

# MADAGASCAR: ISLAND OF MARVELS

8 - 22 April 2026

FROM  
£11,780  
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Andy Buntin

  
**The Ultimate**  
TRAVEL COMPANY





Madagascar, fourth largest island in the world, is a truly unique destination. Its separation from Africa some 65 million years ago resulted in the evolution of flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth. Today, the island is often considered to be the eighth continent for its remarkable biodiversity and culture which this exceptional tour, with the help of expert local guides, explores in depth.

Our journey begins in the island's colourful capital, Antananarivo, or Tana as it is known, which we will return to in between all three subsequent ports of call. We will visit the historic 'haute ville' dominated by the Rova (royal palace) built on the city's highest peak.

We fly to the far south of the island to the secluded Mandrare River Camp, a luxury tented camp in a breathtaking setting in the remarkable spiny forest, which is home to the fascinating Antandroy tribe and a unique variety of wildlife including Verreaux's Sifaka lemurs.

We drive to the east of the island to Mantadia Lodge in Andasibe, a stunning rainforest park which consists of two protected areas, the Perinet Special Reserve and Mantadia National Park. Perinet is world famous for its population of indri lemurs, which are the largest living lemur species.

We fly to Anjajavy Lodge situated on the northwest coast mid-way between Mahajunga and Nosy Be on a small peninsula with secluded bays, beautiful white sandy beaches and pockets of deciduous forest and mangroves. It is surrounded by a private reserve which includes a landscape of ancient baobab trees and tsingy rock formations found only in Madagascar and is known for its Coquerel's sifaka lemurs.





Antananarivo



Mouse Lemur



Antandroy Tribe

## 15-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 8 APRIL 2026

### 8 April London / Dubai

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Emirates EK 4 departing London Heathrow at 20.40 hrs.

### 9 April Dubai / Antananarivo

Arrive Dubai at 06.35 hrs and connect to EK 4 departing at 08.55 hrs arriving Antananarivo (Tana) at 16.50 hrs. Group transfer to the Radisson Blu Hotel, situated on the Tana Waterfront, where one night is spent. Dinner at Le Marais, the top restaurant in Madagascar.

### 10 April Antananarivo / Mandrare

Transfer to Tana airport for a private charter flight to Ifotaka. Upon arrival transfer to the Mandrare River Camp where three nights are spent in a luxury tent. The camp is set in the shade of Tamarind Trees, a strand of deciduous gallery forest in an area predominantly covered by spiny forest and sisal, with majestic views over the Mandrare River.

Lunch at the camp. In the late afternoon, depart for a night walk in the Forest of Zenavo. This is a fantastic way to see diurnal lemurs bedding down, and the nocturnal lemurs beginning to wake in the eerie and prehistoric spiny forest. Spot sifakas and sleeping white-foot sportive lemurs, then once the sun has set, two mouse lemur species, sleeping birds, chameleons, owls and now active sportive lemurs. Dinner at the camp.

### 11 April Mandrare

Morning excursion to the stunning sacred gallery forest to the south of the camp. Depending on the river depth, walk or take a boat across the Mandrare River to reach this largely deciduous forest. Inquisitive groups of ring-tailed lemurs and the always entertaining Verreaux sifaka are the highlight of this excursion.

Return to camp for lunch and a relaxed afternoon by the pool. In late afternoon, take a walk through the sacred spiny forest filled with the ancestral tombs of the local Antandroy tribe, as well as an extraordinary array of flora and fauna, unique to the spiny forest. Your guide and a tracker from the local community will give you an introduction to Antandroy culture and customs. Sundowners on the Mandrare riverbanks followed by dinner at the camp.

### 12 April Mandrare

Early morning walk in the spiny forest. Witness the sunlight break through the octopus trees while looking out for the many endemic birds such as crested coua, a variety of vangas and the running coua. Return to camp for breakfast followed by a visit to the local market or the local village to meet the fascinating Antandroy tribe.

Lunch at the camp followed by a relaxed afternoon watching life along the river from your tent

terrace. Late afternoon sundowners amidst the baobabs. Watching the sun set and moon rise with a view across the baobabs to the mountains beyond is a magical experience. In the evening the local village may come to perform beautiful traditional dances, accompanied by singing and music. Dinner at the camp.

### 13 April Mandrare / Antananarivo

Transfer to the airstrip for a private charter flight to Tana. On arrival transfer to the Radisson Blu Hotel where one night is spent.

Lunch at the hotel. Excursion to the historical upper town of Tana, with its stunning French inspired architecture. Visit the grand Queen's Palace, built in the mid-19th century for Queen Ranvalona I, before continuing to the old colonial railway station, built by the French in 1910. Dinner at the hotel.



Mandrare River Camp





*Coquerel's Sifaka*



*Mantadia Lodge*

#### 14 April Antananarivo / Andasibe

Depart by road (5 hrs) to Andasibe, the drive offering an introduction to rural life with rice fields, redbrick houses and roadside stalls selling seasonal fruits and vegetables lining the route. Check into the Mantadia Lodge where three nights are spent. The lodge is located on a hill allowing panoramic views of the forest from the rooms which each have a private terrace as well as an indoor lounge. The restaurant also has an exceptional view thanks to its huge windows and large terrace.

Lunch at the lodge. Afternoon visit to a private reserve operated by local NGO Mitsinjo which funds reforestation, community education and conservation as well as running Madagascar's first amphibian captive-breeding facility. Here see a stunning array of wildlife and possibly plant an indigenous species along the reforestation trail. Dinner at the lodge.

#### 15 April Andasibe

Excursion to Mantadia National Park (1.5 hr drive) home to several lemur species including the indri indri, diademed sifaka, grey bamboo lemur, red-bellied lemur and white ruffed lemur. While the trails are slightly more difficult, the rewards are great as the forest is taller, wilder and less crowded than Perinet. There is an abundance of birds including the scaly ground roller, the pitta-like ground roller and the red-breasted coua. This is a naturalist's goldmine with many seldom seen species of mammals, reptiles and birds.

Enjoy a picnic by the Rianasoa

Waterfall before hiking back to the vehicle and returning to the lodge. A night walk will be organised in late evening in the forest surrounding the reserve with a local guide which will offer the opportunity to see a variety of nocturnal lemurs: mouse lemurs, white footed sportive lemur, fat-tailed dwarf lemur, as well as the woolly lemur. Dinner at the lodge.

#### 16 April Andasibe

Visit the 810-hectare Perinet Reserve in search of the indri indri. With a barely visible tail, black and white markings and a surprised teddy-bear face, this lemur is one of the few animals in the world that cannot survive in captivity. There are another 11 species of lemur to spot as you walk through the rainforest including the grey bamboo lemur, common brown lemur, diademed sifaka and the black and white ruffed lemur. Birdwatchers should look out for the velvet asity, the blue coua and the Nuthatch vanga and many more endemic species. Perinet is also home to many reptiles, invertebrates, and some of Madagascar's over a thousand orchid species.

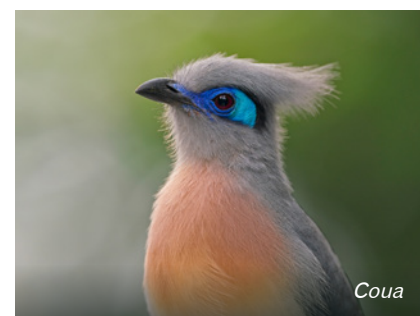
Lunch and dinner at the lodge. Optional further guided night walk.

#### 17 April Andasibe / Vakona / Antananarivo

Morning visit to Lemur Island, Vakona Lodge's private reserve that protects a number of habituated lemurs. There are four species to see, the bamboo lemur, the black and white ruffed lemur, brown lemur and one diademed sifaka.

After lunch at the lodge, drive back

to Antananarivo (5 hrs). Overnight and dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel.



*Coua*

#### 18 April Antananarivo / Anjajavy

Early transfer to Tana airport for a scheduled charter flight to Anjajavy. Transfer to Anjajavy Lodge located within a 450-hectare nature reserve on Madagascar's north-west coast. The lodge's duplex, rosewood villas all have private decks overlooking the ocean. Meals are served in an enclosed oasis in the hotel grounds or on the beach. The surrounding forest is alive with lemurs, chameleons, malachite kingfishers and hummingbirds.

Lunch at the lodge. In the late afternoon depart for a night walk in the reserve to spot a variety of nocturnal lemurs such as the charismatic Coquerel's sifakas, danfoss mouse lemurs which weigh a mere 63 grams and scamper about in the shrubbery and spring from branch to branch and Grewcock's sportive lemurs. Other mammals to spot are the endemic tsingy tuft-tailed rat, Commerson's leaf-nosed bat, or Madagascar's largest predator - the rare and elusive fossa. Dinner at the lodge.





Aanajavy Lodge

### 19 April Anajavy

Morning at leisure to enjoy the beach or the swimming pool.

Lunch at the lodge. Take a walk along the King's Alley through its extremely ancient baobab trees and tsingy rock formations and see a variety of lemurs including the Coquerel's sifakas. These remarkable animals live in family groups of up to 10 individuals and, although they are perfectly adapted to life in the trees, they often descend to the ground too. Unlike the famous Verreaux's sifaka from southern Madagascar with its characteristic sideways dance, the Coquerel's sifaka bounces across the ground like a mini kangaroo! The sifakas, along with troops of common brown lemurs, roam freely in the gardens and surrounding reserve. Dinner at the lodge.

### 20 April Anajavy

Boat trip (shared with other passengers) to Moramba Bay on the beautiful northwest coast of Madagascar. Discover the centuries-old marine baobabs, the sandy beaches, and the mushroom shaped tsingy islands. Keep a look out for one of the rarest raptors in the world, the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle.

Picnic lunch on a secluded beach. Return to the lodge in the mid-afternoon. Lantern lit farewell dinner in the beautiful Oasis Gardens.



Verreaux's Sifaka

### 21 April Anajavy / Antananarivo / Dubai

Transfer to the airstrip for a morning scheduled charter flight to Tana.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Group transfer to Tana Airport. Suggested flight (not included) Emirates EK 708 departing at 18.35 hrs.

### 22 April Dubai / London

Arrive Dubai at 04.20 hrs. Connect to flight EK 1 departing at 07.45 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 12.25 hrs.

## TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£11,780
Single Supplement	£1,845

*Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.*

## PRICE INCLUDES

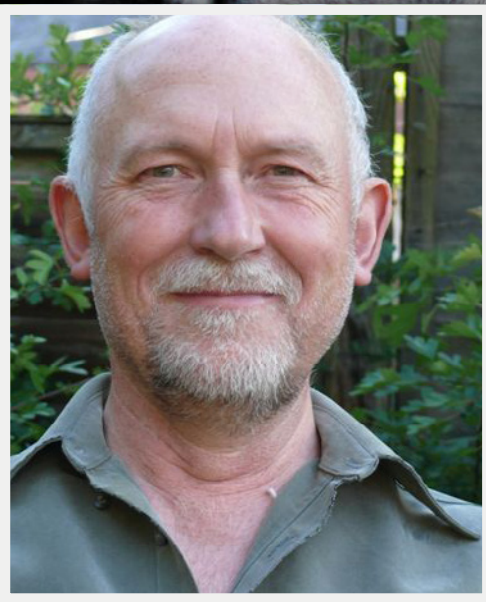
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 12 lunches; 12 dinners
- Group transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Meals 'under own arrangements'
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 02/05/2025







## YOUR TOUR LEADER

## Andy Bunten

Andy previously worked for many years in the field of nature conservation for wildlife trusts, local government and, for 26 years as Regional Director for the RSPB. He has been passionate about wildlife and nature conservation for as long as he can remember. Now an independent tour leader and lecturer who delights in leading Ultimate Travel's travellers. He is well travelled, too, having worked in the Seychelles, Burma and Sierra Leone helping local people solve their local conservation issues and having led groups to places as far afield as Iceland, Poland, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Romania and Ethiopia.

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