An island of adventure! Discover rare lemurs, colourful tribes, stunning national parks, tropical beaches, bustling markets and ever-changing scenery in 12 breathtaking days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

• Antananarivo - capital of Madagascar
• Andasibe National Park - See the largest lemurs, the Indri Indri
• Beautiful Antsirabe
• Colourful Ambositra - home of the wood carving industry
• Ranomafana National Park - Lemurs, chameleons, birds and reptiles
• Wine tasting at Ambalavao
• Isalo National Park - the Natural Swimming Pool
• Diving, snorkelling, birdwatching or relaxing at Ifaty Beach
• Andsibe Village and tribal people

What's Included

• 11 breakfasts
• 11 days 3-4 star accommodation. Please Note: Accommodation named, may be subject to change but will be of a similar standard
• Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 12
• Andasibe night walk
• Visit to Natural Reserve of Andasibe
• Ranomafana National Park Visit
• Wine tasting and visit to paper factory
• Hike in Isalo National Park
• English-speaking guide for groups of 4 of more passengers (days 1-9)
• Specialist local guides in the national parks
• All entrance fees to sites, and excursions mentioned in itinerary
• All relevant transfers and transportation in a minibus (vehicle may vary for 2-3 passengers)

What's Not Included

• International flights and visas
• Internal flight between Tulear to Tana (Antananarivo)
• Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
• Drinks and items of a personal nature

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Antananarivo

Upon arrival into Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight - Andasibe

Day 2 : Antananarivo

Antananarivo – Andasibe. After breakfast we start our journey with a drive to Andasibe through the green and luxuriant vegetation of the east. This first step brings you to the humid part of the country with many primary forests and lakes. Along the way we will see Merina villages in the rocky mountains. Arrive at Andasibe in the afternoon and check-in to the hotel. Later this evening enjoy a night walk in the area of Andasibe to observe night active lemurs and other nocturnal animals. Overnight - Andasibe (B)

Day 3 : Natural Reserve of Andasibe

A morning visit to the Special Reserve of Andasibe, to see the Indri Indri, the largest lemurs on the island. This 810 ha reserve is unique with its endemic fauna and flora. It contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. After the visit, walk through the orchid park to admire all the nice flowers. In the afternoon, we visit the Vakona lemur island, a private reserve offering up close photo opportunities with the many habituated lemurs who find refuge there. We overnight at the same hotel. Overnight - Andasibe (B)
Day 4 : Lilly Waterfall & Antsirabe

Andasibe - Antsirabe. Drive back to Tana, and head south to Antsirabe, across the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields on stage. The spectacular eroded hills called ‘lavaka’ reminiscent of the Far East with its rice fields and green landscape with vegetables and fruit trees. After a quick lunch stop in a forested area, we arrive in Ampeny and visit the thundering Lilly waterfall before continuing our journey to Antsirabe. Antsirabe, aka ‘the place of salt’, is an elegant city well known as the centre of the beer industry. We then head south to Antsirabe, across the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields on stage. The spectacular eroded hills called ‘lavaka’ reminiscent of the Far East with its rice fields and green landscape with vegetables and fruit trees.

Day 5 : Ranomafana National Park

Antsirabe - Ranomafana National Park. After breakfast, we drive to Ambosostra, the centre of Madagascar’s wood carving industry. We are still in the highland, which is characterized by its architecture: The houses are made with ornately carved wooden balconies and shutters with bright colours. Further on we pass the ‘le col de tapia’, a type of tree shutters with bright colours. Further on we pass the ‘le col de tapia’, a type of tree shutters with bright colours. Further on we pass the ‘le col de tapia’, a type of tree shutters with bright colours. Further on we pass the ‘le col de tapia’, a type of tree shutters with bright colours.

Day 6 : Ranomafana National Park

Parc National de Ranomafana (approximately 40,000ha), with its rain forested hills and abundant wildlife, has long been considered one of Madagascar’s highlights, and is one of the most heavily visited of the country’s national parks. Its entrance lies about 7km from Ranomafana village. Altitudes in the park range from 800m to 1200m. In addition to its densely forested hills, Ranomafana’s terrain is characterised by numerous small streams, which plummet down to the beautiful Namorona River. Although much of the region has been logged, the easternmost part of the park retains relatively large areas of primary forest. We will go for walks in the National Park for several hours spoting some of the lemurs, chameleons and other animals. Overnight - Ranomafana National Park (B)

Day 7 : Wine Tasting & Ihosy

Ranomafana - Fianarantsoa – Isalo. We leave Ranomafana using the road that you entered on, and head to Fianarantsoa ‘the city where one learns good things’. It is the gate to the South and the capital of the Betsileo tribes. This is the centre of the Catholic religion and most of the best schools are found here. En route we visit a local wine farm for wine tasting. The park range from 800m to 1200m. In addition to its densely forested hills, Ranomafana’s terrain is characterised by numerous small streams, which plummet down to the beautiful Namorona River. Although much of the region has been logged, the easternmost part of the park retains relatively large areas of primary forest. We will go for walks in the National Park for several hours spoting some of the lemurs, chameleons and other animals. Overnight - Ranomafana National Park (B)

Day 8 : Isalo National Park

Isalo - 2 –

Today, we will visit and hike in Isalo National Park. The park covers an area of 81 540 ha comprising the entire stretch of the Isalo massif. This huge mountain is spectacular with its eroded sandstone mountain. Today walk to the ‘Natural swimming pool’. After a 10-minute drive from Ranohira village you’ll walk about 1½ hours to reach the Natural Swimming Pool. Along the way, see vegetation like Uapaca Bojeri, Pachypodium Rosulatum or ‘elephant’s foot’, Aloe Isaloensis, a native species of aloe and endemic to Isalo.

We then head southwards to Ambalavao to visit the ‘Anteimoro Paper Factory’ a vestige of the Arabian civilisation in the island and visit Anja Park where you can see some families of ring-tailed lemurs. Then we continue to Ihosy, the capital of the Bara tribes, who are the shepherds of Zebu, and pass through the mountain chain of Andringitra, which serves as a transition between the dry south and green highlands with its famous ‘3 hillocks’ and its huge ‘archbishop’s cape’.

Along the way, we see from afar a spectacular huge granite dome with twin rock towers called: ‘the gate of the south’, which marks the end of the highland and the beginning of the south. The other imposing one is the ‘Bishop’s hat’, which is a sacred place for the local people, as it is a place where their ancestors chose a collective suicide rather than to give in to the Merina tribes. We then pass through the huge ‘Plateaux de Horombe’ where with its very deep red soil, reminds us of ‘the no man’s land’. Arrive in Isalo. Overnight - Isalo (B)
lines of brilliant green, generally made up of numerous Pandanus Pulcher and the delicate, slim-stemmed, feathery leaved palm Chrysalidocarpus Isaloensis. Along the way, for lemur lovers, there may be sifakas, brown lemurs and ringtailed lemurs, as well as fifty-five species of birds, lizards and snakes. Finally reaching the swimming pool, with its crystal clear water. A great reward after your trek. **Overnight - Isalo (B)**

**Day 9 : Ifaty**

Isalo - Tulear - Ifaty. After breakfast, continue to Tulear at the end of National Road N° 7. Admire some different scenery - the dry forests of the west and the spiny desert of the south. En-route see the fascinating ‘Mahafaly Tombs’ and the ‘Antandroy Tombs’. After a short visit of Tulear we drive to Ifaty, which lies about 27 km from Tulear. Due to the bad condition of the road it will take about 2½ hours to reach Ifaty which brings we to the driest part of the country. Situated in the deep south, the landscape is dominated by the spiny forest cacti, Baobab trees and thorn-bushes.

Mangrove trees line the coast alternated by Vezo villages, the locals earn their living from fishing and there are many small pirogues (small traditional fishing boats) lining the coast. The men of the villages typically go fishing twice a day while the women and children await their return to fetch the fish and take them to Tulear for sale. **Overnight - Ifaty (B)**

**Day 10 : Free day in Ifaty**

Day at leisure. Ifaty, being a beachside town is an ideal place for diving, snorkelling and is also a popular destination for birdwatchers. This is a great opportunity to experience the Vezo Fishermen’s life. Many excursions are possible. Visit the ‘Reserve Domergue’, a communal reserve where you can see two species of babobas, spiny bush, reptiles like ‘Boa Madagascariensis, geckos and Parson’s Chameleon (Calumma Parsonii). Take a boat trip to see the whales. From July to mid-September, whales come to the cool sea off Madagascar to give birth to their young. This is a spectacular experience and it is possible to see the whales up close by taking a boat trip. Situated in the largest lagoon of the country, Ifaty is also protected by a large coral reef, which makes it an ideal for diving and snorkelling. In the afternoon you can walk to the village of Mangily where you can visit a local school. **Overnight - Ifaty (B)**

**Day 11 : Fly to Tana**

Ifaty - Tana (Antananarivo). Early in the morning around 6h00, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Tana (Please note the tour price does not include cost of internal flight Tulear - Antananarivo).

Check in at your hotel and enjoy a free afternoon. Tana also called the ‘City of Thousands’ is the capital of Madagascar. It is the city where the first King started to unify the different kingdoms of the island. Built in stages: The high city, the first area occupied during the royal period where the old queen’s palace is situated, the mid-city, where all the chic boutiques of the capital are found and then the low city, which is the commercial area of the town. Our walk can start from the high city to see the Rova, the queen’s palace, the house of the first minister during these days, which is now a museum; all built by Frenchman Jean Laborde during the royal period. The mid-city, or the administration area ends at the Rainiharo tombs and the lower town is situated in the main avenue called ‘L’avenue de l’independence’ dominated by the railway station. **Overnight - Antananarivo (B)**

**Day 12 : Antananarivo**

Today is the end of our tour and you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

**PRICES / DATES INFO**

Prices shown are per person travelling. ‘Twin/Double’ prices per person apply when there are at least 4 people travelling. The ‘Single supplement’ applies for solo travellers who will require their own room and needs to be added to the ‘Twin/Double’ price. A supplement applies for 2-3 people travelling and there is an additional supplement if you require an English speaking guide to escort you throughout the tour (excluding days 9 & 10). Malagasy drivers speak basic English & have general knowledge of history, culture and the fauna & flora in Madagascar. An English speaking guide is included for groups of 4 or more. This safari is run on scheduled dates throughout the year but it can also be tailor–made to meet your dates, time period and group size. Please contact us for details.

**PRICES / DATES 2019**

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of setting. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.