

## HISTORY

Madagascar is often referred to as the eighth continent for its native species—80 percent of which are found nowhere else on Earth. In many ways, Madagascar is literally a land that time forgot. It is the world's fourth-largest island and lies in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa opposite Mozambique. The original inhabitants had roots in the Polynesian, Africa, Indian, and Arabic cultures. Over many hundreds of years, an incredible synthesis of tradition, religion, language, and genetics took place, creating a traditional society remarkable in its uniformity of language and beliefs, and striking in its physical beauty.

European settlement began in about 1500 despite efforts by the local tribes to maintain their traditional isolation. However, in 1794, King Andrianampoinimerina managed to unite the various tribes of Madagascar, forming a single kingdom, and by 1817, Andrianampoinimerina's son, King Radama I, had formed friendly relationships with the major European powers—even inviting British missionaries who introduced the Roman alphabet and Christianity to Radama's subjects.

But immediately after Radama's death in 1828, his widow (Queen Ranaivalona) took the throne. Referred to even to this day as



the wicked queen, Ranaivalona forced the missionaries out of Madagascar, and executed her subjects with an unusual zeal. Queen Ranaivalona died in 1861, turning the reins of power over to a succession of largely ineffective monarchs.

In 1883, the French attacked Madagascar, which first became a French protectorate, and then, in 1895, a full-fledged French colony. The monarchy was abolished, and French became the official language. Finally, in 1958, France granted Madagascar its independence, and the new country was named the Malagasy Republic.

This tour, which focuses on the native ecology and traditions of the island, has been arranged with the help of a Malagasy travel agency and the advice of Linda Layfield, a former Madagascar resident now living in Yakima. The basic itinerary is as follows:

**Mon., Oct 10, 2016:** Depart the US

**Tue., Oct 11:** Arrival in the country capital of Antananarivo (more commonly known Tana) and transfer to lodging at the Louvre Hotel.



**Wed., Oct 12:** Rest and recuperate from the long flight.

**Thu., Oct 13:** Our trip gets underway with a visit to the King's Palace at Ambohimanga (Blue Hill), the original capital of the Merina royal family and where the structures date from the late 1700's. We will then have a great time shopping at handicrafts market of Andravoahangy. Dinner will be served at "Poivre Vert Restaurant".



**Fri., Oct 14:** Transfer to Tana airport and fly to Morondava where we will be staying at the Palissandre Cote Ouest Hotel

**Sat., Oct 15:** Prepare for a long day of riding in a 4WD vehicle as we explore unspoiled wilderness on the 9-hour drive to Bekopaka. We will cross the Belo sur Tsiribihina and Manamboo rivers by ferry before reaching our lodging for well-earned rest at the Soleil des Tsingy Hotel.

**Sun./Mon., Oct 16/17:** This will be an adventure-filled two days, the first includes a canoe expedition along the Manambolo river to discover caves and tombs of the Vazimba, who lived on, and ruled Madagascar in the second century until overthrown by the Merina. We will also visit the Tsingy of Bemaraha National



## ITINERARY

Park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site made up of towering, jagged, limestone pinnacles formed over centuries by wind and water erosion.

**Tue., Oct 18:** We shall drive back to Morondava with a stop at the Avenue of Baobabs to observe the Baobabs at sunset. Lodging will again be at the Palissandre Cote Ouest Hotel.



**Wed., Oct 19:** Plan for a full day at leisure in Morondava, where you'll be able to discover village life, enjoy the beach, and/or book yourself into the hotel's full-service spa.



**Thu., Oct 20:** We fly back to Tana and our happy home at the Louvre Hotel.

**Fri./Sat./Sun. Oct 21-23:** We will drive to Andasibe, but stop on the way to visit the Madagascar Exotic park, where you will have the opportunity to see many of the small critters that inhabit the rain forests, spiny forests, &

deserts of Madagascar. We will also visit Andasible Park and the Vakona Private Reserve, where we will take a canoe to cross over to the lemur island. You then may relax and swim or hike over the hill to visit a garden & animal park with birds, crocs, & see a fusa, the only predator of lemurs. We will go back to the Vakona park at night as well to see nocturnal lemurs. Vakona Lodge.



**Mon., Oct 24:** We drive to Manambato, and then take a boat transfer to Akanin'ny Nofy, where we will check into the Bushhouse Hotel.

## ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Tue., Oct 25:** Plan to visit Palmarium, a private reserve where you will see a variety of species of lemurs, and then embark on a boat expedition to visit typical Betsimisaraka village with its school and nursery and visit the Indian Ocean shore.



**Wed., Oct 26:** This will be another day spent in Akanin'ny Nofy, where you can walk along the lake to discover carnivorous plants and other native flora. We will also return to Palmarium at dark to discover the Aye Aye, the nocturnal species of lemurs.

**Thu., Oct 27:** After a boat transfer to Tamatave, we will fly to the beautiful to the Isle Sainte Marie and continue on to Iles aux Nattes and our lodgings at the Bamboo Village Resort.

**Fri./Sat. Oct 28/29:** Spend days at leisure exploring Sainte Marie island, hiking to the light house, viewing lemurs in the forest, and/or enjoying the ocean or the quiet lagoon.

**Sun., Oct 30:** A travel day as we fly back to Tana and our lodgings at the Louvre Hotel.

**Mon., Oct 31:** Our last full day on this wonderful

island. We will visit Lemur Park and the Rova, which is the Queen's Palace on a hilltop overlooking Tana. There will then be ample time for shopping at the Digue craft market where you will find a stunning variety of crafts and artifacts from all over the island at "bargainable" prices. We end the day with a farewell dinner at "Villa Vanille" (a fitting finale considering Malagasy vanilla is considered the finest in the world and Madagascar provides at least half of the world's vanilla).



**Tue., Nov 1:** We pack and bid a sad good-bye to an incredible adventure before our flights home leave in the early hours of November 2.

## THE BUSINESS DETAILS

The price person (double occupancy) will be 3,589 euros (circa \$3,912 in January 2016). Single supplement is 869 euros (c \$947) Limited to 12 participants. This includes all accommodation on a full-board basis, all domestic transportation in Madagascar including the domestic air; all entrance and guidance fees at parks and reserves, all transfers airport/hotel/airport, and English speaking guide throughout, and your tour escort John Baule. Travel insurance and the international air will be additional.

A deposit of \$1,000 is due by March 31, 2016 to confirm your reservation.



## HOTELS

Due to the centralized nature of travel in Madagascar and the road network, it is necessary to return to the capital city of Tana midway in our visit. The following is the summary of our hotel stays. Please bear in mind we tried to arrange as little hotel-changing as we could, but to see the entire country, we will be moving more than perhaps on some trips.

**October 11-13** - 3 nights - Tana - Louvre Hotel

**October 14** - 1 night - Morondava - Palissandre Cote Ouest Hotel

**October 15-17** - 3 nights - Bekopaka - Soleil des Tsingy Hotel

**October 18-19** - 2 nights - Morondava - Pallissandre Cote Ouest Hotel

**October 20** - 1 night - Tana - Louvre Hotel

**October 21-23** - 3 nights - Andasible - Vakona Lodge

**October 24-26** - 3 nights - Akanin'ny Nofy - Bushhouse Hotel

**October 27-29** - 3 nights - Iles aux Nattes - Bamboo Village Resort

**October 30-31** - 2 nights - Tana - Louvre Hotel

# Madagascar

## October 10- November 2 2016



## For Information Contact:

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