Wildlife and Botany of the Mysterious Red Island

July 18 - August 3, 2019

BAOBAB TREES

MADAGASCAR
The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed trip offers unparalleled educational opportunities, many with Vanderbilt professors, for an exclusive “beyond the classroom” experience.

Madagascar is called the “Red Island” for its ochre-colored soil, but it could easily be “blue” for its sapphire mines, “green” for its lush forests, and any color of the rainbow for the unique flora and fauna that exist only here. You’ll discover all this, as well as the traditions of the Malagasy, the world’s only Afro-Asian culture. Our adventure takes us to national parks, arboretums, and research stations where lemurs, chameleons, and flying foxes inhabit one of the world’s most fascinating biodiversity hotspots! Join your fellow Vanderbilt alumni for the experience of a lifetime, as we discover the “8th continent” together.

Dear Vanderbilt Alumni and Friends,

Join us on a lifetime experience to the fascinating island of Madagascar. From the moment you arrive, you will sense the difference in this magical land of unique species, fascinating history, and enduring culture.

Madagascar is a dream destination for botanists and nature enthusiasts alike. Nowhere else on earth will you find as much biodiversity in such a small area, with 70% of its 200,000 species endemic to the island. Our travel experts at Holbrook Travel have meticulously planned our program to the “8th continent” as shown in the detailed itinerary enclosed.

Please join us on this expedition to the “Red Island.” As our group is strictly limited – only 12 participants – please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Sincerely,

Cary DeWitt Allyn | Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program
Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Vanderbilt Travel Program, Office of Alumni Relations, PMB 407735, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville TN, 37240-7735. For questions please call 615.322.3673 or email alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu. I/we understand the final payment is due by April 15, 2019.

VANDERBILT TRAVEL PROGRAM RESERVATION FORM

Wildlife and Botany of the Mysterious Red Island

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Full Passport Name________________________________ DOB ____________ Gender ______
E-mail ______________________________________________ Class Year ______________
Full Passport Name________________________________ DOB ____________ Gender ______
E-mail ______________________________________________ Class Year ______________
Badge Name(s) _____________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________ State ____________ ZIP ______________
Home Ph. (_______)_____________________   Cell Ph. (_______)______________________

Please book my/our air from __________________. I/we request an air upgrade to _____________.
☐ I will share a room with __________________________.
☐ I request a single room (limited availability).

Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): ☐ Y ☐ N

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) __________________________________________ Date________________

Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
Account # ____________________________ Security Code ________ Exp. Date _________
Name of Cardholder _______________________________________________________
Signature  ______________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due by April 15, 2019 (check or credit card).
WHY MADAGASCAR? 70% of its 200,000 species are found nowhere else on the planet. Unique to the island are more than 50 types of lemurs, 99% of its frog species, and 36 genera of birds.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Lemur’s Park, a botanical park where nine species of lemur can be observed roaming freely.
- Discover the sacred royal village of Ambohimanga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Explore the sandstone canyons and waterfalls of Isalo National Park.
- Learn about sustainability and biodiversity in Ranomafana National Park at a facility run by Dr. Patricia Wright.
- Experience a taste of Malagasy life while exploring Ambatolampy and visiting a local pot factory.
- Investigate Madagascar’s over 12,000 plant species (80% endemic), one of the most diverse floras in the world.
- Meet with local Malagasy doctors and learn about the country’s traditional and contemporary medicine practices.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

ACTIVE: involves long distances and/or extensive movement, walking, hiking, and/or stair-climbing.
JULY 18 - DEPART

JULY 19 - ANTANANARIVO
Arrive in Antananarivo (Tana), Madagascar on a late night flight. After clearing immigration, exchanging money, you will be met by our guide and transferred to the hotel. Check-in and rest after the long flight. Overnight at Relais Des Plateaux.

JULY 20 - ANTANANARIVO
This morning we will take the time to recover from our long flights, enjoy breakfast at leisure. This afternoon, we will begin program orientation, presentation by guide on the history, economy, education and culture of Madagascar, following lunch. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at Relais Des Plateaux. (BLD)

JULY 21 - ANTISABE
This morning, after breakfast we begin with a drive to Ambohimanga Royal Hill. Explore the Royal palace dwellings and heritage of Madagascar, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

JULY 22 - ANDASIBE
Rise early for breakfast for a full day exploration of the Analamazaotra Special Reserve in Andasibe. The primary forests of Andasibe Mantadia contain a dense humid forest covered with lianas, moss, fern trees and more than hundred orchids species. Other common plants growing here are Pandanus utilis, Traveler’s tree, tambourissa, bamboos and some precious wood, like Palsisander and Ebano. Conservation of the forest is a critical challenge in this region due to the graphite mines inside the park; we will discuss conservation initiatives as it relates to natural resources. Later today, take an evening walk in the Mitsinjo Analamazaotra for a glimpse of nocturnal species. Overnight at Vakona Lodge (BLD)

JULY 23 - ANDASIBE
This morning, have breakfast while listening to the peculiar call of the endangered Indri, the largest living lemurs, reaching up to three feet tall! Andasibe is an ideal place to observe the Indri, as there are some Indri families there who have become habituated to humans. Considered a sacred animal in Madagascar, the Indri is the focus of several origin myths. In addition to the Indri, 13 lemur species can also be seen: woody lemur, grey bamboo lemur, diademed sifaka, brown lemur, red mouse lemur, red bellied lemur, black and white ruffed lemur, and aye aye. These forests are also home to 15 other mammal species, more than 100 types of birds, 50 species of reptiles, and 80 amphibian species. Overnight at Vakona Lodge. (BLD)
JULY 24 - ANTANANARIVO
This morning have breakfast and then visit Lemur Island, founded by Vakona Lodge to provide sanctuary to displaced Lemurs that were former pets and not suitable for reintroduction to the wild. The lemurs are isolated on the island which is frequented by human visitors. The local guide will provide important information about this project that provides guests with the unique opportunity to encounter and be photographed with lemurs. Check-out of the hotel and transfer to the central part of Tana and have dinner at the hotel. Following dinner, we will enjoy a special talk on Community Health. 
*Overnight at Royal Palissandre (BLD)*

JULY 25 - ANTSIRABE
This morning after breakfast, explore the capital city with a local historian and then drive to Antsirabe; en route visit the small town of Ambatolampy to visit the aluminum pot factory and experience a taste of Malagasy life. The "factory" is a small scale, mostly outdoor production of the pots that are used all over the island for cooking over open fires. It is surprising to learn that one craftsman can make as many as 20 of these robust pots per day. Visit the local market where the guide will explain the seasonality of foods available and how commerce works. Check-in at the hotel and then have dinner joined by local Malagasy community members with translation by the guide to discussion on women's issues and programs. 
*Overnight at Couleur Cafe. (BLD)*

JULY 26 - RANOMAFANA
After breakfast, transfer to the mountainous Ranomafana National Park, situated on the edge of Madagascar's High Plateau with elevations ranging from 1,640 to 4,921 feet. Ranomafana contains a variety of forest and is part of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage Site. Ranomafana has served as a model for subsequent parks and reserves in Madagascar and abroad. En route, visit a local workshop and discuss local commerce in rural Madagascar. Check in at the lodge and have dinner. 
*Overnight at Centrest (BLD)*

JULY 27 - RANOMAFANA
This morning, after breakfast, hike in the 102,000 acre Ranomafana National Park. Please note that hikes are moderately difficult uphill hikes on the way in and often include off trail experiences. The rainforest is home to the critically endangered greater bamboo lemur, golden bamboo lemur, and 11 other lemur species, plus species of precious wood, palm trees, orchids, and carnivorous plants. This afternoon, have lunch at Centre ValBio (CVB), a world famous research station established in 2003 and managed by Stony Brook University. Run by Dr. Patricia Wright, the accomplished American primatologist and conservationist, the CVB focuses on biodiversity, community health, environmental arts, and reforestation. After lunch there will be a presentation on the flora, fauna, and research efforts at ValBio. This evening have dinner at the hotel and take a walk in search of nocturnal species on the outskirts of the national park (roadside) as we seek to observe chameleons and mouse lemurs. 
*Overnight at Centrest (BLD)*

JULY 28 - RANOMAFANA
After breakfast, head to the Great South and Madagascar’s most visited park, Isalo National Park. The drive is along some of the best roads in the country and the scenery is breathtaking. Expect to spend most of the day driving. En-route stop at Anja Community Reserve, managed by the local community and a vital example of sustainable tourism in Madagascar. The reserve boasts a diverse variety of endemic species, including several families of orchids and saxicolous plants. Explore the reserve then have lunch in a nearby restaurant. After a long day of driving, we check in to our hotel, have dinner, and relax in anticipation of Isalo National Park - over 200,000 acres of beautiful landscapes of sandstones, canyons, fauna and flora, natural swimming pools, and waterfalls. 
*Overnight at Le Relais de la Reine (BLD)*

JULY 29 - ISALO
Spend the day exploring Isalo National Park, a continental sandstone plateau dating to the Jurassic times. This trek is full of varied landscapes with different forms of sandstones, and dotted with the famous dwarf baobab. After an hour walk with short climbs, stop to
rest in a spectacular valley resembling the famous Death Valley. The overlook shows miles of azure sky, rocky desert, and winding greenery. Continue to the natural pool (difficult hike) with its white sandy bottom and tropical vibe for a swim before making the trek back to the starting point. Transfer back to the hotel for a sundowner. Have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Le Relais de la Reine (BLD)*

**JULY 30 - IFATY**

This morning we will continue our final leg south. Today we visit Antsokay Arboretum, created in 1980 by amateur Swiss biologist Hermann Petignat. The 100-acre site is dedicated to conservation of the country’s endemic fauna. Enjoy a beautiful lunch before we continue to the seaside town of Toliara, situated near the Tropic of Capricorn. *Overnight at La Paradisier (BLD)*

**JULY 31 - IFATY**

We rise early today for a special sunrise walk in Reniala Private Reserve, managed by a local environmental association working to develop ecotourism in the area. Hike some of the trails to explore the spiny forest, a unique ecosystem which only occurs in the southwest Madagascar. The reserve contains more than 2,000 plant species, as well as impressively old baobabs - including one that is 41 feet in diameter. The reserve also has 65 species of birds; rare endemics such as the Red-capped Coua and the Blue Vanga can easily be seen. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast, and explore the beach or hotel amenities. This evening farewell dinner under the Baobab trees. *Overnight at Le Paradisier. (BLD)*

**AUGUST 1-2 - ANTANANARIVO**

Enjoy our final morning on the Mozambique channel before we transfer to the airport for flight back to Antananarivo. This evening dinner at the hotel. Dependent on your flight schedules, some may depart overnight while others may enjoy a day room on the 2nd to await flight schedule or extension travels. *Overnight at Relais Des Plateaux. (BLD and B)*

**AUGUST 3 – ARRIVE IN U.S.**

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**OPTIONAL EXTENSION**

**ÎLE SAINTE-MARIE**

**August 2-6, 2019**

5 days/4 nights for $1,300

Single supplement: $350

Discover the tropical island paradise of Île Sainte-Marie, situated just off the coast of northeast Madagascar. Pristine beaches give way to turquoise waters and colorful coral reefs, with spectacular whale watching during migration season (Jun-Sep). The island’s sparse landmarks evoke a fascinating blend of cultures throughout history, and its unspoiled natural beauty offers visitors opportunity for both tranquility and exploration.

**Your tour price includes:**

- Round-trip airfare Antananarivo-Sainte-Marie
- 4 nights’ accommodation in a secluded villa at Princess Bora Lodge & Spa
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Whale watching tour
- Time at leisure to explore the island and lodge (snorkeling, biking, boat tour, 4x4 tour, spa, and more – at own cost)
- Transfers to/from airport

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**PRICING**

$6,100 per person

*Price is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of $850. Optional Pre- or Post-night at Relais Des Plateaux of $160.*

**Your price includes:**

- Internal airfare (Ifaty - Antananarivo)
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
- 36 meals (12 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners)
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- Holbrook Travel tour guide
- Private vehicle transportation throughout program
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offset
- Departure tax
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

*Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for maids and drinks purchased on own, or items of a personal nature.*

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. *Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.*
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

**Not Included in Your Tour Price** International airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges, gratuities to your Holbrook Travel Tour Guide which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

**International Air Transportation** Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2-3 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own arrangements, Vanderbilt Alumni Association and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

**Cancellations, Changes and Refunds** If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to the Vanderbilt Travel Program. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel April 15, 2019 or earlier:** $200 charge; **Cancel later than April 15, 2019:** no refund. Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation before April 15, 2019. After April 15, 2019 and until 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is available from the Vanderbilt Travel Program and information will be sent after you reserve. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

**Health and Medical Issues** We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Vanderbilt Alumni Association and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a **No Smoking policy** on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

**Required Information** Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue. A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour.

**Responsibility** The liability of Vanderbilt Alumni Association (VAA), as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. VAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any IATA and ATC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.