

# WELCOME TO LEMUR ISLAND

Lemurs are evolutionary relatives of monkeys, apes, and people. They live natively on the island of Madagascar, and nowhere else.

Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island, and 9 out of 10 of its species are found nowhere else.

Lemur in Latin means 'ghost' and many of the Malagasy people believe lemurs are similar to spirits or ghosts because of their haunting stare and night activity.

The Malagasy name 'sifaka' comes from the distinct call this animal makes as it travels through the trees: 'shif-auk'.

Until recently, gray mouse lemurs were thought to be the smallest living primate. This was disproven when the pygmy mouse lemur, thought to be extinct, was rediscovered.

Indris are among the most tree-loving lemurs. They avoid the ground and spend most of their time climbing and jumping from tree to tree.

Bamboo lemurs eat large amounts of bamboo, which contains a potentially toxic chemical. Scientists don't fully understand how they eat so much bamboo without being poisoned.

Ring-tailed lemurs live in big groups of up to 24 animals. Females rule the groups.



## USE YOUR MAP SKILLS

- 1 Maromokotro is part of what massif?
- 2 Six rain forests border the island's east coast. Which body of water is closest to them?
- 3 What river flows through the capital city?
- 4 What percentage of plants and animals evolved on Madagascar and nowhere else?
- 5 Which lemur species is the smallest?
- 6 Which Madagascar species is named for its long neck?
- 7 Centre ValBio is located in what national park?
- 8 What province is the Tsingy Stone Forest located in?
- 9 What massif is in the southern part of Madagascar?
- 10 Are ring-tailed lemurs found north or south of Antananarivo?