

# Madagascar: A Wildlife Photography Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th – 27th November 2025

---



Aye-aye



Fiery Bright-eyed Frog



Granddidier's Baobab



Madagascar Buttonquail

Tour report 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](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Group participants: Oliver Smart (leader) & Claude Rambeloson (local guide) with five Naturetrek clients

## Summary

As the fourth largest island in the world, Madagascar not only has an exceptional range of habitats, but also some of the most extraordinary creatures in the world. You simply cannot appreciate everything the country has to offer in one trip, but what you can do is experience the length and breadth of the country, and enjoy some of the magic of the island's wildlife. We explored limestone pinnacles, beaches, spiny forest and wet rainforest, and enjoyed everything that was thrown at us. There were just too many highlights to list in full; however, some of our favourites during our three-week stay included Ring-tailed Lemur, Verreaux's Sifaka, Tsingy Wood Rail, Sooty Falcon, Collared Nightjar, Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, Green-eared Chameleon, Grandidier's Baobab, Baron's Mantella and Madagascar Demoiselle. We enjoyed hunting for scorpions using a UV torch, explored different habitats after dark to find many speciality species, and took a canoe ride to enjoy the superb Madagascar Pratincole.

## Day 1

**Monday 10th November**

### Transfer from London to Ethiopia

Some of the group managed to connect in the departure area before we convened in Addis Ababa after the first of our two flights. On arrival, we had a couple of hours to watch Pied Crows and kites flying over the city, before we connected for our second leg.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 11th November**

### Transfer from Ethiopia to Madagascar & Le Combava Hotel

On arrival in Antananarivo, we negotiated the relatively painless process of obtaining a visa, and then collected our luggage. We were hoping to be out quickly and on the road, but we ended up being slightly thwarted by a time-consuming process of obtaining cash, which took nearly an hour and a half! I don't think any of us had seen so much paperwork for what should have been a five-minute transaction before!

Eventually, we were on the road and 'enjoying' the traffic of the outskirts of Tana, before arriving at Le Combava Hotel. The hotel would be our base for each of the intersections of our trip, as we would return to the capital every week. We quickly settled in, had a briefing, and discussed the plans for the following two days. We enjoyed a very pleasant dinner and were soon dashing off to bed, as an early start beckoned. It would be exciting to see what could be found at Lake Alarobia in the morning.

## Day 3

**Wednesday 12th November**

### Lake Alarobia & Queen's Palace

After a decent rest, we had breakfast at 6.30am and headed off as soon as possible to Lake Alarobia. The temperature was mild and warmed up quickly as we started to study the birds on the lake. Black, Squacco and a sole Malagasy Pond Heron were spotted, as well as a Humblot's Heron. We soon started to work through the

ducks, locating Red-billed and Blue-billed Teal, White-faced Whistling Duck and later a single Meller's Duck. Malagasy Kingfisher, a brief fly-by Madagascar Hoopoe and a skulking Malagasy Brush Warbler were also observed. A Malagasy White-eye building its nest was a good find too.

As the sun broke through the light cloud, invertebrates and reptiles started to come to life, and we soon spotted Brilliant Blue, Tiny Grass Blue, Plain Tiger, Blue Pansy, Madagascar Commodore, a stunning *Acraea ziti* and the most perfect Citrus Swallowtail. A couple of very obliging dragonflies were also photographed, including both male and female Southern Banded Groundlings, and several delicately orange-coloured Common Citrils. We also found an Oustalet's Chameleon female hiding in plain sight in a bush, along with Striped Day Gecko and lots of Robust Dwarf Gecko. Their camouflage was incredible as they basked in the sun on tree bark.

Just before we boarded the bus, we became aware of a bird in the middle of the footpath. Someone locally had handed over a Baillon's Crake they had found injured to the reserve team! We took some shots before our leader picked it up and carefully placed it out of harm's way. It looked pretty weak, but it was absolutely amazing to see it so close.

After lunch at the very plush Palissandre Hotel, we visited the Queen's Palace, a significant building destroyed by fire in 1995. It has since been rebuilt, and still has a fascination for tourists; it holds a commanding view over the city. We watched a wonderful pair of juvenile Peregrine Falcons flying together around the palace, and several Malagasy Black Swifts and a Little Swift too. Lots of butterflies were on the wing here, with dozens of Tiny Grass Blues and Painted Ladies.

We finished at the Maison de Royale Hotel, a few hundred yards from the palace, and enjoyed drinks and snacks, but sadly cloud cover put paid to sunset tonight. Even so, it was a great way to end our first full day in Madagascar.

## Day 4

## Thursday 13th November

### Transfer to Morondava & the Avenue of Baobabs

After an early start, we headed to the airport for our flight to Morondava, and then to the beachside hotel Palissandre Cote Ouest. We had lunch and prepped for our evening photography session, before departing at 3.00pm.

The Avenue of Baobabs is probably one of the most visited sites in Madagascar, but tonight it was a little quieter. We spent some time using the light in different ways: front-lit, backlit and astro. It was good fun experimenting with different techniques and settings, and a little early cloud cover was nice, offering some colour in the sky once the sun started to set.

When visiting the baobabs it is easy to overlook other wildlife; however, we did take time to notice Crested Drongo, Olive Bee-eater, Yellow-billed Kite, Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Nightjar and Sakalava Weaver. A couple of Elegant Mabuya lizards were also nice to see, although not photographable.

The night sky was fairly clear, but the Milky Way was very weak, and did not showing up strongly in our images. It was still a pleasant evening with very warm and dry conditions. We returned late to the hotel for dinner, and a very well-deserved rest.

## Day 5

**Friday 14th November**

### Palissandre Cote Ouest & transfer to Kirindy

After our late night, we were up slightly later, and following breakfast we walked to the beach before departing for Kirindy. There were lots of Greater Sand Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, Whimbrels, Turnstones, Greenshanks and Ringed Plovers. On a distant sand bank there appeared to be Greater Crested Tern with smaller terns, possibly Littles; however, Saunders's cannot be ruled out here.

Our journey was uneventful, and we arrived in time for lunch at Relais de Kirindy. We took time in the afternoon for a short session on flash photography before heading into the forest. We were met by our reserve guide, Solange, and started in the car park, where a lot of wildlife can be spotted. A Madagascar Blue Vanga, Madagascar Cuckooshrike and Giant Coua were seen, as well as Red-fronted Brown Lemur. A Western Girdled Lizard, Madagascar Swift and Oustalet's Chameleon showed up too.

We walked along the main track, and soon were watching the lemurs jumping across the gap. Suddenly, they started alarm calling, and within a few minutes we located a male Fosa lying in a tree. This was a seriously good observation, and an animal we do not often see. Through the forest we spotted White-breasted Mesite, Hook-billed Vanga, Crested Coua and Madagascar Turtle Dove.

As the sun started to set, we stopped at the camp's café for a drink, and set up our flash gear. We drove a short distance to another part of the forest, and within minutes were shooting Pale Fork-marked Lemur, Grey Mouse Lemur and Red-tailed Sportive Lemur. A Common Madagascar Cat Snake was a bonus, drooping over a branch, and we finished off with a fabulous Ocelot Gecko, although it didn't stay for long, and slinked back into a burrow.

## Day 6

**Saturday 15th November**

### Kirindy

Setting off before breakfast at 6.00am, we soon met up with Solange and entered Kirindy Forest. Morning is generally great for spotting birds, with lemurs becoming active a little later. We enjoyed a number of good birds, including Red-tailed Vanga, Lesser Vasa Parrot, Frances's Sparrowhawk, Coquerel's Coua and Madagascar Buttonquail. Later, we connected with a Red-fronted Brown Lemur with three young, and a couple of Verreaux's Sifakas.

We had a later breakfast and some relaxing downtime, before our tour leader led a little photo surgery with some technique and critique ideas. Following lunch, we departed at 3.30pm and headed back into the forest with Solange. For the afternoon session, we explored a similar area to the previous afternoon, criss-crossing tracks through a mosaic of paths. It was along the main track that we found a small mixed flock of birds, containing Common Newtonia, Long-billed Bernieria, Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and Madagascar Coucal. Several were

photographable. Just inside the forest, we located male and female Bold Skimmer dragonflies and a couple of Karsten's Girdled Lizards.

After a break for a drink and to prepare for our night session, we drove back along the track to another part of the forest, where Solange took us to a clearing: here was the burrow of a very special mammal. Having got there just as darkness descended, we sat quietly and waited. It was not long before we heard a rustle, and with the torch on, there, sitting in the middle of its sandy mound, was a Malagasy Giant Rat (a.k.a. Votsotsa). This large rodent, about the size of a rabbit, is surprisingly endearing, particularly when it makes its soft muffled calls. It can jump up to a metre in the air too, although we did not witness this impressive behaviour, but one could imagine it doing so in an attempt to escape a Fosa, its main predator in the forest. In the background, we could hear the calls of Torotoroka and White-browed Owls, as well as the rustling of mice on the forest floor.

## Day 7

**Sunday 16th November**

### Transfer to Tsingy de Bemaraha

Today was long, hot and uncomfortable, but unavoidable, as we were heading to the Tsingy de Bemaraha. Setting off at 7.30am, we made the journey by 4.30pm, stopping at two river crossings to board local ferries. We visited the superb Mad Zebu restaurant in Belo sur Tsiribihina for lunch, before our final arduous leg.

There were no real photographic opportunities during the day, but we did stop to chat to some locals who were harvesting mangos from the trees, and we bought a few to have after our Tsingy hikes. The best wildlife sighting came late in the day, when our leader spotted a dark raptor in a tree. He knew immediately what it was, and nearby were three additional Sooty Falcons. We enjoyed them for some time before continuing on our way.

After checking in to the Olympe de Bemaraha, and relaxing for a couple of hours, we had dinner, and then enjoyed a walk around the grounds, looking for nocturnal wildlife. We located several Oustalet's Chameleons, five Peters' Spotted Geckos, a Mocquard's Madagascar Ground Gecko, several cicadas and a Common Madagascar Cat Snake.

## Day 8

**Monday 17th November**

### Petite Tsingy

Today was our first day in the Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park, and the sky was bright blue! We had an early breakfast and headed down with our park guide, TV, to meet the boys who would be punting the canoes. We had two double dugout canoes; we climbed inside their stable and well-carved hulls and paddled upstream along the Manambolo River. The water levels were much higher than they had been in September; nevertheless, we still managed to locate lots of Madagascar Pratincoles, Dimorphic Egrets nesting high on the cliffs, and a fantastic Malagasy Pond Heron, which we were able to approach. A Peregrine perched on the cliffs too, with Malagasy Kestrel flying overhead, along with many Lesser Vasa Parrots.

Back at the beach, we set off for our Petite Tsingy walk. We navigated the inner loop trail, heading in a clockwise direction, squeezing through narrow gaps and climbing up onto the most amazing limestone pinnacle formations. It was great fun, and we were rewarded at several points with fantastic views, and some super wildlife. We managed

to locate several Western Girdled Lizards, Northern Madagascar Ground Geckos, Gravenhorst's Mabuyas, Koch's Giant Day Geckos and Thicktail Day Geckos. From the top, we spotted a pair of Malagasy Kestrels mating, and two Madagascar Fish Eagles soaring very close.

Back at the hotel, we took lunch, had a short Adobe Lightroom session, 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 photograph including Koch's Day Gecko, a tiny chameleon (*Furcifer nivosiai*) and a gorgeous and very active scorpion. It was dashing around the sandy edge of the track, and it shone brilliant light yellow in the purple of the UV light.

## Day 9

## Tuesday 18th November

### Grande Tsingy

With our introduction to the tsingy completed on Monday, we headed north to the Grande Tsingy, a much larger section of karst limestone rock formations. The group set off together and then, at a junction, split for those wanting to climb to the top of the tsingy. We left the car park shortly after 7.30am, where we had already seen Cuckoo-roller, over twenty Yellow-billed Kites, Sooty Falcon, Madagascar Cuckoo and Grey-headed Lovebird. We headed off in already hot conditions towards the dry forest, and soon encountered several good birds, including Madagascar Cisticola, Forest Rock Thrush and Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher.

The climbing group continued to the rock formations and soon discovered a real highlight. A pair of Tsingy Forest Rails were feeding in the understorey, and came close enough for amazing shots. We stayed with them for over thirty minutes as we enjoyed the experience of watching this elusive, incredibly rare and localised species; it is only found in this karst landscape. The next excellent bird was a Hook-billed Vanga, which had built its nest on an overhang in the rock. It was at the perfect distance to capture decent images; one of the adults was incubating.

Meanwhile, the forest group had taken a different route looking for wildlife, connecting with another Pencil Snake, Spiny-tailed Iguanid, three huge Oustalet's Giant Chameleons and a Broad-billed Roller.

Back to the climbers: we were the only group in the forest when we started. It was fabulous to have the place to ourselves as we slowly made our way up through the gullies to the top. The viewpoint was amazing, giving grand views over this extraordinary habitat. We continued over the top, before descending through steep crevices to a cave system below. Our return walk connected with further Von der Decken's Sifakas, Red-fronted Brown Lemur and the two more Tsingy Forest Rails. What a day!

Our evening walk conjured a couple more scorpions, Mocquard's Madagascar Ground Gecko, Koch's Giant Day Gecko, and several day-old baby Oustalet's Giant Chameleons.

## Day 10

## Wednesday 19th November

### Petite Tsingy & transfer to Tana

With our return charter flight to Tana planned for midday, we arranged a final walk to a nearby marsh and ended at the edge of the tsingy forest. TV took us around the marsh, where we had some good views and photo opportunities of Mascarene Martin, Malagasy Coucal, and some nice butterflies, in particular Common Joker. There were plenty of other birds seen too, including Knob-billed Duck, Madagascar Fish Eagle, Grey-headed Lovebird, Madagascar Green Pigeon and Madagascar Buzzard.

Inside the forest, we found a number of girdled lizards, and best of all a roosting Madagascar Nightjar. We had to take it in turns to view and photograph the roosting bird; however, we were all able to get lovely close-up shots. As we came back to the village, a Malagasy Kingfisher was perfectly perched for us to shoot.

Back at the hotel, we repacked, had breakfast, and then headed off to the aerodrome about seventy minutes away. We met our captain and boarded a Cessna Caravan, which flew us over the tsingy on our way back to the capital; it was a great way to see the landscape from the air. Back in Tana, we had the afternoon to relax and pack for our morning flight to Fort Dauphin.

## Day 11

## Thursday 20th November

### Transfer to Berenty, Analalava Forest

With a very early flight at 7.40am, we were up at 4.00am and headed off soon after. We took some refreshments to the airport. We were in business class once again (the only way to easily get a larger luggage allowance) and enjoyed our packed breakfast and some further Lightroom tuition. After arriving in Fort Dauphin, Lambert, our reserve guide, picked us up, and we headed straight to Berenty Lodge.

It was great to see friendly faces, and of course those delightful lemurs. We had lunch and some rest before our first exciting excursion in the spiny forest. We started off in the parking area, and almost immediately a troop of Verreaux's Sifakas started to head across the open sandy space to trees where they could feed. The sifaka family are known for jumping on their hind legs, and this is a great image to capture. The light was also perfect; they crossed the ground in light and shade, making for some lovely shots.

Following the sifakas, a larger troop of perhaps twenty Ring-tailed Lemurs came through, their walking style quite different; they move on all fours and have a real swagger to their movements. Many of the females had very young babies attached to them. We spent some time trying to capture some backlit shots as well as using the sunburst coming through the tree canopy, with some success. We followed the two groups for further shots, before we turned to other wildlife. First, we enjoyed some close views of a roosting White-footed Sportive Lemur, sitting proudly in its tree hole. It was enjoying the late evening sun and made for beautifully warm images. Second, we tried to capture Crested Coua and Madagascar Turtle Dove, but both did their best to make it difficult for us!

After a short break, we returned to an area of spiny forest in the dark, where we soon located a Grey Brown Mouse Lemur, and another sportive lemur. We also found a stunning Silver-striped Hawk-moth, an adult Large-headed

Gecko, and a superb roosting Malagasy Kestrel. All this was with the accompaniment of occasional calls from a distant Madagascar Nightjar.

## Day 12

Friday 21st November

### Angapolo Forest & Berenty Reserve

Departing from our lodge at 5.30am, we drove thirty-five minutes to Angapolo Forest. This area of wonderful spiny trees is a great place to immerse yourself in this unique environment. There was no background noise, and it was lovely to listen to all the sounds of the forest. We quickly picked up a roosting White-footed Sportive Lemur, before spotting an amazing web and an adult female *Argiope coquereli* spider. It had a fabulous stabilimentum, which could be a method for stabilising the web, or could be a visual signal to prevent birds from flying through the web.

Walking through the forest shortly after dawn is always exciting, as you never quite know what is going to be found. The next bird was perhaps the best of the morning: an amazing Madagascar Nightjar roosting on the ground, perfectly mimicking the surrounding leaf litter. We also spotted an Olive-capped Coua and a Madagascar Cuckoo. As we continued, we noted several reptiles including Madagascar Keeled Cordylid, Gold-spotted Mabuya, a Pencil Snake and later many Madagascar Iguanas. We also located a troop of Verreaux's Sifakas, which everyone enjoyed. A few *Colotis zoe* butterflies were a nice surprise too, showing their pinkish latticed forewing tips.

After breakfast, we went on another walk in the riverine gallery forest called Ankoba. It took ages to get there, as we stopped so many times for wildlife as we went! We found several butterflies, including Common Leopard, Small Salmon Arab and *Heteropsis ankaratra*. A Coral-tailed Cloudwing and several Bold Skimmers were seen too. In the forest, the best birds we could locate were a pair of nest-building Madagascar Paradise Flycatchers, and they made for some excellent images. Dumas' Mabuya was a nice new skink species to see too.

Following lunch and some downtime, we met at 4.00pm for our afternoon walk. We decided to give the lemurs another go, and the sun just appeared as a group of sifakas started to bound across the sandy car park. We were positioned in front of them this time, so they were heading towards us, as opposed to side-on, which was a nice alternative. We continued to enjoy the gallery forest, and a White-browed Owl in its nest hole was a highlight.

Following a quick camera set-up change, we headed back into the forest for a night walk; the best we found was a roosting Frances's Sparrowhawk, and several Large-headed Geckos.

## Day 13

Saturday 22nd November

### Analalava Forest & Berenty Reserve

The morning session took us out to a sisal plantation area at 5.30am, where there is some short grassland. Here, we located a group of ten Madagascar Sandgrouse. We ventured into the nearby Analalava Forest and met the warden, Maka, who showed us some of the specialities of this stunning spiny habitat. We had success with reptiles, including Madagascar Keeled and Peters' Keeled Cordylid, Madagascar Iguana, Elegant Mabuya, Thicktail Gecko, Sakalava Velvet Gecko and Pencil Snake. We also located three Madagascan Spider Tortoises (male and females) as well a sleeping Grey Brown Mouse Lemur. We had a couple of nice butterflies, including *Acraea turna* and *A.*



*ranavalona*. The easiest birds to photograph during the visit were Sakalava Weavers, at a colony in a huge three-way split baobab *Adansonia za*.

After breakfast, Lambert took the group into the gallery forest, where we had the best sighting of the day, a stunningly beautiful Giant Madagascar Hognose Snake! All snakes here are non-venomous, so are no threat to people whatsoever. It was great to be in such close proximity, and to be able to photograph and study the subject in so much detail.

We also found Gold-spotted Mabuya, Spiny Chameleon and a dwarf gecko (*Lygodactylus tuberosus*). Butterflies including African Migrant, Yellow Pansy, Small Salmon Arab and a stunning white, yellow and black chequered species, *Belenois grandidieri*. A *Heteropsis* species our leader found is still causing him nightmares as he grapples with its identity!

After lunch and some rest, we set off once more to photograph the Verreaux's Sifakas bounding across the car park, before we headed into the gallery forest to enjoy a Madagascar Flying Fox colony. The setting sun made for lovely lighting as the one-metre-wingspan bats flew across a clearing to their colony. The noise was wonderful too, with lots of interaction between the upside-down mammals.

After a short break to prepare our flash gear, a few of the group headed into a different area of gallery forest, where we located a Torotoroka Scops Owl, five Spiny Chameleons, a roosting *Acraea damni* butterfly, and a very briefly-sighted Small Indian Civet.

## Day 14

## Sunday 23rd November

### Berenty Reserve & transfer to Tana

For our final session, we headed back to the fields near the hotel, so we could try for the Madagascan Sandgrouse again. We were in luck, as a flock of twelve was present. Unfortunately, they were in the middle of open, short grassland, and in no way approachable. We moved to some small trees, but the birds were still too far away. Two moved closer to the main track, so we retraced our steps and used the sisal hedge as cover as we approached. We were still too far away, and with no options left, we decided to stay put. It was a dilemma as to whether we should head back into the field, but a Yellow-billed Kite resolved our problem; it flew over and spooked the whole flock, which subsequently headed towards the river. We were thus able to capture some in-flight images, so it had not been a wasted trip after all.

Back in the gallery forest, we located several Spiny Chameleons in daylight and, of course, lots of lemurs. We located a decent female Cuckoo-roller, which was preening and allowed for some nice shots. A couple of the group were interested in photographing butterflies too, and we managed to capture Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Common Evening Brown, Common Joker and *Heteropsis ankaratra*.

The final treat was finding an Olive-capped Coua (formerly lumped with Red-capped Coua). It was happily moving through the scrub, and we were able to track alongside it and wait for it to appear in the sunny spots. It sunbathed twice, which was a nice behaviour to capture.

After breakfast, we packed up, headed straight to Fort Dauphin airport and departed for Tana. Strangely, the flight went via Toliara, so it was a little longer than expected.

## Day 15

Monday 23rd November

### Transfer to Andasibe & Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

The morning was set aside for travel, via some souvenir boutique shops for those wanting local vanilla pods or T-shirts; we were relocating from Tana to Mantadia and the eastern rainforests. Navigating the capital was once again tiresome, but the traffic eased once we made it to the outskirts, and it was a straightforward drive to our very nice hotel.

After lunch, we met local guide, Maurice, and his son Chris, who took us into the VOI Community Reserve forest on the edge of the Andasibe Park. This is a superb area for wildlife, and almost immediately we had seen Parson's and Short-horned Chameleons. Both were very photographable too. We were then shown a superb Southern Flat-tailed Gecko (aka Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko), which was showing the most extraordinary camouflage you could ever see; it was truly remarkable. We spent some time with it and used wide angle lenses to capture some of the rainforest habitat in the background too.

Our next species was an absolute gem, a subject that our leader had dreamed about since a young lad. This species was hidden perhaps even better than the last species. This was a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, a truly nocturnal hunter, and one that blends into the dried forest leaves so perfectly that you really do believe its head and tail are just brown leaves.

We had one final species to see, and that was a lone male Giraffe Weevil, which we were able to photograph in time before it took flight. It really is a strange creature; given its long neck, it looks improbable that it could remain airborne!

After a short break, the heavens opened and we were lucky to be indoors. After a thirty-minute interlude for the heaviest of thunderstorms, we set off again, and went back into the same section of forest in search of nocturnal wildlife. It continued to rain but, undeterred, we did our best to remain dry and to protect our cameras. We were really pleased with the haul. First, we had two Marbled Rain Frogs, and then found a tiny and absolutely beautiful *Boophis bottae*. Finally, we found a group of four Green Bright-eyed Frogs and two wonderful Brown Leaf Chameleons, as well as several Madagascar Demoiselles. What a great afternoon and evening we had had. The night finished with a fabulous dinner, and plans were made for our full rainforest day tomorrow.

## Day 16

Tuesday 25th November

### Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

For our full day in the National Park, we had to drive almost two hours to an area called Tsakoko. We collected our guides, Maurice and Chris, and set off for a forest loop walk. We stopped short of our starting place and weresoon were photographing a Baron's Mantella, a tiny and poisonous frog. It's not really harmful to humans, but gives a tingling sensation like you've held on to a chilli for too long.

As we left the car parking area, we spotted a Lined Forest Snake, which posed long enough for some shots, and then we walked up to a viewpoint, where we could hear our first Indris and Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs; unfortunately, they were not visible. We did manage to photograph Diademed Sifaka, arguably the most attractively-coloured species of lemur. In the sunny viewpoint clearing, a Peacock Day Gecko and a Bronze Girdled Lizard were hunting. We had a couple of butterfly species too.

Back in the primary rainforest, we descended to low-lying, damper habitat, which started to produce quite a variety of creatures. Several Madagascar Fire Millipedes and Giant Emerald Pill Millipedes were found, and a delightful White-whiskered Madagascar Frog posed perfectly on a branch. A few good butterflies were spotted, and some were photographed, including a pair of *Saribia perroti* mating, and a gorgeous little Malagasy Dusky Dart.

The rainforest here was amazing, with huge tree ferns, towering pandanus, and a diverse understorey. It was easy walking, but harder to locate some of the special birds to be found here. Population density is never great, despite the unbelievable diversity. Back at the car park, we finished off the session with some African Albatross and Madagascar Zebra Blue butterflies mudpuddling.

After a later lunch at the hotel, we set off almost immediately to another very special reserve in the local area. Maromizaha is being expanded, and holds a wealth of extraordinary species. We spent the afternoon and early evening here to capture the nocturnal wildlife; this is perhaps the most exciting time of any day in the rainforest. It started amazingly well, with another Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko, followed by a Perinet Chameleon. Our walk to the viewpoint also gave us a photogenic *Spinomantis aglabei*, which is a very well-camouflaged green tree frog with spines along its legs. As we waited for dusk to turn to dark, the rain clouds slowly came in. This was not a bad thing, as in any rainforest a lot of the wildlife thrives when it's wet. We had a nice view of a flying Madagascar Nightjar, and the distant sounds of Rainforest Scops Owl and Short-legged Ground Roller were frustrating.

We walked slowly back to our vehicles, stopping to shoot a wonderful range of superb species. These included a Green-eared Chameleon, which was a real highlight. We also found and photographed Brown Leaf Chameleon, yet another Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko (in a better position as it left its day roost to start hunting), Fiery and Böhme's Bright-eyed Frogs, and a Boulenger's Giant Treefrog. The first of these frogs was croaking regularly, showing the two throat sacs, and gave us a good opportunity to capture this behaviour.

## Day 17

Wednesday 26th November

### Analamazaotra, transfer to Palmarium, Aye-aye Island

Having checked out immediately after breakfast, we were in the Anamalazoatra forest for opening time at 7.00am. An orange juvenile female Parson's Chameleon was a nice start before we headed along to the rainforest. With only a short window to find wildlife this morning, it was great to have Chris with us too, as he headed off in search of target species, while we slowly made our way up onto the ridge. We were soon enjoying a family of Common Brown Lemurs, and later a group of Indris and Diademed Sifakas. We captured some images before it was time to leave; however, Chris had been off again, and an exciting report came back that he had found something very, very special indeed. We made our way down some steeper tracks and came across a beautifully-camouflaged Madagascar

Jumping Frog. It looked so much like a leaf, that for some of the group it literally needed pointing out among the leaf litter. It was a soft yellow colour, with a pale stripe down its back.

When we rejoined Chris, we were taken to a spot where an amazing Collared Nightjar was roosting. Our tour leader had seen one of these eighteen years previously, but due to having the wrong lens on his camera, he had been unable to photograph it. So this was not only a fantastic new species for the group and in a good spot for shots, but redemption for our leader at last.

We wandered slowly back to the vehicles, but not before spotting a female Giraffe-necked Weevil, a troop of three Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemurs actually eating bamboo, a Giant Madagascan Hognose Snake and two Lateral Watersnakes! What a great end to our time in the eastern rainforest.

We set off for the long and tedious journey towards Palmarium Lodge, our base for the final night, on the edge of a lake just behind a coastal barrier strip of land. It's a wonderful place, and just has to be visited. We didn't have long before we were on another boat and visiting Aye-aye Island with guide Romeo, where the lemur species of the same name can be found. We had over ninety minutes to enjoy at least three animals coming to feed. It was fun practising with wide-angle lenses, and taking telephoto close-up shots of these extraordinary creatures.

After a late dinner, our second guide, Ricot, took us into the littoral forest, and soon we were enjoying just a tiny fraction of the wildlife here. A Madagascar Reed Frog, Peters' Spotted Gecko, Gunther's Dwarf Gecko, Panther Chameleon, a very colourful lantern bug species, Rufous Mouse Lemur and Eastern Woolly Lemur were seen, along with an assortment of spiders, moths and other unidentifiable invertebrates. It's certainly not easy in Madagascar; there is very little literature on some of the smaller taxa. But they are all truly remarkable, and always fun to find and photograph.

## Day 18

Thursday 27th November

### The Palmarium, transfer to Taomasina & Tana

With a mid-afternoon flight from Taomasina, we had just a short walk in the morning. We immediately connected with a small family of Indris with the superb help of Ricot. He had the most amazing ability to call the lemurs, and they quickly responded too! A group of Common Brown Lemurs, along with the calls of Black-and-white Ruffed Lemurs, was a great way to end the tour.

We took the boat to Taomasina and boarded our return flight to Tana, bizarrely via Sainte Marie Island in the Indian Ocean, where we only added Common Myna and a Madagsacar Pratincole! After our final meal together at Le Combava, we retired for the night.

## Day 19

Friday 28th November

### Transfer to Addis Ababa

Before our last breakfast together, we enjoyed an hour on the hotel balcony, where we were able to photograph Red Fody, Madagascar Mannikin and Black-crowned Night Heron. We completed some final Lightroom tuition,

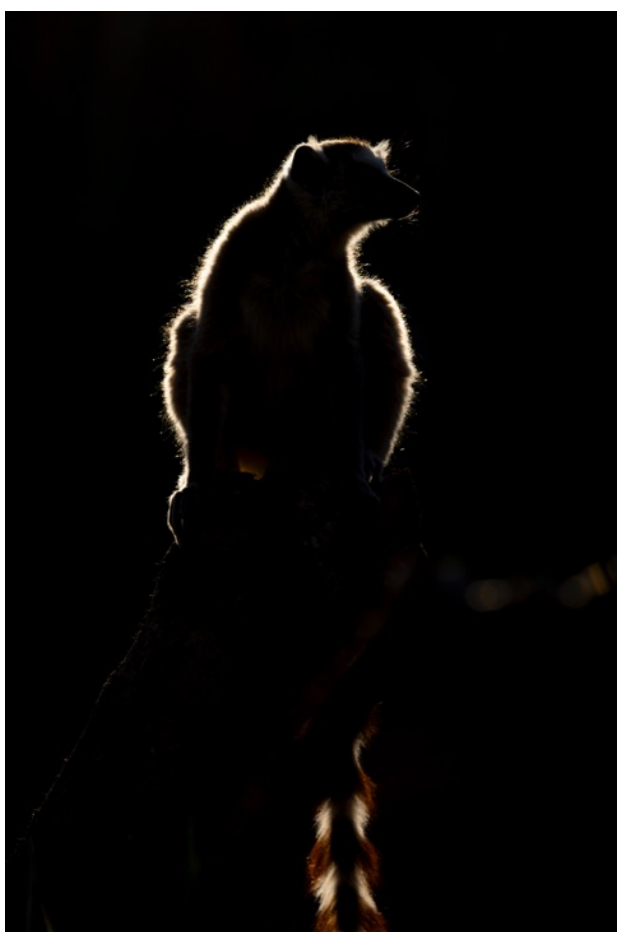
before we packing up and heading off to the international airport. It was peaceful and quiet, and we departed on time for Addis Ababa.

## Day 20

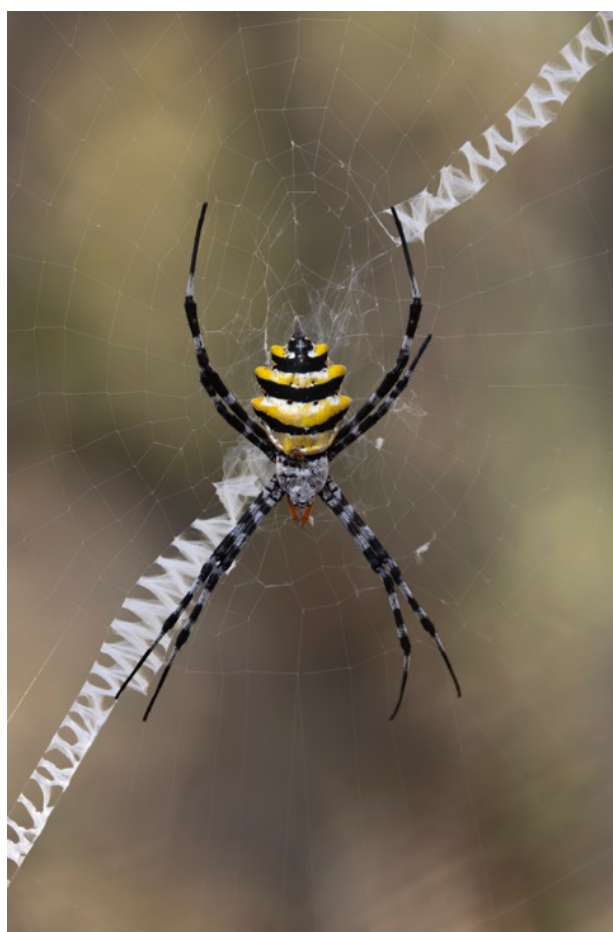
Saturday 27th November

### Transfer to London Heathrow

We had a final drink and said our farewells in Addis during our six-hour layover. Once aboard our final flight of the tour, we made good progress, arrived on time, and were safely back in the UK early on Saturday morning. It had been a magnificent trip, with so many great memories. It would surely live long in our minds as we begin the pleasurable task of editing and processing our images.



Ring-tailed Lemur



*Argiope Coquereli*



Malagasy Giant Rat



Scorpion sp.

## 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](https://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](https://naturetrek.bsky.social)



[x.com/naturetrektours](https://x.com/naturetrektours) (formerly Twitter)

## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</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>									✓			✓	✓	✓					
Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>																	✓		
Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>				✓						✓	H	✓	H			✓	H		
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>				✓															
Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>			✓					✓	✓										
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			✓																
Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			H	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		H		✓		H			
Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>					✓	✓			H	H	✓	✓	✓						
Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>															H				
Olive-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>												✓		✓					
Coquerel's Coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>					✓	✓													
Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>					✓	✓						✓	✓						
Madagascar Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>					H	✓	H		✓	H		H	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>					✓	✓			✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓			✓							
Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>										✓	✓	✓							
Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>															✓			✓	
Tsingy Forest Rail	<i>Mentocrex beankaensis</i>									✓										
White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>			H	H															

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓							✓									
Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>			✓																
Madagascar Buttonquail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>						✓													
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓														
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>					✓														
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>					✓														
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					✓														
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓													H	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓														
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓														
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓														
Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>								✓									✓	✓	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					?														
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					✓														
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓	H															✓
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>			✓							✓									
Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>								✓											
Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza francesiae</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 supercilialis</i>					H	H					H	✓							



		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Torotoroka Scops Owl	<i>Otus madagascariensis</i>					✓	H							✓						
Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>																	H		
Madagascar Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>																	H		
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>				✓															
Cuckoo-roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>									✓	✓				✓		H			
Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>			✓		✓	✓				H		✓	✓						
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>								✓	✓		✓	✓		✓					
Short-legged Ground Roller	<i>Brachypteracias leptosomus</i>																H			
Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>			✓	✓						✓									
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>				✓		H	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓					
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓									
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓					✓											
Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>							✓												
Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>						✓													
Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>					✓	✓		H		H									
Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falcullea palliata</i>					✓	✓													
Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>				✓															
Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>					✓	✓													
Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>					✓	✓			✓	H		✓				✓			
Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>																	✓		
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>			✓					✓	✓	✓						✓			

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>			✓						✓										
Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>						✓													
Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>						✓		H	✓		✓	✓							
Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>																✓	H		
Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>				✓					✓	✓				✓					
Malagasy White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>			✓											✓					
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Madagascar Starling	<i>Hartlaubius auratus</i>																✓			
Madagascar Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>			✓		✓	✓							✓	✓			✓		
Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>									✓										
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>																✓			
Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</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

I=introduced		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>					✓	✓													
Red-and-grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>											✓	✓	✓						
Goodman's Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>															✓	✓			
Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>																	✓		
Fat-tailed Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>					✓														
Pale Fork-marked Lemur	<i>Phaner pallescens</i>					✓														
Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>																✓	✓		
Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>																	✓	✓	
Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>					✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					

I= introduced		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>																		✓	
Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓					
Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>																H	✓	✓	
White-footed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>											✓	✓	✓						
Red-tailed Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur ruficaudatus</i>					✓														
Eastern Woolly Lemur (Avahi)	<i>Avahi laniger</i>																	✓		
Decken's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus deckenii</i>								✓	✓										
Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>						✓					✓	✓	✓	✓					
Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>																✓	✓		
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>																H	✓	✓	
Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>																	✓		
Fosa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>					✓														
Small Indian Civet - I	<i>Viverricula indica</i>												✓							
Boky-Boky (Narrow-striped Mongoose)	<i>Mungotictis decemlineata</i>						✓													
Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>					✓														
Malagasay Giant Jumping Rat	<i>Hypogeomys antimena</i>						✓													
Madagascar Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>												✓							

## Amphibians

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Madagascar Jumping Frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>																	✓		
Western Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis douloti</i>						✓													
a tree frog	<i>Boophis bottae</i>															✓				
Green Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis viridis</i>															✓				
Böhme's Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis boehmei</i>																✓			
Fiery Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis pyrrhus</i>																✓			
Baron's Mantella	<i>Mantella baroni</i>																✓			
White-whiskered Madagascar Frog	<i>Mantidactylus melanopleura</i>																✓			
Boulenger's Giant Treefrog	<i>Platypelis grandis</i>																✓			

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Marbled Rain Frog	<i>Scaphiophryne marmorata</i>															✓				
a tree frog	<i>Spinomantis aglavei</i>																✓			
Madagascar Reed Frog	<i>Heterixalus madagascariensis</i>																	✓		

## Reptiles

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chameleons																				
Brown Leaf Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>															✓	✓			
a leaf chameleon	<i>Brookesia nify</i>																	✓		
Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>															✓				
Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>																✓			
Malthe's Chameleon	<i>Calumma malthe</i>																✓			
Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>															✓		✓		
Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>			✓		✓		✓		✓										
Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>												✓	✓	✓					
a chameleon sp.	<i>Furcifer nicosiai</i>								✓											
Panther Chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>																	✓		
Lizards, geckos & skinks																				
Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalerodon) madagascariensis</i>				✓							✓	✓	✓	✓					
Collared Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>									✓										
Large-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardii</i>							✓				✓	✓	✓						
Northern Madagascar Ground Gecko	<i>Paroedura homalorhina</i>								✓											
Ocelot Gecko	<i>Paroedura picta</i>					✓														
Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>					✓			✓											
Robust Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus pictus</i>			✓																
a dwarf gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tuberosus</i>													✓						
a dwarf gecko	<i>Lygodactylus verticillatus</i>												✓							

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025																		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Gunther's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus miops</i>																	✓		
Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>															✓	✓			
Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>															✓				
Four-lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata</i>			✓																
Lined Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>																✓			
Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>																✓			
Thick-tail Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>								✓				✓	✓						
Koch's Giant Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma kochi</i>							✓	✓		✓									
Aldabra Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma abbotti</i>								✓	✓										
a House Gecko	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>				✓			✓												
Gray's Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mercatorius</i>			✓																
Gold-spotted Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) aureopunctata</i>												✓	✓						
Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
Karsten's Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus karsteni</i>						✓		✓		✓									
Elegant Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis (Mabuya) elegans</i>				✓		✓			✓			✓	✓						
Gravenhorst's Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis gravenhorstii</i>								✓				✓							
Bridled Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis volamenaloha</i>								✓	✓										
Dumas' Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis dumasi</i>												✓							
Madagascar Keeled Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus madagascariensis</i>												✓	✓						
Peter's Keeled Cordylid	<i>Tracheloptychus petersi</i>													✓						
Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>																✓		✓	
Peters' Spotted Gecko	<i>Geckolepis maculata</i>							✓	✓									✓		
<b>Snakes</b>																				
Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>					✓				✓			✓	✓						
Western Cat-eyed Snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus occidentalis</i>					✓		✓												
Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>																✓			
Giant Madagascan Hognosed Snake	<i>Leioheterodon madagascariensis</i>													✓				✓		
Lined Forest Snake	<i>Compsophis infralineatus</i>																✓			

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025																		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Lateral Watersnake	<i>Thamnosophis lateralis</i>																	✓		
<b>Turtles &amp; tortoises</b>																				
Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>													✓						

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025																		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Madagascar Giant Swallowtail	<i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>							✓												
Madagascar Swordtail	<i>Graphium evombar</i>								✓											
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilo demodocus</i>			✓						✓										
a skipper sp.	<i>Perrotia</i> sp.													?						
Malagasy Dusky Dart	<i>Acleros leucopyga</i>																✓			
a skipper	Hesperiidae sp.														?					
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>										✓				✓					
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>			✓									✓							
African Monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Common Joker	<i>Byblia anvatara</i>										✓				✓					
an acraea	<i>Acraea turna</i> ab. <i>marmorata</i>													✓						
an acraea	<i>Acraea zitja</i>			✓					✓											
an acraea	<i>Acraea ranavalona</i>					✓								✓						
an acraea	<i>Acraea</i> sp.												?		?					
Dusky-veined Acraea	<i>Acraea damni</i>													✓						
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓																
Brilliant Blue	<i>Junonia rhadama</i>			✓					✓		✓									
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>			✓																
Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta paris</i>													✓						
Madagascar Commodore	<i>Precis andremiaja</i>			✓																
Madagascan Forest Nymph	<i>Aterica rabena</i>								✓	✓	✓			✓						
a satyr	<i>Heteropsis/Strabena</i> sp.			✓							✓						✓			
a satyr	<i>Heteropsis ankaratra</i>												✓	✓	✓					
a metalmark	<i>Saribia perroti</i>																✓			
African Migrant	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>													✓						
a white sp.	<i>Belenois grandidieri</i>													✓						

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
African Albatross/Diverse White	<i>Appias epaphia orbona</i>																✓			
Madagascan Orange Tip	<i>Colotis evanthe</i>									✓	✓									
a white sp.	<i>Colotis zoe</i>												✓							
Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata crowleyi</i>												✓	✓	✓					
a white sp.	<i>Eurema</i> sp.												✓							
Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i>			✓																
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>														✓					
Madagascar Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes rabefaner</i>																✓			
a blue	<i>Lycaenidae</i> sp.														✓					

## Moths

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Silver-striped Hawk-moth	<i>Hippotion celerio</i>											✓								

## Dragonflies and damselflies

		November 2025																		
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bold Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum stemmale</i>						✓			✓			✓							
Phantom Flutterer	<i>Rhyothemis semihyalina</i>										✓									
Rock Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis divisa</i>									✓										
Greenbolt Dragonfly	<i>Viridithemis viridula</i>									✓										
Madagascar Demoiselle	<i>Phaon rasoherinae/iridipennis</i>															✓				
Southern Banded Groundling	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>			✓																
Common Citril	<i>Ceragrion glabrum</i>			✓						✓	✓									
Coral-tailed Cloudwing	<i>Tholymis tillarga</i>												✓							

## Other arthropods

Common name	Scientific name	November 2025																		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Giraffe-necked Weevil	<i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>															✓		✓		
Giant Emerald Pill Millepede	<i>Zoosphaerium neptunus</i>																✓			
Madagascar Fire Millipede	<i>Aphistogoniulus hova</i>																✓			
Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider	<i>Trichonephila inaurata madagascariensis</i>			✓																
Ornamental Wandering Spider	<i>Viridasius fasciatus</i>											✓								
a wasp spider	<i>Argiope coquereli</i>												✓							
a scorpion	Scorpiones sp.								✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						