

Baobabs, Fossa & Tsingy - June to





MADAGASCAR

When most people think of Madagascar, the image that comes to mind is that of the unforgettable Avenue of the Baobabs. Madagascar is home to seven of the nine species of baobab, the most striking of which lie just 18 kms from the coastal city of Morondava. Journey to see these giants of the plant world before travelling to Kirindy National Park, home of the cat like fossa. We will then travel onwards to the otherworldly Tsingy De Bemaraha National Park. The Tsingy can only be accessed during the dry season (June to Dec). We will then venture to the mountainside spa town of Antsirabe before returning home to Tana.

Support the giants of the plant world.

- Plant your own baobab!

Before baobabs became a protected species, many were cut for firewood and building material or were simply destroyed with the annual field burn off, which happens during the dry season. Many of the trees in baobab Alley are over 800 years old. To help ensure the survival of this species, we have arranged for you to plant your very own baobab amongst these giants.

Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch

D: Dinner

Day 1: Antananarivo, Madagascar

D

Welcome to Antananarivo (Tana), the capital of Madagascar! We will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation where you can relax for the afternoon. This evening you will meet your tour leader as you enjoy dinner and talk through the upcoming Madagascan adventure.

Day 2: Kirindy National Park

After an early flight to Morondava, we will pass through the avenue of the Baobabs on our way to Kirindy National Park. This park is home to the rare Sportive Lemur and the unique Fossa! The Fossa is Madagascar's only carnivore and is specialised at climbing trees to hunt lemur species. Head out on an evening walk to spot some of the rare lemur species of Kirindy.

Day 3: Travel to Tsingy De Bemaraha National Park B L D

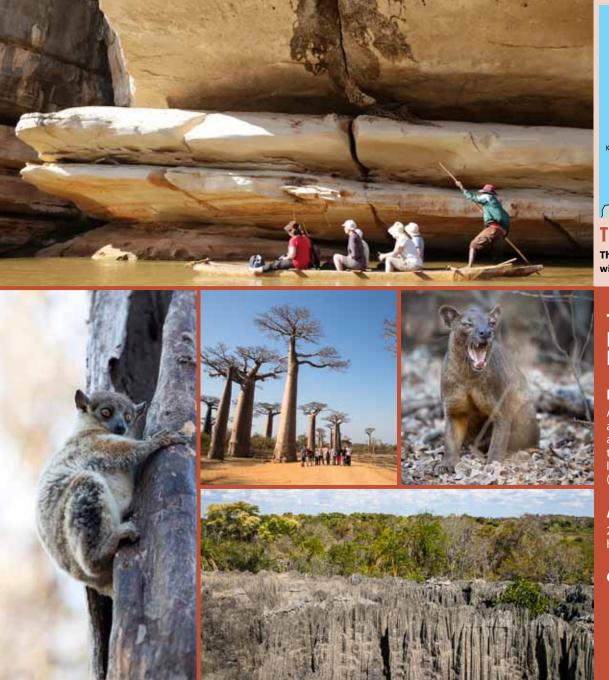
Wake up and enjoy an invigorating early morning walk in search of the Fossa and the many endemic lemurs of the Kirindy Forest. We then journey north, crossing the Manambolo River until we reach Tsingv De Bemaraha National Park. The Tsingy are limstone forests created by ground water eroding the plateau above, creating needlelike formations. Upon arrival we will walk amongst the Little Tsingy

or relax beside the *Tsiribinhina* River..... if you can say it, then we'll buy you a drink!

Day 4: Greater Tsingy

BLD

We will depart early for the Greater Tsingy of Beramaha National Park. Traverse the park on a series of aerial suspension bridges and walkways. Keep an eye out for the rare species of bird that inhabit the park and be amazed by leaping lemurs that cross the spiny pinnacles with ease.



Madagascar Tsingy De Antananarivo Bemaraha Kirindy NP Morondava

TRIP EXTENSION

This tour is best enjoyed in conjunction with the Madagascar Discovery journey.

TRIP DETAILS Price: From AU \$1595pp

Inclusions

All transfers, transport, activities, accommodation, water with activities, meals (as per itinerary), tips except your RAW Africa leader, 1 x domestic flight. (AU\$230).

Accommodation

2 nights guest house, 5 nights hotel.

Group Size Maximum 8.

Day 5: Tsiribihina River and Lesser Tsingy B L D

BLD Thia

This morning we will take a traditional canoe on the river and visit the local caves, learning about the importance of the limestone cliffs and the river to the local culture. In the afternoon, continue to explore this unique landscape with an easy walk through the lesser Tsingy, which is located along the banks of the river.

Day 6: Baobab Alley B L D

After breakfast we will begin our journey south, until we reach Baobab Alley. We will spend some time amongst these giants of the plant world. Wander among these magnificent trees and join us as we plant a baobab sapling and support the growth of new trees in this unique forest. In the late afternoon we will continue to Morondava for the night.

Day 7 : Travel to Antsirabe B L D

After an early breakfast we set off on our long journey to Antsirabe. This is a day of travel through the winding mountains, highlands and picturesque rice fields of Madagascar. Upon arrival we will enjoy a local meal and perhaps explore the hidden gems of this smaller city.

Day 8: Return to Tana B

Antsirabe is situated among the Ankaratra Mountains and was once the centre of trade in Madagascar. It is a popular spa town known for its thermal springs, many colourful rickshaws, French colonial buildings and souk-like market stalls. We will take a morning walk around the town centre before returning to Tana. There is also the option to fly from Morondava to Tana (approx US \$250).



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