



LEFT TO RIGHT An owl peeks from dense foliage in the Isalo reserve in southwestern Madagascar. + A chameleon stays motionless on a branch in the Isalo reserve in southwestern Madagascar. + A ring-tailed lemur hides behind a branch at the Vakona reserve.

MADAGASCAR

Island of wonders



Three girls run along the road in southern Madagascar.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Trip shifts paradigm for traveler

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Arriving on the island of Madagascar was a bit like being thrown headlong into a Dr. Seuss book.

Everything seemed strangely unfamiliar — plants and animals, culture and language. My husband Bill and I didn't realize it then, but the next two weeks would change us more than we could know.

Madagascar isn't an easy vacation destination. For ease, stick to Waikiki or Cabo. It isn't a short jaunt — Madagascar is a 12-hour flight from Europe. We traveled to Madagascar to photograph lemurs and baobab trees and the rainforest — which we did — but we also came face to face with poverty and an exuberant enjoyment of life that defies explanation.

See **MADAGASCAR/4C**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A trio of baobab trees stand like sentinels.



Photo by Bill Aney

Everyone gets in on the action: A lemur checks out Kathy Aney's camera during her recent visit to Madagascar while her husband, Bill Aney, takes a turn behind the lens.

Glossary

Zebu — Humped cattle used for meat, milk and agricultural work.

Malagasy — The language of Madagascar or a resident of the island nation.

Antananrivo (Tan) — Madagascar's capitol city and home to 1.4 million people.

Andasibe National Park — Sixty-square-mile forest reserve in eastern Madagascar, home to many species of lemur.

Baobab — Prehistoric tree species that lives up to 5,000 years.

"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware."

Martin Buber, German philosopher