



# Botanical Travels - Succulents, Kalanchoe, Aloes, Dideraceae, And Euphorbias


**Offer ID:** UAM-50

**Length of Time:** 15

**Price from:** 2400 €

During this Day, we will mainly focus on the highlands, mountains, and dry south of Madagascar. The island boasts a remarkable range of habitats, from lush rainforests on the east coast to the dry central highlands and low-lying spiky deserts in the southwest. Get ready to explore the diverse landscapes and unique wildlife of this beautiful island!

## Travel Days

Day Description	Images
<p><b>Day 1 - From Antananarivo to Antsirabe</b></p> <p>Embark on a journey southwards from Antananarivo. As we leave the capital, the landscape transforms into picturesque rice fields and quaint villages typical of the highlands. Arrive in Antsirabe in the afternoon and take some time to explore the city.</p> <p>Duration: +/- 4 hours</p> <p>Distance: 170 km</p> <p>Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included</p> <p>Your Hotel: Antsirabe. Hotel Chambres du Voyageur.</p>	 <p>© Martin Bader</p>

## Day Description

### Day 2: The Flora of Mount Ibity

Enjoy breakfast before heading to Mount Ibity, culminating at 2555 meters above sea level. The stunning flora is the primary attraction of this vast quartzite massif.

In fact, 70% of the vegetation at this site is endemic. This mountain is very rich in succulents, with the most typical being the Pachypodiums and their Kalanchoe.

There are also several species of orchids.

**Botanical Information:** Aloe (Capitata, Laeta, Trachyticola), Euphorbia quartziticola, Kalanchoe integrifolia, Pachypodium brevica.

Duration: Full Day

Meals: Picnic lunch included / Dinner not included

Your Hotel: Same as the previous day

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 3: Antsirabe to Ambatofinandrahana

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel before heading south. Along the way, we will make a stop at the Tapia forest, home to small trees from the Euphorbiaceae family (*Uapaca bojeri*), which form a sparse forest where we can find *Aloe ibitiensis*.

If you wish, we can take a leisurely stroll through Ambositra, although time might be limited for this activity. After 20km, we will turn west and head towards Ambatofinandrahana, where we will arrive by the end of the day.

**Botanical information:** *Aloe conifera*, *Aloe ibitiensis*, *Kalanchoe tomentosa*, *Pachypodium densiflorum*, and a few orchids, including *Angraecum sororium*.

Duration: +/- 4 hours

Distance: 185 km

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your hotel: Ambatofinandrahana. Hotel des Marbres (very basic standard).

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 4: Ambatofinandrahana

Explore the quartzite and cipolin massif of Ambatofinandrahana. This beautiful mountainous region with the Itremo Massif in the background, ranging in height from 1300 to 2200 m, is a true botanical garden in the open air, where we discover a new plant curiosity with every step! This protected area is home to 16 species of aloe, euphorbias, kalanchoe, and orchids. During our hike, we pass through many villages, engaging in moments of exchange with the always welcoming local population.

**Botanical information:** Aloe (*A. capitata* var. *cipolinicola*, *A. droseroides*, *A. inexpectata*, and *A. calcairophylla*, *A. parallelifolia*), Euphorbias (*E. stenoclada* ssp. *ambatofinandra*, *E. alluaudii*, and *E. enterophora* ssp. *crassa*), Kalanchoe *tomentosa*, Orchids (*Jumellea*, *Oeceoclades*, *Eulophia*).

Duration: Full day

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your hotel: Same as the previous day (very basic standard).

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 5: Ambatofinandrahana to Ambalavao

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before hitting the road back to RN7, as we continue our journey southward. Arriving in Fianarantsoa, we enter the land of the Betsileo ethnic group, who occupy the southern part of the Highlands. Upon reaching Ambalavao, we check into the hotel for some much-needed rest and relaxation after the long drive.

Duration: +/- 6 hours

Distance: 270 km

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your Hotel: Betsileo Country Lodge.

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 6: Ambalavao to Isalo

After breakfast, we drive back on the RN7. We make a stop to visit the small village reserve of Anja.

Our walk begins in a dry forest with huge rock formations, where we are sure to encounter our lemur friends, the Makis (*Lemurs catta*). The site is quite rich in succulents and offers a beautiful panorama of the Betsileo country.

We continue our journey towards the Isalo Massif with a stop in Zazafotsy to see the famous rock that houses typical plants. We drive along the Horombe Massif and make a few stops along the way to discover Euphorbias, Sequoias, and Pachypodiums. We arrive at the hotel by the end of the afternoon.

Botanical information in Anja: *Kalanchoe* (*K. orgyalis*, *K. beharensis*, *K. synsepala*), *Euphorbias* (*E. leucodendron*, *E. enterophora*, *E. fianarantsoe*, *E. didieroides*, and *E. duranii*), *Aloes* (*A. macroclada*, *A. deltoïdonta*, *A. accutissima*),

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 7: Visit to Isalo National Park

Embark on a leisurely hike along the park's many trails. With plenty of water in hand, we will explore stunning landscapes filled with canyons, water pools, and rock formations with enchanting erosions.

The park is a unique ecosystem, boasting a rocky vegetation filled with numerous endemic succulents such as Aloe, Euphorbia, Pachypodium, and Kalanchoe.

Keep an eye out for Madagascar's famous periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) and the majestic Bismarck palm trees (*Bismarkia nobilis*) that dot the vast savannah plains.

Isalo National Park is also home to many lemurs, including the ring-tailed lemur (*Catta Lemur*), the mouse lemur, and the sportive lemur.

**Botanical Information:** Aloe (*Aloe isaloensis*, *A. imalotensis*), Euphorbia (*E. subapoda* and *E. isaloensis*), Kalanchoe, *Pachypodium rosulatum* var. *gracilis*, *Adenia isaloensis*, *Ceropegia dimorpha*, *Asteropeia micraster*.

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 8: Ranohira to Sarondrano

We continue our march towards the southwest and the coast. We set off to discover the Antsokay Arboretum, which houses a collection of over 900 plant species from southwestern Madagascar, 90% of which are endemic to the region. Among them are many succulent species, some of which are endangered. This visit allows us to appreciate the diversity of a flora that is unique worldwide, adapted to the harsh climate of the country in sometimes extraordinary ways. Then onwards to Sarondrano.

### Botanical Information:

*Euphorbia kamponi*, *Aloe vaombe*, *Aloe viguieri*,  
*Pachypodium geayi*, *Kalanchoe grandidieri*...

Duration: +/- 6 hours

Distance: 280 km

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your Hotel: Hotel Residence Eden Lodge

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 9 - Sarondrano and Surroundings

We continue our day by heading towards the bay of St. Augustin.

Here we are in the land of the Vezo fishermen, and the road winds through a typical southern bush landscape.

The route offers magnificent views of the lagoon and the bay.

The village of Sarondrano, where there are many caves and small underground lakes, offers us some specimens of *Moringa* in a xerophilic thicket.

On the peninsula of the same name, you can take a walk in the mangroves and meet the local fishermen.

**Botanical info-St. Augustin Bay:** *Kalanchoe linearifolia* (climbing), *Kalanchoe grandidieri*, *Euphorbia tulearensis*, *Aloes antandroi*. Some species of succulents and xerophytes are found only in this location and nowhere else: *Aloe descoingsii* (the smallest *Aloe* in Madagascar), *Operculicarya pachypus*, *Delonix pumilla*, *Poupartia minor*, *Megistostegium nodulosum*.

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 10: Explore Ifaty

After breakfast, we will travel to Ifaty via Tulear. Once we arrive, you will have a free day to relax on the beach, go snorkeling/diving, take a boat trip, or even try your hand at kite-surfing, which is popular in this area.

If you prefer to explore the inland attractions, you can visit the renowned Reniala Reserve to learn about the flora and fauna of the south, or the Village des Tortues to see a fascinating conservation program for rare rays and spider tortoises.

The local cuisine is seafood-focused, so seafood lovers will be in for a treat.

Duration: Full day

Distance: 50 km

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your Hotel: Belladonna

## Images



## Day Description

### Days 11 and 12 - Ifaty Thorn Forest

Experience an incredible variety of baobab trees, euphorbias, succulents, and a diverse range of local endemic wildlife in the Ifaty Thorn Forest. For the best experience, we recommend visiting either early in the morning or in the afternoon to avoid the heat of the day.

#### Botanical Information:

Adansonia Rubrostipa, Euphorbias,  
Crassulaceae

Duration: Half Day

Distance: 2 km

Meals: Lunch not included / Dinner not included

Your Hotel: Belladonna

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 13 - Flight from Tulear to Antananarivo

After breakfast, we say goodbye and drive back to Tulear to the airport. There, we board a plane and fly one hour up to Antananarivo, the capital where the journey began.

If the flight arrives in the morning, we have the opportunity to explore Antananarivo and the surrounding area.

If the flight arrives late, pick up at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Dinner there or at a special restaurant.

Overnight at the "Villa Sibylle" hotel.

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 14 Antananarivo and Surroundings

Today, you have the freedom to design your day according to your personal preferences.

Explore the city or take a trip to the outskirts of Antananarivo, where a variety of fruits and vegetables are grown on large plantations.

We also highly recommend a visit to Lemurs Park, where you can get up close and personal with the lemurs.

In the evening, make sure to indulge in the culinary delights of the island one last time.

We are happy to provide recommendations and suggest appropriate addresses for your dining experience.

## Images



## Day Description

### Day 15 Return Flight

In the evening, we will take you to the airport. The return flight is usually after midnight, so you will appreciate the opportunity for a "Dayuse" at the hotel where you can prepare everything in peace before your flight.

Enjoy a day use at the guesthouse of "Villa Sibylle".

## Images



## Facts & Figures

### Price per person in Bed & Breakfast:

<b>Botanical Day Trip</b>	<b>Price per person</b>
<b>2 to 3 guests</b>	<b>€2790</b>
<b>4 to 5 guests</b>	<b>€2720</b>
<b>6 to 7 guests</b>	<b>€2650</b>
<b>8 to 9 guests</b>	<b>€2580</b>
<b>10 guests or more</b>	<b>€2400</b>

For the provision of a single room, a supplement of €690.00 will be charged.

## Services

### Services

#### **Our Day Includes:**

- A botanical guide throughout the entire journey;
- A vehicle and driver throughout the entire journey;
- Accommodation as specified in the program;
- Meals as specified in the program;
- Entrance fees to the specified parks and locations;
- Local guides in the parks;
- All transfers.

#### **Our Day Does Not Include:**

- International and domestic flights;
- Meals not specified in the program;
- Tips and drinks;
- Your personal insurances.
- Visa fee: +/- 20 €.