MADAGASCAR: 7-DAY NORTHWEST PRE-TOUR

6 – 12 OCTOBER 2020
6 – 12 OCTOBER 2021

Madagascan Fish Eagle is one of the special birds we will be looking for on this tour.
One hundred and twenty-nine species of birds have been recorded in Ankarafantsika National Park, more than half of them endemic to Madagascar. They include Van Dam's Vanga, Rufous Vanga, the elusive Banded Kestrel, and the more easily observed Madagascan Fish Eagle, which can often be seen at Ravelobe Lake. The endangered Humblot’s Heron can also be seen at Lake Ravelobe.

This pre-pre-tour to our Best of Madagascar: 14-day Birding and Wildlife Tour can also be booked as a stand-alone tour. It can also be combined with our following 6-day Masoala Peninsula Pre-tour and, following the main tour, with our 6-day Berenty Reserve Extension.
close to the lake! We then return to the rustic accommodation, checking the trees around the “lodge” for spectacular birds, including Sickle-billed Vanga, Madagascan Green Pigeon, Grey-headed Lovebird, and many others. If we’re not too tired, we might do a night walk tonight (otherwise the next evening), and this might generate Madagascan Nightjar, owls, chameleons, and nocturnal lemurs.

Overnight: Ampijoroa Forest Station, Ankarafantsika

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_Sickle-billed Vanga should be seen on this tour._

**Days 3 – 4. Two more nights at Ampijoroa**
We have another early start to visit the various sections of Ankarafantsika. Here we need to find mega-amazing birds such as White-breasted Mesite, Van Dam’s Vanga, Rufous Vanga, the incomparable and spectacular Schlegel’s Asity, Red-capped Coua, Coquerel’s Coua, Crested Coua, and lemurs like the spectacular Coquerel’s Sifaka. One afternoon we plan to do a boat trip on the lake for species mentioned previously that might have been missed.

Overnight: Ampijoroa Forest Station, Ankarafantsika

**Day 5. Ampijoroa to Mahajanga**
After final “cleanup” birding in the dry forests of Ankarafantsika we will drive back to Mahajanga (Majunga) - a very lively town with plenty of rickshaws. Then we’ll take a boat trip into the Betsiboka Delta, where we’ll bird the mangroves for rare species such as Malagasy Sacred Ibis and Bernier’s Teal, along with a host of tropical shorebirds, terns, and more.

Overnight: Roche Rouge, Mahajanga

**Day 6. Flight to Antananarivo, Tsarasoatra Lake**
Today we will take a flight to Antananarivo. After arrival we will have a birding excursion to Tsarasoatra Lake and then transfer to our hotel.

Overnight: Relais des Plateaux, Antananarivo

[www.birdingecotours.com](http://www.birdingecotours.com)  info@birdingecotours.com
Red-capped Coua can be seen in the Ankarafantsika area.

Day 7. Flight home or beginning of the Masoala extension
Today either your international flight will leave for home or you will fly to Maroatsetra for the Masoala extension.

Please note that the accommodation on this pre-trip is rustic.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration: 7 days
Limit: 6 – 8
Dates: 6 – 12 October 2020
6 – 12 October 2021
Start: Antananarivo (Tana)

End: Antananarivo (Tana)

Prices: €2459 per person sharing, assuming 6-8 participants, plus about €720 for the domestic flights, which we will book for you 2020
€2705 per person sharing, assuming 6-8 participants, plus about €756 for the domestic flights, which we will book for you 2021

Single supplements: €327 2020
€360 2021

Price includes:
Meals
Accommodation
Guiding fees
Entrance fees
All transport while on tour
Bottled water throughout the tour

Price excludes:
International flights
Return flight Tana/Mahajanga (Majunga)/Tana
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts
Drinks
Laundry
Personal insurance
Gratuities