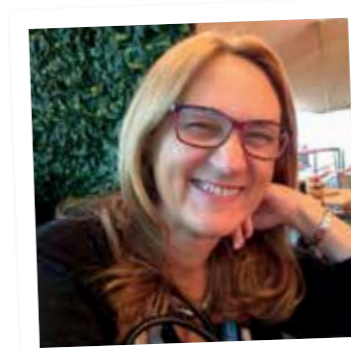




Peru, Cusco Province

Welcome



Travel has been my life for 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today. A recent visit to the gorillas of Uganda has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains. And reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures here are no less enthralling. And everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

Claire Farley

Claire Farley
Managing Director

Telephone 01582 766 122
Email claire@2by2holidays.co.uk
www.2by2holidays.co.uk



Madagascar

Madagascar is truly unique. It's the fourth largest island in the world and like nowhere else on earth. It separated from the African continent around 135 million years ago and now has many species of flora and fauna that are simply not found anywhere else. The island's many diverse habitats are each home to specific wildlife species including over 100 different lemur varieties, many colourful chameleons and an abundance of birdlife.

This magical spice island of pristine rainforests, huge baobabs and tropical palm-fringed beaches remains largely undeveloped and is an absolute treat for lovers of nature and the outdoors.

Ringtail lemur



Indri lemur

Madagascar's unique flora and fauna and its warm, friendly people make this a very special place, trumped only by the array of adorable lemurs. Wildlife viewing here is a truly magical experience but unlike a traditional safari where you are confined to a vehicle, in Madagascar it's all about walking. Different parks offer varying levels of physical challenge and you should be relatively mobile to get the most from the experience. Our knowledgeable English-speaking guides are some of the very best and their love of wildlife plays a big part in making our holidays here so memorable.

The capital city of Antananarivo (Tana) is the gateway to the country and the first overnight stop for most travellers. It has a choice of comfortable places to stay. Lodges in the more remote areas of the country tend to be more basic although they are clean and have hot water. If your creature comforts are important to you, consider one of the upmarket boutique properties that are found along the coast.

Forty minutes northeast of Tana you will find the fortified royal settlement (or 'rova') at the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga. Meaning 'Blue Hill', this complex of royal buildings and palaces is situated on the highest and most sacred of the twelve royal hills surrounding Tana and is a World Heritage Site. It is the best-preserved remains of the pre-colonial Merina

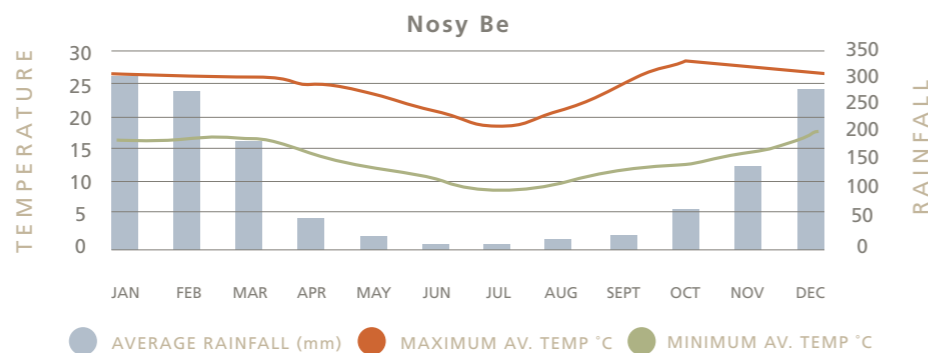
Kingdom and an important source of Malagasy identity. Andrianampoinimerina was its most famous king, as he united the various Malagasy tribes into a single kingdom. The walled historic village includes the tombs of several kings and queens.

When planning a wildlife trip to Madagascar, be aware that each lemur species has a very specific habitat, so it is necessary to visit many different parks if you wish to see a variety of different species.

Madagascar's most accessible national parks are Analamazaotra (formerly known

When to go

Madagascar has a hot tropical climate with different weather patterns in each of the key regions. The south, central and west regions can be visited all year round, but are best from May to November, when there is little rain and temperatures are not as hot. Rainfall is spread more evenly throughout the year in the northwest around Anjajavy & Nosy Be. The eastern rainforests are best visited during their dry season from August to November, when the lemurs give birth to their young – but take rain gear all year round and avoid the cyclone season from late January to March. Whale watching is best from June to September & birding is best during the breeding season from September to November. Botanists find mid-November to December very rewarding and April is best for reptiles.



Ile aux Nattes

Madagascar is one of the best places in the Indian Ocean to see migrating Humpback whales.

as the Perinet Reserve) and Mantadia, both near Andisabe, reached by a four-hour journey along the RN2, a relatively well-maintained road from Tana. These adjacent reserves are part of the protected Eastern Rainforest belt and are home to 11 lemur species. Perinet's secondary forest protects the world's largest lemur, the Indri, which stands about a metre high and is famous for its eerie wailing call that warns other troops to keep their distance. The park also protects the Grey bamboo lemur and the nocturnal Eastern woolly lemur, as well as many birds and other fascinating smaller creatures such as the chameleon and leaf-tailed gecko. Located about 12 miles to the north of Andasibe, the virtually untouched primary forest of Mantadia is more rugged and here you may spot Diadem sifaka, Black-and-white ruffed lemur and many rarely seen birds and reptiles. Expect to do a lot of walking in these luxuriant rainforests and take your rain gear, as it does get wet.

A popular way to explore several of Madagascar's major national parks and towns is overland along the RN7 road with a private driver and guide, beginning in Tana and travelling south to Tulear (Toliara) and Anakao on the southwest coast. This trip typically covers about 500

miles and takes two weeks. It includes the lemur-rich Ranomafana National Park, a refuge for Golden bamboo lemur, Milne-Edwards' sifaka and Red bellied lemur. It also takes in the spectacular sandstone rock formations and rare plants of Isalo National Park, the Andringitra massif and the old city of Fianarantsoa.

Madagascar is a vast country (over 1,000 miles long) and beyond the RN7 and RN2, most roads are poorly maintained. As travelling between reserves can be challenging, domestic flights are the best way to cover longer distances. Flights can be prone to time changes, so a well-planned itinerary and a relaxed attitude to the occasional unforeseen hiccup along the way are essential.

Located in the northeast of Madagascar and reached by plane from the capital or from the east coast town of Toamasina (Tamatave), Ile Sainte Marie (Nosy Borah) is one of Madagascar's less visited island gems. White sandy beaches backed by coconut palms, coral reefs, remnants of primary forest and multitudes of orchids make this long narrow island a tropical paradise. Ile Sainte Marie even has a pirates' graveyard at Baie de Forbans that bears witness to a fascinating period in its history, when it was ruled by pirate kings.



Tree frog



Lemurs and Rainforests

- DAY 1** Arrive in Antananarivo
- DAY 2** Visit Ambohimanga World Heritage Site
- DAYS 3/4** View the lemurs of the Analamazaotra (Perinet) & Mantadia National Parks
- DAY 5** Travel along the RN7 route to hot springs of Antsirabe
- DAYS 6/7** View the lemurs of Ranomafana Rainforest
- DAYS 8/9** Travel via the old city of Fianarantsoa to Isalo, with lemur viewing in Anja Reserve
- DAY 10** Travel to Tulear
- DAYS 11/13** Take the boat to beautiful Anakao Beach
- DAYS 14/15** Fly from Tulear to Antananarivo/Depart

From £3,795 per person sharing including flights, mid season



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on **01582 766 122** or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk

Madagascar's national lemur, and probably its most well-known, is the gregarious Ringtail. It is mainly found in the south of the country, including at Berenty.

With a few stylish and luxurious accommodation options, on Sainte Marie island you can snorkel, dive (qualified PADI instructors offer tuition for all levels of experience, including shipwrecks and night dives), and visit Ile aux Nattes where you can explore the island by bike. During the whale-watching season between June and September, guests can participate in the whale research that is based at the hotel.

Also on Madagascar's northeast coast, the Masoala Peninsula has one of the largest and most diverse areas of primary forest in the country. Here land has been set aside to form a national park, although the struggle against illegal logging and land clearance is ongoing. The national park is home to the attractive Red ruffed lemur as well as many rare endemic birds such as the Bernier's vanga.

The Berenty Reserve, located in the far south of Madagascar, is a visitor favourite with its habituated lemurs and easy forest pathways, but the en suite accommodation is fairly simple. Most famous are its troops of Ringtail lemur and the 'dancing' creamy white Verreaux's sifaka, with its chocolate brown cap. Nocturnal sightings may include White-footed sportive lemur and Grey mouse lemur. Bird watching is particularly rewarding here with almost 100 recorded species.

If budget allows there is a more upmarket, fly-in option to Mandrare River.



Traditional zebu cart

To the east and reached by road from Fort Dauphin, Manafiafy Beach is set on a perfect crescent bay fringed with palm trees. By combining these two areas you'll enjoy exceptional wildlife viewing in both dry spiny forest and lush rainforest, have access to local cultures and spend time relaxing on a gorgeous sandy beach. The snorkelling is good here and the whale watching between June and September is brilliant.

In the far north of Madagascar, the national park of Montagne d'Ambre is a botanist's delight, where the huge

variety of trees, reptiles and insects steal the show. Reached via the town of Antsiranana (Diego Suarez) the volcanic massif of Montagne d'Ambre, with its pristine montane rainforest, is home to two northern lemur species, Sanford's brown lemur and the Crowned lemur. Visitors may also spot the Ring-tailed mongoose, large chameleon and many bird species. The wide trails make this park especially accessible.

Nearby, the landscape of eroded limestone spikes (tsingys), canyons, caves and sunken forests of Ankarana National Park should not be missed if you have the time to explore further afield. The striking razor sharp tsingys rise up to over 70 metres from the ground. Hiking trails are driest from April through to November and you may spot the Crowned lemur and the Northern sportive lemur as well as the Brown mouse lemur and nearly a third of all the country's bird species.

The western side of Madagascar is drier than the east and the tropical forests here are home to a high number of endemic plants and wildlife. Kirindy Mitea National Park is the place to see Madagascar's largest predator, the elusive fossa and the world's smallest primate, Madame Berthe's mouse lemur. Over seven different baobab trees are found in Madagascar



Tsarabanjina Island

While Madagascar's unique wildlife is undoubtedly the main draw for many visitors, no holiday would be complete without time on one of its stunning turquoise Indian Ocean beaches.

and the Avenue of the Baobabs, near the coastal town of Morondava, is spectacular especially at sunset. Also in the west, there are dramatic tsingys at Behamara, a World Heritage Site, where limestone pinnacles rise up to over 100 metres. An ingenious system of pathways, steps, ladders and bridges help you to explore this remarkable natural phenomenon.

Madagascar's coastline is fringed with tiny islands, white sandy beaches and coral reefs. Many of the most popular beaches are found in the northwest, around the island of Nosy Be, but the area is relatively developed and gets busy in July and August. We favour the many islands and coastal hotels that are away from the Nosy Be tourist centre and while

these may take a little longer to reach, they more than repay the effort.

The secluded Anjajavy peninsula in the northwest offers a delightful eco-luxury option, having its own dry forest reserve. It is one of the best places to see the 'dancing' Coquerel's sifaka.

Lying between Nosy Be and the mainland, Nosy Komba's quiet sandy coves are also delightful.

Forty miles to the north of Nosy Be, Tsarabanjina is an idyllic private island in the Nosy Mitsio archipelago. The island is fringed with gorgeous pure white sandy beaches and encircled by coral reefs. It's an oasis of luxury where you can dive, snorkel or simply relax and enjoy the view from your hammock.



Panther Chameleon



Coquerel's sifaka



Luxury Madagascar

- DAY 1** Arrive in Antananarivo
- DAYS 2/3** View the lemurs of Analamazoatre (Perinet) & Mantadia National Parks
- DAY 4** Return to Antananarivo
- DAYS 5/9** Fly to magnificent Sainte Marie Island, with whale watching in season
- DAY 10** Fly back to Antananarivo
- DAYS 11/14** Fly to Anjajavy, with its dancing sifaka, & relax on its glorious beaches
- DAY 15** Fly back to Antananarivo/ Depart

From £5,495 per person sharing including flights, mid season



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on **01582 766 122** or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk



Ringtail lemurs



Book with confidence

We have ATOL certification and membership of the Association of Tour Operators (AITO).

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When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. In all our dealings we aim to be transparent and encourage you to read our terms and conditions thoroughly. These are on our website at www.2by2holidays.co.uk. Please do contact us if anything is unclear.

Financial Protection

Through our membership of ATOL (9025) and our Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is fully financially protected wherever in the world you live, regardless of whether you book land-only arrangements or a complete holiday package with flights.

AITO Quality Charter

AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Exclusive Membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial Security

An AITO member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the AITO logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK Government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to AITO on a regular basis.

Accurate brochures and websites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional service and continual improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire from their tour operator, the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

Sustainable tourism

Our members acknowledge the importance of AITOs Sustainable Tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

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All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, either party can call on an arbitration service to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

To contact AITO call 020 8744 9280 or visit their website www.aito.com

2by2 Holidays

2 Place Farm, off Mount Road
Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8SB
01582 766122
info@2by2holidays.co.uk
www.2by2holidays.co.uk



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