

Birds Without Forests?

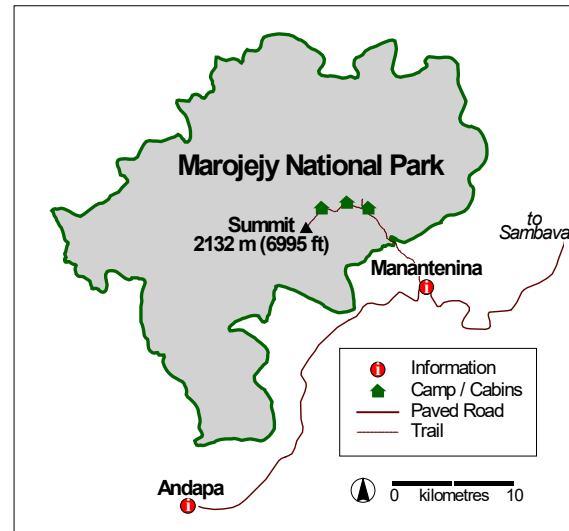
Marojejy National Park lies at the northern end of Madagascar's rainforest belt on the island's eastern escarpment. The park covers 55,885 ha (138,095 acres) and includes the entire Marojejy Massif, with elevations ranging from 75 m (250 ft) up to the summit of Marojejy itself at 2,132 m (6,995 ft). Ninety percent of the park is cloaked in dense humid forest. The combination of rugged topography, wide span of elevations, heavy rainfall, and extensive tropical forest cover results in a great variety of ecological habitats and a remarkably high biodiversity.

Marojejy hosts an unquestionably rich avifauna. In fact, more species of forest-dwelling birds are found here than in any other single mountain site in Madagascar. To date, 120 bird species have been recorded in the park or on lands immediately adjacent to it. Of these 120 species, 97 (81%) are endemic to Madagascar and its neighboring islands, and 74 (62%) are forest-dependent (dependent on the forest for a portion of their life-cycle). Every one of these 74 forest species is endemic to the Madagascar region.

Clearly, preservation of Madagascar's forest habitats is critical to the survival of these birds. Yet habitat destruction in Madagascar is acute. Eighty percent of Madagascar's original forest cover has been destroyed since humans arrived on the island, in large part due to swidden agricultural practices where the forest is cut and then burned.

Over the past decade, the Malagasy government and several non-governmental organizations, including the [Lemur Conservation Foundation](#) and [Duke Lemur Center SAVA Conservation](#), have been working in the Marojejy region to curb forest destruction while allowing the local people to maintain their livelihoods based on the forests. This has involved providing communities with alternative, sustainable agricultural techniques, conservation awareness programs, and improved education and health care. We are also hopeful that limited, responsible ecotourism to the area will help create long-term economic alternatives to clearing the last remaining forests. Because without its forests, Marojejy would lose its exceptional biodiversity—including, of course, much of its unique birdlife.

Access: Access into Marojejy National Park is via trail starting from the village of Manantenina, 60 km from Sambava along the road to Andapa. A permit and guide are required for entry; these are available at the visitor center in Manantenina.



Facilities: Three beautifully-sited and well-maintained camps are available at different elevations along the trail within the park. The camps all have cabins equipped with beds and bedding, as well as covered cooking and dining areas. Tent camping is also possible at several locations in the park.

Seasons: The park is open year-round, but the best times to visit are from April to May and September to December, when it is less rainy.

Surrounding Area: The SAVA region of northeastern Madagascar hosts a number of other beautiful and biologically-interesting areas, including Masoala National Park, Nosy Mangabe and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserves, and a number of excellent private reserves.

Further Information: For more in-depth information and photos, please visit the marojejy.com website or email info@marojejy.com.

The Birds of Marojejy



Helmet vanga

photo © Kurt W. Baumgartner



**Marojejy National Park
Madagascar**



December 2023

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|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Madagascar Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> 41 Madagascar Coucal | <input type="checkbox"/> 81 Stripe-throated Jery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Little Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> 42 Blue Coua | <input type="checkbox"/> 82 Common Jery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 African Darter | <input type="checkbox"/> 43 Crested Coua | <input type="checkbox"/> 83 Green Jery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Great Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> 44 Red-fronted Coua | <input type="checkbox"/> 84 Brown Emutail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Purple Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 Red-breasted Coua | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 Madagascar Swamp Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Madagascar Pond-Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> 46 Madagascar Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> 86 Madagascar Brush-Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Squacco Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> 47 Madagascar Red Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> 87 Long-billed Tetraka |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Little Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 White-browed Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> 90 Wedge-tailed Tetraka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Madagascar Crested Ibis | <input type="checkbox"/> 51 Madagascar Scops-Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> 91 White-throated Oxylabes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Frances's Sparrowhawk | <input type="checkbox"/> 52 Madagascar Nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> 92 Rand's Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Henst's Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> 53 Collared Nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> 93 Gray-crowned Tetraka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Madagascar Sparrowhawk | <input type="checkbox"/> 54 Madagascar Swift | <input type="checkbox"/> 94 Dusky Tetraka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 Alpine Swift | <input type="checkbox"/> 95 Spectacled Tetraka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Madagascar Buzzard | <input type="checkbox"/> 56 Madagascar Palm Swift | <input type="checkbox"/> 96 Madagascar Sunbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Madagascar Serpent-Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> 57 Madagascar Spinetail | <input type="checkbox"/> 97 Souimanga Sunbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Yellow-billed Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> 58 Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> 98 Madagascar White-eye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Madagascar Harrier-Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> 59 Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> 99 White-headed Vanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Sooty Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 Madagascar Bee-eater | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Red-tailed Vanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Eleonora's Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> 61 Broad-billed Roller | <input type="checkbox"/> 101 Madagascar Blue Vanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Madagascar Kestrel | <input type="checkbox"/> 62 Rufous-headed Ground-Roller | <input type="checkbox"/> 102 Helmet Vanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Peregrine Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> 63 Pitta-like Ground-Roller | <input type="checkbox"/> 103 Nuthatch Vanga |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Helmeted Guineafowl | <input type="checkbox"/> 67 Common Sunbird-Asity | <input type="checkbox"/> 107 Common Newtonia |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Madagascar Buttonquail | <input type="checkbox"/> 69 Velvet Asity | <input type="checkbox"/> 109 Bernier's Vanga |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 32 Madagascar Forest Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> 72 Plain Martin | <input type="checkbox"/> 112 Tylas Vanga |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Greater Vasa Parrot | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 Madagascar Cisticola | <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Madagascar Munia |

References:

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