

Birding and Photo tour with guide Armel

This is a tour to see some of the birding highlights of Madagascar in company of guide and photographer Armel, who has been working with National geographic and others. You can find some info about him here: <https://www.armel-madagascar.com/>

TOUR DATES: DEC. 02 – 22 (23), 2023

1st day Sat 02.12.2023: **EUROPE - ANTANANARIVO** 13:40 arrival with ET, or 23:25 with AF.
Meet and greet at Ivato International Airport and transfer to the city. Check in at the hotel and Overnight stay in CHAT'O PARK HOTEL OR SIMILAR

02nd day Sun 03.12.2023: **ANTANANARIVO – MAJUNGA (domestic flights every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday)**

Transfer to the airport and flight to Majunga. Dinner and overnight stay at COCO LODGE OR SIMILAR

03rd day Mon 04.12.2023: **MAJUNGA – ANKARAFANTSIKA** (110km about 2 hour drive)

After breakfast, discover by boat the surrounding where there are endemic and many species of birds. Drive to Ankarafantsika after this. Arrive at the end of the afternoon at the National Park of Ankarafantsika, it is limited to the East by the Mahajamba river and to the West by the Betsiboka. In the evening, optional visit of Ankarafantsika national park to explore nocturnal species of fauna. Overnight stay at BLUE VANGA OR SIMILAR

04th & 5th day Tue 05.12. and Wed 06.12.: **ANKARAFANTSIKA**

Two days to explore the deciduous dry forest of Ankarafantsika which is home to over 120 bird species and is considered one of Madagascar's top birding sites. A boat trip on Lake Ravelobe is rewarding for general waterbirds such as the Madagascar crested ibis and Madagascar fish eagle, Madagascar pygmy kingfisher. Back to the hotel.

6th day Thu 07.12.: **ANKARAFANTSIKA – ANTANANARIVO** (450 km, about 10 hour driving)

Early departure for the long drive to Ankarafantsika national park (about 450 km far from Antananarivo , for about 10 hour driving) with some stops for birding en route . Overnight at the hotel CHAT'O OR SIMILAR

07th Day Fri 08.12.: **ANTANANARIVO – ANDASIBE (140 Km about 3,5 hours drive)**

After breakfast, drive east by car, through a landscape characterized by its nested rice fields and wooded hills. In Marozevo visit the Exotic Park (also called Peyrieras Park after its founder), where you can see many chameleons from close up, as well as butterflies, frogs and other amphibians. Then on to Andasibe, the place looks more like a poor wooden shack village, it is the starting point for the visit of the national park, the realm of the legendary Indris. Once the only hotel in Andasibe was in the mighty train station building with a few bungalows opposite on the hillside. But in the course of the years, thanks to the visitors from all over the world, numerous new hotel complexes were opened, in which a lot of jobs were created. Possibility to walk with a local guide along the road near the National Park Perinet-Analamazaotra in search of nocturnal animals before dinner. With a little luck you will see wool and mouse makis, chameleons etc. Overnight stay at the hotel FEON'NY ALA OR SIMILAR

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08th Day Sat 09.12.: ANDASIBE

Visit of Andasibe reserve where you may see various species of birds such as Madagascar starling, Short-legged and Scaly ground-roller, Crested ibis, Madagascar fluff tail, Ward's flycatcher, Brown wood-rail, Madagascar pygmy kingfishers & Madagascar sparrow-hawk,..... Overnight at the same hotel

09th Day Sun 10.12.: ANDASIBE

Full day visit of Mantadia national park where we can spot various species of birds such as the Madagascar pond heron, Madagascar coucal, Madagascar Hoopoe, Fody Madagascariensis, Madagascar white-eye... Overnight at the same hotel

10th Day Mon 11.12.: ANDASIBE

Visit of VOI Community run park to discover another species of birds in the forest. Overnight at the same hotel

11th day Tue 12.12.: ANDASIBE – ANTANANARIVO

After an early breakfast, another morning visit of Andasibe reserve OR the VOI Community park then return to Antananarivo. Overnight at the hotel LE CHAT'O OR SIMILAR

12th day Wed 13.12.: ANTANANARIVO – TULEAR – IFATY (27 Km about 1,5 hour-drive)

Transfer to the airport and flight to Tulear, there reception and transfer to Ifaty, a beautiful, gently sloping beach about 26 km north of Tulear, protected by a coral reef. On the way you can see various endemic thorn bush species and mangroves. Overnight stay in NAUTILIUS OR SIMILAR

13th Day Thu 14.12.: IFATY

Visit of Reniala reserve where a big variety of birds can be seen such as Madagascar buzzard, Madagascar harrier hawk, Madagascar kestrel, Madagascar button Quail, Sub desert Mesite, Whimbrel, Common greenshank, Black-winged stilt, Grey Plover, Lesser crested -tern, Madagascar turtle-dove, Madagascar green pigeon, Greater Vasa parrot, Lesser vasa parrot, Grey-headed lovebird, Madagascar lesser Cuckoo, Red-fronted Coua, Running Coua, Green-capped Coua, Crested Coua, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Nightjar, Madagascar swift, Madagascar bee-eater, Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike, Red-tailed vanga, Hook-billed vanga, Sickle-billed Vanga, White-headed Vanga, Chabert Vanga, Madagascar magpie robin, Long-billed greenbul, Sub desert brush-warbler, Thamnornis Warbler, Common Newtonia, Archbolds Newtonia, Common Jery, Madagascar Munia, Sakalava Weaver, Madagascar fody, Madagascar Lark,..... Overnight at HOTEL NAUTILUS.

14th Day Fri 15.12.: IFATY – TULEAR – ANAKAO – TULEAR

Early transfer to Tulear port and motorboat transfer to Anakao – a small fishermen village, south of Tulear . Just after check-in, excursion to Nosy ve to see Red -tailed Tropic birds breeding there and other aquatic birds. Back to Tuléar after this visit. Overnight at VICTORY HOTEL OR SIMILAR

15th Day Sat 16.12.: TULEAR – ZOMBITSE - RANOHIRA (240 Km about 4 hour-drive)

After breakfast transfer back to Tulear, then continue to Ranohira. After Tulear, drive along a mostly straight road, past tall bushes and small cactus forests, interrupted by typical Mahafaly burial sites, some with motifs and wooden steles, and mighty baobab trees. 20 km after Sakaraha you cross the remains of the protected dry forest areas of Zombitse and Vohibasia. a few hours visit of this park in search of the endemic Appert's greenbul, Madagascar partridge, Madagascar buttonquail, the stately Giant coua, Madagascar sandgrouse, Madagascar lesser cuckoo, Madagascar cuckoo-shrike, Thamnornis warbler, Common newtonia.....Then continue on the short remaining stretch to Ranohira, and overnight in a hotel ISALO RANCH OR SIMILAR

16th Day Sun 17.12. RANOHIRA – RANOMAFANA (355 Km about 7 hour-drive)

After breakfast drive to Fianarantsoa (means "where you learn good things"). About 12 km before Ambalavao there is a stop to visit the small reserve Anja, which was founded in 1999 by over 100 residents and villages in the neighbourhood in the middle of mighty granite rocks. Several hundred catta lemurs can be observed there in their natural environment. Caves and viewpoints provide additional enrichment to the tour, which can last between 45 minutes and 5 hours. Continuing on to Fianarantsoa, it is worth visiting the historic upper town with its cathedral. Opposite it we go to the viewpoint and the stately statue of the Virgin Mary. Arrive at the end of the afternoon in Ranomafana. Before dinner possibility for a walk with flashlights along the road to look for nocturnal animals. Back to the hotel. Then room occupation in the hotel CENTREST SEJOUR OR SIMILAR

17th to 19th Day Mon 18.12. to Wed 20.12.: RANOMAFANA

03 days visits of this beautiful NP of rainforest where we can see various species of of lemurs such as the golden bamboo lemurs, brown lemurs, chameleons, frogs, birds: Madagascar crested ibis, Henst's goshawk, various Vangas notably Blue, Rufous, Hook-billed, Red-tailed.... Overnight at the same hotel

20th day Thu 21.12.: RANOMAFANA - ANTSIRABE (240 Km about 5,5 hour-drive)

After breakfast, drive to Antsirabe. Overnight at LE CHAMBRE DU VOYAGEUR OR SIMILAR

21th day Fri 22.12.: ANTSIRABE - ANTANANARIVO (170 km about 4 hour drive)-HOME (dep. with ET at 14:50)

Early Drive back to Tana, and transfer to the airport and check-in for departure for departure for the flight home. For departure with AF, have a day use at the hotel, then around 22:00 transfer to the airport

22nd day Sat 23. Dec: Take off of the AF flight at 01:45

We'll run this tour in a small group of 4 to 8 Pax

TARIFFS PER PERSON:

in a DOUBLE Room: 3665 Euro/pax
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 525 Euro

Including:

- transfer airport-hotel-airport
- park and reserve fees
- services of local guide in park and reserve
- transportation with a driver (Mahajanga-Tana-Andasibe-Tuléar-Ranomafana-Tana)
- boat transfer Tulear-Anakao-Tulear
- accommodation in midrange hotels based on Bed & Breakfast
- fuel and driver's indemnities
- English speaking guide
- Tourist levy & VAT

Excluding:

- Domestic and international flights with their taxes
- visa fees 35 € for a stay of max. 30 days
- All other meals
- Any drinks
- All optional activities mentioned in the program
- Shopping
- Personal insurance
- Day use at Chat'o hotel if flying with Air France: 36 €/Pax if single, 18 €/Pax if in double room

- Hotels and tour are subject to change according availability
- Tariffs are subject to changes, especially if heavy fluctuation in exchange rate and/or fuel prices. All tours and tariffs are subject to changes in case of cancellations or overbooking of flights, changes in timetable, bad weather and road conditions, strike, political troubles, problems with fuel supply, tribal and other war, closing of sites, natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and other acts of God. Additional costs which occur in case of cancellation or change of flight time of a flight are not in our responsibility.