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## 2022 Biodiversity exploration on the Eighth Continent EUR 3,253.- per person

***This small international group trip will be guided by An Bollen - a specialist in Tropical Ecology since 2003 with a lot of experience in Marine biology and diving.***

This itinerary will take you from the lush eastern evergreen rainforest, over mountains, into canyons and gallery forests, along baobabs, and western dry deciduous forest, through the mangroves down to desolate sandy beaches, tiny islands and the southern dry spiny forest. For the most part, this journey follows the National Road 7 from East to South West across a diversity of landscapes, ecosystems, tribes and cultures. This adventurous trip allows for a great exploration of the unique Malagasy biodiversity. Along our travel, we will focus on different conservation approaches and get insight into how a mix of traditional government managed national parks, community-run reserves and initiatives, and co-managed areas with NGOs safeguard the amazing natural heritage, but also provide additional income for communities in a win-win integrated conservation and development approach. Join us on this conservation tourism journey to experience it first-hand!

## Day 1 - October 6th



### Arrival in Antananarivo

You will land on your self-booked flight at Ivato airport in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Welcome, or 'tonga soa'! In the terminal you will be issued a visa, the costs are around \$50 (depending on the currency exchange rates). Your driver will wait for you at the exit near the custom hall to help you in the unlikely event of you needing assistance with formalities. We recommend exchanging money there as well, as it may take longer elsewhere and costs are more expensive. The driver will then take you to the hotel, where we will have an introduction briefing before a joint dinner. Your journey begins here!



#### TNR

Antananarivo, ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR, 106



### Bois Vert

Bois Vert hotel is located 5 minutes from Ivato airport in a quiet place with greenery, offers 44 comfort rooms. The hotel offers different services including transfer, massage and sports room.

Bois Vert also offers a walk in the park which will guide you to discover a sample of the fauna and flora of Madagascar. You can visit various Malagasy art and handcraft workshops as well as the crocodile farm around the hotel. Model boats, tin soldiers, marquetry workshops and jewelry creation will convince you to explore the Malagasy universe!



#### Bois Vert

Antalamohitra, Antananarivo, Analamanga Region, Madagascar

## Day 2 - October 7th



### Antananarivo - Andasibe

Your today's destination is Andasibe, located about a 3.5 hour drive away. You will drive from the highlands towards the East, passing increasingly rainforest-like, dense areas. Upon your arrival, you will check into the hotel and start the exploration of the Mitsinjo Forest.



### Hotel Eulophiella

Eulophiella is located in an area of a few hectares of primary forest, reforested with fruit trees and plants characteristic to the region. The hotel has 16 bungalows including 10 "Ascendant" bungalows typical of the East Coast architecture and 7 "Parfums d'Orangers" bungalows: very spacious in the form of junior suites on low villas surrounded by a large veranda. Apart from the restaurant service, the hotel offers a tour of its private park.



### Mitsinjo Park

The Mitsinjo Park is a private reserve run by Association Mitsinjo, set up by guides to promote conservation and community tourism. The park has a lot of animal, tree and flower species to see. You can meet lemurs there as well, but the private park is well known for its diversity of amphibian species - especially the colored frogs, and more distinguished by its large amount of reptile species including the bright colored chameleon, lots of geckos and snakes. The reserve is located close to Andasibe and helped the expansion of the forest station in Analamazaotra. As of now, two tree nurseries are working, and produce about 40.000 seedlings of 125 different endemic Malagasy trees per year.

After the forest visit, you will briefly visit Mitsinjo's amphibian captive breeding centre which is part of the national amphibian conservation strategy that includes tackling a dangerous fungal disease.

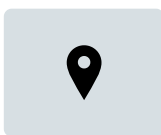
## Day 3 - October 8th



### Andasibe National Park

The Andasibe National Park is home to 11 species of half monkeys, many species of birds, large chameleons - showcasing diverse vegetation including an orchid park, rosewood trees, lianas, etc. In this forest, the largest of the lemurs is found - the Indri. It's a must to have seen this lemur but also to have heard his "yell" through the forest.

The walks you can take here vary from a few hours to half a day. Today, we will spend the morning exploring this park, and have a picnic lunch here. You will then go across the road into the Analamazaotra forest station to look for more biodiversity.



## Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

Toamasina Province, Madagascar



### Optional Night Walk

For those who still have the energy after this long day, we recommend grabbing a flashlight and trying your luck in spotting nocturnal forest residents, such as mouse lemurs and frogs, as well as chameleons and leaf-tailed geckos, on a short night hike.



### Eulophiella

You will stay in the same accommodation tonight.

## Day 4 - October 9th



### Andasibe - Antananarivo

Today, the bus will wait for you early in the morning and right after breakfast, you begin your trip to the South part of the country, driving along the National Road 7 to reach Ambositra. Firstly, you will be driven back to the capital, a 165 km drive West from Andasibe - a journey of about three and a half hours.



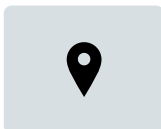
### Antananarivo - Ambatolampy

You have a long and difficult travel day ahead - so make sure to appreciate the scenery on the way, as it will be changing constantly. After 3.5 hours of driving, you'll first pass by Ambatolampy.



### Ambatolampy

This is considered to be the coldest town of Madagascar because of its altitude of 1500 meters in the Ankaratra mountain range. Here, there is a possibility to visit a small family owned factory producing aluminium cooking pots and other kitchen utensils, sold all over the island.



## Ambatolampy

Ambatolampy, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar



### Ambatolampy - Antsirabe

You will follow the National Road 7 again and will reach Antsirabe at the end of the day. You will have dinner in the city, and the driver will then take you to your hotel for the night.



### Hotel Vatolahy

Quiet and comfortable charming hotel located in Antsirabe. Hotel Vatolahy features 18 rooms separated into Double, Twin, Family and Suite.

The rooms are equipped with amenities such as armchairs, coffee table, desk, television, Wi-fi access, as well as private sanitary facilities. Moreover, guests can enjoy the swimming pool and sauna, as well as book a massage.



## Hotel Vatolahy

Pres Station Shell, Antsirabe, Province d'Antananarivo, Madagascar

## Day 5 - October 10th



### Antsirabe - Ambositra

Today, you will be driven further South on the RN7 for the last stretch of this long drive, first reaching Ambositra, a city well-known for Malagasy craftsmen.



### Ambositra

Ambositra is a city well-known for Malagasy craftsmen. You can visit the sculptors during their working hours. They are the "Zafimaniry" – an ethnic group of Asiatic origin, particularly known for their beautiful wood sculptures and marquetry. You can also have lunch here.



### Ambositra

Rue D' Ambositra, Antsirabe, Antananarivo Province, MG



### Ambositra - Ranomafana

You will continue in the same direction for about four hours until you reach Ambohimahaso, and after about an hour you will exit the RN7 and head in the Eastern direction for another 45 minutes until you reach your final destination of the day - Ranomafana, with its rainforest rich in endemic fauna and flora. During the colonial period, Ranomafana (In Malagasy means "hot water") was known as a small village where the French inhabitants of Fianarantsoa and the surrounding area occasionally took a bath in the thermal springs.

Depending on the timing, you might wish to go on a short walk in Vohiparara before checking into the hotel for the night.



### Ranomafana NP

In the past, Ranomafana was best known for its hot springs, but in the last two decades the accent has shifted to the national park, covering an area of about 40,000 hectares of mid-altitude rainforest with an incredible and unrivaled diversity of endemic flora and fauna, including 12 lemur, 115 bird, 58 reptile, 98 amphibian, 90 butterfly and more than 200 spider species can be found living in this lush national park. For that very reason, Ranomafana was included in the list of Unesco World Heritage Sites in 2007.

Ranomafana is one of the most important parks of Madagascar for scientists. That's also the reason you can find an [international science center](#) from the world-renowned primatologist Patricia Wright here - a unique research and conservation center that works in close collaboration with Madagascar National Park for over 26 years. CVB facilitates research and manages numerous projects including development, reforestation, and biodiversity monitoring. Their main aim is to improve the health and well-being of Malagasy people while safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem and its biodiversity.



### Ranomafana National Park

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar



### Ny Tanana Hotel

Ny Tanana is a beautiful accommodation, located close to the Ranomafana National Park. With characteristic bungalows separated into double and triple, as well as multiple double/twin rooms available to book. All rooms and bungalows are equipped with private sanitary facilities and there is WiFi available to the guests.

The hotel features services such as a gourmet restaurant, an outdoor swimming pool and activities available for booking.

## Day 6 - October 11th



Over the next two days, you will be exploring the Ranomafana National Park and its surroundings.



### Day out in Ranomafana

Today, you will hike the Varibolomena circuit in Talatakely, the secondary forest close to the research station. This forest has lots of bamboo and the invasive guava species, but nevertheless is a prime habitat for three different bamboo lemur species, red-fronted and red-bellied lemurs and Milne Edward's sifaka, as well as numerous birds and hopefully we can also find the peculiar giraffe-necked weevil.

Afterwards, we will visit the ValBio Research Centre (CVB) a unique research and conservation center that works in close collaboration with Madagascar National Parks for over 26 years. CVB facilitates research and manages numerous projects including development, reforestation and biodiversity monitoring. Their main aim is to improve the health and well-being of Malagasy people while safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem and its biodiversity.



### Ny Tanana Hotel

You will stay at the same accommodation tonight.

## Day 7 - October 12th



Today is reserved for a more strenuous hike, around 15km in distance, during which we will continue exploring the biodiversity of this area. You will enjoy a picnic lunch during this hike.



### Hiking in Ranomafana

You will explore the Varijatsy primary forest with characteristic plants, lemurs and other animals. We might be accompanied by leeches, but the challenge is well worth it. You will be treated to a lush plant life, across a variety of vegetation types, take a swim in a natural pool and enjoy beautiful scenery. We might even get to see and hear the beautiful black and white ruffed lemur as well as endemic bird species along our way.. We will be treated to a lush plant life, take a swim in a natural pool and enjoy beautiful scenery.



### Ny Tanana Hotel

You will return to the same accommodation and have the evening to yourselves.

## Day 8 - October 13th



### Ranomafana - Fianarantsoa

After an early breakfast, you will be driven to the next destination – Fianarantsoa, the capital of Betsileo, home of 1001 churches (1.45 hours' drive).



### Fianarantsoa

This is a remarkable old town that appears on the list of world heritage sites. The city is surrounded by vineyards and the only tea plantation of Madagascar. The shape of the landscape necessitates the growth of rice in terraces on different levels - like the capital, Fianarantsoa is built on several hills. The town is famous for the Karenjy enterprise - where the Malagasy car Mazana II is produced, alongside the project for the collection and treatment of waste and second-hand clothes. This social enterprise can really stimulate parts of the Malagasy economy.

It is certainly nice to have lunch in Fianarantsoa at the famous Tsara Guesthouse and take a nice walk through the old upper town.



#### Fianarantsoa

Fianarantsoa, Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar



### Fianarantsoa - Ambalavao

After about one hour's drive, we will take a short stop in Ambalavao where you will have the possibility to briefly visit the handmade production of "Antaimoro paper". After that in the late morning, you will go on a guided walk in the Anja Community Reserve.



### Anja Park

This reserve is managed by the local community and has many cultural and historical remnants. Apart from being a well-known spot for spotting the Catta (ring-tailed) lemurs, the fauna is adequately represented by a large colony of maki lemurs (about 300, whereas they were almost extinct 20 years ago!), as well as many birds and chameleons. The view of the rice paddies from a rocky promontory is amazing - a breath of fresh air!



#### Anja Community Reserve

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar  
020 75 933 37



### Ambalavao - Andringitra region

After this visit, you will return to the road and be driven for about 1.5 hours in the South-Eastern direction towards the Andringitra massif. The road sets the scene as the magnificent granite landscape becomes visible on the horizon - the Andringitra mountain range is one of Madagascar best kept secrets with only 1000 visitors per year, managed by Madagascar National Parks. The park offers some of the most scenic trekking in Madagascar. Your accommodation is located in a beautiful location.

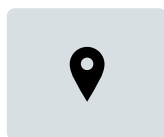
*Please note: The entrance to the Andringitra National Park is very remote and incorporating a hike up to it into your tour would require a minimum of 4 days spent here. Our customers often choose for Day or Half-day tours through the surrounding areas instead, which have beautiful sights to offer, as well as multiple walking and hiking paths to explore them from.*



### Tsara Camp

Tsara Camp is a campsite facility located in the Tsaranoro Valley, at the foot of the magnificent Tsaranoro Massif. The campsite has 15 tents, each equipped with double or twin beds, chairs and table. Connected to each tent is a private bathroom with shower and toilet.

Electricity is available on-site between 6 and 8 am in the morning, and between 6 and 10 pm in the evening. The camp also invites its guests to the 90m<sup>2</sup> tent in the center of the camp - it includes a restaurant and a lounge area, with unlimited filtered water, tea, coffee and an always filled fruit basket on offer. A full breakfast is served from 7am to 8.30am to help keep you fit throughout the day, especially for those who are planing hikes and excursions. Lunch is served in the camp from 12.30pm to 2pm and includes a selection of delicious salad, cheese, fish and fresh fruit. For full day excursions with a picnic, a packed lunch will be prepared. Dinner is a complete menu including starter, main dish and dessert. The cuisine is very simple but rich in taste and offers the chance to experience the truly Malagasy food culture.



#### Tsara Camp

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar  
020 22 248 37

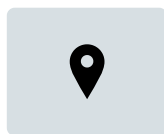
## Days 9 & 10 - October 14th & 15th



### Days out in the Andringitra region

You have the next two days to yourself in the area of the beautiful Andringitra Mountains. Just a short climb away is a panoramic viewpoint offering a magnificent postcard-like view of the whole area. The mountains are also home to several lemur species.

Your location in the Tsaranoro Valley is a paradise for real nature lovers, you can do it all here - climbing, trekking and paragliding are among the possibilities.



#### Andringitra Massif

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar



### Diavolana circuit

The Diavolana circuit is a strenuous, yet rewarding full-day hike (10h) that will take us through wild meadows of flowers, and orchids to a lunar landscape with blocks of granite with amazing shapes and lichen carpets everywhere. It is a land made of narrow valleys, high cliffs, streams and waterfalls. The pace of walking is peaceful, but you must be ready to walk hilly tracks, steep slopes, and some harder but non-technical passages. At the highest point, 2100m, there's a rock slab that serves as a convenient picnic spot and offers an excellent viewing point to spot the ring-tailed lemurs on the opposite cliffs, who have adapted to living in this high-altitude colder habitat.

*Please note: This hike can only be done if the weather conditions allow for it.*



### Asaramanitra circuit

There is the alternative to do the half-day circuit Asaramanitra instead which gives you a good flavor on the peculiar granite landscape as well. Both hikes include the sacred queen and king waterfalls, which tumble 300m down the escarpment. On the second day we will select a shorter exploratory walk to discover the floral diversity, swim in a natural pool or just wander around and shoot images in the granite topped savannah in the Tsaranoro valley or just relax in the Tsara campsite surroundings.



### Lunch

We continue our journey on Da 10 at lunch time, and will have a picnic on the bus while driving southwards to the village of Ranohira.



### Andringitra - Ranohira

The journey will first lead you back to the RN7, and from there continue the drive further South along the RN7, reaching Ranohira - a village nearby the Isalo National Park.

The landscape you drive through today will get progressively drier, until you drive through a steppe-like area up to the beautiful mountains of the Isalo Massif.



### La Fenêtre

We end our day at La Fenêtre - a popular rock window that frames the sunset, while the surrounding views of the sweeping plains and rock formation turns golden.

After admiring the sunset and taking your golden hour photos, we will proceed to the accommodation for check in.



#### Fenêtre de l'Isalo

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar



### Isalo Rock Lodge

Isalo Rock Lodge is a modern and breathtaking 60-room retreat, situated high in the sandstone mountains, overlooking Isalo National Park in the south-western part of Madagascar. All rooms are tastefully decorated with refined yet comfortable furnishings in warm and welcoming colours, as well as equipped with all modern conveniences: En-suite king-size bathroom and shower, air-conditioning, mini-bar, complimentary tray/kettle, secure electronics, safe, wardrobe, credenza and chair, armchair and coffee table, stationery, washbasins, hair - dryer, complimentary toiletries, internal telephone, in-room mosquito net, sun loungers on the balcony. The suites also have a sumptuous living room with refined furniture. Isalo Rock Lodge has a 100-seat restaurant, lounge bar and a poolside bar. The restaurant and public areas have been designed for guests to appreciate the beauty of the area through massive glass panels overlooking the sandstone cliffs and the forest below. The cuisine served is an eclectic mix of European and local Malagasy cuisine that changes seasonally.

## Day 11 - October 16th



### Isalo National Park

Today is dedicated to visiting the Isalo National Park - a park covering 80,000 hectares and consisting of sandstone rocks cut by deep canyons and eroded into peculiar shapes. In these canyons, the local wildlife inhabits the gallery forests that form corridors along small streams. The ring-tailed lemur, Verreaux, Sifaka and the brown lemur are commonly sighted along with birds and chameleons in the Canyon des Makis and Canyon des Rats. You can also take the short Namaza trail that takes you along a scenic route to a magnificent natural swimming pool where you can just relax and swim.



#### Isalo National Park

Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar  
032 44 440 75



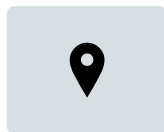
### Soa Zara

At sunset, we pay a visit to the tree-planting project Soa Zara.

Not even 50 years ago, there were small patches of primary forest surrounding the base of Isalo National Park.

Unfortunately, all of those trees have been cut recently and left with barren landscape leading into the deep gorges and rocky cliffs. However, Soa Zara is working towards changing this reality by creating a natural forest outside of the park. With a small patch of community run land, the association is actively planting trees and offering visitors the chance to partake in doing good for the future of their local environment.

Soa Zara is building this natural forest in order to provide energy resources for the local population, offer sanctuary to lemur species, and redevelop the badly damaged top soil.



#### Association Soa Zara

Ranohira, Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar



### Isalo Rock Lodge

You will stay in the same accommodation.

## Day 12 - October 17th



### Ranohira - Zombitse

We start early today and leave Ranohira to get some morning hours in the Zombitse Vohibasia National Park - a birders paradise, and to arrive at your destination in the late afternoon. This drive will take around 1 hour.



### Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park

Zombitse Vohibasia is an isolated pocket of transitional forest between the Western and Southern Domains, that was saved from severe deforestation. The surrounding area is a denuded semi-desert landscape following slash and burn agricultural practices. Nevertheless, this relic forest shelters an astounding 90 recorded bird species, of which 38 species are endemic based on which this location qualifies as an Important Bird Area. We stop here for a 2-hour easy hike to explore its richness and look for endemic species, followed by a picnic lunch.



### Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park

Toliara Province, Madagascar



### Zombitse - Tulear

After this visit, we return to the road and continue driving to the coastal town of Tulear (2,5 - 3 hours' drive), located at the end of National Road RN7. You will start noticing the first baobab trees along the road - a good indication that we are entering a much drier area.

We will reach Tuléar in the late afternoon, and you will have the rest of the day to yourself.



### Hyppocampo

Located 100 metres from the Rabesandratana Museum in the heart of Tuléar, the Hyppocampo hotel welcomes you offering a 3-star service.

The property accommodates guests in 8 rooms and 3 suites spread over 2 floors at the seafront, with a lovely swimming pool and a massage room. The rooms are equipped with air conditioning, telephone, internet connection, satellite TV and DVD player. The suites are even more spacious and feature a small bar, a lounge and a bathtub.

There is also a restaurant at Hyppocampo, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool, a bar, a communal lounge, a garden, room service, currency exchange, car rental service and airport shuttle service available on request.

## Day 13 - October 18th



### Tulear - Anakao

Today marks the beginning of your three-day adventure along the South-western coast of Madagascar. We will leave Tulear by boat and go southwards to reach the Lalandaka Ecolodge - a haven of tranquillity, white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, where you have the rest of the day to enjoy daily scenes of vezo canoes sailing by, appreciate the sunset, go for a swim, organise a dive, visit the fisherman's village or go for a stroll along the beach.



### Lalandaka Ecolodge

Close to the fishing village of Vezo d'Anakao, in the southwest of Madagascar, the Lalandaka hotel (in the Vezo language means "the path of the canoes") blends in perfectly with the surrounding nature. The ecolodge is nestled between dunes with endemic flora, a long white sand beach and a lagoon with turquoise and transparent waters. The village is reachable in 1 hour by speedboat from Tulear. The rosewood bungalows divided into Standard and Superior are built in a traditional way, while offering the charm and comfort necessary for absolute well-being.

The restaurant by the lagoon offers à la carte menu featuring fish and lobsters caught in the early morning, as well as many other local specialties. Guests are invited to admire the sunset from the hotel bar while savoring one of the delicious cocktails made with fresh fruit offered by our bartenders.

Moreover, Lalandaka Lodge offers and organizes many activities, picnics and walks to the islands, diving, water sports, fishing, excursions to Tsimanampetsotsa National Park and more. Please check [the hotel website](#) for a list of currently available activities.

## Day 14 - October 19th



### Anakao - Tsimanampetsotsa NP



We start really early today in order to avoid the heat, and will drive southwards to Tsimanampetsotsa National Park - part of the spiny desert of southern Madagascar.



### Tsimanampetsotsa National Park

Spiny forest is known for its very high level of endemic plant species and considered one of the most important ecosystems worldwide due to its uniqueness. There are even endemic plant families, such as the Didiereaceae, but the park is also home to the endemic radiated tortoise and Grandidier's mongoose. The park is named after its lake, registered as a RAMSAR wetland of international importance; which is an important breeding and feeding area for flamingos. After a picnic lunch we return back to the lodge.



### Lalandaka Ecolodge

You will stay at the same accommodation.

## Day 15 - October 20th



### Nosy Ve

This morning, if weather conditions allow, we will go on a half-day excursion to the small island of Nosy Ve - the crossing will take between 30 and 45 minutes, depending on the wind. It is home to the only breeding colony of red-tailed tropic birds on Madagascar. These white seabirds are like angels of the sky and very photogenic. The tiny island is also surrounded by beautiful coral reefs where we will snorkel. We will enjoy a picnic on the beach before heading back to the Ecolodge.



### Nosy Ve

Nosy Ve, Anakao, Madagascar



### Lalandaka Ecolodge

You will stay in the same accommodation.

## Days 16 & 17 - October 21st & 22nd



### Anakao - Tulear

You will take an early morning boat back to Tulear on Day 16, from where you will continue by road.



### Tulear - Honko Mangrove - Ifaty

You will be picked up at the harbor and driven in the northern direction to reach the coastal village of Ifaty (also known as Mangily), located around a 30-minute drive away.

About halfway to your destination, you will stop to visit the Honko Mangrove.



### Honko Community-Based Mangrove Reserve

Honko Community-Based Mangrove Reserve is an important wetland and mangrove area. The site was created by an NGO, with the goal of restoring the mangroves by working closely with local communities. Here, you will go on a 2-hour long guided tour to observe the species endemic to the mangrove and spot at least some of the over 70 species of wetland birds represented in this reserve.

Honko's goal is not only to preserve the mangroves, but to empower the local people with a sense of responsibility towards their environment and allow them take charge of managing **their** mangrove resources. Honko strives to build community resilience in the face of a changing natural environment through the introduction of a variety of sustainable alternative livelihoods such as tilapia fish farming, reed-weaving artisanal products, agricultural training and more.



### Honko Community-Based Mangrove Reserve

Toliara Province, Madagascar



Upon arrival in Ifaty, you will check into your accommodation and have the afternoon and the whole day tomorrow to explore this beautiful area.



### Solidaire Mangily Hotel

Located in Ifaty, 1.5 km from the Reniala reserve, Solidaire Mangily is a sustainable tourism initiative, responsible and supportive, which directly benefits the local population through various educational projects and environmental preservation projects led by the Malagasy NGO Bel Avenir. It is good to know that this hotel is not located right on the beach, but a 10 minutes walk away from the beach. The hotel offers accommodation with a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool and a bar. There are rooms with garden views, and you will be free to enjoy access to the terrace and garden. The 10 comfortable bungalows have private bathroom facilities, including a shower and free toilets, and solid amenities such as a safe, work desk, a wardrobe, mosquito nets, fans and a small terrace. There is a beautiful sunny swimming pool flanked by a bar, small restaurant and massage room.



### Activities in and around Ifaty

In and around Ifaty, you will be able to spend time at your discretion. The hotel is situated close to the village and you can easily reach the well-known Spiny forest. It is definitely worth a visit to observe the magnificent Baobab trees. The turtle village is located close to the Spiny forest, which is another attraction to visit. In the village, you may spot mouse makis and more Baobab trees, in addition to turtles. Another option is to go on a snorkeling excursion. The hotel can assist you in selecting the perfect boat and material to guarantee your snorkeling excursion to be a success. Diving is another possibility, and the hotel staff can assist you with choosing the right place. Last but not least, visiting the hotels' own agricultural school projects with its many different disciplines is also a truly enriching experience.



### Sustainable development projects

The hotel you stay at is a sustainable tourism initiative - and you have the opportunity to go on a free 2-hour long visit to their various agricultural, preservation and educational projects led by the Malagasy NGO Bel Avenir. Visit the hotel's own agricultural school with many disciplines, learn about the projects and ways to support them, and if you are willing to help - there are options facilitated by Solidaire Mangily as well! Choose your own level of contribution - whether it be simply learning about the projects or, for example, sharing a recreational day with the children in the Environmental Education Center or devoting a little time to working at the farm school with the young people in training.

## Day 18 - October 23rd

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### Airport transfer

Today, depending on your inland flight schedule, you will be transferred back to the airport of Tulear.



### TLE - TNR

Your inland flight from Toliara Airport (TLE) to Ivato International Airport (TNR), lasting around 1 hour.



### Bois Vert Day use

Upon arrival in the capital, you will be transferred to the same hotel near the airport you stayed in on Day 1, this time a room is booked for you for a day use here. You will also have a goodbye dinner - sharing your experiences and concluding this journey.



### Departure from Antananarivo

Depending on the time of your intercontinental flight back home, you will be brought to the airport today. We hope you enjoyed your trip and will bring a piece of Madagascar back home in your heart!

## Information & Documents

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### Who should join this trip & what should you know before signing up?

This tour is for nature-lovers who like the outdoors, beautiful landscapes and amazing biodiversity, who do not mind roughing it a bit in terms of basic accommodation for part of the journey and who have a genuine interest or curiosity in conservation. None of our hikes are technical, so no technical skills are needed but you should be able to go on two day-long hikes that could bring rain, leeches and hilly terrain. We cover a long distance on the road while passing through amazing scenery but be prepared to have almost two full days of traveling with a few short stops along the way and several other long rides. While this is not a luxurious tour, it gets us to some unique places, closer to community initiatives, to experience nature conservation first-hand, while supporting numerous grassroots initiatives that benefit both biodiversity and communities.



### Reality check

Madagascar is a beautiful, yet rough diamond. This means that as a traveler, the best way to fully enjoy a unique trip and destination like this one, is to remain flexible and keep an open mindset. This will allow you to take it all in, enjoy its true beauty, rich culture and warm hospitality of the Malagasy, while embracing the unexpected and sometimes basic conditions. Sadly, Madagascar is one of the poorest countries worldwide, meaning that daily life scenes can be unsettling for some, road conditions are highly variable, the Malagasy time concept is rather different from ours, logistics can be challenging, it can be very hot and sweaty during this season and insects and stomach bugs are never far away. Be that as it may, Mora-Travel has extensive experience on the island to ensure you will get an unforgettable travel experience and we will always have a Plan B ready when we need to improvise!



### Expedition guide

An Bollen is a Belgian national who completed her PhD in Tropical Ecology in 2003. She has lived and worked in Madagascar for a total of 6 years; conducting her PhD research in the south-eastern littoral rainforest of Sainte-Luce, coordinating the Study Abroad programme in the Ranomafana National Park and managing the Madagascar Fauna Group in the Tamatave region for 4 years. She is a dedicated ecologist, with over 15 years of experience in biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the tropics, both in rainforests as on coral reefs. Madagascar is as a second home to her and she has a good insight into the local conservation dynamics. An is fascinated by the underwater world and is an experienced PADI Dive Master. She has been involved in marine and coastal research and conservation projects on other islands. An has extensive experience in organising and leading research and conservation expeditions and is keen to share her enthusiasm and knowledge with nature-loving ecotourists. An is fluent in English, French, Dutch, Portuguese and speaks some basic Malagasy. For more details on her profile and a detailed CV, see [www.azuria.be](http://www.azuria.be)



### Pricing PER PERSON in EUR

*price based on 8 pax group:*

Pricing per person: € 3,253.-

Single Supplement: € 430.-



### Included Services

- ◆ All airport/hotel transfers
- ◆ Bus with driver and fuel included
- ◆ Bed and Breakfast the whole trip
- ◆ All hikes in Ranomafana national park (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ Anja Park excursion (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ All hikes in Andringitra (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ Isalo National Park hikes (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ Zombitse Vohibasia Park visit (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ Honko visit (entry and guide)
- ◆ Nosy Ve & Tsimanampetsotsa excursions (lunch, entry and guide)
- ◆ Tips for drivers, guides, porters, others
- ◆ Farewell dinner on the last day
- ◆ Specialised tourleader, An Bollen, during the whole trip



### Excluded Services

- ◆ Visa
- ◆ Drinks
- ◆ Health insurances
- ◆ Personal expenses
- ◆ International flights
- ◆ Lunch on day 1, 2, 16, 17, 18
- ◆ Additional excursions on free days
- ◆ All other services unlisted in the inclusive



## How to prepare & What to pack

### Language

The group language will be English

### International flight schedule

Please allow for enough time when booking your international flight before the start of this trip as well as at the end of the trip as domestic flights can be delayed or even cancelled. As a general rule you should arrive latest during daytime on the first evening the tour starts and we suggest to not book a flight before midnight on the last day of the trip.

### Luggage

While your international flight might allow for more kilos or more bags, please note that domestic flights have a strict maximum of one bag of 20 kilos check-in luggage per person and 5 kg of hand luggage. When sailing and camping we recommend having a soft bag of maximum 15 kg which is easier for storage on board and moving around. You will have the option of leaving behind some of the luggage in the hotel. Some people prefer to bring an extra foldable bag in their luggage for this reason.

### Health

We will have a small first-aid kit at hand but please bring personal prescription medications and daily toiletries, including seasickness tablets, high factor sunscreen and insect repellent. Given the destination and our way of traveling we do recommend you visit a tropical institute or travel clinic nearby before traveling to check if your vaccinations are in order. Most important is malaria prophylaxis and vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria and measles. Travelers diarrhea is quite common, so you do want to come prepared also for this.

### Passport

Please bring two paper copies of your passport

### Camping

A tent, mattress and sheets will be provided for camping during our sailing trip, so no need to bring these. Do bring a (head) torch, a water bottle, one small towel, sarong and an (inflatable) pillow if you like.

### Clothing & Footwear

One water- and windproof cape or jacket, T-shirts and shorts, long-sleeved shirts and light long trousers (zip pants are ideal!), one sweatshirt for cooler evenings. Bring sandals, flipflops or reef shoes that can get wet and one pair of closed hiking shoes. Bring also a backpack for the day hikes.

### Marine conditions

Given considerable time spent at sea and on the coast, we recommend you bring your swim gear and own snorkeling kit (mask, snorkel and fins) to maximize underwater exploration. A rash vest comes in handy for protection against sun, cold and itchy zooplankton. If you have a water-proof bag (large or small), this is useful to protect valuables. Don't forget a protective wind-proof hat! Binoculars and camera come in very handy to spot wildlife and record what you see. This is of course optional and we will also provide you with a 'best of' series of photographs at the end of the trip.

### Wi-Fi

This is not available everywhere, especially when we are camping, but you should be able to get in touch with the home front every 3 days at the very least

### Food

If you are vegetarian or have food allergies, kindly inform us in sufficient detail upfront of the trip. Please note that vegetables can be quite repetitive on this trip, so feel free to bring some food with you to diversify if needed.

### Pocket money

This is mainly for souvenirs, massage, soft drinks, alcohol and food for the days when not included or for sightseeing before or after your trip. While this is highly variable, we recommend you have the equivalent of 200-300 € with you during the trip. For scuba diving, payment by Visa or Mastercard is available. You can change euros at the Ivato Airport at a standard rate or take out Ariary out of the ATM machine with your credit card. Visa cards are generally more accepted than Mastercard in Madagascar.