



MADAGASCAR

**TRAVEL
BROCHURE**

11 - 27 OCTOBER 2026

THE NATURALIST COLLECTION





MADAGASCAR

INTRODUCTION



Situated off the south-east coast of Africa, Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. The island has been isolated for over 80 million years resulting in unique and other-worldly fauna and flora. Over 80% of the wildlife on Madagascar is endemic, making this one of the most attractive wildlife destinations in the world. Naturalists have been enchanted by Madagascar long before Charles Darwin arrived on the Galápagos.

This tour will visit the most productive areas and will focus on more than just birds. With our enthusiastic all-round-naturalist guides we will look at everything from dancing Sifakas and Ring-tailed Lemurs, to freaky spiny forests and giant Baobabs, to flashy reptiles and amphibians. The tour offers excellent photographic opportunities.





ITINERARY

DATE	DESTINATION
11.10.26	Antananarivo
12.10.26	Andasibe-Mantadia National Park
13.10.26	Andasibe-Mantadia National Park
14.10.26	Antsirabe
15.10.26	Ranomafana National Park
16.10.26	Ranomafana National Park
17.10.26	Isalo National Park (via Anja Community Reserve)
18.10.26	Isalo National Park
19.10.26	Ifaty (via Zombitse Forest Reserve)
20.10.26	Ifaty (Reniala Nature Reserve)
21.10.26	Antananarivo (Domestic flight from Toliara to Tana)
22.10.26	Ankarafantsika National Park (Domestic Flight from Tana to Mahajanga)
23.10.26	Ankarafantsika National Park
24.10.26	Mahajanga
25.10.26	Antananarivo (Domestic Flight from Mahajanga to Tana)
27.10.26	Depart



Henkels Leaf-tailed Gecko

DAY 1: ANTANANARIVO

You will be collected at the airport and taken to the hotel. Depending on your time of arrival we may have time to visit Lac Alarobia and / or Tsarasaotra where we will enjoy some local wetland birding. This RAMSAR site is located in the middle of the city and is home to 14 threatened bird species such as the Madagascar Pond Heron, Meller's Duck and Madagascar Grebe. Other species we will be looking out for include Hottentot Teal, Red-billed Teal, White-faced Whistling Duck, Knob-billed Duck, Dimorphic Egret, Squacco Heron, Madagascar Wagtail, Madagascar Coucal, Mascarene Martin, Madagascar Kestrel, Red Fody, Madagascar Black Swift, Madagascar White-eye and Madagascar Mannikin.

Antananarivo, called Tananarive in French and also known by its colonial short form Tana, is the capital and largest city of Madagascar. It is the political, economic, educational and cultural heart of Madagascar. It hosts the largest number of universities, nightclubs, art venues, medical services and other social service institutions of any city on the island.

Here we can expect subtropical highland climate with mild, dry winters and warm, rainy summers. Daily average temperatures range from 20.8 °C in December to 14.3 °C in July.

DAY 2: ANTANANARIVO – ANDASIBE-MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we leave behind the bustling city of Antananarivo and continue with a 4-hour drive to Andasibe National Park, the kingdom of lemurs. We will stop enroute for a short visit to the Peyrieras Reptile Reserve, which boasts an impressive collection of reptiles, amphibians and butterflies.

During the late afternoon we will visit Lemur Island where we will have the chance to photograph Eastern Grey Bamboo, Black and White Ruffed, and Red-Bellied Brown and Red-ruffed Lemurs up close. The lemurs that live on this small river island are individuals rescued from the captive wildlife trade. Before dinner we will do a night walk along the forest's edge to look for nocturnal lemurs, chameleons and other reptiles. Some of the nocturnal lemurs we will be looking out for include the diminutive Goodman's Mouse Lemur, Eastern Woolly Lemur, Greater Sportive Lemur, Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur and Crossley's Dwarf Lemur.

DAY 3: ANDASIBE-MANTADIA NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast we will head into the park where we will spend the day exploring. Andasibe-Mantadia National Park is a 155 square kilometre protected area, consisting principally of primary growth. This rain forest provides habitat to a vast biodiversity, including many endemic and rare and endangered species.

The extraordinary animal diversity is completed with 15 mammal species, more than 100 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles and more than 80 species of amphibians. There are also a few local endemic fish in the small rivers and hundreds of insects, among them some extraordinary colourful butterflies

Andasibe is home to many species of lemurs, including the largest of them all, the Indri. Others include Diademed Sifaka, Black and White Ruffed Lemur, Greater Bamboo Lemur, Lesser Bamboo Lemur and Common Brown Lemur.

Bird species that are regularly encountered include Madagascar Starling, Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, Greater Vasa Parrot, Ward's Flycatcher, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Spectacled Tetraka, White-throated Oxylabes, Nelicourvi Weaver, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Spinetail, Long-billed Bernieria, Red-fronted and Blue Couas, Common and Green Jerys and the bizarre looking Cuckoo-Roller. Several species of Vangas occur here including Blue, Rufous, Chabert's, Pollen's and Hook-billed. Before dinner we will embark on another night walk in search of nocturnal delights.

DAY 4: ANDASIBE - ANT SIRABE

Unfortunately, there is no shorter or faster way of getting to Ranomafana than to drive there. To break the long journey in half we will spend one night in Antsirabe. The drive from Andasibe to Antsirabe is approximately 7 hours. Antsirabe, the third largest city in the country, is also known as the *pousse-pousse* city of Madagascar with hundreds of colorful rickshaws. For those who would like to can visit the local markets.

DAY 5: ANT SIRABE - RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we will continue our journey to Ranomafana. Along the way we will have a chance at a short visit to see and buy the famous wood carvings made originally by the Zafimaniry people as well as many other handcrafts. We will embark on a night walk to discover some of the splendours that this area offers.



Parsons Chameleon



Black and White Ruffed Lemur



Madagascar Blue Pigeon

DAY 6: RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

Finally, the day has arrived to explore Ranomafana National Park. With more than 41,600 hectares of tropical rainforest, Ranomafana is without a doubt one of the most spectacular National Parks in Madagascar. It is home to the Golden Bamboo Lemur, Eastern Woolly Lemur, Red bellied Lemur, Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur, Greater Bamboo Lemur, Red-fronted Brown Lemur, Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur, Milne-Edward's Sifaka, Small-toothed Sportive Lemur, Greater dwarf Lemur, Brown Mouse Lemur and the very rare and shy Aye-aye. Other mammals include 7 species of tenrecs, 8 bats and 6 carnivores which include the Malagasy striped Civet and mongoose species. It hosts over 130 species of frogs of which some are still being described.

There are at least 115 recorded bird species in Ranomafana NP (30 are locally endemic to this part of Madagascar). Of particular interest here are the Brown Mesites, Pollen's Vanga, Blue Vanga, Common Sunbird-osity, Pitta-like Ground-roller, Short-legged Ground-roller, Rufous-headed Ground-roller, Red-fronted Coua, Collared Nightjar, Henst's Goshawk, Forest Rock-thrush, Grey-crowned Greenbul, Wedge-tailed Jery and Yellow-browed Oxylabes.

Apart from that, the immense wildlife is completed by 62 species of reptiles (chameleons, snakes and fringed and satanic leaf-tailed geckos are pretty common), 98 frogs, 90 butterflies, 350 spiders and several fish and crayfish species. Many of the plants here are used by the Tanala and the Betsileo people for medical purposes and other botanical highlights include many orchids and carnivorous plants. Another night walk before dinner should produce more exciting nocturnal creatures.

DAY 7: RANOMAFANA - ISALO NATIONAL PARK

Leaving behind Ranomafana National Park we head towards the magnificent Isalo National Park. Along the way we will stop in at Anjà Community Reserve, a small woodland area with a nearby freshwater lake, situated at the base of a large cliff. On our last trip, we saw Oustalet's Chameleon, Ring-tailed Lemurs, Malagasy Bulbuls and Malagasy Kingfisher. We heard another group of Lemurs and shortly afterwards came across a playful group playing in the open fields alongside the lake. Here we spent some time enjoying their presence and everyone took numerous pictures as the animals played and frolicked in front of us.



Satanic leaf-tailed Gecko



Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko



Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog

As we approach Isalo you will notice that it is quite unlike any other place in Madagascar. Its appeal is the remarkable landscape of eroded ruin form sandstone outcrops, canyons and rare plants.

The morning and evening light is often spectacular making this an attractive place for photographers. The park covers 81,500ha of the Isalo Massif, which rises majestically from the surrounding flat, grassy plain. The sandstone has been eroded into weird shapes, cut through by impressive gorges. Vegetation is concentrated in the bottom of the canyons where there are flowing streams providing much needed moisture for flora and fauna alike.

Several Pachypodium species and locally endemic Aloes make this area especially interesting to botanists. Notable mammals include Sifakas, Red-fronted brown Lemurs and Ring-Tailed Lemurs.

On the birding front we can expect to find Benson's Rock-thrush, White-throated Rail, Madagascar Cuckoo-roller, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Wagtail, Madagascar Kestrel, Madagascar Hoopoe, Madagascar Cuckoo, Madagascar Lark, Madagascar Cisticola and Bat Hawk. After check-in we will embark on an afternoon walk to see what new species we can find.

DAY 8: ISALO NATIONAL PARK

We will spend the full day exploring this wonderful park with its canyons, waterfalls, plateaus and gorges.

DAY 9: ISALO NATIONAL PARK – IFATY

Leaving behind the grand Isalo massif we head towards the deciduous forests of South-west Madagascar. Enroute we will stop and visit Zombitse Forest Reserve. Together with the adjacent forests of Vohibasia, Zombitse constitutes the last - and therefore biologically significant - remnant of transition forest between the western and southern regions. This park is of particular interest to birdwatchers, being home to one of the country's rarest localised endemics, the Appert's Tetraka.

Other species that can be found here include Crested and Giant Couas, Cuckoo Rollers, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Madagascar Harrier-Hawk, Long-billed Bernieria, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and Madagascar Spinetail. Vangas to be found include Blue, Rufous and Red-tailed. With a massive amount of luck, we might even see Madagascar Ibis.



Ranomafana National Park



Ring-tailed Lemurs



Tenrec

Mammals that occur here include Verreaux's Sifaka, Ring-tailed Lemur, Red-fronted Brown Lemur, Hubbard's Sportive Lemur, Pale Fork-marked Lemur, Coquerel's Giant Dwarf Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Grey Mouse Lemur, Fosa, Greater Hedgehog Tenrec, Large-eared Tenrec and Western Big-footed Mouse. Reptiles are also plentiful here and include the locally endemic Standing's Day Gecko, Oustalet's Chameleon, Dumeril's Boa and Giant hog-nosed Snake.

We will arrive in Ifaty in the afternoon where the rest of the day may be spent at leisure at our beautiful beach-side resort. Ifaty is a small fishing village set on the glorious Mozambique Channel. There are ample opportunities here for fishing, snorkelling and diving.

DAY 10: IFATY & SURROUNDS

We will have a pre-dawn start today to Ifaty's spiny forest. This area is of great interest to birdwatchers and botanists. An early morning birding walk should produce the threatened and locally endemic Long-tailed Ground-Roller and Subdesert Mesite. Other specials that occur here include Lafresnaye's and Sickle-billed Vanga, Banded Kestrel, Archbold's Newtonia, Thamnornis Warbler, Subdesert Brush Warbler as well as Olive-capped and Running Coua.

We will spend some time in this forest made up of some of the most bizarre flora imaginable – fascinating spiny forest of *Alluadia madagascariensis* in which the waving branches of devilishly-spined octopus trees contrast sharply with the squat, rounded forms of bulbous baobabs. Endemism here is very high, about 95% of the plant species are found nowhere else on earth.

We will head back to our accommodation for lunch and some leisure time with beautiful views of reef protected beaches that allow for swimming and snorkelling. The beautiful gardens provide great opportunities to photograph butterflies, dragonflies and reptiles.

During the late afternoon we will venture into the surrounding areas in search of some localised endemic birds, the main targets being Red-shouldered Vanga and Verreaux's Coua.



Crested Couas



Long-tailed Ground-Roller



Collared Iguanid



Panther Chameleon

DAY 11: IFATY – TOLIARA - ANTANANARIVO

Today we fly back to the capital. The final flight schedule will determine whether we will spend the morning birding in the area and then visit the sapphire mining town of Toliara enroute to the airport, or whether we will head to the airport early and visit the Lemur Park & Botanical Garden in Antananarivo.

DAY 12: ANTANANARIVO – MAHAJANGA – ANKARAFANTSIKA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Mahajanga. From Mahajanga we will be transferred to our accommodation at Ankarafantsika National Park.

Ankarafantsika, also known as Ampijoroa Forest Station, is one of the largest and last remaining sections of dense deciduous forest in Madagascar, filled with critically endangered and endemic species. The vegetation consists mainly of relatively low and scrubby deciduous forest with savannah areas and gallery forest around the Ravelobe Lake.

Ankarafantsika is the last refuge of several lemur and bird species, which makes the conservation of the park so important. The area is home to eight lemur species. A night walk is usually rewarding and one may find Milne-Edwards Sportive Lemur, Mongoose Lemur, Western Woolly Lemur, Grey Mouse Lemur, Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, and it is the only place where the Golden-brown Mouse Lemur occurs.

During the day Coquerel's Sifakas are commonly seen. The Park is also one of Madagascar's finest birdwatching venues with 129 species recorded, of which 75 are endemic: Coquerel's Coua, Red-capped Coua, Crested Coua, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Cuckoo, Madagascar Grebe, White-breasted Mesite, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Namaqua Dove, Madagascar Nightjar, Madagascar Wood-rail, White-throated Rail, Allen's Gallinule, Glossy Ibis, Madagascar Crested Ibis, Green-backed Heron, Madagascar Pond-heron, Cattle Egret, Madagascar Heron, Purple Heron, Black Heron, Western Reef-egret, African Darter, Madagascar Three-banded Plover, Madagascar Jacana, Madagascar Buttonquail, Common Barn-owl, White-browed Owl, Madagascar Scops-owl, Madagascar Harrier-hawk, Frances's Sparrowhawk, Madagascar Fish Eagle, Madagascar Buzzard, Cuckoo Roller, Madagascar Hoopoe, Olive Bee-eater, Broad-billed Roller, Madagascar Kingfisher, Madagascar Kestrel, Banded Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Vasa Parrot, Grey-headed Lovebird, Velvet Asity, Schlegel's Asity, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, Common Newtonia, Nuthatch Vanga, Chabert Vanga, Madagascar Blue Vanga, Hook-billed Vanga, Rufous Vanga, Van Dam's Vanga, Sickle-billed Vanga, White-headed Vanga, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Paradise-flycatcher, Madagascar Lark, Common Jery, Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Swamp-warbler, Long-billed Tetraka, Mascarene Martin, Madagascar Bulbul, Madagascar White-eye, Madagascar Magpie-robin, Common Stonechat, Souimanga Sunbird, Sakalava Weaver and Madagascar Wagtail.



10 frogs and 45 reptiles are found here Oustalett's, Dwarf, Horned and Rhinoceros Chameleons are quite easily found. Several vulnerable snake species are found here as well as the extremely rare Madagascar Big-headed Turtle and even Nile Crocodiles in the lake. More than 800 plant species grow in Ankarafantsika, holding a high rate of endemism. Some significant species are the Cedrelopsis grevei, an odorous medicinal tree, baobabs, Palisander, Wild Vanilla, Retendrika, Crocodile Tree, Lohavato or the Sakoanala Tree, all of them endemic. Interpretative panels in the well-arranged botanical garden help visitors deepening their knowledge on the local flora. After checking in at we will go for a boat cruise on Lake Ravelobe in search of the highly endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle. A night walk before dinner should produce some of the nocturnal wonders that occur here. For the next two days we will explore this magical place by going on numerous walks, night walks and a boat cruise.

DAY 13: ANAKARAFANTSIKA NATIONAL PARK

We will spend the full day exploring various parts of the forest on foot. Another night walk will surely provide us with more wonderful sightings.

Day 14: ANAKARAFANTSIKA—MAHAJANGA

We will spend the morning in the park and after lunch we will travel back to Mahajanga.

Day 15: MAHAJANGA - TANA

This morning, we are in for a real treat as we embark on a boat cruise into the Betsiboka Delta in search of two extremely rare species: Bernier's Teal and Madagascar Sacred Ibis. Other birds we may find include Lesser Flamingo, Malagasy Swift, Grey Heron, Common Ringed Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Sanderling, Terek Sandpiper, Little Tern and Lesser Crested Tern. This afternoon we catch our flight back to Tana.

DAY 16: DEPARTURE

You will be transferred to the airport for your international flight.

End of service

Ensure you're well prepared for your trip:

[See our pre-departure check-list](#)



Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko

TOUR COSTS:

5 PAX: USD 7455 pp sharing

6 PAX: USD 6730 pp sharing

7 PAX: USD 6240 pp sharing

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:
USD 450.00

INCLUDED:

- Accommodation for 15 nights
- All meals starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on day 16
- Vehicle & fuel
- Activities as per above itinerary
- All entrance fees and local guide fees
- Daily mineral water in vehicle
- All transfers, road taxes, parking
- Specialised naturalist & photography guide
- Gratuities for local site guides, drivers and hotels
- The following domestic flights:

Toliara – Antananarivo

Antananarivo – Mahajanga

Mahajanga - Antananarivo

EXCLUDED:

- Personal expenses such as laundry, mini bar, phone calls
- Travel and health insurance
- Visa
- International flights
- Drinks
- Pre- and post-tour expenses
- Any pandemic-related expenses
- Any activities not mentioned in the itinerary

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS:

Air Madagascar is the official carrier for our domestic flights. Flight delays and last-minute schedule changes are not uncommon and this may force us to re-arrange the itinerary to compensate for this.

We will do everything in our power to stick to the set itinerary as much as possible, but we might be forced to travel by road or opt for private charter flights. Chartered flights present possible extra costs to the tour. Please ensure that your travel insurance will cover you should the situation arise.

Terms & conditions

1. Prices & Tour Costs

All prices quoted are based on current costs and exchange rates. Should there be unforeseen increases in tour-related costs (including fuel, park fees, taxes, or supplier rate increases), we reserve the right to adjust prices accordingly. For set departure tours, rates are based on group tariffs. If a set departure tour does not reach the minimum required number of participants, a small group supplement may apply. Tailor-made tours are priced individually based on the agreed itinerary and number of participants.

2. Bookings & Payments

Namibia-based tours: A 20% non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your booking.

Outbound international tours: A 50% non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your booking.

The balance of payment is payable 45 days prior to departure, unless otherwise specified in writing. Once a booking is confirmed, cancellation penalties apply immediately.

3. Cancellations & Missed Services

The relevant cancellation policy applies should you fail to start or continue your journey for any reason, including airline delays, missed connections, illness, or personal circumstances. No refunds will be given for unused services. We strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellations and curtailment.



4. Travel Insurance (Essential)

All guests must have comprehensive travel insurance covering:

- Medical expenses
- Emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Trip cancellation and curtailment
- Personal liability and loss of luggage
- Travel in remote areas involves risks, and medical facilities may be limited. Batis Birding Safaris cannot be held responsible for guests travelling without adequate insurance.

5. Medical Fitness & Health

By confirming a booking, guests confirm that they are medically fit to participate in the tour and that they have disclosed any relevant medical conditions, allergies, disabilities, or special requirements at the time of booking. Batis Birding Safaris reserves the right to prevent a guest from participating in any activity if, in the opinion of the guide or local operator, participation may pose a risk to the guest or others. No refunds will be given in such cases.

6. Inherent Risks & Assumption of Risk

Travel in Africa involves inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Wildlife encounters
- Accidents and injuries
- Illness or disease
- Rough road conditions
- Boat and light aircraft travel
- Weather-related disruptions
- Political or civil unrest

By confirming a booking, guests acknowledge and accept these risks and agree that Batis Birding Safaris cannot be held liable for any injury, illness, loss, damage, delay or inconvenience arising from such risks.

7. Itineraries & Changes

Due to circumstances beyond our control, itineraries may need to be changed or adjusted at short or no notice. We will always endeavour to adhere as closely as possible to the original itinerary, but no refunds will be given for changes caused by weather, safety considerations, wildlife movement, or operational requirements.

8. Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife sightings, including specific species, are never guaranteed.

No refunds will be given for missed sightings or activities affected by weather, animal behaviour, or park regulations.

9. Gorilla & Chimpanzee Tracking (Uganda)

Primate tracking permits (gorillas and chimpanzees) are strictly regulated and are non-refundable once issued. Guests must comply fully with all rules set by the Uganda Wildlife Authority, including age limits, health requirements, and guide instructions. Failure to comply may result in denied participation without refund.

10. Charter Flights & Light Aircraft

Charter and light aircraft flights are subject to weather conditions, airstrip availability, operational constraints, and strict luggage limits. Delays or changes may occur at short notice.

Batis Birding Safaris cannot be held responsible for missed connections or additional costs arising from charter flight disruptions.



11. Third-Party Suppliers & Service Disclaimer

Batis Birding Safaris acts as an agent for third-party suppliers such as lodges, transport operators, charter companies, guides, and activity providers. We do not own or control these suppliers and cannot be held liable for their acts, omissions, or failure to deliver services as contracted.

Accommodation suggestions are made with great care and professionalism, drawing on first-hand experience where possible and trusted industry partnerships. While we strive to recommend properties that meet the expected standards of comfort and service, accommodation quality and service delivery remain the responsibility of the individual providers.

The Company and Consultant cannot accept liability for variations in service, cleanliness, food quality, or facilities. Clients are advised to review the proposed accommodations prior to confirming the booking. Once the quote is accepted and reservations are made, any changes or upgrades requested thereafter may incur additional costs and are subject to availability.

The Company shall not be liable for any loss, damage, injury, or inconvenience caused by or arising from the acts or omissions of any third-party supplier.

12. Guest Conduct & Group Harmony

Our tours are designed to be safe, respectful, and enjoyable for all guests, guides, local communities, and wildlife. We ask all guests to behave responsibly and to follow the guidance of tour leaders and local regulations at all times. In rare circumstances, if a guest's behaviour is deemed unsafe, illegal, or significantly disruptive, or places people, wildlife, or conservation efforts at risk, Batis Birding Safaris reserves the right to limit participation in certain activities or, as a last resort, remove the guest from the tour. Any such decision will be made in the best interests of safety and group wellbeing. No refunds will be given in these circumstances.

13. Passports & Visas

Passports must be valid for at least six months after travel and contain at least three blank visa pages (not endorsement pages). All visa requirements are the responsibility of the traveller. If you have any questions, please contact us prior to travel.

14. Photography, Filming & Drones

Photography and filming may be restricted in certain areas. The use of drones is often prohibited or requires special permits. Guests are responsible for obtaining any required permits. We cannot be held liable for confiscation of equipment or penalties imposed by authorities.

15. Force Majeure

We cannot be held liable for delays, changes or cancellations caused by events beyond our control, including but not limited to extreme weather, natural disasters, epidemics, strikes, political unrest, border closures, airline failures, or government action.

