



**Madagascar wildlife  
conservation project**

**Madagascar**





# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- Live in the tropical island of Madagascar, renowned as the last wildlife haven left on earth
- Work, live and relax in the lush jungle
- Help research rare animals including lemurs, geckos, chameleons, snakes, bats, frogs, lobsters and more
- Assist with forest restoration
- Join the research team and learn about their methodology
- Apply your research to valuable large scale studies
- Make friends from around the world as you immerse yourself in nature and the local community







## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Join our award winning research and conservation project on the beautiful island of Madagascar, for the adventure of a lifetime. The team have been driving conservation in South Eastern Madagascar for 14 years. On this magical island around 75 % of the local species are found nowhere else on the planet. Now you are invited to join them and work where few others have travelled.

Madagascar is home to a huge variety of wildlife, unfortunately most of these species live in the forests, which are being destroyed at a frightening pace. People depend on the forest for their daily needs, and an increasing population is putting ever more demand on these limited resources. The project is fighting this decline in wildlife through cutting edge research and land management methods.



It's all hands on deck, and you can help them! This project is perfect for any one with a love and passion for wildlife and research. You don't need any past experience, just the desire to make a difference and have a real adventure. You will combine hands-on conservation fieldwork on endangered species including lemurs, turtles, bats, reptiles and amphibians, with community initiatives and environmental education.



# YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK

## KEY ACTIVITIES

Volunteers on this project will join in with the real projects the NGO team are carrying out at the time. You will always participate in a varied number of tasks which means you will be maximising the organisation's potential to help wildlife and assisting with genuine conservation efforts. Research and conservation tasks are likely to include:

- Monitoring the reptile populations in the littoral forests
- Monitoring the nocturnal lemurs of Sainte Luce
- Assisting with research into the Madagascan flying fox (*Pteropus rufus*)
- Assisting with data collection for the management of sustainable lobster populations
- Planting new habitat corridors for lemurs
- Assisting with the development of new projects for sustainable livelihoods
- Educating the local school children about the forests they live in

## WHAT ELSE WILL I DO

Twice a week you can assist with teaching children about conservation, encouraging local people to protect their homeland. This is seriously rewarding work, as you watch the children's interest and compassion for wildlife grow week on week. Living next to traditional villages you will also experience the local rural lifestyle of the Malagasy people, mix with the local community on projects and maybe at a 'bush party' and learn some of the local language.

You will get 1 day off a week while in the bush and also some free time back in town if you stay for a longer duration.

Please note, you need to be able to walk up to 10 km a day in hot humid conditions , have an appropriate level of fitness, physical capability and mobility for the project location and your chosen volunteer role.



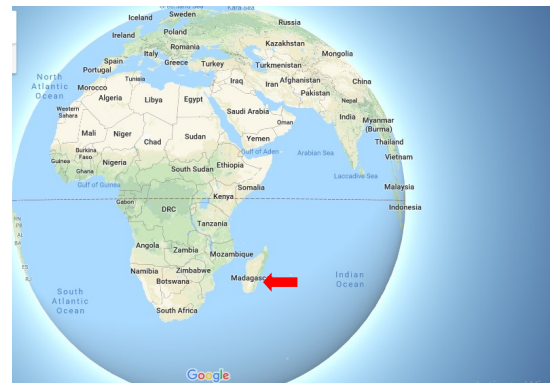




# LIFE AT THE PROJECT

## LOCATION

Madagascar is a large island off the east coast of Africa. Our conservation programme is based in the beautiful coastal region of Sainte Luce, on the south east side of the island. Sainte Luce is surrounded by extremely rare and threatened fragments of littoral (coastal) forest, with Fort Dauphin being the largest nearby town. It makes a great place to explore on days off.



## WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING

Volunteers spend most of their time at the rural research camp at Sainte Luce. The camp is on the edge of several small, traditional local villages and you will meet the local community and see their traditional rural life during your stay. The camp is surrounded by rain forest and also close to wide stretches of deserted beach. There is no wifi at the research camp and accommodation is in tents, which you can rent locally or bring from home if you prefer. Three meals a day will be catered for you in the communal kitchen.



On certain weekends during the program you may go to Fort Dauphin to explore and relax where accommodation is provided in a campsite, or local homestay. You will also have the chance to take trips further afield, such as to the renowned Berenty Reserve.



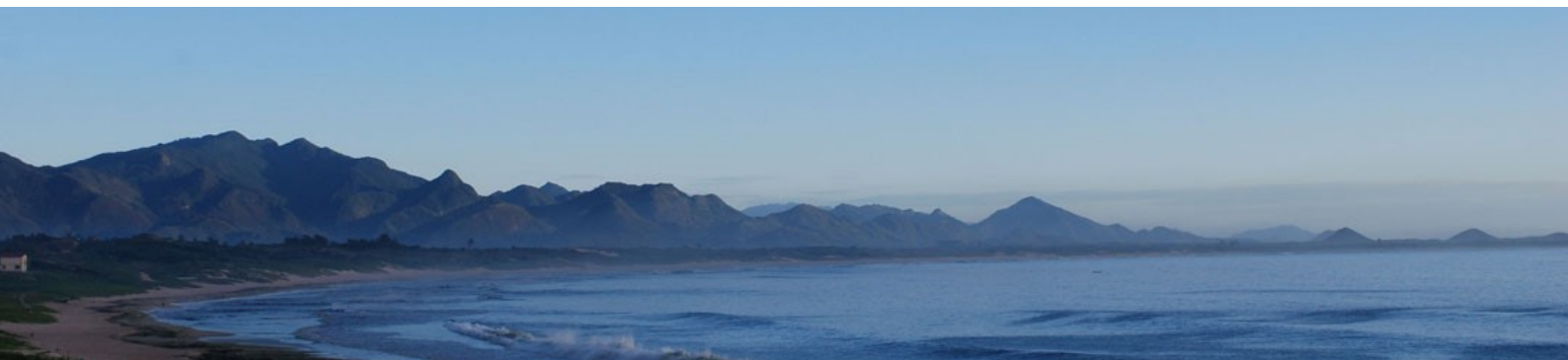




## MORE ABOUT MADAGASCAR

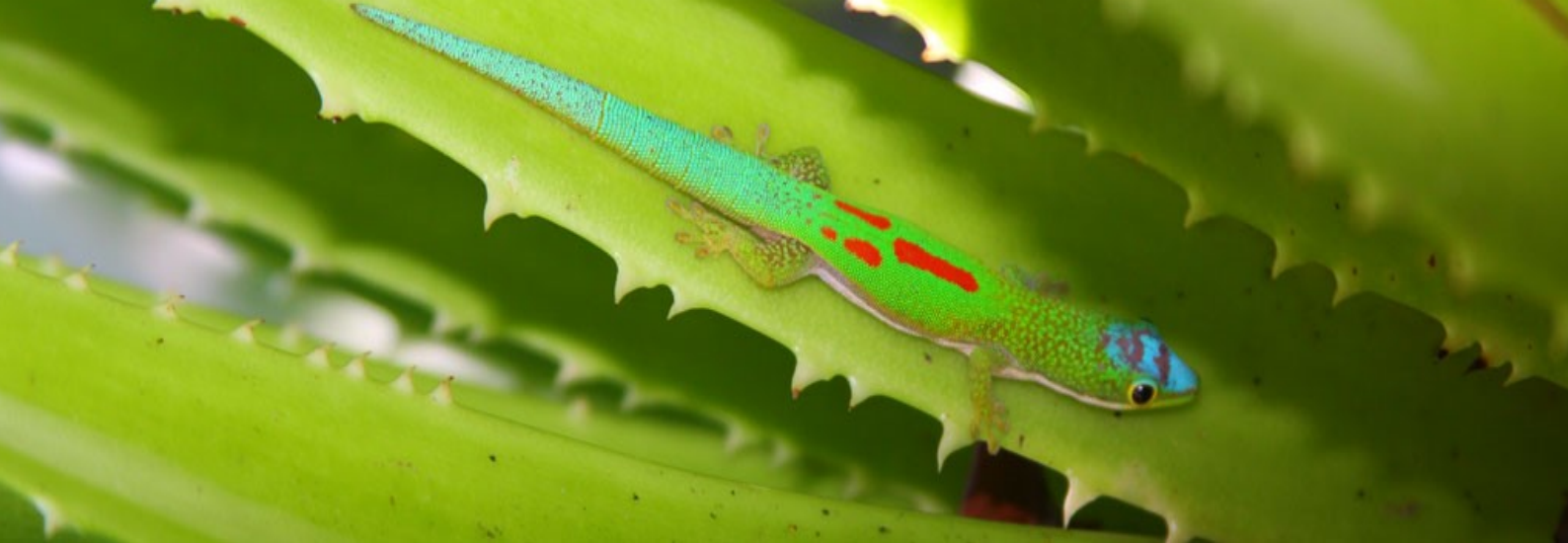
Madagascar is the Earth's fourth largest island, and due to being geographically isolated for 80 million years is now home to an astonishing variety of plant and animal species, the majority of which aren't found anywhere else on Earth. As well as all this biodiversity, it is also one of the world's most humanly impoverished countries. As of 2014, two thirds of the population still live in rural areas, and few have access to improved sanitation, education or secure food sources.

With about 5% of Earth's plant and animal species found within this 0.4% of the planet's land surface, Madagascar is among the world's most significant biodiversity hotspots. Over 80% of the flora and fauna is unique to the island, with many species yet to be named or even discovered. So 8 out of every 10 species found in Madagascar are found nowhere else...



An island with stunning natural scenery, its best known occupant is the lemur. There are around 100 species and subspecies of this creature, from the swaggering ringtail to the enigmatic aye-aye, and tiny dwarf and mouse lemurs that can sit in the palm of your hand (or could have sat in the palm of the giant lemurs that once lived on the island, including one as big as a gorilla!). Lemurs today face different degrees of threat through loss of habitat, hunting for bushmeat and capture for the pet trade. Recently discovered lemur species, being typically confined to small regions, are considered threatened, whilst as yet undiscovered species could go extinct before even being identified. Six lemurs are listed among the "Top 25 Most Endangered Primates".

Madagascar is also known for its many other unique species, including its biggest natural predator of lemurs – the puma-like fosa (or 'fossa', pronounced "*foosh*"). About two-thirds of the world's chameleon species are here in Madagascar, from the cat-sized Parson's chameleon to the tiny Brookesia. The home of many exotic, endemic and endangered birds, the island once provided a habitat for the world's biggest known – the 10-foot tall, half ton Elephant Bird, *Aepyornis maximus*.



# CURRENT RESEARCH

During your stay you will be working at the cutting edge of conservation research and strategy implementation. Here are some of the current projects.

## **SPECIES: MOUSE LEMUR**

**WHAT:** Conducting scientific research (DNA samples and habitat research) to enhance the long-term survival prospects.

**WHY:** By collecting data on distribution/abundance, population size can be estimated. Genetic analysis of tissue samples from all forest fragments will also be taken to ascertain if more than one species occupies the forest, and support the achievement of an IUCN Red List Status.

**NEXT:** Proposed construction of two habitat corridors between isolated forest remnants to increase habitat and reconnect isolated gene pools.

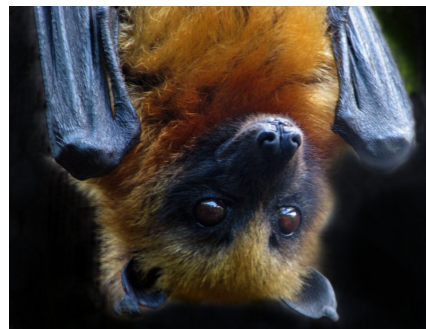


## **SPECIES: FLYING FOX**

**WHAT:** Research on feeding habits of species, to enhance the long-term survival and contribute to an international body of knowledge.

**WHY:** This species is important for rehabilitating degraded areas of forest. due to seed dispersal/pollinating habits. Research suggests a 65% population decline.

**NEXT:** Support the development of a comprehensive conservation strategy from within the community.



## **HABITAT : MAHAMPHY SWAMPS**

**WHAT:** To understand the harvesting of mahampy (a reed used for traditional weaving) and the swamps it resides in.

**WHY:** Mahampy is a culturally important product as well as having a direct economic benefit to the weavers of Sainte Luce. To understand the consumption, harvesting, and ecological health of the swamps it will be possible to develop a more sustainable practice.

**NEXT:** Surveys from the weavers of Sainte Luce, invertebrate assessments of the swamps, and assessing the soil quality of the swamps for ideal growing conditions for the mahampy reed.





# COST AND DATES

## START DATES

Volunteers can join the programme for 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10 weeks. New volunteers can join every 2nd week of the year. The workload varies with season, weather, supplies and community availability, so the longer you stay, the more aspects of the conservation work you will assist with. Please contact us to see if your preferred start date is available

## PROJECT FEE

Duration (weeks)	2020 project cost
2 weeks	£795
4 Weeks	£1395
6 weeks	£1795
8 weeks	£2195
10 weeks	£2495

## NOT YOUR FIRST TIME?

Returning volunteers get 5% off the cost of any project

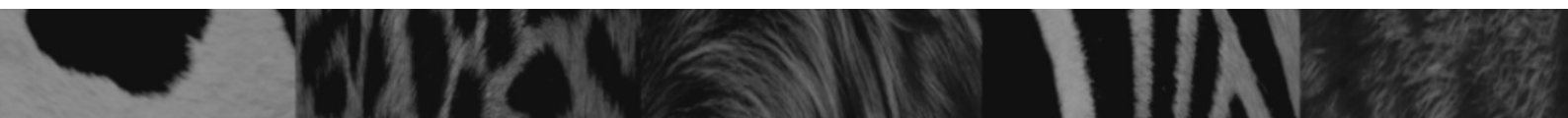
## WHAT IS INCLUDED

Want to know what's included? Great news, it is pretty much everything! Including your:

- Airport collection from Fort Dauphin
- Full orientation and training in the required conservation field techniques;
- Malagasy language lessons on site
- Accommodation at our camp
- Three meals a day
- Transport relating to the project
- 24 hour project coordinator available
- Pre-departure booking representative to help with everything before departure

## NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR FEE

- Flights to and from the project
- Visas
- Personal Insurance







# EXTRA ACTIVITIES

There is lots to do on your days off, but if you want some inspiration, look no further than here!

## Fort Dauphin's Beaches

Libanona beach is the most beautiful in the area! Don your sun hat and swimming costume and hit the white sandy beach for some R & R on your days off. Or if you like your R&R a bit more extreme, learn to surf at Ankoba beach!



## Colonial Architecture

Fort Dauphin still preserves many buildings demonstrating colonial architecture. One beautiful example is the big white house of the Kaleta family, near the hotel Dauphin, which is surrounded by a garden. Ochre buildings, colonnades and remnants of a long past time can still be admired everywhere.



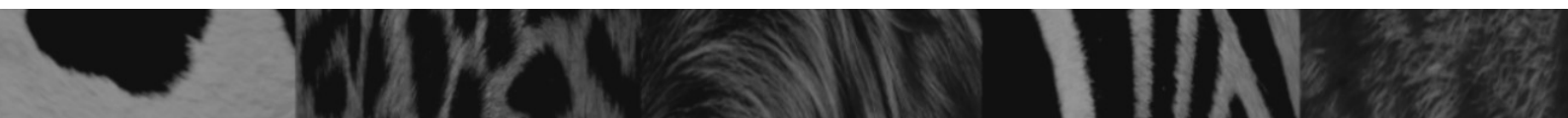
## Open Air markets

Visit one of the local African markets in town. Pick up fresh fruit, local produce and sit back and watch the hustle and bustle of life in Africa unfold before you.



## Berenty Reserve

Take an overnight trip to Berenty Reserve, in the spiny forest. This renowned nature reserve is home to six species of lemur, the south's largest colony of Madagascar fruit bats, and 103 bird species.



# WHY CHOOSE WORLDWIDE VETS

Choosing the right project can seem like a daunting task and getting the right one is an important part of your next adventure. We have all the experience, support and cover you need—the facts speak for themselves:

## BEEN THERE, GOT THE T-SHIRTS!

Since 2009 we have sent out 1,500+ volunteers to 10 + countries across 3 continents. Basically, we know what volunteers want and how to provide a life changing experience.

## EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

From the moment you contact us, we will help you with every step of your trip. We are always here to help. From giving flight advice, to talking to nervous parents!

## SAFETY FIRST

We hold full international employers liability insurance which covers you abroad. We also hold public liability and professional indemnity cover, so you can concentrate on what matters— having a fantastic time abroad.

## WE MAKE A REAL IMPACT

We provide ongoing support to our projects, and have done for many years. From ongoing advice, through to funded vets and equipment. This ensures Worldwide Vets makes long term commitments to every project and benefits the local community and animals.

## THE BEST PROJECTS

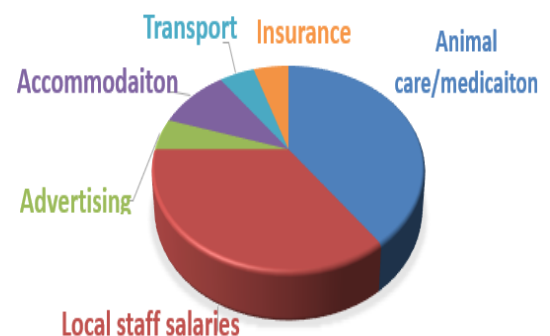
Volunteering with us may allow you to work with animals you could only dream of working with at home, or be part of your career development, studies or just for fun. Either way, we guarantee our projects will blow your socks off.

## WHERE YOUR VOLUNTEER FEE GOES

We take volunteers all year round, assisting the projects and receiving animal management or veterinary related training. To sustain this, we need to cover the cost of volunteer accommodation & food (5%) and transport(5%). Check the pie chart.

Volunteer fees are the main source of funding for most of our projects, so by joining us, 75% of your fee goes directly to the charities we work with (check out the 'Local staff salaries' and 'Animal care/medication' slices on the chart!). That's right, you get an amazing experience, AND support the work of the team who host you. Win Win!!!

On top of this it allows us to hold thorough insurance (5%) to safeguard yourself and our staff, as well as putting funds back in to marketing (5%) , so more volunteers find out about the projects, and help fund them in the future.







## HOW TO BOOK

Thank you for taking an interest in our Madagascar Wildlife Conservation Project. We hope this leaflet has sparked your interest in joining our work on Madagascar.

To book on to the project you:

1. Choose your start date and duration
2. Email [info@worldwidevets.com](mailto:info@worldwidevets.com)
3. We will provide you with our bank details. We ask for a £200 non-refundable deposit to confirm your place
4. Once your deposit is in, our team will send you a pre-departure document with all the information you need to prepare for your trip. We are always on hand to help you with anything you need between booking and departure
5. Pay the remainder of the fee by 2 months before you depart
6. Fly out to the adventure of a lifetime

*What are you waiting for – get in touch!*

Don't forget to follow us on social media for a chance to win FREE TRIPS.

Click below....



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