

Klaus Sperling



Greetings!

His amazing background means Klaus always provides a fascinating insight into the history of Madagascar. He enjoys adding extra touches to the trips he leads – perhaps a cooking class or a visit to a local family's house – which give our clients a feeling for Malagasy life.

My name is Klaus Sperling and I am co-founder and managing director of roadhouse. The people and the nature of Madagascar fascinated me in a way that is was a logic decision to leave Germany and to settle down here. I travelled lots throughout the whole country and we started in 1999 to offer high value tours to Madagascar. I work also as tour designer and tour manager.

I lead cycling tours and tours to remote areas like the Masoala rainforest, the Central highlands or to the Antandroy region in the great south and of course down the Tsiribihina River.

Interview with Klaus Sperling

What do you like most about living in Madagascar?

The first time I touched the ground here I knew already 'This will not be the only time for me in Madagascar. I will come back'. From the beginning on my feeling was comfortable. Later people and nature of Madagascar fascinated me in a way that is was a logic decision to leave Germany and to settle down here. Then I experienced some exiting adventures. Even I live in one of the most important towns of Madagascar the way of life reminds more than on the countryside.



On the way to the Tsingy de Bemaraha

What do you like most about working as tour manager and why would you recommend people travel to Madagascar.

I like to show people our country as it is. Real Malagasy life, with all its subtle play of light and shade. Therefore we go often to less common places, beside the beaten tracks.

I also like to meet lots of different nationalities. Exchange information about our different countries.

I travelled lots throughout the whole country and remote areas. I lead tours to the Masoala rainforest, Central highlands or to the Antandroy region and of course down the Tsiribihina River. And in remote areas we often experience Malagasy culture and tradition as well as artwork in a way we'll never can do in the towns. People may travel to Madagascar as here they experience things they can find nowhere else in the world. That's what I like most.

Tell us about an amazing wildlife encounter or exciting culture you've personally experienced in our country, about some of the unbelievable things that our passengers will see during our trip.

Madagascar is a stronghold for a wide diversity. Impressive are the different species of lemurs. First I think on the Indri, also called 'Babakoto', with its huge jumps and its loud, distinctive songs. Also our four endemic land tortoises species, all highly endangered. Great experience is also to visit non-governmental organisation, regardless their activity. Traditional handicraft shops, out on the countryside. There we still can find traditional woodcarvings, impossible to find in any handicraft shop in town. The Tsiribihina River, rural life adventure in western Madagascar. And last not least enjoying breathtaking landscapes running on a bike. Far away from the modern comforts of daily life, Madagascar will be an unforgettable experience.

We would like to know about some details as how do you prepare a tour, the way you prepare yourself to meet different nationalities with different behaviour, your language skills and your personal advanced training.

Most important is to know as much as possible about our future passengers. As more detailed information is, as better can I prepare a tour. Beside some general information we also like to know interests, preferences etc. Furthermore it depends on the idea and goal of the tour. I remind me what I know about the nationality of our passengers, similarities and differences of their country to Madagascar. But finally everybody is unique. I speak English and French, as well as Malagasy.



Chameleon Stop on a cycling tour.

Tell us some words about your career progression, how you came to us and your personal goals in your professional life.

During my long years in Germany I worked in different jobs, mostly employed. Later I worked for a German tour operator to South America. Coming to Madagascar I stayed in business. This allowed me to to earn our live here. In 1999 we started to offer high value tours to Madagascar. Our company, 'roadhouse' is a family based small tour operator company. Step by step we covered the whole country by running our tours, always an aspect to adventure, wildlife and culture. As managing director of 'roadhouse' I occupy corporate strategy, I design itineraries and tours and keep the contact to our business partners inside and outside of Madagascar. I am the oldest and most experienced staffs of 'roadhouse'. Another goal in my professional life is now to establish the basis to make room for a successor and to hand over a well-established company in time.



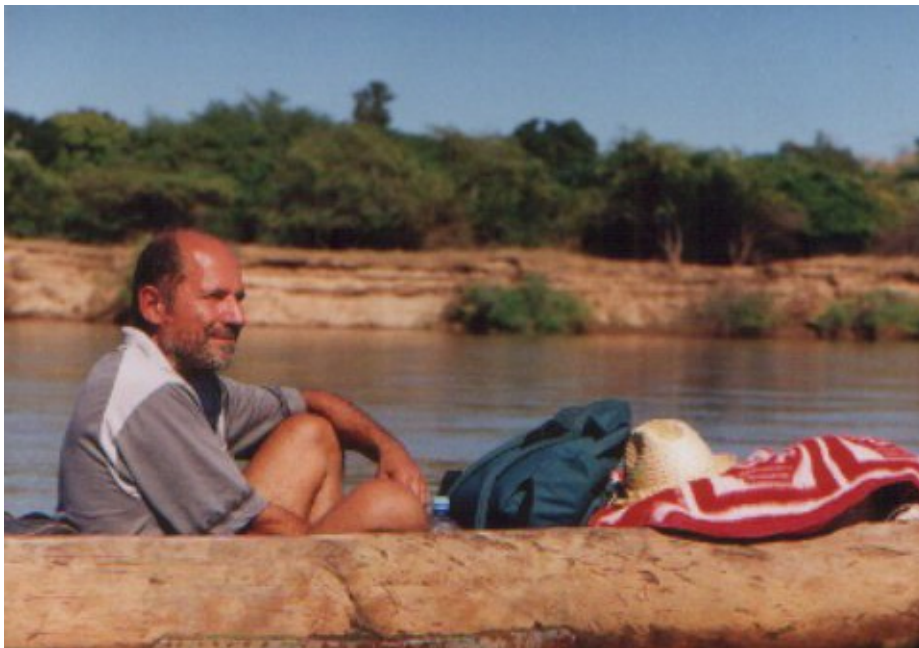
...Bob Hywl...

You work in high season for some month very hard and without stop, in low season you have much more free time four your private interest, your family, your hobbies. Please let us know in some words.

In low season there is in fact a bit more free time as in high or peak season. However, I'm occupied with office jobs then. On the weekend we, me and my family, often walk out to the countryside, to visit friends and family. Sometimes I indulge in sweet idleness on an idyllic lake and enjoy the beauties of nature out there. I like having time for me, reading a book, watch a movie or listen to music. And sometimes, on the weekend or for dinner I cook our meal.

Any dreams for Madagascar, final thoughts, words of inspiration or just something you need to get off your chest. We're listening.

We have to keep in view the welfare of humankind and discuss openly about differences in interpretation. Experiences, freedom, dreams, discovery, shared enjoyment.



...on the Tsiribihina...

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