

Madagascar Pilgrimage with the McGregors

July 12th - 26th, 2018

We invite you to join us on the first ever Pilgrimage to the Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar with Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor.

Come explore the beauties of God's creation in one of the world's loveliest but poorest countries. See fascinating rocks and minerals, beautiful woodcarvings, weaving and embroidery, and wildlife, trees and plants unique to Madagascar, such as lemurs, chameleons, baobabs, the spiny forest and more!

Find out why the Malagasy are drawn to Jesus and what their faith means to them. Learn about the joy in their lives despite the challenges they face.

Visit one of the newest Dioceses in the Anglican Communion.

Not many Bishops have to build their own Cathedral - and even fewer have built two!

Talk with missionaries who have given their lives to serving God in Madagascar.



Simon and Sue Babbs (who are on the board of People Reaching People and visited the Diocese of Toliara in 2014, 2015 and 2016) will be facilitating this pilgrimage from Antananarivo to Toliara in the last two weeks of July 2018.

From the evening of July 14th onwards, Bishop Todd or Rev Patsy McGregor will be with the tour each day, providing spiritual guidance and insights into the lives of the Malagasy.



Each day we will reflect on Bible passages and themes, as we learn more about the Malagasy culture and the beauty of God's creation.

Please contact Sue Babbs suebabbs385@gmail.com with any questions.

Please note:

- All participants must be in reasonable health, as there are limited medical facilities in Madagascar.
- This complex itinerary may need to have changes made due to unforeseen circumstances.
- It may be difficult to accommodate special diets. Please contact us before booking if you have dietary issues.

Planned Itinerary – July 2018

Participants will be expected to book their own international flights, arriving in the capital Antananarivo (Tana), by Thursday 12th July 2018 at the latest. Guidance will be given for possible airlines and flights.

Day One, Friday 13th July

Visit the Catholic University to meet Evangelist and Seminarian, Gaston.

Meet Dr. Zoe, who worked with Todd and Patsy when they were in Tana, setting up dispensaries. See her health clinic and meet the nuns with whom she works.

Learn to play the national board game, Fanorona.

Stay at Manga Guest House, Antananarivo.

Day Two, Saturday 14th July

A day of sightseeing in Tana: which will include visiting the Anglican Cathedral, the Queen's House, Andafiavaratra Palace (the Prime Minister's Palace), and sites where Christians were martyred.

Stay at Manga Guest House, Tana.



View of Antananarivo

Day Three, Sunday 15th July



Merina Tomb

Worship locally in Tana, at the Church attended by former Archbishop Remy and his wife, Elisabeth.

Drive to Antsirabe, seeing Merina tombs en-route.

Stay at Soa Guesthouse, Antsirabe.

Day Four, Monday 16th July

Visit minerals & rocks shop in Antsirabe.

Arrive at Hotel Artisan, Ambositra in time for lunch and to watch the local dancers perform.

Go to Jean et Frères wood carving shop. Many of the wooden items that you will see at the Cathedral complex in Toliara have been hand-carved by these Catholic brothers.

Visit the Benedictine convent.

Stay at Hotel Artisan, Ambositra.



Dancers at Ambositra

Day Five, Tuesday 17th July

See native silkworms on tapia trees and visit the weaving collective at the village of Soatanana.

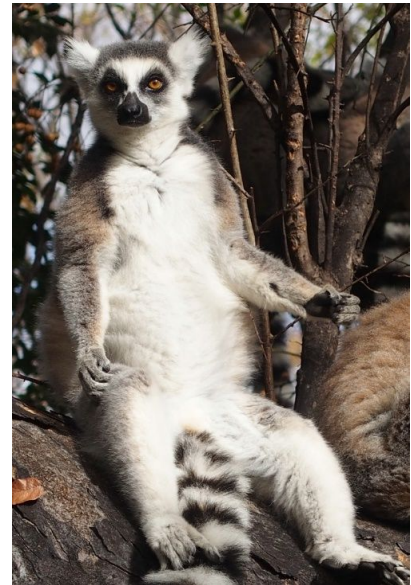
Stay at Lac Hotel, Fianarantsoa.

Day Six, Wednesday 18th July

Visit the only tea plantation in Madagascar & the wild-flower paper makers at Ambalavao.

Have lunch at Anja Park. Then, see ring-tail lemurs and chameleons in the village-owned nature reserve.

Stay at Jardin du Roy, Isalo. (Your laundry can be done here for an extra charge).



Ringtail Lemur in Anja Park

Day Seven, Thursday 19th July



Isalo National Park

Enjoy a day exploring the national park at Isalo. See fascinating plants and more lemurs. Swim in the natural pools in the park or the swimming pool at the hotel.

Also available, at extra-cost, are rock-climbing, horse-riding and a spa.

Stay at Jardin du Roy, Isalo.

Day Eight, Friday 20th July

Drive to Toliara, stopping for the morning at Holy Trinity, Sakaraha where the men will meet with Archdeacon Hery and the women will meet his wife and distribute Days for Girls kits.

Ven. Hery will accompany us to the first Diocesan School in Mahaboboka.

Stay at Hotel Victory, Toliara.



Children at Mahaboboka School

Day Nine, Saturday 21st July

Visit the Cathedral complex, where we will meet Assistant Bishop Samitiana, and missionaries: Derek & Jane Waller, & Jacky Lowe.

See the local cattle market and explore the local village, Andranomena.

In the evening, enjoy a performance of Miarakaka: A Time to Dance.

Stay at Hotel Victory, Toliara.



Zebu at Andranomena

Day Ten, Sunday 22nd July



St Patrick's, Cathedral, Toliara

Worship at St Patrick's, Cathedral, Toliara.

In the afternoon, watch paper-bead making in the Women's Center, then enjoy a short drive to Ifaty up the coast to the north, past mangroves.

Stay at Ifaty.

Day Eleven, Monday 23rd July

Choose between whale watching (if the winds are right), outrigger canoe ride, and swimming or simply enjoy a relaxing morning.



Pirogue, Ifaty



Baobab Tree, Reniala

After lunch we will visit Reniala spiny forest to see many plants and trees which originated in Madagascar, including a 1200 year old baobab tree.

Stay at Ifaty.

Day Twelve, Tuesday 24th July

After breakfast in Ifaty, visit St Luke's in the town of Toliara.

See the neighboring homes from outside "The Box" (Todd and Patsy's apartment for many years) and hear the story of Nolavy, daughter of the Shaman, Remamy.

Explore Toliara town.

Stay at Hotel Victory, Toliara.



Nolavy

Day Thirteen, Wednesday 25th July

Meet the Miraka Community and hear Josianne's story.

Learn to *Pray in Color*.

Stay at Hotel Victory, Toliara.

Day Fourteen, Thursday 26th July

Return flight to Tana, ready for flights home.

Depending on the flight times, there will be rooms available for you at Manga Guesthouse, and the possibility of a visit to the craft center at La Digue (at extra cost).

Expected Cost of \$1980* per person covers:

- double or twin room accommodation in hotels;
- breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, bottled water;
- all transportation, including drivers;
- return flight from Toliara to Antananarivo;
- tours as detailed (including entrance and tour guide fees);
- all local taxes and tips of drivers, baggage handlers and guides.

A portion of this cost will need to be paid in Madagascar so that we have sufficient access to the local currency, Ariary, for paying at any hotels which don't accept Credit Cards.

Items not included:

Single room supplement, health, travel and medical evacuation insurance, laundry, drinks (other than bottled water), any extra tips you wish to make, optional tours and any items of a personal nature. Medical insurance is not included in the trip price but is a condition of booking.

***This pilgrimage costs are based on \$1 = 3,225 Ariary, and assumes there will be a total of 12 pilgrims (plus Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy) and all prices are quoted on the basis of two persons to a room. Should the rate change, we may need to levy a surcharge.**

No tour company is involved. The pilgrimage party will merely be a group of people who have agreed to travel together and make various arrangements and hotel and transport reservations on a shared basis. We will decide at end February if we have a large enough group of people interested in travelling together to make this pilgrimage viable. We will then contact all who are interested and update cost estimates and seek formal commitments.

Optional extras:

If you wish to stay on after the pilgrimage, possibilities are:

- visit the world's third largest coral reef - staying at Anakao;
- take a trip from Tana to the rain forest at Mantadia;
- visit some of the outlying villages, e.g. Betioky, with Bishop Todd;
- stay and share your skills and talents with the Malagasy.

**Come expecting to be changed by this experience
as we meet with God,
see the wonders of His Creation
and learn from the Malagasy people**

Please contact Sue Babbs suebabbs385@gmail.com
if you would like to join us on this pilgrimage.