

Itinerary 1: Western Madagascar (Tsingy de Bemaraha - Avenue of the Baobabs and Kirindy Forest)

Destinations: Antananarivo – Antsirabe – Miandrivazo – Morondava – Kirindy – Tsingy de Bemaraha

Reasons to visit Western Madagascar:

Iconic Landscapes: The Avenue of the Baobabs near Morondava, the world's largest lagoon, and the Tsingy de Bemaraha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its unique karst formations.

Adventure and Nature: Exploring the tracks by 4x4, hiking, descending the Tsiribihina River, and observing lemurs and birds.

Cultural immersion and authenticity: Meet the Vezo (fishermen) and Sakalava people, visit traditional villages, and discover life on the wild coast.

Beaches and Diving: Explore unspoiled and relatively uncrowded spots like Belo-sur-Mer, Salary, and Andavadoaka, perfect for relaxation and diving.

Climate: A hot and dry climate, ideal for holidays, in contrast to the humidity of the East.



Day 1 - Arrival in Antananarivo. Welcome at Ivato International Airport. Transfer to the hotel. Presentation of the program and briefing on the bird species to observe during the trip.
Overnight: Antananarivo



Day 2 - Antananarivo → Antsirabe

Early morning departure for Antsirabe. Birdwatching in the agricultural areas and rice paddies along the way.

Possible species:

- Cattle Egret
- Malagasy Kingfisher
- Weaverbirds. Visit to the city of Antsirabe.

Overnight: Antsirabe



Day 3 - Antsirabe → Miandrivazo

Drive to Miandrivazo (drier area). Birdwatching in the savannas and shrublands.

Possible species:

- Crested Coua
- Ground Roller
- Vanga

Overnight: Miandrivazo



Day 4 - Miandrivazo → Morondava Drive to Morondava. Birdwatching near wetlands and rivers.

Possible species:

- Egrets
- Jacanas
- Herons

Overnight: Morondava



Day 5 - Avenue of the Baobabs and Kirindy Forest

Sunrise at the Avenue of the Baobabs. Departure for the Kirindy Reserve. Birdwatching in the western dry forest.

Possible endemic species:

- Van Dam's Vanga
- Giant Coua
- Malagasy Drongo
- Malagasy Sickle-tailed Owlet.

Nighttime observation possible (lemurs and nocturnal birds).

Overnight: Kirindy



Day 6 - Kirindy → Bekopaka Drive by 4x4 to Bekopaka. Crossing the Tsiribihina and Manambolo rivers. Birdwatching along the river.

Possible species:

- Kingfisher
- Birds of prey
- Bee-eaters

Overnight: Bekopaka



Day 7 - Manombolo Gorge and Little Tsingy Morning:

Canoe trip in the Manambolo Gorge. Navigate through the spectacular gorges with their limestone walls. Visit the sacred caves (Vazimba tombs). Birdwatching along the cliffs and the river.

Possible species:

- Madagascar Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*)
- Madagascar Kingfisher (*Corythornis vintsioides*)

- White-crowned Squacco Heron (*Ardeola idae*)
- Striped-bellied Falcon (*Falco zoniventris*)
- Madagascar Crested Ibis (*Lophotibis cristata*)

Afternoon:

Hike in the Petit Tsingy de Bemaraha. The route traverses karst formations (limestone pinnacles). Exploration of canyons, natural bridges, and deep forests. Birdwatching in the dry forest associated with the tsingy.

Possible species:

- Coquerel's Coua (*Coua coquereli*)
- Red-backed Vanga (*Vanga curvirostris*)
- Grey-headed Parakeet (*Agapornis canus*)
- Madagascar Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)
- Madagascar Black-backed Lemur (*Leptosomus discolor*)

Possible lemur sightings (Decken's Sifaka, Brown Lemur).

Night: Bekopaka



Day 8 - Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park: A full day of exploration. Birdwatching in this unique UNESCO World Heritage ecosystem.

Possible species:

- Lafresnaye's Vanga
- Coquerel's Coua

- Madagascar Fish Eagle

- Malagasy Owl

Overnight: Bekopaka



Day 9 - Bekopaka → Morondava

Return to Morondava. Birdwatching in the mangroves and coastal areas.

Possible species:

- Terns

- Curlews

- Herons

Sunset at the Avenue of the Baobabs.

Overnight: Morondava Destination details



Day 10 - Morondava → Antananarivo

Domestic flight to Antananarivo.

Free time for:

- Shopping
- Cultural visits
- Craft markets

Overnight: Antananarivo



Day 11 - Departure Transfer to the international airport.

End of trip.

Estimated price per person from €1900

Included:

- 4x4 vehicle with driver
- Fuel
- Accommodation (mid-range hotels)
- Tour guide
- Breakfast
- Trip organization
- Domestic flight (included or not included)
- Visits to the parks mentioned (entrance fees, local guide)

Not included:

- International flight

- Lunches and dinners
- Insurance
- Tips
- Extras

Trip highlights:

- Observation of numerous endemic bird species of Madagascar
- Exploration of the Kirindy dry forest
- Exploration of the Tsingy de Bemaraha (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Visit to the iconic Avenue of the Baobabs
- Diverse landscapes: savannas, dry forests, mangroves, rivers and coastline

Itinerary 3 (Southern Madagascar: Ranomafana National Park - Anja National Park)

Destination: Antananarivo → Antsirabe → Ambositra → Ranomafana → Ambalavao → Anja National Park → Isalo National Park → Tulear → Ifaty → Tulear → Antananarivo

Why choose Southern Madagascar:

Unique and diverse landscapes: Discover the spiny bush, spectacular canyons in Isalo National Park, rock formations, and arid coastal landscapes.

Endemic biodiversity: The South is home to unique flora and fauna, famous for its lemurs, and Tsimanapesotse National Park with its pink flamingos. Cultural immersion: Meet the Antandroy and Mahafaly ethnic groups, renowned for their ancestral traditions, artistic tombs, and handicrafts.

Adventure and off-road driving: The South is perfect for lovers of wide-open spaces and unpaved roads, especially between Fort-Dauphin, Lavanono, and Anakao.

Favorable climate: The desert climate allows for year-round travel, with a dry season that makes exploration easy.

Wild coastal tourism: The southern beaches, like those of Anakao, offer picture-perfect scenery, less crowded than elsewhere.



Day 1 - Arrival in Antananarivo

Arrival at Ivato Airport.

Transfer to the hotel. Program presentation and briefing on the bird species of the South. Rest time after the flight.

Optional activity (if arriving early):

Visit to Lake Alarobia (observation of herons, egrets, and ducks).

Overnight: Antananarivo. Destination details



Day 2 - Antananarivo → Antsirabe → Ambositra

Early morning departure south via the RN7. Crossing the Malagasy Highlands. Birdwatching in the rice paddies and agricultural areas.

Possible species:

- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

- Dimorphic Heron (*Egretta dimorpha*)
- Malagasy Kingfisher (*Corythornis vintsioides*)
- Malagasy Cisticola (*Cisticola cherina*)
- Red Fody (*Foudia madagascariensis*)
- Sakalava Weaver (*Ploceus sakalava*)

Stops: Antsirabe: Spa town, Lake Andraikiba.

Ambositra: Capital of Zafimaniry crafts (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Night: Ambositra or Ranomafana Destination detail



Day 3 - Ambositra → Ranomafana

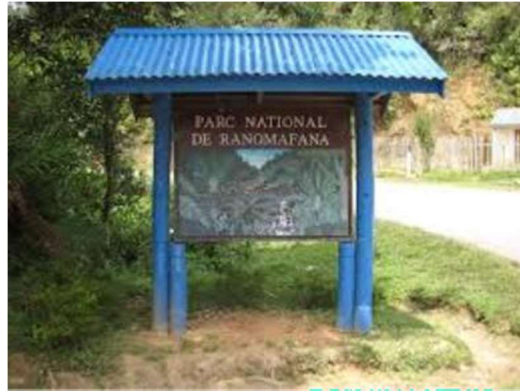
Drive to Ranomafana through terraced rice paddies. Arrive late morning.

Afternoon: Initial exploration of the park.

Night walk: Observation of nocturnal lemurs (*Microcebus*, *Avahi*).

Possible nocturnal birds:

- Madagascar Owl (*Asio madagascariensis*)
- Madagascar Barn Owl (*Tyto soumagnei*)
- rare Overnight: Ranomafana



Day 4: Ranomafana National Park (Full Day)

Birdwatching excursion in the rainforest.

Morning: Talatakely Circuit (primary forest)

Possible endemic bird species:

Pitta's Ground Roller (*Atelornis pittoides*)

Malagasy Ground Finch (*Brachypteracias leptosomus*)

Sun-billed Vanga (*Euryceros prevostii*)

Brown Ground Finch (*Xanthomixis zosterops*)

Afternoon: Side trail or visit to the hot springs. Possible lemurs: Milne-Edwards' Sifaka, Red-bellied Lemur, Golden Bamboo Lemur (rare)

Overnight: Ranomafana



Day 5 - Ranomafana → Ambalavao → Anja Park

Departure for Ambalavao.

Visit to the Antemoro paper factory (paper made from flowers).

Anja Village Reserve:

Ring-tailed lemur (Maki) observation.

Possible bird species:

- Madagascar Kestrel (*Falco newtoni*)
- Madagascar Harrier (*Circus macrosceles*)
- Madagascar Coucal (*Centropus toulou*)
- Madagascar Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)
- Madagascar Drongo (*Dicrurus forficatus*)

Landscape: Spectacular granite mountains.

Overnight: Ambalavao or drive to Isalo. Destination details



Day 6 - Ambalavao → Isalo National Park

Drive to Isalo National Park.

Cross the Horombe Plateau (grassy savanna). Birdwatching along the way.

Possible species in the savanna:

- Madagascar Courser (*Cursorius cursor*)
- Madagascar Lark (*Eremopterix hova*)
- Madagascar Harrier
- Red-bellied Falcon (*Falco zoniventris*)

Arrival in Isalo: Check-in at the hotel. Sunset at the "Window of Isalo".

Overnight: Isalo (Ranohira)



Day 7 - Isalo National Park (Full Day)

Hiking in the park's canyons and forests.

Possible routes:

- Lemur Canyon
- Natural Pool
- Rat Canyon
- Nymphs' Waterfall

Possible endemic bird species:

- Benson's Rock Thrush (*Monticola bensoni*)
- Endemic Isalo Crested Coua (*Coua cristata*)
- Coquerel's Coua (*Coua coquereli*)
- Red-backed Vanga (*Vanga curvirostris*)
- Grey-headed Parakeet (*Agapornis canus*)
- Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Possible lemurs: Ring-tailed Lemur, Verreaux's Sifaka

Overnight: Isalo (Ranohira) Destination details



Day 8 - Isalo → Tuléar → Ifaty

Drive to Tuléar (Toliara) through the Malagasy bush. Observe the xerophytic vegetation (Didieraceae, Euphorbias).

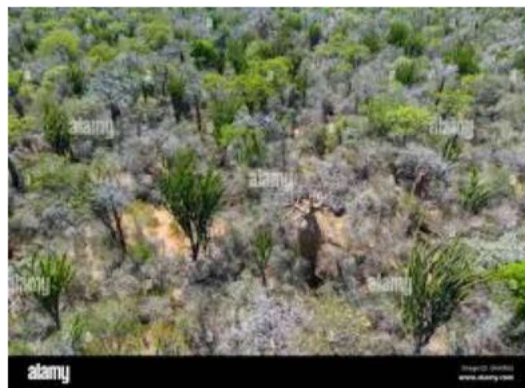
Birdwatching stops en route:

Zombitse-Vohibasia (if time allows):

- Giant Coua (*Coua gigas*)
- Chabert's Vanga (*Leptopterus chabert*)

Arrival in Ifaty: Check in by the sea. Exploration of the spiny forest in the late afternoon.

Overnight: Ifaty



Day 9 - Ifaty: Reniala Spiny Forest

A day dedicated to exploring the spiny forest (Malagasy bush). A unique ecosystem in the world, featuring baobabs and Didieraceae trees.

Morning: Reniala Reserve

Possible endemic bird species:

Monias Mesitus (*Monias benschi*)

- Endemic to the South Lafresnaye's Vanga (*Xenopirostris xenopirostris*)

Torotoroka's Scops Owl (*Otus madagascariensis*)

- Nocturnal Afternoon: Relaxation on the beach. Snorkeling on the coral reef (optional).
Seabird watching.

Possible marine species:

- Crested Tern

- Red-billed Tropicbird

- Brown Noddy

- Red-footed Booby

Night walk: Observation of the Torotoroka Scops Owl.



Day 10 - Ifaty → Tuléar → Free morning in Ifaty.

Transfer to Tuléar airport. Check-in at the hotel. Explore the colonial city.

Possible birdwatching: Coastal birds in the bay.

Overnight: Tuléar



Day 11: Tulear to Antananarivo

Arrival in Antananarivo:

Free time:

Shopping at the craft market

Visit to the Queen's Palace (Rova)

Lunch in town

Transfer to Ivato International Airport.

End of trip.

Estimated price per person from €1,900

Included:

- 4x4 vehicle with driver
- Fuel
- Accommodation (mid-range hotels)
- Tour guide
- Breakfast
- Trip organization
- Domestic flight (included or not included)
- Visits to the parks mentioned (entrance fees, local guide)

Not included

- International flight
- Lunches and dinners
- Park entrance fees
- Insurance
- Tips
- Extras

Itinerary 2 (Eastern Madagascar: Andasibe-Mantadia)

Destinations: Antananarivo – Andasibe – Mantadia – Pangalanes Canal – Palmarium

Main Reasons to Visit Eastern Madagascar:

Biodiversity and National Parks: The region is home to primary rainforests, including Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, famous for its Indri (largest lemurs). **Water Adventures and Beaches:** The Pangalanes Canal offers peaceful navigation, winding between lagoons and fishing villages.

Humpback Whale Watching: From June to September, the waters between SainteMarie and Grande Terre welcome migrating humpback whales.

Cultural and Landscape Discovery: The East Coast is characterized by a rich culture, traditional fishing villages, and plantations of vanilla, cloves, and coffee.

Wild nature and ecotourism: This is a prime destination for nature lovers, hikers, and those interested in sustainable tourism, with diverse landscapes combining mountains, waterfalls, and coastline. Eastern Madagascar is an ideal destination for those seeking authenticity, adventure, and exceptional biodiversity.



Day 1 - Arrival in Antananarivo. Welcome at Ivato International Airport. Transfer to the hotel. Presentation of the program and briefing on the bird species to observe.

Overnight: Antananarivo



Day 2 - Antananarivo → Andasibe

Early morning departure for Andasibe (approximately a 4-hour drive).

Stop at the Peyrieras Reserve to observe:

- chameleons
- geckos
- butterflies
- first rainforest birds.

Arrival in Andasibe.

Nighttime activity:

Night walk to observe: - nocturnal lemurs - chameleons - frogs - nocturnal birds.

Overnight: Andasibe



Day 3 - Andasibe National Park (Analamazaotra)

Morning excursion in the park with a birdwatching guide. Birdwatching in the rainforest.

Possible species:

- Helmeted Vanga
- Blue Coua
- Madagascar Nectarinia
- Malagasy Tylas
- Malagasy Eroessa

Also, the opportunity to observe the Indri Indri, the largest living lemur.

Free afternoon or visit to the village.

Overnight: Andasibe



Day 4 - Mantadia Reserve

A day of exploration in the Mantadia Reserve, an ideal area for birdwatching.

Possible species:

- Schlegel's Asity
- Madagascar Ground-flying Parrot
- Pitta's Ground Roller
- Lafresnaye's Vanga

Also worth observing: - chameleons - lemurs - tropical flora

Overnight: Andasibe



Day 5 - Andasibe → Palmarium (Akanin'ny Nofy)

Drive to Manambato, then take a boat across the Pangalanes Canal. Arrive at Palmarium Lodge. Birdwatching around the lake.

Possible species:

- Herons
- Kingfishers
- Waterfowl

Overnight: Palmarium



Day 6 - Palmarium and Pangalanes Canal

Exploration of the reserve. Bird and lemur watching.

Possible species:

- Vanga
- Coua
- Madagascar Sunbird. Boat trip on the canal.

Overnight: Palmarium



Day 7 - Palmarium → Antananarivo

Return by boat to Manambato, then drive to Antananarivo.

Stops for:

- landscape photography
- birdwatching in rural areas

Overnight: Antananarivo



Day 8 - Departure Transfer to the international airport.

End of trip.

Estimated price per person from €1,050

Included

- 4x4 vehicle with driver
- Fuel
- Accommodation (mid-range hotels)
- Tour guide
- Breakfast
- Trip organization
- Domestic flight (included or not included)
- Visits to the parks mentioned (entrance fees, local guide)

Not included

- International flight
- Lunches and dinners
- Insurance
- Tips
- Extras

Highlights

- Andasibe National Park
- Mantadia Reserve
- Pangalanes Canal
- Observing endemic rainforest birds

Contact:

If you have any suggestions or would like to make a reservation, here are the contact details:

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