

Our first trip to Madagascar in November 2018 was a scouting trip for future tours we will run here – we have since sold two Madagascan Mammal Watching Itineraries and have many options for anyone interested.

This tour was focused around a handful of key species (1) Fossa (2) Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur (3) Ring Tailed Lemur (4) Indri (5) Aye-aye. We got all of these species – albeit the 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 constitute 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 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 7 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.

Below is our sighting log of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. We arrived at the end of the dry season and so some of the hibernating lemurs were not awake in big numbers, the tenrecs were not as abundant as they are during the wet season and we started to get some very heavy rainfall. This was not a problem except for one night in Ranomafana when the rain storm was so bad that our plans to try for the falanoka was cancelled as we couldn't see 3ft in front of us and no animals were wandering around in that rain.

Other than the fanaloka there was not a species we expected to see and failed and we got plenty of surprise species. For anyone interested in what options we have or what tailored tours we can organise please contact me direct at <u>info@royle-safaris.co.uk</u> the only last note I want to state is that our time in Tsingy de Bemehara National Park was incredible however not for everyone. To fully explore that park and see the wealth of bats that we saw you will be required to do some quite intense rock climbing and caving. None of which required special skills or experience, but a very good level of fitness and harnesses (you are connected to cables in the caves and rock faces a lot) is required as you will be out and climbing and squeezing into caves for several hours of the 6-7 hour long trek. I myself found it the most physically demanding single day I have ever had looking for wildlife (and I am not a stranger to long, hard and arduous hikes). It was incredible and we were rewarded with many species including some very nice endemics (endemic to that particular tsingy formation) but I did have to really squeeze, I am 6ft 3inches (1.88cm) and 210lbs (95kg) and got stuck a couple of times where careful manoeuvring and repositioning got me through.

As you can see from the below species list that we had a very successful tour and we obtained pictures of many of these mammal species, I am not a photographer and taking pictures and videos is usually a secondary consideration for me, so I will post pictures and videos on my Facebook page (<u>www.facebook.com/roylesafaris7/</u>) in the coming days.

The below itinerary followed this route:

Day 1 – Antananarivo / Days 2-3 – Kirindy Reserve / Days 4-6 – Tsingy de Bemahara National Park / Day 7 – Morondava / Day 8 – Antisirabe / Days 9-11 – Ranomafana National Park / Day 12 – Anja Reserve / Day 13 – Antananarivo / Days 14-16 – Andasibe & Mantadia National Parks / Days 17-19 - Palmarium / Day 20 - Antananarivo

# Species List Madagascar Wildlife Adventure

*Mammals* (\* = heard or signs only)

			] [									Nove	ember	•								
	Common Name	Binominal Name																				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Eastern avahi	Avahi laniger																3				
2	Grandidier's free-tailed bat	Chaerephon leucogaster			1																	
3	Furry-eared dwarf lemur	Cheirogaleus crossleyi											1			1	1	1				
4	Greater dwarf lemur	Cheirogaleus major									1	1	2			4	1	5	1			
5	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	Cheirogaleus medius			1															1		
6	Fossa	Cryptoprocta ferox		3	1		*															
7	Aye-aye	Daubentonia madagascariensis																		3		
8	Madagascan straw-coloured fruit bat	Eidolon dupreanum			2																	
9	Tsingy tufted-tailed rat	Eliurus antsingy					1															
10	Western tuft-tailed rat	Eliurus myoxinus			4																	
11	Common brown lemur	Eulemur fulvus														7						
12	Red-bellied lemur	Eulemur rubriventer										5										
13	Red-fronted brown lemur	Eulemur rufifrons			~30		~20	1				1	7									
14	Ring-tailed vontsira	Galidia elegans					2						1									
15	Golden bamboo lemur	Hapalemur aureus										4										
16	Eastern lesser bamboo lemur	Hapalemur griseus														3			1		1	
17	Commerson's leaf-nosed bat	Hipposideros commersoni		1	6	1	6	1														
18	Malagasy giant rat	Hypogeomys antimena			2																	
19	Indri	Indri indri														4	3					*
20	Ring-tailed lemur	Lemur catta											-	~30								
21	Small-toothed sportive lemur	Lepilemur microdon									1											
22	Randrianasolo's sportive lemur	Lepilemur randrianasoloi					1															
23	Red-tailed sportive lemur	Lepilemur ruficaudatus		3	2																	
24	Madame Berthe's mouse lemur	Microcebus berthae	1		1	1	1															
25	Goodman's mouse lemur	Microcebus lehilahytsara	1			1	1									4	1	3				
26	Grey mouse lemur	Microcebus murinus		4	12																	
27	Western rufous mouse lemur	Microcebus myoxinus	1		1	1	1															
28	Brown mouse lemur	Microcebus rufus	1				1		1	1	1	4	3									
29	Naked-nosed shrew tenrec	Microgale gymnorhyncha							1	1		1										

20	Mainula law a fin manad h at								1					
30	Major's long-fingered bat	Miniopterus majori						 	1					<u> </u>
31	Manavi Long-fingered Bat	Miniopterus manavi				~50								
32	Narrow-striped boky	Mungotictis decemlineata	1	2										
33	Eastern red forest rat	Nesomys audeberti							1					
34	Western red forest rat	Nesomys lambertoni			1									
35	Lowland red forest rat	Nesomys rufus							3					
36	Madagascar free-tailed bat	Otomops madagascariensis			4									
37	Western sheath-tailed bat	Paremballonura tiavato				~20								
38	Pale fork-marked lemur	Phaner pallescens	2	1										
39	Bushpig	Potamochoerus larvatus		1	*									
40	Greater bamboo lemur	Prolemur simus						5						
41	Decken's sifaka	Propithecus deckenii			10									
42	Diademed sifaka	Propithecus diadema									8			
43	Milne-Edward's sifaka	Propithecus edwardsi						3						
44	Verraux's sifaka	Propithecus verreauxi		5										
45	Madagascar flying fox	Pteropus rufus				*						4		
46	Brown rat	Rattus norvegicus		1										
47	Madagascan rousette	Rousettus madagascariensis	1		2							1		
48	Robust yellow bat	Scotophilus robustus				2								
49	Western yellow bat	Scotophilus tandrefana			7									
50	Greater hedgehog tenrec	Setifer setosus								2			1	
51	Mauritian tomb bat	Taphozous mauritianus		1										
52	Common tenrec	Tenrec ecaudatus										2		
53	Black-and-white ruffed lemur	Varecia variegata						1			1			

**Note:** Most of the bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

#### **Birds** (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name									1	Nove	mbe	r								
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascan sparrowhawk	Accipiter madagascariensis			1																	
2	Common mynah	Acridotheres tristis			10	4	12			1	4	6	~23	19	14	2			4	1		12
3	Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos						3														
4	Grey-headed lovebird	Agapornis canus						4														
5	Red-billed teal	Anas erythrorhyncha							1													

6	African black swift	Apus barbatus		2	~50			~10										
7	Great egret	, Ardea alba	3 4		2		2	3	~13			3						
8	Madagascar heron	Ardea humbloti					1											
9	Purple heron	Ardea purpurea														2		
10	Madagascar pond heron	Ardeola idea						1										
11	White-headed vanga	Artamella viridis	2															
12	Pitta-like ground roller	Atelornis pittoides									2						1	
13	White-browed owl	Athene superciliaris		1														
14	Cattle egret	, Bubulcus ibis	5		~55		4 ~34	25	89		16	5 ~103	3 4					6
15	Madagascar buzzard	Buteo brachypterus				1												
16	Red-tailed vanga	Calicalicus madagascariensis		1														
17	Madagascan nightjar	Caprimulgus madagascariensis	1															
18	Madagascan coucal	Centropus toulou				2	2				2				3	1		
19	Grey-headed gull	, Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus					2											
20	Souimanga sunbird	Cinnyris sovimanga								2	1	L					1	
21	Feral pigeon	Columba livia	~10		4		2	11	1		1	9	1			8		
22	Madagascan magpie robin	Copsychus albospecularis		2		4	1			2	2				3			
23	Madagascan cuckooshrike	Coracina cinerea	1							2					2			
24	Lesser vasa parrot	Coracopsis nigra				2	1						1					
25	Greater vasa parrot	Coracopsis vasa	3	13		8	14				1			1				
26	Pied crow	, Corvus albus	12	2	11	3	5 ~26	19	6		~2	5						
27	Madagascan pygmy kingfisher	Corythornis madagascariensis								1			2		2			2
28	Blue coua	Coua caerulea											*					
29	Coquerel's coua	Coua coquereli	*	1														
30	Crested coua	, Coua cristata		2		1												
31	Giant coua	Coua gigas	1	1		2	*											
32	Red-fronted coua	Coua reynaudii													1			
33	Lesser cuckoo	Cuculus poliocephalus									1			1				
34	Madagascan cuckoo	Cuculus rochii		1						* *								
35	Blue vanga	Cyanolanius madagascarinus				1				1								
36	African palm swift	Cypsiurus parvus								5 2	1				~20			
37	Fulvous-whistling duck	Dendrocygna bicolor					7											
38	White-faced whistling duck	Dendrocygna viduata					6											
39	Crested drongo	Dicrurus forficatus	1	10	2	3	4 3	1		3	3		1	4	3		1	2
40	Black heron	Egretta ardesiaca					3	1			2	2		1				
41	Little egret	Egretta garzetta	4	1	~10	ŀ	~22 ~20	5	11			17	21			1		17
42	Broadbill roller	Eurystomus glaucurus		1		1	*						1	1				
43	Madagascar kestrel	Falco newtoni	1			1	1 1	1			1					1		
	Banded kestrel	Falco zoniventris	1	1									1	1				

45	Madagascar fody	Foudia madagascariensis							1	~10											
46	Collared nightjar	Gactornis enarratus																			1
47	Madagascan pranticole	Glareola ocularis				2		4													
48	Black-winged stilt	Himantopus himantopus				~40		7													
49	Madagascan bulbul	Hypsipetes madagascariensis			3		6	9				1	14				4	5			
50	Chabert vanga	Leptopterus chabert					1	1					8								
51	Cuckoo-roller	Leptosomus discolor			*		1	*													
52	Madagascar munia	Lonchura nana										3	3		2	1	3	^	~10		
53	Olive bee-eater	Merops superciliosus								2									1	2	
54	White-breasted mesite	Mesitornis variegatus		3																	
55	Black kite	Milvis migrans				9		4	23	21	1										1
56	Forest rock thrush	Monticola sharpei					1														
57	Madagascan wagtail	Motacilla flaviventris									1	4		3	1	1		3			
58	Common sunbird-asity	Neodrepanis coruscans			3								1								
59	Stripe-throated jery	Neomixis striatigula										2									
60	Common jery	Neomixis tenella			2		1														
61	Malagasay brush warbler	Nesillas typica					1														
62	Madagascar turtle dove	Nesoenas picturata		6	10	3	3		З								1	2			
63	Helmeted guineafowl	Numida meleagris				~30															
64	Namaqua dove	Oena capensis		9	1	11			4	7											
65	Sooty tern	Onychoprion fuscatus																		2	
66	Madagascan scops owl	Otus rutilus			2													*			
67	House sparrow	Passer domesticus		2							3										
68	Mascarene martin	Phedina borbonica	~10	~5			4	8		~10		З	~5		З	~20	~45 ^	~40 ^	~30		
69	Nelicourvi weaver	Ploceus nelicourvi															~14	2			
70	Madagascan harrier hawk	Polyboroides radiatus			2																
71	Knob-billed duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos					~	<u>25</u>													
72	African stonechat	Saxicola torquatus						1		1		2			1	1		1			1
73	Rufous vanga	Schetba rufa		2																	
74	Hammerkop	Scopus umbretta													1	1					1
75	Madagascan paradise flycatcher	Terpsiphone mutata			З		12						2				1	1			
76	Madagascan green pigeon	Treron australis				~20 ^	<u>20</u>						1								
77	Madagascan buttonquail	Turnix nigricollis			7																
78	Tylas vanga	Tylas eduardi										2									
79	Madagascan hoopoe	Upupa marginata		1			1							1							
80	Hook-billed vanga	Vanga curvirostris			1			1													
81	Grey-crowned tetraka	Xanthomixis cinereiceps			3		3					1	1				5				
82	Spectacled tetraka	Xanthomixis zosterops															2				
83	Madagascar spinetail	Zoonavena grandidieri								3			1								

84 Madagascar white-eye Zosterops maderaspatanus	~15	~15		

### **Reptiles** (\* = heard or signs only)

			1 [									Nove	embe	er								
	Common Name	Binominal Name				4			-	-		40	44	40	40		45	40	47	40	- 10	
				2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascar ground boa	Acrantophis madagascariensis																		1	⊢	
2	Brown leaf chameleon	Brookesia superciliaris															1				⊢	
3	Short-horned chameleon	Calumma brevicorne														1	1	1			<b>⊢</b>	
4	Blue-legged chameleon	Calumma crypticum										3	1								⊢	
5	Perinet chameleon	Calumma gastrotaenia																1			<b> </b>	
6	Globe-horned chameleon	Calumma globifer											2								<b> </b>	
7	Nose-horned chameleon	Calumma nasutum									1	~10					1				Ļ	
8	O'Shaughnessy's chameleon	Calumma oshaughnessyi									3										Ļ	
9	Parson's chameleon	Calumma parsonii											5			2	1	1			<u> </u>	
10	Nile crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus						1	1												I	
11		Dromicodryas bernieri											2									
12	Malagasy giant chameleon	Furcifer oustaleti		2			12							3								
13	Common four-toed gecko	Gehyra mutilata					1	1														
14	Tropical house gecko	Hemidactylus mabouia					2		1													
15		Liopidium apperti											1									
16	Grandidier's dwarf gecko	Lygodactylus tolampyae						1														
17	Madagascar night snake	Madagasarophis meridionalis		1																		
18	Common Madagascar skink	Madascincus melanopleura															1			1		
19	Madagascar Collared oplurus	Oplurus cuvieri					2	3												2		
20	Merrem's Madagascar oplurus	Oplurus cyclurus					1	1														
21	Madagascar spotted spiny-tailed iguana	Oplurus quadrimaculatus												1								
22	Mocquard's Madagascar ground gecko	Paroedura bastardi			1																	
23	Madagascan lined day gcecko	Phelsuma lineata											1				1		1		1	
24	Madagascar day gecko	Phelsuma madagascariensis	1				3	1														
25	Madagascar tree boa	Sanzinia madagascariensis	1				1															
26	Green burrowing frog	Scaphiophryne marmorata	1														1					
27	Gravenhorst's Mabuya	Trachylepis gravenhorstii			1																	
28	Side-stiped chameleon	Trioceros bitaeniatus			+ -						1											<u> </u> ]
29	Mossy leaf-tailed gecko	Uroplatus sikorae	┨┠─								-						1					

30	Bronze girdled lizard	Zonosaurus aeneus									1		1	
31	Karsten's girdled lizard	Zonosaurus karsteni		3	1	4								
32	Western girdled lizard	Zonosaurus laticaudatus							2					

## Amphibians (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name										Nove	embe	r								
	Common Name	Binominal Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Madagascan jumping frog	Aglyptodactylus madagascariensis			1												1	1				
2	Brook's treefrog	Boophis laurenti											1									
3	White-bellied reed frog	Heterixalus alboguttatus											1									
4		Heterixalus punctatus											1									
5	Variable reed frog	Heterixalus variabilis											1									
6		Mantidactylus guttulatus															1					
7	Green burrowing frog	Scaphiophryne marmorata															1					

#### Fishes (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name											Nove	embe	er								
			[	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Mozambique tilapia	Oreochromis mossambicus	1 [																8				
2	Crescent grunter	Terapon jarbua															100's						