



1000 VIEWS OF MADAGASCAR

12 DAYS FROM AND TO ANTANANARIVO

They say a picture paints a thousand words. As such, our 1000 Views of Madagascar tour could scribe a book on the colourful and character filled country that is Madagascar, an island waiting to be explored. Discover the best of Madagascar during our fascinating 12-day tour with lemurs, colourful tribes, tropical beaches, bustling markets and ever-changing scenery. The adventure begins in Tana and travels through unspoilt nature, the dense forests of Andasibe, the eroded hills of Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Isalo National Park, Ifaty and Tulear

Tour Code: VM
Rev: 2024/20231106

1000 VIEWS OF MADAGASCAR - GUIDED GROUP TOUR



Antananarivo:	Capital city of Madagascar	Ihosa:	Drive through the capital of the Bara tribes
Natural Reserve of Andasibe:	Great location for finding lemurs	Isalo National Park:	Hike in the park known for its beautiful vegetation and natural pool
Antsirabe:	Known as the centre of the beer industry	Ifaty:	An ideal place for diving, snorkelling, seasonal whale watching.
Ambositra:	The centre of Madagascar's wood carving industry	Reniala Park:	A small reserve hosting baobabs, spiny forest and some of the largest chameleons in the world.
Ranomafana National Park:	Known for its rain forest covered hills and abundant wildlife		
Fianarantsoa:	The centre of wine industry in Madagascar		

HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 3: NATURAL RESERVE OF ANDASIBE

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We start our morning with a visit to the Special Reserve of Andasibe to see the Indri, the largest lemurs on the island. This 810 ha reserve is unique with its endemic fauna and flora and contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. In the afternoon, we visit the V.O.I.I.M.A community reserve. Here you will also come across a variety of wildlife, ranging from brown lemurs, indri, chameleons, geckos and birds. We overnight at the same hotel. This reserve provides a sustainable way of saving the remaining rainforests in the area by creating a livelihood for the local communities through reforestation projects

Accommodation: Mantadia Lodge, Sahatandra River Hotel or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms & veranda)

DAY 4: ANDASIBE - ANTSIRABE

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We drive back to Tana, and head south to Antsirabe, across the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields on display. The spectacular eroded hills called 'lavaka' remind us of the Far East with its rice fields and green landscape with vegetables and fruit trees. We stop in Ambatolampy for a quick visit to this huge agricultural city, also recognised as the "capital of aluminium recycling". Arrival in Antsirabe is around 18h00. 'The place of salt' is an elegant city and known as the centre of the beer industry - we can smell the Star Brewery as we enter the town! Founded by Norwegians in 1856, it is the only place which really feels and looks like a European city. It has a temperate climate and therefore fruit and vegetables which grow in colder climates, are found in Antsirabe.

Distance: 309 km

Accommodation: Plumeria Hotel, Arotel or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 5: ANTSIRABE TO RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

B

After breakfast we drive to Ambositra, the centre of Madagascar's wood carving industry. The highlands are characterized by its architecture: The houses are made with ornately carved wooden balconies and shutters with bright colours. Further on we pass the 'le col de tapia', a type of tree resistant to bush fires. The landscape is still dominated by rice fields, pine forests, eucalyptus trees and rocky mountains. We turn off from the main road to reach our destination for the day: Ranomafana National Park.

Distance: 250 km

Accommodation: Setam Lodge, Hotel Thermal or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 6: RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

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The approximately 40,000 ha of Parc National de Ranomafana with its rain forest covered hills and abundant wildlife, has long been considered one of Madagascar's highlights, and is one of the country's national parks most heavily visited. Its entrance lies about 7 km from Ranomafana village and altitudes in the Park Range from 800 m to 1200 m. In addition to its densely forested hills, Ranomafana's terrain is characterised by numerous small streams which plummet down to the beautiful Namorona River. Although much of the region has been logged, the easternmost part of the park retains relatively large areas of primary forest. You will go for long walks in the National Park spotting some of the lemurs, chameleons and other animals.

Accommodation: Setam Lodge, Hotel Thermal or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 7: RANOMAFANA - FIANARANTSOA – ISALO

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Returning on the road we came on, we leave Ranomafana and visit a local wine farm for wine tasting near Fianarantsoa 'the city where one learns good things. Note that visits to the wine farms may not be possible over weekends. The city is the gate to the South, the capital of the Betsileo tribes and the centre of the catholic religion. Most of the best schools in the country are also found here.

We then head southwards to Ambalavao and visit the 'Anteimoro Paper Factory' which is a vestige of the Arabian civilisation on the island. Afterwards, we partake in a community-based silk weaving project run by the women's association "Soalandy".

We pass through the mountain chain of Andringitra, which serves as a transition between the dry south and green highlands with its famous '3 hillocks' and its huge 'archbishop's cape'. Along the way we will see from afar a spectacular huge granite dome with twin rock towers called 'the gate of the south', which in fact marks the end of the highland and the beginning of the south. The 'Bishop's hat' is another noticeable, imposing formation and a sacred location for the local people - a place where their ancestors chose a collective suicide rather than to give in to the Merina tribes. We then continue to Ihosy, the capital of the Bara tribes, who are shepherds of Zebu, and further on through the huge 'Plateaux de Horombe' with its very deep red soil, which reminds us of 'the no man's land' and we arrive in Isalo.

Distance: 355 km
Accommodation: Isalo Rock Lodge, Jardin du Roy or similar (room with en-suite bathroom & air-conditioning)

DAY 8: ISALO NATIONAL PARK

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Today, we will visit and hike in the Isalo National Park. The park covers an area of 81,540 ha, comprising of the entire stretch of the Isalo massif. This huge mountain is very spectacular with its eroded sandstone elevations. Along the way we will see vegetation like Uapaca bojeri, Pachypodium rosulatum or 'elephant's foot' and Aloe isaloensis, a native species of aloe endemic to Isalo. The eroded mountains also served as a place where the Bara kept their dead before they could bury them in their actual tombs.

We start our climb and reach the massif after walking about 20 minutes, where we will have a spectacular view of the huge sandstone mountains with its beautiful colours and its strange and battered formations creating many different images like 'the tortoise', 'the masks' and 'the crocodiles'. We see small streams of water, and rivers which are marked by lines of brilliant green, generally made up of numerous Pandanus pulcher and the delicate, slim-stemmed, feathery leaved palm Chrysalidocarpus isaloensis.

Accommodation: Isalo Rock Lodge, Jardin du Roy or similar (room with en-suite bathroom & air-conditioning)

DAY 9: ISALO TO IFATY

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After breakfast, we continue to Tuléar, the terminal of the National Road N° 7. This part of our journey brings us to new scenery among the dry forests of the west and the spiny desert of the south. On the way, we admire the different 'Mahafaly tombs' and the 'Antandroy tombs'. After a short visit of Tuléar we drive to Ifaty, which lies about 27 km from Tuléar. Thanks to the newly tared road, it will take us about 1 hour to reach Ifaty, the driest part of the country. Situated in the Deep South, the landscape is dominated by the cactus-like, spiny forest of different euphorbiaceae and didieraceae. We will cross the dry and sandy soil where the local people battle to find drinking water. Mangrove trees line the coast alternated by Vezo communities which earn their living from fishing. We will see many small pirogues with men who go out fishing twice a day, while children and women wait on the coast to collect the fish before taking them to Tuléar for sale.

Distance: 265 km
Accommodation: Le Paradisier, Les Dunes D'Ifaty or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 10: IFATY

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Ifaty lies on the beach. It is therefore an ideal place for diving and snorkelling and a popular place for birdwatchers. Here you can also experience the Vezo fishermen's life. Many excursions are possible on this leisure day. Visit the Reniala Forest where you can see two kinds of baobabs, spiny bush, reptiles like 'boa madagascariensis', geckos and the 'chameleon parsoni', which is one of the largest chameleons in the world. You can also take a boat trip to see whales. From July to mid-September, whales come to the cool seas of Madagascar to give birth to their young. It is a spectacular experience, and it is possible to see the whales very near to the boat. Situated in the largest lagoon of the country, Ifaty is also protected by a large coral reef, which makes it an ideal place for diving and snorkelling. In the afternoon we can walk to the village of Mangily to visit a local school and experience the Vezo fishermen's way of life, especially as they return from fishing.

Accommodation: Le Paradisier, Les Dunes D'Ifaty or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 11: IFATY – TULÉAR – TANA

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Early in the morning at around 6h00 we transfer to the airport for the flight back to Tana. After check-in at the hotel, you have the afternoon free to explore and to do some sightseeing. The capital of Madagascar is also called the 'City of Thousands' and it is where the first King started to unify the different kingdoms of the island. Tana was built in three stages: The high city, the first area occupied during the regal period where the old queen's palace is situated; the mid-city, where all the chic boutiques of the capital are found; and then the low city, which is the commercial area of the town. Walk from the high city to see the Rova, the queen's palace, and the house of the first minister during these days, which is now a museum. All of these were built by Frenchman Jean Laborde during the royal period. The mid-city, or the administration area, ends at the Rainiharo tombs and the lower town is situated in the main avenue called 'L'avenue de l'indépendance' dominated by the railway station.

Distance: 20 km
Accommodation: Palissandre Hotel & Spa or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms)

DAY 12: TANA

B

Today is the end of our tour and you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

DEPARTURE:

When arriving in Antananarivo in the morning of day 1 of the tour, you will be picked up from the airport and embark on your tour. Should you arrive prior to day 1, pre tour accommodation can be

arranged and you will be picked up from your hotel on the morning of day 1 (Pick up time will be confirmed on arrival).

TRANSPORT:

A minibus is used for group tours.

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation will be in mid-range hotels. Please note that Madagascar is a country which is in its infancy when it comes to tourism. Accommodation is limited so all the above mentioned accommodation are subject to availability and we reserve the right to change these using similar accommodation of the same standards. The hotels used are simple & clean and of mid-range standard, with bathrooms en-suite.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included throughout the tour.

VISAS:

A visa is required to enter the territory of Madagascar and can easily be obtained upon arrival at the airport of Antananarivo with a validity of up to 60 days. Tourists staying for less than one month, can purchase a visa for 115'000 Ariary (around 35 €). Paying with the exact amounts or small currency is advised. No photographs are required, however please ensure that passports are valid for at least 6 months after return date.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Please note that travel and cancellation insurance is mandatory for every guest travelling with Jenman Madagascar Safaris. All insurance is solely the responsibility of our guests. Please ensure you arrange your own insurance with protection for the full duration of your journey to cover personal injury, damage and loss of personal items including but not limited to camera equipment and other electronic items, medical expenses, repatriation expenses and loss of luggage, etc. Please speak to your travel agent if you require assistance

MAKING YOUR TRAVELS MEANINGFUL:

The Grow Africa Foundation (163-738 NPO) is the responsible tourism initiative started by Jenman African Safaris and Hideaways. The focus of Grow Africa is to make a positive impact on the environment, society and economy in the places we travel to. We do this by instigating and supporting local social and environmental projects.

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For more information regarding the attractions, accommodations and areas visited on this tour, we invite you to click through to the tour listing on our website www.jenmansafaris.com. You will also find information regarding availability and possible extensions to our scheduled tours. Our reservations office is at your service and we look forward to welcoming you to Jenman online!

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