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## ***Photo trip Proposal: Madagascar - Circuit Grand North***

This trip will give you the opportunity to learn more about photography, interact with the local children and to experience the culture that this beautiful country has to bring!

During this trip you get the unique opportunity to learn the tricks of the trade of Photography from Anthony Asael, the founder and executive director of AiA and a spectacular renowned photographer who has had over sixty expositions in ten countries. Anthony has traveled around the world extensively and has been living in Madagascar for over a year and knows the country very well.

**Places : Antananarivo –Ankarafantsika – Majunga – Cirque Rouge - Ambanja – Ankarana - Tsingy Rouge - Diego Suarez - Ramena - Mer d'Emeraude – 3 Baies**

Dates options :

- 1) 20 oct- 3 nov
- 2) 24 nov- 8 dec

### **Day 1 : Antananarivo (Tana)**

You arrive at Tana in the morning. We bring you to your hotel or at home (your choice).  
Lunch and first visit of beautiful Tana with visit of Queen Palace and high hills and its secrets...

### **Day 2 :**

#### **Antananarivo**

Morning: Visit of Ivandry neighborhood through the rice fields

Option for the afternoon :

- Trek on hills close to Tana with spectacular views
- visit of colorful markets
- free to visit on your own





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### Day 3:

#### Antananarivo – Ankarafantsika

Start of the big trip to the North

It will be a long beautiful day by car on an excellent tarmac road (African standards ;-). You will go through some more ricefields and some high mountain to end up in a tropical forest valley. Many photo stops on the way are forecasted....



### Day 4: 20th of April

#### Ankarafantsika

Ankarafantsika is one of the largest and last remaining sections of dense dry deciduous forest in Madagascar, filled with critically endangered and endemic species. The park lies about 450km North from Tana and 110 km South from Mahajanga covering a surface of almost 1,350 km<sup>2</sup>. The vegetation consists mainly of relatively low and scrubby deciduous forest with savannah areas and gallery forest around the Ravelobe Lake. The main ethnic group is the Sakavala, which are mainly zebu holders and farmers.

Ankarafantsika is the last refuge of several lemur and bird species, which makes the conservation of the Park so important. The area is home to eight lemur species: a night walk is usually exciting and



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rewarding and one may find Milne-Edwards sportive lemur, mongoose lemur, western woolly lemur, grey mouse lemur, fat-tailed dwarf lemur, and it is the only place where the golden-brown mouse lemur occurs. During the day Coquerel's sifaka are commonly seen. The Park is also one of Madagascar's finest birdwatching venues with 129 species (75 are endemic) such as the banded krestel, Rufous vanga, Van Dam's vanga, Madagascar fish eagle. 10 frogs and 45 reptiles are found here, like Oustalett's, dwarf, horned and Rhinoceros chameleons, several vulnerable snakes, the extremely rare Madagascar big-headed turtle and even crocodiles around the lake.

Many circuits in the parks can be defined according to your preferences.



**Day 5-6 :**

**Ankarafantsika – Majunga**

Located on Bombetoka Bay, an inlet of the Mozambique Channel at the mouth of the Betsiboka River it is the regional road terminus and the export centre of all major Malagasy products being its port. Traditionally this city, founded by the Arabs in 1700s, traded with weapons, slaves, precious gems, spices, fabrics. Nowadays, it trades with mostly Africa, Middle-east, Asia and Europe. Apart from Malagasy peoples (Sakalava, Tsimihety, Merina), the city counts important Arab, Comorian, Chinese, Indian-Pakistanese natives' communities, that makes it the most cosmopolitan region in Madagascar.... And also one of my favorite....



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Its surroundings are not less attractive: Mahajanga's baobabs, scattered islands, forest reserves, lakes and caves have turned it into a major escape away for capital's inhabitants during the holidays (January) . Despite the many and obvious advantages this region, international tourists are still reluctant to visit it (I don't know why ??)

It is also the opportunity to visit a local orphanage or school and organize Art in All of Us activities locally.



**Day 7 :**

**Majunga – Ambanja**

A last visit early morning visit of Majunga and we go direction small village of Ambanja. Ambanja is a typical colorful Malagasy village with a nice market. It is also the region of cacao and therefore some visit can be foreseen by foot, bicycle or pousse pousse



**Day 8 :**

**Ambanja – Ankarana**

Possibility to go to Nose Komba or Nosy Be for the day if you want in to see pristine water ahead of time. Otherwise we can go further in the region of Ambanja and go set up for the most amazing National Park of Madagascar: Ankarana

**Day 9 :**



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**Ankarana** [http://www.parc-madagascar.com/fiche-aire-protegee\\_en.php?Ap=6](http://www.parc-madagascar.com/fiche-aire-protegee_en.php?Ap=6)

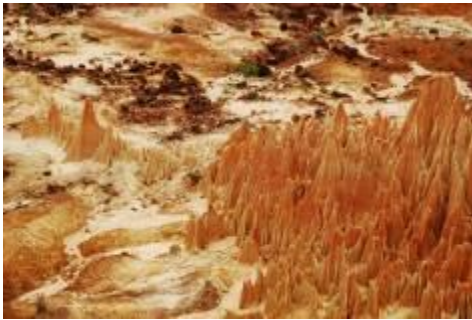
A little jewel, a big secret. This park is not too visited and is for me the most beautiful park of Madagascar, with its limestone tsingy in the rainforest. Plenty walking and trekking opportunities with caves exploring and of course lemurs. A real pleasure for the lovers of natures and photos.



**Day 10 :**

**Ankarana – Tsingy Rouge – Diego Suarez**

On the road to Diego (125km) with a nice stop to see the famous Tsingy Rouge (if weather permits).



**Day 11:**

**Diego Suarez - Ramena**

Visit of Diego, situated in the extreme north of Madagascar. It has one of the world's most beautiful deep-water harbours, complete with a photogenic sugarloaf mountain. People say it has the 2<sup>nd</sup> most beautiful bay of the world (after Rio de Janeiro). Visitors love this city, which is probably the most French city on Madagascar. It has this colonial feel over it. This is the largest city of the north with a huge cosy market, a range of fine restaurants and some fantastic places and national parks to visit nearby.



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By end of the afternoon we will bring you to Ramena, a beautiful beach 18km north where you will stay for the next days.



### Day 12

#### Ramena – Trois Baies – Mer d’Emeraude

Superb and tranquil beach station. However it is still fishing village with friendly and peaceful people. It is time to rest now for a couple of days. However, we foresee also a visit of the beautiful Mer d’Emeraud and the 3 Baies : one of the most beautiful sea sight and beaches of Madagascar. On the program: rest, beach activities, fish bbq,.... Or kitesurf if interested....



### Day 13

#### Ramena – Diego - Tana

Return to Diego in function of the flight time and also if you want to see again Diego before departure to Tana.



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## **Day 14**

### **Tana**

Departure back to Europe

MORE PHOTOS OF MADAGASCAR CAN BE SEEN HERE:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/anthonyasael/sets/72157594439998293>

## ***Conditions***

Le prix du voyage est de 2700 Euros pour la durée du tour (13 jours), basé sur une chambre double. Un supplément single coûte 280 Euros. (100 Euros de réduction si confirmation avant 15 mai).

Possibilité aussi de prolonger le séjour à la plage à Ramena à la fin du voyage.

30% du prix devra être payé à l'inscription et 70% avant le début du voyage.

Ceci comprend les logements, pension complète sur la même durée, entrée des parcs nationaux, trekking, transport à Madagascar durant la durée du tour, cours photo, taxes locales, chauffeurs, guides,...).

Ceci n'inclut pas les dépenses personnelles, alcool, assurances, et éventuel pourboire pour les guides

Le descriptif du voyage et des dates pourrait être changé en concertation avec les participants si pour des raisons indépendantes de notre volonté une des activités devrait être annulées.