

Day 1

Arrival in Antananarivo

Upon arrival into Ivato Airport you will be greeted by an English speaking guide from MCC who will accompany you to your hotel in the upper town of Antananarivo. 'Tana' - as the locals call it has fascinating traditional architecture and a more Indonesian influence than the rest of Madagascar.

Meal Plan Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Pavillion de l'Emyrne

Day 2

Antananarivo - Andasibe

After an early breakfast, your guide will take you east to Andasibe, a stunning rainforest park, about 4 hours' drive from the city. The park 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. The journey to Andasibe offers first time visitors to Madagascar a gentle introduction to rural life with rice fields, redbrick houses and roadside stalls selling seasonal fruits and vegetables lining the route. Check into hotel for lunch. A night walk will be organized in late evening in the forest surrounding the reserve with a local guide. You will see a variety of nocturnal lemurs: mouse lemurs, white footed sportive lemur, fat-tailed dwarf lemur, as well as the woolly lemur.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation

Mantadia Lodge

Day 3

Andasibe (Mantadia National Park)

After breakfast you will head to Mantadia National Park (~ 1 hour 30mn drive) with a picnic lunch. Look for some of the lemur species in this stunning park 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 are an abundance of

birds including the scaly ground roller, the pitta-like ground roller and the breasted coua. This is a naturalist's goldmine with many seldom seen species of mammals, reptiles and birds. Enjoy a picnic by the Rianaso Waterfall before hiking back to the vehicle and return to the lodge. In the evening you may choose to go on another night walk with your local guide.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4

Andasibe (Perinet Reserve) - Antananarivo

After breakfast, enjoy a visit to the 810 ha Perinet Reserve with a local guide 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. You may find a troop of grey bamboo lemurs, 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 home to many reptiles, invertebrates, and some of Madagascar's over a thousand orchid species. Lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon drive back to Tana to your hotel near the airport (~ 5 hour-drive). Check-in for dinner.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Le Relais des Plateaux Hotel

Day 5

Antananarivo - Fort Dauphin - Mandrare River Camp (Tsaradia national flight)

After breakfast, transfer to Ivato Airport for a morning flight to Fort Dauphin with Tsaradia (3 hours). In Fort Dauphin you will be met by a guide and vehicle from Mandrare River Camp who will escort you to a local restaurant in Fort Dauphin. After an early lunch, drive to Mandrare River Camp (4 hours). Upon arrival at the camp settle into your tent and enjoy the majestic views over the Mandrare River. Around 5pm 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 begin to wake in the eerie and prehistoric Spiny Forest. You will 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.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Duration 4 Nights

Accommodation

Mandrare River Camp

Day 6

Mandrare River Camp

After breakfast you will head out to the stunning Sacred Gallery Forest to the south of the camp. Depending on the river depth, you will 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, head for 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 English speaking guide and a tracker from the local community will give you an introduction to Antandroy culture and customs. Your visit is followed by sundowners on the Mandrare River banks.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7

Mandrare River Camp

After a cup of tea or coffee head to the Spiny Forest for an early morning walk. 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. Head back to camp for a sumptuous breakfast followed by a visit to the local market (on Thursdays and Saturdays) or the local village to meet the fascinating Antandroy tribe. Lunch will be served at the camp followed by a relaxed afternoon watching life along the river from your tent terrace. At 5pm, depart for a sundowner 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. Song and dance is at the heart of Antandroy culture and is used to accompany the major rituals and events of everyday life.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8

Mandrare River Camp

After breakfast depart for a day trip to the stunning Lac Anony. This salt water lake is separated from the Indian Ocean by a series of large sand dunes and is home to Greater Flamingos and a variety of salt water birds. The lake is a two hour drive from the camp. On arrival, walk along the lake shore to a beautiful picnic spot. Then scale the 70 foot high sand dunes for an incredible view of the surrounding area and go for a swim the lake. Return to the camp in time for dinner.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9

Mandrare River Camp - Fort Dauphin - Antananarivo (Tsaradia national flight)

After breakfast, drive to Fort Dauphin (4hours) in time for your Tsaradia flight back to Tana. Upon arrival into Ivato Airport you will be greeted by an English speaking guide from MCC who will accompany you to your hotel.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Pavillion de l'Emyrne

Day 10

Antananarivo - Departure

After breakfast at your hotel and check out, your local representative will transfer you to the airport and assist at check in for your onward flight.

Meal Plan Breakfast