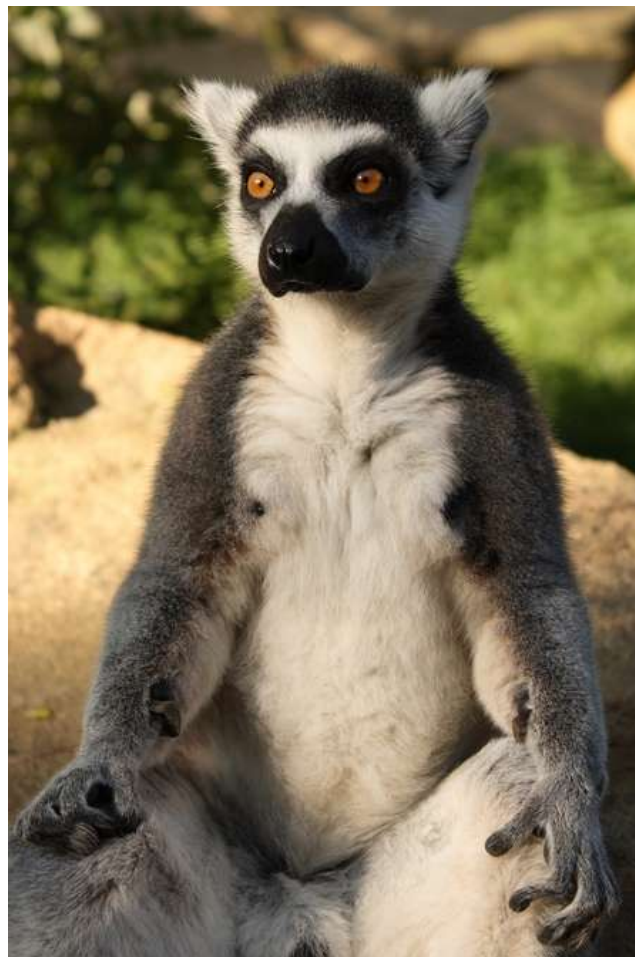


# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



### **MADAGASCAR IN ONE THOUSAND VIEWS 11 NIGHTS/12 DAYS**



#### **DAY 1: TULEAR - IFATY 20 km**

Arrive in Tuléar – meet and greet - then drive for 20 km to Ifaty which is situated in the deep south of Madagascar. The area is very arid with dry and sandy soil and water is scarce - the landscape is dominated by the spiny forest - cactus, different euphorbiacea and didieracea. Mangrove trees line the coast and you will see many fishing villages and small pirogues along the way. The boats go out fishing twice a day whilst women and children wait on the coast to greet the fishermen and take the fish to sell in Tuléar. You will arrive into Ifaty at the end of the afternoon.

**Night in HOTEL LE PARADISIER\*\*\* / IKOTEL\*\***

## **DAY 2: IFATY**

A day at leisure – although there is lots to see! Ifaty lies to the north of Tuléar and is situated near the largest lagoon in Madagascar. It is a wonderful place for relaxing with stunning beaches, snorkelling and diving. Many excursions are possible - whale watching by local boat from July to mid-September is a favourite - whales come to the cool sea around Madagascar to give birth during this time. The whales can sometimes get very close to the boat.

Ifaty is protected by a large coral reef which makes it an ideal place for diving and snorkelling and the beaches are good. Walk to a local fishing village to experience the Vezo fishermen's way of life – especially interesting in the evening when the catch is bought back to the village.

**Night in the same hotel.**

## **DAY 3: IFATY - ISALO: 247 KM**

After breakfast, head to Isalo. This journey takes you to the interior part of Madagascar, the land of Mahafaly. Along the way you will see many tombs of this tribe. Before seeing Isalo you will travel through the Zombitse National Park, a transition zone between the dry south and the land of Isalo, a formation of continental sandstone rocks. You will also see the famous 'plateaux des baobabs'. There are 7 species of Baobabs in Madagascar, whereas the African continent has only 2 species. Arrive into Isalo around noon. **Overnight in RELAIS DE LA REINE\*\*\* / MOTEL ISALO\*\***

## **DAY 4: NATIONAL PARK OF ISALO**

Enjoy a day in the National Park of Isalo and the famous natural swimming pool. This park is renowned for its strange geological formations. Composed of sandstone and eroded by the rain and the wind, this mountain offers some of the most spectacular scenery to be found in Madagascar. It is here where the BARA tribes used to bury their dead until they had enough money to buy a silver coffin. If you are lucky you will have the opportunity to see the lemur catta during this walk.

In the afternoon visit the village of Ranohira and then drive to the National Park museum. Around 16.30 drive to the 'The Natural window' to view the beautiful sunset between rocks formed like a window. **Overnight in the RELAIS DE LA REINE\*\*\* / MOTEL ISALO\*\*.**

## **Day 5: ISALO - FIANARANTSOA: 282 KM**

Drive northward to Fianarantsoa and up towards the rocky mountain chain of Andringitra which is very picturesque and still retains its Arabian roots. The landscape changes when you travel further into the highlands and cross the rocky mountain chain of Andringitra, which serves as a transition between the south and the fresh, green highland. Stop in Ambalavao to visit the 'Papier Anteimoro' workshop. In and around this region there are many grape plantations and a flourishing wine industry. Arrive at Fianarantsoa, the capital of Betsileo tribes, around 16.00.

**Overnight at the hotel ZOMATEL\*\***

## **Day 6: FIANARANTSOA - RANOMAFANA : 88 KME**

An early start this morning – as you journey towards the Ranomafana National Park to explore the rain forest of Madagascar. Ranomafana is situated in the east. Apart from its huge tropical forest, it is also a thermal city where visitors can relax in the hot spring water. Before dinner, enjoy an expedition in the forest with special guide to see lemurs and other animals.

**Night in the hotel CENTREST SEJOUR\*\* / IHARY HOTEL\***



### **DAY 7: RANOMAFANA**

Another day to explore the rainforest of Madagascar in the Ranomafana National Park which was created in 1991. A guided walk gives you the opportunity to see up to 12 species lemurs, including the recently discovered "golden lemur", more than 100 birds, reptiles, butterflies and other insects. The area is covered with forest, in the higher areas the trees are festooned with mosses, lichens, and orchids. The afternoon is free – the energetic can visit a Ranomafana village, otherwise this is a great chance to just relax or go for a swim in the pool.

**Overnight in the CENTREST SEJOUR\*\* / IHARY HOTEL\***

### **DAY 8: RANOMAFANA - ANT SIRABE**

Today there is another early departure - after breakfast drive towards Antsirabe. The drive will take you across highlands which are characterised by rice fields, a cooler climate and a population which has Asian features. Stop in Ambositra, the capital of Zafimaniry, to visit a wood-carving workshop and then continue to Antsirabe in the afternoon. You will arrive into Antsirabe at around 15.00 – enjoy a city tour and visit to a lapidary.

**Overnight in the AROTEL\*\* / RESIDENCE CAMELIA\*\***

### **DAY 9: ANT SIRABE - MIANDRIVAZO - MASIAKAMPY : 427KM**

After breakfast drive to Miandrivazo – the drive is stunning and is over the highlands. You will see the landscape changing slowly - rice fields, then red soil, eroded 'lavaka' and then the vegetation becomes much dryer. There are many interesting granite formations along the way, which are formed by erosion. Arrival in Miandrivazo at noon, where you transfer to Masiakampy to join the cruise to Tsiribihina.

**Tonight you will camp on the bank of the river on a full board, fully serviced basis.**

### **Day 10 : GORGE OF BEMARAHA**

Depart around 07.30 with breakfast on board. Lots of wildlife can be seen from the boat - lemurs, crocodiles, birds and bats in their natural forest habitat. At around 09.30 the boat stops for a trek to a natural pool for swimming and where you can swim under the waterfalls. Lunch is on board and you will arrive into Berevo around 15.30 where you visit a local Berevo village.

**Tonight you will camp on the bank of the river on a full board, fully serviced basis.**

### **DAY 11: COASTAL PLAIN OF MENABE - TSIMAFANA - MORONDAVA 95KM**

Depart again around 07.30 with breakfast on board. Cruise through the Gorge of Bemaraha and along the plain of Menabe - characterised by rice plantations on the bank of the river. The many Sakalava tribes have their villages along the river and you can get a good insight into their everyday lives. Arrive into Tsimafana and drive to Morondava (around 3 hours). Stop in 'ALLEE DES BAOBABS' for a sunset photo, a beautiful area with lots of baobab trees.

**Overnight at the hotel CHEZ MAGGIE\*\* OR RENALA\*\***

### **DAY 12: MORONDAVA**

Transfer to the airport or your international flight home.

#### **INCLUDED**

- Hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis during tour
- Cruise - full board and fully serviced camping
- National Park and Reserve fees with a local guide
- English speaking guide throughout
- Transfers by boat and car throughout the tour

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Optional excursions
- All personal expenses, drinks, laundry, tips.
- Travel insurance

