

= Lemurs ' Park =

Lemurs ' Park (also known locally as Parc de lémuriens à Madagascar) is a small botanical garden and lemur reserve covering 5 ha (12 acres) , and is located 22 km (14 mi) southwest of Antananarivo , Madagascar . It was founded around 2000 by Laurent Amouric and Maxime Allorge . Most of its nine lemur species are free @-@ ranging within the park , which also contains more than 70 of Madagascar 's endemic plant species . The park is open to the public , offering guided tours as well as standard amenities , a gift shop , and a restaurant . Visitors can arrange transportation between downtown Antananarivo and Lemurs ' Park on a private park shuttle .

Most of the park 's lemurs were confiscated pets , entrusted to the park by the Ministry of Water and Forests . The lemurs are rehabilitated and bred for reintroduction into the wild . The park also collaborates with Colas Madagascar and TOTAL Madagascar to provide environmental education to local primary school children and to plant native trees as part of a reforestation program . Most of the park 's staff come from the neighboring communities .

= = History = =

Established around 2000 , Lemurs ' Park is a private , 5 ha (12 acres) botanical park situated next to the Katsaoka River and between the villages of Fenoarivo and Imerintsiatosika , 22 km (14 mi) southwest of Antananarivo along Route Nationale 1 (RN1) in the direction of Ampefy . It functions as a lemur reserve that gradually reintroduces captive @-@ born lemurs back into nature . The park was founded by Laurent Amouric and Maxime Allorge , the grandson of Pierre Boiteau , Founding Director of the Tsimbazaza Zoo (Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza) in Antananarivo .

= = Attractions = =

The park , which primarily consists of pine forest and bamboo vegetation , contains nearly 6 @,@ 000 trees and more than 70 plant species endemic to Madagascar , all of which are segregated into separate climatic zones throughout the park . Lemurs ' Park also has a vivarium which houses chameleons , radiated tortoises , iguanas and other lizards .

The main attraction , for which the park is named , is its free @-@ ranging lemurs . Featured daily feeding times occur every two hours between 10 : 00 a.m. and 4 : 00 p.m. There are nine species , seven of which are active during the day (diurnal) and two are active at night (nocturnal) . Many of the lemurs are confiscated pets , and the staff work towards rehabilitating them for reintroduction into the wild .

= = Conservation = =

Confiscated pet lemurs are entrusted to Lemurs ' Park by the Ministry of Water and Forests (Ministère des eaux et Forêts) for ex situ conservation . This allows the urban population near Antananarivo to see free @-@ ranging lemurs in a natural environment . In addition to rehabilitation , Lemurs ' Park has also successfully bred Coquerel 's sifakas (*Propithecus coquereli*) since 2007 .

Because many of these lemurs have become endangered as a result of deforestation in Madagascar , Lemurs ' Park participates in a reforestation program supported by Colas Madagascar and Total Madagascar . Between December 2008 and May 2013 , approximately 37 @,@ 163 students and 1 @,@ 270 teachers from the public primary schools around Antananarivo have helped plant 170 native trees and participated in environmental education at Lemurs ' Park . For many of the children , this program has allowed them to see free @-@ ranging lemurs for the first time . In total , more than 11 @,@ 000 trees have been planted as part of this collaborative project , including rosewood , Terminalia , and amontana as of May 2013 . Saplings of endemic plants , including baobabs , from the Madagascar spiny thickets in the southern part of the island have also been transported to the park and planted with the help of Colas .

According to the park , the partnership with Colas Madagascar and TOTAL Madagascar has also

helped prevent layoffs of its staff during difficult economic times , over 90 % of whom come from the surrounding communities .

= = Business details = =

Lemurs ' Park (Parc de lémuriens à Madagascar) is open all year , seven days a week from 9 : 00 a.m. until 5 : 00 p.m. , and the latest admission into the park is at 4 : 15 p.m. As of March 2015 , the admission price was 25 @,@ 000 ariary for adults and 10 @,@ 000 ariary for children ages 4 ? 12 , while admission for children under the age of 4 is free . Entrance fees also cover a required tour with a park guide . Stays are limited to 1 hour and 30 minutes . The park provides standard amenities , and has a restaurant that requires 48 @-@ hour advance booking . Between January and April , both the restaurant and gift shop are closed on Mondays .

Visits to the park do not require advance booking , although reservations are required to take the park 's minibuss from the heart of Antananarivo (Analakely) to the facility . The cost of the shuttle includes the admission into the park . The shuttle departs at 9 : 00 a.m. and 2 : 00 p.m. each day .

Lemurs ' Park also has a liaison office in Antananarivo that is only open on Monday .