



Madagascar Wild Photography Adventure Extension to Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve

Nature Photography Adventures

October 2 – 5, 2024

Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve (let's call it Tsingy) is an outstanding area of eroded limestone sometimes referred to as the Stone Forest. It is characterized by sharp vertical fins of limestone that create labyrinths of stunning peaks from above and caves and slot canyon-like areas below.

Tsingy is a local word that means “the place where one cannot walk barefoot” and indeed that is an apt description. The terms blades and razor-sharp pinnacles are used a lot – and the entire zone is a World Heritage Site!

When the rest of the group leaves on the evening of October 2, we'll stay behind in Tana. On October 3 we'll take a charter flight to the Tsingy zone.

Within Tsingy, we'll visit three distinct areas. The first, on our arrival on October 3 is Petit Tsingy, known for its stone pinnacles and outstanding landscape opportunities. This will be a spectacular set of trails – but will also serve as a warmup for harder trails on day 2. We'll be watching for 6 species of lemurs and 53 kinds of birds – along with strange plants that are endemic to the area.



The Grand Tsingy is the big prize. And the hard workout! The pinnacles here are 50 meters high and you wear a climbing harness to access the trails which include vertical ladders and suspension bridges – and even some of the cliffs’ edge routes require you to attach your carabiner to a cable. There are 11 species of lemur that call this area home... and birds... and chameleons... and amphibians and reptiles... and so many kinds of plants!

Our last morning (October 5) will start with the Manambolo Gorge, another area with outstanding geological formations. Then we’ll travel by dugout canoes to visit the graves of the Vazimba – the first inhabitants of Madagascar, who were only about a meter tall. The Vazimba arrived by boat and apparently found the Tsingys to be their choice location. Their bodies were placed in wooden coffins and placed under a rock overhang. The coffins have decayed and the remaining bones can be viewed, some partially covered by cloths left by Madagascans.

Then it’s a drive back to the airstrip, a charter flight back to Tana, and time at Relais de Plateaux to rest and repack. A transfer to the international airport will connect you with your outbound flight!

The price for the 2024 Tsingy Extension is \$3,800 double occupancy and \$4,100 single occupancy.

The deposit is \$500

The second payment (1 November 2023) is \$1,000

Final payment will be 1 June 2024

Cost includes flights, all meals, accommodations and day room, photo guide, English speaking guide, 4x4 transportation, all entry fees and local levies. You will be responsible for tips, alcohol and other drinks and personal expenses. Travel insurance is required.

Logistically, we'll only need to bring along enough clothing and gear for the extension – as we'll have a room in Tana before and return to a day room (and left behind luggage) before heading to our international flights.

You'll want to pack light for the extension – a body and a couple lenses for the trails. The ability to carry water. Gloves for the cables and ladders. Really good hiking boots. Dry bag for your pack as we go in the dugout canoes.

