Dear Field Museum Friends,

In March 2020, we’re off to Africa. In Ethiopia, we focus on the 12th-century holy city of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a remarkable manmade treasure. Madagascar, on the other hand, has some of the world’s most unique and fascinating endemic flora and fauna. Having lived and conducted research in Madagascar for several decades, I am eager to share my knowledge and experiences with you.

We spend our time in nature reserves on the island of Nosy Be and on the Madagascar mainland. There is also time on the crystal blue waters to explore coral reefs and other marine environments teeming with life.

The trip culminates with a visit to Association Vahatra in Antananarivo, a Malagasy-run organization devoted to advancing scientific research on the island’s biodiversity and created in collaboration with the Field Museum.

Our journey promises to be an unforgettable experience. I hope you’ll join me.

Steve Goodman, PhD
MacArthur Field Biologist, Field Museum

Our journey combines one of mankind’s great architectural achievements with Mother Nature’s finest work.

On Thursday, March 26, 2020, land in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia’s vibrant capital city. Upon arrival, you are met and driven to our hotel, the Sheraton. Settle into your guestroom before we visit the excellent Ethnological Museum housed in Emperor Haile Selassie’s former palace. Continue to Holy Trinity Cathedral, built to commemorate the nation’s liberation from Italian occupation. Selassie is buried here.

MacArthur Genius Grant winner Steve Goodman and the Field Museum’s Steve Strohmeier present a tour briefing at dinner this evening.

The following day, we fly by charter air to Lalibela, a series of monolithic rock-hewn churches carved from solid rock by King Lalibela, who set out to build a “new Jerusalem” during the 12th century. This UNESCO World Heritage site is unlike anything you’re ever seen. At the end of the day, we fly back to Addis Ababa for dinner and a good night’s rest.

On March 28, we fly to Nosy Be, an inviting tropical island off northwest Madagascar. Upon arrival, we head for the Ravintsara Wellness Hotel, home for the next two nights.

The following morning, you may opt to participate in a snorkeling expedition.
Later, we gather for a visit to the Lokobe Nature Reserve. Welcome to the island’s last remaining lowland native forest and the planet’s only natural habitat of the endangered black lemur. Other creatures to watch for? The gray-backed sportive lemur, a mouse lemur species, and endemic birds including the Madagascar pygmy kingfisher and the Madagascar long-eared owl.

Monday begins with a whale-watching boat trip off Nosy Be. The waters here are notable for a large population of rare Omura’s whales. We also expect to see whale sharks.

Next, a catamaran takes us to mainland Madagascar, where we take a three-hour drive to our hotel, the Ankarana Lodge. Settle in before we sit down to dinner.

Madagascar, Earth’s fourth-largest island, separated from the ancient continent of Gondwana about 120 million years ago, allowing its native plants and animals to evolve in relative isolation. Today, Madagascar is one of the planet’s most fascinating biodiversity hot spots. The vast majority of its wildlife is found nowhere else, and the same is true of more than 80 percent of its flora, including five entire plant families.

On our journey, we explore the island’s richest regions of biodiversity with our host, Dr. Steven Goodman, a Field Museum scientist who has lived in Madagascar for years. Steve has studied the island’s endemic fauna and conducted research on birds and mammals, and he co-founded Association Vahatra, an organization tasked with the conservation and management of Madagascar’s extraordinary flora and fauna.

We spend the following day exploring the rich environment of Ankarana Nature Reserve. The park is known for its unique geological wonder, a fortress of eroded limestone spires called tsingy. In addition to the tsingy, we are surrounded by tropical jungle, green forests, canyons, and the largest network of underground caves in Africa.

Steve Goodman, a Field Museum Field Biologist awarded a McArthur Fellowship (you probably know it as the MacArthur “Genius Grant”), is our exceptional host on this tour. He has been with the Field Museum since 1989 and has lived and worked in Madagascar for most of that time. Madagascar is one of the most important conservation hot spots on Earth, with unparalleled levels of endemism in comparison to other tropical islands.

A leading expert on the fauna of the island, Steve has been a force in documenting and conserving the biodiversity of Madagascar for nearly three decades, and it is for this work that he earned the Genius Grant. Together with Malagasy colleagues, he also established Association Vahatra, a Malagasy-run educational and research organization focused on the nation’s biodiversity and terrestrial fauna. Steve is the Vice President and Scientific Counselor at Association Vahatra and serves as an adviser for nearly 15 Master’s and PhD students each year.

Steve has published more than 20 books, including The Natural History of Madagascar and Atlas of Selected Land Vertebrates of Madagascar. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg, an HDR diploma from the University of Paris, and a Docteur Honoris Causa from the University of Antananarivo.

Visit 12th-century Lalibela, including the Church of St. George. Like the other churches here, its roof is at ground level. Ethiopia.
Near the end of the day, we check in to the Nature Lodge, an exclusive eco-hotel surrounded by mango and litchi trees.

The park supports the highest density of lemurs of any reserve in Madagascar. Crown lemurs are plentiful, but dwarf lemurs, Sanford’s brown lemurs, and northern sportive lemurs also live here. Keep an eye out for fossas, Madagascar’s largest carnivorous mammals, as well as tenrecs, and ring-tailed vontsiras. Time and energy permitting, Steve Goodman leads us on a night walk near Ankarana Lodge.

Early Wednesday, if you are a birder, consider joining Steve for a morning birdwatching expedition in Ankarana Reserve.

Then we depart for a drive toward Amber Mountain. En route, visit the Tsingy Rouge, a formation of red laterite fairy chimneys created as water from the Irodo River erodes the stone. The site is spectacular, especially in the afternoon light.

Fantastic flora: See Heliconia humilis and a flame tree in bloom.

Join us for whale watching off the coast of Nosy Be. We hope to see rare Omura’s whales during the excursion. © Alex Lindholm.
Diego in the port city of Antsiranana (aka Diego Suarez).

Devote Saturday, April 4, to a sailing and snorkeling excursion on the Emerald Sea. We have lunch on one of the uninhabited palm-fringed islands that dot the region.

On Sunday, we catch a morning flight to Antananarivo, Madagascar’s capital, known locally as Tana. Check in to Hôtel Colbert Spa & Casino. Settle into your room before we tour the Rova, the imposing Queen’s Palace crowning the city’s highest hill. Gutted in a fire in 1995, it is still under restoration, but we can visit the compound. The Rova is also the resting place of the country’s greatest monarchs. Plain grey tombs are those of kings, while the queens’ are painted red. As we visit, remember that it is fady (taboo) to point your finger directly at the royal tombs or the palace itself.

Tonight, we gather for a farewell dinner at Madagascar’s finest restaurant, La Variquie, whose menu features dishes that meld French gastronomy and Malagasy flavors.

On Monday, April 6, we’re off to the Association Vahatra and chat with students and researchers about their work. Continue to Steve Goodman’s home, where we meet his wife, Asmina, and view her superb textile collection. Then sit down to lunch with the Goodmans in their home.

After the meal, board your independent flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, and connect to your flight home. Or continue in Africa on a Custom Journey created just for you by R. Crusoe & Son.

Erosion has carved the stone of the Tsingy Rouge into delicate red fairy chimneys. See them up close on our journey.

On Nosy Be, an endangered black lemur pauses for a meal.

Hôtel Colbert Spa & Casino, Antananarivo.

* Day 1: U.S.
Wednesday, 25 March 2020
Depart the U.S. for Ethiopia.

* Day 2: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Thursday, 26 March 2020

* Day 3: Lalibela, Addis Ababa
Friday, 27 March 2020
Charter flight to Lalibela, UNESCO site tour, Bete Medhane Alem Church private procession, charter flight to Addis Ababa. Sheraton Addis.

* Day 4: Addis Ababa; Nosy Be, Madagascar
Saturday, 28 March 2020
Fly to Nosy Be, transfer to hotel. Ravintsara Wellness Hotel.

* Day 5: Nosy Be
Sunday, 29 March 2020
Optional morning snorkeling excursion, Lokobe Nature Reserve. Ravintsara Wellness Hotel.

* Day 6: Nosy Be, Ankarana
Monday, 30 March 2020
Morning whale-watching excursion, catamaran and overland travel to Ankarana, hotel check-in. Ankarana Lodge.

* Day 7: Ankarana
Tuesday, 31 March 2020

* Day 8: Ankarana, Amber Mountain
Wednesday, 1 April 2020
Birdwatching in Ankarana, drive to the Tsingy Rouge, drive to Amber Mountain, hotel check-in. Nature Lodge.

* Day 9: Amber Mountain
Thursday, 2 April 2020

* Day 10: Amber Mountain, Diego Suarez
Friday, 3 April 2020
Early morning in Amber Mountain National Park, drive to Diego Suarez (Antisiranana), hotel check-in. Le Grand Hôtel Diego.

* Day 11: Emerald Sea, Diego Suarez
Saturday, 4 April 2020
Full day sailing and snorkeling excursion on the Emerald Sea, return to Diego Suarez. Le Grand Hotel Diego.

* Day 12: Antananarivo (Tana)
Sunday, 5 April 2020
Fly to Antananarivo, transfer to hotel, city tour including the Queen’s Palace, farewell dinner at La Varangue. Hôtel Colbert Spa & Casino.

* Day 13: Antananarivo; Johannesburg, South Africa
Monday, 6 April 2020
Association Vahatra, Steve and Asmina Goodman’s home, fly independently to Johannesburg, connect to flights home or continue on a post-tour extension with R. Crusoe & Son.

* Day 14: U.S.
Tuesday, 7 April 2020
Arrive home.

This itinerary is subject to change.
**Prices**

Tour per person sharing room .......................... $16,925  
Single supplement ................................. $2,790  
Addis Ababa/Nosy Be business-class air upgrade  
supplement per person (estimate) ............... $695

The tour is sold as described. There are no refunds for unused tour portions. The tour price is based on a minimum of 10 travelers as well as present currency exchange and fuel rates. If fewer than 10 travelers participate, or if there is a major change in exchange or fuel rates, a price supplement may apply and/or the itinerary may be adjusted. After booking, members receive a confirmation. Expect a detailed itinerary a few weeks before departure. **R. Crusoe strongly recommends that travelers purchase travel insurance.**

**Inclusions**

- Accommodations based on double occupancy; airport arrival and departure transfers; ground transportation and sightseeing as indicated; Addis Ababa/Lalibela roundtrip charter flight, economy-class commercial air from Addis Ababa to Nosy Be, and business-class commercial air from Diego Suarez to Antananarivo; wine and local beer with included meals; hotel taxes; entrance fees to museums and places of interest as included in the program; baggage handling; gratuities for local guides, drivers, porters; professional tour escort throughout; tour development and planning; reservation management by R. Crusoe senior tour consultant; and preparation and delivery of preliminary and final documents.

**Exclusions**

- International airfare; costs of passports and/or visas; personal expenses such as laundry and meals not listed, beverages (mixed drinks); room service; excess baggage fees; sightseeing listed as optional; communication charges; personal insurance coverage.

**Airfare**

International air travel from/to the United States is not included in the tour price. Addis Ababa/Lalibela roundtrip charter flight, economy-class commercial air from Addis Ababa to Nosy Be, and business-class commercial air from Diego Suarez to Antananarivo are all included in the tour price. We recommend that you include the return Antananarivo/Johannesburg flight as part of your international air ticket home.

**Meals**

All meals from dinner on 26 March to lunch on 6 April are included in the tour price.

**Hotels**

This tour includes deluxe or similar category rooms. A guestroom on 25 March is included in the tour price to guarantee early check-in upon your arrival in Addis Ababa. If you would like to reserve additional hotel nights before or after the tour, and/or upgrade your guestroom, contact Jane Franklin at 888-490-8019 or email jfranklin@rcrusoe.com.

**Eligibility**

Participation in this program requires that travelers be in good health. Walking and stair climbing are commonly part of many tours. Travelers with physical disabilities must make them known to R. Crusoe at the time of booking. Access to Western medicine and medical facilities is very limited. Persons with any medical problems or related dietary restrictions must inform R. Crusoe well before departure.

**Registration**

A deposit of $2,500 per person is required at the time you book. This deposit is nonrefundable at all times. The remainder of the cost of your trip is due 90 days prior to your departure date. Payment can be made by personal check, Visa, American Express, or MasterCard. If your reservation is made within 90 days of departure, the entire cost of the trip must be paid at the time of confirmation.

**Cancellations**

Cancellations received 90 days or more prior to departure are subject to a $2,500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit as a percentage of the tour cost: 89-60 days, 35 percent; 59-30 days, 50 percent; 29 days or less, 100 percent.

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**BOOKING DEADLINE: 26 April 2019.**

After that date, reservations are offered on a space-available basis. For questions or to book, contact Jane Franklin at jfranklin@rcrusoe.com or call 888-490-8019.
REGISTRATION & PAYMENT FORM

Please return both pages of this completed form by email (jfranklin@rcrusoe.com), fax (312-980-8100), or mail to R. Crusoe & Son, 566 W. Adams St. No. 505, Chicago, IL 60661.

Any questions? Contact Jane Franklin at jfranklin@rcrusoe.com or 888-490-8019.

Traveler Name(s): __________________________ Date: ____________

After that date, reservations are offered on a space-available basis. A deposit of $2,500 per person is required to guarantee your tour reservation. This deposit is nonrefundable at all times. Payment by personal check is preferred. In addition, payment may be made using the credit cards listed below.

TOUR RESERVATIONS

TOUR PRICE

☐ Per person based on double occupancy $16,925 ☐ Single supplement $2,790
☐ Addis Ababa/Nosy Be business-class air upgrade supplement per person (estimate) $695

Method of Payment:
☐ Personal check (made payable to R. Crusoe & Son)
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express $____________

Amount to charge

Credit Card Number
Expiration Date
Security Code
Month/Year
On Back of Card

Cardholder’s Name (as it appears on the card)

Billing Address
City
State
Zip Code

Shipping Address (if different from billing address)
City
State
Zip Code

Cardholder’s Daytime Telephone Number
Cardholder’s Evening Telephone Number

Cardholder’s Email Address

☐ Yes, I have read and signed the Terms & Conditions which begins on this page. Payment constitutes acceptance of the Terms & Conditions as stated.

Cardholder’s Signature

TERMS & CONDITIONS
On the advancement of deposit, the depositor acknowledges that he or she has read and understands the specific inclusions, exclusions, registration, and cancellation policies of the tour, the terms and conditions listed below, and that he or she agrees to be bound by them. Signature above authorizes payment to R. Crusoe & Son (“R. Crusoe”) for all tour charges. This tour is sold as described, and R. Crusoe makes no refund for unused portions of the tour.

- Cancellation penalties apply.
- Full terms and conditions are provided to travelers prior to booking. After booking, travelers receive a confirmation.
- Expect a detailed itinerary a few weeks before departure.
- This itinerary is subject to change.
Arrangements. Quoted tour prices include planning, handling, and operational charges and are quoted in U.S. dollars based on the current rate of exchange, tariff, and fuel prices.

Responsibility. R. Crusoe and its operating partners purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant services, and other services from various independent suppliers that are not subject to its control. R. Crusoe and its operating partners cannot, therefore, be liable for any personal injury, loss, or damage to person or property that may occur due to (1) a wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary act by others not under direct control of R. Crusoe and its operating partners, (2) defects in, or failures of, any aircraft, vessel, automotive vehicle, or other means of transportation not under its control, or (3) acts of God. R. Crusoe and its operating partners also reserve the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, to make such alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour or part thereof any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by airline schedule changes, delays, or events beyond its control. R. Crusoe and its operating partners are not responsible for any expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip, including non-refundable or penalty-carrying airline tickets, special clothing, visa or passport fees, or other trip-related expenses.

Travel Documents. All travel documents (international air tickets, passport, visa) are the traveler’s responsibility. Without the required documents, travelers may be denied entry into Ethiopia and Madagascar. R. Crusoe is not liable for such denial.

Baggage. Baggage handling is at the traveler’s risk throughout the tour. Baggage restrictions may apply. If so, R. Crusoe is not responsible for excess baggage fees.

Smoking. Smoking is not permitted during situations that involve fellow travelers. This applies when travelers are in restaurants, sightseeing vehicles, boats and other water transport, air transport, and when participating in group activities.

Eligibility. Participation in this program requires that travelers be in good health. Walking and stair climbing are commonly part of many tours. Travelers with physical disabilities must make them known to R. Crusoe at the time of booking. Access to Western medicine and medical facilities is very limited. Persons with any medical problems or related dietary restrictions must inform R. Crusoe well before departure.

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22 May 2019