



Baobab Trees © Rod Waddington

Madagascar: Birding the 8th Continent

Often called the 8th continent due to its size and exceptional fauna and flora, this island is a dream destination for birders and wildlife enthusiasts alike. Home to an astonishing level of endemism: 90% of Madagascar's species are found nowhere else on Earth. From the haunting calls of the Indri echoing through ancient rainforests, to the dazzling sight of endemic birds like the strikingly colorful Schlegel's Asity and the elusive Long-tailed Ground-Roller; everywhere you turn unique plants, birds, and other wildlife await. Join us for this unforgettable trip of a lifetime.

Dates: 8-21 November 2026 (14-days) + Extension

Group Size: 10 travelers

Locations: [MAP](#) (interactive)

Price: from \$5,690 pp

Potential Bird Species: 150+ and other wildlife

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ♣ Visit world renowned reserves like Ranomafana National Park, Andasibe-Mantadia NP, and Isalo NP
- ♣ Seek out all of Madagascar's unique endemic bird families, like Mesites, Asities, and Ground-Rollers
- ♣ Learn how local organizations are working to conserve stunning Golden Mantella frogs and managing wildlife through protecting key habitat
- ♣ Look for Indri, Ring-tailed and Sifaka Lemurs, chameleons, and frogs
- ♣ Extend your trip with a 6-day tour to find Sickle-billed Vanga, Schlegel's Asity, Madagascar Fish-Eagle, Coquerel's Sifaka, and Mouse Lemurs



This tour will involve early mornings, hot/dry/humid weather, moderate-to-high intensity birding, with some rough terrain.

Day 1: Sunday, November 8

ARRIVAL

On arrival you'll be met with a warm *Tonga Soa* (welcome) in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo, Tana for short. Once assembled, we'll head to our hotel for our first night and to recover from our long journey. In the evening we'll get together for a pre-trip meeting, have dinner, and look forward to our coming Malagasy adventure.

Accommodation: Relais des Plateaux Hotel & Spa, Tana



Day 2: Monday, November 9

TANA – PERINET

Today we'll have an early breakfast and then drive (4 hours) to Perinet. There will be stops along the way for birding and bathroom breaks. One stop in particular will be at a bridge over the Mangoro River in search of the **Madagascar Pratincole**(NT). When we arrive in Perinet, we'll check into our luxurious lodge that will be our base for the next three nights and have a delicious lunch. This afternoon we'll visit Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, for our first official bird walk. The park is divided into two sections, the nearby Analamazaotra Special Reserve, known locally as Andasibe, and the larger Mantadia National Park. Andasibe consists of mid-altitude montane rainforest and is one of the best places in Madagascar to see lemurs like **Indri***(CR); the largest lemur species in the world. Ten other species call the park home including **Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur***(VU), **Brown Lemur***(VU), and **Eastern Woolly Lemur***(VU). Birds in this section of the park include **Madagascar Green-Pigeon***, **Blue Coua***, **Lesser Vasa Parrot***, **Velvet Asity***, and **Crested Drongo**^.

Accommodation: Mantadia Lodge, Perinet



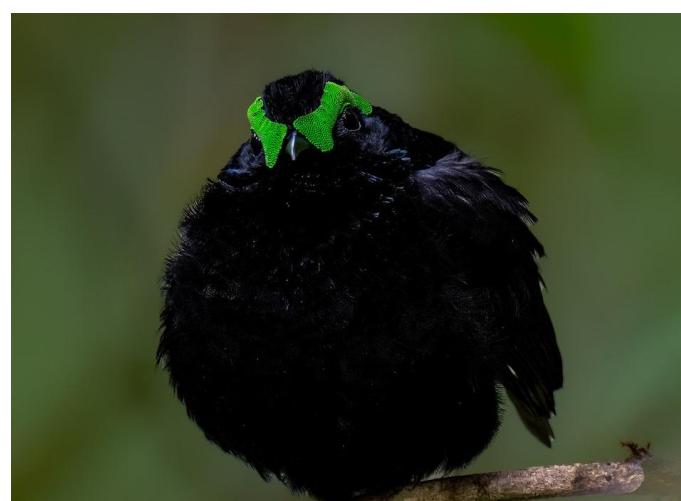
Day 3: Tuesday, November 10

PERINET – ANDASIBE-MANTADIA NP

After an early breakfast, we will set out on a scenic 1.5-hour drive to Mantadia National Park, a pristine section of Madagascar's eastern rainforest ecosystem. This area supports a remarkable concentration of endemic flora and fauna, and we will spend the entire day exploring its diverse habitats in search of iconic birds and other wildlife. A primary focus of the day will be the Ground-Roller family, an evolutionary hallmark of Madagascar's avifauna. With persistence and luck today, we may find several of these elusive forest dwellers, including **Pitta-like Ground-Roller***, **Short-legged Ground-Roller***(VU), **Scaly Ground-Roller***(VU), and **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller***(NT).



Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur © Richard James



Velvet Asity © Dustin Chen

We will also lookout for members of other key endemic Malagasy bird families, including Couas, Vangas, and Asitys, members of which we may see today include **Red-fronted*** and **Red-breasted* Coua**, **Tylas*** and **Hook-billed* Vanga**, and **Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity*(VU)**. Additional target species for the day may include **Madagascar Grebe*(EN)**, **Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher***, **Common Newtonia***, **Stripe-throated Jery***, **White-throated Oxylabes***, **Spectacled Tetraka***, and **Forest Fody***. Mantadia is also a stronghold for important lemur populations and while exploring the park, we may encounter **Diademed Sifaka*(CR)**, **Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur*(CR)**, and **Red-bellied Lemur*(VU)**. To maximize our time in the field, a picnic lunch will be provided by the lodge, allowing us to remain in the park through the early afternoon. As the day winds down, we'll return to the lodge for a relaxing dinner and an opportunity to review our growing species checklist.

Accommodation: Mantadia Lodge, Perinet



Day 4: Wednesday, November 11

PERINET – ANDASIBE-MANTADIA NP

Today will be devoted to discovering the rich biodiversity of Analamazaotra Special Reserve (Andasibe), a gem in Madagascar's eastern humid forest ecoregion. This reserve is an important birding hotspot and we'll be on the lookout for several rare and endemic species, including **Madagascar Owl***, **Madagascar Scops-Owl***, **Madagascar Nightjar***, **Madagascar Forest Rail***, **Greater Vasa Parrot^**, **Crossley's Vanga***, and **Nelicourvi Weaver***. While birds are a major highlight, this reserve is also a hotspot for lemur sightings like the **Diademed Sifaka*(CR)**, **Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur*(VU)**, **Eastern Woolly Lemur*(VU)**, and **Brown Lemur*(VU)**. In addition to its charismatic primates, the reserve harbors fascinating insect life, such as the **Electric-blue Stick Insect** and the crazy-looking **Giraffe-necked Weevil*(NT)** – a must-see for invertebrate lovers. After a midday break and lunch, when the forest becomes quiet under the heat of the sun, we'll head to the Mitsinjo Association's Public Terrarium and Amphibian Conservation Center.



Golden Mantella © Frank Vassen

As night falls, we'll embark on a guided night walk, listening for rustling leaves and scanning the shadows for nocturnal wildlife. This after-dark safari may reveal **Brown Mouse Lemur*(VU)**, **Crossley's Dwarf Lemur*(VU)**, chameleons, and rare amphibians, offering a magical end to our day.

Accommodation: Mantadia Lodge, Perinet



CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

On one afternoon we'll make a visit to the Mitsinjo Research Center to learn how they are working to conserve **Golden Mantella*(EN)** frogs through captive breeding. The native home of this stunning species of frog is severely under threat due to nickel mining and Chytrid, a fungus that is a serious threat to all amphibians. The team at the research center will explain how they maintain and breed the frogs ready for release into protected sites.



Giraffe-necked Weevil © Frank Vassen



Madagascar: Birding the 8th Continent

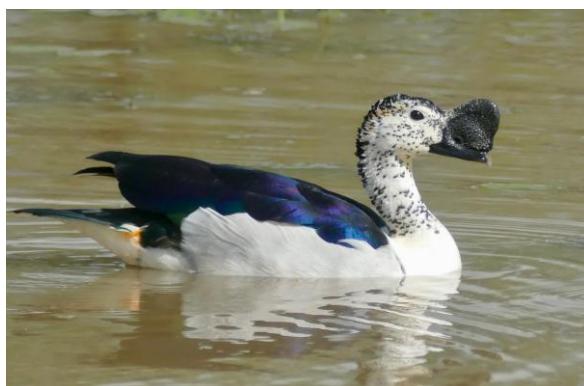
Day 5: Thursday, November 12

PERINET – TANA

After breakfast today we will return to Tana (4 hours). In the afternoon, after checking into our hotel, we will visit Tsarasaotra Parc just north of the city center. The park is dominated by Lake Alarobia, which was designated a Ramsar site in recognition of its important wetland habitat. Wetland birds naturally call this freshwater habitat home, including **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **Knob-billed Duck**, and **Meller's Duck*****(EN)**. Other species found in the park include **Little Bittern**, **Malagasy Pond-Heron****(EN)**, and **Humblot's Heron*****(EN)**. We will also receive a presentation from Asity Madagascar, a local biodiversity conservation NGO, and learn how they work to manage protected areas in collaboration with local communities. If time permits, we may visit the Museum of Art and Archeology which displays traveling art exhibitions and objects from archeological digs in the south of the country.



Accommodation: Hotel Relais des Plateaux, Tana



Knob-billed Duck © Bernard Dupont



Malagasy Pond-Heron © Amy McAndrews

Day 6: Friday, November 13

TANA – TOLIARA – IFATY

Today we'll head to the airport and take a flight (1hr 45m) to the city of Toliara (Tuléar) on the southwest coast. On arrival, we'll head out of town and drive to Ifaty (40min) with a stop at an area of mudflats on the way for some shorebirds which may include **Greater Sand-Plover**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Madagascar Plover*****(VU)**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, and **White-fronted Plover**; other species may include **Malagasy Harrier*****(EN)**, **Madagascar Hoopoe***, and **Gray-headed Lovebird***.

Accommodation: Les Dunes d'Ifaty Lodge, Ifaty



Day 7: Saturday, November 14

IFATY

After a delicious breakfast we'll head to the nearby Reniala Nature Reserve, established and managed by a small non-profit headed by a local retired Biology teacher. The reserve protects spiny forest, a unique ecosystem confined to the south of the country, dominated by towering **Baobab** trees. One individual Baobab is fondly called "Tea Pot" by locals due to its shape, and with a diameter of 42ft, is said to be 1,500 years old. The forest also contains many endemic plant species, including Didiereoideae, a spiny succulent family unique to this area. There are also many birds associated with this habitat including, **Malagasy Turtle-Dove***, **Namaqua Dove**, **Subdesert Mesite*****(VU)**, **Crested Coua***, **Malagasy Coucal***, **Madagascar Spinetail***, **Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk***, **Madagascar Sparrowhawk*****(NT)**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Long-tailed Ground-Roller*****(VU)** (the 5th and final of the Ground-Roller family), **Banded Kestrel***, **Archbold's Newtonia***, and **Lafresnaye's Vanga*****(NT)**.

Accommodation: Les Dunes d'Ifaty Lodge, Ifaty





Running Coua © Francesco Veronesi

Day 8: Sunday, November 15

IFATY – TOLIARA

We leave Ifaty today and drive to our next location, just south of Toliara. There will be stops for birding en route with a focus on the road leading to the town of St. Augustin where we'll spend time searching for **Verreaux's Coua***, **Olive-capped Coua***, **Running Coua***, **Red-shouldered Vanga*(VU)**, **Subdesert Brush-Warbler***, and **Madagascar Magpie-Robin***.

Accommodation: Hotel Auberge de la Table, Toliara



Day 9: Monday, November 16

TOLIARA – ISALO

Today we'll continue our journey heading east to Isalo (4 hours) with a stop on the way to Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, an area with deciduous dry forest. Here we hope to encounter **Madagascar Sandgrouse***, **Giant Coua***, **Madagascar Cuckoo**, **Frances's Sparrowhawk^**, **White-browed Owl***, **Cuckoo-roller^** (a single species family), and the highly range-restricted **Appert's Tetraka*(VU)**. We may also find **Verreaux's Sifaka*(CR)** lemur in this reserve, as well as **Oustalet's Chameleon***, one of the largest in the world, reaching up to 65cm (26") in length, and the green, speckled **Standing's Day Gecko**. We'll have a picnic lunch in the park before continuing onto Isalo.

Accommodation: Hotel Le Jardin du Roy, Isalo



Standing's Day Gecko © Diana Bradshaw

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT:

The term *lemur* is derived from the Latin word *lemures*, meaning "ghost" or "spirit of the dead" - a name given by Carl Linnaeus in 1754, inspired by the silent, nocturnal movements of the Red Slender Loris, which he initially misclassified as a lemur. Today, over 100 recognized lemur species inhabit Madagascar, all of them endemic. These include a diverse array of forms and behaviors, such as the agile *sifakas*, tiny *mouse lemurs*, elusive *bamboo lemurs*, vibrant *ruffed lemurs*, the singing *Indri*, and the densely-furred *woolly lemurs*.

Lemurs are not only icons of Madagascar's biodiversity but also play a vital ecological role as seed dispersers and pollinators. Many native plant species have evolved in tandem with these primates and rely on them for reproduction and dispersal, making lemurs essential architects of forest structure and regeneration. Tragically, lemurs are now considered the most endangered group of mammals in the world. Approximately 98% of lemur species are threatened with extinction, and over 30% are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, due to habitat loss, hunting, and climate pressures. Protecting lemurs is not just about preserving a charismatic group of primates - it is also about safeguarding the integrity of Madagascar's unique ecosystems and the countless species that depend on them.



Indri © vil.sandi

Day 10: Tuesday, November 17

ISALO – RANOMAFANA

This will mostly be a travel day as we transfer from Isalo to Ranomafana (7 hours). There will be regular stops along the way for stretch and bathroom breaks. On the journey we'll pass through a variety of habitats and scenery including savannah, vineyards, granite domes, rice paddies, zebu herds (a type of local cattle) and finally, rainforest. If there's time, we will take an evening walk in the forest to look for nocturnal lemurs, geckos, and sleeping chameleons.

Accommodation: Hotel Thermal, Ranomafana

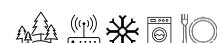


Day 11: Wednesday, November 18

RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

This morning, after breakfast, we will visit the lower elevations of the park. Possible species include **Madagascar Blue-Pigeon***, the secretive and rare **Brown Mesite*(VU)**, **Malagasy Swift^**, **Henst's Goshawk*(VU)**, **Madagascar Buzzard***, **Rand's Warbler***, the brilliantly-colored **Red Fody***, and **Madagascar Wagtail***. In the afternoon, we'll visit a special location for birding and keep a lookout for two beautiful species of frogs – **Madagascan Mantella*(VU)** and **Painted Mantella***. These frogs are an excellent example of “convergent evolution”, where unrelated species independently evolve similar traits, e.g. Mantellas are highly colorful and toxic, just like the poison dart frogs of Central and South America. We'll also spend time at a wetland area in the park in search of **Blue-billed Teal**, **Slender-billed Flufftail*(NT)**, **White-throated Rail***, **Madagascar Ibis*(VU)**, and **Hamerkop**. After dinner this evening, there will be an opportunity for a night walk in search of Mouse Lemurs, frogs and chameleons.

Accommodation: Hotel Thermal, Ranomafana



Rufous-headed Ground-Roller © Chien Lee



Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity © Chien Lee

Day 12: Thursday, November 19

RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

Today we will spend the whole day exploring higher elevation areas of the park in search of **Velvet Asity***, **Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity*(VU)**, and the **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller *(NT)** if missed earlier in the trip. Many species of orchid thrive at this altitude with many blooming at this time of year. If we're very lucky, we may find an **Elongate Leaf Chameleon*(VU)** a species of pygmy chameleon 2.5" long. Ranomafana's other standout chameleons are the handsome double-nosed **O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon*(VU)** and the diminutive **Nose-horned Chameleon*** with its comical, blue-tinted, Pinocchio-like proboscis.

Accommodation: Hotel Thermal, Ranomafana





Madagascar: Birding the 8th Continent

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: Ranomafana National Park

Tucked into the misty mountains of eastern Madagascar, Ranomafana National Park is one of the island's most biologically rich and ecologically significant protected areas. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, the park spans over 41,600 acres (17,000 ha) of lush tropical rainforest, ranging in elevation from 2,600 to 4,000 feet (800–1,200 meters). Established in 1991, Ranomafana was created in response to the discovery of the critically endangered **Golden Bamboo Lemur*** and the even rarer **Greater Bamboo Lemur***(CR), both of which continue to survive within its dense forests.

Ranomafana's varied elevation supports a mosaic of habitats and species. The lower elevation rainforest teems with rare and endemic birds such as the **Brown Mesite*(VU)**, **Pollen's Vanga*(VU)**, **Madagascar Blue Vanga***, **Chabert Vanga***, **Nuthatch-Vanga***, **Madagascar Forest Rail***, and the striking **Pitta-like Ground-Roller***. The higher cloud forest zone is home to spectacular species like **Common Sunbird Asity**, **Henst's Goshawk*(VU)**, and **Rufous-headed Ground-Roller*(NT)**.

The park is also a hotspot of lemur diversity, with 12 species recorded here, including **Milne-Edwards' Sifaka*(EN)**, **Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur*(CR)**, and the **Southern Bamboo Lemur*(VU)**. After dark, Ranomafana offers the thrilling chance to encounter nocturnal species like the elusive **Aye-aye*(EN)**.

Beyond primates and birds, Ranomafana shelters a stunning array of reptiles and amphibians, including 12 species of chameleon, 10 species of gecko, and countless colorful frogs, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Some of the park's most iconic residents are its masters of camouflage - the **Giant Leaf-tailed Gecko***, **Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko***, and the camouflage-king, **Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko***. With its unique blend of wildlife, rainforest trails, and commitment to conservation, Ranomafana offers an unforgettable experience for birders, herpetologists, and ecotourists alike.

Day 13: Friday, November 20

RANOMAFANA – ANTSIRABE

This will be a travel day from Ranomafana to Antsirabe (10 hours) on our way north to Tana. There will be plenty of stretch and bathroom breaks along the way, as well as a picnic lunch. After we've checked into our hotel this afternoon, depending on time, we may visit a birding site in town which has recorded **Malagasy Kingfisher^**, **Malagasy Kestrel^**, **Common Jery***, **Malagasy Bulbul^**, **Malagasy White-eye***, **Madagascar Starling***, **Souimanga Sunbird^**, and **Madagascar Munia***.

Accommodation: Arotel, Antsirabe



Day 14: Saturday, November 21

ANTSIRABE – TANA – DEPARTURE

We'll make our final journey to Tana (4 hours) this morning. Our group members will then either be taken to their hotel if staying another night, or to the airport for onward journeys.



Madagascar Fody © Skip Russell



Long-tailed Ground-Roller © Gerry Zambonini



O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon © Chien Lee

LAND PRICE

\$6,200 per person, group size 8
\$5,890 per person, group size 9
\$5,690 per person, group size 10

REGISTER

To reserve your place on this trip, please contact:

Toby Ross alighttours@gmail.com or (206) 552-3834

A \$700 per person deposit is needed to secure your spot

THE FINE PRINT

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Price includes full-time wildlife guide, accommodation in standard rooms, in-country domestic flight (Tana>Toliara), all meals and non-alcoholic drinks, park entrance fees, and activities outlined in this itinerary, private transportation (with A/C), arrival and departure airport transfers, donations to local conservation organizations, and a Madagascar Bird & Wildlife Checklist. The price does not include international flights, travel visas, travel insurance, alcoholic drinks, gratuities, and camera permits (if required). Price is based on double occupancy. Single rooms may be available for an additional cost of \$940pp (elevated price due to the limited availability and cost of suitable accommodation in the country). We will make every effort to match people who request to share with others seeking a roommate.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$700 is required to reserve your place on this trip. The deadline for **final payment is August 1, 2026**. If the trip has not met the minimum number of travelers (8) by the deadline (August 1, 2026), you will be refunded 100% of your deposit and the trip will be canceled. If you cancel your participation in the trip before the final payment deadline, there is a \$150 cancellation fee that will be deducted from your deposit and the remainder will be refunded. If you cancel after the August 1, 2026 deadline, you will forfeit 100% of your deposit and any trip-related costs that have already been expended by Alight Tours and any travel partners. Alight Tours will not be held responsible for any lost expenses or fees paid by the traveler should the trip not depart; these include, but are not limited to flights, additional hotel bookings, travel visas, and travel insurance. It is therefore advised that you purchase insurance that will cover the cost of trip cancellation.

Specific locations and activities detailed in this itinerary are subject to change based on field conditions, wildlife movements, and local logistics. If changes are required, a like-for-like alternative will be arranged.

MAP

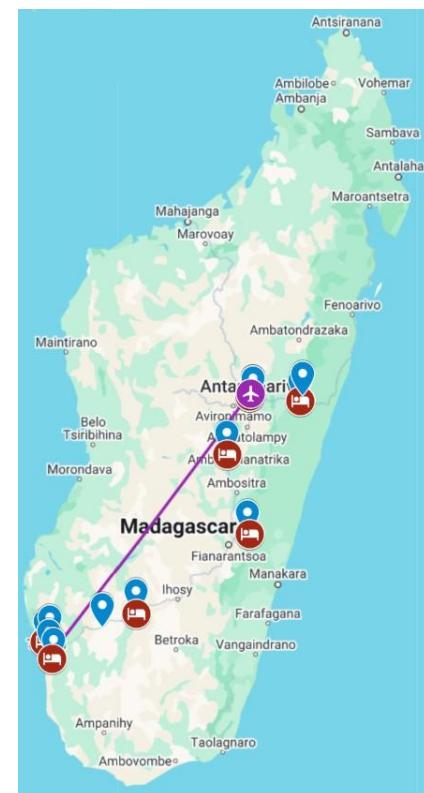
Map shows the locations of birding sites and lodging during this program. Interactive map can be found [HERE](#)



Painted Mantella © Frank Vassen



Cuckoo Roller © Ken Behrens



CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

Your trip to Madagascar will support conservation, community engagement, and sustainable development in numerous ways:

- Employ expertly trained and knowledgeable Malagasy wildlife guides and drivers
- Meet conservationists working to protect endemic wildlife, much of which is in serious and dramatic decline
- Support local economies by creating a demand for wildlife guides, tourist activities, high quality lodging, restaurants, and staff - demonstrating that birds can literally “mean business”
- Alight Tours will offset the CO₂ from your in-country transportation across a portfolio of forest, biodiversity, clean energy, and blue/teal carbon projects
- Alight Tours will donate 3% of all profits from this trip to a Malagasy NGO that works to conserve birds, wildlife, and the habitats on which they depend



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher © Frank Vassen

KEY

- Habitat surrounding hotel/lodge suitable for birding
- WiFi internet available
- Swimming pool on site
- Ceiling or floor fan in room
- Air conditioning in room
- Restaurant on-site
- Laundry service available
- Spa and/or gym facilities available (at additional cost)
- Mosquito net is provided

- * Endemic – a species only found in Madagascar and nowhere else
- ^ Regional Endemic – restricted to Madagascar and one other country
- NT Near Threatened – IUCN classification: a species that is nearly threatened with extinction
- VU Vulnerable – IUCN classification: a species that faces a high risk of extinction in the wild
- EN Endangered – IUCN classification: a species that faces a very high risk of extinction
- CR Critically Endangered – IUCN classification: a species that faces an extremely high risk of extinction

CARBON OFFSET

Climate change threatens all life on our planet, as well as the very destinations that ecotourism relies upon. Tourism is responsible for roughly [9% of the world's carbon emissions](#), making it a significant contributor to climate change. A single return flight from Seattle to Antananarivo (Madagascar) for example, produces about 7.7 metric tons of carbon emissions per passenger. That's over **3/4** of the [amount of carbon](#) the average person worldwide produces [each year](#) – just from one round trip flight.

Alight Tours is committed to reducing the negative impact its tourism activities have on the environment. We are partnering with [Sustainable Travel International](#) to offset the in-country ground transportation carbon emissions each passenger has on every Alight Tours trip.



Schlegel's Asity © Bradley Hacker



Madagascar: Northwest Specialties

Northwest Madagascar Extension

Northwest Madagascar is a prime birding location due to its unique and diverse birdlife, including endemic and range-restricted species found nowhere else in the country. Key birding locations include Ankarafantsika National Park, known for its impressive bird list featuring the Critically Endangered **Madagascar Fish-Eagle** and **Schlegel's Asity**, as well as the Betsiboka Delta, offering opportunities to see rare endemics like the **Malagasy Sacred Ibis** and the **Bernier's Teal**, both Endangered. This extension trip will take place BEFORE the main birding trip.

Dates: 3-8 November 2026 (6-days)

Group Size: 10 travelers

Locations: [MAP](#) (interactive)

Price: from \$1,990



This tour will involve early mornings, hot/dry/humid weather, moderate-to-high intensity birding, with some rough terrain.

Day 1: Tuesday, November 3

ARRIVAL

On arrival you'll be met with a warm *Tonga Soa* (welcome) in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo or Tana for short. Once assembled, we'll head to our hotel for our first night and recover from our long journey. In the afternoon we'll get together for a pre-trip meeting, have dinner, and look forward to our coming Malagasy adventure.

Accommodation: Hotel Relais des Plateaux, Tana



Day 2: Wednesday, November 4

TANA – MAHAJANGA – ANKARAFANTSIIKA

Transfer to the airport and fly to Mahajanga (aka Majunga) (1 hour) located on the northwest coast of Madagascar. On arrival, we'll collect our bags and load up our vehicle before driving 3 hours to Ankafantsika National Park. Ankafantsika NP has three main habitat types, deciduous dry forest, savannah, and a freshwater lake. Depending on our flight time today, we may make a stop along the way at Lake Amboromandy to see what we can find; possibilities include **Knob-billed Duck**, **Red-billed Duck**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Madagascar Cisticola**^, and **Madagascan Swamp Warbler***.

Accommodation: Gite d'Ampijoroea, Beamilaka



NOTE: Accommodation consist of simple, rustic, clean, en-suite bungalows with electricity, but no hot water

Day 3 & 4: Thursday and Friday, November 5-6

ANKARAFANTSIIKA

Over the next two days, we'll explore the various habitats within and around Ankafantsika National Park seeking out the birds and wildlife that make this region so ecologically important. We'll start early each morning, searching for **Van Dam's Vanga***(EN), one of Madagascar's most elusive and range restricted species, **Coquerel's*** and **Red-capped Coua***, both striking ground-dwelling birds unique to this region, and the charismatic **Malagasy Paradise-Flycatcher**^. Some species that have been seen around the lodge include **Madagascar Hoopoe***, **Sickle-billed Vanga***, the shrike-like **Hook-Billed Vanga***, and **White-Headed*** **Vanga**. Venturing deeper into the park should provide excellent chances of the stunning **Schlegel's Asity***(NT), **Madagascar Blue Vanga***, stealthy **Frances's Sparrowhawk**^ and the range-restricted and secretive **White-Breasted Mesite***(VU), a ground dwelling endemic.



Sickle-billed Vanga © Oleg Chernyshov



Frances's Sparrowhawk © Frank Vassen



Humboldt's Heron © Amy McAndrews

On one afternoon we'll enjoy a boat ride on Lake Ravelobe in search of aquatic birds such as **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, **White-throated Rail**^, **Squacco Heron**, and **Malagasy Pond-Heron**(EN), **Allen's Gallinule**, **Little Bittern**, **African Darter**, and many endemic specialties like the Critically Endangered **Madagascar Fish- Eagle***(CR), **Madagascar Jacana***(EN), and the imposing **Humboldt's Heron***(EN). Additional species may include **Malagasy Turtle-Dove**^, **Madagascar Nightjar**^, **Malagasy Swift**^, **Malagasy Palm-Swift**^, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Mascarene Martin**, and **Sakalava Weaver**.



Kids Fishing on Lake Ravelobe © Skip Russell

Madagascar: Northwest Specialties

Lemurs are also very important in Ankafantsika National Park with a high level of endemism. We hope to encounter the beautiful **Coquerel's Sifaka*** (CR), often seen leaping between trees, the highly range restricted **Milne-Edwards's Sportive Lemur*** (EN), and **Mongoose Lemur**^ (CR). Many reptiles are also readily seen, and we'll be keeping a lookout for the stunning **Koch's Day Gecko***, unique-looking **Madagascar Leaf-nosed Snake***, and **Malagasy Ground Boa***, the largest snake species in Madagascar.



Coquerel's Sifaka © Francesco Veronesi



Koch's Day Gecko © Alan Hopkins



Madagascar Leaf-nosed Snake © Richard James

We will also be sure to venture out on a night walk. With flashlights and sharp eyes, we'll search for some of the cutest nocturnal creatures in Madagascar, the **Golden-brown Mouse Lemur*** (VU), and with its huge eyes, **Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur*** (VU). Additional nighttime creatures may include **Decary's Leaf Chameleon*** (EN), and **Guenther's*** (EN) **Leaf-tailed geckos**.

Accommodation: Gite d'Ampijoroa, Beamilaka



Day 5: Saturday, November 7

After breakfast, transfer back to Mahajanga and visit the Betsiboka Delta with its red-colored water (from sediment) and mangrove-lined banks. Here we'll search for rare species like **Malagasy Sacred Ibis**^ (EN) and **Bernier's Teal*** (EN), as well as an assortment of other herons – **Lesser Flamingo** (NT) and **Yellow-billed Stork**, shorebirds – **White-fronted**, **Kittlitz's** and **Crab Plovers**, and terns – **Lesser** and **Great Crested Terns**, **Whiskered Tern**, etc.

Accommodation: Les Roches Rouges Hotel, Mahajanga



Day 6: Sunday, November 8

MAHAJANGA – TANA

We'll start the day with a great breakfast and then transfer to the airport to fly back to Tana. We'll meet those joining us for the main tour. From here we'll follow the itinerary for the main tour.

Accommodation: Hotel Relais des Plateaux, Tana



Lesser Flamingo © Francesco Veronesi



Yellow-billed Stork © Dale LaFollette



Crab Plover © Rupal Vaidya

LAND PRICE

\$2,500 per person, group size 4
\$2,250 per person, group size 6
\$1,990 per person, group size 8

REGISTER

To reserve your place on this trip, please contact:

Toby Ross alighttours@gmail.com or (206) 552-3834

A \$300 per person deposit is needed to secure your spot.

THE FINE PRINT

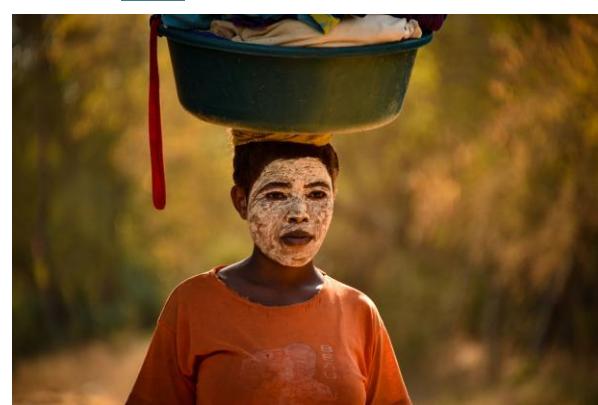
WHAT'S INCLUDED: Price includes full-time wildlife guide, accommodation in standard rooms, in-country domestic flight (Tana>Mahajanga), all meals and non-alcoholic drinks, park entrance fees, and activities outlined in this itinerary, private transportation (with A/C), arrival and departure airport transfers, donations to local conservation organizations, and a Madagascar Bird & Wildlife Checklist. The price does not include international flights, travel visas, travel insurance, alcoholic drinks, gratuities, and camera permits (if required). Price is based on double occupancy. Single rooms may be available for an additional cost of \$100pp. We will make every effort to match people who request to share with others seeking a roommate. Please note that accommodation at Gite d'Ampijoroea consists of simple, rustic, clean, en-suite bungalows with electricity. There is no hot water, but the climate in this area is hot and dry and hot water is generally unnecessary.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$300 is required to reserve your place on this trip. The deadline for **final payment is August 1, 2026**. If the trip has not met the minimum number of travelers (8) by the deadline (August 1, 2026), you will be refunded 100% of your deposit and the trip will be canceled. If you cancel your participation in the trip before the final payment deadline, there is a \$50 cancellation fee that will be deducted from your deposit and the remainder will be refunded. If you cancel after the August 1, 2026 deadline, you will forfeit 100% of your deposit and any trip-related costs that have already been expended by Alight Tours and any travel partners. Alight Tours will not be held responsible for any lost expenses or fees paid by the traveler should the trip not depart; these include, but are not limited to flights, additional hotel bookings, travel visas, and travel insurance. It is therefore advised that you purchase insurance that will cover the cost of trip cancellation.

Specific locations and activities detailed in this itinerary are subject to change based on field conditions, wildlife movements, and local logistics. If changes are required, a like-for-like alternative will be arranged.

MAP

Map shows the locations of birding sites and lodging during this extension program. Interactive map can be found [HERE](#)



Malagasy Woman © Rod Waddington

