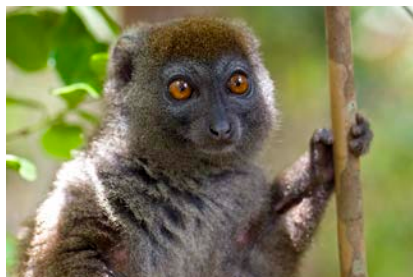
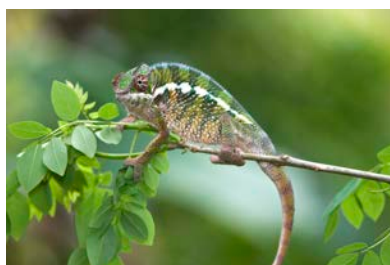


## Join Mark Carwardine on the Festival of Wildlife in Madagascar, with Wildlife Worldwide 31 October - 11 November 2026 Plus an optional exciting trip extension to see the rare Omura's whale 10 - 18 November 2026



*"You can't say 'Madagascar is like somewhere-or-other' because, quite simply, it isn't. There is nowhere else on the planet like this beguiling wildlife wonderland. I'm terribly excited to be joining Wildlife Worldwide for yet another legendary Festival of Wildlife - all the more so because I'll be leading a very exclusive, post-Festival extension trip. We will be in the right area of Madagascar at the right time of year to find the very rare Omura's whale."*

Mark Carwardine

### FESTIVAL OF WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive use of two comfortable lodges on the island's more accessible and most rewarding locations that offer very different and complimentary highlights: Andasibe-Mantadia National Park and Anjajavy Private Reserve.
- Spectacular wildlife includes indri, diademed sifaka, Coquerel's sifaka, common brown lemur, Grewcock's sportive lemur, Parson's chameleon, giraffe-necked weevil, red-fronted coua, Madagascar fish eagle, and much more.
- Fabulous photographic and video opportunities.
- Plenty of advice and instruction from Mark and the other expert team.
- A dazzling programme of lectures and activities from the Festival of Wildlife team.

### TRIP EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

- A very special, four-day exclusive trip with Mark in search of one of the world's rarest baleen whales, the Omura's whale (right).
- Stay on a convenient and comfortable base on the tropical island of Nosy Be, an island in the far northwest of Madagascar, with daily, exclusive boat charters to find the resident population of Omura's whales.
- Daily opportunities to snorkel with whale sharks (which also congregate in this area to feed on krill and zooplankton), mobula rays, green turtles, and a variety of reef fish, and even spinner and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins.



These exclusive trips have been put together by Wildlife Worldwide

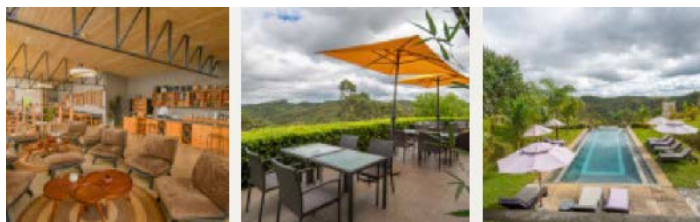
To book, please contact Wildlife Worldwide T: +44 (0) 1962-302-086 E: [reservations@wildlifeworldwide.com](mailto:reservations@wildlifeworldwide.com)

### ITINERARY (for the Festival of Wildlife)

**Sat 31 Oct:** Fly from London on an overnight flight to Nairobi.

**Sun 1 Nov:** Onward flight to the capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo, and transfer to an airport hotel – Le Relais des Plateaux – for the night.

**Mon 2 Nov:** Transfer to Andasibe, and arrive at lunchtime. The afternoon and evening is spent exploring the nearby network of rainforest reserves. We will stay at Mantadia Lodge (*below*) for four nights.



**Tue 3–Thu 5 Nov:** Over the course of the next three days, we have an outstanding itinerary of wildlife walks, workshops and presentations on offer from our expert Festival Team. We split our walks across the network of fantastic reserves and visit Analamazaotra (Andasibe Special Reserve), Mitsinjo, VOIMMA, Maromizaha and Mantadia National Park. Exploring both during the day and again into the evening, we observe not only the diurnal but also fascinating nocturnal species found in this diverse montane rainforest. Walking conditions vary across these areas, but there's always an option for everyone. Our highlights are likely to feature intimate encounters with the iconic indri, the beautiful diademed sifaka, inquisitive bamboo lemurs and maybe the rare red-bellied or black-and-white ruffed lemur. While the intriguing life cycles of the numerous colourful frogs, geckos, chameleons and other remarkable reptiles and invertebrates will provide endless fascination. Birdlife is also rich and includes all manner of exciting and endemic species, from the charismatic ground rollers and impressive couas to the captivating vanga family with their huge diversity of bills.

**Fri 6 Nov:** Today, we have a last morning to enjoy the wildlife of the Andasibe rainforests. Later we drive back to Antananarivo for the night.

**Sat 7 Nov:** Today, we take a scheduled charter flight to land at the wonderful Anjajavy Lodge and Reserve (*below*). This is Madagascar's best preserved area of western dry deciduous forest, and offers us a completely contrasting ecosystem, full of a completely different set of wildlife. With exclusive use of the luxury beachside lodge on the shores of the Indian Ocean, we can



also enjoy exploration of the private reserve. We have the private reserve which covers more than a thousand hectares on our doorstep for daily exploration. The flora and fauna here is prolific, and we can enjoy the antics of both common brown lemurs and the stunning Coquerel's sifaka, perhaps the most beautiful of all lemurs, right around our villas.

### Sun 8–Mon 9 Nov:

Over the course of the next two full days we explore the reserve and enjoy its spectacular wildlife on day and night walks, and scenic boat trips along the remote coastline. As always, there are a series of creative workshops and presentations to enjoy, celebrating the wildlife in all its facets. Highlights at Anjajavy start right around our villas with the daily acrobatics of the Coquerel's sifakas and brown lemurs, while at night, the highly localised and nocturnal Grewcock's sportive, fat-tailed dwarf and tiny Danfoss's mouse lemur are all common. The diverse birdlife includes the majestic Madagascar fish eagle, one of the rarest birds of prey in the world, taking centre stage during scenic boat rides to the untouched Moramba Bay. Madagascar vasa parrots, crested ibis, harrier hawks and the peculiar sickle-billed vanga are all common in the forest.

At this time of year, we might also encounter other wildlife such as a snuffling tenrec on the forest floor, a multicoloured panther chameleon hunting with its long tongue, or a striking spear-point gecko or bizarre leaf-nosed snake amongst the vegetation. There's a wealth of natural beauty too, with many emblematic giant baobabs, weathered limestone formations and caves even harbouring extinct lemur skulls. Another recent addition to Anjajavy's wildlife treasures is the reintroduction of Aldabra giant tortoises to the reserve. On our final evening, as is customary at the Festival of Wildlife, there's a gala dinner followed by an auction, the proceeds of which directly to a local wildlife charity.

**Tue 10 Nov:** After breakfast, we leave Anjajavy and fly back to Antananarivo where we have a day room and use of the facilities at Le Relais des Plateaux hotel. There's an option to join an excursion to Lake Alarobia, a Ramsar wetland in the heart of Antananarivo, a refuge of much birdlife. Later, it's time for those not joining the Extension Trip to fly home.

**Wed 11 Nov:** Arrive home.



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### ITINERARY (for the optional Extension Trip)

**10 Nov:** Bid farewell to your fellow passengers who are going home, and stay the night in Antananarivo at Le Relais des Plateaux.

**11 Nov:** Fly to the tropical island of Nosy Be, which is off the far northwestern tip of Madagascar.

Transfer to L'Heure Bleue, which will be our home for the next five nights. This beautiful Bohemian beachside hotel is set at the far end of Madirokely beach yet close to the amenities of Nosy Be's main town. This charming property has been thoughtfully designed using locally sourced products and offers a comfortable eco lodge-style atmosphere. L'Heure Bleue has been noted for its engagement and support for the local community and has won awards for its renovation and design. Accommodation is across the landscaped gardens and includes eight luxurious and spacious lodges as well as more rustic wooden bungalows. All overlook the sea or garden and feature minibars, ceiling fans, free WiFi and other modern amenities. There is both a freshwater and seawater pool.

**12-15 Nov:** Four full days of exploring the bay of Nosy Be, which is home to a resident population of Omura's whales, in our exclusive, small boats. Nosy Be is a hotspot for this fairly recently described (2003) and relatively little-known whale. It is a smaller relative of the fin whale and until recently, very little was known of this species, its habits, distribution and population, but recent studies have shown that there is a small but resident population in the seas around Nosy Be. With the help of our local team we hope to enjoy multiple encounters with this

slender species, distinguished by a distinctive light grey coloration and small hooked dorsal fin. In addition to the whales, we hope to experience a wide range of other marine life during our excursions. At this time of year, large zooplankton blooms attract hundreds of juvenile

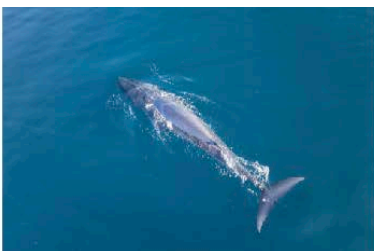
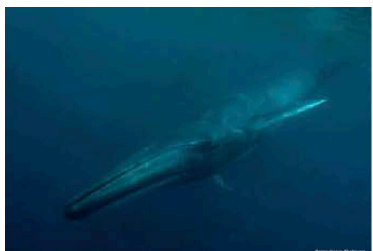
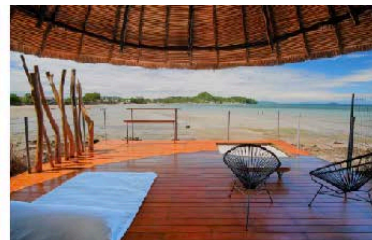
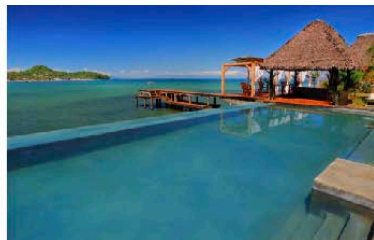
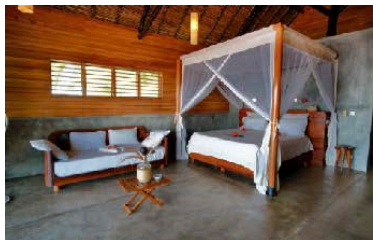
whale sharks into the area. This gives us the exciting opportunity to snorkel alongside these majestic filter feeders. Other species we are likely to encounter includes Indo-Pacific bottlenose and spinner dolphins, shoals of mobula ray and occasionally a pod of false killer whale, passing humpback whale or even manta ray. Hopefully, we will be able to snorkel with the whale sharks, and possibly other species such as mobula rays, green and hawksbill turtles, and even spinner and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. Lunch is taken on the beach of a nearby island, and on at least one occasion we stop at the island of

Nosy Sakatia for some snorkelling over the seagrass beds, which are home to a thriving population of green turtles. Some of the other islands such as Nosy Tanikely also offer good coral reef snorkelling with hawksbill turtles, barracuda and numerous reef fish. Please note: there is no toilet on board the boat. There will be comfort stops at small islands during the outing.

**16 Nov:** We bid farewell to Nosy Be and fly back to Antananarivo for the night at Le Relais des Plateaux.

**17 Nov:** There is the option of a city tour, and then a late transfer to the airport for an overnight flight home.

**18 Nov:** Arrive back in UK.



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## LEADERS

For the main Festival, Mark will be joined by Wildlife Worldwide founder Chris Breen; Madagascar expert and wildlife photographer, Nick Garbutt; naturalist and presenter, Mike Dilger; award-winning ceramic sculptor, Nick Mackman; wildlife artist, Jonathan Truss; and Wildlife Worldwide's trip manager, Ian Loyd. They will share their extensive knowledge, expertise and stories during the trip.

### PRICES PER PERSON

**Festival of Wildlife** (group size, 30-37, plus leaders): £9,995, including economy return flights from the UK. £9,495, excluding international flights.

**Extension Tour** (group size, 6-12, plus Mark and Wildlife Worldwide founder, Chris Breen): £4,455; single supplement £795.

Our stay at L'Heure Bleue Lodge is based on a Duplex Bungalow, which has a mezzanine floor with a double bed and two single beds on the ground floor, a terrace and sea view, bathroom, and opens onto the pool. It also has a fan, mini-bar and safe.

Optional upgrades are available as follows:

- Deluxe Garden View Lodge: £70 per person sharing; single occupancy additional £50.
- Deluxe Sea View Lodge: £160 per person sharing; single occupancy additional £150.
- Deluxe Waterfront Lodge with Terrace and Sun Bed: £175 per person sharing; single occupancy additional £175

With a group size of 6-8 guests, Mark is the leader, with one

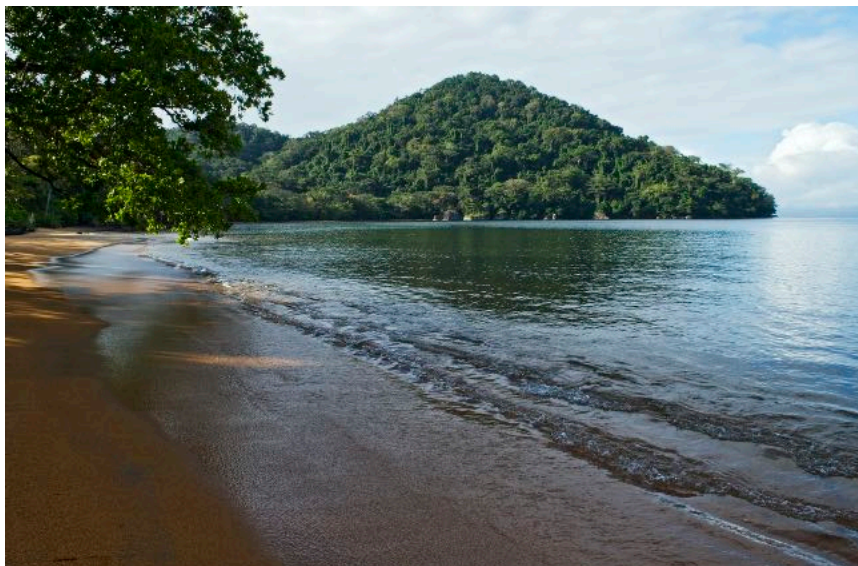
boat. With a group size of 9-12 guests Chris Breen will join, and there's a second boat.

**Price includes:** accommodation; most meals; transfers; guided activities, excursion and presentations; park fees; services of expert festival team; conservation fund contribution. For the Extension Tour: regional flights and return international flights; exclusive use of either one or two boats; snorkelling equipment.

**Price does not include:** transport to Heathrow; passport and visa expenses; excess baggage charges; cancellation, baggage and travel insurance (compulsory); meals in Nairobi en route to Antananarivo; alcoholic and soft drinks; items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunications charges; medical expenses; crew and resident expedition staff gratuities.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE PER PERSON:

- Non-refundable 20% deposit due on booking
- First stage payment of 20% due 29 May 2025
- Final balance due 5 September 2026



MARK CARWARDINE

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