



# MADAGASCAR

## The Island of Lemurs

October 03 - October 11, 2024

Led by Local Guides

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island, first settled by the Austronesian people around 200 AD, followed by the Bantu in the ninth century. Today, it is a diverse country with 18 official ethnic that form the Malagasy people. The largest group is the Merina, ancestors of Borneo in Indonesia, thus having Southeast Asian features. Most know Madagascar for its large population of lemurs, which includes around 103 species and subspecies, but it is also home to many other endemic animals found nowhere else on earth, such as the fossa as well as two-thirds of the world's chameleon species. Over 40 mammal species and 60 reptile species were just recently discovered. The country boasts three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and over 40 national parks, protected areas, and nature reserves. This tour highlights Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

**Thursday, October 03**

**Arrive in Antananarivo (MADAGASCAR)**



Upon arrival in **Antananarivo**, the capital and largest city of Madagascar, meet the local representative and transfer to *Carlton Hotel or similar* for check-in. After some rest, there will be a tour briefing and then overnight.

**Friday, October 04**

**Antananarivo - Andasibe**



After breakfast, travel east towards **Andasibe** through a landscape composed of rice fields, waterfalls, and scarce forest stations. Along the way, explore the **Exotic Park** in **Marozevo** for a chance to see chameleons, frogs, and other reptiles. Also, stop to visit **Vakona Lemur Island** for up close encounters with lemurs - some may even jump on your shoulders! Arrive at *Mantadia Lodge or similar*, located on the edge of Madagascar's **Masoala National Park** in a beautiful setting for check-in, and then embark on a **night walk** around Andasibe to observe active night lemurs and other nocturnal animals. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

**Saturday, October 05**

**Andasibe - Antananarivo**



In the morning, visit the **Special Reserve of Andasibe** to discover the many species dwelling in the forest. In particular, the naturalist guide will search for the Indri, the largest lemurs on the island. This unique 810-hectare reserve contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. In the afternoon, return to Antananarivo, stopping at a local market selling Malagasy handicrafts before transferring to *Carlton Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

**Sunday, October 06**

**Antananarivo - Morondava - Kirindy Reserve**



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to **Morondava** on the country's west coast. Upon arrival begin the drive to **Kirindy Reserve** through the famous **Baobab Alley**, a group of baobab trees that line the road between Morondava and Belon'i Tsiribihina. Baobabs are native to Madagascar and some of the trees are up to 2,800 years old. Arrive at Kirindy Forest, a private reserve that is home to a wide range of endemic vegetation and wildlife including the endangered giant jumping rat and Madame Berthe's mouse lemur, the world's smallest primate. Transfer to *Relais Du Kirindy or similar* for check-in then embark on a night hike to spot nocturnal lemurs

in their natural habitat including the mouse lemur, the Madagascar rat, and perhaps sleeping chameleons. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

**Note: The Relais Du Kirindy is the best option in this region, but does not have adequate a/c. Night-time temperatures average in the mid-70's.**

**Monday, October 07**

**Kirindy Reserve - Tsimafana - Bekopaka**



Early risers can head out on a hike through **Kirindy Dry Forest Reserve**, along mostly flat trails, to spot lemurs, snakes, iguanas, birds, and fossas. Continue the drive to **Tsimafana** and board a ferry across the **Mania River**, which flows from the **Ankaratra Mountain Range**. From the other side, continue the scenic drive through the countryside via the town of **Belo sur Tsiribihina** to **Bekopaka** on the edge of **Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park**. Along the way, see dry plains with bush, palm, and baobab trees - immersing in the rural beauty and typically shaped landscape of the island. Transfer to *Le Soleil des Tsingy Lodge or similar* for check-in, dinner, & overnight. **(B,D)**

**Tuesday, October 08**

**Bekopaka (Tsingy de Bemaraha)**



Spend the day exploring **Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring stunning unique geological formations. This karst landscape is formed by closely spaced limestone "needles" that have created a stone forest featuring peaks that stand over 160 feet high. The diversity of this habitat has led to a great wealth of animal species that include predators such as the fossa and the ring-tailed mongoose, various species of lemurs, many species of birds and bats, as well as amphibians and reptiles. In deeper areas, there are waterfalls, lakes, and mangroves. Most of the 650 plant species found in the park are endemic. There are many **hiking trails** throughout the park as well as **hanging bridges** ready to be discovered. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

**Wednesday, October 09**

**Bekopaka - Morondava**



After breakfast, take the ferry back across the river to Morondava, passing Baobab Avenue once again. Upon arrival, transfer to *Palissandre Cote Quest Resort and Spa or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. The afternoon will be free to relax at the pool, strolling on the

nearby beach, or enjoying a massage, dinner and overnight at the Resort. **(B,D)**

**Thursday, October 10**

**Morondava - Antananarivo**



Morning transfer to the airport for a short flight back to **Antananarivo** and transfer to *Carlton Hotel* or similar for check-in, free rest of the day at leisure, dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

**Friday, October 11**

**Anananarivo - USA**



After a morning at leisure check-out from the *Hotel* and transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**  
*Note: Standard check-out time is 12:00 pm. If on a late-night flight, a day room at the hotel will need to be booked at an additional cost.*

*"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".*



© MCC Properties



© MCC Properties

**Tour Cost (Land Only): \$3,995.00**

*Per person sharing in double occupancy*

**Single Supplement: \$895.00**

*Price based on group size minimum of 4 participants and maximum of 12 participants*

**Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: \*\*-\*\*\***



**Tour Includes:**

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels and lodges.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Domestic flights Antananarivo - Morondava - Antananarivo
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites, activities, and safaris.
- English-speaking guide throughout.
- Local guides in parks and reserves.
- Transportation by 4-WD or vans.
- Ferry Cruise on Manambola River.

**Tour does not include:**

- International airfare to and from Madagascar.
- **Madagascar Visa** (Either E-visa or upon arrival for approx. \$30 - subject to change).
- Lunches or alcoholic drinks with or without meals.
- Any required pre arrival & pre departure PCR tests.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel staff, etc.
- Travel protection insurance (Highly recommended).

**Trip Grade:**

**II Active:** Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

**Lodging Level:**

**\*\* Basic:** Comfortable yet on the Spartan side, usually small but generally with private facilities. Some such lodges and motel-style are in need of repairs, added cleaning, and improvements but they are suitable for one-night stays even if they lack western style amenities (2 or 3 stars).

**\*\*\* Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards (3 or 4 stars).

