

# 1000 Views of Madagascar

## 12 days | Starts/Ends: Antananarivo



*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

- Ranomafana National Park - spend two days in Madagascar's premier national park, the final stronghold for many of its endemic lemur species
- Isalo National Park - hike to the 'natural swimming pool' for a dip and spot lemur species including sifakas and ringtailed lemurs
- Ifaty - unwind on the beach, snorkel along a stunning coral reef or head inland for a spot of bird-watching
- Andasibe National Park - spot the Indri Indri - Madagascar's largest lemur, and visit a community reserve
- Antananarivo - explore free time to explore the capital of Madagascar, known as the 'City of Thousands'
- Antsirabe - take in the European-style city and smell the beer being produced at the nearby Star Brewery

#### 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 or 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 - Antananarivo**

#### 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-Mantadia National Park (B)**

#### Day 3 : Natural Reserve of Andasibe

We start our morning with a visit to the Special Reserve of Andasibe to see the Indri, the largest lemurs on the island. This 810 ha reserve is unique with its endemic fauna and flora and contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. In the afternoon, we visit the V.O.I.I.M.A community reserve. This reserve provides a sustainable way of saving the remaining rainforests in

### 1000 Views of Madagascar - 12 days

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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 writing. 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.

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the area by creating a livelihood for the local communities through reforestation projects. Here you will also come across a variety of wildlife, ranging from brown lemurs, indri, chameleons, geckos and birds. **Overnight - Andasibe (B)**

## Day 4 : Antsirabe



Andasibe - Antsirabe. We drive back to Tana, and head south to Antsirabe, across the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields on display. The spectacular eroded hills called 'lavaka' remind us of the Far East with its rice fields and green landscape with vegetables and fruit trees.

We stop in Ambatolampy for a quick visit to this huge agricultural city, also recognised as a source of aluminium. Arrival in Antsirabe is around 17h00. 'The place of salt' is an elegant city and known as the centre of the beer industry - we can smell the Star Brewery as we enter the town! Founded by Norwegians in 1856, it is the only place which really feels and looks like a European city. It has a temperate climate and therefore fruit and vegetables which grow in colder climates, are found in Antsirabe. **Overnight - Antsirabe (B)**

## Day 5 : Ranomafana National Park

Antsirabe - Ranomafana National Park. After breakfast, we drive to Ambositra, 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 resistant to the bush fires of the area. The landscape is still dominated by rice fields, pine and eucalyptus trees and rocky mountains. Onward to stunning Ranomafana National

Park. **Overnight - Ranomafana National Park (B)**

## Day 6 : Ranomafana National Park



Ranomafana National Park. The approximately 40,000 ha of Parc National de Ranomafana with its rain forest covered hills and abundant wildlife, has long been considered one of Madagascar's highlights, and is one of the country's national parks most heavily visited. Its entrance lies about 7 km from Ranomafana village and altitudes in the Park Range from 800 m to 1200 m. 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. You will go for long walks in the National Park spotting 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 we 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 near Fianarantsoa. Note that visits to the wine farms may not be possible over weekends.

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)**

## Day 8 : Isalo National Park



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.

Walk through the eroded mountains where the Bara people place their dead before they can be interred into their final resting place. Start the climb and reach the massif, (after a 20 minute walk) where we will have a spectacular view of the huge sandstone mountains with its beautiful colours and its strange and eroded forms creating many

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different images such as 'the tortoise', 'the masks' and 'the crocodiles'. See small streams of water, and rivers which are marked by 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 us 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 baobabs, 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'indépendance' 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)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Andasibe Hotel

Perfect for exploring the Andasibe and Mantadia National Park, this hotel is nestled in the heart of the countryside and boasts its own private forest. Guest accommodation is arranged in comfortable bungalows, each of which offer a small garden and terrace for you to soak up the beautiful surrounds. The onsite restaurant serves typical Malagasy and Oriental cuisine and guests can enjoy a range of activities including nature walks, kayaking and mini golf. Those keen to unwind will also enjoy the outdoor pool and treatment rooms for massages.



### Vakona Forest Lodge

Vakona Forest Lodge offers comfortable bungalows in a peaceful and natural setting. Each bungalow has an outside terrace and an ensuite and guests can sleep safe in the knowledge that they are fully protected by mosquito nets. In the middle of the accommodation complex is the hotel's restaurant from which stunning views of the nearby lake can be had. In the evenings,

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guests can pass the time playing snooker or relaxing in the lounge. The lodge is situated within its own private reserve, just 1km from Andasibe National Park.



## Setam Lodge

Setam Lodge consists of a cluster of beautiful bungalows and a large Malagasy and Oriental restaurant with huge glass windows that bathe diners in natural light. It has comfortable rooms in single story buildings, tastefully decorated in Palissandre wood and equipped with plush furniture. Setam Lodge is located close to the entrance of the Ranomafana National Park and makes the perfect base for those planning on exploring it. With its eco-friendly maintenance policies and outstanding location, guests are sure to fall in love with the Setam Lodge.



## Isalo Rock Lodge

### Le Jardin du Roy

Blending into the sandstone rocks, Jardin du Roy offers upmarket accommodation on the doorstep of Isalo National Park. The stylish and comfortable rooms are spacious and come with air-conditioning and a veranda. The hotel's restaurant offers a range of tantalising dishes, often made using products from its own organic farm. Guests can wrap up their evening with a cocktail or fresh fruit juice at the bar. Le Jardin du Roy hotel is 150 miles from Tamatave on the southern boundary of Isalo National Park.



## Hotel Le Paradisier

Le Paradisier offers comfortable beachside accommodation and has an excellent restaurant, which serves a range of seafood dishes as well as vegetarian meals and plates of a more carnivorous nature. Each of the bungalows contain an en-suite bathroom, mosquito netting and excellent views of the ocean. In the evenings, there is nothing better than watching the sun set over the ocean from the comfort of the cool water of the hotel's infinity pool. Le Paradisier is located on the beautiful Ifaty beach.



## Carlton Hotel

This luxury hotel boasts an excellent location close to the banks of Anosy Lake. Its spacious guestrooms feature marble bathrooms and free WiFi, with guests served a small plate of meringues on arrival. When it comes to dining, guests can take their meals on the terrace, which offers a view over the hotel's outdoor pool. A bar, tennis court and fitness centre add to the list of facilities, making the Carlton Hotel a fantastic place to stay whilst exploring the island of Madagascar.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are per person travelling.  
Prices shown are per person when there

are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person 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 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
05 Apr	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
19 Apr	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
03 May	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
19 May	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
31 May	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
21 Jun	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
05 Jul	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
19 Jul	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
02 Aug	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
23 Aug	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
06 Sep	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
20 Sep	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
04 Oct	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
18 Oct	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
01 Nov	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800
22 Nov	ZAR 40,900	ZAR 57,800