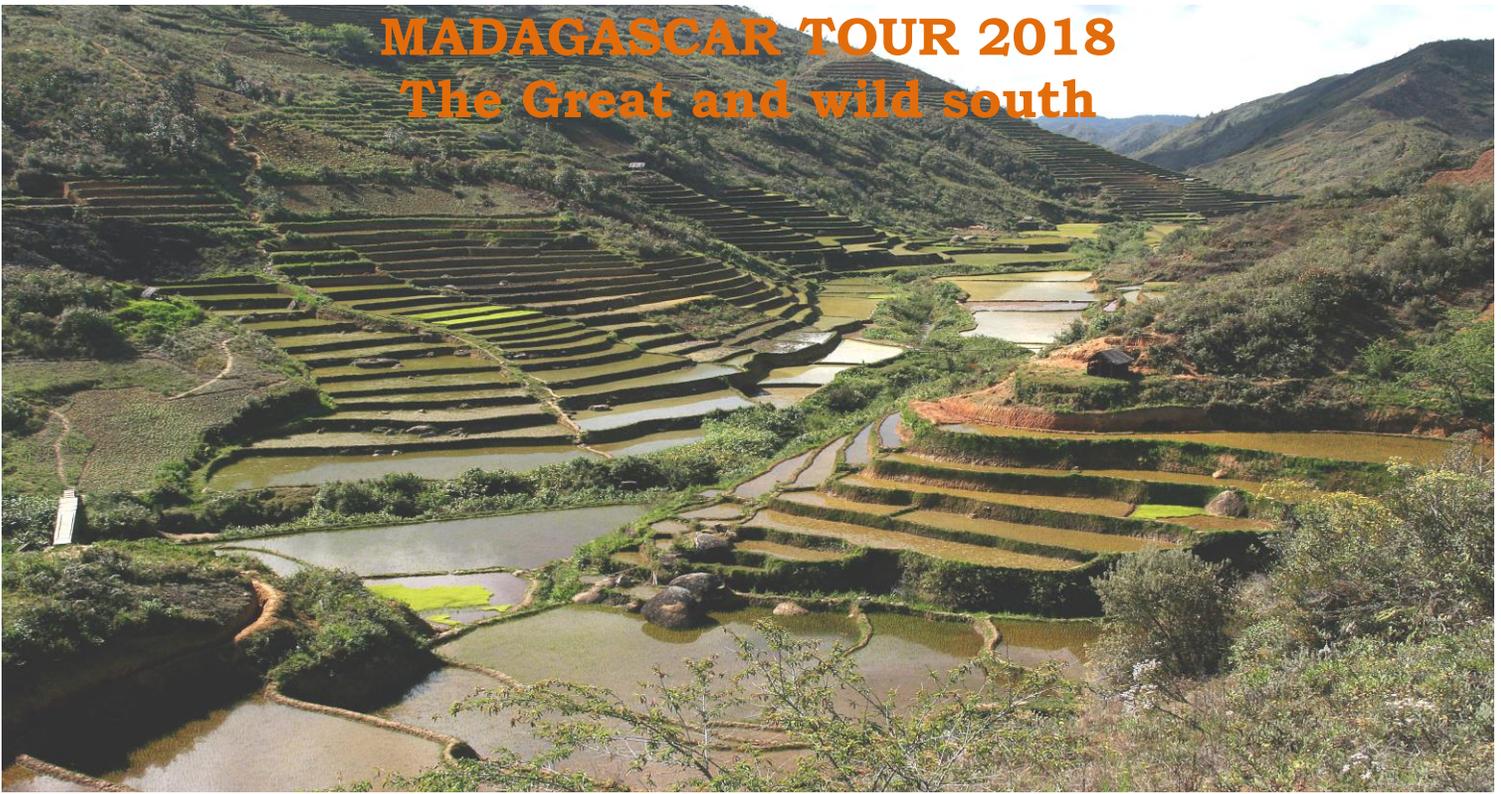


MADAGASCAR TOUR 2018

The Great and wild south



Itinerary (11 days/10 nights)

Day 1:

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT - TANA: arrival at time to be confirmed (B, B)

According to your international flight schedule, welcome at the airport and transfer at your hotel. The rest of the day will be free. Dinner and overnight at hotel of your choice.

Up market: LOKANGA BOUTIQUE

Mid-range: RESIDENCE LAPASOA:

Budget: CHALET DES ROSES:

Day 2:

TANA – ANT SIRABE: 170 km – about 3h (B, D)

Early departure to Antsirabe. Possibility to make a halt in Ambatolampy to visit one cooking pot-making workshop. Then continuation of the road.

Antsirabe, beautiful city of the Highlands of Madagascar, is the result of mixed cultures that built the city for two centuries. The city reflects the warmth of its people and the authenticity of its traditions still alive in the surrounding countryside. Famed for its "pousse pousse", gemstones and handicrafts, the wide tree-lined avenues invite you to discover its workshops where people work on transforming natural materials like zebu horn (for cutlery) or wheat straw (for hats). On spot, you can organize a city tour by car or by rickshaw. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Up market: COULEUR CAFE:

Mid-range: CHAMBRES DU VOYAGEUR :

Budget: VATOLAHY:

Day 3:

ANT SIRABE – SAHAMBAVY: 250 km – about 5h30 (B, D)

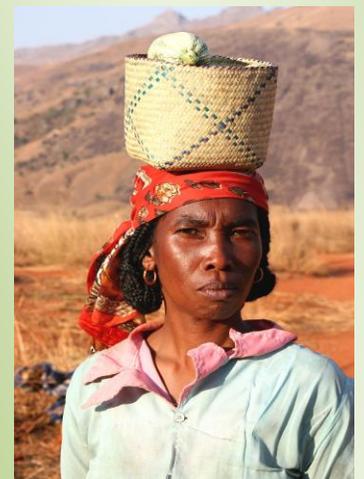
Drive to Sahambavy, with stop in Ambositra to visit handicrafts markets. Ambositra is a small town known for its Zafimaniry woodcarvings and handicraft. The Zafimaniry people are known for the typical wooden architecture of their houses and fine ancestral woodcarving art. Their culture and lands are classified UNESCO World Heritage.

Arrival at Sahambavy in the evening, lodging at

Up Market/ Mid range: LACHOTEL.

Highlights

- ° The very picturesque train journey from Sahambavy to Manakara
- ° The NP of Ranomafana, full of originality and variety.
- ° Tsaranoro valley, a very special place not to miss
- ° Isalo NP, our Malagasy Colorado.



**"Madagascar, the World's best
secret"**

Day 4:**SAHAMBAVY – MANAKARA: by train (B, D)**

Today we will take the train from Sahambavy to Manakara (each Tuesday and Saturday). A very picturesque full day journey, across the lush green forests of the East, the red highlands and the plantations. The train chugs its way on rails built in the 30's. The scene is also in the train: Malagasy people, bringing cargos of bananas and coffee to be sold (and sometimes exported), merchants haggling through the windows at each old fashioned colonial styled station. Arrival at the end of the evening in Manakara. Lodging at

Up market/ mid range: PARTHENAY CLUB)

Day 5:**MANAKARA - RANOMAFANA: 191 km – about 4h (B, D)**

Half day to explore Manakara and the pangalane canal, it is a city with beautiful colonial style houses on the edge of the sea. There are beautiful beaches lined with coconut trees, however it is not possible to swim because of the current. It is a quiet town with wide unpaved streets; one can easily have the impression of being at the end of the world. You will have an excursion to descent the Pangalanes channel in pirogue. Here, life has not changed in centuries, and the scenery, evergreen, contrasts totally with the red highlands! Picnic lunch at leisure, the beginning of the afternoon, you will drive to Ranomafana , which means "warm waters", known for its hot springs. Upon your arrival, installation at your hotel.

Dinner and overnight

Up market: THERMAL:

Mid-range: CHEZ GASPARD

Budget: MANJA:

**Day 6:****RANOMAFANA - FIANARANTSOA: 60 km – about 2h 30 (B, D)**

The half day will be dedicated to explore the natural reserve of Ranomafana.

We recommend waking up early for the morning walk within the Park, as it is the best time for animal observation. Ranomafana National Park is full of originality and variety. Botany, ornithology, herpetology, cultures are fascinating attractions which captivate you in this tropical rainforest. Flora and fauna are among the most varied while being unique. After your visit, departure to reach Fianarantsoa, the capital of the Betsileo country. (Shortly named Fianar), it means "the place where you learn Good". Stroll in the historical part of town: the paved roads, traditional houses and the beautiful cathedral, give the place quite a romantic atmosphere. Its most ancient quarter, the Upper town, is classified as a protected area for its history and architecture. Arrival on spot, late in the afternoon, installation at your hotel, dinner and overnight.

Up market: ZOMATEL.

Mid-range: VILLA SYLVESTRE.

Budget: LA RIZIERE.

Day 7:**FIANARANTSOA – TSARANORO: 112 km – about 4h (B, D)**

Drive to Tsaranoro valley, with stop in Ambalavao to visit the private reserve "Anja", an interesting park for the close encounters with the ring tailed lemurs and its Betsileo traditional tombs. After the visit, continuation until Tsaranoro valley. Upon your arrival, lodging at **TSARA CAMP**.

The Tsara Camp lies in the Tsaranoro Valley with the Tsaranoro Mountain (800 m) on one side and the giant mountain chains of Andringitra National Park on the other side. The camp offers perfect comfort in completely secluded settings. Accommodation is provided in 15 tents, each with a floor space of 16m². Overnight

Day 8:**TSARANORO - RANOHIRA: 225 km – about 5h (B, D)**

Morning dedicated to a walk inside Tsaranoro valley (guidance fees at your own expense). TSARA CAMP organizes many guided walks in the beautiful reddish mountains. Our easy walks will take you in a sacred forest inhabited by catta lemurs, to a waterfall, a natural swimming pool, and nearby Barabory villages. A unique opportunity to discover the Malagasy traditional life of this isolated population: people live only with the weather, the sun and the rice harvest as a clock. More sporty walks will bring you all the way up to Mount Chameleon!

After lunch, drive ahead to Isalo. Upon your arrival, installation at your hotel, dinner and overnight.

Up market: JARDIN DU ROY

Mid-range: ISALO RANCH.

Budget: ORCHIDEE DE L'ISALO :

Day 9:**RANOHIRA: Full day to Explore the national park of Isalo (B,D)**

A whole day dedicated to enjoy the NP of Isalo, our Malagasy Colorado. A unique combination of sandstone rock cut by deep canyons, bush plains and rare endemic plants make this Park particularly rewarding. Covering an area of 81,540 hectares, Isalo National Park comprises the entire stretch of the Isalo Massif, a very spectacular mountain chain made up of eroded sandstone. This strikingly beautiful reserve is filled with golden plains punctuated by craggy pinnacles of terracotta rock, valleys, canyons and waterfalls and we enjoy two half-day hikes in this surreal environment. In the morning we will walk to the Canyon of Lemurs and in the afternoon to a natural swimming pool in an oasis-like setting. Back to your hotel after the visit for dinner and overnight. Regarding lemurs, you will be able to see *sifakas*, *brown lemurs*, *ring-tailed lemurs* and the Benson's Rock thrush. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Day 10:**ISALO - TULEAR: 275 km – about 4h – TANA: Domestic flight[.....] (B, D)**

After breakfast, drive till Tulear (243 Km / 4h).

Southern capital of Madagascar, known as "the white city" or "sun city", Tulear is a mosaic of ethnicities and cultures under the banner of the smile and the sun. The city offers thousand bright colors, a concert of rhythmic ambience made by the Tsapiky music which, surging through the streets, make the sensuality and the gentleness of its inhabitants. If time allow it, *visit the "Aboretum d'Antsokay". This private reserve, an area of 40 hectares located 12 km southeast of the town of Toliara, surrounded by a hedge plant, the founder has undertaken to breed and multiply by seed, cuttings or transplantation, plant species most at risk in order to preserve the greatest number of constant deforestation, bush fires and looters. Transfer to Tulear airport for your flight back to Tana.

Arrival in Tana according to the flight schedule, welcome and transfer at hotel of your choice. Dinner and overnight.

Day 11:**TANA – INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT: departure time to be confirmed (B)**

According to your flight schedule, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back. Along the way, you will visit the craft market at Ivato.

Are included:

- Accommodation at hotels as mentioned
- Meals as mentioned (B : breakfast / L : Lunch / D : Diner)
- 4WD car rental with A/C English speaking driver, indemnities and gasoil included (Day 2 to day 9)
- Entrance at parks and reserves to visit: Ranomafana NP, Anja private reserve, Isalo NP; Arboretum of Antsokay)
- ticket fees for the train journey day 4
- Half day excursion along the pangalane canal day 5
- All transfer hotel/airport/hotel mentioned in the program