

12 Day Madagascar Uncovered Small Group Tour

Asia Vacation Group – World Travel Experts!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Discover the world with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of the world's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

Travel with the confidence. Your trip has been carefully crafted by our team with you in mind.

Specialists in touring since 2015, Asia Vacation Group is proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour.

Australian Company Owned	Small Group Tour	Fully Escorted by local English-speaking guide
7-Day Change of Mind		

Day by Day Itinerary

Antananarivo, Andasibe, Antsirabe, Ranomafana National Park, Fianarantsoa, Isalo, Ifaty, Tuléar

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small group with no more than 10 persons
- Incredible sightseeing, including multiple walks through national parks in search of endemic lemurs, rainforest exploration, hiking through the Isalo massif, local wine tasting and much more
- Get up close and personal with the Indri (the largest species of lemur) within the Special Reserve of Andasibe
- Hike the Isalo massif in Isalo National Park, marveling at the eroded sandstone monuments – keep your eyes out for the Verreaux's sifaka lemur in the trees
- Explore the Reniala Forest (Spiny Forest Ifaty), where you can walk among the iconic baobab trees and learn about the re-habituated ring-tailed lemurs
- 11 nights in hand-picked 3 & 4-star accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Antananarivo

On arrival into Ivato International Airport (TNR), upon entering the arrivals hall you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel in Antananarivo.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Meals: N/A

Accommodation: Palissandre Hotel & Spa 4* or similar

Please note: When booking international flights, please ensure that your arrival date falls on Day 1 of the itinerary

Day 2: Antananarivo - Andasibe

This morning, join the rest of your group for an introduction to your tour, before heading east towards the primary forests of Madagascar.

Start our journey with a drive to Andasibe through the green and luxuriant vegetation of eastern Madagascar. This brings us to a very humid part of the country with many primary forests and lakes. Along the way we will see Merina villages spread in the rocky mountains.

We arrive at Andasibe in the afternoon and check-in to the hotel.

In the evening, we will set off from the hotel at approximately 6pm (depending on the season) on a night walk to observe night active lemurs and other nocturnal animals.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Vakona Forest Lodge 3* or similar

Day 3: Natural Reserve of Andasibe

We start our morning with a visit to the Special Reserve of Andasibe to see the Indri, the largest lemurs on the island. This 810 ha reserve is unique with its endemic fauna and flora and contains a wide variety of orchids, canopy, and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds.

In the afternoon, we visit the V.O.I.I.M.A Community Reserve. Here you will also come across a variety of wildlife, ranging from brown lemurs, Indri, chameleons, geckos and birds. We overnight at the same hotel. This reserve provides a sustainable way of saving the remaining rainforest in the area by creating a livelihood for the local communities through reforestation projects.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Vakona Forest Lodge 3* (or similar)

Day 4: Andasibe - Antsirabe

Today we head south to Antsirabe, across the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields on display. The spectacular eroded hills called 'lavaka' remind us of the Far East with its rice fields and green landscape with vegetables and fruit trees.

Stop in Ambatolampy for a quick visit to this huge agricultural city, also recognised as the "capital of aluminium recycling".

Arrive into Antsirabe at approximately 6pm. 'The place of salt' is an elegant city and known as the centre of the beer industry – we can smell the Star Brewery as we enter the town! Founded by Norwegians in 1856, it is the only place which really feels and looks like a European city. It has a temperate climate and therefore fruit and vegetables which grow in colder climates, are found in Antsirabe.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Plumeria Hotel Antsirabe 4* or similar

Day 5: Antsirabe - Ranomafana National Park

After breakfast we drive to Ambositra, the centre of Madagascar's wood carving industry. The highlands are characterized by its architecture: The houses are made with ornately carved wooden balconies and shutters with bright colours.

Further on, we pass the 'le col de tapia', a type of tree resistant to bush fires. The landscape is still dominated by rice fields, pine forests, eucalyptus trees and rocky mountains.

We turn off from the main road to reach our destination for the day: Ranomafana National Park. The national park is highly regarded as one of the most picturesque parks in Madagascar due to its dense rainforest and stunning views from peaks that reach 1200m. 12 different lemurs inhabit the national park, including the elusive aye-aye and the critically endangered golden-bamboo lemur.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Setam Lodge, Ranomafana 3* or similar

Day 6: Ranomafana National Park

The approximately 40,000 ha of Parc National de Ranomafana with its rainforest covered hills and abundant wildlife, has long been considered one of Madagascar's highlights, and is one of the country's national parks most heavily visited. Its entrance lies about 7 km from Ranomafana village and altitudes in the Park Range from 800m to 1200m. In addition to its densely forested hills, Ranomafana's terrain is characterised by numerous small streams which plummet down to the beautiful Namorona River. Although much of the region has been logged, the easternmost part of the park retains relatively large areas of primary forest.

You will go for long walks in the national park spotting some of the lemurs, chameleons and other animals.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Setam Lodge, Ranomafana 3* or similar

Tips & suggestions: Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended today. The rainforest floor can be slippery and wet, but you also might venture off the path into the scrub in order to see some animals from more favourable spots.

Day 7: Ranomafana - Finarantsoa - Isalo

Returning on the road we came on, we leave Ranomafana and visit a local wine farm for wine tasting near Finarantsoa 'the city where one learns good things'. Note that visits to the wine farms may not be possible over weekends. The city is the gate to the South, the capital of the Betsileo tribes and the centre of the catholic religion. Most of the best schools in the country are also found here.

We then head southwards to Ambalavao and visit the 'Antemoro Paper Factory' which is a vestige of the Arabian civilisation on the island. Afterwards, we partake in a community-based silk weaving project run by the women's association "Soalandy".

We pass through the mountain chain of Andringitra, which serves as a transition between the dry south and green highlands with its famous '3 hillocks' and its huge 'archbishop's cape'. Along the way we will see from afar a spectacular huge granite dome with twin rock towers called 'the gate of the south', which in fact marks the end of the highland and the beginning of the south. The 'Bishop's Hat' is another noticeable, imposing formation and a sacred location for the local people – a place where their ancestors chose a collective suicide rather than to give in to the Merina tribes.

We then continue to Ihosy, the capital of the Bara tribes, who are shepherds of Zebu, and further on through the huge 'Plateaux de Horombe' with its very deep red soil, which reminds us of 'the no man's land' and we arrive in Isalo.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Isalo Rock Lodge 4* or similar

Day 8: Isalo National Park

Today, we will visit and hike in Isalo National Park. The park covers an area of 81,540 ha, comprising the entire stretch of the Isalo massif. This huge mountain is very spectacular with its eroded sandstone elevations. Along the way we will see vegetation like *Uapaca bojeri*, *Pachypodium rosulatum* or 'elephant's foot' and *Aloe isaloensis*, a native species of aloe endemic to Isalo. The eroded mountains also served as a place where the Bara kept their dead before they could bury them in their actual tombs.

We start our climb and reach the massif after walking about 20 minutes, where we will have a spectacular view of the huge sandstone mountains with its beautiful colours and its strange and battered formations creating many different images like 'the tortoise', 'the masks' and 'the crocodiles'. We see small streams of water, and rivers which are marked by lines of brilliant green, generally made up of numerous *Pandanus pulcher* and the delicate, slim-stemmed, feathery leaved palm *Chrysalidocarpus isaloensis*.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Isalo Rock Lodge 4* or similar

Tips & suggestions: Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended today. The national park does have some rocky and uneven walkways.

Day 9: Isalo - Ifaty

After breakfast, we continue to Tuléar, the terminal of National Road N° 7. This part of our journey brings us to new scenery among the dry forests of the west and the spiny desert of the south.

On the way, we admire the different 'Mahafaly Tombs' and the 'Antandroy Tombs'.

After a short visit to Tuléar we drive to Ifaty, which lies about 27 km north of Tuléar. Situated on the Mozambique Channel, the landscape is dominated by the cactus-like, spiny forest of different *euphorbiaceae* and *didiereaceae*. We will cross the dry and sandy soil where the local people battle to find drinking water. Mangrove trees line the coast alternated by Vezo communities which earn their living from fishing. We will see many small pirogues with men who go out fishing twice a day, while children and women wait on the coast to collect the fish before taking

them to Tuléar for sale.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Vovotelo, Ifaty 3* or similar

Day 10: Ifaty

Ifaty is in an ideal location for diving and snorkelling and a popular place for birdwatchers. Here you can also experience the Vezo fishermen's life. Many excursions are possible on this leisure day.

Visit the Reniala Forest (Spiny Forest Ifaty) where you can see two kinds of baobabs, spiny bush, reptiles like 'boa madagascariensis', geckos and the 'chameleon parsoni', which is one of the largest chameleons in the world.

You can also take a boat trip to see whales (organised locally). From July to mid-September, whales come to the cool seas of Madagascar to give birth to their young. It is a spectacular experience, and it is possible to see the whales very near to the boat. Situated in the largest lagoon of the country, Ifaty is also protected by a large coral reef, which makes it an ideal place for diving and snorkelling. In the afternoon we can walk to the village of Mangily to visit a local school and experience the Vezo fisherman's way of life, especially as they return from fishing.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Vovotelo, Ifaty 3* or similar

Day 11: Ifaty - Tuléar - Antananarivo

Early in the morning at around 6am we transfer to the airport for the flight back to Antananarivo.

After checking into the hotel, you have the afternoon free to explore and to do some sightseeing. The capital of Madagascar is also called the 'City of Thousands' and it is where the first King started to unify the different kingdoms of the island. Tana was built in three stages: The high city, the first area occupied during the regal period where the old queen's palace is situated; the mid-city, where all the chic boutiques of the capital are found; and then the low city, which is the commercial area of the town. Walk from the high city to see the Rova, the queen's palace, and the house of the first minister during these days, which is now a museum. All of these were built by Frenchman Jean Laborde during the royal period. The mid-city, or the administration area, ends at the Rainiharo tombs and the lower town is situated in the main avenue called 'L'avenue de l'indépendance' dominated by the railway station.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Palissandre Hotel & Spa 4* or similar

Please note: Domestic flight times may change without warning – please understand that this day is flexible.

Day 12: Depart Antananarivo

Today marks the end of your tour of Madagascar.

At a relevant time, you will be transferred to Ivato International Airport (TNR) in time for your departure flight. We hope you enjoy a trip with Asia Vacation Group (AVG).

Meals: Breakfast

INCLUSIONS

- Small group touring with a max 10 guests
- 3 & 4-star hotel accommodation as outlined in the itinerary
- Daily breakfast
- National Park and Natural Reserve entrance fees
- Domestic, economy class flight from Tuléar to Antananarivo
- Escorted by professional, English-speaking local guide (day 1-9)
- Specialist local guides in national parks as per itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- 24/7 Support

EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities & personal expenses

DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Saturday 05 Apr 2025	Wednesday 16 Apr 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 19 Apr 2025	Wednesday 30 Apr 2025	AU\$4,799		Book
Saturday 03 May 2025	Wednesday 14 May 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Monday 19 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 31 May 2025	Wednesday 11 Jun 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 21 Jun 2025	Wednesday 02 Jul 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 05 Jul 2025	Wednesday 16 Jul 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 19 Jul 2025	Wednesday 30 Jul 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 02 Aug 2025	Wednesday 13 Aug 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 23 Aug 2025	Wednesday 03 Sep 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 06 Sep 2025	Wednesday 17 Sep 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 20 Sep 2025	Wednesday 01 Oct 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 04 Oct 2025	Wednesday 15 Oct 2025	AU\$4,999		Book
Saturday 18 Oct 2025	Wednesday 29 Oct 2025	AU\$4,799		Book
Saturday 01 Nov 2025	Wednesday 12 Nov 2025	AU\$4,999		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Saturday 22 Nov 2025	Wednesday 03 Dec 2025	AU\$4,799		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

This is a **land package** only.

If you would like to add airfares to your booking, please select the departure city where we have the economy return flights add-on for your selection. If you would like to book business class or premium class, please contact us anytime and our ticketing expert can assist you with a quotation. Currently we use Emirates Airlines or similar.

Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

- Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline
- Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class
- Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.
- Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.
- Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Physical Requirements

A good level of fitness is required to undertake this tour. There will be times, whilst in National Parks of Natural Reserves when the path may be; uneven, rocky, wet and/or steep. Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended. There will be alternatives (less steep/strenuous) should you be able to fulfil these walking requirements

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. A gratuity of \$10 – \$15 per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$1,318 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

Paired Solo Traveler

Not available.

Group size: 2-10 pax

Triple Share

Not available

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling.

We have partnered with **NibTravel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi-trip journeys simply with us.

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must

A visa is required to enter the territory of Madagascar and can easily be obtained upon arrival at the airport of Antananarivo with a validity of up to 60 days. Tourists staying for less than one month, can purchase a visa for 115'000 Ariary (approximately €35). Paying with the exact amounts or small currency is advised – credit card payments are accepted. No photographs are required.

IMPORTANT: Visa requirements may change at any time without notice. You should contact the nearest high commission/embassy or consulate for the latest details.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Children

Children under the age of 12 years will not be permitted to travel on this tour.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extension your trip.

- Pre Tour Accommodation – **AU\$279** per room, per night for double/twin/single
- Post Tour Accommodation – **AU\$279** per room, per night for double/twin/single

ASIA VACATION GROUP

Australia Call: 1800 229 339