ROCKJUMPER

Wildlife Tours

Madagascar

Wildlife of a Magical Island

8th November to 19th November 2025 (12 days)

Ranomafana Extension

19th November to 23rd November 2025 (5 days)

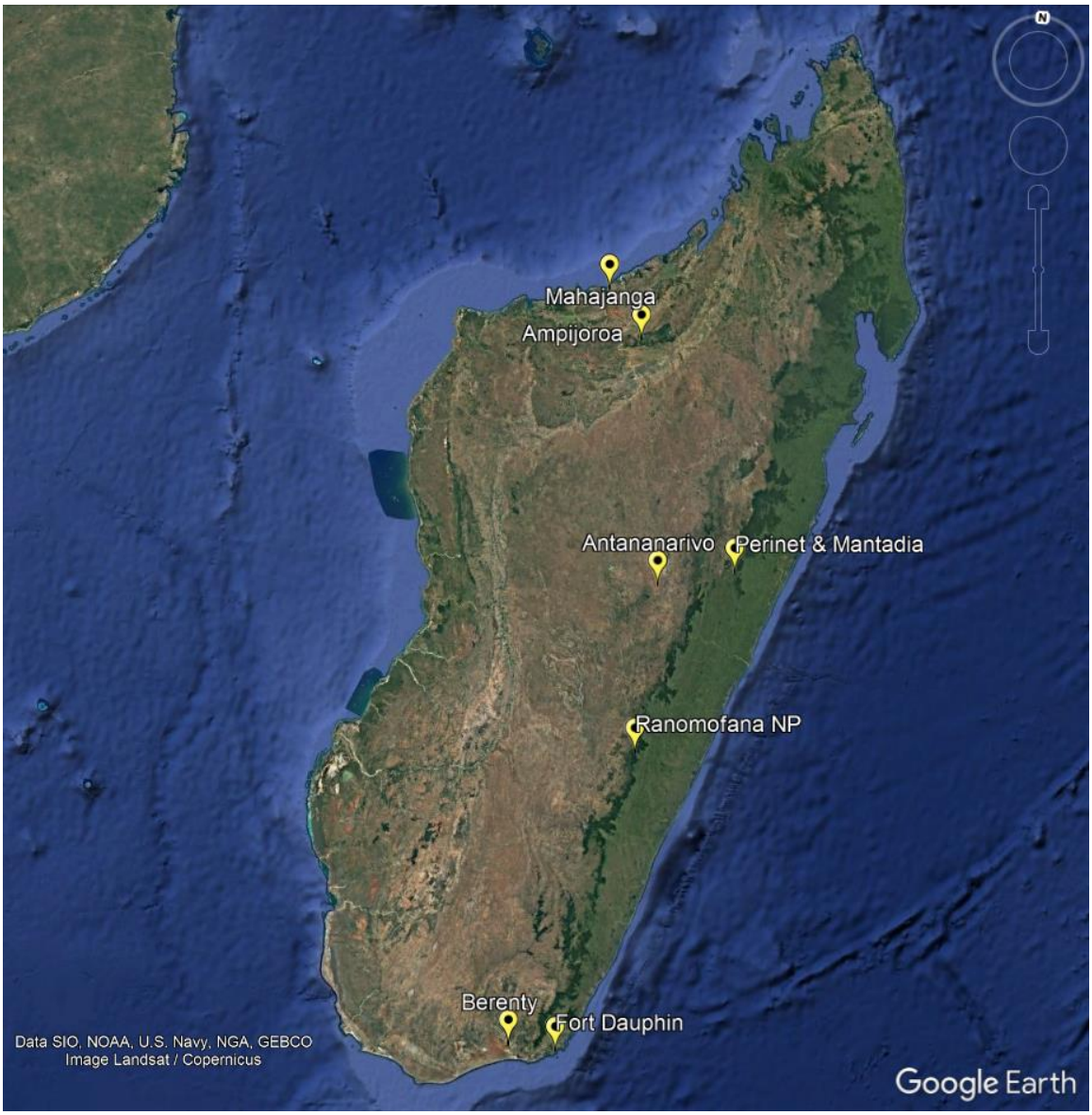


Ring-tailed Lemurs by Keith Valentine

Tour Highlights:

Madagascar is home to one of the most unusual mammalian assemblages on Earth and is often referred to as the 'Eighth Continent'. Its exceptional fauna and flora have evolved over millions of years of isolation. Madagascar has a remarkable diversity of habitats and associated flora, covering an area of about 587 000km². It is the world's fourth largest island (after Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo), yet its variety rivals that of an entire continent.

This legendary uniqueness is nowhere better reflected than in its mammals where every native terrestrial species, of which there are 148, is endemic to the island and found nowhere else on the planet! Apart from the amazing diversity of the island's mammals, Madagascar is also world renowned for its endemic birds. Of the two hundred species regularly recorded here, no fewer than one hundred and forty are endemic or near endemic. But the wonder of Madagascar extends well beyond its mammals and its avifauna to the colourful chameleons and fascinating flora of this appropriately named "laboratory of evolution". Virtually every plant and animal on the island is also endemic, but sadly most are threatened by continued deforestation, thus making Madagascar one of those "must-visit-soon" destination.



Your tour at a glance….

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrival in Antananarivo
Day 2	Antananarivo to Ampijoroa via Mahajanga
Days 3 & 4	Ampijoroa
Day 5	Ampijoroa to Antananarivo via Mahajanga
Day 6	Antananarivo to Berenty via Fort Dauphin
Day 7	Berenty
Day 8	Berenty to Antananarivo via Fort Dauphin
Day 9	Antananarivo to Perinet
Days 10 & 11	Perinet & Mantadia National Parks
Day 12	Perinet to Antananarivo and depart

THE EXTENSION

Day 1	Antananarivo
Day 2	Antananarivo to Ranomafana
Days 3 & 4	Ranomafana National Park
Day 5	Ranomafana to Antananarivo and depart

Wildlife sites in detail

Antananarivo to Ampijoroa. Today we fly to Mahajanga on the northwest coast of Madagascar, for the first leg of our island adventure. After arriving in this sleepy town, we will drive to Ampijoroa, a forest station situated in the extensive deciduous forests of Ankarafantsika National Park. Ampijoroa is famous as the home of the World Wildlife Fund's Plough-shear Tortoise captive breeding program and is an ideal base from which to search for the numerous endemic birds and mammals of the region.



Oustalet's Chameleon by David Hoddinott

En route to the reserve we may see wetland birds such as Purple, Striated, Squacco, Malagasy Pond and flocks of Black Heron, which we will watch as they perform their bizarre "umbrella-feeding" routine.



Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur by Daniel Danckwerts

On arrival at the forestry station, we should encounter numerous "campsite residents" such as Broad-billed Roller, screeching Lesser Vasa Parrot, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Magpie-Robin, Sakalava Weaver, Madagascar Hoopoe, Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar Green Pigeon and Malagasy Turtle Dove. Tonight, we will embark on our first night walk, searching for the large range of chameleons and mammals that call these woodlands home.

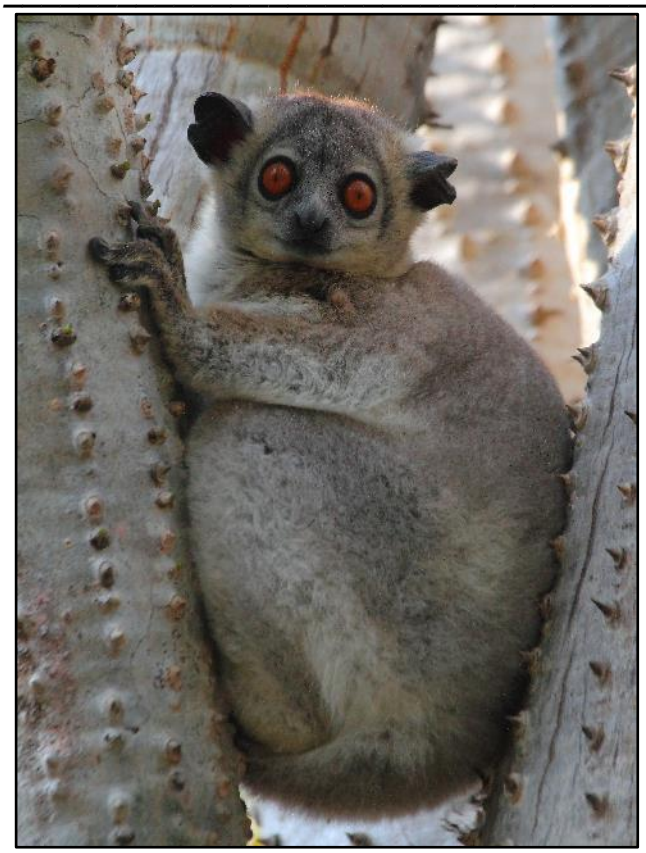
Ampijoroa. We have two full days to explore the network of trails through the dry forest around Ampijoroa, in search of lemurs. No less than eight species of lemur occur in the near vicinity of the camp and time will be spent with the comical Coquerel's Sifaka, regularly encountered Common Brown Lemur and the rare Mongoose Lemur during the day, and Western Avahi (Woolly Lemur), Milne-Edward's Sportive, Fat-tailed Dwarf and Grey Mouse Lemurs after dark. If we are lucky, we may also find the recently described (1998) Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, one of the world's smallest primates and only known from around Lac Ravelobe (hence its scientific name *Microcebus ravelobensis*.)

Reptiles are also plentiful along the trails, and you may encounter the impressive Giant Hog-nosed Snake, as well as several smaller species of snake (all harmless - amazingly, there are no venomous snakes in Madagascar!), Oustalet's Chameleon (the world's largest species), the aptly named Rhinoceros Chameleon, with its enlarged nasal protuberance and impressively spiky Cuvier's Iguanids. There are also an extraordinary variety of birds that are restricted to this region. Foremost amongst these is the secretive White-breasted Mesite, and the jewel-like Schlegel's Asity, which recalls a miniature Bird-of-paradise! Another highly localized specialty is the Van Dam's Vanga while two species of coua are also restricted to these deciduous forests: Red-capped and Coquerel's. We will also spend a little time along the edge of the adjacent Lac Ravelobe, which is home to a good number of Nile Crocodile. This is also one of the only sites where it is still possible to find the critically endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle, a pair of which is resident here.



Coquerel's Sifaka by Daniel Danckwerts

Lac Amboromalandy. We may stop off at Lac Amboromalandy to search for other waterbirds



White-footed Sportive Lemur by David Hoddinott

including the striking Madagascar Jacana, which are sometimes seen as they strut through lily-covered lakeshore vegetation, Humblot's Heron, Madagascar Grebe, African Pygmy Goose and Allen's Gallinule.

Fort Dauphin to Berenty. We embark on a drive that takes us through some well-watered valleys packed with paddy fields, and on to the rain-shadow of the Andohahela Mountains where the octopus-like Didierea trees are diagnostic of these spiny forests. As we near Berenty the natural habitat is replaced by extensive tracts of sisal plantations stretching as far as the eye can see. Berenty Private Lemur Reserve belongs to the De Haulme family, who has very kindly set aside sections of gallery forest along the Mandrare River to conserve its population of lemurs and other wildlife.

Berenty. Berenty is justly famous for its lemurs; not only because its deciduous woodland is home to five species of these primitive primates, but also for the ease with which they can be seen and appreciated in the wild. The Brown Lemurs here are a mixture of Common Brown Lemurs and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs, and these are commonly called Berenty Browns. These Lemurs occur in large numbers during the day; while White-footed Sportive, Grey-brown and Grey Mouse lemurs are regularly encountered on night walks through the reserve.

However, the undoubted favourites are the Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas. The bands of cat-like, quizzical Ringtails are often the first to steal any visitors' hearts (as well as any spare fruit they may have on their persons!), but their appeal is easily matched by the strikingly patterned Sifakas with their soulful expressions and bizarre, bipedal dancing locomotion. To spend time with these gentle creatures will certainly be one of the highlights of our Madagascar adventure.



Indri by Daniel Danckwerts

A further mammalian must-see at Berenty is to visit the Madagascar Flying Fox roost, where about 300 of these impressive animals – sporting 1-1/4-meter wingspans spend their

day squabbling and presumably also sleeping.



Lowland Streaked Tenrec by David Hoddinott

Antananarivo to Perinet. We drive eastwards across the high plateau to Perinet and the famous reserve of Andasibe-Mantadia (otherwise known as Analamazaotra). Terraced rice paddies and traditional two-storey mud homes make for intriguing scenery along the way.

Our accommodation for the next three nights is a delightful hotel ideally located in a quiet forest setting adjacent to the reserve. Right on our doorstep nature abounds; fluorescent-green day geckos scuttle on the outside walls of our chalets, Madagascar Wagtails flit along the paved walkways, and we may well be serenaded by the beautiful songs of the world's largest species of lemur, the handsome Indri.

In the evenings, we will embark on night walks. Nocturnal outings are a thrilling and, indeed, essential part of any Madagascar trip; with Andasibe-Mantadia being one of the very best sites to search for the island's nocturnal Lemurs. Here we will look for – and hopefully find – Eastern Woolly and Furry-eared Dwarf Lemurs as well as the diminutive Goodman's Mouse Lemur. We may also encounter some of Madagascar's other evolutionary masterpieces, such as the bizarre Lowland Streaked Tenrec.

Perinet and Mantadia National Parks. In the forests of Perinet, where we will be spending one of our days, we can expect to be treated to a close encounter with a family group of Indri. While walking in Perinet we will certainly hear their eerie, whale-like howling that echoes through the forest and if fortunate may be present with a group while they are 'singing'. Other lemurs you may see include arguably the most beautiful of them all – the gentle Diademed Sifaka, as well as bands of Common Brown and the shy Grey Bamboo Lemur.



Pitta-like Ground Roller by David Hoddinott

On one of the days, we will also take time to visit the nearby Mantadia National Park, which is an excellent place to search for a good variety of lemur species, and a day spent in this forest will certainly be worthwhile. This is the best area to locate the



Lowland Streaked Tenrec by David Hoddinott

beautiful Diademed Sifaka while it is also one of the few sites where Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur may be found. Other species that are possible during our visit to Mantadia include Grey Bamboo, Red-bellied and Common Brown Lemurs, while one of the local guides may well know of a spot where the nocturnal Eastern Woolly Lemur may be sleeping during the day.

The island's reptile and amphibian ("herp") fauna is equally fascinating, and even the most hardened naturalist wouldn't fail to be impressed by the plethora of colourful and bizarre frogs, chameleons and geckos to be seen on an evening's stroll through the rainforest. We will search for the giant Parson's Chameleon and the aptly named Fantastic Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Uroplatus phantasticus*). Perinet and Mantadia also offer some of the best rainforest birding in Madagascar, and we can expect to see specials such as Blue Coua, Madagascar Blue Vanga, Cuckoo-Roller, the stunning Pitta-like Ground Roller, and both of Madagascar's endemic kingfishers.

Ranomafana National Park. Ranomafana National Park was originally proclaimed to protect its population of Golden Bamboo Lemurs, an animal first described to science as recently as 1987. In addition to this, we should also see both Greater and Grey Bamboo Lemurs, Red-fronted Brown, Red-bellied and Small-toothed Sportive Lemurs, Brown Mouse Lemurs, the impressive Milne-Edwards' Sifaka, and other mammals including Common Tenrec and the handsome Ring-tailed Mongoose. Chameleons are particularly well represented in the area, and we are likely to see several species, the most notable of which are the cryptically colored and armoured dwarf chameleons. Another "must see" denizen of this reserve is the Giraffe-necked Weevil, a tiny red and black insect named for its unusually proportioned neck! Ranomafana is also famous for its excellent birding.



Giraffe-necked Weavil by David Hoddinott

Ranomafana to Antananarivo via Antsirabe. On our way back to Tana, we'll break up our journey for lunch

at the quaint, highland town of Antsirabe, famous for its locally manufactured handicrafts. The road winds northwards, across the open landscape of the Horombe Plateau, offering insight into the traditional lifestyle of the Malagasy people.

Steeply terraced rice paddies, tall earthen houses with thatched roofs, and roadside markets displaying a wide variety of handicrafts form part of the passing pageant, all against the backdrop of golden-yellow grasslands and bare granite inselbergs.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. Expect some long days with optional early morning as well as night activities on offer almost every day. We will try to have some down time during the middle of the day to keep rested, in some cases with a swimming pool on site.
Wildlife Spotting Ease		Madagascan wildlife is generally well accustomed to people and not shy. By rainforest standards it is some of the easiest wildlife spotting to be found, but there is still lush cover here so not everything will be easy!
Accommodation		Mixed. In many cases we will be staying in comfortable eco lodges or decent hotels when staying in cities or large towns.
Walking / Trails		There will be a considerable amount of walking, mostly on forest trails, some with gradual inclines.
Vehicles / Roads		There will be several long drives between the various sites, often of very poor roads. Flights are prone to change with limited notice.
Photography		Generally, very good opportunities.
Annoyances		Poor environmental conditions and road infrastructure.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

Single Supplement:
The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RWT cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

The tour price **includes**

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 12 of the main tour;
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 5 of the extension;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Bottled water;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- Gratuities for local guides and staff; and
- All guiding services of a Rockjumper tour leader.

The tour fee **does not include**

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

PLEASE NOTE:

a) Please note that there are a limited number of single spaces per tour and we cannot guarantee availability.
b) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency. Please note that the internal flight costs are included in the cost and the Rockjumper office will book these flights for you at no extra charge.
c) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.
d) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
e) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

TIPPING:

Tipping (drivers, hotel staff, porters and restaurants) is included on all Rockjumper tours. However, if you feel that your Rockjumper leader and/or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. Such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

The main tour begins in Antananarivo on Day 1 of the tour and concludes in Antananarivo on Day 12 late afternoon.

The extension tour starts on Day 12 and ends in Antananarivo on in the evening on Day 16. We may only arrive back in Tana at around 18:00 p.m. Please ensure that your international flights leave after this time.

If you would like to arrive early or depart late please do let the Rockjumper office know and we will be happy to arrange extra accommodation for you.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

Internal flights are not included in the cost of the tour (please see exclusions above for an estimate of these prices). All internal flights will be taken with Air Madagascar.

Flight delays and last-minute flight schedule alterations are an inherent risk in any tour to Madagascar and we may have to re-arrange the tour itinerary around the internal flight schedule. However, we will do our utmost to visit all the scheduled sites and will take all reasonable precautions and actions to ensure the tour follows the advertised itinerary as closely as possible.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.

GENERAL TOUR NOTES:

- This tour does require a good level of fitness, participants should be in good general health as most of our days will be spent exploring for mammals on foot, and may require walking for several hours at a time. Generally walking will be easy and on flat ground however some trails in the rainforest can be quite steep and slippery, especially after rain. Ranomafana can provide some fairly challenging walks. Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions that you feel we should know about then please notify us in advance of departure.
- There are some lengthy drives on this tour.
- There will be early morning and nocturnal sessions on most days.
- In some areas it can be hot especially at midday. We will make a number of early morning starts to maximize the most pleasurable time in the field.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally good standard, and the hotels and resorts that we make use of is clean and comfortable.