

Birds Heaven - Birding Tour

The best season for bird watching is from October through December, when birds, through their songs, can be more easily spotted in the forests. Madagascar is a promised destination for ornithologist or twitchers with its 107 endemic bird species, 198 nesting birds and 5 ENDEMIC FAMILIES. During this tour, you do not need a luck to discover at least the members of the 5 ENDEMIC species of groundrollers, the unique assitys, the diverse Vangas, the terrestrial mesites and the couas. You will also have the opportunity to discover other animal in their natural habitat: lemurs, chameleons, weird leaf tiled geckos.....the fascinating landscape of the Big Island, meeting with its local population and discovering their culture. With the teamwork run with our professional birding guide, the driver and the local guides in the national parks, it is a real pleasure to make your trip unique and unforgettable.

Day - 4 Ranohira

IFATY - TOLIARA - RANOHIRA (B, D)

Early breakfast and you'll depart to Andatabo site which is home to Madagascar's most recently described endemic, Red-shouldered Vanga. We will also search for Grey-headed Lovebird and Verreaux's Coua. We may even be lucky with Madagascar Sandgrouse at one of their regular drinking points. The mudflats around Toliara are great for all sorts of waders, Saunder's Tern and possibly Humblot's Heron. Continuation to Zombitse National Park, in order to arrive before it gets too hot. Cuckoo-rollers displaying over the canopy is one of the highlights here. Males of this huge forest endemic engage in flapping displays and loops accompanied by their shrieking whistles. This forest's speciality, Appert's Greenbul, is one of Madagascar's rarest endemics. This highly threatened species is restricted to Zombitse and a small adjacent forest patch. Here we could also find Coquerel's and Giant Couas, Rufous Vanga and Stripe-throated Jery. The forest is a very special transition zone between the south's flora and the western deciduous forest (which we will explore in Ankarafantsika National Park). Similar in appearance as the latter, it contains baobab species of the former. We will continue on the long drive to Isalo's remarkable landscape: eroded 'ruiniforme' sandstone outcrops, with hints of silver and green reflections of sunlight and interspersed with endless palm savanna. Surrounded by the spectacular mountains of the Isalo massif, we will stay at one of Madagascar's most scenic places. Key target birds this evening and the following morning will include Madagascar Partridge, Torotoroka Scops-owl, White-browed Owl and Benson's Rock-thrush (although noticeably different in plumage and structure, this species is now often considered to be conspecific with the Forest Rock-thrush from further east).

Overnight: Ranohira

Inclusions

- 16 nights in your chosen accommodation
- Meal as specified in itinerary (B = Breakfast, BR = Brunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Activities and excursions according to itinerary
- All transfers from/to the airport where needed.
- The car from Toliara until Antananarivo.
- The car from Antananarivo to Majunga and back
- The car from Antananarivo to Andasibe and back (3 persons per car)
- The excursion by boat in Ankarafantsika
- The visit of Tsarasaotra on last day
- Admission fees according to itinerary
- One small bottle of mineral water per day per person
- A small gift at the end of the trip

Exclusions

- International flights
- Domestic flight (to be added on the land arrangement rates)
- Meals other than mentioned in itinerary
- Tours and Excursions other than mentioned in itinerary
- Early check-in and late check-out at hotels
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips for driver/guides
- Visa fees
- Long haul air ticket and taxes