



OPTIONAL MADAGASCAR EXTENSION SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 04, 2018

SEP 28 PILANSBERG NATIONAL PARK / JOHANNESBURG

An early morning wake-up call and out into the bush on the morning safari in search of animals not seen the day before. Return to camp for a hearty breakfast, and then relax at the camp until time to transfer overland to Johannesburg where you are met and assisted to the shuttle transfer to your reserved hotel.



ACCOMMODATIONS: D'OREALE GRANDE HOTEL AT EMPEROR'S PALACE

D'Oreale Grande Hotel at Emperors Palace, conveniently located next to Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport, offers luxurious comfort, elegant furnishing, and classic décor with state-of-the-art facilities. A complimentary shuttle service is readily accessible to facilitate transfers to and from the airport.

The hotel features beautifully designed rooms and suites with air-conditioning, multi-channel satellite TV and complimentary Wi-Fi. The ensuite bathroom has a shower over the bath and a spacious vanity. Other amenities include a hairdryer, key-pad safe, radio, and an electronically stocked minibar.

Dine at Aurelia's restaurant, indulge your senses at the health and beauty spa, or sip on a cocktail while watching the African sunset. (B)

SEP 29 JOHANNESBURG / ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

Transfer by hotel shuttle to the airport where you board your scheduled flight to Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Upon arrival at Antananarivo Ivato International Airport and after clearing customs, you will be met by your English speaking guide and transferred into the city to your hotel for an overnight.

Antananarivo, often affectionately referred to in short as "Tana," is the capital of Madagascar. Its name means "City of a Thousand Warriors". Located in the hilly central highlands, this charming city features palaces of the former king and queen, a zoo and botanical gardens, Lake Anosy, and the huge, permanent "Zoma" market, where one can find almost anything.



ACCOMMODATIONS: LE PAVILLON DE L'EMYRNE

Located in the heart of old town Antananarivo, the Pavillon de l'Emyrne occupies a traditional mansion dating from 1930. It's a delightfully charming guest house that fully reflects the soul of its owner, who put her heart and energy into its restoration. Furniture and antiques unearthed in the capital were restored to create an atmosphere of a romantic bygone era. The individually decorated en-suite rooms are cozy, and feature satellite TV, telephone, in-room safe, air conditioner and complimentary Wi-Fi. Guest facilities include a dining room, sauna, massage room and a library, which has a private collection of more than 200 books on Madagascar. The lounge, stairs and corridors are complemented by paintings and archival photographs that trace the history of this beautiful and fascinating country. (B)



SEP 30 ANTANANARIVO / FORT DAUPHIN / MANDRARE RIVER CAMP

You will be transferred today to the Antananarivo airport in time for the departure of your Air Madagascar commercial flight to Fort Dauphin.

Upon arrival in Fort Dauphin, you will meet with your camp guide and driver, and then transfer by road to the remote and wild Mandrare River Camp (approximately 3 ½ hours) where you will spend the next three nights. Settle into your tent and enjoy the majestic views over the river. After a barbecue lunch of succulent grilled meats and salads, leave for a walk to the Sacred Ifotaka community forests.

The forests are filled with the ancestral tombs of the local Antandroy Tribe, as well as a bewildering array of flora and fauna, unique to the spiny forest. Some unique inhabitants that make this area home include the nocturnal Mouse lemur, Ring-tailed lemur and the Verreaux's sifaka, which appears to almost dance as it



moves along the ground. Return to camp with time to freshen up before enjoying an evening aperitif on the river terrace and a sumptuous 3-course dinner.



ACCOMMODATIONS: MANDRARE RIVER CAMP

Mandrare River Camp is nestled under the shade of tamarind trees on the banks of the Mandrare River. The tents are spread out along the river bank with breathtaking views across the tranquil water, which is the lifeblood of the region. Each tent has a private terrace with hand carved wooden furniture, 4 poster bed with mosquito netting, safari wardrobe, dressing table, baggage trunk, and bedside lights. A fully plumbed en-suite stone built bathroom, with shower and toilet, extends to the rear of the tent. Solar panels provide hot water and 24 hour lighting. Meals are served on the large terrace which extends to the water's edge. Far from civilization the camp is incredibly peaceful. Each day is greeted with the singing of children by the river, accompanied by the calls of birds and other forest animals. Spend your time on day and night guided walks with experienced guides in the Sacred Gallery and Spiny Forest to see the sifaka and ring tailed lemurs. Visit the colorful markets and local villages to learn about the local Antandroy tribe. Enjoy sundowners in the Baobab Forest and then return to camp for dinner served in the warm glow of hurricane lamps.

All meals, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and shared camp activities are included. (B,L,D)

OCT 01 MANDRARE RIVER CAMP

Awaken to the call of the crested coua and coucal - and the tantalizing aroma of cafe au chocolate and a delicious breakfast - before setting out for the Sacred Gallery forests. Your guided walk among the tamarind trees will reveal groups of ring-tailed lemurs and all sorts of unusual wildlife.





In the late afternoon we head to the Baobab Forest for sundowners. Enjoy a magical evening, as you watch the sun set and the moon rise with a view across the baobabs to the mountains beyond.

Tonight you will have the opportunity to meet the Antandroy tribe of Madagascar. Their name means “people of the thorns” in reference to the spiny thickets of endemic plants that characterize the region. Learn about their unique traditions, language and culture through song and music.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MANDRARE RIVER CAMP (B,L,D)

OCT 02 MANDRARE RIVER CAMP

After a breakfast of freshly baked croissant, fresh fruits, cereals and breads, visit one of the nearby markets. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of valley life as you spend the morning mingling with the Malagasy who have travelled from afar to buy and sell their wares at the local marketplace. With expert guides to interpret all that you see, this is a rich fulfilling experience.



After lunch at camp, your day continues in the mid-afternoon as you travel northwards to the Forest of Zenavo. This privately owned forest is excellent for night walks. Your walk begins before sunset and continues into the night, first spotting sifakas and sleeping white-footed Sportive lemurs. Then once the sun has set, search for the Mouse lemur species, sleeping birds, chameleons and owls. Return to camp for dinner and overnight.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MANDRARE RIVER CAMP (B,L,D)

OCT 03 MANDRARE RIVER CAMP / FORT DAUPHIN / ANTANANARIVO

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Fort Dauphin airport for your Air Madagascar commercial flight back to Antananarivo. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE PAVILLON DE L'EMYRNE (B,D)

OCT 04 ANTANANARIVO / JOHANNESBURG / DEPARTURE

You will be transferred you to the airport for your scheduled flight to Johannesburg where, upon arrival, connect with your international departure flight. (B)

 **END OF AFRICAN TRAVEL SERVICES** 



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO:
MADAGASCAR

For MADAGASCAR:

Please ensure that your passport has a minimum of one blank visa page for entry into Madagascar, and **must** have the word “VISA” to enable entry permit to be issued. **Passport must be valid at least six months beyond the intended period of stay in Madagascar.**

- **Visa Requirements**

Please note that visas are required for Madagascar. **A tourist visa for single entry and a stay of up to 30 days** can be obtained upon arrival at the first port of entry. The visa fee is US\$33.26. However, entry requirements do change from time to time, and it is advised that up to-date information is obtained from the Madagascar Embassy.

For NON-U.S. Citizens, please check directly with appropriate consulate for visa requirements.

- **Travel Health Information**

Please consult your personal physician or local health department for recommended inoculations at least 6 weeks prior to travel. Anti-malaria medications are recommended for many African countries and some require yellow fever vaccination.

Yellow fever vaccination is compulsory **IF** traveling from or through a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, including travelers in transit for more than 12 hours in an airport located in a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. In such cases, a yellow fever certificate is required upon entry into any port of debarkation in Madagascar.

Malaria is present in almost all areas of Madagascar. For preventive measures, please consult with your personal physician or local health department.

- **Luggage Requirements**

The maximum economy class checked baggage allowance for internal commercial flights within Madagascar on this itinerary is 44 lbs. per person. The maximum weight allowance for cabin baggage is 11 lbs. per person. Should your luggage go over the weight limit, you might be subject to an excess luggage fee.

Please note that the total luggage limit on charter flights within Madagascar is restricted to 33 lbs. per person, including hand luggage and photo equipment. Only soft bags are allowed, not hard suitcases. NOTE: Due to aircraft weight restrictions and safety standards, an additional charge may apply to travelers weighing over 200 lbs.