Full Detailed Itinerary - Madagascar Photo Tour

Day 1: Arrival in Tana

Arrival in Tana

Day 2: Tana to Fort Dauphin to Berenty

Tana to Fort Dauphin to Berenty

Days 3-4: Berenty

Our time in Berenty offers incredible photographic opportunities for two of Madagascar's most photogenic and famous lemurs: the cute Ring-tailed Lemur and the famous 'dancing' Verreaux's Sifakas. The gallery forest here also supports Giant Coua and day-time roosting White-browed Owl and White-footed Sportive Lemur. This open dry forest is also a wonderful place to start enjoying and photographing a range of other Malagasy birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Day 5: Berenty to Fort Dauphin

After a final morning of photography, we drive about three hours to the charming coastal town of Fort Dauphin, where we'll spend the night.

Day 6: Fort Dauphin to Tana

A domestic flight brings us back to Tana.

Days 7-10: Andasibe-Mantadia NP (Perinet)

The most diverse biome on the island are the lush rainforests of eastern Madagascar. Two twin parks here, Andasibe-Mantadia and Perinet, offer the best of Madagascar's fauna. Many of the island's most spectacular endemic birds are restricted to this rainforest, where we seek out photo opportunities with species including Pitta-like and Scaly Ground-Rollers, Red-breasted Coua, Madagascar Flufftail, Madagascar Blue Pigeon, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, and Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher. The experience of rambling in Perinet would not be complete without being serenaded by the planet's largest lemur, the Indri. The spine-chilling howls of this creature will stick in your memory for the rest of your life, and these large prosimians also make for wonderful photo subjects. With luck, we might encounter one of Madagascar's evolutionary masterpieces, the bizarre Lowland Streaked Tenrec. After dark we will search for some of the creatures of the night, and should find Eastern Woolly, Crossley's Dwarf, and Goodman's Mouse Lemurs. The area's reptile and amphibian fauna are equally dramatic; among the myriad of colorful and photogenic frogs, chameleons, and geckos we may encounter are the giant Parson's Chameleon, dapper frogs, glowing green day-geckos, and two species of incredibly camouflaged leaf-tailed gecko.

Day 11: Andasibe-Mantadia NP to Tana

After a final morning in the rainforest, possibly spent in a reptile park that is superb for macro photography, we will head back up the eastern escarpment to the capital of Tana, where we'll enjoy our final dinner together.

Day 12: Tana to Majunga

A short domestic flight brings us to the bustling coastal town of Majunaga, where we spend the night.

Day 13: Mahanjunga to Ankarafantsika

This morning will be spend driving into the dry forest of Ankarafantsika, a treasure house of rare and wonderful wildlife. We spend the new two nights at a simple eco-lodge.

Day 14: Ankarafantsika

We have a full day in the dry forest and wetlands of Ankarafantsika National Park. The abundance of lemurs and birds, and the open nature of the forest here makes this one of the island's premier sites for wildlife photography. Troops of handsome Coquerel's Sifakas often hang around the park headquarters, along with birds like Madagascar Madagascar Hoopoe, Sickle-billed Vanga, and Crested Drongo. A nearby lake is teaming with herons, egrets, and other waterbirds, and we may take a short boat trip there if conditions allow. The boat ride often presents us with the opportunity to see and photograph two of Madagascar's most epic endemics, Madagascar Fish-Eagle and Madagascar Jacana. Walking in the nearby forests should also present us with one of the island's most unique looking birds, the Schlegel's Asity, whose psychedelically patterned wattle standouts in the world of birds. Night walks here are especially productive. We'll seek out the Golden-brown Mouse Lemur, which is endemic to this park, plus Western Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur, Mongoose Lemur, and several species of geckos and chameleons.

Day 15: Ankarafantsika to Tana

A full day's drive through the rolling scenery of the High Plateau brings us back to Tana.

Day 16: Departure from Tana

Departure from Tana

Tour Extension 1

Day 1: Tana to Kirindy

A short domestic flight brings us out of the highlands and to the coastal town or Morandava, the gateway to Kirindy, which is a couple hours' drive away.

Days 2-3: Kirindy

The extension heads to the far west, where the western deciduous forest hold a diverse and easily photographable suite of lemurs, birds, and reptiles, plus Madagascar's largest predator: the Fosa. On the way to and from Kirindy, we pass through Madagascar's most photogenic landscape, the iconic "Alee des Baobabs". This is the best place in Madagascar to photograph the island's most impressive species of baobab: the immense Grandidier's Baobab. Kirindy is a lemur paradise and we ought to catch up with lanky

Verreaux’s Sifaka and big-eyed Red-tailed Sportive Lemurs amongst eight possible species. This is also a good area for snakes, and there is no nervous tension as none of Madagascar’s snakes are venomous. We will also seek out the giant Oustalet’s Giant Chameleon and the spiky Cuvier’s Madagascar Swift. We’ll consider ourselves lucky if we manage photos of the shy White-breasted Mesite. Kirindy holds good numbers of many widespread Malagasy species, including a diverse range of couas and vangas. The open nature of the forests here mean that these species are easier to photograph here than elsewhere, making Kirindy an excellent addition to a phototour of the island.

Day 4: Morondava to Tana (this is the arrival day of the main tour)

We catch our flight back to Tana, where we’ll spend the night in a comfortable hotel, resting up for our first taste of the Malagasy rainforest on the next day.

Toll free from the USA & Canada: (800) 348-5941

International number: +1-409-515-9110

Toll free from the UK: +0800-046-5654

Email: info@tropicalbirding.com