



## BEST OF MADAGASCAR

Curious and other-worldly, Madagascar is full of surprises and extraordinary creatures.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Madagascar, Africa



12 days from AU\$18,555 pp



Private

# Journey Overview

## Overview

Curious and other-worldly, Madagascar is full of surprises and extraordinary creatures. Its wildlife and landscapes found nowhere else on earth and a culture far removed from any of its near neighbours. On this fascinating journey you'll explore the island nation and its flora and fauna with the help of expert guides. Seek out eight species of lemur in Andasibe National Park, whilst night walks in the Ifotaka rainforest will reveal that the wildlife never sleeps. In their sacred forests you can meet the traditional Malagasy Antandroy tribe before you head to the turquoise waters, fine sandy beaches and vibrant forests of Anjajavy.

## Journey Highlights

- Seek out rare animal and birdlife on escorted wildlife outings by day and night
- Observe the huge variety of lemur species and stunning chameleons in the country's finest national parks
- Experience the unique culture of the Antandroy tribe, one of Madagascar's most traditional
- Immerse yourself in the mangroves and forests of Anjajavy, rich in extraordinary flora and fauna
- Stay at a range of intimate hotels, camps and lodges



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Antananarivo**

Arrive into the quirky Malagasy capital Antananarivo and transfer to your hotel, a restored colonial mansion.

***Maison Gallieni | Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Antananarivo - Andasibe National Park**

Head east out of the city today to Andasibe through a panorama of rice fields, redbrick houses and roadside stalls selling seasonal fruits and vegetables. Andasibe is a stunning rainforest park comprising two protected areas — the Perinet Special Reserve and Mantadia National Park.

After settling into your lodge, visit Mitsinjo Forest Reserve, a private reserve operated by a local NGO funding reforestation, community education and Madagascar's first amphibian captive-breeding facility. Enjoy a guided night walk, keeping an eye out for the endemic lemur species, spectacular insects, floral marvels and other natural wonders.

***Mantadia Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Andasibe National Park**

Visit the nearby Mantadia National Park known for its rare orchids, waterfalls and wildlife including the indri, considered to be the largest lemur in the world. There are another 10 species of lemur to spot as you walk along the forest trails, as well as an abundance of birds including the scaly ground roller, the pitta-like ground roller and the red-breasted coua amongst other diverse flora and fauna. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park and see the Rianasoa waterfall.

***Mantadia Lodge | Meals: BLD***

**Day 4: Andasibe National Park - Antananarivo**

Spend a day in the 810-hectare Perinet Reserve in search of the numerous species of lemur, including the indri, grey bamboo lemur, common brown lemur, diademed sifaka and black and white ruffed lemur. Birdwatchers should look out for the velvet asity, blue coua and nuthatch vanga and many more endemic species. Perinet is also home to many reptiles, invertebrates, and some of Madagascar's thousand orchid species.

Return to the lodge for lunch before your afternoon transfer by road back to the capital.

***Novotel Convention & Spa Antananarivo | Meals: BLD***

**Day 5: Antananarivo - Ifotaka**

Transfer for the flight to Fort Dauphin and on by road to Mandrare River Camp in the Ifotaka region. This afternoon head out on a walk to the sacred community forests filled with the ancestral tombs of the local Antandroy tribe.

***Mandrare River Camp | Meals: BLD***

**Days 6-7: Ifotaka**

Two days to enjoy all the activities on offer. Drive to the sacred forests, home to an abundance of wildlife, in particular large groups of ring-tailed lemurs. Visit nearby markets to see the rich tapestry of valley life. Travel to the forest of Zenavo, a rewarding spot for night walks and head out in search of sifakas and sleeping white-foot sportive lemurs.

***Mandrare River Camp | Meals: BLD***

**Day 8: Ifotaka - Antananarivo**

Return by road to Fort Dauphin airport for your flight back to Antananarivo. Transfer to your hotel.

***Novotel Convention & Spa Antananarivo | Meals: BLD***

**Day 9: Antananarivo - Anjajavy**

After an early breakfast, transfer to Ivato Airport in time for your scheduled charter to Anjajavy. Anjajavy Lodge is located within a 450 hectare nature reserve on Madagascar's north-west coast. The surrounding forest is alive with lemurs, chameleons, malachite kingfishers and hummingbirds. As the sun sets you will depart for a night walk in the reserve to spot a variety of nocturnal lemurs. While the reserve's show-stoppers are undoubtedly the charismatic coquerel's sifakas, the hours of darkness also have their star performers. Other mammals to spot are the endemic tsingy tuft-tailed rat, Commerson's leaf-nosed bat, or Madagascar's largest predator - the rare and elusive fossa.

***Anjajavy Lodge | Meals: BLD*****Day 10: Anjajavy**

This morning, depart for a walk along the 'Chemin des Crabes' to see the fabulous birdlife, beautiful baobabs and of course, the famous hairy crab. Even if bird watching isn't your thing, you can't help but be enchanted by the kaleidoscope of colours and shapes of the reserve's common birds, from the vibrant red fody and Souimanga sunbird to the exotic paradise flycatcher and sickle-billed vanga. At the end of the walk, you will visit a small cave where you will find a fossilized lemur skull, stalactites and sharks' teeth.

Afterwards, explore the mangroves, forests and extraordinary formations known as tsingy located in the Anjajavy Reserve. Travelling by kayak or vehicle, you will learn about the first project aimed at repatriating the Giant Tortoise back into Madagascar, visit a young coconut grove, as well as a number of small caves featuring an animist culturalite and open ancestral Sakalava burials sites.

***Anjajavy Lodge | Meals: BLD***

**Day 11: Anjajavy - Antananarivo**

Board a boat for an exploration of the mysterious islands of Moramba Bay. Discover the centuries-old marine baobabs, the sandy beaches, and the mushroom shaped tsingy islands. Search for one of the rarest raptors in the world, the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle, and if the water is clear, enjoy some snorkelling.

This afternoon, head out on a long walk along the Giant's Causeway and King's Alley. You will discover ancient baobab trees, tsingy rock formations found only in Madagascar, along with a variety of lemurs including the Coquerel's sifakas.

***Anjajavy Lodge / Meals: BLD***

**Day 12: Depart Antananarivo**

Transfer to the airstrip for your morning flight to back to Antananarivo where your Madagascan adventure ends.

***Meals: B***

# Map



## Accommodation

### Mandrare River Camp, Ifotaka Forest



Nestled in the shade of tamarind trees on the banks of the Mandrare River, the secluded Mandrare River Camp offers exclusive accommodation in just six large tents all with four poster bed, en suite bathrooms, bucket showers and hot water on demand. Each tent has a balcony allowing beautiful views over the river which is the lifeblood of the region. Dining is a treat with meals prepared from the finest of ingredients and fresh home-baked patisseries. Activities include day and night walks, 4WD trips, birding and cultural visits.

In an area so richly diverse and removed from the western world, revel in the opportunity to see first-hand the life and culture of the Antandroy. By protecting the Sacred Forests, where the Antandroy ancestors rest in their ornate tombs, the tribe has managed to preserve large pristine wilderness areas and through the traditions of Fady (social taboos) they not only protect but genuinely live in harmony with their environment.

Day and night walks reveal the forests in detail and the wildlife that lives within them. In this area there are four species of lemur, the ring-tailed, Verreaux's sifaka, mouse and white foot sportive (both nocturnal). The birding is also exceptional with at least 15 resident species in camp and many more in the surrounding wooded areas, including scops owl, malachite kingfisher, Verreaux's coua and many raptors.



### Why we like it?

- Within close proximity to the village of Ifotaka and opposite the sacred ancestral forests of the Antandroy Tribe
- Awake to the sound of locals singing as they fetch water from the river
- Tents with views of the Mandrare River and mountains beyond
- Visit Gallery Forest with its excellent sifaka and ring-tailed lemur populations
- Freshly baked French patisseries prepared daily

## Mantadia Lodge, Andasibe-Mantadia National Park



Lying just south of Madagascar's Andasibe-Mantadia National Park is Mantadia Lodge, opening its hilltop doors outside the tiny town of Andasibe, the gateway to the breathtaking rainforest.

The lodge's 25 comfortably appointed rooms include 10 twin rooms and one family suite, suitable for up to five people. All rooms offer panoramic views with individual private terraces, an indoor lounge and a wood stove to keep you warm during the cooler months.

The on-site restaurant serves three courses to a set menu for lunch and dinner, as well as a sweet and savoury breakfast buffet. If you are out and about all day on safari, a picnic lunch can be packed on request, to be enjoyed between spotting Indri Indri lemur and other endemic wildlife.

Relax after a day of safari with a visit to the lodge spa, indulging in a massage with natural Madagascan oils, a dip in the spa or some laps in the outdoor pool.

## Maison Gallieni, Antananarivo



Overlooking the Antananarivo cityscape from high on Faravohitra Hill, Maison Gallieni will wow all clients alike with its stunning interior and top-notch service with all the personal touches. Enjoy homely meals, tasteful décor and access to all the sights. Here, you're only a few hundred metres from the famous Faravohitra Cathedral and a short stroll from Analakely's red-roofed market stalls. The renowned Independence Avenue is also close by.

Using ecological light sources and recycled rainwater, this exclusive boutique hotel is an eco-conscious choice. All four bedrooms are equipped with air conditioning. On the ground floor, the Monaco room opens onto the pool while Tana has a big sunny bathroom. Upstairs, Fara opens onto the garden while Gallieni has a marvellous view of the town as well as an Italian bath and shower.

As well as the outdoor and indoor lounges, you can also use the library and heated swimming pool, and the garden veranda is the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner while reflecting on your active days here in the Malagasy capital.

### Why we like it

- Located on the site of Madagascar's first bank
- A delightfully exclusive boutique hotel
- Attentive service and a creative inhouse chef
- Library, pool and other great facilities in this homely environment

# Abercrombie & Kent

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