



Photos by Todd Gustafson, Gustafson Photo Safari

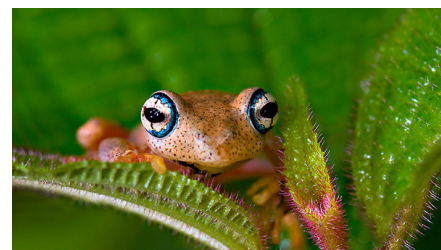


GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI PRESENTS:
MADAGASCAR: AN ODD CORNER OF THE WORLD
 May 14-31, 2014

Join Todd Gustafson to create exceptional images that capture the unique species and ecosystems which make Madagascar such a fascinating destination. Madagascar's unique habitats support plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals that are found nowhere else. While photographing lemurs, we hope to see at least 20 species, each one with its own unique, riveting eye color. We will also photograph a wide variety of endemic chameleons of all sizes and colors, and try to capture the moment when the chameleon's tongue shoots out to snare its dinner! Hiking the trails through national parks is the best way to see and photograph the natural beauty of Madagascar. We will encounter a wide variety of amazing subjects on our custom itinerary that includes some of our favorite locations as well as two new spots that will offer even more species. Each site has been chosen for dramatic indigenous species and easy accessibility. Madagascar is truly a destination at the ends of the Earth!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore prime lemur habitats at numerous reserves including Berenty, Ankarafantsika, Akanin`ny Nofy, and Andasibe.
- A macro enthusiast's dream – 80% of the chameleon species in the world are indigenous to Madagascar.
- Wildlife photography at its best – lemurs, birds, insects, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Capture a dancing lemur making a dazzling leap with grace and ease.
- Discover unique Madagascar – one of the most beautiful and endangered ecosystems on earth.



ITINERARY

MAY 14 - DEPARTURE

Depart the United States for Madagascar.

MAY 15 - ANTANANARIVO

Upon arrival at Antananarivo International Airport, clear customs and immigration, meet your local guide, and transfer to your hotel. Dinner will be on your own to explore the local fare. Air France arrives at about 10:00 p.m. If you need additional time to adjust to time change or get rested before your program starts, we can make additional arrangements. *Overnight at Palissandre Hotel.*

MAY 16 - ANDASIBE

After a short briefing, drive to Andasibe through the green and luxuriant vegetation of the east. This first stop is in the humid part of the country with many primary forests and lakes. Along the way are Merina villages in the rocky mountains. Stop at the Percyras Reserve to see the Nile crocodile, the tiniest chameleon, and some lemurs. Arrive at Andasibe in the late afternoon and check into Vakona Lodge. Situated in an eucalyptus plantation, 7 kms away from the Périnet National Park Entrance, Vakona Forest Lodge is considered one of the most comfortable hotels in this area. The individual bungalows are thoughtfully scattered throughout the grounds, and boast generous space, a good bathroom, electric heaters, mini bar, and a safe. Later this evening is a night safari in the reserve of Andasibe to observe night active lemurs and other nocturnal animals. *Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 17 - ANDASIBE

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a drive to the Mantadia National Park, approximately 14 km from the hotel. Walk within the Mantadia National Park and spot lemurs and birds. Lemur species such as the indri, sifaka lemur, black-and-white ruffed lemur, grey bamboo lemur, common Brown lemur, and red-bellied lemur might be spotted during the visit. Also observe bird species such as couas, vangas, sunbirds, and ground-rollers. Lunch will be at either the restaurant or a picnic. In the afternoon, continue the visit at the park before heading back to the hotel. *Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 18 - AKANIN'NY NOFY

Early this morning visit Analamazaotra Reserve for the last photography opportunities at Andasibe region. Later drive to Manambato Village and take the ferry for the transfer to Akanin'ny Nofy, which means "Nest of Dreams." *Overnight at Palmarium Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 19 - AKANIN'NY NOFY

Today visit the private Palmarium Park, also known as Akanin'ny Nofy, which is situated on 50 ha on the east coast of Madagascar, along the Ampitabe Lake and the Indian Ocean, in the Pangalanes Channel. Discover the endemic flora and fauna of Madagascar, such as rare palm trees and plants like orchids and mahoganies, as well as reptiles. See if you can spot all ten different species of lemurs living in the park: black-and-white ruffed lemurs, black lemurs, crowned lemurs, hybrid of brown and crowned lemurs, and Coquerel's sifaka, to name a few. *Overnight at Palmarium Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 20 - AKANIN'NY NOFY

Continue exploring the trails of Palmarium to practice photographing dancing coquerels, sifaka, and the hybrid lemur jumping from branch to branch. *Overnight at Palmarium Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 21 - ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast, transfer by boat to Manambato and drive back to Antananarivo. En route visit the Marozevo reptile farm for chameleons, geckos, and frogs. *Overnight at Palissandre Hotel. (BLD)*

MAY 22 - ANKARAFANTSIKA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Mahajanga. Upon arrival at the airport we will transfer to Ankarafantsika National Park which used to be known as, and still incorporates, the Ampijoroa Forest Station. The park is the last refuge of several lemur and bird species, which makes the conservation of the park so important. The area is home to eight lemur species: a night walk is usually exciting and rewarding and one may find Milne-Edwards' sportive lemur, mongoose lemur, western woolly lemur, grey mouse lemur, and fat-tailed dwarf lemur. This is the only place where the golden-brown mouse lemur inhabits. During the day hikes, Coquerel's sifaka are commonly seen, in addition to

mongoose and brown lemurs and the rhinoceros chameleon. Ankarafantsika is also the best place to see the spectacular Madagascar Crested Ibis, White-throated Rail, and a host of raptors. The star attraction, however, is the endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle, now down to about 100 pairs. In the woods, you may also see Greater Vasa Parrot, Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, and various vangas. A boat cruise on Lake Ravelobe offers sights of Humblot's Heron, Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, Madagascan Fish Eagle, as well as excellent views of many other water birds. *Overnights at Gite D'Ampijoroa. (BLD)*

MAY 23 - ANKARAFANTSIKA

Full day at Ankarafantsika. *Overnight at Gite D'Ampijoroa. (BLD)*

MAY 24 - ANTANANARIVO

After another morning visit of Ankarafantsika, travel back to Mahajanga and fly back to Antananarivo. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel with the rest of the day at leisure to explore the city. *Overnight at Palissandre Hotel. (BLD)*

MAY 25 - BERENTY

After breakfast transfer to the airport for flight to Fort Dauphin. Upon arrival transfer to Berenty, situated at 85 km from Fort Dauphin. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the surroundings on your own or with your guide, who will be available. Lunch and dinner at the hotel. Spend the next two days exploring the Berenty Reserve. The reserve is home to five species of lemurs, a flying fox (a large fruit bat), and 96 bird species. Berenty is famous for its lemurs, not only because it is home to five species of these primates, but also the ease with which they may be seen here in the wild. Red-fronted brown lemurs occur in large numbers during the day and both white-footed sportive and grey mouse lemurs are regularly encountered on night walks. The favorites are the Ring-tailed lemurs and Verreaux's sifakas. Immediately behind the cabins, a system of trails provides easy access to the abundance of lemurs, birds and a resident colony of Madagascar fruit bats or flying foxes. We will be on the lookout for the numerous Giant Couas, as well as any species that you may so far have missed. Before dinner on all three nights we will enjoy night walk within the spiny forest. Here we may spot some nocturnal species as the Grey mouse lemur, the White-footed sportive lemur, chameleons, and birds. *Overnight at Berenty Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 26-28 - BERENTY

Full days at Berenty. *Overnights at Berenty Lodge. (BLD)*

MAY 29 - ANTANANARIVO

Continue exploring the reserve. Later in the day transfer to Ft. Dauphin for a flight to Tana. Dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Palissandre Hotel. (BLD)*

MAY 30 - ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast visit Lemur Park with lunch on site. Afternoon free to visit the handicraft market for last minute shopping. Dinner at hotel. Tonight transfer to the airport for your flight back home via Paris. (BLD)

MAY 31 - FAREWELL!

Arrival in United States.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$8,995

Cost is based on double occupancy rooms and does not include international airfare. For a single room, add \$1500 (subject to availability).

THE FINE PRINT

Price includes all transportation within Madagascar, accommodations, meals, activities and excursions mentioned in the itinerary, bottled water during the program including lunch and dinners, English speaking guide throughout the program, and all tips except for guide and driver. Price does not include international airfare, visa fees, any beverages throughout the trip (except for bottled water), tips for guide and driver, and any personal extras such as phone calls, mimibar, and laundry. A \$1,000 per person non-refundable deposit is necessary to confirm a booking. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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