

2023 BESPOKE RALLIES 2023

MAGICAL MADAGASCAR

THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT

4650KMS IN 24 DAYS

JUNE 2023

THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT!

The original meaning of the word Madagascar is End of the World – by which they meant the furthest point, not the final moment! It is certainly far away from most people’s idea of a place to rally but we like to innovate so brace yourself for a real adventure in one of the most remote places in the world.

For this escapade we include a local modern air-conditioned 4x4 hire car but you can bring your own if you wish, as long as it is well prepared and suitable for a few rough tracks as some of the roads are worse than a pot-holed country lane in the UK! In fact far worse but a lot more fun.

The dates we have chosen are after the heavy rains and before the main tourist season so the roads are quieter and access to the animals easier. We make no apologies for visiting a number of parks as it would be a shame to go this far and not see the unique wildlife on the island.

Originally a French protectorate it came under direct French rule in 1897 which ended in independence in 1958. French is still spoken and many French influences are still to be seen, from architecture and particularly food as one would imagine.



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We will drive a figure of 8 loop of the island in a 24 night rally that takes you from the interior to the coast and from the mountain highlands to the arid desert. We drive a total of 4650 kms on a variety of surfaces from modern asphalt to dirt tracks. You will cross some rivers on barges, local ferries or ancient bridges. While on the road you will see some of the rarest species on earth and some of the strangest landscapes, as well as meet the people of Madagascar who will be delighted to welcome you.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

HOTELS

Hotels will vary from 5 star to 2 star or possibly no star but each one is a gem in its own right. Some will be by the sea, others in the hills or just in a small town.

INTERESTED?

Call us now to reserve your place.
Phone: + 44 (0)1483 271 699

- Amazing Madagascar
- Great driving
- Hire car
- Most dinners
- Most lunches
- Park entrance fees
- Our back-up team
- Incredible wildlife
- Tulip roadbook
- GPS
- Rally plates
- Welcome party
- Gala dinner
- Photographer
- Airport transfers





4650KMS IN 24 DAYS

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THE ITINERARY



DAY 1: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT - ANTANANARIVO

Collected from airport on arrival at Antananarivo and transferred to hotel.

DAY 2: ANTANANARIVO

Breakfast in the hotel. Optional City tour. Collect hire cars - 4 x 4.

Day 3: ANTANANARIVO - ANTSIRABE 170kms

After breakfast, drive south to Antsirabe, the road to the highland. Lunch at Ambatolampy.

Day 4: ANTSIRABE - FIANARANTSOA 245km

After breakfast drive to Fianarantsoa. Lunch at Ambositra and visit the capital of Malagasy hand crafts: pottery, wood carving, marquetry.

Day 5: FIANARANTSOA - RANOMAFANA - FIANARANTSOA 70km

Departure in the early morning to visit Ranomafana national park north of Fianarantsoa. The park contains many species of lemurs, tenrecs and birds as well as palm trees and orchids.

Day 6: FIANARANTSOA - RANOHIRA 295km

Drive to Ranohira, Stop at Ambalavao for lunch and visit the Antemoro paper store. The zebu cattle market is every wednesday and thursday morning. Ambalavao is the last town of the high plateau and is the gateway to the South. Following that we drive through the wide Horombe plain.

Day 7: RANOHIRA: ISALO

Visit Isalo National park in the early morning. It has a wild west landscape with cactus, canyons and rocks with strange rock formations and natural pools. It's home to the ring-tailed lemur.

Day 8: RANOHIRA - SALARY 385km

Drive to Salary, stopping at Tulear for lunch. Tulear is the end point of RN7 and tarmac roads for a few days.

Day 9: SALARY - ANDAVADOAKA 70km

Drive to Andavadoaka.

Day 10: ANDAVAOAKA TO MOROMBE 260km

Drive to Morombe.

Day 11: MOROMBE - BELO SUR MER 270km

Check out in the early morning. Drive to Belo sur Mer.

Day 12: BELO SUR MER

Free day at leisure.

Day 13: BELO SUR MER - MORONDAVA 80km

Drive to Morondava.

Day 14: MORONDAVA: KIRINDY

Visit Kirindy private reserve. It is the best place to observe fossa and is home to many species of lemurs. The park contains 2 species of huge baobabs. Sunset at The Alley of Baobabs.

Day 15: MORONDAVA - ANTSIRABE 535km

Drive to Antsirabe. Stop at Miandrivazo for lunch.

Day 16: ANTSIRABE - ANTANANARIVO 170km

City tour in the morning. Drive to Antananarivo after lunch.

Day 17: ANTANANARIVO - MAJUNGA 580km

After breakfast, drive to Majunga in the west of the Island.

Day 18: MAJUNGA

- ANKARAFANTSIKA - MAJUNGA 220km

After breakfast, take an excursion to the National Park of Ankarafantsika Return to Majunga after lunch.

Day 19: MAJUNGA - ANTSOHIHY 380km

Drive to Antsohihy.

Day 20: ANTSOHIHY - AMBATONDRAZAKA 467km

Drive to Ambatondrazaka.

Day 21: AMBATONDRAZAKA - ANDASIBE 186km

Drive to Andasibe.

Day 22: ANDASIBE

Visit Andasibe National park after breakfast. It is the best park for Indri Indri, the largest lemur. There are also multiple species of birds, reptiles, insects and amphibians. Flora is characterised by lush tropical forest vegetation. Lunch box. After lunch visit Vakona private reserve.

Day 23: ANDASIBE - ANTANANARIVO

Return to Antananarivo On the route, PK 72 at Marozevo, halt visit of "Peyreiras Amphibian and Reptile Park". Continue and transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Day 24: ANTANANARIVO

Breakfast in the hotel. Visit the handcraft market and transfer to Chez Mariette for lunch and the real taste the royal Malagasy food.

Day 25: ANTANANARIVO - INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Transfer by bus to the airport for your international flights.

BESPOKE RALLIES



MORE ABOUT BESPOKE RALLIES' EVENTS

Why go with Bespoke Rallies?

We are a very experienced rally organisation with notable events past and present, including the Tiger Rally in South East Asia, the Himalaya Classic Rally, The Great Amazon Adventure, The Maya Classic Rally, The Cuba Classic Rally, The PanAm Classic Rally and the Grand Prix of South America. We have pioneered rallies into Vietnam and were the first to get permission to take a rally to Bhutan which we visited twice. We have a great team in the office and on the road which means you are in good hands from start to finish. New rallies include the Sartibartfast, a two week event in Scandinavia. Please check our site regularly for an update on our events.

What type of events do you run?

Our events are either a Tour, a Competition or Endurance. Check the designation of the event on the website. Our Tours are designed to give you time to enjoy the scenery as well as the journey. Our competition events are based on regularity and use our own custom designed and made app to ensure fair play throughout the event. Our Enduro events are tougher and generally include dirt and/or graded roads. They are usually not competitive as the aim is to reach the end in good order. Events may be a mix and all events have a Touring class.

What support do you give?

On most events we provide mechanical assistance using one of our teams of experienced 'bush' mechanics who are used to keeping cars on the road in all conditions. If your car breaks down completely we will help you arrange getting it to the nearest

port for shipment home. You are then welcome to hire a car(s) and continue with the adventure although you will no longer be eligible for the competition. We also often provide medical assistance on many rallies where we might be exploring more remote regions.

What is included in the entry fee?

Apart from great driving, exceptional routes and our fantastic team, the entry fee always includes all your accommodation for the rally days, breakfast in the mornings and most evening meals including a welcome dinner and final gala dinner. On Competitive events we include trophies and comprehensive results. Each participating car has a rally bag containing a detailed roadbook with turn by turn instructions, some clothing appropriate to the event, local information, pens and other goodies. We also include car decals, rally plates and help with navigation and car preparation. On the Touring events we provide a GPS to make sure you get round with ease. And, of course the help of one of the most experienced rally teams around.

What are your entry requirements?

For most events we like to have pre-1972 cars as around this time they started to become more complicated and include computers. However, if you have a later classic and are prepared to accept that we cannot repair the electronics, then give us a call and if we like the sound of it, you are welcome to join us. Many organisations get hung up on the minutiae of the rules but we find the success or failure of an entry is down to car preparation and teamwork in the cockpit – not on whether you have disc

or drum brakes. In fact we are all for better safety equipment over originality.

What do I need to navigate on a competition rally?

You need a trip meter from Brantz, TerraTrip, Monit or similar. We will provide you with our own Xronas timing system but you are not permitted to use an additional phone/tablet based system. We suggest you have a couple of clocks in the car and read the rules and regulations carefully. Navigation skills, a clear head and a reliable car are the best recipe for success. Highly tune cars and speed are generally precursors to disaster.

How do I enter?

Complete an entry form as far as you can at the time and send it with a deposit to Bespoke Rallies. We will write back and confirm you have been successful. The entry form should be accompanied by a deposit as specified in the entry form. The deposit should be paid by cheque or bank transfer – details on the entry form. If you have any queries please feel free to call the rally office.

To keep up to date with our events download our Bespoke Rallies App on Apple and Android.



GET IN TOUCH

For more information and to book one of our worldwide classic rallies visit www.bespokerallies.com

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