International tours OR AUD\$300.00 per person applicable for Australian tours. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your full deposit is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

**OR**

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$200.00 per person deposit, less a \$66.00 service fee (including GST).

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth / / \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER Male  Female

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like:  a twin-bedded room  a double-bedded room  a room for sole occupancy  
I am travelling:  on my own  with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish  poultry  red meat  dairy products

eggs  pork  nuts

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence  Postal Mail  Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour.

ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities *without assistance or support*:-

- walk & stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_



# Intention to Travel Payment

## Tour / Course Name

---

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

Payment by (please indicate):  Cheque  Direct Debit (see below)  Credit Card (see below)

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ  
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
Swift Code ANZBAU3M  
BSB 013-423  
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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