



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



A Private Journey to Madagascar & Mauritius

Behind the Scenes of the Missouri Botanical Garden
Restoration Projects

with Dr. Gunter A. Fischer, Senior Vice President, Science and Conservation

October 12–24, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

GAIN insights into the Missouri Botanical Garden's pioneering research in **Madagascar** and **Mauritius**, joining local staff behind the scenes of our conservation projects protecting some of the world's most threatened ecosystems and species.

EXPLORE **Analalava Forest** with expert guides, where Missouri Botanical Garden's Research Center protects more than 350 plant species within Madagascar's last remaining lowland rainforest.

WITNESS Missouri Botanical Garden's conservation efforts firsthand with experts at **Parc Ivoloïna**, a reserve in Madagascar home to critically endangered lemurs, orchids, and rare chameleons.

IMMERSE yourself in a rare opportunity to visit **Analamazaotra Reserve**, where expert guides will introduce you to the *indri*, Madagascar's largest lemur, in one of the most accessible rainforests.

DELIGHT in an exclusive guided visit to Mauritius's **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden**, the world's oldest tropical botanical garden, with its remarkable collection of palms, giant water lilies, and spice trees.

GO behind the scenes of efforts by Garden experts to revive the last remnants of Mauritius's dry coastal forest on **Île aux Aigrettes**, a 67-acre coral islet.

EXPERIENCE an expert-led tour of **Vallée de Ferney**, a 500-acre nature sanctuary hosting Mauritius's last indigenous forests featuring rare plant species.

BEHOLD the rare **Tambalacoque**, or "Dodo tree," in **Macchabee Forest**, a living relic of Mauritius's past in the area where the dodo once roamed.

MARVEL at the striking, UNESCO-recognized **Seven-Colored Earth** in Chamarel, Mauritius, where an expert will explain the volcanic minerals that create its surreal patterns.

NOTE: Some itinerary details are subject to final confirmation.



TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. Gunter A. Fischer is the Senior Vice President, Science and Conservation, at the Missouri Botanical Garden. He manages all major research and plant conservation activities of the Garden in more than 56 countries around the world. His research seeks to bridge science and applied conservation to advance the exploration, conservation, and restoration of species and ecosystems. Novel methods are used to improve the knowledge in plant taxonomy, systematic, and species ecology to tackle global issues such as biodiversity and habitat loss, as well as to understand, mitigate, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Factors influencing the recovery and reintroduction of plant species are manipulated in field experiments to seek new perspectives for designing and implementing improved ecosystem management and restoration strategies.



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

You're invited on a private journey to Madagascar and Mauritius, a rare opportunity to see world-changing scientific endeavors shaping our planet's future. Just off Africa's southeastern coast in the Indian Ocean, these island nations stand as living treasures to savor. Take inspiration from these isolated ecosystems that host an astounding array of life found nowhere else on Earth—from Madagascar's playful lemurs to Mauritius's pink pigeons.

Witness firsthand how Missouri Botanical Garden's conservationists are rewriting the story of species thought lost to time, working with communities in Madagascar and Mauritius to understand, nurture, and safeguard these countries' unparalleled biodiversity. See endangered species thriving in rehabilitated habitats. Local Garden staff in both countries will take you behind the scenes of conservation sites where we've maintained a presence for decades.

Travel with Dr. Gunter A. Fischer, Senior Vice President, Science and Conservation, who oversees all of the Garden's research and plant conservation activities worldwide. In Madagascar, wander misty rainforests, spotting black-and-white ruffed lemurs, indris, and other remarkable creatures alongside experts who've dedicated their lives to protecting these ecosystems. Participate in guided nocturnal wildlife walks to admire some of Madagascar's most elusive lemurs up close.

Arrive in pristine nearby Mauritius, a volcanic isle where Missouri Botanical Garden has contributed to some of the world's most successful species recovery programs. Learn about Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson's past work on Île aux Aigrettes. On this 67-acre coral islet, he and fellow Garden experts laid the foundation for restoring a dry coastal forest, reviving an ecosystem once thought beyond salvage.

Your itinerary in Mauritius also includes guided visits to the world's oldest tropical botanical garden, multicolored dunes recognized by UNESCO, and a mist-laden national park of waterfalls featuring the ancient "Dodo tree." Throughout this program, join expert-led tours of historic cultural landmarks and centuries-old *chateaux* that reflect these countries' history as French colonies with deep connections to Asia.

To reserve your place on this special journey, please call our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at (212) 514-8921 or email trips@arrangementsabroad.com.



Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

A Private Journey to Madagascar & Mauritius

Behind the Scenes of the Missouri Botanical Garden Restoration Projects

October 12–24, 2025

Jardin des Plantes, Paris, France



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12: DEPARTURE

Depart for Paris on an overnight flight.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13: PARIS, FRANCE

After an overnight flight, arrive in Paris and settle into the elegant **Hotel Montalembert** in the charming Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighborhood. This afternoon, explore the **Jardin des Plantes**, one of the world's most renowned botanical gardens, established in 1626. Originally a royal garden of medicinal plants, it now spans 28 hectares, showcasing more than 23,000 plant species, rare greenhouses, and a historic menagerie. Your evening concludes with a delightful welcome dinner at a popular local restaurant. D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14: PARIS, FRANCE / ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport for the flight to Antananarivo. *Note: This one-way Paris-Antananarivo flight is not included in the program rate and will need to be booked separately.* Upon arrival late this evening, transfer to the **Novotel Convention & Spa Antananarivo**. B

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15: ANTANANARIVO

Begin your exploration at the **Zoological and Botanical Garden of Tsimbazaza**, home to Madagascar's largest herbarium and a unique collection of native wildlife. With an expert at your side, encounter the garden's rare

Malagasy plants like orchids and the traveler's tree (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), which features striking, fan-like leaves that can store rainwater. You will also see fascinating exhibits of extinct megafauna, including skeletons of elephant birds and giant lemurs.

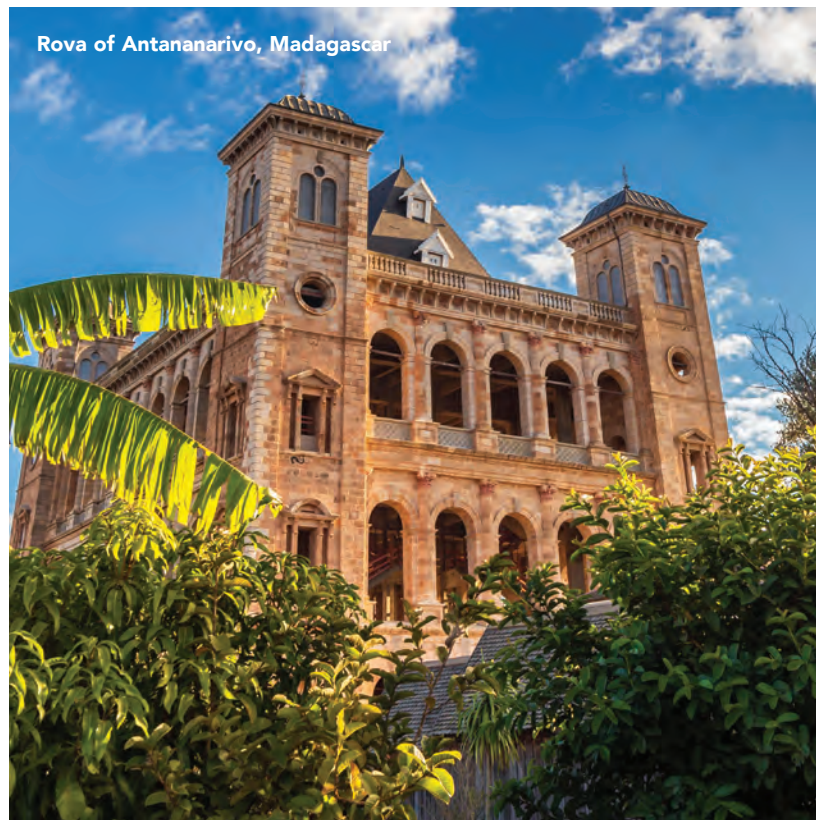
Continue with a **guided Antananarivo city tour**, where you'll witness the blend of traditional Malagasy architecture and French colonial influence, including landmarks like the early 17th-century **Rova of Antananarivo**, a royal palace perched on the city's highest point, more than 4,850 feet above sea level. After lunch at **Café du Musée**, stroll through the lively handicraft market before enjoying a relaxed dinner at the hotel. B,L,D

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16: ANTANANARIVO / TAMATAVE / FOULPOINTE

Early this morning, transfer to the airport for our flight to **Tamatave**, a key port city on Madagascar's eastern coast. After landing, drive to **Foulpointe** and check in at the **Azura Golf Resort & Spa**, arriving in time for lunch.

Once settled, **meet with the local staff of the Missouri Botanical Garden**, whose work in Madagascar dates back to the 1970s and includes significant research in biodiversity and ethnobotany, and enjoy drinks and dinner. B,L,D

Rova of Antananarivo, Madagascar





Panther chameleon, Parc Ivoloïna, Madagascar

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17: FOULPOINTE

This morning, set out for a guided exploration of **Analalava Forest**, a vital conservation site near the Mozambique Channel coast. Learn firsthand how the **Missouri Botanical Garden's Research Center** here protects over 350 plant species, many endemic and endangered.

One of Madagascar's last remaining areas of lowland rainforest, Analalava hosts five species of lemur as well as many birds, reptiles, amphibians, and numerous insects and butterflies. Today, its tropical climate and varied habitats make it a crucial sanctuary for preserving Madagascar's natural heritage.

Enjoy a picnic lunch at Analalava before a guided visit to **Fort Manda** at Foulpointe, a 19th-century coastal fortification constructed with crushed coral and egg whites as binding agents. This circular stone fort once housed 25,000 soldiers. Explore its thick walls, lookout paths, and remnants of the commander's quarters. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before dinner at the hotel. B,L,D

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18: TAMATAVE / PERINET-ANDASIBE

Depart on an early morning drive to Andasibe via Tamatave. Arrive for a guided tour of **Parc Ivoloïna**, where the Missouri Botanical Garden leads efforts in native plant conservation and forest restoration.

The reserve is home to a variety of flora, including rare orchids and endemic trees, and fauna like 12 lemur species, including the critically endangered black-and-white ruffed lemur and the elusive aye-aye. The reserve also shelters radiated tortoises, panther chameleons, and intriguing bird species like malachite kingfishers.

After lunch, arrive at **Mantadia Lodge** for a two-night stay. This evening, experience a night walk in the private reserve. B,L,D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19: PERINET-ANDASIBE

Start your day with a guided visit to the **Analamazaotra Reserve**, a crucial sanctuary established in 1970 to protect the indri, Madagascar's largest lemur. This cool, humid forest is home to more than 100 bird species and rare reptiles like the nose-horned chameleon. Explore the forest, where towering *Ravenea louvelii* palms and orchids thrive, and enjoy a two-hour walk to spot the elusive indris.

After lunch at the lodge, head to a small island sanctuary at the **Vakôna Private Reserve**, where you can interact with lemurs up close. This evening after dinner, participate in a guided nighttime walk in the **Mitsinjo Forest**, a special opportunity to witness nocturnal species like Goodman's mouse lemur and Parson's chameleon. Hear the calls of frogs and other species in the darkness. B,L,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20: PERINET-ANDASIBE / PLAINE MAGNIEN, MAURITIUS / LE MORNE

Depart mid-morning for the Antananarivo airport, stopping for lunch. In the late afternoon, fly to **Mauritius**, arriving at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport in the village of Plaine Magnien. Transfer to the Le Morne Peninsula and check in at the **JW Marriott Mauritius Resort**, our home for the next four nights, and gather for an informal dinner this evening. B,L,D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21: LE MORNE / CHAMAREL

Meet with members of the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation for an inside look at their ambitious ebony forest restoration project in **Chamarel**, where they've reintroduced more than 141,000 native plants as well as endangered species like the pink pigeon and echo parakeet.



Seven-Colored Earth, Chamarel, Mauritius



Black River Gorges National Park, Mauritius

Next, join an expert for a guided tour of **Black River Gorges National Park**, the largest protected forest in Mauritius. This vast 67-square-mile sanctuary preserves the last remnants of Mauritius's native forests. Traverse its mist-shrouded trails, discover hidden waterfalls, and keep an eye out for the Mauritius kestrel, which has been brought back from the brink of extinction here.

At Chamarel, marvel at the **Seven-Colored Earth**, a geological anomaly of dunes where volcanic minerals create swirling patterns of red, purple, and yellow sand, a sight unique to this island. Continue to **Macchabee Forest**, where the Tambalacoque, or "Dodo tree," still stands—a living relic of a time when the dodo bird roamed the island. Visit the research station to see the endangered pink pigeons and echo parakeets flying free. Observe the devastating impact of invasive species and the restoration efforts underway.

You may enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22: LE MORNE / CUREPIPE / ÎLE AUX AIGRETTES / VALLÉE DE FERNEY

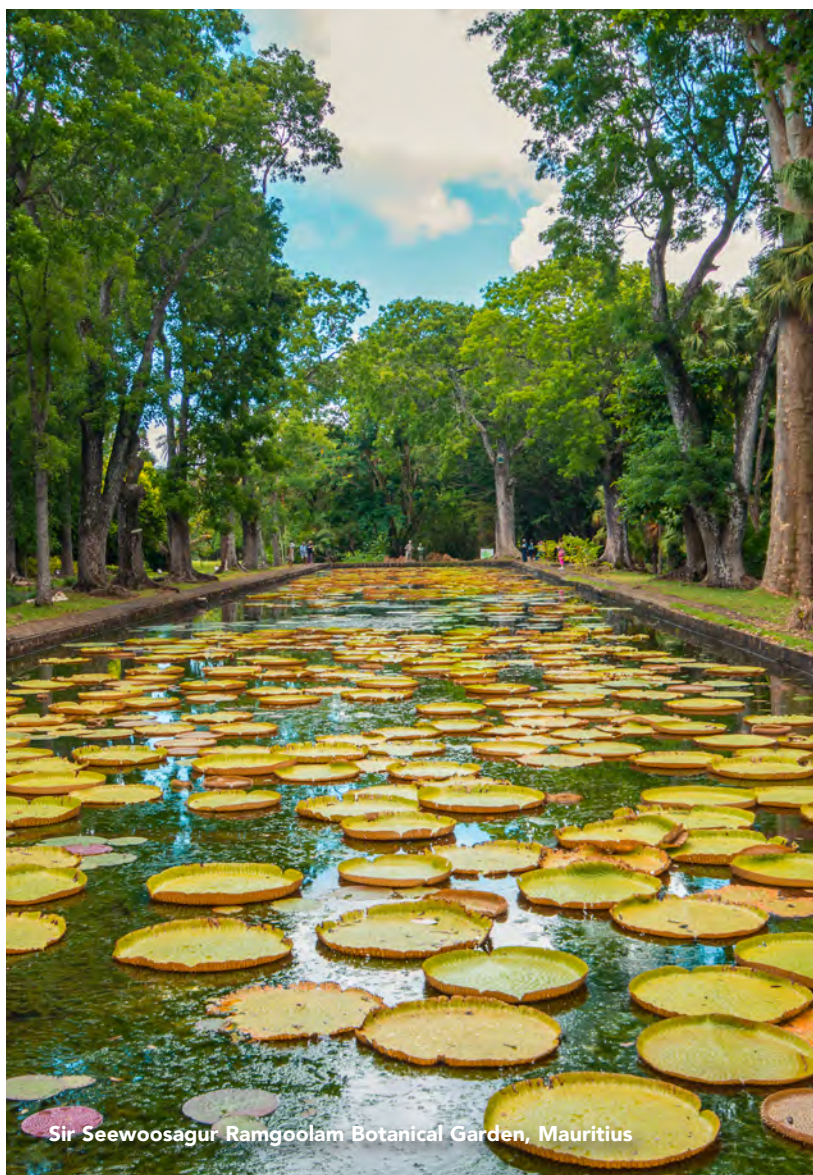
Experience one of Earth's most unique botanical treasures on a guided morning tour of the **Curepipe Botanic Garden**. Here, you will witness the world's last *Hyophorbe amaricaulis* palm, a 40-foot-tall behemoth surrounded by a security fence to protect its fragile existence. This rare palm stands as a living relic of a species on the brink of extinction, and all attempts to cultivate it have failed, making it one of Earth's most unique botanical treasures on the planet.

Next, learn about Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson's past work on **Île aux Aigrettes**, a small coral island and a critical nature conservation site, home to the last remnants of the dry coastal forest that once covered much of Mauritius. The island's conservation efforts, initiated in 1985 by Dr. Wyse Jackson, have restored the habitat to its former glory, reintroducing endangered species like the pink pigeon and Aldabra giant tortoises.

Venture to **Vallée de Ferney** for an expert-led tour of this 500-acre nature sanctuary nestled in the Bambou mountains. One of Mauritius's last remaining strongholds of indigenous forests, Vallée de Ferney offers refuge for the endangered Mauritius kestrel and newly rediscovered plant species like *Eugenia bojeri*. Wander through its rare plant nursery before dinner. B,L,D

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23: LE MORNE / PORT LOUIS / PAMPLEMOUSSES / MAPOU

Explore the world's oldest tropical botanical garden this morning. Via Port Louis, Mauritius's capital city, transfer to **Pamplemousses** and the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden**, founded in 1735. Stroll through palm-lined avenues featuring 85 global palm varieties, including the Talipot palm, which astonishingly blooms just once every 40 years. The iconic giant water lilies, *Victoria amazonica*, spread their broad leaves across the long pond.



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden, Mauritius

Encounter spice gardens filled with camphor, cinnamon, and nutmeg, while ancient baobab and bottle palms stand tall. The garden also houses giant tortoises and historical trees planted by world leaders, including **Nelson Mandela** and **Indira Gandhi**.

Afterwards, enjoy lunch at the **Château de Labourdonnais**, a beautifully restored colonial mansion built in 1856. Nestled within a 1,300-acre estate of orchards and spice trees, the *château* provides a glimpse into 19th-century Mauritian life, with its elegant rooms filled with vintage décor and furniture. Meander through the surrounding gardens, which boast century-old mango trees and alleys of towering Intendance trees.

Return to the hotel for an included dinner, where you can relax and choose your preferred dining venue. B,L,D

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24: LE MORNE / PORT LOUIS / PLAINE MAGNIEN / RETURN

Enjoy a free final day to enjoy the hotel’s amenities. Lunch is at leisure. A shopping excursion can be arranged to the famous **Central Market** in Port Louis, where you can observe the bustling local life of the city and bargain for handicrafts and souvenirs. Gather for an early farewell dinner tonight. Rooms are booked until we depart for the airport and the late-night flights home. B,D

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Missouri Botanical Garden and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

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PROGRAM RATE

\$13,999 per person, double rate

\$17,599 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- 12 nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Internal, one-way, economy-class flight (Antananarivo-Tamatave)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport / hotel / airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; flights from Paris to Antananarivo; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL MONTALEMBERT, PARIS, FRANCE

Since 1926, this boutique hotel has been a discreet gem in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés. The restaurant, a well-kept secret among gourmets, serves exquisite dishes in a cozy setting, perfect for unwinding.

NOVOTEL CONVENTION & SPA, ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

Located in the heart of Madagascar’s capital, this hotel offers a peaceful retreat amid the city’s lively energy. The rooms are modern and comfortable, providing an ideal base for exploring nearby attractions. Guests can enjoy dining at the on-site restaurant or relax by the pool, surrounded by greenery.



AZURA GOLF RESORT, FOULPOINTE, MADAGASCAR

Surrounded by tropical gardens and facing the Indian Ocean’s remarkably blue waters, the resort provides elegant accommodations with stunning ocean views. The restaurants serve dishes made from fresh local ingredients, creating a relaxing and indulgent experience.

JW MARRIOTT MAURITIUS RESORT, LE MORNE, MAURITIUS

Enjoy a memorable escape along the stunning shores of Le Morne. This five-star resort blends luxury and island charm. The rooms and suites provide contemporary comfort with breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean, and savor its beautiful gardens, top-notch service, and spa treatments.



Château de Labourdonnais, Mauritius

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
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MADAGASCAR & MAURITIUS
OCTOBER 12-24, 2025
RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date