

## Message from the President, Leland Lai

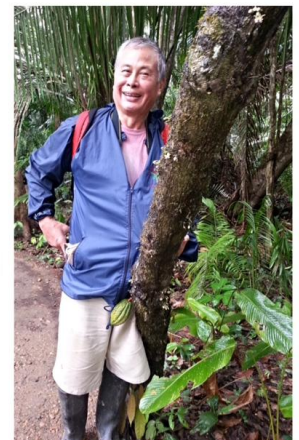
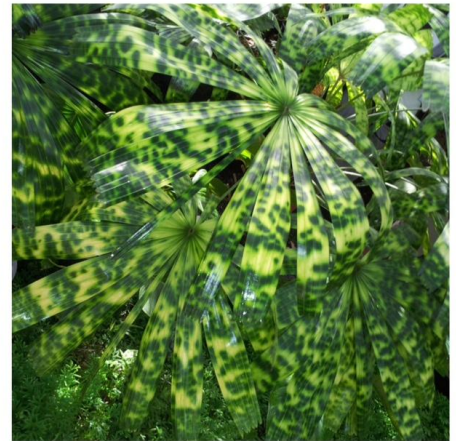
*Wishing all IPS Members  
a Joyous Holiday Season  
and a Happy New Year*

Greetings to my fellow IPS Members, wishing all of you a happy and safe holiday season. I want to share some of the happenings this last year, reflective of much background work and budgeting for the new face of the IPS.

For several years, the IPS has been restructuring the way our voluntary organization can deal with administration, reduce its costs, assess our business aspects to better reflect the interests of current and potential members.

Developments are proceeding in a number of areas: Through generous donations of two of our directors, we have solicited outside professional design work for our new website and this should be coming online within the next few months. It will incorporate interactive formats for Palms.org, Palm Talk, offering both electronic and printed versions of the Palms Journal that can be Google translated into most any language, more frequent events, online bookstore, discounts, membership sign-up and renewals, etc.

In response to requests from members wishing to join the interim



Board meetings to see new places and species, we are building in other trips linked to the Board of Directors meetings (2015 in Madagascar). These will be limited in size and offered on a first-come basis. We even have a group looking at the feasibility of electronic nominations and elections so as to resolve certain issues of past slow or non-delivery of the ballots, and limited interest of those wishing to represent growing membership in their countries or regions.

Our participation is not only to uphold the original mission statement but also to bring the IPS on board with current technology, increase membership with new offerings, features and benefits, and to welcome comments as to how we can increase the awareness for palm conservation, knowledge, and enjoyment for the hobbyist, commercial landscaping, and academic levels.

Leland Lai – IPS President 2012-2016.



# MADAGASCAR

## **IPS Madagascar Palm Tour Ile Sainte Marie (Nosy Boraha) Oct. 5th to 11th 2015 from Tobias Spanner**

Only for IPS members, we offer a guided palm tour to the small tropical island Ile Sainte Marie in the northeast of Madagascar, led by IPS director Toby Spanner and local guides. The tropical northeast of Madagascar is particularly rich in palms and the island offers an opportunity to see some of these while enjoying the comforts of a first class hotel. Our base will be the Princesse Bora Lodge, <http://www.princesse-bora.com> conveniently located just a couple of minutes north of the tiny airport (SMS) on Ile Sainte Marie in the very south of the island. Princesse Bora is a luxury



resort right on a sandy beach on the protected west side of the island. Their facilities conform to a 4 to 5 star international hotel standard, with an excellent gourmet restaurant complete with fabulous wine cellar (South African, French and a couple of Madagascar wines) and a wood fired, stone pizza oven. Air Madagascar operates flights from Madagascar's capital Antananarivo and from Toamasina on the east coast on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The climate on Ile Sainte Marie in October is mild and relatively dry with pleasantly cool nights, 21 to 23°C or 70 to 74°F and warm days around 27°C, 81°F and there is always a nice breeze from the ocean.

### Trip itinerary:

Oct. 5th

Arrival of attendees with a flight from Antananarivo or Toamasina.

We will take cocktails on the large ocean dock at sunset, followed by dinner on the restaurant terrace by the pool, with live music.

Oct. 6th

Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

Drive by minibus to the hilly Forêt d'Ikalalao where we will see *Raphia farinifera*, *Dypsis lastelliana*, *Ravenea robustior*, *Orania ravaka* and various small *Dypsis*. If time permits we will also visit the Forêt d'Ampanihy in the afternoon. We will take along a packet lunch.

This will be an easy tour with time left in the afternoon to enjoy the beach, ocean, pool or spa before dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Oct. 7th

Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

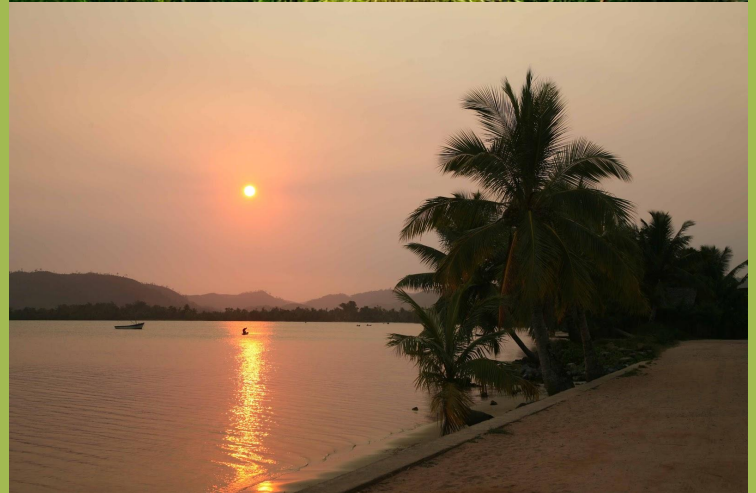
Drive by jeep or minibus to the (white sand) Forêt d'Ambonidena in the northeast of the island, where we will see *Dypsis sanctaemariae*, *Dypsis crinita*, *Ravenea sambiranensis*, *Dypsis arenarum* and various small *Dypsis*. We will take along a packet lunch for a picnic in the white sand forest.

We will return with extra time to enjoy the beach, ocean, pool or spa before dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Oct. 8th

Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

Day trip to the mainland by boat. Explore the



White Sand Forest on the peninsula opposite Ile Sainte Marie that boasts a rich palm flora including *Ravenea sambiranensis*, *Dypsis psammophila*, *D. lastelliana*, *D. lutescens* and various other species.

We will take along a packet lunch. This day is easy walking. Return to the hotel by boat. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Oct. 9th

Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

Day trip to the mainland by boat with a small expedition into the hills

behind Manompana. We will see *Orania ravaka*, *Dypsis lastelliana*, *D.*

*jumelleana*, *D. procera*, *D. pusilla*, *D. nodifera*,

*D. arenarum*, *D. pusilla*,

*Ravenea lakatra*, large *Satranala decussilvae*, and

others. We will take along a packet lunch. This day requires a bit of walking, a few hills with no paths and will be a bit more strenuous. Return to the hotel by boat. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Oct. 10th

Free day to enjoy the beach, ocean, pool or spa.

The hotel also offers a wide range of activities such as diving, waterski, fishing, biking and whale-watching (if whales are still around, it's the end of the season) and tours (non-palm) at extra cost.

Cocktails and grand farewell dinner with live music in the hotel restaurant.

Oct. 11th

Departure of attendees after breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

### Getting there:

Flights to Antananarivo are offered by South African Airways (Star Alliance), Air Madagascar, Air France (Sky Team), Air Mauritius, Air Austral, Corsair and Kenya Airways (Sky Team). Many US Airlines offer flights on a code-share basis. Flights from



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Antananarivo to Ile Sainte Marie (most via Toamasina) are available on Air Madagascar on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and are currently around €420 return, including taxes. Flights from Réunion Island are available also on Air Madagascar on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Toamasina offers convenient connections to Réunion Island and some towns in Madagascar. We can book the domestic flights for you, and will be happy to assist with other bookings or help with trips you may want to plan to other parts of Madagascar before or after this event. You can check here what is available: [www.airmadagascar.com/en](http://www.airmadagascar.com/en)

**Room options and corresponding prices for 6 nights:**

**Double occupancy**

- Charme Villa (fan).....€1100  
(US\$1370) per person
- Luxury Villa (a/c).....€1260  
(US\$1570) per person
- Executive Beach Villa (a/c).....€1670  
(US\$2080) per person

**Single occupancy**

- Charme Villa (fan).....€1320  
(US\$1650) per person
- Luxury Villa (a/c).....€1520  
(US\$1900) per person
- Executive Beach Villa (a/c).....€2000  
(US\$2500) per person

The above prices include ALL meals, water, soft drinks and wine or beer with meals and ALL transport on the island, as well as boat trips to the mainland that are part of our excursions. All prices will be charged in Euros, US\$ prices are for comparison only (at the exchange rate as of -- Dec 1st, 2014).

You can check the room options and pictures at <http://www.princesse-bora.com> in the menu under “lodge”.

The total capacity of the hotel is limited. First



come first serve, also for your choice of room!

Additional days on the 11th or before the 5th can be booked at €110 (US\$150) per person, per night, incl. full board, double occupancy for the Charme Villa (additional cost for the Luxury and Executive villas).

If you are interested in receiving a detailed booking form, please e-mail us at [toby@palmsociety.org](mailto:toby@palmsociety.org)

For more photos or to engage in discussion, visit: [PalmTalk](#)