

# MADAGASCAR

September 23–October 10, 2012

An outstanding introduction to the botanical heritage and unique wildlife of Madagascar, this 18-day expedition offers nature enthusiasts an exceptional opportunity to become acquainted with the flora and fauna of Madagascar.

Here, on the fourth largest island in the world, isolated from the African continent for 30 million years, is a spectacular flora and fauna. Madagascar is home to at least 12,000 plants and a high percentage are unique to the country. Ninety-five percent of the lemurs and reptiles, 80 percent of the flowering plants, 98 percent of the palms, and more than 100 birds are simply found nowhere else.

Leading this tour will be **Herilala Jonah**, a Madagascar naturalist, who has a university education from South Africa. Escorting for the Pacific Horticultural Society will be **Kathy Musial**, Curator of Living Collections, Huntington Botanical Gardens.

The itinerary includes the capital city **Antananarivo**, plus:

- **Morondava & the Avenue of the Baobabs**, an iconic landscape in western Madagascar, soon to be a national monument.

- **Berenty Reserve**, on the sandy red banks of the Mandrare River, an internationally acclaimed

wildlife reserve in the semi-arid south. Enjoy the unique spiny desert dominated by baobabs, *Alluaudia*, and other plants found only in Madagascar, plus a profusion of ring-tailed lemurs, sifakas, lepilemurs, and flying foxes.

- **Nosy Be & Lokobe Reserve**, with a near-perfect climate and lush growth, Lokobe Reserve includes the last primary forest in the northwest. Also smell ylang-ylang blooms, along with vanilla beans, and see sugar cane and local gardens. The shore is lined by mangroves or white beaches. Snorkel and swim among colorful fish and see the sacred black lemurs.

- **Isole National Park**, an extraordinary landscape in the southwest with dramatic arid sandstone ridges sculpted by wind and water with many endemic plants of interest.

- **Perinet Reserve**, just a short distance from Antananarivo. Look for the largest of the lemurs, the indri, noted for its ear-shattering cries and agility in traveling through the rainforest canopy. Explore the moist forest with trees covered in epiphytes, ferns, and large lianas with bamboo below.

Also of interest will be the intriguing cultural heritage of Madagascar, with antecedents from Indonesia, Arabia, Africa, and Europe.



*Dear Travelers:*

*In 2012, we invite you to join this exceptional expedition to see the native plants and wildlife of Madagascar, led by an outstanding Madagascar guide.*

*This extraordinary country, isolated off the east coast of Africa, is one of the world's highest conservation priorities. Here, the proportion of unique species may be incomparable on earth – an evolutionary heritage of tremendous interest to travelers, botanists, conservationists, and scientists, alike.*

*During this 18-day expedition, you will visit the finest reserves in the country, from Perinet to Isole and Berenty. There will be special opportunities to learn about the Malagasy heritage and biological diversity in this enchanting land of Lemur catta and Didiereaceae!*

*We hope you will join us, and discover the magnificence and adventure of Madagascar in 2012!*

*Sincerely yours,  
Kathy Musial,  
For Pacific Horticulture Society*

# Itinerary

## Days 1/3 USA to Paris & Madagascar

Fly to Paris September 23, arriving the next day. Depart the evening of September 24 on Air Madagascar for Antananarivo, arrive the morning of Day 3. A short drive will bring us into "Tana," a captivating city of hills with the architectural ambiance of the French countryside and beauty of the Malagasy people. Enjoy a city tour this afternoon. *Royal Palissandre Hotel. D*

## Day 4 Morondava & the Avenue of the Baobabs

Our introduction to the natural heritage of Madagascar will begin with a flight to Morondava on the west coast. Here we will have an excursion by 4 x 4 vehicle to one of Madagascar's iconic botanical landscapes—the Avenue of the Baobabs—for wonderful photos at sunset. *Palissandre Cote Ouest. B,L,D*

## Day 5 Morondava, Tana & Perinet

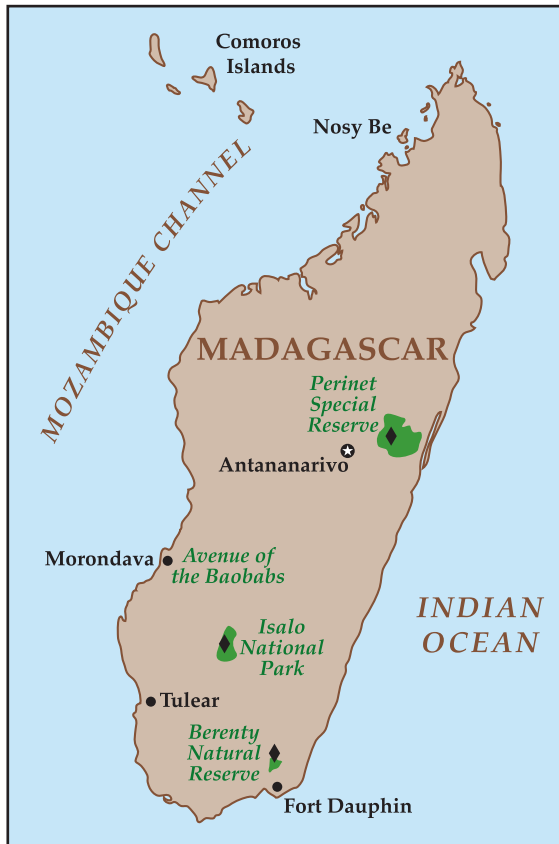
This morning, we will fly to Tana and drive towards the eastern coast of the country. We will descend from an elevation of 4,500 feet on the central plateau down the steep eastern escarpment to the moist montane rainforest and farms near Perinet. *Vakona Lodge (3 nights)*, between Perinet and Mantadia National Park. *B,L,D*

## Day 6 Perinet & Mantadia National Park

This morning, we will go to Mantadia National Park, home to the most colorful lemur in Madagascar, the diademed sifaka, as well as the most aggressive lemur, the black and white ruffed lemur. This park is also rich in plants found nowhere else in the world. It is the right place to find out more about the lianas and epiphytes such as orchids. Mosses and tree ferns (*Cyathea*) are abundant. We will try to see *Tambourissa*, a special tree most people use for house construction. Evening expedition before dinner to spot the world's smallest primate, the mouse lemur, plus small tree frogs and tiny chameleons.

## Day 7 Perinet

Morning expedition in the Analamazaotra National Park. This forest has a high rate of plant endemism as it is the only place to see the following plants: *Cymbidiella falcigera*, a rare



orchid that grows on palms, *Pandanus*, with large green leaves where some small frogs hide, and *Cyathea*, arborescent ferns with large fronds. As we walk the wooded ridges, shady creek bottoms, and fern-edged lakes of Perinet, we will also look for *Dalbergia*, rose wood, *Weinmannia*, and palms. Impatiens and Labiatae are common ground covers. This is another fine area to look for some of the endemic birds of Madagascar, including vangas, cuckoo-rollers, and sunbirds. At the same time we will try to find the world's largest lemur, *Indri indri*, well-known for its loud haunting call, and visit the Orchid Garden.

## Day 8 Perinet & Antananarivo

As we leave the lush beauty of Perinet, the rainforest immediately gives way to heavily logged hills, camps for charcoal production, and ragged red gullies swirling with muddy torrents. We will also see forests planted to generate wood for future charcoal production. *Royal Palissandre Hotel. B,L,D*

## Day 9 Antananarivo & Nosy Be

Today, we will fly to the tropical island of Nosy Be. Low key and relaxing, Nosy Be has curving white sand beaches, prosperous sugarcane fields, gnarled ylang ylang trees (a source of perfume) and edges the Indian Ocean. We will stay at the *Royal Beach Hotel (2 nights)*. Upon arrival, we will take a boat to Nosy Komba. Here the sacred Black Lemurs will welcome us. We will then sail on to Nosy Tanikely for snorkelling and to see the old lighthouse. *B,L,D*

## Day 10 Lokobe Reserve

After breakfast, we'll drive to a village called Ambatonizavavy to take wooden pirogues to Lokobe. This is the last rainforest in northwestern Madagascar. We will explore the trails of this mid-level evergreen forest which draws visitors to see the endemic Black Lemur. We will also look for tree ferns, tree euphorbias, woody lianas of *Entada*, wild coffee, and *Diospyros*, the genus of the true ebony. Many of the trees have buttress roots or stilt aerial

roots, namely *Uapaca ambanjensis*, and epiphytic orchids overhead. We will also see the large trees *Canarium madagascariens* and *Gluta tourtour*, a hardwood for carving, in the same family as mango trees. *B,L,D*

## Day 11 Nosy Be & Antananarivo

We'll return to Antananarivo on Day 11, and the *Relais du Plateaux Hotel. B,L,D*

## Day 12 Tana, Fort Dauphin & Berenty

This morning, we will fly to picturesque Fort Dauphin in south-east Madagascar and then drive to Berenty through a reserve which protects the world's only three-cornered palm. The bizarre woody and thorny plants of the spiny desert are reminiscent of the Sonoran Desert of the American Southwest, but composed primarily of species unique to Madagascar.

Berenty is a superb wildlife reserve which has attracted

## FLORA OF MADAGASCAR

Madagascar has fascinated generations of naturalists to the extent that some have devoted their whole lives to study its endemic flora and fauna. From the arid south to the luxuriant east offers a great range of habitats, temperature, and precipitation, to create many ecological niches. Madagascar has 10 endemic plant families, 260 genera, and over 12,000 species of which 80% are endemic making it one of the most diverse floras on Earth. 165 of Madagascar's 170 species of palms are endemic and 6 of the 8 species of baobab are found only in Madagascar.

There are 1,000 species of orchids and 85% are endemic. Madagascar has more orchid species than

the entire continent of Africa. There are 60 species of *Nepenthes*, the pitcher plant, and most grow arboreally. *Aloe* has more than 30 species here and most are endemic.

Rosy periwinkle is used to treat leukemia and has anti-cancer properties. There has long been a great interest in herbal medicines and you can see this in markets, and vendors on the street. The alluaudias, didiereas, and euphorbias of the arid spiny south are good examples of convergent evolution with the cacti of North America. Lemurs have no problems jumping from one spine-covered branch to the next.





# A Pacific Horticulture Tour

considerable international attention. Here, the de Heaulme family established a reserve on the bank of the Mandrare River to protect the woods and their captivating inhabitants, the lemurs. Great long rows of sisal line the red sands of the plantation ending abruptly at the edge of the spiny forest. We will have simple accommodations at *Berenty Lodge (2 nights)*. B,L,D

### Days 13/14 Berenty Reserve

We will wake at dawn to begin to enjoy the lemurs' antics and early chorus of birdlife. Just ahead may be a half dozen ring-tailed lemurs. Nearby sifakas may cavort in a tree while soft gray lepilemurs may peer down at us from their daytime roosts. Hundreds of flying foxes may cling just under the forest canopy. The spiny forest supports crested couas, hoopoes, bushlarks, cisticolas, doves, and other bird species.

In the afternoon, we will explore the spiny forest to discover plants endemic to the south of Madagascar, including the Didiereaceae. We'll see some *Alluaudia procera*, *Alluaudia ascendens*, and the octopus tree *Didierea madagascariensis*. Many Euphorbia species are also found here such as the sausage bush, *Euphorbia onoclada*, and *Euphorbia stenoclada*, plus *Aloe vaombe* which is the tallest Madagascar aloe.

Return to Fort Dauphin on Day 14 and the *Croix de Sud Hotel*. B,L,D

### Day 15 Fort Dauphin, Tulear & Isalo

This morning we will fly from Fort Dauphin to Tulear in the southwest. We'll then drive 200 km inland to Parc National de L'Isalo, situated on a sandstone massif, and heavily eroded by wind and water into fascinating formations. *Hotel Relais de la Reine (2 nights)*. B,L,D

### Day 16 Isalo National Park

Today, we will spend the whole day in Isalo National Park. It is famous for its canyons and sclerophyllous woodland dominated by *Uapaca bojeri*. During our expedition in the canyon, we'll see *Pandanus* forest, xerophytic plants, and some palm species including *Ravenea* and *Dypsis*. Along the stream from the canyon, we will look for lemurs feeding on *Melia azedarach* and *Mangifera indica*. On the way to the natural pool, we will see elephant's foot *Pachypodium rosulatum* with a beautiful yellow flower, and many rare endemic plants. B,L,D

### Days 17/18 Tulear, Tana, Paris & Home

We will visit the botanical garden in Tulear before our return flight to Tana. Take the late evening Air Madagascar flight to Paris October 9, arriving on the morning of October 10, then have connecting flights back to the USA. B,L/—

## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** \$3,995 per person twin share for 18 days (land only); \$1,295 round trip airfare Paris-Madagascar, plus taxes and fuel surcharge; \$1,295 airfare for in-country flights. Total from Paris \$6,585. Single supplement \$1,195.

**What to Expect:** An exceptional exploration of superb nature reserves of Madagascar and its cultural heritage, led by an excellent naturalist. Travel by coach and boat, with daily outings of one to two miles on foot at a leisurely pace suitable for natural history study; also swimming and snorkeling. Typically, temperatures are in the 70's to 80's in Madagascar with moderate humidity. Most of our time is near sea level in Madagascar, though Antananarivo is at 4,500 feet and it can be in the 50's. If any questions, please consult your physician. This expedition will be an extraordinary experience for adventurous travelers in good health who can enjoy some modest accommodations and bumpy dirt roads for the chance to explore outstanding

OVER



## Reservations

#1258

**Yes!** I/We want to join the **Madagascar Expedition, September 23–October 10, 2012** offered by **Pacific Horticulture**. Please reserve \_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriber: \_\_\_ Pacific Horticulture

Accommodations Preference:

\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_ Single \_\_\_ Twin Share with a friend *or* \_\_\_ assign a roommate

\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_ Smoker

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

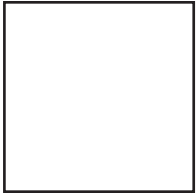
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To: Madagascar 2012, Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**





**Pacific Horticulture**  
P.O. Box 680, Berkeley, CA 94701



**FIRST CLASS**



*Join us!... As we explore MADAGASCAR!*  
*September 23–October 10, 2012*

## Costs & Conditions (continued)

environments in remote areas of the country. In Madagascar, flight schedule and itinerary changes may occur over which there is no control; be delighted if this is not the case. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals.)

### **Expedition Fee Includes:**

Land transportation as described; airport transfers; accommodations twin share; meals in Madagascar; tips to local guides; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, coordination, administration; \$250 donation to Pacific Horticulture Society.

### **Expedition Fee Does Not Include:**

International or in-tour air fare (quoted separately); gratuity to expedition leader; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, snacks, bottled water, passport, excess baggage charges, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure tax.

### **Accommodations:**

Are in first class hotels in Antananarivo and Nosy Be with private facilities. At Morondava, Berenty, Isalo, and Perinet, we will stay in country-style lodges with private facilities. A couple are simple but "best available" and certainly part of the adventure of

travel in Madagascar. All singles may have to be paired with a roommate in remote areas. If you do not have a roommate, you must pay the single supplement of \$1,195.

### **Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:**

Air fare quoted is based on a group fare from Paris and Madagascar, round trip, plus in-tour flights. All air bookings, ticketing, and invoicing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND FUEL SURCHARGE.

### **Reservations, Deposits &**

**Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit of \$500 per person to:

**Botanical Madagascar 2012  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 60 days before departure (July 23, 2012).

### **Questions:**

Please call Marisa Eide at  
**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: (800) 252-4910  
OR: (408) 252-4910  
Fax: (408) 252-1444

### **Email:**

Marisa@betchartexpeditions.com

### **Cancellations & Refunds:**

The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day

period unless your place can be resold, then only the \$100 handling fee will be withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features.



**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc. and Pacific Horticulture Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Map by April Milne.

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