



"The Grande Dame" of Women's
Adventure Travel Since 1982

2008 ~ First and Still the Best!

DATES

August 22 – September 3, 2008

COST

\$6,995 all-inclusive with international and all
internal airfare from JFK, New York to Tana,
Madagascar (\$800 deposit)

RATING

Moderate

ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Viewing, Birding, Walking, 4X4, Natural
History, Photography, Sightseeing, Cultural
Exploration

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Learn about the amazing 80% of endemic flora and fauna species that exist no where else on earth, and marvel at the island's most famous inhabitants: more than 50 kinds of lemurs.
- Visit spectacular national parks and private reserves on guided day and night hikes with our own English-speaking guide.
- Travel by vehicle and air to witness huge variations in ecosystems and geology, on an island the size of Texas.
- Marvel at the Indri Indri, the largest lemur in Madagascar (3 feet tall) that resembles a Giant Panda, and the "leaping lemurs" of Berenty Forest.
- Discover Madagascar's rich history, traditions, and the complicated belief systems that have originated from the early settlements of the Indonesian, Malaysian and African peoples.
- Stay in spectacular forest lodges, beautiful hotels, and a beachfront resort where we swim, snorkel, and whale watch.

AdventureWomen is the oldest
adventure travel company for
active women over 30.

MADAGASCAR WILDLIFE AND NATURE SAFARI

The "Lost Continent" – An Evolutionary Wonderland

Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, is located in the Indian Ocean only 250 miles from the east coast of Southern Africa. At one time, it was connected to the African continent, but it has been isolated from other land masses for more than 160 million years. Sometimes referred to as the "Eighth Continent," Madagascar teems with enchanting animals and plant species unique to the island. It is now one of the world's top conservation priorities. More than 50 species of lemurs swing through the forest, and fluorescent-colored chameleons and lizards cling to trees and ferns. Brilliant red tomato frogs peek out from the jungle floor, while the majestic and huge baobab tree, called the 'mother-of-the-forest' by the local Malagasy people, keeps a careful watch over evolution gone wild.

No one actually knows how many species exist in Madagascar today – perhaps 200,000 or more. What IS known, however, is that the majority of the endemic plant and animal species are not found anywhere else on earth, and that over 80% of the wildlife is unique to the island. Of the country's 987 vertebrate species, 771 are endemic to the island. 12,000 species of plants and 45 percent of its 270 bird species are also endemic. These numbers are extraordinary, considering that Madagascar is roughly the size of Texas.

We'll enjoy the island's natural treasures during our walks through reserves such as Andasibe (Perinet) in the highland cloud forest and the spiny desert of unforgettable Berenty, where we will observe "leapin' lemurs" in their natural environment. National parks, strict nature reserves, and special reserves cover a total of 2,770,060 acres, or 1.9 percent of the country.

During our visit we'll also discover Madagascar's rich history, traditions, and the complicated belief systems that originated with the early settlements of the Indonesian, Malaysian, and African peoples. We'll learn about the island's tribal development, European discovery, and its transition to a contemporary republic. We'll also spend time at a beautiful beach resort – an ideal place for diving, snorkeling, whale watching, and relaxing on the beach.

Even before Charles Darwin arrived on the Galapagos Islands, more than 150 years ago, Madagascar has been enchanting naturalists. When British naturalist Joseph-Philibert Commerson visited the island in 1771, he said, "Madagascar is truly the naturalist's promised land. Here Nature created a special sanctuary wither she seems to have

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THIS TRIP

- Round-trip international air on Air France from JFK, New York, via Paris, France, to Tana, Madagascar.
- Internal airline flights in Madagascar from Tana to Fort Dauphin, from Fort Dauphin to Tulear, and from Tulear to Tana.
- Round-trip transfers and one hotel overnight in Tana on August 23, 2008, and all other airport transfers.
- 9 nights double-occupancy en-suite accommodations in Madagascar:
 - * 2 nights at the luxurious Vakona Forest Lodge in Andasibe (Perinet) National Reserve;
 - * 2 nights at Le Palissandre Hotel in Tana (Antananarivo);
 - * 1 night at the charming lakeside Vinanibe Hotel in Fort Dauphin;
 - * 2 nights at the Berenty Lodge in spacious wooden chalets in the magical Berenty Reserve;
 - * 2 nights at a beach resort in Ifaty at the wonderful Hotel le Paradisier.
- All meals from our arrival in Madagascar to our departure from Madagascar, with the exception of lunch on Day 10.
- Local Malagasy nature guide and driver throughout the trip.
- All guided day and night hikes, and excursions as listed in the itinerary, including a snorkeling trip at the beach in Ifaty.
- All entrance fees included in the itinerary.
- 1.5 quarts of mineral water per person/per day.
- One AdventureWomen trip Escort.

NOT INCLUDED

- All international airline taxes and airport departure taxes.
- Passport and visa fees. A Madagascar visa can be bought on arrival at the airport in Tana for 12 Euros (\$16 U.S.) Or, you can get your visa on your own before departure for the trip.
- Items of a personal nature, and alcoholic drinks with meals.
- Optional whale watching boat trip in Ifaty (approximately \$55 U.S.).
- Lunch on Day 10.
- Tips to guides, drivers, waiters, porters:
 - * Main Guide: 15 - 18 Euros per day per person.
 - * Driver: 8 - 12 Euros per day per person.
 - * Meals: 10 -15% service charge.
 - * Porters: 1 Euro per two bags.

withdrawn to experiment with designs different from those used anywhere else. At every step one finds more remarkable and marvelous forms of life."

Also known as the "Great Red Island," because of the eroding soil that stains the rivers and deltas crimson, we'll travel in search of lemurs, chameleons, orchids, baobabs, aloes, geckoes, sifakas and octopus trees. Madagascar has no deer or antelope species, and also lacks large predators. Poisonous snakes are absent as they are a relatively recent evolutionary development. Madagascar also boasts half of the world's roughly 135 species of chameleons. But it is the lemurs that really draw wildlife enthusiasts to Madagascar. Regarded as "primitive" primates, lemurs are kin to monkeys, apes and humans, and their behavior and characteristics shed vital clues on our own distant past.

The island remains one of the most beautiful, mysterious, and fascinating places on earth. However, for the lemurs and other endemic plant and animal species, the last chance for survival may lie in the employment and cash generated by eco-tourists like us, who come from afar to view them.

AdventureWomen invites you to join us as an "eco-tourist in Madagascar," on yet another once-in-a-lifetime journey to the far corners of the world.

HOW TO REGISTER

First, call (800-804-8686) or email (advwomen@aol.com) the AdventureWomen office to determine space availability. We will hold a space for you for 5 days while you are completing the application process, and making personal and travel arrangements.

Next, complete and sign the **Trip Application** form included in all of our brochures. We can also fax or mail one to you, or you can fill out the Trip Application form on our web site by clicking the "Register for a Trip" icon. Include with the application the **required deposit** that can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), personal check, money order, or cashier's check. You can also register over the phone with a credit card. Once we receive your deposit and your trip application, we will mail you a package of information verifying your registration.

Then, call our travel consultant, Sherrie Wenzel at Safariline, 866-466-0304, to make your airline reservations. See "Important Information About Travel Arrangements" on page 4 of this itinerary.

Note: We will only hold your space for 5 days without a trip application and deposit payment!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the United States must possess a valid U.S. passport for travel to South Africa and Madagascar. It must be valid 6 months beyond your intended stay in Africa.

LIABILITY FORM AND FINAL PAYMENT

Part of what AdventureWomen hopes to foster is the taking of more self-responsibility for our own lives, health, and safety. **Please read the LIABILITY FORM carefully, sign it, and return it with your final payment by May 25, 2008.**

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and 50% of the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 60-89 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-59 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Information will be sent to you in your registration packet.

SWITCHING TRIPS

Before your final balance due date, you may change your deposit to another trip within the same calendar year by paying a **\$75 fee to switch**. You may not switch your deposit to a trip in another calendar year.

NO SMOKING POLICY

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Citizens of other countries should inquire about requirements for entry. If you do not have a passport, **APPLY NOW!** Please do not wait until the last minute. You should always carry 2 extra passport photographs with you, in case of emergency (if your passport/visa is lost or stolen).

All foreign visitors to the Republic of Madagascar require entry visas. A visa is valid for 90 days and can be obtained on arrival at the airport for MGA 28,000 (\$15 U.S.) (The unit of currency in Madagascar is Ariary (MGA). One U.S. dollar is worth approximately 1,825 MGA, as of August 20, 2007.

To obtain a visa at the airport, you must produce the following:

1. A return airline ticket (the length of the visa will be issued according to the dates of your airline ticket).
2. A passport with 6 months validity from your date of return.
3. A trip itinerary.

If you choose, you can get your visa before you depart from the United States. Check the Internet to find the closest embassy or consulate to you. You can download the visa forms.

No special vaccinations are required for travel to Madagascar. However, International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required only if arriving into Madagascar from an infected area within 5 days (Kenya, Tanzania).

Please consult your personal physician, local health department, travel clinic, or immunization center about any vaccinations you may need to update, or others that may be personally recommended for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history. Hepatitis A and B are present everywhere in the world, so you should talk to your Doctor about this. You should also discuss malaria medication.

PHYSICAL CONDITION REQUIRED AND HEALTH INSURANCE

You MUST have your own health insurance, and have no physical problems or conditions that would be adversely affected by riding in 4 X 4 vehicles on possibly rough, bumpy roads or walking through rainforests and jungles, where the ground could be wet and slippery, and the weather may be hot. This is an active holiday, and we rate it as Moderate. Trips of this designation offer moderate physical challenges, and for this trip you should be able to walk/hike from 2-5 miles, have no limitations on physical mobility, and be able to cope with hot and humid conditions. You must be in very good physical condition to participate in this trip.

OUR EXCITING ITINERARY FOR THE MADAGASCAR NATURE SAFARI

Day 1, Friday, August 22, 2008 *Departure from the U.S. for Madagascar*

Today we depart JFK, New York, for our overnight flight on Air France to Paris, France.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Round-trip airfare from JFK, New York, is included in the cost of the trip package. We will be traveling together from JFK on Air France to Paris, France, and from Paris to Tana (Madagascar). Three internal airline flights within Madagascar are also included.

*Rates are based on 2007 prices and are subject to change without notice.

After you register for this Madagascar safari, please contact: Sherrie Wenzel at Safariline 866-466-0301 or safariline@worldnet.att.net

Sherrie will be handling our international and add-on air for this trip. She can also get you hotel reservations in New York if you need to fly in a night before our departure day.

Not included is extra add-on airfare from your hometown to JFK, New York. These add-on fares are often much less expensive than if you were to ticket them separately. In addition, by getting an add-on fare with these airlines you will have a continuous ticket on Air France, and if for any reason the international flight times change, or if you miss this flight, Air France will be responsible for getting you to Madagascar.

Please discuss add-on fares and costs with Sherrie at Safariline.

NOTE: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last minute registrants, we must often relinquish land space and air reservations up to 2 months prior to departure!

Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

Day 2, Saturday, August 23 *Continue to Madagascar*

We depart Paris late this morning and arrive in Tana, the capital of Madagascar at 9:55 PM. Here we are met by our guide in the arrivals hall. Those who are getting their visas on arrival will do this now.

We overnight in Tana for a much deserved rest.

Day 3, Sunday, August 24 *Tana to Andasibe National Park*

Today we travel on a paved road past the green landscapes, lovely villages, and brilliant rice fields of eastern Madagascar to Andasibe (Perinet) National Park and Nature Reserve. This area is well-known for its prime forests, lakes, and surrounding rainforests. Soon we spot some of the county's endemic and beautiful birds, such as yellow-billed kites and Madagascar kestrels.

Neither Africa nor Asia, Madagascar exudes an atmosphere that is quite distinctly its own. One way to describe it is that one might feel transported to a landscape fit for Tolkien. The terraced and two-story dilapidated dwellings that stand in the middle of terraced rice paddies, or are surrounded by exquisite gardens, have their own charm, and their own history, which we will learn about during our adventure.

Just before entering the historical and lively town of Moramanga, we make a brief stop at the Mangoro River to view the Madagascar pratincole. Continuing on, we'll most likely see our next rush of Madagascar birds that might include, the Madagascar blue pigeon and wood-rail; blue-and red-fronted couas; collared nightjar; coral-billed nuthatch vanga; Ward's flycatcher; Rand's warbler; spectacled greenbul and nelicourvi weaver.

We check into our lodge, and after dinner take a night walk to see a wide variety of nocturnal lemurs, reptiles, frogs, and fascinating invertebrates.

For the next two nights we are staying at the wonderful Vakona Forest Lodge (www.hotel-vakona.com/home.htm) in the heart of the forest. The most luxurious lodge in Perinet, the main building has been designed with an octagonal reception area, lounge, and bar with a huge fireplace in the middle. The design of the bungalows reflects the local Malagasy architecture and blends with the surroundings. Each bungalow has its own mezzanine, its own terrace with an outside living room, and en-suite bathroom. There is a swimming pool near the lodge. The sounds of the forest are amazing here, because the hotel has its own wildlife reserve with black and white lemurs, brown lemurs, and other colorful lemur sub-species.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 4, Monday, August 25 *Andasibe-Mantadia National Park (Reserve of Perinet)*

This morning we are up at daybreak for birding! Andasibe is an excellent example of montane rainforest, and early morning birding can be very successful in this lovely stretch of rainforest. Many of the largest trees have been removed and the canopy averages 25 – 30 meters. The main part of the reserve resembles a table, with steep forested hillsides (with steps to make it easier for us to climb!), bordered by a small lake. Our target birds for this morning will be Madagascar blue pigeon, blue and Chabert's vanga, Madagascar white eye, as well as the striking Souimanga, and long-billed green sunbird.

**ABOUT ADVENTURE
TRAVEL TODAY
Please Read Carefully!**

At AdventureWomen, we would like to ensure that all participants understand that our excursions are *adventure travel vacations*, and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one *actively participates*, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an *active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends*. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a *good-natured realist* and have a sense of humor! *Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist.* The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. *Being on time is important*, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well being of both individuals and the group!

Following our exciting walk in the forest, we are off to the "lowlands" to visit one of the marsh patches, hoping to find the Madagascar rail, white-throated rail, Madagascar flufftail, Madagascar snipe, Madagascar swamp warbler and grey emutail. These marshes are probably one of the best places to find the prized bird of the area, and of Madagascar, the ultra-scarce slenderbilled flufftail.

We return to the lodge for a well-deserved breakfast. Then we are off again for a morning visit to see the largest living lemur (3 feet tall) of the montane forests of eastern Madagascar, the Indri indri. In coloration, it resembles a giant panda with its black and white fur, but in body shape is more anthropomorphic with its long neck and arms, and small ears. The Indri feeds on canopy fruits and leaves and is best known for its eerie yet beautiful song, which can carry for 1.2 miles (2 km). This diurnal lemur will bark when confronted with danger, and make kissing sounds when affectionate. Despite its large size, the Indri refuses to move along the ground, and will negotiate gaps by leaping, often over 33 feet (10 m) between tree trunks. Naturally rare due to its low birth rate (one birth every three years) and small population density, today the Indri's numbers are small and dwindling due to habitat loss and hunting. A good portion of the world's remaining Indri are in the Perinet Reserve and surrounding forest. The Indri will not survive in captivity and cannot tolerate habitat disturbance, traits that are potential roadblocks to possible rehabilitation projects and conservation. Chances are good that we will also see a wide variety of orchids and canopy inhabitants which include the huge Parson's chameleons, tenrecs (primitive mammals) and more birds.

After lunch we visit Mantadia National Park, in search of more bird and mammal species of the region. Mantadia is wilder rain forest and more rugged than Perinet. With greater variations in altitude, this spectacular forest harbors golden-crowned diadem sifakas, ruffed lemurs, brown, gray bamboo and eastern woolly lemurs.

On a night walk, we'll look for brown mouse lemur, red forest rat, streaked tenrec, and several species of chameleons and frogs.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Overnight Vakona Forest Lodge

Day 5, Tuesday, August 26 Andasibe to Tana

After breakfast we'll visit a different section of the Andasibe (Perinet) Reserve to see Lemurs, insects, and birds.

After lunch we say goodbye to the Vakona Lodge and drive back to Tana. En route we stop at the Pereyras Nature Farm for an opportunity to see and photograph some of the island's most extraordinary reptiles and invertebrates. The park is owned by naturalist André Pereyras, and the purpose of the farm is to breed the special animals of Madagascar. Although we've been out to see all of these animals in the wild, this is our chance to get up close and personal with lemurs (brown and Coquerel's sifaka), and with the amazing variety of reptiles and chameleons in Madagascar. The lemurs are wild, but very used to humans.

We arrive in Tana by late afternoon and check in to our hotel, Le Palissandre. Located in close proximity to the International Airport in Tana, the hotel is an ideal overnight stay for our departure tomorrow for Fort Dauphin. Le Palissandre provides comfortable accommodations for the night, with private en-suite bathrooms and air conditioning. From the hotel terrace, there are great views overlooking the Analakely area of the city in downtown Antananarivo (Tana). The hotel also has a good restaurant and bar.

Following is an interesting account of his stay in Tana by a freelance writer who visited the city:

"Noisy and colorful are the first impressions as my minibus winds its way into town from Tana's international airport. The dusty streets are crammed with zebus (Indonesian oxen), pousse-pousse (brightly painted hand-drawn rickshaws) and the omnipresent aroma of baking bread. The French were colonial masters here from 1896 until 1960 and left behind a Gallic love of croissants and baguettes, still catered for by dozens of boulangeries.

It is when I finally sit down to a lunch of piquantly marinated zebu steak on the terrace of my hotel, Le Royal Palissandre, that Tana begins to take on a magical quality. Situated at just over 4,000 ft on a high central plateau, the terrace air is cool, dry and sweet. With a gentle sun casting a soft light over the cobbled streets and red tiled rooftops below, I'm soothed and entranced.

But not for long. Just below the hotel, down some steep flagstone steps (Tana is set on a dozen hills) the Analakely market is in full flow. Enticed by the scent of fragrant spices and raucous chatter, I wander down the hill.

I stroll between stalls, struggling to take in the riot of colors and appetising odors. Mountains of sumptuous papayas, limes and pineapples vie with heaps of mammoth cucumbers, marrows and carrots. Pungent dried fish and shrimp sit next to neatly tied, still wriggling crabs. Every few feet, whole lizards are being grilled on open charcoal beds, wisps of heavy smoke lingering amid the stalls.

Then comes the vanilla (Madagascar produces the best in the world): hundreds of bundles of long, chocolatey pods. Suddenly, the meaty fumes give way to a pleasing sweetness and I'm drawn to the aroma, like a hungry child at tea-time.

The stall-holders are extremely affable and we manage to communicate via hand signals and pidgin-French. Also notable is the ethnic diversity of the people who live here. While the western coast of Madagascar is just a short 250-mile hop from the African coast, many Madagascans would look more at home in South East Asia, 4,000 miles to the east.

Madagascar's first inhabitants were Malays and Indonesians. This original ethnic group, now called the Merina, has remained largely dominant even

though the island has enjoyed further waves of settlers from Africa and beyond. A distinctive ethnic blend has been created: a kind of Afro-Malay, with a distinct French influence."

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Overnight Hotel Le Palissandre

Day 6, Wednesday, August 27 Tana to Fort Dauphin

This morning we'll visit the private garden of Tsaratsaotra, owned by a local Malagassy family who owns a breeding colony of several species of herons on the lake. Among the more widespread great and cattle egrets are numerous dimorphic and black egrets, and Madagascar squacco herons. White-faced whistling ducks, red-billed teal, and other endemic birds such as Madagascar kestrel, Madagascar coucal, Madagascar white-eye, Madagascar swamp warbler, Madagascar brush warbler, Madagascar red fody, and Madagascar manikin, can also be found here.

In late afternoon, we board our plane at Ivato International Airport and fly to Fort Dauphin, splendidly located along a curved sandy bay on the southeast tip of Madagascar. From the airport we are transferred to the Vinanibe Hotel, a beautiful small hotel situated on the coast, its charming bungalows very quiet and comfortable. We check in and prepare for dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Overnight Vinanibe Hotel

Day 7, Thursday, August 28 Fort Dauphin to Berenty

After breakfast we transfer to the Berenty Private Reserve, about 50 miles from Fort Dauphin. En route to Berenty, we stop at the "Nepenthes" fields, an area where a carnivorous plant attracts insects by the scents of its liquid. We drive past the towering Anosy Mountain chain to arrive in the so-called "transition zone." This area is dominated by the triangular palm, "Neodypsis Decari," an endemic palm to the Fort Dauphin area. From here the landscape changes again, but this time into a drier habitat. We have our first glimpse of the Spiny Forest, with sisal plantations etched into the foreground. We arrive in Berenty just before mid-day, and check in at the Berenty Lodge in time for lunch.

Berenty Reserve is a private reserve that offers the chance to experience the magic of the forest. Known as the kingdom of the lemurs, opportunities here to photograph lemurs close-up are numerous as many of them are habituated to humans. We are sure to see brown lemurs and ring-tailed lemurs. We may even witness graceful white Verreaux's sifakas dancing across clearings in wild and comical leaps on their hind legs.

Our afternoon walk from the lodge takes us into the primary forest area of the reserve along well-maintained trails, where we have more opportunities to see dancing sifakas and brightly-plumed birds. At night we embark on an evening walk, using our flashlights to observe the nocturnal life in the forest. As well as the resident lemur population, there are also endemic plants, chameleons, and 83 species of birds.

During our stay, we might also visit the museum of the Antandroy ethnic group, or people of the dry climate, and a sisal factory.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

The next two nights are spent at the Berenty Lodge. The Lodge features comfortable and spacious wooden chalets with en-suite bathrooms and a lovely tea garden where one can relax among the lemurs and beautiful, serene surroundings.

Day 8, Friday, August 29 Free Day at Berenty Reserve

Today it's time to slow down! This will be a free day with several possible alternative adventures that can be planned on the spot. Your guide will assist you in deciding how you want to spend your time. The adventurous guests who want to see more birds can join our guide for a bird walk in Berenty Private Reserve. Birds of prey are particularly prominent. Nine species are recorded, with the Madagascar buzzard probably the most common raptor.

Berenty Reserve features many baobab trees and similar species of trees in the gallery and spiny forests. Large populations of ringtails, brown lemurs, and sifaka live here, as well as birds and reptiles found only in this region. Two of these unique species are the giant coua and the white-browed owl. There are also chameleons, snakes, and butterflies.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Overnight Berenty Lodge

Day 9, Saturday, August 30 From Berenty to the Beach

At breakfast, we hope to see the well-photographed ring-tailed lemurs sunbathing in front of the restaurant. Then after breakfast we pack our bags and depart for the airport at Fort Dauphin to catch our flight to Tulear via Antananarivo. From the airport we travel along the coast to Ifaty and check into the Hotel le Paradisier, our accommodation for the next two nights.

This beachfront hotel has beautiful two-story bungalows, complete with straw roofs and patchwork quilts. From this base we have time at leisure to enjoy the beach at Ifaty. Protected by a 21-mile reef running offshore, it is an ideal place for swimming, diving, and snorkeling. The reef attracts a range of fish, and from July to mid September, whales come to the cool sea of Madagascar to give birth. This afternoon you may choose to take an optional boat trip in search of new mothers and their young. It is a very spectacular experience, as sometimes you can see whales very close to the boat.

The area around the lodge is also a popular spot for birdwatchers.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Overnight Hotel le Paradisier

Day 10, Sunday, August 31 The Beach at Ifaty and a Spiny Forest Reserve

This morning we'll enjoy a snorkeling trip along the reef. The water is clear and calm and home to a great variety of fishes.

In mid-afternoon we depart for the Reserve Domergue, a spiny forest reserve where we might see such birds as the white-headed hook billed, La Fresney's vanga, long-tailed ground roller, Archbold's newtonia, and if we are really lucky, the sub-desert mesite. This excursion also gives us the opportunity to see reptiles like boa, geckos, lizards, and Parson's chameleon – the biggest chameleon in Madagascar. Another highlight of this reserve is the opportunity to admire and photograph the strange baobab trees of Madagascar. We return to our hotel at sunset in time for dinner.

(Breakfast and Dinner)

Overnight Hotel le Paradisier

Day 11, Monday, September 1 *Ifaty to Tana*

After breakfast, we say goodbye to the ocean and pack our bags for Tulear and our flight back to Tana, also called the "City of Thousands," and the capital of Madagascar.

This afternoon includes a brief city tour that will give us a general look at present-day Malagasy culture. We'll visit several places of interest in the city (depending on how much time we have), such as the queen's palace and a spectacular viewpoint high on a hillside above the city. We'll drive past shops that sell oxtails, and view the daily life of the Malagasy people who live here.

We return again to the Hotel Le Palissandre for our last overnight in Madagascar.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 12, Tuesday, September 2 *Tana to Paris*

This morning we'll visit the market in town for last-minute souvenirs, then spend the rest of the day at leisure until our late night flight back to Paris and the U.S.

(Breakfast)

Day 13, Wednesday, September 3 *Afternoon Arrival into JFK, New York, and flights home***WEATHER IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

The ideal season to travel in Madagascar is from April through October, which is tropical Madagascar's cooler and drier season. We will encounter a great variation in climate due to elevation and wind conditions. And even though it is the dry season, we might still encounter rain and muddy road conditions at some point in our trip. It's all part of the adventure!

The equatorial sun is very strong, so it is important to be prepared for hot weather and bring proper sun protection. Daily temperatures will typically vary, and will range from the low 60s to the high 80s.

TIPPING, MONEY, AND CREDIT CARDS

Tips to drivers, guides, wait staff, and porters are not included in your total trip fee. See the "Not Included" section of these trip details for suggested tipping recommendations. Tips in Euros are appreciated.

Credit cards (Visa and MC) are widely accepted in Madagascar's larger shops and hotels, but not necessarily in the markets and small towns. Euros are the best and most accepted currency for tourists to have. You can bring U.S. dollars and exchange them into Euros, or you can bring Euros from the States. ATMs are available in large cities (Tana). Using cash in Madagascar is easier than exchanging travelers checks.

You should bring U.S. cash or Euros in small bills (\$1s, \$5s, \$10s, and \$20s). Make sure the money you bring is in NEW bills, and not worn or torn bills.

The unit of currency in Madagascar is the Ariary (MGA). One U.S. dollar is worth approximately 1,825 MGA (as of August 20, 2007).

Returning U.S. residents are allowed to bring back \$800 worth of merchandise, duty free. Expensive camera equipment and jewelry purchased in the U.S. (we recommend NEVER bringing or wearing expensive jewelry) should be registered with U.S. customs prior to our departure; or you may retain your sales receipts as documentation for re-entering the U.S.

ELECTRICITY

In Madagascar, European dual round-pronged plugs are the standard (220 V).

WATER AND FOOD

If the tap water in our accommodations is not safe to drink, there will be a thermos or a carafe of drinking water in your room. Or, we will be supplied with bottled, boiled, or filtered water. It is important to take the advice of our guides whenever you are unsure about the safety of water. During our trip, all food is very well prepared and it is safe to eat anything that is served.

WHAT TO BRING

Select your clothing based on comfort. Clothes should be made of washable cotton or the new synthetic fabrics (not synthetics like rayon), and loose fitting. Some of the new fabrics like Coolmax, supplex, and polypropylene are excellent, and can be found in the TravelSmith catalog we send in your registration packet.

A well-broken-in pair of lightweight walking shoes or hiking boots is a necessity, as is a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen. We will spend many hours in the sun while exploring the rainforests and nature reserves.

WHAT TO BRING—(continued on page 9)

WHAT TO BRING—(continued from page 8)

Luggage, Clothing, and Travel Accessories

Three words of packing advice: LIGHT, LIGHT, LIGHT! It is best to condense your luggage into one manageable soft-sided suitcase with wheels and one daypack or backpack (carry-on size). Also, a spare, very light duffel bag or day pack rolled or folded into your wheeled suitcase is useful to have to transport souvenir items home.

Your luggage weight restriction is 20 kg (44 pounds) for your main bag, and 9 kg (19.8 pounds) for your carry-on bag.

We suggest you use your daypack as your carry-on bag during your flights. In it you should have all valuables and essentials: medications, passports and all important documents, camera equipment, a change of clothing, lightweight sleepwear, and toiletries.

Put luggage ID tags on the outside AND inside your baggage. If your bag is lost and the outside ID tag and baggage stickers are dislodged, the airlines may open the bag to search for an ID inside your bag. (We will send you 3 tags for the outside of your bags.)

You should also be aware of the new airline regulations (www.tsa.gov/travelers) about what you can and cannot bring in your carry-on bag, and what you must put in your checked luggage.

Pre-Departure Tasks

- Obtain or renew passport.
- Get your Madagascar visa in the U.S., or wait and get it on arrival in Madagascar.
- Evaluate and obtain trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance.
- Consult with physician for physical examination, immunization, and prescription medicine recommendations.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight, quick drying, and breathable. Pay special attention to sun protection needs. Long sleeves and wide brim hats are recommended.

- Underwear. Synthetics are easier to wash and dry.
- Sleepwear.
- Shirts: Long-sleeve, synthetic, or cotton shirts that are featherweight, durable, wrinkle-resistant, and dry quickly. Those with multiple, closed (velcro or zipper) pockets are excellent.
- Short-sleeve synthetic or cotton T-Shirts. Those with multiple, closed (velcro or zipper) pockets are excellent.
- Sweater/lightweight jacket or fleece for cool evenings/night walks.
- Vest: A lightweight, multi-pocket, photo journalist-type vest is excellent for day use (use it to store film, cameras, binoculars, etc.).
- Pants: Full-length pants, preferably of quick-drying synthetic fabric with many zippered pockets. Long pants that convert to shorts save room and are very convenient for use during a long day.
- Walking shorts, preferably of a synthetic fabric.
- Bathing suit.
- Sun hat with a wide brim, preferably with a chin strap to keep it from blowing off.
- Gore-Tex rain/wind parka and/or sturdy poncho to protect day pack and camera gear from rain. (This can be your jacket, as listed above, as long as it is waterproof).
- Socks (synthetic for easy washing and drying) that are suitable for your lightweight walking shoes.
- Sturdy, properly fitting footwear can make your trip much more comfortable and enjoyable. Very comfortable, waterproof, lightweight walking shoes/hiking boots are a good option. We will be doing a lot of walking on this trip, so bring shoes that you will be comfortable in for walking on rainforest trails, through forests, and often on wet slippery trails.
- Sandals for relaxing around the lodges (Teva-type sandals or similar: Merrill's, Keens, etc., or any that can get wet and will dry fast).

WHAT TO BRING—(continued on page 10)

WHAT TO BRING—(continued from page 9)

- Extra pair of lightweight shoes.
- 3-4 cotton bandannas (it's an AdventureWomen tradition!).
- A set of nice, casual city clothes for evening dinners in nice restaurants (skirt, dress, nice pants).

Personal Items

- Passport.
- Bring 2 passport photos (if you are getting a visa on arrival), plus 2-3 spare passport photos to bring on the trip (in case of lost passport/visa).
- Battery-operated travel alarm clock.
- Extra batteries for cameras, alarm clock, etc.
- Small flashlight with extra batteries and bulb.
- Sunglasses (90% - 100% ultraviolet and some infrared protection), case, strap.
- Contact lenses, cleaner, saline solution, extra eyeglasses with safety band.
- Money belt.
- Address book, writing paper or journal, pen/pencil.
- Daypack (also serves as an airline carry-on bag).
- Plastic water bottle. Nalgene plastic is recommended as there is no plastic taste in the heat.
- Locks for your suitcase (when left in rooms).
- Ziploc-type bags for packing shampoo or other liquids, or wet, dirty clothing.
- Washcloth (not supplied in many hotels).
- Personal toiletries in small leak-proof bottles.
- Tampons or sanitary napkin supply (not always widely available).
- Thread, needles, safety pins for minor repairs.
- Insect repellent with the percentage of DEET recommended by your travel medicine physician. It's important that you bring an ample supply of good quality repellent. If you use DEET, try to wipe it off your hands before touching plastic surfaces such as your binoculars or cameras (DEET damages some plastics).
- Wash & Dries (or other antibacterial gel) for hand washing and emergency toilet paper.
- Travel guides such as: Madagascar Brandt Travel Guide and/or Madagascar Wildlife – A Visitor's Guide

Personal First Aid Kit (bring in small amounts and in small containers)

- Foot powder for moisture absorption; cloth, not plastic Band-aids; about 10 individually wrapped alcohol pads; and a small tube of Neosporin or other antibiotic cream.
- Aspirin/ibuprofen, etc.
- Cold-symptom relief tablets, antihistamine, cough drops.
- Adequate quantity of sweat-resistant sun screen with at least an SPF 15 rating or higher, and lip balm with sunscreen.
- Tweezers.
- Ear plugs (for snoring roommates or loud, yelling lemurs).
- Ace bandage.
- Antibiotics (Cipro, or another systemic antibiotic).
- Malaria medication.
- Prescription medicines in their original bottles.
- Acidophilus enzyme (available in capsules in health-food stores). This often helps your digestive system get in shape for "new" flora.
- Immodium, Lomotil, or similar anti-diarrhea medicine.
- Pepto-Bismol tablets and/or liquid (in leak-proof bottle).
- Emergen-C or similar. Some people swear they get fewer colds on airplanes if they take this during flights.

Camera Equipment

For many women, photography is a large part of this trip. We suggest you bring the following:

- If you bring a camera that shoots film, bring a lead bag or containers to protect film in airport x-ray machines.
- Digital camera, memory cards, battery charger, and adapter. In Madagascar European dual round-pronged plugs are the standard (220 V). Most digital cameras have a built in converter so you probably only need to bring an adapter.

WHAT TO BRING—(continued on page 11)

WHAT TO BRING—(continued from page 10)

Optional

- Small, lightweight binoculars.
- Pictures of your house, pets, and family (local people love to see this!).
- Reading material.
- Extra, lightweight duffel bag (empty, and packed inside your suitcase).

Last-Minute Reminders

- Make photocopies of your airline tickets and the first two pages of your passport, and put them in different locations (suitcase, carry-on bag, etc.).
- Bring your 2 additional passport size photos for visas, plus 2-3 extra to use in emergencies.
- Your valuables (jewelry, etc) should be insured for the duration of the trip, but better yet, leave them at home.
- Remove extra credit cards, driver's license, and personal items from wallet or purse.
- Make sure passport, tickets, and visa (if you get it prior to arrival in Madagascar) are valid and in the correct name.
- Check with airline to reconfirm reservations and departure time (most airlines want to hear directly from the client for confirmations).

*Thank you for choosing to travel with AdventureWomen!
If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write or email us.*

AdventureWomen, Inc.
300 Running Horse Trail
Bozeman, MT 59715
800-804-8686 or 406-587-3883 (outside the U.S.)
Email: advwomen@aol.com

