

Madagascar 11 Day / 10 Night Trip Day-By-Day

Day 1: Arrival in Antananarivo

Depending on the time of arrival, we can have a city tour in the afternoon. If not, it will be best to stay at a hotel near the airport. (Hotel Fly Inn). We'll visit the Haute-Ville (old town city center) with Queen's Palace, the Central Market and will walk together through the city center.

At night you can eat at one of the many excellent restaurants in town: a lot of outstanding French cuisine with great local ingredients and spiked with local flavors.

Hotel: [Radisson Blu](#) or similar. (If we have an early flight the next day - sometimes as early as 6 am - we'll stay at [Fly Inn Hotel](#), a small, but correct and comfortable hotel next to the airport)

Highlights: View over the town from the Queen's Palace, Central Market with many spices, outstanding food.

Day 2: Toliara - Ifaty

Transfer to get our flight to Toliara: this is either early morning or at noon, flight takes about two hours. When we arrive we'll have a walk at Antsokay Arboretum and the beach together at a relaxed pace and have lunch. The Antsokay Arboretum is home to 920 plant species, lemurs, radiated tortoises, snakes and chameleons and a great start to explore the region. Check in at the lodge in the afternoon somewhere and dinner at the lodge. The lodge was designed by Belgian designer Bruno Decorte and is based on the work of Gaudi and finished to perfection with local Malgache touches.

Hotel: [Bakuba Lodge](#) or similar

Highlights: your first baobabs, the unique architecture of the lodge and the great views over the ocean

Day 3: Spiny forest and baobabs

After breakfast we'll discover Reniala nature reserve near Mangily-Ifaty for about 1,5 - 2 hours to see the spiny forest.

At noon we'll go to a local restaurant in the region of Ifaty where you can enjoy lunch.

Exploration of the beach and town at your own pace and we'll meet up again after 4 pm to go back to our lodge, where we'll have dinner later in the evening.

Reniala Nature Reserve:

There is an incredible display of flora amongst the spiny forest that is endemic to Madagascar, adding an extra element of uniqueness to the reserve as about 90% of the plants can only be found in Madagascar. Reniala, which quite fittingly means baobab in Malagasy, is a protected reserve very well known for its spiny forest and the spectacular baobab trees within it, some that are said to be over 1200 years old. In addition to these spectacular trees and the forest, there is a good chance you can spot some lemurs on your tour as the reserve is home to a small lemur refuge, although we cannot guarantee that they will not be taking a nap during the time of your visit!

In addition to the flora mentioned above, today as you are guided through the reserve you'll notice there is an abundance of birds in the area. Considered to be a birdwatchers paradise, the reserve is also home to chameleons, water lizards, and more! Radiated tortoises can also sometimes be seen in the reserve. As the only known natural habitat

for the radiated turtles, they are often seen foraging for food as it can be a very long process.

Reniala Reserve works closely with local communities to raise awareness of the importance of protecting these areas. They contribute to the local communities by suggesting and aiding in implementing new ways of sustainable living in the area.

Hotel: [Bakuba Lodge](#) or similar

Highlights: Spiny Forest, Lemurs, the beaches of Ifaty

Day 4: Relax at the beach - Activities

Today is a day to relax and enjoy the beach and freely walk within the surroundings of the lodge. It's also possible to book an activity on the spot!

From Bakuba Lodge, in a 4x4 vehicle, you can discover the surroundings – Tsinjoriake protected area:

- A beautiful canoe trip on the river Onilahy to the natural pool – Saint Augustin.
- The village of The Rhum – homemade rhum – Saint Augustin.
- An easy trekking on the path of the Moringas, passage to the caves of Sarodrano and Binabe where the lemurs come to quench their thirst at the end of the afternoon. - Trekking to the top of Table Mountain – Medicinal plants and landscape.
- Whales in season – July to November

Hotel: [Bakuba Lodge](#) or similar

Highlights: Bakuba Lodge and surroundings

Day 5 : Isola National Park

After breakfast near 9 am we'll drive towards Isola National Park to arrive somewhere around 1 pm. We'll settle in at the lodge and you can enjoy lunch at the hotel. In the

afternoon you can either enjoy the lodge and freely walk around and it's possible to see ring-tailed lemurs or sifakas doing their thing as well as lizards, chameleons all closeby!

We haven't included an activity here, as guests usually take their first afternoon to enjoy the lodge and those who want can also book an activity on the spot here. You can either walk, go horseback riding or even go rock climbing!

Just like Bakuba Lodge, Isalo Rock Lodge is a destination itself. It is a modern and stunning 60 Room Retreat, positioned high in the Sandstone Mountains, overlooking the Isalo National Park in south western Madagascar.

The views from the lodge are breathtaking. Whilst luxury abounds in the hotel with all modern amenities, Isalo is home to many species of flora and fauna, including, the giant chameleon and the renowned lemurs.

A discerning destination for the world traveller offering a travel experience in its own right. Isalo Rock Lodge is a destination rather than just a hotel and guests will leave having experienced one of the most memorable adventures one can imagine.

Madagascar is one of the most interesting islands on the planet, and experiencing some of nature's most intriguing secrets and guests at Isalo Rock Lodge will be assured of luxury accommodation, outstanding cuisine at one of the most special and spectacular locations in Madagascar.

With Italian linen, culinary decadence are all in a day's stay at this most luxurious and exclusive Isalo Rock Lodge with the Isalo National Park on our doorstep. The park urges safety first, so if you're hiking, make sure you read their safety guidelines.

In the past, the Madagascar island's physical isolation and uncultivated wilderness were challenges to humans; now they provide the biggest attraction and a refuge for many

animal species. Isalo National Park is a fascinating microcosm, illustrating the delicate balance between species.

Perhaps the best way to end a long day in the hot Madagascar sun is to watch the pink-and-orange sunset, unfurl at The Balcony of Isalo, look up as this part of Madagascar offers some of the best stargazing in the world. A stay at Isalo Rock Lodge will leave you speechless.

Hotel: Overnight at [Le Jardin Du Roy](#) or [Isalo Rock Lodge](#).

Highlights: sunset at 'the balcony of Isalo', the spectacular beauty of Isalo Rock Lodge, the whole drive between Tulear and Isalo!

Day 6: Isalo National Park

After an early breakfast we'll go on a 12 km hike, which will take around 4 hours and in which we'll get to see the magnificent geo-formations and natural pools of Isalo National Park. There are six lemur species here and during our hike we'll get to see Verreaux' sifakas and ring-tailed lemurs, lizards, chameleons, unique looking insects and colorful birds such as sunbirds, paradise flycatchers and much more.

Isalo National Park was established in 1962 and is also called the 'Colorado of Madagascar' because of the jagged rock massifs. The name Isalo either comes from the endemic plant species *Ischnolepis graminifolia* (local name: Salotse) or is a corruption of the name of a Portuguese (Salomon) who stayed here in the 16th century.

The national park covers an area of 815.4 km², making Isalo the second largest national park in Madagascar after Masoala National Park. The national park is located at an altitude of 820 to 1240 meters above sea level. It is located in an area with a tropical dry climate. The park consists of a mountain massif (Isalo Mountains) that spreads from north to south over almost 100 kilometers and is characterized by bizarre

Jurassic sandstone formations covered with rock plants, deep gorges, steep peaks, leached caves, covered with (mainly) bismarck palms and flooded with rivers. grasslands similar to the continental African savannas. The main gorges are the Canyon des Rats ("mouse gorge") and the Canyon des Singes ("monkey gorge"), also called Canyon des Makis ("lemur gorge"), as many lemurs can be seen here. Another famous place in the park is the valley of the Namaza River, where there are also several pools.

Hotel: Overnight at [Le Jardin Du Roy](#) or [Isalo Rock Lodge](#).

Highlights: lemurs, bizarre rock formation and geo-wonders of Isalo

Day 7: Fianarantsoa

Today we'll have an amazing drive on the famous route 7 towards Fianarantsoa during which you'll be treated to some of the best views in Madagascar. The drive takes about 5 hours and we'll arrive around 15.00 in Fianarantsoa, where we'll have a beautiful walk in the old historical center with awesome views over the city from up the hills.

Fianarantsoa is located at an altitude of about 1100 meters in the Central Highlands (Hauts-Plateaux), surrounded by mountains and valleys. The historic center of the city is called 'Antanàna Ambony' and was formerly called Ivœnava ("place where the dead lie hidden") by the Betsileo. The historic center is on the slopes (therefore also called 'Haute-Ville') and from here a good panorama can be obtained over the newer parts of the city, which lie lower in the valleys ('Basse-Ville') . This part of the city is the best-preserved ensemble of 19th-century buildings in Madagascar, including six churches. After the historic city center was placed in 2008 as one of the 100 most endangered historic places on earth by the American NGO World Monuments Fund, the local foundation Heritsialonina has started to restore old buildings in the old city center.

Hotel: Overnight at [Tsara Guesthouse](#) or similar

Highlights: the historical city center of Fianarantsoa with great views over the area

Day 8: Ranomafana National Park

We'll leave Fianarantsoa around 9 am and will bring a picnic with us. It's an hour and a half driving through rice fields and forest and we'll then go explore the park today with picnic inside the park. We'll go to our lodge in the late afternoon and will stay there overnight.

Ranomafana national park is distinguished by its unmistakably spectacular rain forest, lying at an altitude of 800 to 1200 meters. It was created in 1990; thanks to the discovery in 1986 of the "golden bamboo lemur" (his scientific name is *Haplemur Aureus*). This particular and amazing species of lemur has strange eating habits and can't be seen anywhere else. Apart from this, you hunt through the woods in search of other species such as the Red fronted brown lemur, Red bellied lemur, and the shy Gray bamboo lemur.

Ranomafana appears on all Madagascar birding itineraries, and with good reason: many of the "rainforest-dwelling endemics" occur in the park. Frequently-seen specials include the nationally rare Brown mesite, the lovely Blue coua, Grey-crowned tetraka, the peculiar Velvet asity, and the diminutive Common Sunbird-asity. Ranomafana is a holy grail of herpetology as well, with a variety of chameleons, geckoes, skinks, snakes, and frogs being spotted frequenting the humid rainforest.

The floral diversity is bewildering, with numerous species of palm, bamboo, and orchid thriving in the sea of green. Note that trails are steep and when it rains, they can also be muddy, so we'll use a slow pace.

Hotel: Overnight at [Thermal Lodge](#) or similar.

Highlights: many different species of lemurs, beautiful untouched forest, a beautifully located lodge

Day 9: Antsirabe

Enjoy a free morning at the lodge. After an early lunch at our lodge we'll head to the charming town of Antsirabe where we'll have a stroll in town before dinner and visit the cathedral. This friendly town is characterized by its many bike-taxis and has a relaxed atmosphere. We'll stay at the most beautiful hotel in the city: Couleur Café of which the brick-design is based on the traditional local architecture. You will fall in love with this place for sure!

Hotel: [Couleur Café](#)

Highlights: Antsirabe center and the charming hotel Couleur Café.

Day 10: Antananarivo

Today we have 6 to 7 hours of driving to Antananarivo and will arrive in the afternoon. There are only simple options to eat along the way, so it's best to get a good breakfast and on the road you can eat something small. We can have a late lunch or early dinner in Antananarivo.

Hotel: [Radisson Blu](#) or similar.

Day 11: Departure

In the morning we can have a short city visit if there's time to do some souvenir shopping and then we'll bring you to the airport.

End of tour.