

Madagascar: A Wildlife Photography Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 28th September 2025



Greater Hedgehog Tenrec



Fossa



Malagasy Kestrel



Mocquard's Madagascar Ground Gecko

Tour report and photos by Oliver Smart



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Oliver Smart (leader) & Desi Rajeriarison (local guide)

Summary

Madagascar has so much diversity and is incredibly rich in resources and wildlife; however, it has been much depleted in recent decades. But there is still so much to see, and there are many wonderful National Parks and private reserves where you can find some of the weird and wonderful creatures, very many of them endemic. During our three-week tour, we travelled many miles, climbed limestone pinnacles, rode canoes and boats, and ate way too much. There were too many highlights to list them all, but some of our favourite moments included seeing the Aye-aye, Ring-tailed Lemur, Fossa, Southern Flat-tailed Gecko, Dumeril's Boa, Greater Hedgehog Tenrec and Malagasy Flying Fox.

Day 1

Monday 8th September

London to Ethiopia

We braced ourselves for two medium flights almost crossing the whole of Africa. We landed early in the morning in Addis Ababa for a flight change and departed within a couple of hours.

Day 2

Tuesday 9th September

Ethiopia to Madagascar & Le Combava

After completing our second, somewhat shorter flight, we arrived ahead of schedule in Antananarivo, or Tana for short. We completed immigration and passport control and collected our bags which all arrived on time. We met Desi Rajeriarison, our local guide for the duration of our trip, and then completed money exchange and SIM card purchases.

Le Combava hotel was a short twenty-minute ride from the airport, and the gentle warmth of the afternoon was lovely to feel after the cold inside the plane cabins. We checked in, and soon met for a walk along the banks of the village, overlooking growing rice paddies. There was no high expectation of many birds, but Red Fody, Madagascar Mannikin, Common Myna, Malagasy Black Swift, Black-crowned Night Heron, Dimorphic Egret and Squacco Heron all put in appearances. The glorious webs of Red-legged Golden Orb-weaver Spiders were in a few places; the females were all in attendance waiting for some unsuspecting insect to fly in. We spent the minutes before sunset capturing images of the fields with the orange glowing sun behind. Sunset came quickly and the temperature cooled quickly. We headed back for a short break, followed by our briefing and our first very satisfying meal.

Day 3

Wednesday 10th September

Lake Alarobia, Photography Museum & Queen's Palace

With a good night's sleep, we were up early and out on the road by 6.45am. We wanted to get to Lake Alarobia as soon as possible. There was quite a cool wind, and we all wished we had an extra layer on! We walked clockwise around the lake, the smallest Ramsar site in the world. The water was covered in ducks: hundreds, if not thousands.

They were mostly Red-billed Teals but there were also a few Meller's Ducks, Blue-billed Teals, White-faced Whistling Ducks and a couple of Knob-billed Ducks. There were huge numbers of herons including Black, Dimorphic, Cattle and Great Egrets, along with Squacco Herons and a Malagasy Pond Heron.

As the sun broke through the light cloud, the warming ground started to encourage butterflies, and we soon spotted Brilliant Blue, Madagascar Brown Pansy and Tiny Grass Blue. We also found an Oustalet's Chameleon and many Striped Day Gecko, which appeared to become more emerald-green the longer they basked in the sunshine. We spent several hours wandering around and taking photographs. Some enjoyed shooting the birds in flight, while others spent more time photographing the invertebrates as well as the Red-legged Golden Orb Weaver Spider. There were many unidentified species too, which would be sorted out in time. Madagascar Kingfisher, Mascarene Martin, Yellow-billed Kite and Madagascar Hoopoe also added to the morning's tally.

For lunch we headed into the centre of Tana, to the Palissandre Hotel. Not only do they prepare fabulous food, but we also enjoyed lovely views looking over part of the city. After a suitable rest, and with Bodo, our guide, we headed to the *Musée de la photographie de Madagascar* for an hour to see the latest exhibits, including their main feature on water and its impacts, beliefs and importance to the Malagasy people. A Malagasy Kestrel was the only new species here.

Our penultimate stop was at the Queen's Palace, a place razed to the ground by fire in 1995. It has since been rebuilt, although as there is no longer a king or queen, it stands as a museum and fabulous place to gaze over the city, being the highest point in Tana. A Malagasy White-eye was a new species of bird, and several Painted Lady butterflies seemingly enjoyed themselves basking in the late afternoon sunshine.

We finished at the Maison de Royale Hotel, a few hundred yards from the palace. Here we had a cocktail and snacks as we watched the sun go down behind the distant hills. It was a great way to end our first full day in Madagascar.

Day 4

Thursday 11th September

Transfer to Morondava & Avenue of Baobabs

Our morning started with breakfast and a transfer to the airport for a flight to Morondava on the west coast. It was slightly delayed, but we all enjoyed the business lounge. We were met by our drivers on arrival and taken straight to the Palissandre Cote Ouest hotel for lunch, and to settle into our beachfront rooms.

Mid-afternoon, we spent time with our leader running through the camera settings and options for photographing the Milky Way as a backdrop to images of baobabs. On the journey, we spotted Pied Crow and Namaqua Dove. At the park, we were not the only visitors and so we made our escape to the quieter areas through some scrub. We took lots of images of the stunning Grandidier's Baobabs with the sun behind us, before moving to another large tree. As we approached, we flushed a Madagascar Nightjar. Our leader was able to relocate it, and we managed to capture some shots.

We were now in a hurry to complete the second part of the evening, with the sun setting behind the baobabs. We repositioned near a marshy pool and set about capturing the orange sky, with silhouetted trees and a sunburst coming through the branches. It worked well, and the results were rather pleasing.

Our final shoot was with the stars as the backdrop. We set up, and with our custom functions already set, we composed our images and started taking shots. The Milky Way was running parallel to the track, so it was tricky and hard work trying to get the best angle. We were also plagued by large numbers of local people appearing out of the darkness as they headed to a nearby party! We retreated back into the scrubby forest, where we had peace and quiet, and were able to capture some very satisfying images.

Day 5

Friday 12th September

Palissandre Cote Ouest & transfer to Kirindy

We woke early to the gregarious sounds of a dozen or more Common Mynas, and we were out and onto the beach by 7.00am. We didn't walk far, looking out to see at the various pirogues and sailing fishing ships. There were few birds, and a distant group of Greater Flamingoes was literally all we could see. In the scrub at the edge of the beach, we found a pair of Olive Bee-eaters and a large flock of Madagascar Mannikins, and Red Fodies were foraging; these made for some nice photographs, particularly in the warm early morning light.

After our only breakfast at this hotel, we packed and set off at 9.30am for Kirindy. This road was classic for Madagascar: sandy with bumps and gullies. It's always a treat to experience this, the perfect African massage, rocking and rolling for a couple of hours until we arrived at our rustic accommodation.

Following lunch and a short break, we convened to discuss the use of flash in the forest at night, and then set off for the National Park, spotting a Giant Coua along the entrance track. As we arrived, we were quickly ushered through the park camp, as a Fossa was sleeping behind one of the buildings: what a start to the afternoon! We enjoyed over half an hour with her as she rolled over and stretched repeatedly. We eventually left her to it, after taking a load of images, and then quickly photographed a couple of Oustalet's Chameleons in the parking area. We walked into the forest and soon located a Souimanga Sunbird, and then two delightful White-breasted Mesites slowly walking through the forest, flicking leaf litter here and there. A superb Crested Drongo joined them, and was soon swooping down, stealing some of the invertebrates they were disturbing. One of the group spotted three Verreaux's Sifakas high in a Fony Baobab, and then our local guide Soa located a super Red-tailed Sportive Lemur roosting in a tree hole, ending our afternoon session.

For the evening, we relocated a short distance to another part of the forest, and set about trying to locate some nocturnal wildlife. We were quickly onto a Grey Mouse Lemur, which posed beautifully for us. Then a Pale Fork-marked Lemur was very confiding as it licked sap off the trunk. This was one of several that we saw, making it a very productive walk. We also found a couple of Large-headed Geckos, superbly well-camouflaged among the leaf litter. They stayed motionless, as they thought they had not been spotted, making them a perfect model to photograph. A White-browed Owl in the car park was a great end to a superb first visit to the park; it had been a lovely place to find our first four lemur species.

Day 6

Saturday 13th September

Kirindy

Setting off before breakfast at 6.00am, we soon met up with Soa and entered Kirindy Forest. The morning is always much more productive for spotting birds, and a little later the lemurs become active as they started foraging. The conditions were calm with beautifully soft light. We quickly found a female Madagascar Magpie-Robin which posed in the vegetation, creating a simple but pleasing shot, particularly as it was calling. We then encountered further White-breasted Mesites, along with Crested Drongos. Next was a super Hook-billed Vanga, which we stalked and followed through the forest. It was nonplussed by our presence, and continued foraging, quite unconcerned.

For about an hour it got quite chaotic when we encountered a feeding flock moving through the forest. First, we had Rufous Vanga and then Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher. Several Long-billed Bernierias annoyingly moved every time we were about to take a shot, their continuous activity and foraging being hard to follow. We also found Greater and Lesser Vasa Parrots as they flew overhead. Crested Couas called in the background, and finally a gorgeous Blue Vanga appeared for a few minutes.

We continued, and encountered a couple of Coquerel's Couas, which was a nice bonus, as well as a Madagascar Cuckooshrike. Finally, we struck gold with two parties of lemurs: Verreaux's Sifakas and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. We spent an hour or so with them before it was time to head back for breakfast, to avoid the hottest part of the morning.

Before lunch, we had an hour on photo processing, and focused particularly on how to improve and clean up an astro-photographed image. At 3.30pm, we headed back into the forest for our afternoon session. We stayed in the camp grounds for an hour: a pair of Madagascar Hoopoes were happily feeding on a sand bank. Then another group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs were found sitting in the trees, waiting to come down to drink. We took a hike through the dry forest, hoping to locate a mongoose, but had no joy. We did find a Giant Coua, which allowed a close approach.

Our final stop was to look for the Giant Jumping Rat. We set up alongside a burrow, but there was no sign this evening. We did enjoy the antics of a Bastard Big-footed Mouse instead; it hopped around like a kangaroo.

Day 7

Sunday 14th September

Transfer to Tsingy de Bemeraha

Today was a long, hot and bumpy one. It's almost unavoidable, but from Kirindy the only real way to get to the Tsingy de Bemeraha is via 4x4, overland for about eight hours. We crossed two rivers using ferries, which were basically rafts on top of two huge canoes. The best bird sighted was a Madagascar Sandgrouse, but most of the group missed it! We stopped for a superb lunch at Mad Zebu Restaurant in Belo sur Tsiribihina, with a delicious and incredibly well-presented assortment of courses; the dessert was epic!

There was no real photographic activity during the day, as we had a long crossing and broke down with a split radiator, caused by a faulty thermostat: we had an hour's delay as the drivers fixed it with some epoxy resin! We did see a few birds though during the trip, including Madagascar Buttonquail and Frances's Sparrowhawk close to Kirindy, and later Madagascar Lark and Madagascar Pratincole. As we crossed the final river, Glossy Ibises and Black-winged Stilts were in the water. We'd see more wetland birds tomorrow.

After checking in and relaxing for a couple of hours, we had dinner and then enjoyed a walk around the grounds, looking for nocturnal wildlife. We managed to find several Oustalet's Chameleons and a group of Flatid Leaf Bugs, bizarre insects which look like they have a piece of branched lichen stuck on their backs.

Day 8

Monday 15th September

Petite Tsingy

Today was our first day in the Tsingy de Bemeraha National Park, and we woke to overcast conditions: absolutely perfect! The sun and heat here are often quite extreme, so it was nice to get started on the canoe trip in warm weather, with the lightest of breezes and cloud cover maintaining a bright, diffuse light.

We collected our local reserve guide Augustin and our two pairs of dugout canoes, and set off up the Manambolo River. Immediately, we spotted our first of many Madagascar Pratincoles, and we were able to photograph a number of individuals on the limestone cliffs. They are an endemic breeding species, wintering in southern Africa.

As we cruised smoothly along the river, we also spotted and photographed Mascarene Martin, Striated Heron, Dimorphic Egret, Black-winged Stilt and Madagascar Fish Eagle. We were hoping the eagle would take flight, but it remained motionless on its high vantage point. We also spotted Malagasy Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Kite, Common Sandpiper and Greenshank. We stopped at a cave and explored inside, checking out the stalactites and amazing fig tree roots!

We soon had to return to complete our Petite Tsingy walk, so we slowly ventured back and picked up a pair of Cuckoo-rollers flying overhead. We set off on the inner loop trail, first running back along the edge of the river, and then visiting some marshes. Here we had a fine Humblot's Heron, many Grey-headed Lovebirds, Madagascar Green Pigeon and Malagasy Coucal.

Continuing up through the limestone rocks, we clambered and climbed, and ducked and squeezed through various rocky outcrops, gullies and boulders. It was great fun, and we were rewarded at several points with fantastic views over the limestone pinnacles. The sun remained hidden, so it was a warm and humid experience without the typical intense heat.

Back at the hotel, we took lunch and then had chance to rest and relax before dinner, and a second evening walk around the grounds. Tonight, we located a number of excellent species to shoot, including Common Madagascar Cat Snake, Carpet (aka Jewell) Chameleon, Mocquard's Madagascar Ground Gecko, a scorpion, several species of cockroach and various other invertebrates and arachnids.

Day 9

Tuesday 16th September

Grande Tsingy

After our introduction to the tsingy (bizarre, spiky limestone rock formations), we were now heading to our starting point for a longer hike and climb through the Grande Tsingy. We arrived at the parking area and put on our harnesses. We started our walk in beautiful conditions with a warm sun, and a chance to capture some wildlife as we continued through the forest, before reaching the first climbing section. We encountered Von der Decken's Sifaka quite early on, and a group of six was feeding in a *Ficus* tree. We spent time with them, along with Lesser Vasa Parrot and a Madagascar Green Pigeon. A Cuckoo-roller flew by too.

The forest, divided up by tall stands of weathered limestone, is quite spectacular, and soon we located a small group of birds including Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Malagasy Brush Warbler, Common Newtonia and a male Forest Rock Thrush.

Reaching the starting point of the main climb, we were given instructions on connecting our rope carabiners to the metal lines, and soon we were heading to the top of the tsingy. It was hot, and a few other small groups were ahead of us, so it took a little time, but soon we were standing on a platform overlooking the most incredible and unusual view of limestone pinnacles cutting every way across the landscape.

We continued to work our way along the rocks and across a wood and rope footbridge to another viewpoint, before we started our descent through various caves and deep ravines in the rock. In the bowels of the tsingy we located a rather obliging Western Nesomys (a large rat), and another pair of very confiding Forest Rock Thrushes. Outside and back on the forest track, we relocated a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs we'd seen earlier, and took a few more shots, before spotting a super cute Randrianasolo's Sportive Lemur poking its head out of its roosting hole. We returned for a late lunch and our bumpy journey back to the hotel.

Day 10

Wednesday 17th September

Petite Tsingy & transfer to Tana

Our flight back to Tana was scheduled for early afternoon, so it turned out we had a bonus morning session. We returned to the park, to a different area, and explored more forest and some wetland habitat. We were able to entice Augustin back too, so he guided us through a section of the Petite Tsingy for three hours in the morning.

We set off from the village close to the river and headed past a lake before entering the forest. Along the marsh, a pair of Cuckoo-rollers was perched, along with a Malagasy Coucal. The lake looked gorgeous in the early light, with a small flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks and a White-throated Rail, spotted by Desi. Entering the forest, we located a large male Oustalet's Chameleon and a number of Madagascar Forest Nymph butterflies, which just love to bask on the woodland floor. Their deep orange colouration blends in perfectly with the fallen brown leaves.

Once in the forest proper, we really felt like it was another world; so quiet and peaceful with bird sounds and invertebrates and reptiles popping up every now and then. A Gravenhorst's Mabuya and a Koch's Giant Day Gecko were photographed, and we ended up finding a small flock of birds moving through the understorey. These

are always exciting moments, as you never know what's going to turn up or how long it may last. Augustin started it off by spotting a Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, which posed nicely, and then a male Schlegel's Asity popped into view, a real treat and quite localised here. These are quite scarce birds, and are not often seen in this area, preferring the drier forests further north. It didn't stay long, but we were lucky to relocate it later, having also found a female. They appeared to be carrying nesting material, so they were probably breeding nearby. Oliver located a Hook-billed Vanga too, but it kept mostly out of sight.

After lunch and checkout, we took the hour's bumpy track to the aerodrome to join our small Cessna Caravan plane for the chartered flight back to Tana. This was a great experience, particularly as we were able to gaze down at the Grande Tsingy that we'd been exploring the day before. Everything looks so different from the air, and the landscape between here and Tana was stark, with mountains and valleys for tens of miles, with small settlements cropping up here and there. We flew over a few large lakes and a couple of major rivers too, their importance evident from the number of rice fields alongside.

Day 11

Thursday 18th September

Lemurs' Park & transfer to Berenty

With a short morning spare before our flight to Tolagnaro, we headed off after breakfast to Lemurs' Park. We arrived just before opening at 8.00am, and Jonathan showed us around the collection of captive, but uncaged lemurs. They have six diurnal species here, including Crowned and Coquerel's Sifakas, Common Brown Lemur, Black Lemur, Ring-tailed Lemur and Black-and white Ruffed Lemur. There were also Radiated Tortoise here, as part of a captive breeding programme.

We enjoyed the lemurs' antics and watched the behaviour of the different groups. As they all sleep at night, they have just a couple of rangers on shift to make sure they're all safe. Apart from the captive animals, we also spotted Malagasy White-eye, African Stonechat and Malagasy Kingfisher. There were also three huge Hamerkop nests in the grounds, and we watched the adult birds flying over and foraging along the boundary river.

After our time was up, we headed back through the chaotic city, collected our lunch, and then drove on to the national airport for our flight to Fort Dauphin. We arrived in good time at the airport, and after all formalities had been completed we relaxed in the business lounge and set off on time.

We were collected by our local Berenty guide, Lambert, and driver Antoine, and headed off for the two hour drive to the reserve. The road here has been improved and is fully tarmacked, so it makes it easy to get across the mountains, unlike in the old days. We stopped for some sunset shots and were intrigued by hordes of people running along the road with spears. There had been an inter-village competition, and the participants were all together on the main highway: it was quite a sight!

Day 12

Friday 19th September

Analalava Forest & Berenty

With three nights and the best part of two and a half days, we started early to maximise our time in this beautiful and unique habitat. We set off to the nearby Analalava forest at 5.30am when it was just getting light. We were on the lookout for lemurs to begin with, as they utilise the sunrise to warm up. They particularly love to climb the various octopus trees and bask in the sunshine. We found them within a few minutes, and stayed with two groups of Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas for over an hour or more: we captured some super images of them. There were females in both groups with babies too, which made a nice bonus.

As the sun slowly started to penetrate to the forest floor, we started to observe some other life. It was very productive, with many species of reptiles and birds, as well as several invertebrates. The reptiles included the most gorgeous juvenile Spider Tortoise, which must have been little more than 10cm long. We also spotted many Elegant Mabuyas, Thick-tailed Geckos and Madagascar Iguanas, as well as a Spiny Chameleon and two fabulous Pencil Snakes.

After breakfast we continued our walk through the gallery forest, running from the lodge down to the large nearby river. It was already heating up, and we managed to enjoy several species of butterfly, including new ones such as Madagascar Orange-tip, a skipper (*Coeliades Ernesti*) and Small Salmon Arab (*Colotis amata crowleyi*). There were also a few Malagasy Kestrels in the area, and plenty of Yellow-billed Kites overhead too.

After lunch and a short break, we stayed close to the car park area, where we walked the nearby trails, watching and tracking lemurs. We were waiting to see where the Verreaux's Sifakas would be heading tonight, and in particular, which open area of ground they might jump across. We located several groups, and decided on a small group of seven feeding very close to the reception. During the next hour or so, the animals shifted position, an indication of their likely direction of travel. We realised that being on the southern edge of the car park might work well, so we set up here and captured them as they crossed, one by one. The light was warm and soft, creating bands of light and shade, making a pleasing addition to our shots.

For our evening excursion, we planned to do some astrophotography once more; however, once in the spiny forest, it became evident that the sky was not clear, so we had to abandon that plan. We quickly switched over to our flash setups and continued with our secondary activity, wandering in the forest and looking for nocturnal wildlife. We did very well, with a number of White-footed Sportive Lemurs, Grey and Red-and-grey Mouse Lemurs, Madagascar Nightjar, Spiny Chameleon, Halloween Hisser (a cockroach), termites, spiders and a couple of roosting birds.

Day 13

Saturday 20th September

Angapolo Forest & Berenty

The early weather today was warm with a light breeze. We set off at 5.30am and headed off on the thirty-minute drive to Angapolo Forest. We met our local reserve ranger, who took us through the spiny forest. Our local reserve guide, Lambert, located the first of the lemurs, and we spent some of our time enjoying them climbing among the

Alluandia procera trees to bask in the sunshine. Two young Yellow-billed Kite appeared to annoy them; occasional alarm calls went up.

There were a few Verreaux's Sifakas here too; they spent more time foraging on the same type of tree, feeding on the heart-shaped leaves. They made for great images with the tree branches and a perfect blue sky behind.

As the sun climbed a little and reached the forest floor, we started spotting some other species. Running Couas were active; one posed nicely for us. A Common Newtonia, Grey-headed Lovebirds and several roosting White-footed Sportive Lemurs were seen too. Invertebrates started to become more active, with several butterflies on the wing, including African Common White (of the Madagascar subspecies), Common Leopard, Lang's Short-tailed Blue and Plain Tiger. We also found another new reptile, a nicely marked Gold-spotted Mabuya.

We finished the session visiting a huge ancient baobab *Adansonia za*, close to the nearby village. It's enormous trunk, possibly many metres in circumference, might be almost a thousand years old. A pair of Malagasy Kestrels perched briefly, and we completed the day with a Spiny Chameleon and two Madagascar Iguanas.

After some downtime and lunch, we headed into the gallery forest for a proper exploration, in nice afternoon light. The wind had picked up, and it was a little blowy, but it was fairly sheltered inside the forest. We started by heading straight to the Madagascar Flying Fox roosting area, where we spent a few minutes watching and photographing the bats at rest, and flying in and out of the canopy. There was nice light, and a few decent opportunities to capture interesting compositions. Just as we were about to leave, Oliver spotted a snake, almost by his boot. He quickly whistled to the others so as not to disturb the bats by shouting, and everyone quickly returned. It was a superb Dumeril's Boa, and it was remarkable how well it blended in against the leaf litter.

We carried on towards the river to see if there were any birds in the shallow waters. Apart from several Pied Crows and circling Yellow-billed Kites, it was quiet. We didn't hang around, and started heading back, picking up several juvenile Oustalet's Chameleons on branches along the track. There were also a few butterflies roosting, including *Coeliades ramanateke*, *Coeliades ernesti*, and Madagascar Orange-tip.

Our final session of the day involved a return through the spiny forest grounds and back into the gallery forest, to complete a loop before dinner. It was so productive that we didn't really want it to end! We started with several White-footed Sportive and Grey Brown Mouse Lemurs, but we also found several adult Antlions. Throughout the forest, roosting butterflies popped up including two *Acraea* species *A. turna* and *A. damni*. A Common Madagascar Cat Snake stopped mid-track, giving a fantastic view, and we finished with a super roosting Frances's Sparrowhawk.

Day 14

Sunday 21st September

Berenty & transfer to Tana

We had a final morning session in Berenty, and headed through camp and out into another area of dry gallery forest. It was a cooler and windier morning, much unlike what is normal in the dry south of the island. It was still incredibly productive, with a number of reptiles including Oustalet's, Carpet and Spiny Chameleons, and lots of invertebrates including *Coeliades ernesti*, *Coeliades ramanateke*, Purple-brown Hairstreak, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Common Leopard, Plain Tiger and Small Salmon Arab butterflies. There were also several *Odonata* species in

clearings following recent tree falls (a cyclone had come through this forest six months ago, causing a lot of damage): these included Madagascar Forktail, Bold Skimmer, Violet Dropwing, Crimson Dropwing and Phantom Flutterer.

The usual Ring-tailed Lemurs and Verreaux's Sifakas were present in good numbers, and it was nice to capture some additional shots of them, particularly of the former, backlit against the rising sun. A few birds were seen and photographed, with the highlight being two Giant Couas, but with the windy conditions it was not easy to locate or get clear views of them.

After breakfast and some time to pack, we had lunch and headed to Fort Dauphin for our flight back to Tana. We had time for a walk to the harbour and enjoyed the dramatic view across to the mountains, with dark moody skies hanging over the peaks. The surf was high too, but there was no sign of any surfers. A few birds potted about, but we found nothing unusual; however, a couple of reptiles were basking, including Elegant Mabuya and our first *Phelsuma modesta*.

Our flight was over forty-five minutes overdue, so it was a late arrival at the Relais des Plateaux in Tana. Even so, it was nice to be ready for our last mini adventure to the eastern rainforest in the morning.

Day 15

Monday 22nd September

Transfer to Andasibe, Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

Most of the morning was set aside for travel; we relocated from Tana to Mantadia and the eastern rainforests. The traffic was tiresome in the capital once again, but once we made it to the outskirts it was plain sailing; the roads have been improved enormously in recent years.

We arrived at our hotel, the rather plush Mantadia Lodge, in the early afternoon, and we took lunch as soon as we'd dropped off our luggage. We quickly put together our packs for the afternoon, with waterproofs, cameras and torches, and headed out for two sessions.

We started in the VOI local community reserve, and were quickly put onto two Parson's Chameleon by our reserve guide Pierre. They were two large males, and the stunning emerald green was bold in the overcast conditions. Our leader then turned around, and at eye-level he spotted a Southern Flat-tail Gecko (aka Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko)! It was without question the most well-camouflaged creature we'd ever seen, and were it not for the raised bump profile on the narrow branch, it surely would not have been spotted. We spent many minutes photographing it, before moving on deeper into the forest.

Our next stop was to see a couple of Indris. They remained high in the canopy and rarely turned around, but we enjoyed the views and moved on. A few beautiful leafhopper bugs were jumping about in the open clearing too, including *Madraga segneti* and *M. melancholica*. We made our way to the edge of the forest, where a Rainforest Scops Owl was located at roost.

We took a short walk through the edge of Mitsinjo Park to finish off the daylight session, and soon had two further geckos and a female Giraffe-necked Weevil. We all managed to take plenty of shots before we stopped at Feon'ny Ala for a hot drink ahead of our night walk.

Shortly after dark, we headed back to Mitsinjo and quickly found several Goodman's Mouse Lemurs; however, all were quite skittish and not photographable. We located a few roosting butterflies, cockroaches and spiders, and some amphibians too. We started with a frog, *Mantidactylus opiparis*, before spotting a *Spinomantis fimbriatus* frog recently described by researcher Frank Glaw. This amazing spiny species is mossy green, blending perfectly into its rainforest environment. A Gunther's Dwarf Gecko was also a pleasing find. The best find, though, was a Permet Leaf Chameleon which Desi located by the stream. It was only a couple a few centimetres long; we took it in turns to climb down the bank to get some close-up images.

Back along the road, a client spotted a superb little frog, *Boophis viridis* or Green Bright-eyed Frog. It was tiny and a beautiful colour, making for a super end to a brilliant night wildlife hunting.

Day 16

Tuesday 23rd September

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

For our full day in the park, we had to drive almost two hours to an area called Tsakoko. We picked up our guide for the day, and Justin Claude (or JC) took us into the forest for a loop walk. We took a number of trails in search of lemurs, with Desi and JC heading off at regular intervals. The mammals here were slightly more wary of humans, so we had to be patient. We did manage to see Diademed Sifakas and Red-bellied Brown Lemurs; Indris called in the background, but were not located.

The rainforest here was stunning, with huge trees, including towering *Pandanus* specimens and a diverse understorey. It was easy walking, but hard to find some of the species we had in the back of our minds. A few geckos were located, including Striped and Peacock Day Geckos. Even the birds seemed elusive today, and despite locating a couple of roving flocks, we could not get close enough for any redeemable shots. The birds included Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar Cuckooshrike, White-headed, Red-tailed and Chabert's Vangas, Crested Drongo and a Malagasy Brush Warbler.

After enjoying the viewpoint over the forest, we returned for lunch, where a number of inverts were active in the parking area around a few flowering bushes. We managed to pick up butterflies including Madagascar Dotted Border, Banded Blue Swallowtail, Madagascar Beauty, Madagascar Brown Pansy, Orange Flat and *Heteropsis andasibe*. Two dragonflies were also photographed nicely: Broad Skimmer and Silver Widow.

Along the track on the way to the hotel, our leader stopped the vehicle when he spotted a swarm of millipedes. These were huge: Giant Emerald Pill Millepedes. We picked one up to examine it further and it immediately curled into a tight ball, showing how impossible it would be to get inside; the armour body shielding the crucial organs perfectly.

Following a late afternoon rest, we convened for a night walk in the VOI community reserve. We spent two hours exploring the forest, and we oddly failed to locate any reptiles (it was particularly cool), we did see three species of

amphibian: *Boophis guibei*, *B. madagascariensis* and *B. viridis*. We spotted plenty of other invertebrates and arachnids too, and it was a very pleasant walk before dinner.

Day 17

Wednesday 24th September

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, transfer to Palmarium, Aye-aye Island

Checking out immediately after breakfast, we were in the Anamalazoatra forest for opening time at 7.00am. We headed along beyond the fish farm and up into the rainforest. It was a misty start to the day and quite cool, perhaps only 11°C. With just a couple of hours before we needed to leave for the final leg of our journey, we aimed straight for the feeding area of one of the Indri families. We soon located a couple of Common Brown Lemurs and a female Indri with her little baby. We captured some images before it was time to leave. One final stop by the fishponds produced a Madagascar Tree Boa, and then it was off by road on the four-hour drive to Brickaville in Atsinanana, where we would catch the ferry across to The Palmarium.

The boat trip took about ninety minutes; we dropped some guests off at Palmarium Beach before we arrived at The Palmarium. We had welcome drinks and were introduced to Ricot, our guide for the following day: he is an expert in the wildlife of the area. Setting off by boat to Aye-aye Island at 5.30pm, we were soon in coastal littoral forest habitat. Madagascar Nightjars and Rainforest Scops Owls were already calling, and their voices continued throughout our time there, adding to the mysterious ambience of the night. We walked up a short trail to a feeding area, and as soon as we arrived two Aye-ayes had already come to visit! They are large lemurs, the largest nocturnal primate in the world and their strange ways add to their reputation of bringing bad luck to local people. Thankfully, here at least they are well protected.

We spent the next hour photographing them using LED lights so not to disturb them with flash. They appeared quite at ease, and sometimes climbed to within a foot of us! Our guide laced banana on various trees, and they bounded silently through the trees once they got onto the scent.

After this extraordinary experience, we headed back to the hotel to take dinner, and then we ventured out for a final night walk with Ricot. And what a night walk it was! We spotted a Greater Hedgehog Tenrec almost immediately, before Jim almost stood on a Madagascar Ground Boa crossing the track (our third species of boa of the trip). It made for some super shots: at a metre and a half long, it was an impressive beast.

We found a Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake, three Peters' Spotted Geckos, Gunther's Dwarf Gecko, two more tenrecs and the amazing tiny *Brookesia nana* chameleon. This little female was no more than 30mm in length; still significantly bigger than the male, which is the size of your fingertip! We also added a White-lipped Bright-eyed Frog, an Eastern Woolly Lemur, Panther Chameleon and a Madagascar Net-casting Spider to the wonderful tally of nocturnal life.

Day 18

Thursday 25th September

The Palmarium, transfer to Taomasina

Our last morning watching wildlife started after breakfast, and we headed straight to the edge of the lagoon with Ricot, before the sun became too hot. We soon found our first target, the delightfully blue Madagascar Reed Frog.

This colour-changing species has the most amazing rhomboid-shaped pupils. We also located several Cuvier's Madagascar Swifts on the beach too, basking in the sunshine.

Inland a short distance, we were able to enjoy two fabulous plants, the Madagascar and Masoala Pitcher Plants. A *Phelsuma parva* gecko was a nice new species for the trip; it was similar to other day geckos we'd seen, but smaller. It was quiet on the bird front; a brief Hook-billed Vanga was perhaps the best sighting.

Back in the forest, we tracked down a range of lemurs which have been brought here and naturalised, including Indri, Black-and-white Ruffed, Red-bellied, Black, Common Brown and Crowned. They all had such amazing personalities, and we enjoyed each encounter with every species. It was a lovely way to end our wildlife photography.

After lunch, we took the three-hour boat ride to Taomasina, where we had dinner and subsequently transferred to the airport. Unfortunately, due to some issues in Tana, our flight was cancelled, so we had a change of plan and enjoyed overnight accommodation at the rather grand Calypso Hotel for the night.

Day 19

Friday 26th September

Transfer to Tana

Following the events of yesterday, it was relief that our flight back to Tana was going ahead late in the morning. Our international flight had been cancelled too by the time of our arrival, but at least we were back in the capital, and we stayed overnight at Le Combava one last time.

Day 20

Saturday 27th September

Tana to Addis Ababa

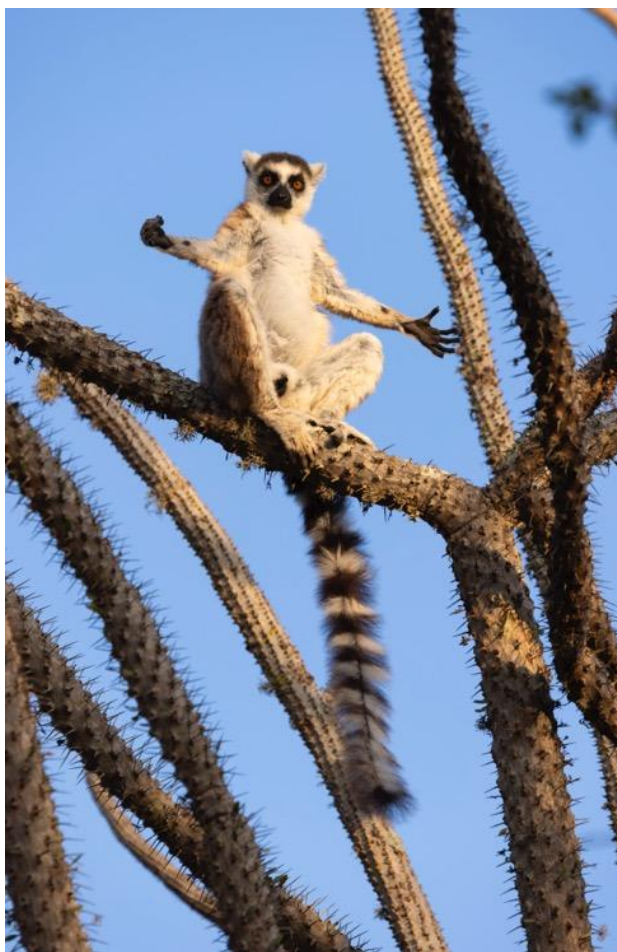
We set off early to arrive at the international airport in plenty of time. We were right at the front and were able to check in and get through security rapidly. We set off on two flights back to Addis Ababa, thankfully on time.

Day 21

Sunday 28th September

Addis Ababa to London Heathrow

Our final flight back to the UK went according to plan. It was great to be back, despite having had such a wonderful wildlife photography trip together. The memories will be there forever, embedded in the thousands of digital files we captured throughout our three-week holiday.



Ring-tailed Lemur



Grey Mouse Lemur

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup

Scan to
sign up!



Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



naturetrek.bsky.social



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		✓					✓		✓								
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>		✓															
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>		✓				✓	✓		✓								
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>		✓															
Meller's Duck	<i>Anas melleri</i>		✓															
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		✓															
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>												✓					
Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>			✓	H	H		H			H	✓	✓	H		H	H	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓								
Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓								✓	
Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	H	H		✓				
Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓				
Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>														H			
Olive-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>											H						
Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>					✓												
Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>												✓					
Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>				✓	✓		✓						✓				
Madagascar Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>															H	H	
White-breasted Mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegatus</i>				✓	✓												
Madagascar Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles personatus</i>							✓										
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓													
Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓			✓					
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓						
Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>							✓	✓	✓								
Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>														✓			
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>									✓								
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓					✓		✓								

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				✓													
Madagascar Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>						✓					✓						
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓	✓										
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓			✓							
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							✓										
Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>						✓	✓										
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>																✓	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓	✓										
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓	✓															
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		✓								✓							
Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓				✓			
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		✓					✓										
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓	✓							✓								
Malagasy Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>		✓															
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓					✓										
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>																✓	✓
Humblot's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>							✓										
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>										✓							
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>							✓								✓		
Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza francesiae</i>						✓		✓				✓					
Henst's Goshawk	<i>Astur henstii</i>								✓									
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Madagascar Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vociferoides</i>							✓										
Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>					✓	✓		✓								✓	
White-browed Owl	<i>Athene superciliaris</i>				✓	H					✓		✓					
Torotoroka Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>				✓	H						✓						
Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>												✓	H	H			
Cuckoo-roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>						✓	✓	✓					H				
Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>		✓		✓	✓					✓							

		September 2025																	
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>								✓										
Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>		✓				✓			✓					✓		✓		
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		H	✓		✓	
Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	H		✓	✓	✓						
Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓											
Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		H		H				
Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						
Schlegel's Asity	<i>Philepitta schlegeli</i>								✓										
Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>														✓				
Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>				✓				✓							✓			
Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>			✓	✓		✓								✓				
Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>				✓														
Rufous Vanga	<i>Schetba rufa</i>				✓														
Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>				✓		H	✓	H		H	✓			H	✓			
Madagascar Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris cinereus</i>				✓										✓				
Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>				✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓				
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Madagascar Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>					✓						✓							
Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>		H					✓		H					✓	✓			
Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>				✓			✓											
Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓						
Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>				✓			✓											
Malagasy White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>		✓							✓			✓						
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓				✓			
Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>							✓											
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>									✓				✓	✓				

		September 2025																	
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>				✓	✓					✓		✓					✓	
Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>				✓			✓			✓	✓	✓						
Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓									
Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>	✓			✓							✓							
Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>			✓										✓	✓				

Mammals

		September 2025																	
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>			✓	✓	✓						✓	✓						
Red-and-grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>											✓	✓						
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>														✓				
Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>																✓		
Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>																✓		
Pale Fork-marked Lemur	<i>Phaner pallescens</i>				✓														
Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>														✓		✓		
Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>					✓			✓			✓	✓						
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>															✓			
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>											✓							
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>											✓	✓						
Red-tailed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur ruficaudatus</i>				✓	✓													
Randrianasolo's Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur randrianasoloi</i>								✓										
Eastern Woolly Lemur (Avahi)	<i>Avahi laniger</i>																✓		
Decken's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus deckenii</i>								✓	✓									
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>				✓	✓						✓	✓						
Diademmed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>															✓			
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>														✓	H	✓		
Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>																✓		
Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>				✓	✓													
Greater Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>																✓		

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufous</i>																✓	
Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>											H	✓					
Bastard Big-footed Mouse	<i>Macrotarsomys bastardi</i>					✓												
Western Nesomys	<i>Nesomys lambertoni</i>								✓									

Amphibians & reptiles

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Green Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis viridis</i>														✓			
White-lipped Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis albilabris</i>																✓	
Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>															✓		
Warty Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis guibei</i>															✓		
Madagascar Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus madagascariensis</i>																	✓
a frog	<i>Mantidactylus opiparis</i>														✓			
a frog	<i>Spinomantis aglavei</i>														✓			
Permet Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia therezieni</i>														✓			
a leaf chameleon	<i>Brookesia nify</i>																✓	
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>														✓			
Jewel' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>							✓						✓				
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>																✓	
Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>											✓	✓	✓				
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalerodon) madagascariensis</i>											✓	✓					
Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>							✓	✓									✓
Southern Flat-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>														✓			
Large-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura picta</i>				✓													
Mocquard's Madagascar Ground Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardi</i>							✓	✓				✓					
a dwarf gecko	<i>Lygodactylus pictus</i>		✓															
Gunther's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>														✓			

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025																
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Malagasy Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus klemmeri</i>							✓										
a dwarf gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>											✓						
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>														✓			
Four-lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>		✓													✓		
Gold Dust Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma laticaudatus</i>																	✓
Modest Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma modesta</i>													✓				
Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>															✓		
Thick-tail Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>			✓		✓	✓					✓						
a day gecko	<i>Phelsuma parva</i>																	✓
Koch's Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma kochi</i>									✓								
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>				H		✓											
Gold-spotted Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) aureopunctata</i>												✓					
Elegant Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans</i>											✓		✓				
Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>					✓												
Tandrefana Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis tandrefana</i>									✓								
Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>							✓								✓		
Peters' Spotted Gecko	<i>Geckolepis maculata</i>																✓	
Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>			✓								✓						
Western Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus occidentalis</i>							✓	✓				✓				✓	
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>																✓	
Dumeril's Boa	<i>Acrantophis dumerili</i>												✓					
Madagascar Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>																✓	
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>											✓						

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025																
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Banded Blue	<i>Papilio oribazus</i>															✓		
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>															✓		
a large skipper	<i>Coeliades ramantek</i>												✓	✓		✓		
a large skipper	<i>Coeliades ernesti</i>											✓	✓	✓				
Orange Flat	<i>Eagris sabadius</i>															✓		
a skipper	<i>Hesperiidae</i> sp.		✓															
African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				
an acraea	<i>Acraea turna</i>												✓					
an acraea	<i>Acraea zitja</i>		✓															
Dusky-veined Acraea	<i>Acraea damni</i>												✓					
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓															
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>		✓						✓			✓						
Madagascan Brown Pansy	<i>Junonia goudotii</i>		✓					✓								✓		
Madagascar Beauty	<i>Salamis anteva</i>															✓		
Madagascar Commodore	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>		✓															
Madagascar Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena</i>							✓	✓	✓								✓
a heteropsis	<i>Heteropsis andasibe</i>														✓	✓		
a heteropsis	<i>Heteropsis iboina</i>															✓		
Polka Dot	<i>Pardopsis punctatissima</i>						✓											
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>																	✓
a satyr	<i>Strabena tamatavae</i>		✓															
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>												✓	✓				
Deceptive Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas deceptor</i>							✓										
African Caper White	<i>Belenois creona</i>												✓					
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe</i>											✓						
Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata crowleyi</i>											✓		✓				
Madagascar Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris phileris</i>															✓		
Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i>		✓															
Common Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>												✓					
Purple-brown Hairstreak	<i>Hypolycaena philippus ramonza</i>													✓				

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025																
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Madagascan Owl Moth	<i>Cyligramma duplex</i>																✓	
Crotalaria Podborer	<i>Argina astrea</i>			✓			✓											
Mung Moth	<i>Maruca vitrata</i>														✓			
a geometrid	<i>Pingasa</i> sp.																	
Orange Cone Pyrale	<i>Ulopeza conigeralis</i>														✓			
Fulvous Hawk	<i>Coelonia fulvinotata</i>																✓	

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025																
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Madagascar Demoiselle	<i>Phaon rasoherinae/iridipennis</i>									✓								
Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>													✓				
Crimson Dropwing	<i>Trithemis selika</i>													✓				
Azure Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum azureum</i>															✓		
Bold Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum stemmale</i>									✓		✓		✓				
Silver Widow	<i>Palpopleura vestita</i>															✓		
Phantom Flutterer	<i>Rhyothemis semihyalina</i>													✓				
Madagascar Hooktail	<i>Paragomphus madegassus</i>													✓				
a dragonfly	<i>Phyllomacromia trifasciata</i>															✓		
Rock Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis divisa</i>								✓									
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>												✓					
Greenbolt Dragonfly	<i>Viridithemis viridula</i>								✓									

Other invertebrates

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Spiders																		
Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Nephila madagascariensis</i>	✓	✓						✓				✓				✓	✓
Long-winged Kite Spider	<i>Gasteracantha versicolor</i>											✓		✓				
Madagascar Net-casting Spider	<i>Asianopis madagascariensis</i>						✓										✓	
Madagascar Green Lynx Spider	<i>Peucetia lucasi</i>													✓				
Ornamental Wandering Spider	<i>Viridasius fasciatus</i>											✓						
Scorpions																		
a scorpion	Scorpiones sp.							✓					✓					
Madagascan Flat Scorpion	<i>Opisthacanthus madagascariensis</i>											✓	✓					
Cockroaches																		
a cockroach	Blattodea sp.							✓										
Harlequin Roach	<i>Neostylopyga rhombifolia</i>							✓										
Halloween Hisser	<i>Elliptorhina javanica</i>											✓						
Others																		
a cicada	Tibicinidae sp.							?										
Flatid Leaf-bug	<i>Phromnia rosea</i>						✓											
Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>														✓			
Giant Emerald Pill Millipede	<i>Zoosphaerium neptunus</i>															✓		
Gregarious Antlion	<i>Hagenomyia tristis</i>												✓					
a leafhopper	<i>Madranga segneti</i>														✓			
a leafhopper	<i>Madranga melancholica</i>														✓			
a grasshopper	Orthoptera sp.		✓					✓										
a woolly ant sp.	Formicidae sp.		✓															
a beetle sp.	Coleopteridae sp.		✓													✓		
a shieldbug sp.	Pentatomidae sp.													✓				

Selected plants

		September 2025																
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Tropical Giant Salvia	<i>Tropical Giant Salvia</i>		✓															
Grandidier's Baobab	<i>Adansonia grandidieri</i>			✓	✓													
Fony Baobab	<i>Adansonia rubrostipa</i>				✓	✓												
a baobab	<i>Adanzonia za</i>										✓	✓	✓					
Crown-of-thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>											✓						
an octopus tree	<i>Alluaudia ascendens</i>											✓						
an octopus tree	<i>Alluaudia procera</i>											✓	✓					
Napoleon's Hat	<i>Kalanchoe beharensi</i>											✓						
Bottle Tree	<i>Moringa drouhardii</i>											✓						
an aloe	<i>Aloe divaricata</i>												✓					
Madagascar Pitcher Plant	<i>Nepenthes madagascariensis</i>										✓							✓
Masoala Pitcher Plant	<i>Nepenthes masoalensis</i>										✓							✓