

# **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition**

Photograph a Fascinating Trove of Unique Creatures Found Nowhere Else on Earth





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#### **Trip Details:**

**Days** 14 Days / Jun, Aug-Nov

Price From \$17495 (+Air)

# **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition**

Photograph a Fascinating Trove of Unique Creatures Found Nowhere Else on Earth

There's no place on the planet like Madagascar for photographers in pursuit of unique nature images—that's because 90% of Madagascar's plant, mammal and reptile species are found nowhere else! On this biologically isolated island in the Indian Ocean, we find a host of intriguing rainforest dwellers, including diademed sifakas, indris, fossas and tenrecs, while baobabs and pachypodia dot its sandstone deserts. Curious about these exotic-sounding names? For even the most well-traveled nature photographer, Madagascar offers a kaleidoscope of discoveries, well beyond its most popular wild resident, the lemur—or *lemurs*, since there are roughly a hundred different species of them found in Madagascar—and only in Madagascar! On an itinerary seamlessly connected by private chartered flights, photograph a living time capsule that evolved alone in the Indian Ocean—as you discover the wonders of an "eighth continent" you never knew existed!

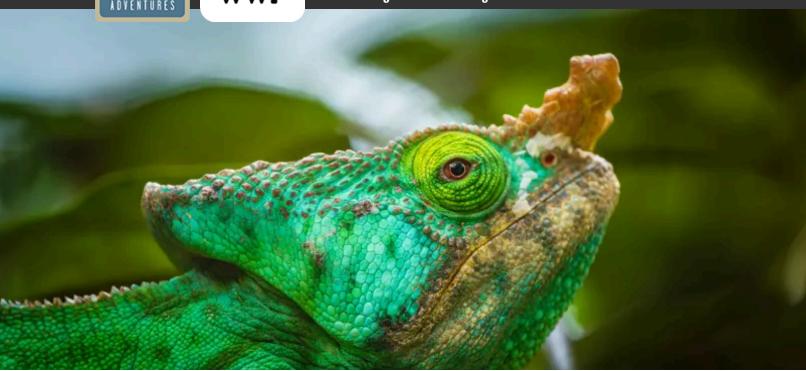
# **Trip Highlights**

Madagascar is home to 100 different lemur species, primitive primates found only this biologically isolated island—you'll get countless exciting encounters

Photograph diverse landscapes and endangered wildlife in settings from rainforest to sandstone desert—plus a private nature reserve on the Indian Ocean

Maximize time in nature and minimize long, rugged drives via private chartered flights that ensure comfortable, timely travel—only with Nat Hab!





### **Itinerary At A Glance**

#### Day 1

Antananarivo, Madagascar

#### Days 2 - 4

Antananarivo, Madagascar / Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

#### Days 5 & 6

Ranomafana National Park

#### Days 7 & 8

Isalo National Park

#### Days 9 & 10

Private Flight to Toliara / Ifaty— Spiny Forest

#### Days 11 - 13

Anjajavy Private Reserve

#### Day 14

Antananarivo / Depart

# **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition Itinerary**

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#### Day 1: Antananarivo, Madagascar

Our photography adventure begins in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Known locally as "Tana," Madagascar's largest city is home to roughly 3 million people, while the balance of the country's population lives mostly in rural areas. A transfer is included from the airport to our hotel, located on the outskirts of the city. Those who arrive early may wish to join an optional city tour with our Expedition Leader, which includes the historic district of Tana, the flower market, and downtown. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader and traveling companions, with an orientation to all the exhilarating photo opportunities that lie ahead.







#### Days 2 - 4: Antananarivo, Madagascar / Andasibe-Mantadia National Park

Leaving the city behind, we pass rice paddies and small villages to reach Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. Within this protected rainforest, we have our first opportunity to hike in search of lemurs, primitive primates found only in Madagascar. The country is home to approximately 100 species and subspecies of lemur, and the world's largest, the indri, is found in this park. As exciting to hear as it is to see, this pied creature has a distinctive call, its loud, eerie wailing ringing out through the trees. We may also spy gray bamboo, Eastern woolly and black-and-white ruffed lemurs, as well as diademed sifakas that spring through the canopy like athletic dancers. On night walks, look for tree frogs, chameleons and palm-sized brown mouse lemurs that skitter among the strangler figs and giant ferns.

Madagascar's premier national park is a critical component of the country's efforts to conserve its biodiversity in the face of extensive deforestation. Besides lemurs, this threatened biome contains orchids that bloom during the rainy season, numerous medicinal plants, frogs, including the endangered golden mantella, and a spiky insectivore called a tenrec, which looks like a striped hedgehog. This protected tract of rare montane rainforest is one of the world's top birding locales. We also visit Lemur Island, a small sanctuary where lemurs rescued from captivity are thriving. Three species, including the common brown lemur, bamboo lemur and black-and-white ruffed lemur, have become habituated to visitors, allowing for close encounters and delightful photo opportunities.

#### Days 5 & 6: Ranomafana National Park

Return to Antananarivo by road and take a chartered flight to the hilltop town of Fianarantsoa, noted for its 19th-century colonial Old Town filled with colorful houses and winding streets. From here, we make a scenic drive to Ranomafana National Park, created in 1991 following the discovery of the endangered golden bamboo lemur. Today, the park is a hub of research and discovery that is vitally important for the conservation of regional wildlife. Comprised of steep, mountainous terrain, Ranomafana's 250 square miles encompass varied habitats at a range of altitudes, from lowland rainforest to cloud forest to high plateau forest. Cliffs draped in lush vegetation and waterfalls abound in this rugged wilderness, which we explore on guided hikes. With multiple guides, we are able to split the group according to physical ability, tailoring hikes accordingly.

The park is home to 20 species of lemur, including three different bamboo lemur species, 120 frog species, numerous chameleons and other reptiles, 90 butterfly species, and the fascinating but rarely seen fossa. Birds are abundant, too, with more than 100 species present, including ground-rollers, red-fronted coua and collared nightjar. A night walk may reveal mouse lemurs and various amphibians active after dark.





#### Days 7 & 8: Isalo National Park

Constantly changing views unfold on a full-day scenic drive to southern Madagascar. Get glimpses of local life as we pass through small villages into a landscape in stark contrast to the eastern rainforests. Stop en route at the Anja Community Reserve for a picnic lunch and a chance to see rambunctious ring-tailed lemurs feeding in the trees or foraging on the ground. Continuing south, we enter a region of mountainous plateaus and eroded canyons reminiscent of the American Southwest, as massive rock outcrops rise from dry grass plains. Reaching the striking Isalo massif, witness fascinating flora that thrives against this Jurassic-era sandstone backdrop, including the odd-looking swollen pachypodia, or "elephant's foot," with its bright yellow flowers.

Several varieties of lemur live among the cacti, aloes and palms, especially the ring-tailed lemur we look for on a hike in Isalo National Park. The 200,000-acre park is also home to more than 80 bird species and 33 reptile species. It is the sacred homeland of the tribal Bara people, whose burial sites are marked by mounds of tiny stones placed in crevices in the rock faces. Amid the arid landscape, we come upon a swift stream running through an ancient deep gorge. There's an option to climb a series of steep steps to a natural pool fed by a thundering waterfall that has carved its course into the sandstone. Later, as the sunset fades, look up at the ebony sky for some of the best stargazing on the planet.

#### Days 9 & 10: Private Flight to Toliara / Ifaty—Spiny Forest

This morning, fly by private chartered aircraft to Toliara in the south of Madagascar and continue to the laid-back fishing village of Ifaty, famous for the otherworldly vegetation that surrounds it. This eccentric and extraordinarily photogenic region is dominated by strange, spiny-tentacled octopus trees, cactus-like euphorbias and towering, barrel-shaped baobabs—a desert ecosystem that thrives despite the extremely dry weather and poor soil. Bird life flourishes here, and along with more common species, we hope to catch a glimpse of the critically endangered Madagascar fish-eagle, one of the rarest birds of prey in the world and endemic to the island. As we explore the unique landscape, we may spot the white-footed sportive lemur or the Grandidier's mongoose darting through the spiny undergrowth. If we're lucky, we might see the diminutive grey mouse lemur—one of the world's smallest primates at just 5 inches long and 2 ounces in weight. For photographers, this landscape offers endless inspiration, from the stark vegetation to the diverse and threatened wildlife.





#### Days 11 - 13: Anjajavy Private Reserve

A truly exclusive journey awaits today, as we board a chartered flight north to the 17,000-acre private nature reserve of Anjajavy. This vast protected area on the Indian Ocean is reached only by chartered small aircraft, with access via the reserve's private airport. The lodge fronting the cerulean waters of the Mozambique Channel is our base for exploring the dry deciduous forest of northwest Madagascar. This remote area, less disturbed than other regions of the country, harbors a striking number of endemic species. Look for the common brown lemur and black-and-white Coquerel's sifaka during guided forest hikes, though we frequently see them on the lodge grounds as well. Night strolls may reveal Danfoss brown mouse lemurs, giant hairy crabs and various reptiles. The forest contains some 1,800 plant species, among them richly colored rosewood trees and massive baobab trees shaped like squat bottles. Our 4-star resort, Madagascar's only member of the exclusive Relais & Chateaux group, accommodates guests in deluxe thatched bungalows overlooking a private white sand beach.

Private boat excursions offer a close-up view on this secluded region that's mostly uninhabited except for a couple of nearby fishing villages. While we may pass a few fishermen in their dhows with triangular white sails or paddling wooden pirogues, we're largely alone along this wild coastline. It's a scenic landscape of rocky outcrops and tiny indented coves with unspoiled beaches dotted by pale ghost crabs. Travel by boat to Moramba Bay to view eroded limestone formations protruding from the sea, and huge baobab trees that stand sentinel over densely vegetated environs. Search the coastline for the Madagascar fish eagle, rare Madagascar sacred ibis and crested ibis. A sunset cruise through the mangroves reveals more birds, and, if we're lucky, Madagascar flying foxes leaving their roosts at dusk. From the lodge, you may also opt to explore the coastline by kayak, snorkel over a coral reef from the beach, and explore a subterranean cave where we may spy bats. On the lodge grounds, the "Oasis" provides a garden sanctuary for a wide variety of aquatic and climbing plants, papyrus, tree ferns and palm trees that offer refuge to green kingfisher, red fody and active sifaka lemurs. A saltwater infinity pool overlooking the ocean provides refreshment after a day of discovery.

#### Day 14: Antananarivo / Depart

After a leisurely breakfast at the lodge, we fly by chartered aircraft back to Antananarivo for connecting flights homeward, or on to your safari extension.





#### **Accommodation Details:**

Relais de la Reine

**Anjajavy Lodge** 

Le Paradisier

**Hotel Thermal Ranomafana** 

Mantadia Lodge

**Novotel Antananarivo** 

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/africa/madagascarwildlife-photoexpedition/accommodations

# **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition Accommodations**

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#### Relais de la Reine

Craftsmen used local Madagascar granite and sandstone to build this family-run boutique ecolodge, blending it seamlessly with the natural environment.



#### **Anjajavy Lodge**

Madagascar's only Relais & Chateaux property, this luxury ecolodge on the Mozambique Channel enjoys a singular setting within a private nature reserve accessible only via chartered aircraft.



#### Le Paradisier

A stay at Le Paradisier is a highlight of our Madagascar adventure. This luxury ecolodge overlooking the beach has been carefully designed to harmonize with the landscape...







#### **Hotel Thermal Ranomafana**

Set on the edge of Ranomafana National Park, this sustainable hotel is in harmony with the rainforest ecosystem and the local community that protects it.



#### **Mantadia Lodge**

Set high on a ridge overlooking the rainforest near Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, these contemporary stone and stucco bungalows have terraces with broad views over the natural habitat of the indri.



#### **Novotel Antananarivo**

Just 15 minutes from the international airport serving Madagascar's capital, this contemporary 5-star hotel features sleek modern rooms plus a swimming pool, fitness center and rooftop terrace Skybar overlooking the courtyard and gardens.





# There's No Place Like Madagascar for Nature Photographers...and No One to Show It to You Like Nat Hab!

When it comes to unique destinations for nature photography, you can't top Madagascar. More than 90% of the intriguing plants, mammals and reptiles on the world's fourth largest island—and the vast majority of its birds and insects, too—exist nowhere else. A rich photo encounter with this "world apart" requires a very small group and exclusive transportation features between remote locations that are not offered on any other tour we're aware of. Take a look at what sets our Madagascar Photo Expedition apart:

Our Unique Itinerary Maximizes Your Time for Nature Photography

Rather than lose several days crossing the country on long drives, or confining your travels to fewer regions, we ensure you spend more time in distinctly varied wild places, instead of traveling great distances between them. By including chartered flights, we avoid long, tiring days on rough roads, and we access a greater range of rarely visited areas, for more diverse photo opportunities.

- A Very Small Group (Capped at 10) Ensures Intimate Wildlife Encounters

  The best wildlife photography opportunities are always more likely to occur in the presence of fewer people. We travel with no more than 10 travelers, ensuring a quieter, less obtrusive presence in nature.
- Chartered Flights are Key to a Superlative Experience
  When other companies include flights, they typically use the national carrier, Air Madagascar, which frankly has a terrible track record for delays and cancellations. Travelers on Air Madagascar can often wait a full day or more in airports, or be re-routed in a manner requiring a 24-hour drive on very poor dirt roads. To be certain we don't waste valuable time for wildlife viewing, we have arranged our own private chartered flights. This is a costly commitment, but it ensures we get where we want to be in a convenient and timely manner, so you don't lose out due to airline caprices.





the quality of our leaders.

# **Discovering Our Planet Together**

- Travel in the Company of a Top Photo Expedition Leader, Plus Expert Local Guides
  Compare the quality of guides and guest-to-guide ratio: You'll travel with an outstanding photographer guide who is also an expert naturalist— plus a seasoned local guide who knows the country like none other. Our Expedition Leader provides oustanding tour management and the integrated perspective of a professional naturalist, while our Malagasy guide adds in-depth local knowledge, helping to maximize the variety of wildlife you'll have a chance to shoot. And we're joined by regional park guides in several places, who add even more depth and expertise. Our Expedition Leaders also get training and resources from WWF scientists—a Nat Hab exclusive! See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding
- Unique Accommodations in Nature—Including Anjajavy Lodge

  We emphasize secluded lodging on private reserves and/or close to protected national parks, ensuring we're proximate to natural habitats and wildlife. From bungalows tucked in the rainforest to your own eco-villa on a nature reserve accessible only by private airstrip, our focus is on intimate natural settings. Anjajavy Lodge is a special highlight: Madagascar's only Relais & Chateaux property, its guests have access to more than 17,000 acres on a private reserve containing 1,800 floral species and a multitude of rare wildlife. At Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, our stay on a private estate near the park includes a visit to its small lemur preserve, where we get very close to Madagascar's famous icons.
- Photograph a Biodiversity Hotspot Before the Rest of the World Gets There

  Nat Hab is one of few tour operators offering naturalist-guided photo safaris to this distinctive destination. And our itinerary is as diverse and uncommon as Madagascar itself. We explore dense highland rainforest, moss- and lichen-laden cloud forest, and arid sandstone canyons. On the Indian Ocean coast, search for rare frogs and geckos on night walks, spot several varieties of endangered lemurs in forests, and scan coastlines for pods of dolphins and migrating whales. With Nat Hab and WWF working together to create this unique itinerary, you won't find a more comprehensive nature adventure.
- Be Part of a Conservation Success Story

  It's not an exaggeration to say that without our presence, and that of other eco-conscious travelers, most of Madagascar's remaining wild habitat would be gone. By demonstrating the economic value of nature tourism, bringing visitors to observe the intriguing species found in Madagascar's remarkably biodiverse forests, we show local communities the value of protecting their wild surroundings. Conservation travel is imperative to the future of nature in Madagascar. And when you travel with us, you're central to that mission.





- Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Photography Adventure
  With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.
- Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

  We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home.

  Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.
- Natural Habitat Adventures Is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner

  Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



# Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$17495 (+Air)

**Group Size:** Limited to 8 Travelers

# Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 17, 2026	Jun 30, 2026	\$17495 USD (+internal air)
Aug 5, 2026	Aug 18, 2026	\$17495 USD (+internal air)
Sep 9, 2026	Sep 22, 2026	\$17495 USD (+internal air)
Oct 14, 2026	Oct 27, 2026	\$17495 USD (+internal air)
Nov 11, 2026	Nov 24, 2026	\$17495 USD (+internal air)

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes			
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2027					
Jun 16, 2027	Jun 29, 2027	\$16995 USD (+internal air)			
Sep 8, 2027	Sep 21, 2027	\$16995 USD (+internal air)			
Oct 13, 2027	Oct 26, 2027	\$16995 USD (+internal air)			
Nov 10 2027	Nov 23 2027	\$16995 USD (+internal air)			





#### **Pricing**

See https://nathab.com/africa/madagascar-wildlife-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

#### **Included**

- > Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and camp staff all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees
- > Internal air cost includes: All charter flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

#### Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

# **Important Information About This Trip**

Madagascar's varied ecosystems offer a range of nature encounters. We will hike in rainforests (which can be hot and humid), take boat rides to view wildlife, and we may have the chance to snorkel, for those who desire. Participation in all physical activities is optional. We ask our guests to understand that the accommodations in Madagascar are not, collectively, of the standard that may be found in other more established African safari countries. Some lodgings are relatively luxurious while others are plain but clean and comfortable. In all cases, we have selected the best accommodation available at each location. Changes to the itinerary may occur in order to take advantage of conditions unique to the season and/or to accommodate unexpected internal chartered flight schedule changes; therefore, itineraries may on occasion need to be rerouted or redesigned without notice.

## **Mandatory Insurance**

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.





### **Getting There & Getting Home**

This trip begins and ends in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Because it's a long international journey, we recommend arriving one night before Day 1 to rest and start the trip refreshed. We do not suggest arriving more than one day early, as we cannot provide custom activities before the program begins. Recommended hotels for early arrivals will be listed in your pre-departure materials.

You must **arrive in Antananarivo by 5 pm on Day 1** to attend the 7 pm welcome dinner.

**Flight Note:** Airlink—the only airline with direct service between Johannesburg and Antananarivo—flies only on **Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday** in 2026.

If flying via Johannesburg, you must **arrive there by 7 am on Wednesday (Day 1)** to make the connection and reach Antananarivo in time.

You may depart Antananarivo anytime after 2 pm on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



#### **Extension Details:**

Wild Cape Coast Extension \$2995

**Cape Town Extension** \$1995

Namibia Desert Extension \$5795

**Sabi Sand Extension** \$4395

Secluded Botswana Photo Expedition

\$21995

Kenya Migration Photo Expedition \$16495

Ultimate Gorilla Photo Expedition \$18795

Secluded Botswana Safari \$18995

The Great Kenya Migration Safari \$11995

# **Madagascar Wildlife Photo Expedition Extensions**

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#### Wild Cape Coast Extension

From our luxury ecolodge base on the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, explore pristine coastal wilderness including the rare Cape Floral plant kingdom and Stony Point penguin colony. \$2995



#### **Cape Town Extension**

Discover one of the world's most entrancing cities and its natural environs. Survey the view from Table Mountain, explore the Cape Peninsula, visit Cape Point Nature Reserve, see penguins at Boulders Beach, and tour the Winelands. \$1995



#### **Namibia Desert Extension**

Namibia's towering sand dunes, arid canyons and desertadapted wildlife offer a distinct contrast to other southern Africa safari destinations—look for endangered black rhino, desert elephant and more.

**\$5795** (+air)





The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari \$14495



#### Sabi Sand Extension

An exclusive safari experience on a 160,000-acre private reserve that's one of Africa's best places to spot the famous Big Five—choose among intimate luxury camps and secluded boutique lodges.

\$4395



#### **Secluded Botswana Photo Expedition**

Our premier African photo safari, for just eight guests. This intimate, expertly guided adventure in the Okavango Delta and beyond focuses on uncrowded private reserves where wildlife is prolific—plus a doors-off helicopter flight!

\$21995 (+air)



#### **Kenya Migration Photo Expedition**

Capture incredible close-ups of the planet's greatest migration from our private mobile camps, as thousands of wildebeest and zebra traverse the Maasai Mara plains with stealthy predators in pursuit.

**\$16495** (+air)



#### **Ultimate Gorilla Photo Expedition**

The ultimate primate photography safari! Get captivating shots of mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, golden monkeys and more on multiple treks into their wild rainforest habitat in both Uganda and Rwanda.

**\$18795** (+air/permit)



#### **Secluded Botswana Safari**

Our flagship Botswana safari—for just seven guests! A truly exclusive wilderness immersion in the Okavango Delta's best private wildlife reserves and beyond, plus Victoria Falls. **\$18995** (+air)



#### The Great Kenya Migration Safari

Experience one of the world's most incredible wildlife events in Africa's most classic safari destination—Kenya, home to the massive movement of creatures that is the Great Migration! \$11995 (+air)



#### The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari

On rainforest treks, revel in face-to-face encounters with endangered mountain gorillas and see chimpanzees in Kibale Forest as we explore Uganda's diverse natural wonders. **\$14495** (+air/permits)





#### Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

Natural Habitat Adventures • PO Box 3065 · Boulder, CO USA 80307 USA & Canada: 800-543-8917• International: 303-449-3711

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