

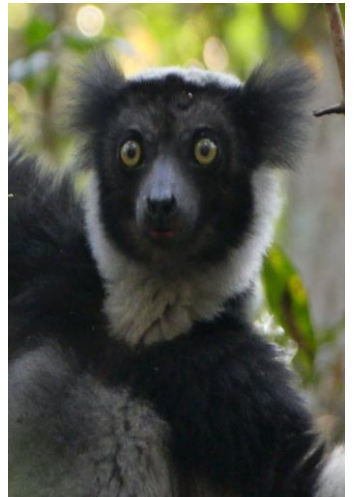
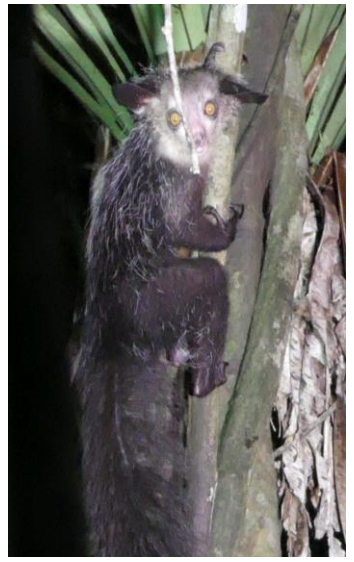


Madagascar Wildlife Tour

Destination: Central Madagascar **Duration:** 13 Days **Dates:** 8th – 20th November 2022

-  Spotting 26 species of lemur including Indri, Diademed Sifaka & Ring-tailed Lemur
-  Hiking through the wonderful forests of Andasibe, Ranomafana and Kirindy
-  Many nice endemic bird species seen including 8 species of Vanga
-  Spotting a total of 11 species of Chameleon, including tiny *Brookesia* species
-  Observing a total number of 39 species of mammals in throughout the trip
-  Seeing 78 species of birds throughout including many rare and endemic species
-  Spotlighting Aye-ayes, Sibree's Dwarf Lemur, Weasel's Sportive Lemur & more!
-  Visiting the incredible and very photogenic Allee des Baobab near Kirindy Forest
-  Many species of reptile including several Madagascar Giant Hog-nosed Snakes
-  Having great sightings of a mother and baby Fanaloka and Ring-tailed Vontsira



Tour Leader / Guides

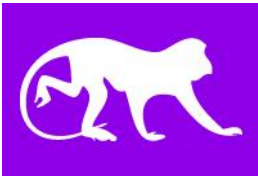
Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Mario (Aye-aye Guide)
 Daisy (Andasibe & Mantadia National Park Guide)
 Cristophe, Adrian, Emil, Marie (Ranomafana National Park Guides)
 Christian (Kirindy Guide)
 Nary & Lovre (Drivers Throughout)

Participants

Mrs. Bobbie Borowski
 Mr. Keith Dentith
 Mr. Ewan Davies
 Mr. Monty Ross

Overview

Day 1:	Antananarivo – Palmarium
Day 2:	Palmarium – VIOMMA
Days 3-4:	Andasibe-Mantadia NP
Days 5-6:	Ranomafana NP
Day 7:	Anja Reserve
Day 8:	Antsirabe
Day 9-11:	Kirdiny Reserve
Day 12:	Antsirabe
Day 13:	Antananarivo / Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

During this mammal focused trip to Madagascar we focused around a handful of key species (1) Fossa (2) Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur (3) Ring Tailed Lemur (4) Indri (5) Aye-aye. Due to unforeseen circumstances we were not able to get all of these targets but we had three of them and many other species (including some great surprises instead).

First off the list was the iconic aye-aye in the 'semi-wild' setting of the aye-aye island near Palmarium. However knowing the history of this island now I would say that constitutes as wild a sighting as many in the world today (with micro and macro management of national parks, mountain gorillas having their own teams of vets, reintroductions, semi-captive breeding projects, fenced parks etc). I was told by the park rangers there that years ago a pair of aye-aye were found living in the forest there (being regarded quite negatively by the local people in Madagascar – as daemons and evil spirits etc) the local reserve management decided to cut off the part of the forest they lived at (to form an island), the island is separated from the rest of the mainland by a small body of water around 6ft wide and 4ft deep. Deep enough to deter aye-ayes and also assure the locals that they were not going to invade their villages, huts and do whatever it is that evil spirits may do. Over the years another 4-5 aye-ayes have been taken from the surrounding forests and put on the island reserve for protection. Over the years the aye-ayes have been fed (for monitoring and now for tourism), however they are fed 6-7 coconuts per night (when there are tourists) this is between a population of 8 aye-ayes now (one was born here successfully) and so that amount of food is not enough for them to become dependant on hand outs and the aye-ayes live 95% of their lives in the complete absence of humans. Only for around 30 mins when there are paying tourists do they come to the coconuts placed out for them. For me that is still pretty wild and as I mention today the line is blurred with what constitutes fully wild animals nowadays.

From here we went to the three main locations in central Madagascar for the largest variety of iconic lemur species, these being Anasibe-Mantadia, Ranomafana and then Kirindy. In addition we also visited Anja Reserve which is a special community project with the most northerly population of ring-tailed lemurs on the island. So by visiting these four locations we racked up many more lemurs, loads of chameleons and some great additional mammals as well. Including wonderful close sightings of fanaloka and ring-tailed vonsira.

With 80% of its species found nowhere else on earth – including birds, chameleons and of course the lemurs – Madagascar is an wildlife enthusiasts dream destination. Whether you are trekking through the forest reserves, being taken down a river past limestone cliffs, spotlighting at night time looking for elusive nocturnal species or exploring the cave and stunning rock formations of the tsingy; you will be in for a treat and we hope you enjoy this trip report and it inspires you to want to revisit (and try another part of the island and see a whole new host of species) or visit for the first time and experience a truly unique island.



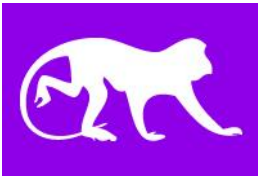
Day 1 **Antananarivo / Palmarium**

Travelling & Spotlighting

Everyone had arrived into Tana the day before and were collected at the airport and made their way to the hotel to rest up ahead of the trip starting tomorrow. There was one last minute cancellation on the trip and Monty & Bobbie's bags didn't arrive, but they did make it before we left the capital.

On the first day of the trip (8th November) we left Tana at 5am and started the journey east towards the coast. We saw our first mammal of the trip at the hotel when Monty and Bobbie spotted a black rat in the alley way near the hotel and we also had some endemic birds around the hotel (Madagascar fody) and then on the road (Madagascar kestrel) before a little Parson's chameleon crossed the road in front of us on the road, stopping for a short while and letting us get nice looks before we ushered it off the road and to safety.

We stopped for breakfast in the town of Moromanga and continued on, it was a near full day driving to get to the coast and once we arrived at the beautiful eastern coast and its large lagoons and canal systems stretching many miles along the east side of the island; we then had lunch here before boarding the boat and being transferred through the waterways to the lodge and reserve of Palmarium.



Along the way we had some more birds around including olive bee-eaters, Madagascar malachite kingfisher, straited heron and red-knobbed coots before arriving at 16:30.

After checking in we left with the local guide Mario straight away on the boat to the Ankanin'ny Nofy aye-aye island (it is around 20 minutes) and once we arrived we went to one of the two feeding sites, these sites are lit by temporary lights and a small number of coconuts are put out in tree nooks. The **aye-ayes** show up from the forest and feed for 15-20 minutes and then disappear to continue their nightly routine. But it does allow for very close up and prolonged (eye-level) views of these amazing animals. We had 4 of the 8 **aye-ayes** on the island come and feed for us and put on a very nice show. Watching them climbing around and jumping from tree to tree and then amazingly using their elongated bony finger to scoop out the insides of a coconut and using their beaver like teeth to open up the coconuts; was a great start to the trip.

We also had an endemic Madagascar cat-eyed snake very close and like many of the animals in Madagascar it was relaxed enough for us to get very close views and photographs. On the way back out of the forest and towards the boat we were shown an aye-aye nest and then found a **greater dwarf lemur** feeding on some of the leftovers from the aye-ayes and then we had views of a **Webb's tufted-ailed rat** on the forest floor.

We returned to the lodge and had dinner and reflected on quite a productive first hour or so looking for wildlife on the trip. After dinner we had a walk around the forest near the lodge, here there are many tame lemurs from all over Madagascar here and that is quite something in the day when they come to you, jump on you and climb around, but at night there are some species which are wild in the forest and were always here. We managed to see one of these species when we spotted a pair of **eastern avahi** in a tree before a very young male panther chameleon and then near the main complex of buildings we had an endemic **Commerson's roundleaf bat** flying around.

All in all very good start to the trip.

Day 2 Palmarium / VOIMMA Reserve

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we had another walk around the reserve, spotting a hook-billed vanga on a nest near the restaurant as well as having great views of several of the introduced non-wild lemurs here, such as the resident (very noisy) troop of black-and-white ruffed lemurs as well as indris, black lemurs and crowned lemurs. We had several other endemic birds on the trip including Madagascar coucal and Madagascar green pigeon before packing up and leaving the lodge and taking the boat back to the mainland.

Once there we loaded the cars up and drove north-west towards the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park area. We had lunch in a restaurant nearby and then after lunch went straight to the VOIMMA special local reserve. This is one of the many locally run community forests on the edges of national parks, which allow visitors all day and also at night. We met our local guide and entered the forest for a walk around, we had some endemic birds including the spectacled tetraka, Madagascar paradise flycatcher (on a nest) and red-breasted coua close to the trail. Ewan spotted a lateral water snake just off the trail, it was a great spot and we had nice views as it moved slowly off the path and next to the path for a little way.

We then found a group of 3 **indri**, offering great views as they were very low down at first and it was great to watch them leap from one tree to another, landing gracefully and never missing a beat. We stayed with them for a long time, watching them move around and interact with each other, completely unfazed by our presence.

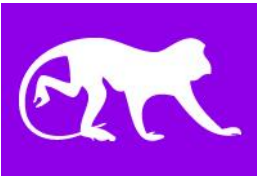
Further along in the forest we had nice views of a large male Parson's chameleon complete with two impressive horns, our guide then found a couple of one of the country's best endemic insects with the amazing giraffe-necked weevil before an equally good spot to find a mossy leaf-tailed gecko. All of these animals being endemic to Madagascar and giving us a great overview of the wildlife here, there is far more to Madagascar's forests than just lemurs.

We then passed by a sacred tree where local people (as well as people from all over the country) come to sacrifice zebu and chickens to the spirits of the forest.

We were then taken to a known roosting location for a nice Madagascar scops owl which was very hidden in some dense bush, but we all got views (just about) of the endemic owl before moving on and leaving the forest and heading to the accommodation to check in, rest up a little and have dinner.

Then after dinner we went out again for some spotlighting in VOIMMA Reserve. Even before entering and just around the ticket office we found a **Goodman's mouse lemur** and this was closely followed by nice views of a **Crossley's dwarf lemur** and then another **Goodman's mouse lemur** before a couple more reptiles with another mossy leaf-tailed gecko and a tiny newly hatched Parson's chameleon.

Carrying on along the various trails we had the first of two great and low down sightings of the rarely seen **Weasel's sportive lemur**, the first sighting giving us very long views as it just posed for us on the side of a tree. We had more chameleons along the side of the path with a few sleeping short-horned chameleons before we all got very excited when the guide spotted a **lowland streaked tenrec** next to the path, it ran off before we could get pictures, but we all had nice views, particularly as it ran between Martin's legs in its attempt to get away from us and into the forest. Another very productive day and some nice rarely seen species to add to the growing list as we return to the accommodation for a well deserved nights rest.



Day 3 **Mantadia National Park**

Wildlife Watching

This morning was an early start to head the hour or so away from the accommodation to get deep into the wonderful primary rainforest of Mantadia National Park. One of the key species to see here is the beautiful **diademed sifaka** and we saw two groups of them today, one of these groups was a breeding pair and a baby, the group of three were seen very well and almost immediately which was nice.

Further along we spotted more **indri**, their calls are just incredible, a haunting, piercing yet beautiful call that fills the air of the forest every day around here. Watching these two very large lemur species moving around, feeding, grooming and interacting is one of the highlights of any trip to Madagascar and one we fully enjoyed today.

In addition to these two lemur species we had another sighting of a **lowland streaked tenrec** this one allowing for some pictures and closer views before it slowly walked way into the forest foraging along the way.

There were several nice birds seen in the forest today including Madagascar paradise flycatcher, Madagascar magpie robin, Madagascar buzzard, pitta-like ground-roller and streak-throated gery as well as another lateral water snake and Madagascar day geckos. The guide did have views of a **black-and-white ruffed lemur** but no one else could get onto it.

Back at the accommodation in the late afternoon we had dinner and then headed out for another night walk, on the walk we found a **Crossley's dwarf lemur** and **Goodman's mouse lemur** and had better views of both of these species tonight.

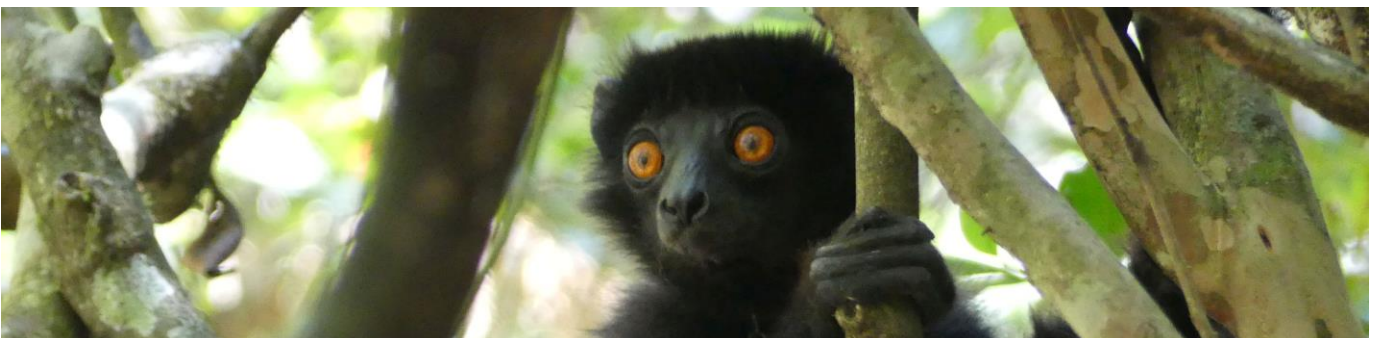
Day 4 **Andasibe National Park – Antsirabe** *Wildlife Watching & Travelling*

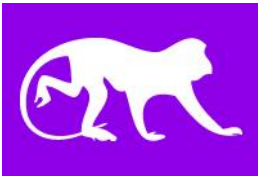
This morning we departed the accommodation and arrived at the head-quarters to Andasibe National Park, in the carpark ground we were shown a low down nest of an endemic Madagascar blue pigeon and then when entering the park we quickly found a small group of **gray bamboo lemurs** on the ground next to the trail feeding on bamboo. After this nice encounter we heard the first indri of the day, calling through the forest and we headed off in the direction of the calls. Along the way we had a great sighting of a Madagascar dwarf kingfisher in the forest and then a group of **common brown lemurs** next to either side and right above the trail. We could see them very well and watched them for a long time before moving on and looking for the indri we had heard calling.

We then found the group of **indri** and this group included a young baby, they were high up in the trees and less cooperative than the group yesterday, but we still had nice views. A few other groups of people showed up and so we moved on but first our guide found a gorgeous Madagascar tree boa up a tree curled up and nearly impossible to see. How our guide spotted it was incredible.

We then started to leave the park as we had a long day of driving ahead of us and on the way out we stopped at a well known sleeping site of **eastern avahi** and we found a pair with a young baby resting in a stand of tall coniferous trees.

We then made our way back to the accommodation and packed up and left. We then drove southwards towards Ranomafana. Due to the long distance needed to be covered and the winding and slow nature of the roads in Madagascar we would break up the journey in Antsirabe which is one of the major towns in Madagascar. We had lunch en route and then arrived around 7pm, we checked in and had dinner before going to bed.





Day 5 **Antsirabe – Ranomafana NP**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning would be another travelling day and so we left after breakfast at 8am to continue the journey south to Ranomafana National Park. This drive went through drier and rockier parts of the country as we passed through the highlands, on the road we spotted a carpet chameleon crossing. This is perhaps the most beautiful species of chameleon in the world and one that was nice to see.

We arrived in Ranomafana at 3:30pm and had a late lunch in a restaurant near the town and then went to have a walk around the Botanical Garden here. It is a great place to see many of the strange and endemic trees and plants of the island (as well as the startling array of fruits which grow here) as well as a chance to see various species of herps which can be difficult elsewhere.

We were taken around the place by Christophe who showed us the Nelicourvi weavers nesting here and several lateral water snakes which are common here and live under the trails and in the lawns in ant colonies. The snake and ants live symbiotically with the ants providing the snakes with a place to live and the snakes provide the ants with a protection service to the colony. It is quite cool to see their little heads popping up in between rocks and the grass as we walked past.

We then carried on and were shown various palms and a huge male Parson's chameleon in a tree. Christophe comes with a small number of grasshoppers and we watched him feed the chameleon and had great views of him using his huge tongue to grab and eat them. We found a second species of chameleon here (nose-horned chameleon) and a young Parson's a little further along. We were taken around the rest of the gardens and were shown a pair of nesting crested drongos, another male and female Parson's chameleon, stick insects and several nice frogs; including starry-night reed frogs, mango tree frogs and Betsileo reed frogs all sleeping curled up underneath leaves in bushes and trees.

We then went to the accommodation before meeting up with our guide for the night Adrian. As we were leaving the accommodation we watched the roosting brown-throated martins coming back and forth to their nests above the reception as they collected the last of the day's insects for their hungry chicks in the nests, there were also several Madagascar day geckos around here too, also taking advantage of the insects.

When we made it to the section of the road we would be walking up and spotlighting we quickly spotted a **rufous mouse lemur** in the trees and then the first of several blue-legged chameleons. Tonight was a great night for chameleons as we also found O'Shaughnessy's chameleon, side-striped chameleon (which is endemic to Ranomafana National Park), short-nosed deceptive chameleon and short-nosed chameleon along the side of the road. Another great reptile from tonight was probably the best spot from our guide Adrian when we found a giant leaf-tailed gecko that we all struggled to see even when we had it direct in the main beam and circled by his laser pointer.

As far as other mammals went Adrian was very happy to find a **Sibree's dwarf lemur** moving around and then it went to hide in some dense vegetation, it was a very cool spot of the much rarer to see dwarf lemur known from the more northern regions of the park. We also saw another one of these **Sibree's swarf lemurs** which showed very well and this one showed the nice distinctive features including very white belly and under legs as well as the thick black eye rings and pink hands.

Further south and back towards the town we had a couple of the more commonly seen **Grove's dwarf lemurs** and one of these gave us very good views on a branch right above the road.

We then returned to the accommodation for the night, a very successful night walk, three new lemur species for the trip, a new gecko species and no less than 5 species of chameleon spotted in a very small size.

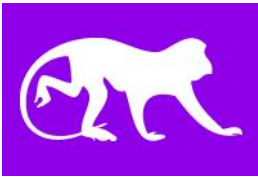
Day 6 **Ranomafana National Park**

Wildlife Watching

This morning with our guide Emil and spotter Marie we entered the park, it was fascinating walking around with Emile as he was the first registered guide in Ranomafana back in 1995 and his work with notable scientists over the years including Russell Mittermeier and his knowledge of the park going back to its founding and beyond in encyclopaedic.

We were told lots about the trees and ferns as well as the huge golden orb spiders and then gigantic webs as we entered the park over the bridge. We had a pitta-like ground-roller early on and then heard noisy black-and-white ruffed lemurs before Marie came back down the trail saying she had found a group of **golden bamboo lemurs** which we saw very well feeding and moving through the forest and every now and again entering well lit patches of sunlight and showing off their beautiful colouration. With this reasonably sized group of **golden bamboo lemurs** was one lone male **greater bamboo lemur**, after a female died here not long ago this one male is the only known individual **greater bamboo lemur** left in the area and in 2 weeks he was going to be joined by a group that were being translocated from the lowlands here as all of the bamboo in their habitat had been cleared.

After a good long time watching these two species of **bamboo lemurs** we left and carried on and quickly found a group of **red-fronted brown lemurs** feeding on figs quite low down. They had some babies with them and it was another fantastic close and prolonged sighting. The two babies were particularly entertaining as they reached out and picked up twigs and figs from their mothers back and investigated everything within reach.



A little further along we came to a family of **Milne Edward's sifakas**, the group consisted of 3 adults and 2 youngsters and as the temperatures were increasing they were quite chilled and just resting low down in the trees. We had great eye-level views of them as they groomed each other and themselves. As these **sifakas** were near the entrance to the park and Keith wasn't feeling too great, Martin decided to walk with Keith out of the park and back to the hotel to rest for a while and wait for this afternoon to try again.

The rest of the group continued in the park and climbed up to a view point, unfortunately it was cloudy at the view point and so the view was not great, but they were rewarded for the climb by having a **ring-tailed vontsira** coming along into small clearing and begging for scraps. Whilst it is not allowed to eat in the park and not allowed to feed the animals, people do nonetheless and these very clever animals have learnt to hang around such places and wait for handouts. Before they left the viewpoint it did clear and the group got some nice views out over the forest and the valley.

On the way back out of the park Emil found a **red-bellied lemur** in a tree but it was very dense vegetation and he couldn't get the group on it. So they all returned to the accommodation for lunch and then after lunch at around 14:30 they were called back as Marie had called Emil and explained that she had found some black-and-white ruffed lemurs. So they all went back into the park and had a very productive afternoon. They did find the pair of **black-and-white ruffed lemur** and had very nice views as they were directly overhead as well as better views of the pitta-like ground-roller and a blue coua as well as finally seeing a couple of **red-bellied lemurs** and another family of **Milne-Edwards sifakas** and Madagascar buzzards soaring over the forest.

We then headed to another clearing around dusk (a clearing that used to be a campsite and an area still used by park officials for impromptu camping. If you are lucky at this area just around dark you may see a fanaloka. We were lucky as we had amazing close views of a mother and baby **fanaloka** at the clearing for several minutes. This was the highlight for many as it was unexpected and such a beautiful and rare species.

Then as we left the park we had nice views of an adult ant-lion flying. This is usually an animal you see in their distinctive conical holes in the ground, where they spend most of the lives living as nymphs underground. Then just as we were crossing the entry to the park we had a **Grove's dwarf lemur** in a tree nearby and then a little more distinct a **Betselio sportive lemur**.



Day 7 **Ranomafana National Park**

Wildlife Watching

This morning we visited the highland areas of the park around the Sahalamaha forest, there were nice birds around including some more endemic species including velvet asity, common newtonia and another blue coua.

Mammal wise we had nice and close sightings of a small group of **red-bellied lemurs** with a baby as well as **red-fronted brown lemurs** which were actually just opposite the hotel as we left and before we even entered the park. The other lemur from the forest this morning was another family of **Milne-Edward's sifakas**. Then when leaving we had views of a blue-legged and O'Shaughnessy's chameleon and on the road back there is a small waterfall and cave nearby, so we had a look inside and found a small colony of **Major's little-fingered bats**.

Back in the hotel grounds and in late morning we had an ornate girdled lizard catching beetles, we then had lunch and rested a while before heading back into the park in the afternoon.

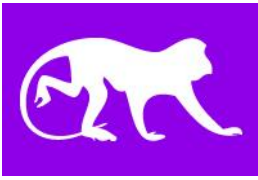
We went to have another look in the cave on the way to the Sahalamaha forest, to see if we had missed any species, we hadn't. It is just the one species in the small cave. But we did see a male and female pair of *mantidactylus femoralis* around the cave. Then in the forest we didn't do very well with mammals but had more bird views including the red-fronted coua, Francis' sparrowhawk over the path and near a nest giving us great views of this very rarely seen species. It was a male and female that we saw around the nest. Then as we were leaving we had two **eastern red forest rats** just off the path.

We went back to the hotel for dinner and the night, tomorrow would be a long day of travelling.

Day 8 **Anja Reserve / Antsirabe**

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Today was largely a day on the road. We left Ranomafana early and hit the road southwards straight away, before we left we had some free-tailed bats in the morning light around the accommodation which we assume are



Madagascan eastern free-tailed bats based on the lack of other bats which fit that description in the area. We made good time and stopped for breakfast in the town of Ambalavao before arriving in Anja Reserve at around 9am. This small community run reserve is home to a very amenable group of **ring-tailed lemurs** which are also the further north species in the world and therefore an easy of seeing this iconic lemur without travelling to the far south of Madagascar. We saw around 35 of these **ring-tailed lemurs** straight away. Watching them jumping around, feeding, moving on the ground (being perhaps the most terrestrial of all lemurs), young one playing and in general seeing some great behaviours.

We stayed with them for some time and whilst here and following the troop we also found a *Brookesia brunoi* in the leaf litter and had great views of one of the smallest species of chameleon in the world. We then found several Oustalet's chameleons (otherwise known as Malagasy's giant chameleon) which is the polar opposite of *brookesia*. We then left Anja and headed back north, this was a long drive and we didn't arrive at Antsirabe for the night until around 8pm, we stopped for lunch in the town of Fianastao.



Day 9 Kirindy Forest Reserve

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning would be another long drive as we started the journey westwards towards Kirindy forest. We left after breakfast at 7:30am and stopped in the town of Mianfzao for lunch, during which a torrential downpour fell, we hoped the roads would still be ok. Which they were but it did slow us down a little.

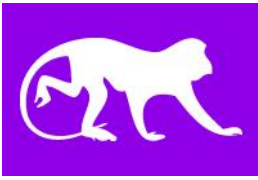
We pushed on and arrived at Kirindy after dark, we checked in quickly and then went straight into the park and met our guide Christian.

As we unloaded out of the vehicle and got ready for the walk in the forest we had several **Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bats** flying around looking for fruiting trees.

We were first met by the disappointing news that the fossa which were usually very regular here had not been seen for a long time and then when they did show up they didn't hang around very long. It used to be that the fossa would come to the area in their breeding season (in November) to use a special mating tree which the females like to use to climb and attract males. They used a tree close to the ranger station and camp here which also provided them with quick and easy food from the kitchens and trash dump. But then when covid hit the park was closed and the locals all left and the food dried up. So the fossa which used to stay here for easy food all left and went back to living like fossa which were not used to getting freebies. This meant that for a couple of years the female fossa in the area started to use different mating trees and had not come back to this location yet. When the males did come back in 2022 they only stayed around the camp for a little bit of September and October and by the time people (like us) arrived here in the normally peak season of November they had left and were currently around a mating tree some 17km into the forest and inaccessible to people. We hoped that in the future the fossa would come back to the camp area as people started to visit again the kitchen was being used again, but for now the once reliable fossa sightings were no more.

We were also told that the world's smallest primate species (Madame Berthe's mouse lemur) had not been seen here for months and Christian described said that they feared it local extinct in this area, we hoped not and I have since heard they have been seen in a couple of places nearby. But these two species which we hoped to see here, were not possible currently. But we still hoped for other species whilst in Kirindy.

Almost immediately after entering the forest we found a **grey mouse lemur** on a low down tree trunk and letting us see it very well, we then found a **fat-tailed dwarf lemur** curled up in a nook in a tree, not giving us very good views and then we had amazing views of a pair of **red-tailed sportive lemurs** close to each other and relatively low down. As we continued we had more **grey mouse lemurs** and **red-tailed sportive lemurs** the densities of these two species was impressive. Then leaving for a late dinner back at the lodge we had great close views of a large Madagascar night snake as it crossed the road.



Day 10 Kirindy Forest Reserve

Wildlife Watching

This morning we went back out into the forest with Christian, along the way into the forest a **narrow-striped boky** crossed the road and then very quickly after getting on foot into the forest they found a group of three adult **Verreaux's sifakas** which had a young baby with them.

We had some great birds this morning also including Coquerel's coua, giant coua, crested coua, broad-billed rollers, white-headed vanga, sickle-billed vanga, rufous vanga, Chabert vanga, Madagascar hoopoe, Henst's goshawk, Madagascar buttonquail, blue vanga among others. The reptile life was also good this morning including some species our very experienced guide had not seen before, some of the reptiles seen were, flat-tailed tortoises, Madagascar hog-nosed snake, spiny-tailed opulurus and lined day geckos.

We came back to the lodge for the middle part of the day and then returned in the afternoon with **red-fronted brown lemurs** being seen easily, the group contained some babies and we watched them for a while. We also had much better views of the **narrow-striped boky** this afternoon and two more Madagascar hog-nosed snakes and another endemic bird species, the white-breasted mesite.

Then after dark we headed out again into the forest and spotted the last commonly seen lemur we had been missing from Kirindy, which is the **pale fork-marked lemur** which we saw very well posing for us. We then saw more **grey mouse lemurs** and **red-tailed sportive lemurs** as we did last night. We also watched a Madagascar scops owl catch and eat a grasshopper as well as finding **Bastard big-footed mouse** which was the last species of note.

Day 11 Kirindy Forest Reserve

Wildlife Watching

This morning we had an early start as we had heard that sometimes a fossa would come into the grounds of a nearby lodge to drink from a pool there. The lodge was not open yet, but we went to wait and see if the fossa would show up. Unfortunately we didn't see the fossa as it didn't come today but there was a nice group of **Verreaux's sifakas** nearby which were seen well for a while. Before going back to the reserve itself with Christian we had exceptional views of another **narrow-striped boky** and Madagascar striped snake being actively hunted by a giant hog-nosed snake.

One of our party (Monty) decided to wait all day at the camp in case the fossa showed up and unfortunately for him he didn't see a fossa. He did however have nice views of **red-fronted brown lemurs** and **Verreaux's sifakas** and a Madagascar harrier-hawk.

Then after dark we had one last night walk into the forest, it would be a later one tonight as we aimed to see the **Malagasy giant jumping rat** which we found well on the road.



Day 12 Antsirabe

Travelling

Due to the awful state of internal flights in Madagascar since the reopening after the pandemic we were not able to fly to or from Morondava and so had to drive back from Kirindy to Tana and the next couple of days were travelling days. We left Kirindy at around 7am and began the journey to the great transit town of Antsirabe which is used by many groups crisscrossing the country.

We stopped at the Allee des Baobabs for some photography of this most iconic of settings in the country. The huge baobabs which line the road here are wonderful. In fact the baobab which is possibly the most iconic of all African trees is really a Madagascar specialty with 6 of the 8 species globally being endemic to the island. On the drive out of Kirindy we did have some nice birds along the road including grey-headed lovebirds, greater vasa parrot, Francis's sparrowhawk, Madagascar hoopoe, hook-billed vanga, Madagascar coucal and broad-billed rollers among others. From here the rest of the day was spent on the road.

Day 13 Antananarivo / Departure

Travelling

We left Antsirabe early with Ewan being taken direct to the airport and then everyone else staying overnight nearby the airport.

The following day Monty and Bobbie left with a guide for a short extension to see the wonderful helmeted vanga in a forest nearby Andasibe National Park, Keith was collected and taken to the airport to fly home and Martin continued his trip to the north of Madagascar, where he would be scouting out some new areas for future trips. This will be documented in a second trip report to come.

Species List

Madagascar Wildlife Exploration Nov 2022

Mammals (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Eastern woolly lemur	<i>Avahi laniger</i>
2	Grove's dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus andysabini</i>
3	Crossley's dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>
4	Greater dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>
5	Sibree's dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus sibreei</i>
6	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>
7	Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>
8	Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>
9	Webb's tufted-tailed rat	<i>Eliurus webbi</i>
10	Common brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>
11	Red-bellied lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>
12	Red-fronted brown lemur	<i>Eulemur rufifrons</i>
13	Fanaloka	<i>Fossa fossana</i>
14	Ring-tailed vontsira	<i>Galidia elegans</i>
15	Golden bamboo lemur	<i>Haplemur aureus</i>
16	Grey bamboo lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus</i>
17	Lowland streaked tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>
18	Malagasy giant rat	<i>Hypogeomys antimena</i>
19	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>
20	Ring-tailed lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>
21	Betsileo sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur betselio</i>
22	Weasel's sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>
23	Red-tailed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur ruficaudatus</i>
24	Commerson's roundleaf bat	<i>Macronycteris commersoni</i>
25	Bastard big-footed mouse	<i>Macrotarsomys bastardi</i>
26	Goodman's mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus lahilahytsara</i>
27	Grey mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>
28	Rufous mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>
29	Major's long-fingered bat	<i>Miniopterus majori</i>
30	Madagascar free-tailed bat	<i>Mops atsinanana</i>

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22	Greater vasa parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>
23	Pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
24	Madagascar pygmy kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>
25	Madagascar kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>
26	Blue coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>
27	Coquerel's coua	<i>Coua coquereli</i>
28	Crested coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>
29	Giant coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>
30	Red-fronted coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>
31	Red-breasted coua	<i>Coua serriana</i>
32	Madagascar cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>
33	Madagascar blue vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>
34	African palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus gracilis</i>
35	Fulvous whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
36	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
37	Crested drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>
38	Black heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
39	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
40	Broad-billed roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
41	Madagascar kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>
42	Sickle-billed vanga	<i>Falcoea palliata</i>
43	Madagascar fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>
44	Red-knobbed coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
45	Madagascar bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>
46	Madagascar munia	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>
47	Chabert vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>
48	Madagascar partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>
49	Olive bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
50	White-breasted mesite	<i>Mesitornis variegata</i>
51	Yellow-billed kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
52	Madagascar wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>
53	Stripe-throated jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>
54	Common jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>
55	Green jery	<i>Neomixis viridis</i>
56	Malagasy brush-warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>
57	Madagascar turtle dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>
58	Common newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>
59	Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
60	Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>

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16	Madagascar night snake	<i>Madagascarophis colubrinus</i>
17	Common big-eyed snake	<i>Mimophis mahfalensis</i>
18	Cuvier's Madagascar swift	<i>Oplurus cuvieri</i>
19	Dumeril's Madagascar swift	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>
20	Yellow-throated day gecko	<i>Phelsuma flavigularis</i>
21		<i>Phelsuma hoeschi</i>
22	Madagascar day gecko	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>
23	Thicktail day gecko	<i>Phelsuma mutabilis</i>
24	Flat-tailed tortoise	<i>Pyxis planicauda</i>
25	Lateral water snake	<i>Thamnophis lateralis</i>
26	Elegant mabuya	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>
27	Giant leaf-tailed gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>
28	Mossy leaf-tailed gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>
29	Western girdled lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>
30	Ornate girdled lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>

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Amphibians (* = heard or signs only / CT = camera trap only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Madagascar jumping frog	<i>Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis</i>
2	Madagascar bright-eyed frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>
3		<i>Gephyromantis sculpturatus</i>
4	Starry-night reed frog	<i>Heterixalus alboguttatus</i>
5	Betsileo reed frog	<i>Heterixalus betsileo</i>
6	Betsileo mantella	<i>Mantella betsileo</i>
7	Painted mantella	<i>Mantella madagascariensis</i>
8		<i>Mantidactylus femoralis</i>
9		<i>Mantidactylus majori</i>

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Crossley's Dwarf Lemur



Grey Mouse Lemur



Goodman's Mouse Lemur



Aye-aye



Diademed Sifaka



Ring-tailed Lemur



Eastern Woolly Lemur



Indri



Weasel Sportive Lemur



Common Brown Lemur



Golden Bamboo Lemur



Grey Bamboo Lemur



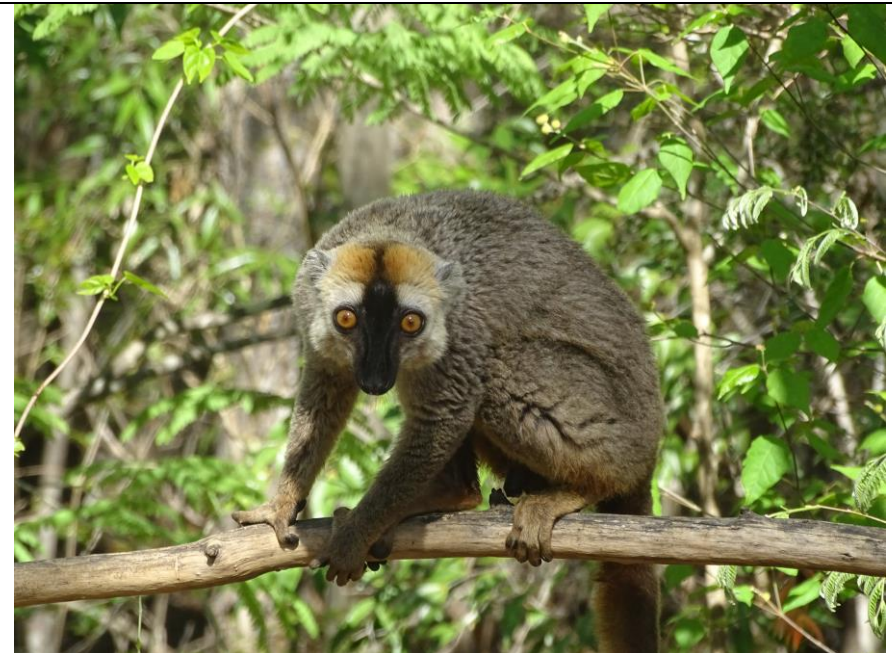
Common Brown Lemur



Milne Edward's Sifaka



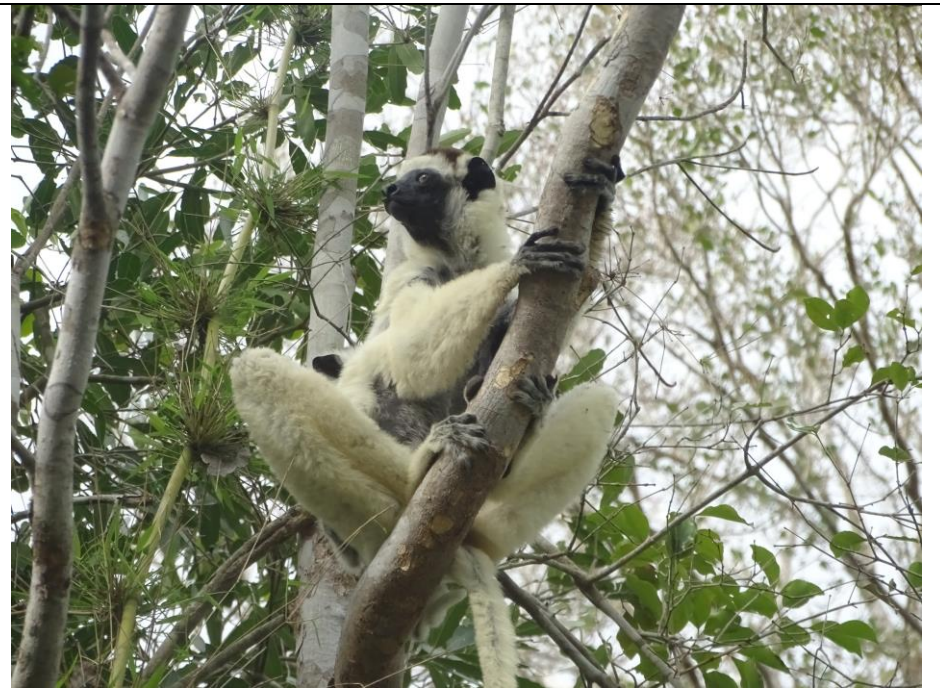
Red-bellied Lemur



Red-fronted Brown Lemur



Red-tailed Sportive Lemur



Verreaux's Sifaka



Bastard Big-footed Mouse



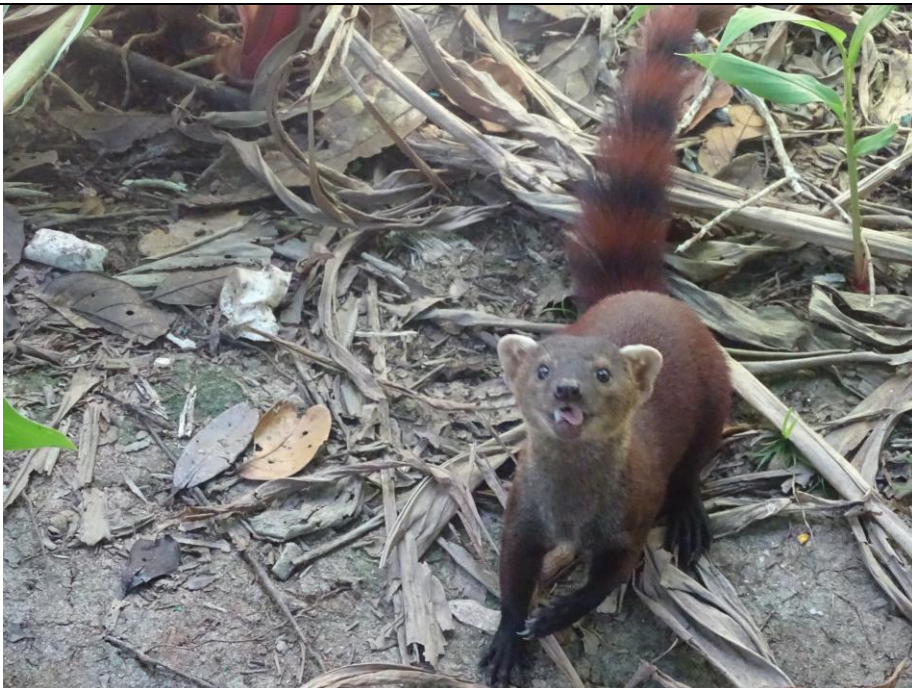
Lowland Streaked Tenrec



Narrow-striped Boky



Fanaloka



Ring-tailed Vontsira



Madagascar Scops Owl



Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher



Madagascar Tree Boa



Flat-tailed Tortoise



Malagasy Giant Hog-nosed Snake



Brookesia brunoi



Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko



Madagascar Cat-eyed Snake



Short-horned Chameleon



Parson's Chameleon



Big-nosed Chameleon



Bernier's Striped Snake



Orante Girdled Lizard



Painted Mantella



Starry-night Reed Frog



Betselio Reed Frog