

MADA FOCUS

Detailed itinerary Back 2 Basics Group Tour November 2021

November 8 – arrival Antananarivo

Today you are expected in Antananarivo. If you arrive by plane, let us know the details and we'll send a transfer to bring you to the hotel. If you are already in the country, just come to hotel Chalet des Roses by 5pm where you'll meet your tour leader for a short briefing.

Hotel: Chalet des Roses (on arrival day, no meals included)

November 9 – to Antsirabe

A six-hour drive (with stops of course) along the Route National 7 will take us to Antsirabe. It is the capital of the *pousse pousse*, a type of brightly coloured rickshaw operating solely on manpower. This charming town has some beautiful historical colonial buildings, which make it the perfect place for a stopover on our way to the south. We'll stay at the beautifully located Résidence Madalief, a very comfortable guesthouse that is part of a Dutch NGO that helps orphans in Madagascar.

Hotel: Résidence Madalief (Full Board)

November 10 + 11 – trekking the Ibity Massif

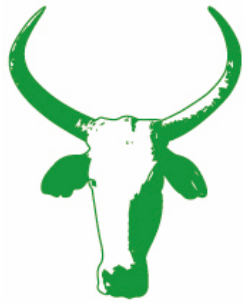
Located 25 km from the city of Antsirabe, behind a rocky and spectacular landscape, the Ibity Massif is renowned for its floristic, faunistic, geological and cultural riches. The summit of the Ibity Massif culminating at 2254 m is one of the highest of the rock outcrops in Madagascar. The massif is about 20 km from north to south. We will hike along the hillside to the Grand Tombeaux mountain pass, continue on the crest to the south and towards the peak. We will stay two nights in a very warm and welcoming mountain *gîte*.

Hotel: Ecolodge Ihasy (Full Board)

November 12 – to Antsirabe

After descending into the Ihasy Valley, we'll drive back to Antsirabe where we can visit the charming town center before heading back to the comfort of the hotel.

Hotel: Résidence Madalief (Full Board)



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November 13 – to Antoetra

Today we drive into the country of the Zafimaniry. The bus will first take us on the tarmac road until just past Ambositra where we turn into the mountains. We will stay one night in a beautifully situated hotel.

Hotel: Sous le Soleil de Mada (Full Board)

November 14 + 15 – trekking Zafimaniry Country

The Zafimaniry is a mountain tribe, closely related to the Betsileo people. They settled in these mountains several centuries ago, and are known for their beautifully decorated, carved wooden houses. The first day we hike through the mountains and visit two hard to reach (and therefore little visited) villages: Andikio and Faliarivo. We will put up camp near one of the villages. The second day we continue through this beautiful area. After about 2.5 hours we arrive at the waterfalls of Fanandrano. After an invigorating natural shower, it is a 3 hour walk to the Zafimaniry village of Sakaivo, where we put up camp.

Hotel: 2 nights camping (Full Board)

November 16 – to Ambalavao

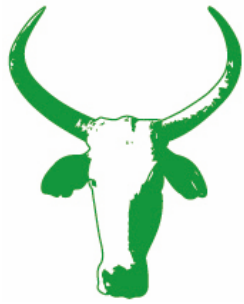
From Sakaivo we hike back to Antoetra in about 3 hours where the bus awaits us and takes us to Ambalavao. It's highly enjoyable to ramble around in the streets of this picturesque fairy tale town. We stay one night in a beautifully located country lodge.

Hotel: Betsileo Country Lodge (Full Board)

November 17 – to Ranohira

On your way to Isalo National Park, we will stop in a small reserve called Parc d'Anja. We'll go for a short walk to spot ring-tailed lemurs, perhaps the best-known kind of lemur. After some fun bouldering on the spectacular granite rocks and lunch, we'll continue by bus until the small town of Ranohira, the gate of Isalo NP. We'll spend the night in a very comfortable ranch.

Hotel: Isalo Ranch (Full Board)



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November 18 + 19 + 20 – trekking Isalo National Park

Experts agree, Isalo is the most impressive park in the south of this beautiful island. It is a natural rock massif giving a reminiscent great America West vibe. We will stroll through this Jurassic setting, alternating between deserted landscapes and verdant canyons. We will roam in completely arid zones with various colors and shapes. When we enter in the forest, it is not unusual for a lemur or a harmless serpent to welcome us. These three days we'll spend exploring this park with its waterfalls, natural swimming pools and adventurous canyons. Every evening we'll put up camp in the midst of this wilderness.

Hotel: 3 nights camping (Full Board)

November 21 – to Ranohira

After breaking up camp, we'll hike out of the park where the bus awaits us. We'll spend one more night at the Isalo Ranch where the nice setting will seduce us for an afternoon of relaxing and enjoying the sunset.

Hotel: Isalo Ranch (Full Board)

November 22 – to the Tsaranoro Valley

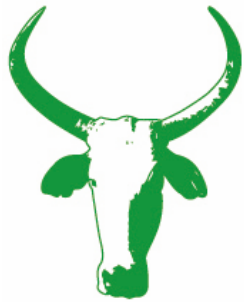
Madagascar is divided in two by a high ridge. The center of this is the Andringitra Mountains. The east side is very green and wet under the influence of the Indian Ocean, the west side dry and warm because of the winds coming from Africa. We'll spend three nights in an incredibly beautiful camp in the Tsaranoro Valley in the middle of this mountain range. From here, mountain tours and other walks can be undertaken.

Hotel: Camp Tsarasoa (Full Board)

November 23 + 24 – hiking the Tsaranoro Valley

The first day we'll focus on the mountain that dominates our camp. It's called the Chameleon. A climb of two hours brings us to the summit of this topographic phenomenon. After taking the time to enjoy the spectacular views, we descend leisurely down the back, stopping to splash in a natural pool and hike back to camp. The second day, the Tsaranoro itself is on the program. This 900m high rock face is a well-known challenge for alpinists. We, however, are going to approach this giant along the easy backside to reach the top in this way.

Hotel: Camp Tsarasoa (Full Board)



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November 25 – to Ambalavao

Our driver brings us in a few hours back to the lovely country lodge where we stayed 10 days ago. This garden is the perfect place to evaluate the activities, excursions, meetings, walks and treks of the last weeks while enjoying a cold beer.

Hotel: Ambalavao Country Lodge (Full Board)

November 26 – to Antsirabe

After breakfast we turn our noses north and drive to Antsirabe. We have lunch in the pleasant highland town of Ambositra. In Antsirabe we will have dinner in a restaurant specialized in the fresh products from the central highlands.

Hotel: Flower Palace (Full Board)

November 27 – to Antananarivo

In about 5 hours we reach the capital. We check in at the hotel that we know from the first night. In the afternoon the city can be explored and, in the evening, we put our feet under the table for a nice farewell dinner.

Hotel: Chalet des Rose (Full Board)

November 28 – return flight

The adventure has come to an end. Our transfer drivers are ready to take you to the airport in time for your return flight.

(on departure day, only breakfast is included)