



**MADAGASCAR SOUTH CLASSIC TOUR**  
**ABC AFRICA TRAVEL & TOURS 2013**  
**09 Days/07 Nights**  
**Based on Air France flight**

*Departure from Imerina through the highlands to reach "the city of water". Parks and reserves with endemic flora and fauna visit. Discovery of the massif of Isalo.*

**DAY 1: PARIS /ANTANANARIVO Flight AF**

Arrival from Paris at late in night. Reception and transfer in hotel **CARLTON, 5\*** for **overnight**.

**DAY 2: ANTANANARIVO /ANTSIRABE**

Breakfast and departure for Antsirabe the buzzing town with pousse-pousse (rickshaw) Possibility to visit a cookware handmade at Ambatolampy. In late evening transfer for **dinner and overnight** at the **ROYAL PALACE HOTEL** or similar.

**DAY 3: ANTSIRABE/RANOMAFANA**

Breakfast and short city tour of Antsirabe. Departure for the national park of Ranomafana throughout this road decorated by the upper eucalyptus forest and the thousands of rice's fields. Stop at Ambositra which is famous for its wood carvings and where you will find an abundant choice of carved figurines and marquetry. Then heading to **Ambohimahaso**, **lunch** with Malagasy specialties and traditional dance of the highlands. Continuation to **Ranomafana**, "the spa town". Diner and overnight at **SETAM LODGE** or similar.

**DAY 4: RANOMAFANA/FIANARANTSOA**

Breakfast and morning tour to the **Ranomafana National Park** known for its wildlife and lush tropical flora. This Park of dense rainforest is the house of 26 species of mammals including 12 species of lemurs, not to mention the very rare Golden Bamboo Lemur, 96 species of birds and hundreds of orchids. The endemic flora and fauna attracts national and foreign researchers, especially Americans who created the Research Centre VALBIO. After **lunch** in hotel, driving to **Fianarantsoa**, the capital of Betsileo, a city connecting the South to the Highlands. Upon arrival, city tour. **Dinner and overnight** at the hotel **TSARA GUEST HOUSE** or similar.

## **DAY 5: FIANARANTSOA/RANOHIRA**

After breakfast, driving to **Ambalavao** at the discovery of the production of the "**Antemoro Paper**", made of Avoha bark and decorated with natural flowers. Ambalavao is also known for the famous "Zebus Market" which takes place every Wednesday and Thursday morning. After **lunch** in a restaurant, continuation to **Ranohira** through the "Doors of South", crossing the savannah. Far 15 kilometers from Ambalavao, stop to visit **Ny Anjà reserve**. It's devoted to admire Lemur catta, birds, reptiles...

Continuation to Ranohira and installation at hotel

**Dinner and overnight** at the hotel **ISALO ROCK LODGE, 4\*** or similar.

## **DAY 6: RANOHIRA (Trekking)**

Day devoted to the discovery of the **massif of Isalo** with its impressive reliefs and granite sculptures dating back to the Jurassic Era. Climbing through canyons we come across the "Lemur fulvus rufus" and some desert plants such as the "Pachypodium rosolatum" or "dwarf baobab", 50-60 cm high dressed with pretty yellow flowers. Possibility to walk to the Natural Pool formed by a small stream that flows through the pandanus and other amazing aquatic plants. By late afternoon, appointment at the "Natural Window of Isalo" to admire the sunset. **Lunch picnic** during the visit. **Dinner and overnight** at the hotel **ISALO ROCK LODGE, 4\*** or similar.

## **DAY 7: RANOHIRA/TULEAR/ANTANANARIVO Flight MD**

Breakfast and departure to Tulear (according to schedule flight) through the Zombitse forest dotted with baobabs crossing Ilakaka, the region of Sapphire searchers, the typical landscape of Southern Madagascar: dry vegetation, baobabs and thorny forest. On the road, adorned with various forms of Aloalo (tomb stones artistically carved in wood), observation of Mahafaly tombs and sculptures, eternal witnesses to the importance of ancestors worship in the Malagasy society. Arrival in Tulear, "the Sun City", built on the Tropic of Capricorn. **Lunch** in a restaurant and visit of the city, with the shellfish market and the botanic garden "**Arboretum**". Transfer to the airport for the flight MD Tulear/Antananarivo scheduled at ... p.m. Arrival in Antananarivo, transfer to the hotel. **Dinner and overnight** at the **HOTEL CARLTON, 5\***

### ***Possibility of beach portion extension***

## **DAY 8: ANTANANARIVO/PARIS Flight AF**

Breakfast and day visit Antananarivo, whose original name was **Analamanga** (blue forest) and is commonly called "the city of a thousand", name given after the capture and defense of a thousand warriors. Founded in the early 17th century, and inhabited by the Merina ethnic group, which in Malagasy means "those living in the Highlands" prepared on 12 sacred hills at an altitude between 1,200 meters and 1,500 meters. Antananarivo has approximately 1,600,000 inhabitants, scattered among numerous typical neighborhoods and between their very different paths from many narrow streets and alleyways littered by small local markets. Visiting this capital city, will lead us to admire the Palazzo della Regina "Rova", now under restauration, the Grand boulevard of independence "the esplanade of Analakely" with its typical train station at the time, some large local markets, not least the lovely the flower market pretty Anosy, without forgetting the typical market Digue, which exposes a variety of handicraft products come from every part of the island. **Lunch at restaurant**

Installation in hotel for **Day Use and dinner**, then transfer to airport for the flight to Paris

## **DAY 9: PARIS**

Flight to Paris (01:00 a.m.)

## **END OF ABC AFRICA SERVICES**

## **DESCRIPTION: Short Circuit Nature & Culture**

Departure from Imerina, the capital Antananarivo (central highlands). Reaching the artisans of the region Vakinankaratra, Antsirabe (aluminums cookware handmade, working zebu horn and the laboratory of miniature toys), but also important centre of textile and tobacco industry..., like a quiet country town in Europe.

Stop in Ambositra, visit of the Zafimaniry Art, known as a World Heritage for the UNESCO.

Visit of the Ranomafana National Park, discovery of animals, endemic flora and fauna.

Stop in Ambalavao, visit of the famous homemade "Antaimoro card". The massif of Isalo National Park created in 1962 considered as the main sight of "the road to the South" like ... American Canyons.

Continuing to the south, passing through a semi-arid landscape to see the funeral art featuring the graves of local ethnic groups such as the Sakalava, Mahafaly and Antandroy.

**NOTE: Taking photos of the tombstones is not prohibited, but local people do not like the intrusion, because we are entering into their intimacy' and their sacredness'.**

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

- Best time: From April to June – From September to October.
- Best hotel infrastructures selected in the region.
- Paved road until Tulear but a short runway in Isalo.
- Circuit not difficult, but visiting the parks and reserves requires physical effort, the visits can take between 3 / 4 hours of walking.
- In the rainforest Ranomafana National Park, K-way is required.
- Preventing health: To come to Madagascar, it is not required to be vaccinated, we just recommend you to bring your antibiotic anti-malaria and your anti-mosquito cream.
- Do not forget: please bring your bathing suit, some warm clothes and sun creams, anti-mosquito and good walking shoes, hat and sun glasses.
- Climate:
- Southern summer (November-March): average 27 ° C - 35 ° C. The summer coincides with the rainy season from November to March.
- Southern winter: (April-October) - 18 ° C/25 ° C.

**IMPORTANT: During the period of July and August in the highlands up to Fianarantsoa, in the evening and it's very cold and 'wet, so you are strongly advised to hold the heavy sweaters and pajamas for the night.**