



We are very excited to share with you one of our recent travel experiences, an incredible journey to the island nation of Madagascar, which holds innumerable secret wonders. As the world keeps getting smaller and many destinations become more frequented, we invite you to join us in exploring this fresh, lesser-traveled gem of a country, which we so adore.

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**Madagascar: Island of Everything**

The fourth largest island nation in the world, Madagascar is often considered the eighth continent or its own sub-continent. It boasts incredible biodiversity, unique cultures, and truly undiscovered people, places and things. Still not widely commercialized, Madagascar remains a bit of a magnificent mystery for those seeking a truly rare and distinct experience.

The lemurs, chameleons, birds and other creatures are gentle, and the people are kind. It is a land of contrast, an island of everything spread between the private tropical islands in the north to the culturally rich spiny desert in the south, up into the highland rainforests of the central plateau, to the baobabs of the west. See whales in season, visit caves of fossilized, extinct lemur species, see the sacred tombs of the Antandroy, surf at daybreak on quiet beach, watch sea turtles hatch and scurry to the sea, and finally, simply retreat.

**Updated Tour Pricing for 2009**

We are pleased to offer preferred pricing for our **Mysteries of Madagascar** Private Travel Journey. Enjoy an added value savings of up to 20% in 2009. See our **detailed itinerary** for more information.

**Anjajavy: Madagascar's Relais & Chateaux Flagship**

"My favorite moment at Anjajavy was concluding a 20-minute walk with the discovery of a private, empty stretch of beach, with beautifully eroded rocks at either end. We were privileged to have a direct view of the setting sun. The only thing I'd do differently... next time we'll bring along a waiter with a nice bottle of Champagne."

—Megan Bryant

Located on an isolated peninsula on the remote northwest coast of Madagascar, Anjajavy is a 4-star eco-retreat and the only Relais & Chateaux property in the country. Access is by private airline, enhancing the sense of exclusivity and giving

a spectacular view of the teal-colored waters of the Mozambique Channel and lush environs.

The 25 thatched, rosewood, air-conditioned villas are each perched along the boardwalk framing a pristine private coast bookended by monumental rocky outcroppings. Set in over 1,000 acres of reserved forest, the grounds are beautifully manicured and teeming with brightly colored birds, statuesque palms and an inviting, blue swimming pool.

Activities abound at Anjajavy—enjoy waterskiing, boating, nature walks, and private beach sunsets. Observe Coquerel’s sifaka, Brown lemurs, hairy crabs, ancient baobabs and an amazing assortment of birds, reptiles and more. While Anjajavy is not considered a traditional “beach” destination, the truly adventurous can still swim and take part in a number of other water sports, then retreat to the elegance of polished wood and superior service.

For more on Anjajavy, see our Private Safari Journey [Mysteries of Madagascar](#).



### Antananarivo: Capital Cuisine

“I grew up in New England with an African-born French mother; we spoke only French and ate French food. My mother never served foie gras and as an adult I became obsessed with it. I was thrilled to discover that in ‘Tana nearly every restaurant serves this delicacy (in pate form), easily rivaling what is served in Paris and measured in hefty half kilo servings. I concluded at the end of my stay that the consumption of local foie gras is reason enough to visit Madagascar!”

—Nathaniel Waring

Upon arriving in Antananarivo, one is immediately struck by the visibly aged European architecture flecked upon the hills and the rice patties carpeting the valleys. It is a distinct amalgam of Europe and Asia, united by the occasional, more notably African, thatched shanty. It is beautiful. Once you get into the heart of the upper town, with its narrow, winding roads, you can find a medley of fine dining establishments hidden amongst the bustle.

Ku De Ta is a stylish favorite. A very French-influenced Malagasy cuisine accompanied by all the trimmings and an assortment of delicious flavored rum—try the banana. The atmosphere is very hip and modern, and it’s a short walk from some hotels (we can arrange private transfers from others).

A great spot for a light lunch or ice cream is La Patisserie at Hotel Colbert—stop in for a delicious ice cream, tea, quiche or other yummy treat. You can also experience a number of other bars and restaurants within the Hotel Colbert.

The charmingly bohemian hotel Sakamanga offers three dining venues. L’espace Jardin, The Saka and very new Saka

Express cover French cuisine and Malagasy specialties, topped by an international wine list. Enjoy more casual cuisine at The Saka Express.

### Just Back From: Madagascar Classic Camping by Megan Bryant

"I awake to the sounds of the Antandroy singing songs along the riverbank, just down the hill from my custom-made canvas tent outfitted with locally hand-carved four-poster bed, and me wrapped in a heavy duvet, perfect for the cold nights in Ifotaka. The locals farm sweet potatoes on the banks of the Mandrare River, which is seasonal and currently about one foot at its deepest. I hear a "good morning" from our gracious host, Edward Tucker Brown, managing director for Madagascar Classic Camping (MCC). He is dropping off a jug of hot water for me..." [read more.](#)



### Madagascar: The Final Frontier by Edward Tucker Brown

Many countries lay claim to being the last haven of the ancient world, the final frontier of culture and nature, from lost tribes in the Amazon to the unexplored forests of central Congo. Anthropologists and biologists search endlessly for the unknown, the final frontiers of their respective fields. Madagascar offers just such frontiers, through 65 million years of biological isolation, and a unique cultural mix from countless migrants, Madagascar has formed its own unique biology and culture... [read more.](#)

### Nosy Iranja: The Living Island of the Tropical Northwest

"I love the tropics, when at night the ocean becomes a primordial bath. After a late night sampling Nosy Iranja's excellent South African wines I wandered back to my bungalow and found myself floating in the ocean, tracing countless shooting stars as they plummeted into my ocean. Turning around into the warm black water I saw that they had gone straight in with me, morphing into a myriad of bioluminescent plankton. I reached out to try and grab them but they seemed to jump right back out."

—Nathaniel Waring

Madagascar is not as well known for her azure islands as she is for lemurs, but these paradisiacal tropics do exist here in a very big way. Nosy Iranja is accessible by boat from Nosy Be (Big Island).

Nosy Iranja is very much a living island, whether by its continually shifting sands, the neighboring island village, hatching sea turtles or occasional glowing phytoplankton. Its 30 bungalows, each tucked discretely into the vegetation, are large and welcoming with a simple tastefulness. The main areas are open to the sea. On a quiet side of the island, turtle nests protect soon-to-be-hatched sea turtles, and seasonal whale migrations pass through annually.

At low tide, a sandbar connects Nosy Iranja to her larger sister island, Nosy Iranja Be. This interim land bridge is like a

portal offering you a daily cultural experience with the village on the other side, or a visit to the old light tower, designed by Gustav Eiffel. You may see women “herding” fish off the sandbank or men poling their traditional wooden dhows out to fish. This noncommercial island experience offers more than a beach, yet you can retreat to the understated luxury of the resort at your desire, completely undisturbed.

For more information on Nosy Iranja and other private islands of Madagascar, see our Private Travel Journey [Perfumed Isles of Madagascar](#).



#### Travel Advice Show Features Megan Bryant on Madagascar

Learn more about [Madagascar](#) in this 2008 interview with Megan Bryant on the Travel Advice Show, hosted by travel industry veterans Chris Newton and Gerald “Jerry” Fuller.

#### Sneak Peak: Exploratory Group Departure in 2009

Cox & Kings USA will lead a special group departure Exploratory Journey to Madagascar in the summer of 2009. The tour will incorporate many of the locales and accommodations described above. Stay tuned to our monthly email newsletters for more information, or contact [Megan Bryant](#) if you would like to be one of the first to know more about this remarkable opportunity to explore Madagascar with us.

Our comprehensive brochure is filled with Cox & Kings’ Exquisite Cultural and Wildlife Adventures, featuring Africa, Indian Ocean, Asia, India, Latin America, and Arabia & Northern Africa. Request one online at [www.coxandkingsusa.com](http://www.coxandkingsusa.com) or email [tours@coxandkingsusa.com](mailto:tours@coxandkingsusa.com).

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