

# MADAGASCAR

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

*Madagascar is a land of dramatic contrasts and renowned for its exceptionally diverse landscapes as well as the intriguing culture of its people. There is something for everyone from nature to outdoor activities to rest and relaxation. Although it is part of the continent of Africa it is actually the world's only Afro Asian nation.*

**Day 1-2:** Depart for **Madagascar**. Leave in the spring and arrive in the Southern Hemisphere in the fall!!

**Day 3:** Arrive in **Antananarivo**, Madagascar. Upon arrival meet your guide and transfer to your hotel to relax and recuperate from the very long flight.

**Day 4:** This morning enjoy a city sightseeing tour prior to your departure for **Andasibe National Park**. Upon arrival settle in at your hotel. Tonight enjoy a night walk looking for nocturnal mouse lemurs, chameleons, and tree frogs.

**Day 5:** The primary forests of Andasibe National Park contains a dense humid forest plentiful with **flora and fauna, reptiles, birds and of course the lemurs, chameleons and frogs**. Listen for the peculiar haunting call of the Indris lemur. The Indris can only be seen in their natural habitat as they cannot survive captivity due to its specialized diet of leaves from endemic forest trees. Apart from the Indris, another 13 lemur species inhabit the forests. Full day to explore the park and discover its inhabitants.

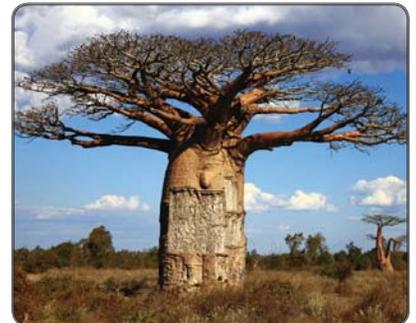
**Day 6:** This morning visit the **Analamazaotra Reserve** for other species of Lemurs, birds etc. This afternoon travel to the **Vakona Private Park**. Take your short ride in a dugout canoe to lemur island where rescued semi tame lemurs will leap onto your shoulders and head in search of bananas that you might just have in your hand. Meander the island enjoying the species of lemurs that call this tiny habitat home. Visit a crocodile farm that is home to many endemic Madagascar crocs. Also see **fossa**, one of the main predators of lemurs and Madagascar's largest carnivore.

**Day 7:** Today enjoy a relaxing drive through the spectacular landscape of the highlands. The country is patch worked with stunning terraced rice fields, rich red soil, roughly handmade residential mud homes and abundant natural flora and fauna.

**Day 8:** This morning enjoy the city of **Antsirabe**. The city buzzes with **pousseousse or rickshaws**, the best way to explore the city. Enjoy a ride with stops at a local market and a local handicraft workshop. Continue to Ambositra enroute to **Ranomafana National Park**. Ambositra is well known for its wooden handicrafts. Enjoy the **spectacular** drive winding around hills and through valleys.

**Day 9:** Today visit the rainforests of Ranomafana National Park one of Madagascar's best known rainforest wildlife hot spots. The park consists of steep forested slopes and high lookout points for great views. It is not difficult to see many species of lemurs, birds and unusual looking reptiles. This afternoon spend some time with the locals as you visit the village of Ranomafana.

**Day 10:** **Anja Park** is famous for its rock formations and is also home to some of the country's rare plants and wildlife. Watch different chameleons change their skin color. There are over 150 types of chameleons in the world, half of which can be found in Madagascar. Continue to **Isalo National Park** for some of the most dramatic landscape created by Jurassic sandstone canyons and cliffs. It is sought after for its hiking trails and lush valley bottoms and natural pools. Tonight drive to the Window of Isalo for sunset and spectacular views and photographs as the fading sun hits the rock face.



**Day 11:** Today is a full day visiting Isalo. Hike, climb and swim in the natural swimming pool of the **Namaza Canyon**.

**Day 12:** Visit the **Zombitse Forest**, the most threatened deciduous dry forest. Here you will see lots of Madagascar's hallmark images – the **baobab trees** in their natural habitat. Continue to the port city of **Tulear**. Enroute you will see several traditional tombs of some Malagasy tribes. Each grave is decorated to tell the story of the person's life.

**Day 13:** This morning transfer to the airport for your transfer to Antananarivo. Upon arrival, head to the **Royal Hill of Ambohimamnga, the sacred site of royal tombs, holy places and majestic trees**. It is still today the center of the religious practices for many Malagasy people. Because of its geographical position it offers spectacular panoramic views. Meet your guide for an interesting and informative visit to this historic site and Royal City.

**Day 14:** Prior to your flight home, visit a local craft market. You cannot forget those all-important souvenirs.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare – North America – Madagascar
- One way internal flight – Tulear – Antananarivo
- All return airport transfers
- 12 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners
- All coaching throughout tour as described in itinerary
- Guided sightseeing tours
  - o Antananarivo City
  - o Night walk Andisabe National Park
  - o Full day Andasibe National Park
  - o Analamazaotra Reserve
  - o Vakona Private Park
  - o Antsirabe City tour
  - o Ranomafana National Park
  - o Anja Park
  - o Isalo National Park
  - o Zombitse Park
- Entrances/ Activities
  - o Canoeing Vakona Private Park
  - o Rick Shaw ride Antsirabe
  - o Visit to Ambositra Wooden Workshop
  - o Isalo National Park for sunset view Window of Isalo
  - o King Ambohimamnga Palace in Antananarivo
  - o Craft Market

