



MADAGASCAR TOUR 2020

with a glimpse of Mauritius!

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Razza Images Madagascar tour for photography enthusiasts 17 October to 3rd November 2020

Please note, our day to day itinerary is subject to weather and local conditions. At times we may have to have a degree of flexibility and understanding for any last-minute deviations suggested by the CEO and tour leaders.

***Escorted Tour cost - AU\$6990 per person twin/double
Single Supplement AU\$1100***

Includes Tour Escorts from Brisbane Airport, return economy class flights & taxes from Brisbane to Madagascar (via Perth, Mauritius), 1 night Perth, 2 nights Mauritius stopover, 14 nights Small Group Madagascar itinerary (13 nights simple hotels, 1 night community guesthouse) transport in private vehicles, breakfast daily, 2 lunch, 3 dinners.

Maximum group size 14. Minimum numbers 11 for group pricing to be secured.

17 October - Brisbane to Perth

11.30am Meet your tour escorts and together we check into Virgin Australia for your flight to Perth. Upon arrival in Perth, collect your luggage and the group will be transferred by hotel shuttle to your overnight accommodation close to the airport. A 2 course group dinner is included for us all to get together and share how excited about the journey ahead we all are! Meals included: Dinner
Accommodation – Country Comfort Perth Airport or similar

18 October - Perth to Mauritius

After included breakfast, we will travel together to the international airport for our flight to Mauritius. Upon arrival, we complete arrival procedures and our group is transferred to our stopover accommodation. Settle in and join us for another group dinner and hear about tomorrow's plans
Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation – Le Peninsula Bay or similar

19 October - Mauritius

After breakfast, we head off on a private adventure today to explore the charms of southern Mauritius - camera's ready! Lunch is included during our day trip. Another group dinner is included at our accommodation. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation – Le Peninsula Bay or similar

20 October Mauritius - Antananarivo - After breakfast, we have a few hours free before we return to the airport and check in and fly to Madagascar. Upon arrival, we transfer to the accommodation. There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting where you will meet our local tour leaders, our opportunity to meet your CEO and learn more about your Madagascar tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Accommodation - Hotel Chalets des Roses (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

21 October - Antananarivo/Andasibe - Travel to Andasibe-Perinet National Park with scenic stops en route. Stay in a quiet area near Andasibe and explore the Indri Special Reserve section of this massive area. Depart the capital and continue east, with stops along the scenic rainforest route of world-renowned Andasibe-Perinet National Park. Continue on to the national park. With free time over the next two days, opt to visit other small private or community reserves around Andasibe, and go on guided night walks inside those reserves or along the main road. Walk to the little town of

Andasibe or simply enjoy the relaxing tranquility of the surrounding forest. Our accommodation here are simple bungalows with shared facilities. Travel Time - Antananarivo – Andasibe 4 hours / 135km. Free Time in Andasibe, Spend time visit nearby reserves or relaxing in the forest. Accommodation - Feon'ny Ala (*or similar* lodge) Meals included: Breakfast

22 October - Andasibe - Spend the day exploring this national park. Stay in a quiet area near Andasibe and explore the Indri Special Reserve section of this massive area. Explore the Indri Special Reserve and national park located 1.5km (0.93 mi) from the town of Andasibe. One of the park's primary purposes is to protect the natural habitat of the indri, a large black and white diurnal species that feeds on leaves and fruit. In addition to the indri, the park has 10 other diurnal and nocturnal lemur species, large chameleons, and the rarely seen blue coua. The flora is just as spectacular with numerous species of trees, palms, and orchids (which flower in October/November). Andasibe - Perinet National Park Guided Walk
Accommodation - Feon'ny Ala (*or similar* lodge) Meals included: Breakfast

23 October - Andasibe to Antsirabe - Travel to the colonial city of Antsirabe, stopping to see rice paddies along the way. Travel to the ancient colonial town of Antsirabe. Along this stretch of road you will see Merina tombs and the labour-intensive cultivation of rice paddies. Antsirabe is known as a thermal city because of its volcanic lakes. It's also famous for its precious and semi-precious stones and handicrafts. Opt to explore this quaint little city upon arrival. Andasibe – Antsirabe 7-8h 305km Stop to visit some highlights along the way. Accommodation Hasina Hotel (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

24 October Antsirabe/Fiadanana - Visit Lake Andraikiba before continuing to the small village of Fiadanana. Opt to explore this beautiful village. Listen to a ghost talker, enjoy a stay at a community guesthouse, and dinner with a local family. After a short visit to Lake Andraikiba, continue on to the small village of Fiadanana. This beautiful village is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes of rice fields and panoramic views of the nearby mountains. Get to see how the villagers live by interacting with them and enjoy a chance to learn their rituals during an authentic community experience. Accommodation is in a traditional style house that has been purpose-built to meet the needs of guests. There is a kitchen and a dining/lounge area to enjoy lunch or a drink, and a beautiful veranda overlooking the rice terraces. It is equipped with shared, basic shower facilities and outdoor toilets (a squat toilet and one western-style toilet). This accommodation is basic but, for one night, the experience of living like a local and staying somewhere unique and remote is worth it.
Antsirabe – Fiadanana 1hour 25km

Your Local Living Moment: Community Guesthouse and Traditional Dinner
Accommodation Arc en Cie - Gite Rural (*or similar*) Meals included: Lunch | Dinner

25 October Fiadanana/Ranomafana - Learn traditional rituals from the local villagers. Hike back to the bus taking in the stunning views. Continue on to Ranomafana. Enjoy a local breakfast and take in stunning views of Mt Ifasina. After, hike back out to the bus (about 3.5km/2.2 mi) and continue to Ranomafana, a little village named after the hot springs in the valley. The nearby national park is one of the most important mammal sites in Madagascar. Accommodation Manja Hotel (*or similar*)
Fiadanana – Ranomafana 7hours 280km Meals included: Breakfast

26 October Ranomafana/Ambalavao - Opt for an early morning forest walk to get a feel for the incredible wildlife of the area, or explore on your own. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic journey heading south through Madagascar's wine-producing region. In the morning go for a forest walk, a swim in a hot spring, visit the local town and market, or get a massage. Enjoy the wonderful changes of landscape along the way to the pleasant rural town of Ambalavao. Visit a little paper

factory where the locals will share their traditional methods of producing this unique, hand-made paper. If time allows, opt to visit a silk factory in town and learn about the local way of making fabric or clothing from silk, and the process of dyeing it with natural dyes.

Ranomafana – Ambalavao 3h30m - 106km

Accommodation Aux Bougainvillees (*or similar*). Meals included: Breakfast

27 October Ambalavao/Ranohira Stop at Anja Community Reserve, known for groups of ring-tailed lemurs. Continue on through the ever-changing landscape to Ranohira and Isalo National Park. Journey from Ambalavao to the Anja Community Reserve and on through diverse scenery. Travel through the savannah before the massif of Isalo becomes clearly visible. Ambalavao – Ranohira 4hours 250km Anja Reserve Walk Stop at the Anja Community Reserve, which is known for having some of the most accessible groups of ring-tailed lemurs in the country. Enjoy looking at these fascinating creatures. Accommodation ITC Hotel (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

28 October Ranohira - Spend a full day exploring Isalo National park on foot, stopping at a natural swimming pool and waterfalls. In the morning, pack a lunch to take into the park with you to eat during a picnic break later in the day - your CEO can help you arrange this. After a short trek within a small canyon, take a break from the sun and stop at fresh natural swimming pool. Continue on to the "cascades", considered to be amongst the best waterfalls in Madagascar and has a large natural swimming pool. With a little luck, you may see sifaka, brown lemurs, or ring-tailed lemurs. Between September and October (in the most arid zones), you can witness the pachypodium blooms. Accommodation ITC Hotel (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

29 October - Ranohira - Ifaty - Drive through the desert landscape, viewing Mahafaly tombs and giant baobab trees en route. En route to Toliara, drive through the magnificent wide-open and vast desert landscape. Pass through several unique frontier-style sapphire mining towns, and baobab trees en route. This drive will also pass by the tombs of the Mahafaly; a local tribe in Madagascar known predominantly for their large tombs. They were built for chiefs and kings and are covered in stones, sculptures, and horns. The more important the deceased, the more horns and statues the tomb is adorned with. One of the largest tombs has over 700 zebu horns! As this is a sacred site we will just be passing by, and photography is not permitted. Continue on to Ifaty to relax and enjoy the breathtaking beaches of the Mozambican Channel. While in Ifaty, opt to ride in a dugout canoe, visit the spiny forest reserve, go snorkelling or diving on the reef, or simply relax on the beach. Ranohira – Ifaty 6hour - 250km Make stops along the way to spot baobab trees and visit the Mahafaly tombs. Accommodation Bamboo Club (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

30 October - 01 November Spend two full days enjoying this gorgeous area. Opt to do some hiking or hit the beach. Free Time Accommodation Bamboo Club (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

1 November Travel to Toliara for a flight to Antananarivo and an optional last night out on the town. Due to the unpredictability of local flights, if we are unable to secure your domestic flight, we will instead transport you in 4x4 vehicles. This journey can take approximately 10 hours. Ifaty – Tulear 1h30m 30km Flight - Tulear – Antananarivo 1h Accommodation Hotel Chalets des Roses (*or similar*) Meals included: Breakfast

2nd November Antananarivo - Free day to do some last minute exploring. Your Tour Escorts will plan a local venue for a last evening meal together (own cost) and revisit all the fantastic memories from another amazing Razza Images journey! Meals included: Breakfast

3rd November Antananarivo - to Australia. Leisurely morning before our afternoon transfer to the airport. It's a long journey home but we will be doing it together! Our flights are from Madagascar to Brisbane, transiting in Mauritius and Perth.

4th November - We arrive back in Perth this morning, complete Australian arrival procedures and transfer to the domestic airport for our flight back to Brisbane domestic airport, arriving approximately 7.30pm local time

NOTE RE INCLUDED FLIGHTS

Flight schedules mentioned in this itinerary are subject to change. Our itinerary uses a group airfare and while this gives us flexible payment options, it does not allow deviations from the group itinerary. All guests must join and end this tour as per itinerary at Brisbane domestic airport. Prices include airport taxes and surcharges as at 20/9/2019 of but are subject to change. We reserve the right to pass on new airport fees and charges with final invoice

Tipping is expected, though not compulsory, component of your tour program. The gesture serves as an expression of appreciation for exceptional service, and amounts given are up to your discretion. Tipping is one of the most direct ways that you can have a positive economic impact within the African community. Although it may not be customary for you, it is an important source of income for those in the tourism industry. Giving a tip should be seen as a formal 'thank you', and the action should in no way be awkward. The best method of tipping someone that has served the whole group is to plan in advance, and not rush when it comes to saying goodbye. A suggestion would be for each group member to contribute anonymously by putting their tip into an envelope. This often works the best and the group should gather to present the gift to the recipient(s), offering their thanks and showing their appreciation. This method brings the action out into the open, allowing for a friendly and appreciative interaction between the group and the recipient(s).

You may use the following as a guideline, all given in a per person format:

CEO: US\$25 per week

Driver: US\$2 per day

Supply Crew: US\$1 per day

Local guides: US\$1-3 (per couple of hours)

Restaurant/café servers: 10% of the total bill

Hotel Porters: US\$1

Please note that tipping should always be in Ariary if possible, locals find it difficult and time-consuming to have to change EUR/USD tips and therefore always prefer Ariary.

Banks do not accept \$100 USD bills.

Optional Activities offered on tour (these can change closer to time, price guide only) – these are a general guide and not guaranteed. Subject to weather and your private group's focus on photography may not be offered at all stops.

Antananarivo

- Antananarivo City Tour
- The Prime Minister's Palace Visit (20000MGA per person)
- Queen's Palace Visit (15000MGA per person)
- Tsarasaotra Bird Park (25000MGA per person)
- Mitsinjo Park (35000-50000MGA per person)

Andasibe

- Vondron'olona Ifotony Reserve (45000MGA per person)
- Andasibe-Perinet National Park Guided Walk (Afternoon) (75000MGA per person)

Ambalavao

- Silk Factory Visit (2EUR per person)
- Ranomafana National Park
- Thermal Pool Swim (15000MGA per person)
 - Town Visit
 - Morning Forest Walk (20-25EUR per person)

Ifaty

- Snorkelling (320000MGA per person)
- Reniala Spiny Forest Reserve Visit (35000MGA per person)
- Quad Biking (230000MGA per person)
- Fishing (30000-800000MGA per person)
- Dugout Canoe Ride (30000MGA per person)

Health - Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you contact your family physician, or your local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information at least three months before departure. Travellers should also carry a basic first-aid kit and hand sanitizers/antibacterial wipes on their travels. Medical facilities are basic throughout these countries. For your own safety, we strongly recommend that you advise your tour leader of any medical condition that may affect you while travelling with the group. Your tour leader will be able to inform you of local health advisories (e.g. drinking water quality). Please ensure you have all the inoculations recommended by your doctor.

For some of these countries, proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is also required for passengers who have travelled more than 12 hours through the airport of an endemic country. If other countries not endemic to Yellow Fever have been visited after visiting an endemic country, then a Yellow Fever certificate may still be required on entry. Please check country-specific regulations before your departure.

Malaria - Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease that is present in some regions in Africa. Risk of malaria can increase during periods of heavy rain, during the rainy seasons, and in densely populated areas of Southern & East Africa. To prevent malaria, we recommend speaking to your doctor about taking preventative medication (prophylaxis), combined with regular use of insect repellent spray/cream. Please check updated travel health advisories specific to malaria before your departure

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage, please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number

Visas and Entry Requirements - Madagascar

All countries require travellers to have a valid passport (with a minimum of 6 months validity). Please note that upon arrival by air or by land to Madagascar, all non-Malagasy nationals must pay a fee of 120,000 Ariary (about 35 EUR/ 37 USD/ 27 GBP at time of writing) for a tourist visa of 30 days or less (adults and children). Payment for this can be made directly at the border or airport and all major currencies are accepted. We advise our travellers to ensure they have close to the exact amount needed in bills (plus a little extra to account for any fluctuations). Cash is preferred. Any change will be given in Malagasy Ariary. When you arrive into Ivato Airport (Antananarivo), you should make your way to the border control desk closest to the Direction Generale des Impots (DGI) Office where there is an electronic sign indicating the cost of the visa. The information above is accurate as of Sept 2019, however we always advise our travellers to check with their Embassy/Consulate for the most up-to-date information as fees and policies frequently change. It is the travellers responsibility to have the correct travel documentation.

Mauritius - no visa required for Australian passport holders