

Madagascar Family Adventure

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MADAGASCAR FAMILY ADVENTURE

Wildlife, rainforests and culture

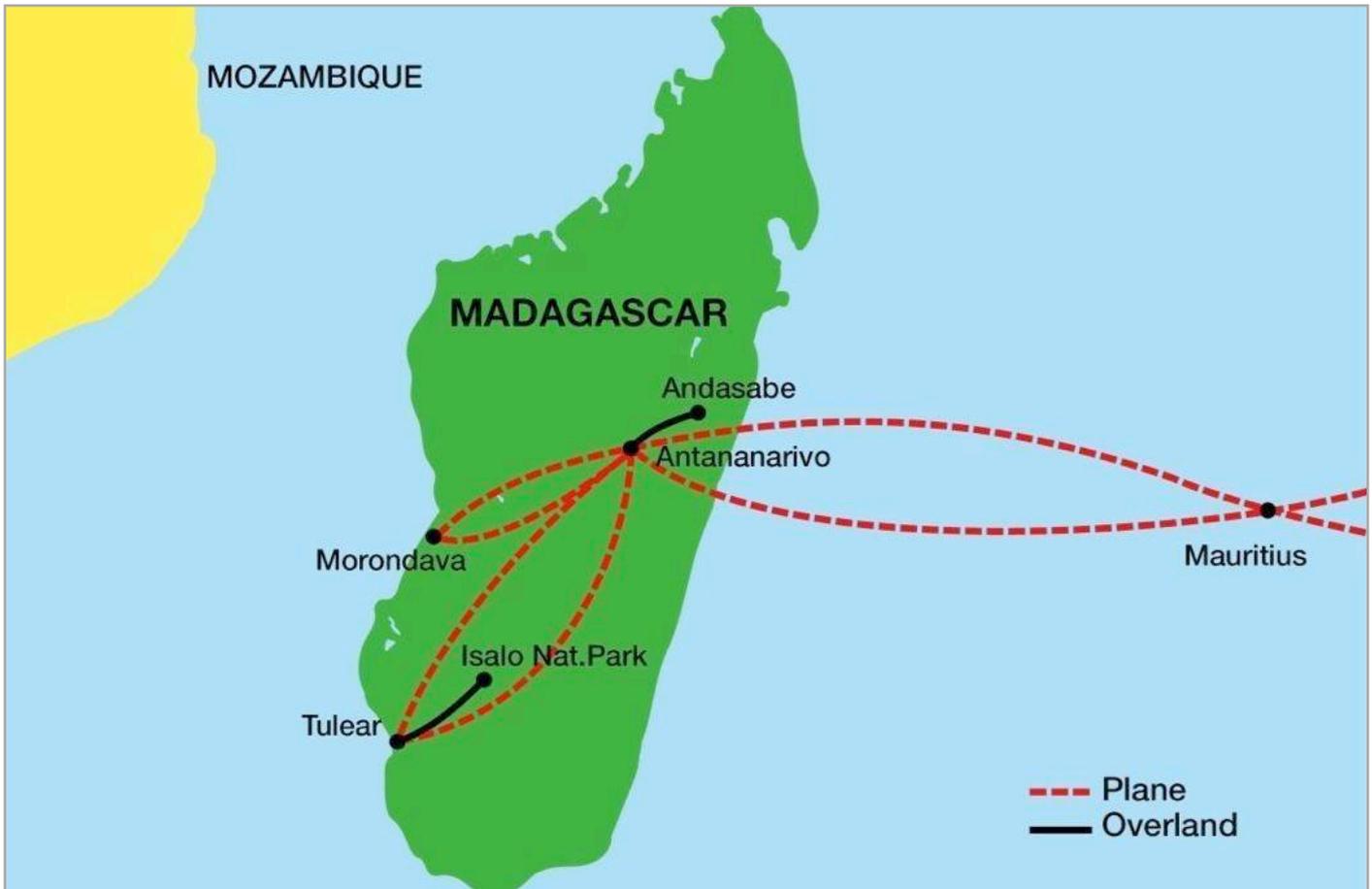
Madagascar, 400 km off the east coast of Africa, is the world's fourth largest island. The most astonishing thing about the island is not its size but its flora and fauna, much of which is found nowhere else in the world. The island has been referred to as *nature's design laboratory* because of the many unique creatures and vegetation, some of quite a primitive nature, which live here. The terrain varies from tropical rainforest to desert, from high stony plateaus to lush green islands with many amazing geological and geographical formations throughout.

Madagascar has a whole range of unique animals and plants which have evolved here separated from the rest of the world. The most notable are the lemurs of which nearly 30 are described. On our tour you will visit a number of their known habitats and search both day and night so that with just a little luck, we will see a fair number of these pro-simian primates. For the bird-fancier there are over 250 species of which 106 are endemic, while for lovers of reptiles, most of the world's chameleons are found here. Another wonderful Madagascan icon is the Baobab tree of which there are 10 different species and you will see many examples of these throughout.

The first inhabitants arrived on the island 1,500 to 2,000 years ago. They were Malay-Polynesians who crossed the Indian Ocean in large canoes from Indonesia and South East Asia. These early settlers mixed with later arrivals – African, Arab, Indian and Portuguese traders and French colonials – and have formed the current 18 official tribes which are collectively termed the Malagasy.

French is the official language and is spoken in all but the remotest areas. The French are also responsible for the good quality food and accommodation in most parts of the island. Of course, like many destinations, you could spend weeks and weeks exploring Madagascar but this itinerary is a wonderful snap shot of the best. This is not your average Bali or Fiji family trip. This is a real adventure that really is something quite different.

TRAVEL INFORMATION—MADAGASCAR



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Flights are not included in our tour cost as we find many travellers have their personal preferences across airlines, day or night flights, class of travel etc. We offer a full travel service and can plan and book your flights subject to your preferences or you can book your own flights or use frequent flyer points. We are unable to book frequent flyer flights on your behalf.

The most likely route from Australia is via Perth to Mauritius and then on to Antananarivo.

While specific accommodation has been nominated throughout the itinerary, if any is unavailable, a suitable and equivalent property and / or room type will be substituted.

CLIMATE

Antananarivo—Madagascar's capital—is at about the same latitude as Townsville with a humid, sub-tropical climate. It is mild year round with the average temperature sitting at about 20°C and the maximum, usually below 30°C. More rain falls in December / January than in the other months and winter (June--Sept) is dry but cooler at about 15°C). In April, the average temp is between 18-20°C with little rain likely to fall.

Morondava over on the island's west coast has a semi-arid climate. It is warmer than the capital with average temperatures of about 27°C in summer, 25°C in April and 21°C in the mid-year winter. Again, the wettest months are December to February.

Tulear is further south on the west coast but offers the same semi-arid climate as Morondava. When you head inland to Isalo National Park, expect the temperature to go up a few degrees as year round, most days average a high temperature of 30-33°C with a mid-winter low average of 15°C in July.

Day 01 Saturday

AUSTRALIA – MAURITIUS

Today you depart Australia for Mauritius. On arrival into Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, you'll be met by your guide and transferred to your resort style hotel.

Overnight:

Meals: in flight

Day 02 Sunday

MAURITIUS

There are no formal arrangements planned for your short stay in Mauritius so the day is free for you to stay by the pool or explore the island as



you see fit. Depending on the flight schedule, the hotel can arrange for a city tour (at own cost). Breakfast and dinner is at the resort-style hotel.

Overnight: To be confirmed

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 03 Monday

ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Antananarivo, or "Tana" as it is known for short. After immigration and customs formalities, you'll be met by your guide who will help you with money exchange before transferring to your hotel which is situated in the city centre.

Overnight: Royal Palissandre Hotel and Spa

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 04 Tuesday

ANTANANARIVO to ANDASIBE Drive time: 4hrs

After breakfast, you'll drive to Andasibe (also known as Perinet), a beautiful rainforest near the eastern coast of Madagascar. Lunch will be at the lodge. In the afternoon you'll visit of the Lodge's private park and, with torches ready, in the evening you'll take another easy walk inside the Vakona private reserve to spot the night-active wildlife.

Overnight: Vakona Forest Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner



Day 05 Wednesday

ANDASIBE to MANTADIA

Today offers a whole-day expedition at Mantadia National Park, a beautiful forest with extraordinary animal diversity including different species of lemurs, birds, reptiles and amphibians. You'll return late in the afternoon and in the evening, take another walk to spot nocturnal wildlife.



Overnight: Vakona Forest Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 06 Thursday

ANALAMAZAOTRA

Take an expedition to the special reserve of Analamazaotra, a forest famous for its population of Indri lemurs, which are the largest living lemurs. There are other species of flora and fauna including beautiful rainforest orchids to view. It's back to the Lodge for lunch with the afternoon free to enjoy the surrounds. In the early evening, take another evening walk to track the active wildlife.



Overnight: Vakona Forest Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 07 Friday

ANDASIBE to ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast at the Lodge, depart Andasibe to drive back to Antananarivo (about 4 hours) where the afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight: Royal Palissandre Hotel and Spa

Meals: Breakfast and dinner





Day 08 Saturday

ANTANANARIVO to MORONDAVA *Fly time: 1.5hrs*

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before transferring to the airport to fly to Morondova on the west coast. On arrival, check into the resort--style accommodation and, depending on the flight schedule, there'll be a visit to the local township or just enjoy the pool and hotel facilities.

*Overnight: Palissandre Côte Ouest
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*

Day 09 Sunday

MORONDAVA

Today starts with an early morning, 3--hour drive to the spiny forest of Kirindy, a private reserve situated 80km from Morondava. Kirindy is in a dry deciduous forest, one of Madagascar's most threatened ecosystems, famous for the giant jumping rat, lemurs and a number of endemic reptiles. The flora is also unusual and contains several locally endemic plant species with the two local species of baobabs reaching unbelievable sizes. After a picnic lunch, drive back to Morondava with camera's at the ready please ... the main stop on your return journey is at the famous Madagascar icon – *The Avenue of the Baobabs* – to enjoy the sunset. This is a real picture postcard moment you should not miss. Arrive back at the hotel in the early evening.

*Overnight: Palissandre Côte Ouest
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*



Day 10 Monday

MORONDOVA to ANTANANARIVO

Today you will be transferred to the airport to fly back to Antananarivo and, depending on your flight schedule, there'll be a tour of the local area by mini bus.

*Overnight: Royal Palissandre Hotel and Spa
Meals: Breakfast and dinner*

Day 11 Tuesday

ANTANANARIVO to TULEAR to ISALO

After breakfast, transfer to airport to fly to Tulear, the main city of the south --western side of Madagascar. After a city tour of about 2 hours, including a stroll around the markets, drive about 4 hours to Isalo National Park. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of this region decorated by striking cactus plants and baobab trees and home to the intriguing Mahafaly tombs. During this trip, you will pass through some popular villages such as Sakaraha and Ilakaka, best known for their sapphire and precious stone mines. Arrive at the gorgeous hotel late in the afternoon.



*Overnight: Le Jardin du Roy. Isalo
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*



Day 12 Wednesday

ISALO

There's a full day expedition into the National Park of Isalo, a sandstone massif wildly eroded by wind and rain dating the wild forms, impressive gorges and canyons back to the Jurassic era. This is the most visited park in the south region and you will begin with a walk into the Canyon of Maki and on to the Natural Pool to discover the breathtaking landscape of the region. Do take your swimmers and a towel. Though wildlife is here not as prominent as in other parks of the country there are still a couple of species worth looking out for: ring--tailed lemurs, brown lemurs, sifakas, some species of birds, reptiles and several endemic frogs.

The local endemic flora is more interesting with the elephant's foot, some rare palms and aloe species. You'll be back to the hotel by late in the afternoon.

Overnight: Le Jardin du Roy, Isalo
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 13 Thursday

ISOLO

Today, walk through a section of Isalo National Park where to enjoy a wonderful landscape not that dissimilar to parts of Australia's North West. Arrive back to the hotel for lunch and in time to do some serious relaxing by the pool! Late in the afternoon, drive to the sandstone Window of Isalo to enjoy the sunset, an incredible moment not to be missed.



Overnight: Le Jardin du Roy, Isalo
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 14 Friday

ISOLO to TULEAR to TANA

After breakfast, take a morning drive back to Tulear for the flight to Tana. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Overnight: Royal Palissandre Hotel and Spa
Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 15 Saturday

DEPARTURE

Take a city tour this morning and visit the handicraft market of La Digue before transferring to the airport for your flight home via Mauritius.

Meals: In flight

Day 16 Sunday

ARRIVE HOME

Arrive in Perth (subject to flight schedule) and connect to your flight back home, arriving in the evening. A stopover in Perth on the way home is easily arranged.



ACCOMMODATION

All hotels are considered good quality, rated at around 3½ to 4½--star. At a minimum, you will have clean rooms and comfortable beds wherever you go and sometimes, impressive luxury. The local service can be different to here at home but just remember you are on holidays in a very special part of the world.

The properties and room types mentioned in this itinerary are those we have requested. Should any not be available, an equivalent alternative will be provided. Please view the links below only as an indication of what awaits.

- Mauritius—to be confirmed
- [Royal Palissandre Hotel, Antananarivo](#)
- [Vakona Forest Lodge, Andasibe](#)
- [Palissandre Côte Ouest, Morondava](#)
- [Le Jardin du Roy, Isalo](#)



Madagascar Family Tour

Please contact us for a quote.

Minimum numbers: The tour requires a minimum of 4 people to guarantee departure.

How to book: To secure your place on the tour, complete a booking form and provide a \$250 deposit per person at the same time (or before). We offer a full travel service and can plan and book your flights subject to your preferences across airlines, schedules and availability. Please call for a quote.

Payment terms: If not booked on a group basis, payment for flights falls due within 5 days of booking them. If booked on a group basis, total tour cost less deposit paid is due no later than 60 days prior to departure. Failure to meet these terms may mean your place on the tour is forfeited.

Payment for optional excursions: Your in-country guide will keep a tab of all of the extra excursions and additional expenses incurred by you and your family. The final amount due will be advised on the last day and is payable by cash only (not credit card) in local, Australian or US currency. For costs of the optional excursions, please refer to the separate brochure which will allow you to budget.

This itinerary must be read in conjunction with Blue Dot Travel's Terms and Conditions, including those for currency fluctuations. These are available in detail on our website at www.bluedottravel.com.au and must be considered before making a decision to travel.

This brochure provides general information and photos are for representation only. Information is correct as at time of printing, however changes may occur without notice.

It is the traveler's responsibility to check individual itineraries in detail in conjunction with the complete Terms and Conditions (including for currency fluctuations) available on our website at www.bluedottravel.com.au before making a decision to travel.

