

## 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 - 15 Ankarafantsika

#### **ANKARAFANTSIKA**

Ankarafantsika National Park protects Madagascar's western dry deciduous woodlands on a gently undulating area of 20000 ha. It also contains Lake Ravelobe, where we'll search, on foot or by boat, for the critically endangered Madagascar Fish-eagle; far less common than its African counterpart (less than 50 pairs still exist!). Other species here include White-throated Rail and Madagascar Jacana. We will spend most of our time stalking through the woodlands, where top target birds will be the stunning Schlegel's Asity, White-breasted Mesite and Van Dam's Vanga. We also hope to find Madagascar Ibis, Madagascar Buttonquail, Madagascar Green-pigeon, Grey-headed Lovebird, Greater Vasa Parrot, Coquerel's and Red-capped Couas, Madagascar Scops-owl, Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, White-headed, Sickle-billed and Rufous Vangas as well as Madagascar Cuckoo-shrike. Night walks with local guides in search for nocturnal lemurs, owls and chameleons will be an exciting after-dinner activity. We often see a staggering 8 species of lemurs on the night walks here, including the recently-described Golden-brown Mouse Lemur and the localised Mongoose Lemur. Some of the largest specimens of Oustalets's Chameleon can also be seen here! Our accommodation will be at the Ampijoroa Research Station, in either simple bungalows or tents (subject to availability). As this accommodation is rather basic, our special catering team will time and again surprise us with excellent fresh and tropical meals.

**Overnight:** Ankarafantsika

### Inclusions

- 16 nights in your chosen accomodation
- 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 (3persons 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 at 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