

Madagascar

The Land of Lemurs and Island Endemics

April 23 to May 15, 2027



Verreaux's Sifaka

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Discover **Madagascar's** cultural richness and astonishing biodiversity on a journey that weaves together **iconic landscapes**, rare wildlife, and meaningful conservation. Begin in **Antananarivo's** historic highlands before exploring the **spiny forests** of the south, where **Berenty Private Reserve** offers exceptional **lemur photography** and insight into Antandroy traditions. Travel onward into lush eastern rainforests in search of the **indri**—the island's largest and most hauntingly vocal lemur—then continue north to experience Madagascar's remarkable ecological variety. From **volcanic forests** and **limestone massifs** to innovative conservation hubs like **Black Lemur Camp**, you'll encounter endangered species including **Perrier's and Tattersall's sifakas**, with opportunities to seek out the elusive **aye-aye** on guided night walks. This immersive adventure highlights Madagascar's most compelling natural and cultural treasures, offering a deep connection to one of the world's most extraordinary biodiversity hotspots.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Experience Madagascar's cultural and natural richness:** Immerse yourself in vibrant communities and explore some of the island's most striking and varied landscapes.
- **Seek out one of the world's rarest primates:** Track the critically endangered Perrier's black lemur in its remaining northern habitat.

- **Look for Madagascar’s elusive white lemur:** Join a night walk to search for the rare Tattersall’s sifaka.
- **Spot all six leaf-tailed gecko species:** Discover these remarkable masters of camouflage in their rainforest home.
- **Explore extraordinary biodiversity:** Encounter a wide array of lemurs, reptiles, amphibians, and endemic birds throughout Madagascar’s lush forests.

LEADER: Lytah Razafimahefa.

DAYS: 23, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 10.

COST: \$14,400 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for four internal flights), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 7.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Apr 23–24	Travel to Antananarivo, Madagascar.		
Apr 25	Welcome to Antananarivo. Arrive in Madagascar’s capital and enjoy a warm Malagasy welcome.	La Varangue, Antananarivo	-
Apr 26	Discover Historic Antananarivo. Spend the day exploring Old Town – Queen’s Palace and Musée de la Photo.	La Varangue, Antananarivo	B, L, D
Apr 27	Fly South to Taolagnaro (Fort Dauphin). Take an early flight, followed by afternoon city sightseeing and a visit to either Nahampoana or Saiadi Reserve.	Croix Sud Hotel, Fort Dauphin	B, L, D
Apr 28	Journey to Berenty. Drive to Berenty Nature Reserve, exploring tamarind gallery forest and spiny forest.	Berenty Lodge, Berenty Nature Reserve	B, L, D
Apr 29–30	Wildlife of Berenty. Discover Berenty’s lemur-rich landscapes, search for sifakas and ring-tailed lemurs. Optional night walk.		B, L, D
May 1	Mandrare River & Andohahela. Experience sunrise at Mandrare River. Visit Lake Anony, and Andohahela National Park on route back to Fort Dauphin.	Croix Sud Hotel, Fort Dauphin	B, L, D
May 2	Lokaro Bay & Return to Antananarivo. Take a scenic boat excursion on the bay before your flight back to Antananarivo.	La Varangue Hotel, Antananarivo	B, L, D
May 3	Drive to Andasibe. Travel east to Andasibe National Park, stopping along the way at Peyreiras Reptile Park.	Manjarano Lodge, Andasibe	B, L, D
May 4–5	Explore Andasibe–Mantadia. Analamazaotra Indri Reserve, Mantadia National Park, community parks, and Vakona Lemurs Island.		B, L, D
May 6	Final Morning in Andasibe. Enjoy a morning walk and visit to Lemur Island before returning to Antananarivo.	Nosy Manga Hotel, Antananarivo	B, L, D
May 7	Fly North to Diego Suarez. Fly to Diego Suarez, then drive to Ankarana to explore it’s unique ecosystems.	Iharana Bush Camp, Ankarana	B, L, D
May 8	Daraina Reserve. Visit Mandresy Caves before		B, L, D

	continuing to Daraina Reserve for Tattersal's Sifaka and Aye-Aye.		
May 9	Anjahakely Forest. Drive to Anjahakely Forest and enjoy an evening walk in search of nocturnal wildlife.	Black Lemur Camp (Akiba Lodge), Anjahakely	B, L, D
May 10	Black Lemur Camp. Spend a full-day exploring Black Lemur Camp, searching for Perrier's Sifaka and other rare wildlife.		B, L, D
May 11	Return to Diego Suarez. Make stops along the way to striking Red Tsingy formations and scenic limestone landscapes of Montagne des Français.	Allamanda Hotel, Diego Suarez	B, L, D
May 12	Amber Mountain National Park. Enjoy a full-day discovering the lush forests and rich biodiversity of this park.		B, L, D
May 13	Return to Antananarivo. Morning in Diego Suarez before the flight back to Antananarivo, where you'll gather for a group farewell dinner.	Relais des Plateaux, Antananarivo	B, L, D
May 14	Departure Day. Depending on your flight time, relax at the hotel in the morning before your transfer to the airport.		B
May 15	Arrive home.		

LEADERS

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



Tojo "Lytah" Razafimahefa Tojo "Lytah" Razafimahefa, from Antananarivo, Madagascar, has over 18 years of experience in tourism. Beginning with organizing tours for Americans in 2005, he later established his consultancy business specializing in ecotourism and mentoring. As a seasoned guide, he has led tours worldwide. Currently, he serves as a Special Advisor to Madagascar's Guide Associations, and he facilitates dialogue with the government on matters of tourism advocacy as Chairman of the Confederation of Tourism. Additionally, as a co-founder of Wildlife Madagascar, he advocates for conservation and community welfare.

DETAILED ITINERARY

April 23–24 ~ Travel to Antananarivo, Madagascar

April 25 ~ Arrive in Antananarivo

Meet your local team and proceed to the hotel for an overnight stay.

April 26 ~ Explore Antananarivo

Enjoy a relaxed morning with a coffee talk led by your Malagasy tour leader for a general introduction and information briefing. Subsequently, take a leisurely sightseeing tour of the old town, exploring the Queen's Palace perched atop the hill. This stroll provides insights into Madagascar's colonial history, blending past and present. By midday, visit the Musée de la Photo and indulge in the exquisite cuisine of the Café du Musée Restaurant. This sightseeing adventure continues as you gradually drive back to your hotel for a well-deserved and restful night.



Ring-tailed Lemur
© Chris Desborough

Due to the logistical realities of traveling in Madagascar, internal flight schedules can change unexpectedly, which may require adjustments to the order or timing of our planned destinations and activities. Flexibility is essential, and any itinerary updates will be made to ensure a smooth experience while preserving the quality of your wildlife and cultural encounters.

Apr 27 ~ Travel to Fort Dauphin

With an extremely early morning flight, you will arrive in Fort Dauphin and be transferred to the hotel to sleep before enjoying breakfast and sightseeing while discovering the city's past and current history. Taolagnaro's historical remnants prove fascinating with the port city preserving volumes of books reflecting Madagascar's pre-colonial life. After lunch, you will continue to either Nahampoana or Saiadi reserve to observe mesmerizing wildlife.



White-footed Sportive Lemur
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Apr 28 ~ Drive to Berenty Reserve

Journey to the remarkable Berenty Reserve. The drive unfolds incredible life and nature scenery with 60 miles of ever-changing vegetation. As you approach the mighty Mandrare River and its expansive sisal plantation, the varying landscape guides you to Berenty, the distinctive home of the dancing lemur. Lemurs abound here; their curious eyes follow your every move.

Apr 29–30 ~ Exploration of Berenty Reserve

The Berenty Lodge boasts an unparalleled location at the heart of the lemurs' habitat. The reserve encompasses two primary forest habitats: one featuring one of the country's few remaining tamarind gallery forests and the other showcasing the native spiny forest. Home to five different lemur species, including the energetic dancing sifaka and the globally renowned ring-tailed lemur, Berenty provides the ideal setting for spectacular lemur photography.

Imagine day walks within the gallery forest and night excursions through the spiny forest where lemurs skillfully navigate from tree to tree. Renowned for its diverse birdlife, yet the richness extends beyond animals and plants, the local Antandroy people, inhabitants of the spiny bushes, hold incredible life stories and traditions they are eager to share. Their presence is a testament to the harmonious coexistence of nature and humanity, illustrating a perfect balance between socio-economic survival and nature conservation.

May 1 ~ Andohahela National Park and Taolagnaro

Embarking on an early morning departure, you will savor the sunrise by the Mandrare River bridge. The progressing sunlight paints a mesmerizing scene as life unfolds along the riverbanks. Continuing off-road, your journey takes you to Anony Lake, surrounded by spectacular sand dunes hosting groups of pink flamingos and various water birds, creating a picturesque landscape.

The region between the Anosy (seashore) and the Androy (land of spikes) unfolds a dramatic panorama, featuring cliff-ranged rainforest mountains, dense spiny bushes, spiny forest, and transitional forests. Your exploration continues with a walk within the Andohahela National Park, where you will encounter the Ankazofotsy forest and its blooming pachypodium, towering triangle palms, and nocturnal lemurs nestled in their tree holes. You should arrive back in Fort Dauphin just before sunset.

May 2 ~ Lokaro Bay and Return to Antananarivo

Spend the first half of the day on a boat excursion from Lanirano Lake to Lokaro Bay, 25 miles from Fort Dauphin; these painted shores offer incredible views. Navigate through channels passing marshy vegetation filled with arums, pandanus trees, and the distinctive Ravinala. Keep an eye out for wild ducks and kingfishers darting through the greenery as local fishermen stick to the coastline in handcrafted canoes. After the boat ride, you'll depart the southeastern part of Madagascar and its awe-inspiring Anosy cliff-range mountains and fly back to Antananarivo for an overnight and a group dinner at one of Madagascar's top-rated restaurants.

May 3 ~ Travel to Andasibe and Reptile Park

Depart for the Andasibe Rain Forest. The drive along winding hilly roads is not just scenic, it unveils the absorbing livelihoods of the central highlanders, showcasing their agricultural plots and livestock. It's also an opportunity to witness the ongoing challenges faced by Madagascar's biodiversity in the face of anthropic actions.



Malagasy Yellow Bittern
© Chris Desborough



White-Faced Whistling Duck
© Noreen Rudd

Make a stop on the way to the captivating reptile park of Peyreiras. This sanctuary offers a close-up encounter with species that are challenging to find in the wild. Reptile and amphibian enthusiasts will discover a paradise with the world's largest chameleon and the world's largest moth. Continue the drive and settle into the hotel, enjoying the symphony of the rainforest around you.

May 4–5 ~ Andasibe Rain Forest

Andasibe is an award-winning rainforest teeming with natural wonders for passionate wildlife enthusiasts, captivating visitors with its diverse fauna and flora, and offering a variety of hikes. It is renowned for its special reserve of indri, the star inhabitant with its large white and black body and haunting call that resonates through the entire forest. Over these two days, you will explore at least four different parks and reserves in the area and gain a deeper understanding of Madagascar's ecosystems.



Panther Chameleon
© Noreen Rudd

Mantadia National Park features diverse wild and pristine lodges, allowing you to observe the same species of lemurs in different habitats. This exploration also provides opportunities to discover more species of reptiles, amphibians, birds, and beyond. With the VOI community-based park offering an intriguing forest night walk, and the Vakona private reserve with its "Lemur Island," you'll be thoroughly immersed in the field of biodiversity.

May 6 ~ Return to Antananarivo

Wake up listening to the Indri singing then enjoy one last visit to Lemur Island and a final walk through Andasibe before beginning the journey back to Antananarivo.

May 7 ~ Travel to Ankarana National Park

Hop an early morning flight to Diego Suarez in the far northern city of the island. Upon arrival, board your vehicles for a direct journey towards the Ankarana region. Venture into the distinctive landscape of the Tsingy kingdom within Ankarana National Park. Explore the enchanting east side of Ankarana discovering its hidden wildlife amidst limestone forests, grottos, and deciduous dry forests. Witness lemurs in the treetops, nesting birds, and camouflaged reptiles. Highlights include the Ankarana sportive lemur, northern sportive lemur, northern bamboo lemur, crowned lemur, and Sanford brown lemur. Marvel at exceptional reptile species like Paroedura geckos, the giant green-day gecko, golden hog-nosed snake, and other colubrid snakes.



Crowned Lemur
© David Hoar

In the mid-afternoon, travel to the west side of Ankarana, where the Iharana Bush Camp lies in the cultural cradle of the Antakarana ethnic group. Enjoy captivating sunsets and rejuvenating sunrise moments in this spectacular haven.

May 8 ~ Ankarana West and possibly Daraina Reserve

Today you will choose from various on-site activities or embark on a captivating 2-hour drive to Daraina. Special day and night walks offer a unique encounter with Madagascar's critically endangered lemur, the white Tattersall's sifaka, and the fascinating aye-aye, the most peculiar of all lemurs. Daraina's dry forest hosts other locally or regionally restricted species, making it a must-visit for nature enthusiasts.



Aye-Aye
© Gina Barton

May 9 ~ Travel to Anjahakely Forest

Depart Iharana Bush Camp and head towards the Andrafiamaena/Andavakoera region and the secluded Anjahakely protected area. Along the scenic drive, witness captivating landscapes—limestone rocks adorned with dry deciduous vegetation, volcanic ash cones, mountain rainforests, and picturesque rice paddies.

Diverge from the main road, traversing grassy hills until reaching the Anjahakely forest, home to the well-nested Black Lemur Camp. Begin with a general briefing, then relax for a bit before for a night walk featuring nocturnal mouse lemurs, captivating chameleons, intriguing leaf-tailed geckos, birds, and more.

May 10 ~ Exploring Black Lemur Camp

Explore the habitat of the critically endangered black sifaka lemur, a strictly endemic species and one of the world's 25 most endangered mammals. Two-thirds of Perrier's sifaka are exclusive to the Andrafiamaena/Andavakoera area. Discover various attractions, including vanga birds, hawks, and Petter's chameleon with its distinctive nose-horns and the striking red patch on mature females' heads. Another night walk awaits the adventurous. By staying at Black Lemur Camp, you contribute to the protection of this unique area and support the local community, including the lodge staff.



Black Lemur
© Noreen Rudd

May 11 ~ Return to Diego Suarez

Following an early breakfast, drive back to the city of Diego Suarez. Along the way, encounter another masterpiece of nature: the breathtaking Tsingy Rouge (Red Tsingy), where Madagascar Buzzards and Yellow-Billed Kites gracefully soar above, and Olive Bee-eaters add a vibrant contrast to the delicate red eroded soil.

You'll also have time to stop at the commanding Montagne des Français Reserve. This Reserve is a protected area overseeing the expansive Bay of Diego and its iconic loaf-shaped rock. The mountain is adorned with remarkable plant life, featuring the strictly endemic Suarez's baobab and the region's native aloe. Arrive at your hotel in time to enjoy the sunset from the remarkable views.

May 12 ~ Montagne D'Ambre National Park

Spend the full day exploring Montagne d'Ambre National Park, a haven where rainforest blankets the entire area. This verdant and evergreen protected forest, one of the country's most humid, fosters an opulent evolution of wildlife. Witness an extraordinary array of leaf-tailed geckos (including 6 different species), the diminutive Brookesia tuberculata chameleon, native carnivores, and an array of Madagascar's iconic lemurs,

each ready to showcase their beauty. You'll also take a night walk, enhancing your opportunities to capture the untamed beauty of this natural masterpiece through your lenses and eyes.

May 13 ~ Flight back to Antananarivo

Take in the beautiful colonial city of Diego Suarez one last time before heading to the airport after lunch for your flight back to Antananarivo.

May 14 ~ Depart for home

Spend your final morning in Madagascar relaxing and perusing local vendors at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your international flights home.

May 15 ~ Arrive Home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$14,400
Single Supplement	\$1,800

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for four internal flights), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Final	November 14, 2026	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Four internal flights.
- Accommodations for the nights of April 25 through May 13.
- Meals from breakfast on April 26 through breakfast on May 14.
- Transfers on April 25 and May 14 between the hotel and the Antananarivo airport.

- Gratuities for hotel and restaurant staff, and park and reserve guides.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

Email: info@cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Late April/May marks the beginning of the dry season. Afternoons are pleasant with temperatures reaching 75°F (24°C), but evenings and early mornings are cooler with temperatures around 55°F (13°C).

Fitness Level

This Madagascar tour requires a reasonable level of fitness, and you should be in good general health. Most of the wildlife viewing and birding is done on foot and may require walking for several hours; locating some of the endemic species may require a few longer walks. A few forest trails can be steep and slippery, especially after rain. We strive to spend maximum time in nature, and days are long and demanding, though you have some flexibility to opt out of certain activities. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Please wait to book your flights until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights we book

- Four internal flights are included in the trip cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation [Madagascar](#).**
- **Cheesemans' Trips are [Carbon Neutral](#).**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International or to an organization of your choice.