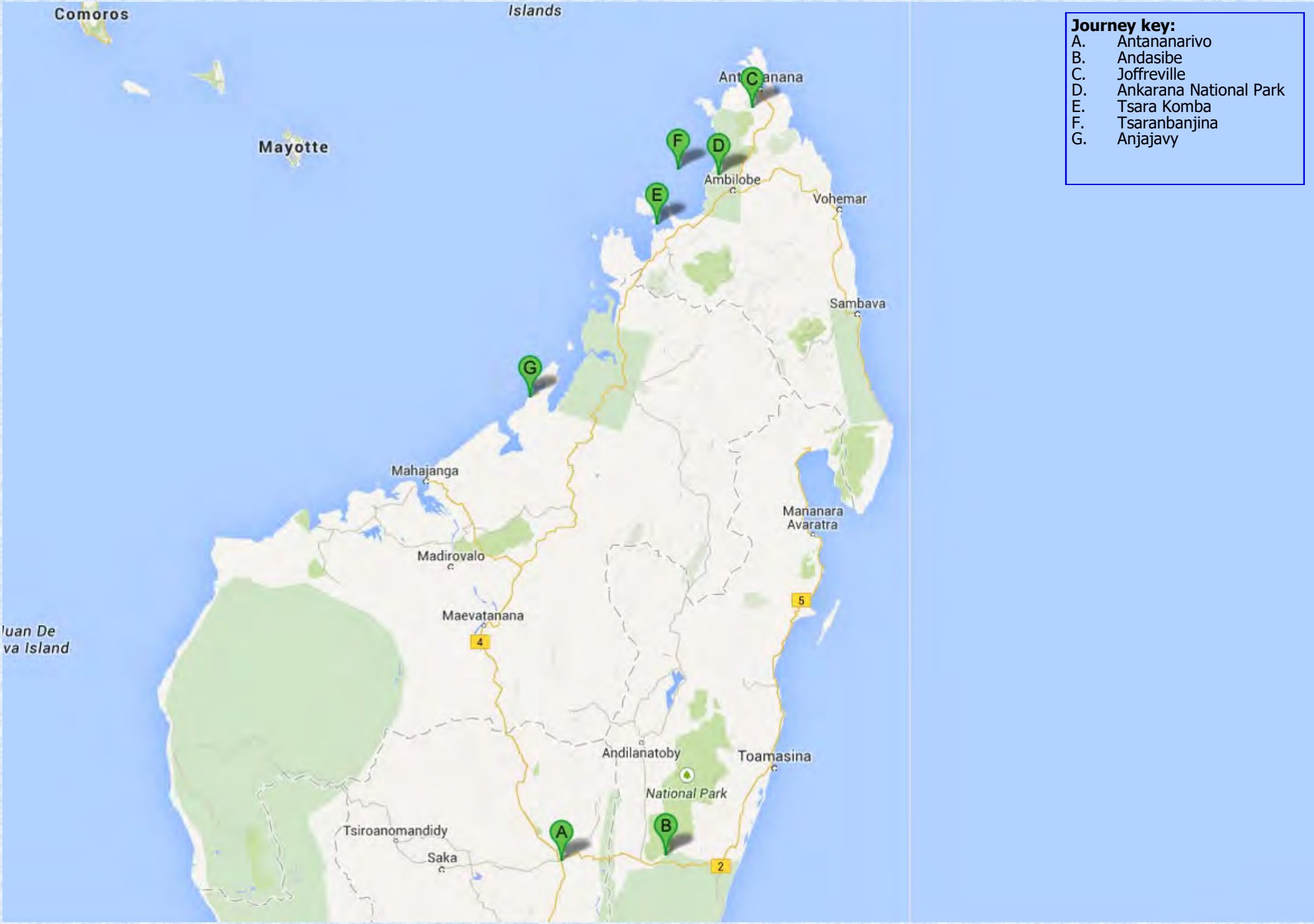
laterallife

Because I've always wanted to...



Journey key:

A. Antananarivo
B. Andasibe
C. Joffreville
D. Ankarana National Park
E. Tsara Komba
F. Tsaranbanjina
G. Anjajavy

In a Nutshell...

Day 1, - Fly from the UK to Antananarivo, via Nairobi.
Day 2, - Arrive Tana. Palissandre Hotel & Spa.
Day 3, - Transfer to Andasibe. Vakona Lodge.
Day 4, - Analamazaotra National Park. Vakona Lodge.
Day 5, - Mantadia National Park. Vakona Lodge.
Day 6, - Drive back to Tana. Relais des Plateaux.
Day 7, - Fly to Diego Suarez. Litchi Tree.
Day 8, - Amber Mountain National Park. Litchi Tree.
Day 9, - Drive to Ankarana Lodge.
Day 10, - Ankarana National Park. Ankarana Lodge.
Day 11, - Transfer to Ankify and speedboat to Nosy Komba. Tsara Komba.
Day 12, - At leisure. Tsara Komba.
Day 13, - Boat to Tsaranbanjina.
Day 14, - At leisure. Tsaranbanjina.
Day 15, - At leisure. Tsaranbanjina.
Day 16, - At leisure. Tsaranbanjina.
Day 17, - At leisure. Tsaranbanjina.
Day 18, - Fly to Tana. Relais des Pleateaux.
Day 19, - Fly to Anjajavy.
Day 20, - At leisure. Anjajavy.
Day 21, - At leisure. Anjajavy.
Day 22, - At leisure. Anjajavy.
Day 23, - Fly back to Tana. Pavillon de l'Emyrne.
Day 24, - Fly to Nairobi and connect to London.
Day 25, - Welcome home!

Flights...

Date	Airline & Flight Number	From	Departs	To	Arrives	Class
DAY 1	TBC	LONDON	TBC	NAIROBI	TBC	TBC
DAY 2	TBC	NAIROBI	TBC	TANA	TBC	TBC
DAY 5	TBC	TANA	TBC	FORT DAUPHIN	TBC	TBC
DAY 7	TBC	TANA	TBC	DIEGO SUAREZ	TBC	TBC
DAY 18	TBC	NOSY BE	TBC	TANA	TBC	TBC
DAY 19	LIGHT AIRCRAFT	TANA	TBC	ANJAJAVY	TBC	TBC
DAY 23	LIGHT AIRCRAFT	ANJAJAVY	TBC	TANA	TBC	TBC
DAY 24	TBC	TANA	TBC	NAIROBI	TBC	TBC
DAY 24	TBC	NAIROBI	TBC	LONDON	TBC	TBC

Your Recommended Itinerary...

Day 1, - Fly from the UK to Antananarivo, via Nairobi.
Today make your way to the airport on good time to catch your overnight flight to Nairobi.

Accommodation: Overnight flight.
Meals: In-flight meals.

Day 2, - Arrive Tana.
Today you land in Nairobi and connect onto Antananarivo.

Upon arrival in Tana you will be met and transferred to La Varangue Hotel your overnight stay.

Antananarivo (or Tana, as it is affectionately known), with its brightly coloured houses stacked up the hillsides and the mauve jacarandas, is an attractive capital city. The rice paddies and zebu-carts on the outskirts provide a stark contrast to the noisy traffic, bustling markets and colourful people in the narrow cobbles streets of the city centre. In terms of conventional sightseeing Tana has relatively little.

Activities in the city tend to revolve around shopping and a visit to the artisans market is well worthwhile. Here you will find an enormous array of quality Malagasy handicrafts. If shopping is not your thing, take your camera along as wonderful portrait, cultural and scenic photographic opportunities will present themselves. The Tsimbazaza Museum and Botanical Gardens are only worth a visit if you have the time and don't have much opportunity to visit the outlying areas.

It's definitely worth having a good look around Tana as pretty much everyone gets stuck here for at least 1 night at some point in their trip. Ambohimanga – one of the 12 sacred hills of Tana - is worth a visit.

The Royal Hill of Ambohimanga is an archeological site that contains a ruined city, burial sites, and assorted sacred places. It is a place of religious and historical significance in the culture of the Malagasy people, and has been so for the last 500 years. Ambohimanga dates from the 15th or 16th century, and developed into the capital city in the 18th century.

Accommodation: La Varangue.
Meals: None.

Day 3, - Transfer to Andasibe.
Today enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then you will be transferred by road to Andasibe. Drive eastward through the typical landscape of the highland and the eastern rainforest. Arrival in Andasibe by the end of the day.

In the afternoon, visit to Mitsinjo reserve. Nocturnal visit.

In **Mitsinjo Forest** you can do evening walks (as well as daytime) to spot nocturnal lemur species, such as mouse, greater dwarf and eastern woolly lemurs.

There is also a reforestation project running at Mitsinjo where guides run short talks which is interesting.

Accommodation: Vakona Lodge.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 4, - Analamazaotra National Park.
After breakfast today you will visit Analamazaotra National Park to discover the Indri Indri, the black and white ruffed lemur, the diademed sifaka lemur, the common brown lemur, the grey bamboo lemur and the red bellied lemur;

In the afternoon, visit the Forest of Lemur where you can observe some few diurnal lemur closely.

Accommodation: Vakona Lodge.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 5, - Mantadia National Park.
After the breakfast embark for 3 or 4 hours visit within the primary forest of the Mantadia National Park where 9 lemur species as the black and white ruffed lemur, the diademed sifaka lemur, the common brown lemur, the eastern grey bamboo lemur and the red bellied lemur might be spotted as well as different endemic species of birds and chameleons.

After the hike visit the Andasibe village belonging to the Betsimisiraka people for an insight into local customs. They are the second largest tribe in Madagascar and they cultivate rice and vegetables.

Finally, this afternoon head to the private park of Vakona, a home for orphaned and rescued lemurs that gives you unparalleled opportunities to get up close with these delightful creatures.

Accommodation: Vakona Lodge.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 6, - Drive back to Tana.
Today you will be driven back to Tana for your overnight stay at Relais del Plateaux.

Accommodation: Relais des Plateaux.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 7, - Journey to Diego Suarez. Litchi Tree.
Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Diego Suarez. Transfer to Joffre Ville, which is 37km away from the town of Diego, and stay at Litchi Tree for 2 nights.

The rest of the day is at your leisure to explore the surroundings.

Accommodation: Litchi Tree.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 8, - Amber Mountain National Park.
Today you will explore Amber Mountain National Park.

Located 4km from the hotel, the **Amber Mountain National Park** is the first natural reserve of Madagascar. Streching at an altitude between 850 and 1475m, the volcanic mountain-range is well-known for providing a perfect environment to a lush endemic tropical forest with 1000 plant species, 5 crater lakes, its sacred waterfalls, its botanical garden and its seven lemur species. This place is very rich in fauna and flora; the visitors could find several attractions: a wide range of reptiles, botanical fitted out paths, numerous spectacular waterfalls and crater-lakes.

Accommodation: Litchi Tree.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 9, - Drive to Ankarana.
Today you will be collected by your driver and you will set off for your transfer to Ankarana Lodge, where you rill spend 2 nights.

Ankarana National Park lies about 90 km south of Antsiranana covering an area of 182,5 km². It is a spectacularly eroded limestone fortress of sharp ridges, patches of dense tropical jungle, deciduous forest, deep caves and canyons (actually the biggest underground network of Africa) and rushing rivers. With an annual rainfall of almost 2000 mm, the underlying rocks undergo a heavy erosion producing an amazing karst topography, being its most known result the fantastically eroded limestone spires, known as "tsingy".

The Park is in fact one of the most visited especially among hikers: it offers incredible trails, unique and terrific landscapes and a lot of animals!

Accommodation: Ankarana Lodge.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 10, - Ankarana National Park.
Today you will have a guided excursion in Ankarana National Park.

Accommodation: Ankarana Lodge.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 11, - Transfer to Ankify and speedboat to Nosy Komba.
This morning you will be driven to Ankify which is approx. 2/3 hours. From Ankify it's 30 mins by speedboat to Tsara Komba. Stay here for 2 nights.

Nosy Be is Madagascar's premier resort island, with several smaller islands including Nosy Komba, Nosy Tanikely, Nosy Sakatia and Nosy Mitsio nearby. Nosy Be is popular with people looking for a resort-style holiday, as it has plenty of restaurants and nightlife and some excellent dive spots. A little known highlight of Nosy Be is Marodoka, a coastal ruin gradually being reclaimed by the bush. Local legend attributes its construction to a boatload of Indian sailors shipwrecked during the 17th or 18th century. The Réserve Naturelle Intégrale de Lokobe contains the last 740ha (1829ac) of Nosy Be's original vegetation, and is home to boa constrictors, black lemurs, chameleons and the Madagascar hog-nosed snake. Mont Passot is Nosy Be's highest peak at 329m (1079ft) and is a great place to watch the sun set or just take in the view. It is surrounded by the beautiful blue sacred Crater Lakes of Anjavibe, Amparihimirahavavy, Bemapaza, Antsidihy, Amparihibe

and Maintimaso.

Accommodation: Tsara Komba.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 12, - At leisure. Tsara Komba.
Today is at your leisure. There is plenty to do in Tsara Komba. Snorkel, dive, fish, explore the island which is home to black lemurs or just laze on the beach.

Accommodation: Tsara Komba.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 13, - Boat to Tsaranbanjina.
Today you will be driven to Mangasoa Lodge, where you will boars a speedboat to Tsaranbanjina – it's approximately 40 miles. Spend 5 nights here.

Activities revolve around the soft white beaches and turquoise water. A fully equipped PADI dive centre allows guests to dive from the beach or explore the coral of neighbouring islands by boat. Friendly and knowledgeable staff assist with hobie cat sailing, snorkelling, deep-sea fishing, walks around the island or visits to nearby islands. Although the emphasis is on seclusion, there is always plenty to do.

Accommodation: Tsaranbanjina.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 14 - 17, - At leisure.
Days at your leisure.

Choose from a wide range of activities while staying on this paradise island, from diving and snorkelling to tennis and sailing. Most activities available for guests are included in the cost of the stay.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Beach tennis volley
- Guided walks around the island
- Beach volleyball
- Aqua-gym
- Pétanque (French Bowls)
- Board games
- Massage and reflexology

WATERSPORTS:

- Diving
- Snorkelling by beach
- Kayak
- Hobie cat sailing
- Sports fishing

Accommodation: Tsaranbanjina.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 18, - Fly to Tana.
After breakfast you will travel by speedboat from Tsarambanjina to Mangasoa Lodge. You will be met and transferred by road to Nosy Be airport for your flight back to Antananarivo.

Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and driven to Relais des Plateaux hotel for your overnight stay.

Accommodation: Relais des Plateaux.
Meals: Breakfast.
Day 19, - Fly to Anjajavy.
After breakfast you will catch a flight from Antananarivo to Anjajavy for your 4 night stay.

Accommodation: Anjajavy.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 20, - At leisure.
Today is at your leisure in Anjajavy.

Anjajavy - Wildlife viewing here is effortless. Lemurs include the Coquerel's Sifaka, common brown lemurs and mouse lemurs. There are wonderful birds - flocks of bright green grey-headed love-birds, sickle-billed vangas, crested couas and vasa parrots, to name just a few. Reptiles are common including ground boas and hog-nosed snakes and plenty of chameleons. There are extensive cave systems, tsingy-like limestone outcrops, extensive mangrove forests as well as beaches and coral reefs.

There is a marina for water sports, including water skiing, snorkelling, sailing in a catamaran, wind surfing and excellent fishing. There are also boat excursions to the surrounding grottoes, a trip up the estuary to see mangroves, a visit to the "tsingy", guided excursions in four wheel drive vehicles through the nature reserve, mountain bikes and the ability to explore the reserve on foot to discover the flora and fauna of the area.

Accommodation: Anjajavy.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 21 - 22, - At leisure. Anjajavy.
Today is at your leisure.

<u>WATER ACTIVITIES</u>
Anjajavy has a wonderful beach. This is just perfect for a swim. A wide variety of activities is available from the beach in front of the hotel and from the marina. Free activities include: Catamaran sailing, Snorkelling, Kayak in the sea or mangrove, Windsurfing, Paddle surfing, Swimming in the pool, Badminton, Volley Ball, Pétanque, Billard.

For a fee you can also enjoy the following activities: Fishing, Boat excursions (Moramba Bay: a guided boat trip along the coast with outstanding scenery of eroded islands and beautiful rock formation jutting out of the sea. Refreshments are included. Mangrove tours: guided sunset boat trip (1 hour) through the protected mangroves with cocktail included. Excellent for birdwatching.), Private boat trips, Water skiing, wakeboarding, Private picnic on beaches, Mountain Biking.

LAND ACTIVITIES

Excursions and walks (with or without guide): Within the 550-hectare reserve, the hotel offers a wide variety of wonderful walks that guests can do on their own with a clear map, or with one of the hotel's guides. Excursions and walks are opened to everyone and most do not require any special physical aptitude. Sign-posted paths from the hotel lead guests to the forest and surrounding bays.

Examples of walks (maps are provided for self guided tours):

1. Bird watching
2. Through tsingy (limestone rock formations) covered forest to discover the main endemic species of Malagasy flora and fauna.
3. Discovering the majestic baobabs, where the hairy crabs (endemic) and wonderful birds are found. This walk also includes exploring a small cave for the most adventurous guests.
4. A guided adventure walk heading out on foot to discover an underground world of stalagmites and stalactites and the subfossil skeleton of an extinct giant lemur
5. The bay-to-bay walks along Anjajavy le lodge's peninsula with its wild, untouched bays.
6. Guided night walks are also offered to discover the nocturnal inhabitants of the reserve that include mouse lemurs, fat tailed dwarf lemurs, Milne Edwards Sportive lemurs, greater hedgehog tenrec, Madagascar flying foxes and Commerson's leaf-nosed bat, amongst others.

Private picnic in a cove: A Robinson Crusoe day can be arranged for clients with a private picnic on one of the beaches: As you arrive, the cove's waiter will receive you and prepare a fine barbecue. He will then goes away and leave you to enjoy the privacy of this dream nest, swinging in the hammock or laying under the beach mosquito net. (15min walk per cove)

Visit of local villages: Anjajavy le lodge is very involved with the local community and guests are encouraged to visit the local villages and support their tourism initiatives.

Accommodation: Anjajavy.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Day 23, - Fly back to Tana.
Fly back to Antananarivo and transfer to Pavillon de l'Emyrne for your overnight stay.

In the afternoon you will go shopping a La Digue.

Accommodation: Pavillon de l'Emyrne.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 24, - Fly to Nairobi and connect to London.
Today spend the morning at your leisure, then you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to London, via Nairobi.

Accommodation: Overnight flight.
Meals: Breakfast & In-flight meals.

Day 25, - Welcome home!

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Laterally sleeping...

La Varangue
La Varangue is a boutique hotel in the centre of downtown Antananarivo. With just seven rooms, it is ideal for guests who have had enough of overpriced and impersonal hotels. Each room is individually decorated with a double bed, television, mini-bar, room safe and well-appointed en-suite bathroom. Your balcony is ideal for taking in great views of the city and whiling the day away. La Varangue boasts a well-known restaurant where you can wine and dine in true Malagasy style. The restaurant opens out onto a terrace with wonderful vistas of the city skyline and the bar is full of character, shaped like the hull of a ship.

There is also a landscaped garden where you can enjoy your meals or just lap up the African sunshine. The management and staff are welcoming and will take care of your every need - here you are not just another guest. The restaurant is known for serving some of the best cuisine in Antananarivo and the views from the terrace or your private balcony are breath-taking.

Vakona Lodge
The lovely, up-market Vakôna Forest Lodge, lies 8 kilometres from Andasibe between Andasibe and the Mantadia National Park, and is the most luxurious lodge in the area. The building has been designed around an octagonal reception area, lounge and bar with a huge fireplace in the middle.

The lodge currently has 14 individual chalets, each with en suite shower rooms, around a central swimming pool. All are equipped with mosquito nets, veranda with chairs, heating, room safe, minibar and hairdryers in the bathrooms. New chalets have a separate dressing room with a single bed which doubles as a seating area. The sounds of the forest are amazing here - the lodge is set among trees, on the banks of a small river that runs into a man-made lake. Quiet and peaceful with lots of birds and within earshot of the Indri's haunting call, this is the perfect place to relax.

Relais des Plateaux
The Relais des Plateaux is located near to Ivato Airport. The rooms are large and have a mini-bar, TV and en-suite bathrooms with showers. All have air-conditioning. With tiled floors and basic furnishings they feel comfortable, but not luxurious. The hotel has a small boutique, good sized pool and bar and restaurant. The staff do not speak much English, however they endeavour to be helpful. This is a comfortable and convenient place to stay with its close proximity to the airport.

...sleeping Laterally

Litchi Tree, Diego Suarez
The Litchi Tree is a small boutique guest house just a short drive from Diego Suarez in northern Madagascar. Litchi Tree sits at the foot of the Amber Mountain, adjacent to the National Park of the same name. This beautiful colonial house, which dates from 1902, was once owned by Marshal Joffre and the French military and has recently been carefully and sensitively restored. There are stunning views from the verandah of the main building out over the Diego Suarez Bay and the Mozambique Channel.
There are just six en-suite rooms at Litchi Tree all of which are in stone built bungalows set around a central courtyard, just a short walk from the main house. Each beautifully decorated room has a verandah, a stylish bathroom, and plenty of seating space inside with a desk and chairs. The main building houses a cosy lounge area, a lovely restaurant and a bar. The food and service at Litchi Tree are both excellent

Ankarana Lodge
All the bungalows at the Ankarana lodge have been fully integrated into the natural environment. They are all very comfortable and really give you a chance to get immersed into the surrounding landscape. The lodge has plenty of facilities to use. Located on a rocky plateau is the restaurant which has the most unforgettable view. There is also a good size swimming pool and a bar which serves an array of cocktails, so why not sit back and relax and try to spot a chameleon whilst sipping your favourite cocktail!

There are plenty of activities to do during your stay at Ankarana lodge. Take a tour into the Ankarana Reserve to try and spot the local wildlife or why not take a hike up to the heart of Tsingy- a world-renowned rock formation which was formed 200-400 million years ago. If all of these sound too active, why not simply relax by the pool with your favourite cocktail or taste some Malagasy specialities at the restaurant.

Tsara Komba, Nosy Komba
The Tsara Komba Lodge is a 4-star luxury hotel with a rare and authentic charm, in perfect keeping with Nature and with the area's outstanding biodiversity. It combines a stylish and exclusive atmosphere, an excellent Slow Food cuisine, tailored services and excursions, in an atmosphere dominated by a commitment to comfortable luxury and ecology.
Experience the gentle caress of the wind, the birdsongs and the sound of the waves lapping around this former volcano today covered by an abundant forest, bordered by a sapphire blue sea with excellent golden sandy beaches. The preservation of this sublime environment and the community-minded activities being pursued here to encourage harmonious sustainable development for the benefit of the local population are just two of the ethical aspects of this marvellous Eco-paradise.

Laterally sleeping...

Tsarabanjina Constance Lodge
Hotel Tsarabanjina has been developed on one of these uninhabited islands, a paradise in the Mitsio Archipelago. The twenty-two hectare island is small but offers lush vegetation and crystal clear water. The hotel exemplifies the term "barefoot luxury", which in itself sums up the sort of trickle-the-sand-through-your toes feeling, mixed with cordon bleu catering and excellent service, on a Robinson Crusoe style island. Accommodation is provided in A-framed thatched chalets situated under trees on the edge of the beach. The tastefully decorated chalets provide spacious ensuite facilities with a separate toilet and a hot shower. The main complex is situated on a separate beach, with the raised dining room providing guests with magnificent sunsets.

Unique cuisine with a strong seafood influence provides guests with many a memorable meal. The soft beach-sand floor of the lounge and bar creates an informal "barefoot luxury" atmosphere.

Anjajavy Hotel
On the west coast of Madagascar, one hundred and fifty kilometres north of Majunga, lies the luxury retreat of Anjajavy Hotel. The hotel is situated on a peninsula overlooking a wide bay, and is backed by a natural reserve. There are twenty five air-conditioned villas, each with a large living room, breakfast nook and a bedroom, which opens onto a large terrace that overlooks the sea.

The ensuite bathroom has a bath, a shower and a separate toilet. A small stairway leads to a small sitting room with two sleeper-couches for children. The main complex comprises a bar/restaurant with an exterior and an interior dining room, a swimming pool, five kilometres of beach and a 450-hectare nature reserve.

Pavillon de l'Emyrne
Pavillon de l'Emyrne is a beautiful and charming 13 bedroom property in Antananarivo; it is set in small beautiful gardens and inside you will find lovely wooden corridors with high ceilings and a stylish and traditional interior throughout.

This hotel is one of the most attractive and elegant in Antananarivo and its location is ideal for exploring the Isoraka area. In the corridors leading to the rooms pictures of Malagasy royalty adorn the walls and fresh flowers are found in vases on sideboards and tables. Each room is spacious with its own individual design and all rooms tastefully combine modern decor with the older 1930's colonial building that houses them. Each room is air-conditioned, has en suite facilities, TV, mini-bar and the hotel has its own small restaurant located centrally with a lounge area where guests can enjoy tea and coffee throughout the day.