

Photos by Pelin Karaca and Ian Segebarth

### MADAGASCAR IS A LAND LIKE NO OTHER.

This island is an Eden-like garden of riches, filled with a diversity of life and scenery unequaled anywhere else on earth. Simply put, Madagascar is wild. Ecotourism is now in infancy, but wholeheartedly embraced by the country as a means to support the local communities, as well as the wildlife they cherish.

### IF MADAGASCAR IS A PLACE YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMT OF VISITING...

then the time to do so has never been better. This trip is designed to experience all that is Madagascar. From the animals to the landscapes found throughout the country, this expedition is a must-do for anyone with a love for wildlife and a curiosity about the natural world. We will also interact with local cultures and learn much about their way of life.

### WHAT MAKES OUR EXPEDITION EXTRA SPECIAL

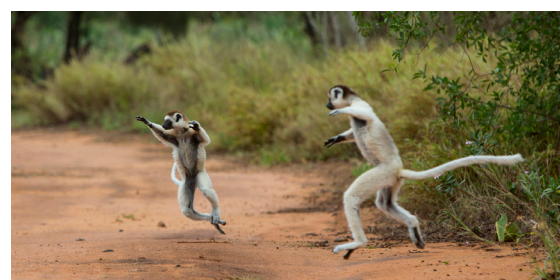
is that we will be visiting national parks and reserves in several distinct parts of the country during our trip. From the lush cloud forests of Ranomafana to the spiny forests of Berenty and the deserts of Isalo, there is no more comprehensive Madagascar trip out there! With environments as diverse as these, you can only imagine the variety of wildlife we'll find! We expect to encounter dozens of species of lemurs, numerous chameleons, colorful frogs, orchids, and majestic Baobab trees.

## Meet your leader



Dr. Thomas C. Emmel is the founding director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity,

and professor emeritus of zoology and entomology at the University of Florida. Authoring over 400 scientific publications and 35 books, it's astounding that he has had time to travel to over 45 countries on the hundreds of scientific and ecotourism expeditions that he has led throughout his career. Well-known as an international expert on tropical ecology, population biology, and *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths), he also has a strong passion for research, teaching, and the merits of conservation through ecotourism.



**ENROLL TODAY!**

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800-451-7111



## EXPEDITION TRAVEL MADAGASCAR

MANTADIA RESERVES, RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK & BEYOND

**July 20 - August 5, 2015**



LED BY

**DR. THOMAS C. EMMEL**

*Founding Director of the McGuire Center  
for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity*





# 2015 Itinerary

*Itinerary may be subject to change.*

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## DEPART UNITED STATES JUL. 20

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Depending on your airline selection, your departure from the States might change. The program is designed around Air France flights. Please note that your arrival into Antananarivo must be by 11pm on Tuesday, July 21st, and to transfer with the group to the hotel it would be best to arrive on Air France #934 which is a code-share with Delta #8542.

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## ANTANANARIVO JUL. 21

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Upon arrival to Antananarivo International Airport, you will clear customs and immigration, meet the local guide and transfer to your hotel. Air France arrives at approximately 11pm. No meals are included today.

If you need additional time to adjust to the time change or get rested before your program starts, we can make additional arrangements for arriving earlier.

Please note that program meals include water only, and beverages will be charged separately on-site and paid on an individual basis.

*Overnight at Relais des Plateaux.*

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## TOLIARA JUL. 22

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This morning after breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Tulear, situated on the western coast near the Tropic of Capricorn along the Mozambique Channel. Check in at the hotel.

This afternoon visit the seaside for a short walk and an optional visit to a local market. This evening is at leisure to rest.

*Overnight at Victory Hotel. (BLD)*

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## ISALO JUL. 23

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This morning after breakfast head east to visit the beautiful Antsokay Arboretum, created in 1980 by amateur Swiss biologist Hermann Petignat. The 100 acre site is dedicated to conservation of the country's endemic fauna through environmental education programs and supporting conservation and research projects.

On the guided tour through the botanical trail, witness the ingenuity of a diverse flora that has adapted, sometimes in extraordinary ways, to the heat and drought of this region. The arboretum has a collection of over 900 plant species from the southwest of Madagascar, 90% of which are endemic to the region and 80% have medicinal properties. Among these, many succulent species are recognized as endangered. In addition to the excellent flora, more than 30 species of birds can be found here as well as 25 species of mammals and reptiles, including two nocturnal lemur species.

After exploring the trails, the small museum, interpretation center, and gift shop, sit down for lunch by the pool at the on-site restaurant. After lunch continue to Isalo National Park, arriving in time to enjoy a spectacular Malagasy desert sunset.

*Overnight at Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*

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## ISALO JUL. 24

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Spend a full day exploring scenery marked by towering Jurassic sandstone formations, golden grasslands, and palm savannas.

After breakfast, we'll make the short drive to one of the best trails in Isalo National Park and hike to a gorgeous desert waterfall. Along the way, be prepared to encounter families of Ring-tailed and Brown Lemurs! We'll have a box lunch to make the most of our day in the most famous national park in Madagascar.

After sunset, you may choose to join your leaders on a night hike around the lodge to look for geckos, unique insects, and even tenrecs (related to hedgehogs).

*Overnight at Relais de la Reine. (BLD)*

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## RANOMAFANA JUL. 25

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This morning after breakfast, we continue to our next destination, Ranomafana National Park. On our way, we'll visit a paper-making workshop and be able to purchase beautiful artisanal paper and learn about this fascinating tradition.

On the way to the hotel, stop by the beautiful waterfalls for photos and then check in at the hotel. An optional evening walk is available to search for the nocturnal mouse lemur.

*Overnight at Centrest Lodge. (BLD)*

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## RANOMAFANA JUL. 26

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This morning after breakfast, hike in the 102,000 acre Ranomafana National Park. The immensity of Ranomafana National Park is clear as you approach. Ranomafana is one of Madagascar's best known and most important parks. Created in 1991 following the 1986 discovery of the Golden Bamboo Lemur, Ranomafana has served as a model for subsequent parks and reserves in Madagascar and abroad. The rainforest is home to the critically endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur, Golden Bamboo Lemur, and 11 other species including the mouse lemur, Gray Bamboo Lemur, and others.

This afternoon have lunch at Centre Valbio, a facility run by Dr. Patricia Wright that is now Madagascar's leading field research center.

After lunch is an informative presentation on the flora, fauna, and research efforts in Ranomafana.

*Overnight at Centrest Lodge. (BLD)*

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## RANOMAFANA JUL. 27

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Today we'll continue with our explorations of Ranomafana National Park. Two full days here is a naturalist's dream, as it is one of the most concentrated areas for wildlife in Madagascar. With leaf-tailed geckos, bamboo lemurs, giraffe-necked beetles, and colorful *Mantella* frogs, Ranomafana is a must-see for ecotourists.

Ranomafana is also an excellent place for night hikes, where we'll search for the charismatic mouse and dwarf lemurs as they bounce from tree to tree right before our eyes!

*Overnight at Centrest Lodge. (BLD)*

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## ANTSIRABE JUL. 28

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This morning after breakfast, transfer to the Ialatsara Private Reserve, set on 6,177 acres of secondary forest. This reserve has been taken care of by a couple of passionate people, Mr. and Mrs. Rajaona, who dedicate much of their time to managing the fragmented highland forest ecosystem. During the visit hike along the trails in search of the Milne Edward's Sifaka, dwarf lemur, sportive lemur, and mouse lemur. After the hike enjoy a freshly prepared lunch at the facilities and then continue to Antsirabe for dinner and overnight.

*Overnight at Couleur Café. (BLD)*

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## ANDASIBE JUL. 29

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This morning drive to Andasibe, with several stops en route including lunch. Arrive at the hotel late in the afternoon. This evening take a nocturnal walk in Mitsinjo Reserve in search of nocturnal wildlife.

*Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

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## ANDASIBE JUL. 30

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At dawn, the vocalization of the Indri, the world's largest lemur, will be heard like a fog horn call from the distance. After enjoying the morning chorus of the sounds of the forest, we'll visit Mantadia National Park searching for this mystical animal as well as the Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur. We'll likely encounter several species of chameleons, day geckos, and more than eight other species of lemur. After lunch, explore Lemur Island for up-close encounters with habituated lemurs.

*Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)*

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## ANTANANARIVO JUL. 31

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This morning depart to Tana. We will make a stop en route to visit the Analamazaotra Special Reserve to search for more species of lemurs, including the lively Diademmed Sifaka, common to this area. After lunch continue to Antananarivo. This evening dinner will be at a local restaurant.

*Overnight at Colbert Hotel. (BLD)*

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## BERENTY AUG. 01

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This morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Ft. Dauphin. Upon arrival, have lunch at Le Dauphin Hotel and then settle in for the 4 to 5 hour drive to the world famous Berenty Private Reserve. Arrive in the evening in time to have dinner and rest from the long journey.

*Overnight at Berenty Lodge. (BLD)*

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## BERENTY AUG. 02

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Enjoy a full day exploring Berenty Reserve. Arise early to look for the incredible "dancing" and leaping Verreaux's Sifaka lemur groups. Visit a large tree which is home to Madagascar fruit bats, among the largest bats in the world with wingspans of over three

feet. The Berenty colony is the largest in southern Madagascar, varying seasonally. Next, learn about the history of the region during a visit to the large, well-kept museum. After lunch have time at leisure to explore on your own. After dinner, settle in to rest for the very early departure back to Ft. Dauphin in the morning.

*Overnight at Berenty Lodge. (BLD)*

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## FT. DAUPHIN AUG. 03

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After breakfast we will spend the day transferring back to Ft. Dauphin. Dinner and overnight will be in Ft. Dauphin.

*Overnight at La Croix du Sud Hotel. (BLD)*

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## DEPARTURE AUG. 04

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Following breakfast the morning will be at leisure to explore the seaside town of Ft. Dauphin. After lunch, transfer to the airport for the flight to Tana. A day room will be available for use in Tana. Farewell dinner at the hotel. Flights back to the United States.

*Day room at Relais des Plateaux (BLD)*

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## ARRIVAL IN UNITED STATES AUG. 05

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## More information

### LAND COST:

**\$6,995** per person (7-13 paying, double occupancy)

**\$1,200** single supplement

### Includes:

Accommodations, in-country transportation, meals and activities as listed in the itinerary.

### Not included:

Items of a personal nature, gratuities, beverages.

### ESTIMATED AIRFARE COST:

**\$2,500** on Delta/Air France service via Paris.

Rate is subject to change until ticketed. Other departure cities are available. Contact [laurie@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:laurie@holbrooktravel.com) with flight inquiries.

If you are booking your international flights independently, please call us before making reservations to confirm that your chosen schedule will work with the internal flights.

### THE FINE PRINT:

A completed enrollment form and full payment are due at the time of booking. Payments are non-refundable after 95 days prior to departure. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information, contact Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have questions about the trip, please contact Holbrook Travel consultant Lisa Palmese-Graubard at 800-451-7111 x339 or [lisa@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:lisa@holbrooktravel.com).