



MADAGASCAR

Highlights & Discovery

WHY MADAGASCAR?

Although Madagascar has over 1,800 miles of beautiful beaches and exceptionally good food, its greatest attractions are its UNIQUE flora and fauna. Among the discoveries that await the traveler:

LEMURS: These prosimian primates are found wild only in Madagascar. Some of the best known are:

- * the nocturnal dwarf lemurs, no bigger than a mouse, found all over the island
- * the ring-tailed lemurs, most famously seen in the Berenty Reserve
- * the agile sifaka, which leaps 30 feet or more from branch to branch
- * the babakoto, "indri", the largest living lemur, most easily seen in the Perinet Reserve
- * the aye-aye, most unique of all living lemurs, protected on the island of Nosy Mangabe and other protected areas.



Eulemur coronatus

EXOTIC BIRDS: Five families of birds are endemic to Madagascar. Notable are:

- * the marvelous vangas, found all over the island
- * the couas, including the beautiful crested coua, and the peewit, easily identified by its unique call
- * the Coraciidae, sedentary insect feeders with brightly colored plumage
- * an abundance of aquatic birds in rice paddies and marshes, including herons, egrets, cormorants, ibises, ducks, water hens and flamingoes
- * birds of prey, such as eagles, falcons, and owls
- * more than 70 species of singing birds, including the two species of vasa parrots



Atelornis pittoides

RARE PLANTS: Madagascar boasts one of the richest floras in the world with more than 10,000 species of vascular plants, over 80% of which are endemic to the island, including:

- * 1,000 different species of orchids, including the Comet Orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*), the hawkmoth pollinated species with an extraordinarily long nectar spur and the exotic Black Orchid (*Cymbidiella falcigera*); both are found in the eastern rain forests
- * *Ravenala madagascariensis*, or "traveler's palm", a striking "tree" with a water-storing trunk in the bird of paradise family
- * *Raphia farinifera*, raffia palm, found throughout the East
- * 6 different species of baobabs, all of which are found only in Madagascar
- * Two species of the carnivorous genus *Nepenthes*, or "pitcher plant"
- * the spiny forest of the South, with its many species of *Kalanchoe*, *Aloe*, *Euphorbia* and *Pachypodium*



Vanilla madagascariensis

OTHER ATTRACTIONS: reptiles (including chameleons, geckoes, turtles and tortoises), amphibians (including brightly colored frogs), beautiful butterflies, moths and stick insects, unique mammals such as the fossa, fantastic coral reefs, whales during the breeding season, and so much more...



Chamaleo oshaughnesyi

ARE YOU READY FOR MADAGASCAR?

Changes, delays and occasional chaos are to this day part of traveling in Madagascar, so potential visitors should be mentally ready for such mishaps to avoid unhappy experiences. Visitors should also be aware of the health hazards, lack of safety equipment, life jackets and/or rafts in boats and other embarkations; of the scarcity of medical facilities outside of Antananarivo and the fact that the medical facilities available in the capital may not be up to American standards. In other words, traveling to Madagascar remains an adventure.

If one requires more than basic comfort (food and shelter), expects one's trip to happen exactly as outlined in the brochure and is shaken by unexpected, sometimes drastic changes, or is not in good health or physical condition, then Madagascar – at this time – is not the right destination.

If, on the other hand, one has a spirit of adventure akin to that of the early explorers, is willing to accept and trade some aggravation and discomfort for incredible flora and unique wildlife in a pristine land, and welcomes the unexpected as the very essence of adventure travel, then Madagascar will prove to be the destination of a lifetime.

Madagascar Highlights

and **Discovery** guided expeditions
Sunday departure from Paris
(May 3, September 13, November 1)

Itinerary followed by a few words about the wildlife habitats you will encounter

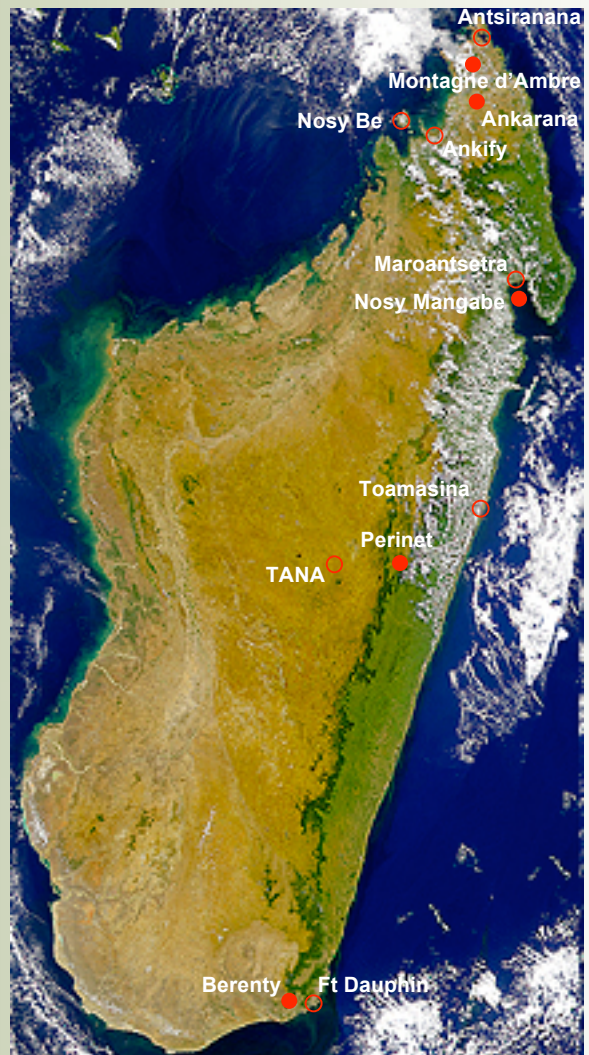
Wednesday (day 1)

Paris / Antananarivo - Board Air Madagascar's flight MD 51 leaving Roissy/Charles-de-Gaulle's Terminal 2A this afternoon, and arrive in Antananarivo, affectionately known as "Tana", early the following morning.

Thursday (day 2)

Antananarivo - Upon arrival, clear passport control, retrieve your baggage, and meet your guide outside customs for your transfer to the venerable Hotel Colbert. In the afternoon, explore the capital, with a visit to the Tsimbazaza zoo and botanical park, including the tiny and decrepit but unique paleontology and ethnography one-room museums, for an introduction to Madagascar's culture and natural history including the unique animal and botanical wonders endemic to the island. Also visit the soon-to-be-rebuilt Queen's "rova" royal compound (including Manjakamiadana palace) towering over the capital, and affording panoramic views of the city. Meals and overnight at the Hotel Colbert. (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)

Sifaka with baby



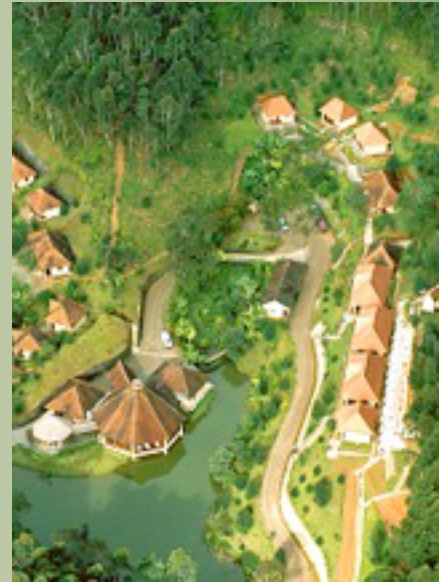
Composite from photos courtesy of NASA

Friday (day 3)

Antananarivo - Excursion to "Lemurs' Park", a kind of rescue and rehab center about one hour West of Tana, where lemurs from about eight different species run free within the park as they are rehabilitated before returning them to their respective habitats around the island. Lunch in the park then dinner on your own in Tana - the capital is home to many excellent restaurants, let your sense of adventure lead you to one of them. Overnight Hotel Colbert. (BLD)

Saturday (day 4)

Antananarivo / Perinet - This morning you set off on well-maintained Route Nationale 2 through the verdant Imerina countryside towards Perinet, about four hours East of the capital in the eastern rainforest. Stop for lunch and a visit of renowned naturalist André Peyri ras's La Mandraka Nature Farm about halfway to Perinet (the place has seen better days, but the colorful chameleons, butterflies, moths and assorted insects are still there). After you check into the Vak na Lodge at the edge of Analamazaotra Special Reserve, you will go on an evening walk into the rainforest to catch a glimpse or two of the nocturnal wildlife (dwarf lemurs, maybe a fossa fossana if you are lucky, maybe more if you are very lucky). Overnight at Vak na Forest Lodge. (BLD)



Sunday (day 5)

Analamazaotra Reserve - Full day to visit the reserve with an early start to see the "babakoto" (*Indri indri*, top right on the cover of this brochure - see the ecosystems synopses at the end for more on these unique creatures) and hear their haunting howling call. Mild hiking provides a good opportunity to experience the abundant flora and fauna of the eastern rainforest. Overnight at Vak na Lodge. (BLD)



Monday (day 6)

Perinet / Toamasina / Maroantsetra - Early this morning you will drive on to the coastal city of Toamasina, also known as Tamatave, Madagascar's second largest city and its main harbor, arriving in time to board Air Madagascar's flight MD 410 leaving at 14:10 and arriving at 15:10 in Maroantsetra, gateway to the great rainforest of Masoala Peninsula, Mecca of naturalists and wildlife enthusiasts. Evening river excursion with our guide Julien (of the late Gerald Durrell's "The Aye-aye and I fame") up an arm of the Antainambalana through the lush, virgin flora of the Masoala towards the forest of Farakaraina ... and watch Julien's uncanny ability to ferret out specimens of the endemic nocturnal fauna. Overnight at Relais du Masoala set in a coconut grove by the beach. (BD)



Vak na Forest Lodge



Tuesday (day 7)

Nosy Mangabe - Boat trip to the island of Mangabe (literally "big blue", center right picture on the brochure cover) for a full day excursion. Nosy Mangabe is a nature reserve set aside in the 60's as a sanctuary for what was then thought to be the rarest lemur, the aye-aye. Picnic lunch and hiking or swimming in the Indian Ocean where the forest meets the sea, before the late-afternoon 45-minute boat trip back to firm land. Overnight at the Relais du Masoala.(BLD)



Bungalow, Relais du Masoala

Wednesday (day 8)

Maroantsetra / Tana - After breakfast, transfer to Maroantsetra's bucolic airport for ATTR flight 20 leaving at 10:00 via Toamasina and arriving at 12:20 back in Tana.

Afternoon and evening free in the capital. Overnight at Hotel Colbert. (BL)

Thursday (day 9)

Tana / Ft Dauphin / Berenty - Rise very early to fly to Fort Dauphin in the southeastern corner of the island, aboard Air Madagascar's flight MD 710 leaving at 06:20 and arriving at 07:35. Upon arrival, you set off for Berenty Reserve, a two-hour drive from the coastal rainforest through the "spiny thicket" flora characteristic of southern Madagascar, past several elaborate Antanosy and Antandroy tombs, to the private reserve of Berenty. Evening and overnight at Gîte de Berenty in the reserve at the edge of the forest. (BLD)

Bungalow at Berenty

Friday (day 10)

Berenty - Full day to explore the reserve with walks along the well maintained trails. The "maki", better known as ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur Catta*), are very friendly and will be happy to pose for photographs. Be ready for surprise encounters with the beautiful sifaka lemur as they "dance" across your path. Other species include flying foxes, lizards, chameleons, the endangered radiated tortoise and dozens of species of rare birds. Overnight Gîte de Berenty. (BLD)



Saturday (day 11)

Berenty / Ft Dauphin / Antananarivo - Drive back to Fort Dauphin to board Air Madagascar's flight MD 711 leaving at 10:40 and arriving in Tana at 11:55. "Highlights" participants check into L'Auberge du Cheval Blanc near the airport, to rest and prepare for the evening transfer back to the airport for the overnight flight to Paris on Air Madagascar flight MD 50 leaving Tana at 21:45 and arriving Sunday morning at 07:40 in Paris. "Discovery" participants check into Hotel Colbert and enjoy another free day in the capital. One good option is to visit the La Digue artisans' market near the airport, where a couple hundred shacks offers hand-made goods ranging from silk scarves, raffia boxes, zebu-horn tableware, precious and semi-precious stones, etc. (B)

Maki at Berenty



New wing of Hotel Colbert in Antananarivo

Discovery continues:

Sunday (day 12)

Antananarivo / Antsiranana / Joffreville - Transfer to the airport to board Air Madagascar's flight MD 820 leaving Tana at 9:05 via Majunga (where it changes flight numbers to MD 336) and arriving in Antsiranana at 11:55. Also known as Diego Suarez, this harbor town on the Northern tip of the island features an eclectic mix of architectural styles reflecting the myriad of influences throughout the centuries. Upon arrival, you bravely drive on to the beautiful and lush national park of Montagne d'Ambre where you will enjoy an afternoon visit. The park comprises an extinct volcano and associated crater lakes. Rising to 1475m above the surrounding dry savanna, this is one of the rainiest parts of Madagascar, receiving over 3500mm of precipitation annually, witness the picturesque waterfalls, and varied flora and fauna in the park. Overnight at Nature Lodge in Joffreville. (BLD)



Bungalows at Nature Lodge near Joffreville

Monday (day 13)

Joffreville / Ankarana / Ankify - Drive South to Ankarana Special Reserve, with its extraordinary “tsingy” limestone formations. Ankarana is what remains of a gigantic fossilized coral reef, with some notable remnants you will see as you hike to the bat cave. After a picnic lunch which you may feel like sharing with some of the more permanent denizens of the reserve, drive on to the western coastal town of Ankify. Overnight at Hotel Baobab. (BLD)

Tuesday (day 14)

Ankify / Nosy Komba / Nosy Be - Cross by boat to Nosy Be, the “great island”, renowned for its palm-fringed beaches and fragrant ylang-ylang flowers grown in the local plantations. Stop on the way for a short visit of Nosy Komba, the island that is home to a small lemur sanctuary and the village of Ampangorinana, whose residents sell lovely handicrafts. Overnight at Hotel Nosy Be. (BLD)

Wednesday (day 15)

Nosy Tanikely - Day trip to the neighboring island of Tanikely, a few miles southeast of Nosy Be. Nosy Tanikely is protected as a marine reserve and offers world-class snorkeling and diving. You may see turtles and a myriad of colorful fish among the coral in this shallow natural aquarium surrounding the tiny island. Overnight at Hotel Nosy Be. (BLD)

Hotel Nosy Be



Thursday (day 16)

Nosy Be / Antananarivo - Transfer to the airport to board Air Madagascar's flight MD 321 leaving Nosy Be at 08:00 and arriving in Tana at 09:35. Rest in your dayroom at the Auberge du Cheval Blanc by the airport before the evening transfer to the airport for Air Madagascar's flight MD 50 leaving at 21:45 bound for Paris. (B)

Friday (day 17)

Paris - You arrive at 07:40 in Paris, where you connect onward to your trans-Atlantic flight.

The awkwardly gracious Sifaka



A few words about the different ecosystems you will encounter on this itinerary:

Some of the more interesting denizens of **La Mandraka** are the beautiful Madagascar stick insects which are raised there, along with dazzling butterflies and moths including the famous *Argema mittrei* "comet" (though many endemic species such as the lovely *Precis radama* are ubiquitous even in Tana).

Perinet's **Analamazaotra Special Reserve** is famous as the home of the babakoto "indri" lemur ("indr(o)" means roughly "there it is" in Malagasy - a well-meaning guide for some early explorer must have spotted a babakoto, pointed and shouted ... and the rest is history). These largest of all living lemurs are monogamous, and do not live in captivity anywhere in the world. They greet the morning with a unique display of elaborate calls that echo throughout the forest. Several groups in the reserve have become highly habituated and are therefore relatively easy to see. The area also shelters grey bamboo lemurs and brown lemurs, as well as Parson's chameleons which can exceed half a meter in length, the Madagascar tree boa, and numerous birds including the Madagascar blue pigeon, the blue coua, the Nelicourvi weaver, the Madagascar paradise flycatcher, the blue vanga and the Madagascar buzzard.

Located in Madagascar's most biodiverse region, **Masoala** is the largest National Park of the island. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur, the aye-aye, the greater hedgehog tenrec, the fossa, the fanaloka, the fanalouc, and whales which visit Antongil Bay around the breeding season in the austral winter and spring. The park is also home to various species of brightly colored *Mantella* frogs, and all manner of extraordinary chameleons of all sizes. Masoala is also the refuge of the endangered Madagascar red owl and Madagascar serpent eagle, along with many, many endemic bird species. The flora includes the Masoala pitcher plant and the very rare ravim-be palm (*Marojejya darianii*, listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as one of the 12 most endangered living organisms in the world). Coral reefs teeming with life are protected in three adjacent marine parks. The peninsula also features many beautiful deserted sandy beaches. The name of the park derives from Masoala Cape at the tip of the peninsula, where navigating the treacherous straits requires good visibility ("maso" means "eye" and "oala" means haven or safe passage in the local vernacular).



Rare ravim-be palms, Masoala

Mangabe island was set aside as a reserve in the early 60's, in part to protect the fascinating nocturnal aye-aye which had been introduced there. This is the best place in which to see the black and white ruffed lemur, as well as the white-fronted brown lemur. The rainforest which covers Nosy Mangabe also shelters, among others, the cryptic fringed *Uroplatus* gecko, the largest of the 10 species in this endemic genus. Some look like dead leaves, some mimic bark, and this remarkable ability to literally fade into the woodwork makes them a particular delight to spot.

The region of **Fort Dauphin and Berenty Reserve** is home to three different ecosystems: the southern spiny succulent forest, the wet rainforest, and between them a transitional forest, each harboring different populations of lemurs (maki, sifaka, *Microcebus* and even aye-aye). Most notable among the flora is the endemic trihedral palm (*Neodypsis decarii* - center left on the cover of this brochure). Birds include the Madagascar hoopoe, the crested drongo, the crested coua, Verreaux's coua, the Madagascar coucal, and the white-faced whistling duck.

The upland rainforest at **Montagne d'Ambre** National Park hosts Sanford's Brown lemur, the northern sportive lemur, the fork-marked sportive lemur, the northern ring-tailed mongoose, the Madagascar crested ibis, the pitta-like ground roller (pictured on the inside cover page of this brochure), the Madagascar magpie robin, the white-throated rail, the Montagne-d'Ambre rockthrush and the white-throated oxylabe.

Ankarana Special Reserve is home to one of Madagascar's extraordinary "tsingy" (the

verb “mitsingy” means “to walk on tiptoes” in Malagasy) eroded limestone formations. It is also a sacred site for the Antankarana ancestors, and hosts the royal mast coronation ceremony of the quinquennial “Tsangantsaina” relic-washing festival. The reserve also boasts ten species of lemurs including *Eulemur coronatus* (top picture on the second page), as well as the aptly named *Galidia elegans* mongoose, and over ninety species of birds including the Vasa parrots.

Besides its splendid beaches, **Nosy Be** hosts a bona fide low-altitude rainforest sheltering two kinds of lemurs, the mongoose lemur and the dimorphic black lemur (the male is black) - though the latter is much more easily seen on the nearby idyllic island of **Nosy Komba**. The forest also contains many reptiles and amphibians including the panther chameleon and the tiny *Brookesia minima*, the Madagascar ground boa, and the orange-backed *Mantella betsileo* frog. Birds include the hook-billed vanga, the cuckoo roller, the Madagascar blue pigeon, the malachite kingfisher, the Malagasy kingfisher, and the Madagascar paradise flycatcher. The underwater sanctuary of tiny **Nosy Tanikely** nearby is a natural aquarium where colorful fish and turtles are protected by a coral reef featuring the black coral *Antipathes dichotoma*.



Argema mittrei

The price per person for these guided expeditions is:

	"Highlights"	"Discovery"
Land and air within Madagascar	\$3,995	\$4,995
Single Supplement	\$750	\$995
Upgrade to Deluxe room in Antananarivo	\$300	\$500
Economy Class airfare from Paris on Air Madagascar	\$1,350.50	\$1,350.50
Business Class airfare from Paris on Air Madagascar	\$3,395.50	\$3,395.50

Included in the price:

- * all domestic flights around Madagascar
- * all lodging and most meals as in the itinerary
- * all airport transfers and taxes within Madagascar
- * services of an English-speaking guide throughout the itinerary
- * services of vehicle and driver as needed throughout the itinerary
- * excursions, entrance fees and local guides in parks and reserves
- * all boat excursions and transfers as in the itinerary

Not included:

- * any gratuities (a small tip at time of service is customary)
- * any beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, including bottled water
- * personal items such as phone, fax, laundry

Airfares from all U.S. departure cities available upon request. **Please note that the order of the itinerary may be rearranged subject to air schedule changes by Air Madagascar, and some hotels may have to be substituted with similarly priced hotels due to conditions beyond our control.**

To book, simply fill out and return the Reservation Form on the following page, along with a \$500 deposit (of which \$400 are refundable up to 90 days before departure)

Cortez Travel

1318 Santa Luisa Drive
Solana Beach, CA 92075
800 854 1029
USA



Cortez Expeditions

25 rue Ny Zafindriandiky
Antanimena, Antananarivo
MADAGASCAR

CORTEZ TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM

Please read carefully the general information and conditions, complete this form, and mail to the address below. Include one reservation form for each member of your party,

Madagascar ___ Highlights or ___ Discovery (check appropriate itinerary)

Start date: _____

Full name (as on passport) _____

Mailing address _____
(street address for FEDEX mailing of documents)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Office Phone _____ Fax _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Departure from (City/Airport) _____

Return date _____ To (City/Airport) _____

Air transportation from Paris in economy class is included. Business and First Class are available at an additional cost, except on intra -Madagascar flights which offer coach class only. Check here to request First _____ or Business _____ class. Airline seating preference: Window _____ or Aisle _____ .

Hotel Accommodations : Single _____ Twin _____ Double _____. If "twin" or "double", sharing accommodations with:

Additional information: _____

In case of emergency, please notify _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I am aware that during the trip to Madagascar in which I intend to participate under the arrangements of Cortez Travel, Inc. of Solana Beach and its agents, employees, associates, and subcontractors, certain risks and dangers may occur, known or unknown, related to trip activities, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in a remote, politically unstable area, in aircrafts, boats and automobiles, without the availability of medical facilities or means of rapid evacuation. I am also aware and clearly understand that Cortez Travel, Inc. will have no liability regarding adequacy of any medical care, equipment or supplies that may be provided.

I am voluntarily participating in this trip with knowledge of the dangers involved and hereby agree to assume any and all risks including injury and death. As lawful consideration for the agreement with Cortez Travel, Inc. to participate in this trip to Madagascar and all related activities, I hereby agree that I will not make a claim against Cortez Travel, Inc. or sue for bodily injury, death, emotional trauma, and/or property damage resulting from negligence or any other acts, however caused, as a result of my participation in the tour. This waiver specifically includes giving up any right I may have to sue Cortez Travel, Inc., for negligence. I therefore release and discharge Cortez Travel, Inc. and its agents, owners, and employees individually, from all actions, causes of action, damages, claims or demands which arise in my favor, or in favor of my heirs, successors or assigns, for all injuries or damages of any nature whatsoever, caused by my participation in this trip.

I have read and agree to the conditions, especially noting the policy on cancellation and refunds, and acknowledge that I have been strongly advised to obtain comprehensive insurance coverage.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Please sign, date and return this form to
Cortez Travel, Inc. - P.O. Box 1699 - Solana Beach, CA 92075