



# MADAGASCAR







## WELCOME

Madagascar is an eco-traveller's dream. From endless rainforests filled with endemic plants, rare birds, and endangered animals, to the white-sand beaches of the Malagasy islands and limestone karst formations of Ankarana, the island is an explosion of nature at each turn. Cut off from the African mainland 165 million years ago, Madagascar evolved in isolation, leading to many unique and endemic species. The superstars of this wild performance are the endangered lemur, of which 90 percent of the surviving global population is found only here.



## PASSPORT AND VISA

A passport valid for at least six months after the departure date is required for entry into Madagascar.

A tourist visa is required for all visitors and can be obtained upon arrival at Ivato International Airport in Antananarivo.

### VISA FEES

- 1-month visa: €20
- 2-month visa: €25

Payment must be made in cash, in either Euros (€) or US Dollars (\$). Change will be given in Ariary (MGA), the local currency. To obtain a visa, travelers must present a valid return ticket.

## LUGGAGE

The luggage limit on internal flights is limited to 20kgs for most flights. Bring one medium-sized soft bag (or two small size bags). Important: Please do not bring hard suitcases as these are difficult to pack into a small aircraft. Please check your airlines' guidelines before packing. As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack a change of clothing, toiletry items, and personal medication and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag during your international flights.

## CURRENCY AND PAYMENTS

The currency in Madagascar is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA). Visa cards are widely accepted in urban areas. Master card payments are accepted at some hotels. As some hotels do not except credit/debit cards, we do recommend to bring cash as well.

## TIME ZONE

Madagascar is in the GMT +3 time zone and mostly follows the Gregorian calendar.

## LANGUAGE

The main languages spoken in Madagascar are Malagasy and French.



## HEALTH AND IMMUNISATIONS

A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is no longer mandatory in order to enter Madagascar, but if you've recently travelled to a country where it is present you will need proof of immunisation. There's a risk of catching malaria in certain parts of Madagascar. Please discuss Madagascar specifically with your doctor and don't just say 'Africa.' Make sure to consult your doctor or travel clinic beforehand to ensure you are adequately prepared.

## ELECTRICITY / VOLTAGE

All electrical appliances run on 220V. Outlets are round 2-pin European plugs. Plugs used in Madagascar are type C and Type E.

## SAFETY

For the most part, travelling in Madagascar is safe, but you should take the same necessary measures as you would in any foreign country (see below). Basic safety rules for travellers to Madagascar are:

- While on tour stay with your guide at all times
- Make a copy of your passport and keep it in your luggage
- Watch out for pickpockets in Antananarivo
- Don't carry too much cash with you
- Avoid travel at night because roads are perilously filled with potholes, livestock, and broken vehicles

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Adequate medical and travel insurance is mandatory. Please keep a copy of your travel documents, and we recommend leaving a second copy with family or friends back home in case of emergencies. Please indicate your emergency contact in your Wild Expeditions booking form.

## PACKING LIST

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • 2-3 pairs of shorts                         | • Hats or caps  | • glasses                                    |
| • 5-6 cotton short sleeved shirts or T-shirts | • 1 lightweight jacket  | • Camera                                     |
| • Bathing suits                               | • 1 Raincoat  | • Lightweight backpack                       |
| • 2 sweaters and 1 sweatshirt                 | • 2 long sleeve shirts  | • Contact lenses and ample cleaning solution |
| • 2 pairs casual trousers                     | • Pocket umbrella   | • Lightweight flashlight                     |
| • 1 Fleece jacket                             | • Sandals or flip flops   | • Lotions, moisturiser, hand sanitiser       |
| • Underwear and socks                         | • Any special medications or prescriptions (you may not be able to obtain these while travelling) | • Binoculars                                 |
| • Sunglasses                                  | • Extra pair of prescription  | • Basic hiking first aid kit                 |
| • Sunscreen                                   |   |  |
| • Walking shoes                               |   |  |

*\*\* Many activities take place in forests, near rivers and along the beaches. It's a good idea to keep quick drying clothing items and shoes top of mind when packing.*



## GRATUITIES / TIPPING

In Madagascar, gratuities are appreciated and it is totally at your discretion based on your experience and service levels. Below is a rough guide:

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|--|---|
| • Tour guides – 10 to 20 Euros per day | • Porters and housekeepers – 1- 2 Euro                                |
| • Hotel staff – 10 to 20 Euros per day | • Restaurants – 10% of the bill (if a service charge is not included) |
| • Tour driver – 10 Euros per day       | • Taxis – not required, but a generosity is appreciated               |



## CLIMATE

Madagascar has a wide range of climates and habitats. The central highlands are hot and dry. Andasibe-Mantadia (comprising Analamazaotra National Park and Mantadia National Park) and Ranomafana National Park, some of the country's most popular parks, have a similar climate. The eastern part of Madagascar, which includes Masoala National Park and Palmarium Reserve receive significantly more rainfall. Parks in this region include Ankarafantsika and Bemaraha National Park, Ankarana Special Reserve and Kirindy Forest. The driest and hottest of all is the southwest of the island, which includes Berenty Private Reserve, Ifotaka Forest, Tsimanampetsotsa National Park and Cap Sainte Marie Special Reserve. Madagascar's most popular beach destination, Nosy Be, has a hot, tropical climate year-round with regular downpours from December to March. The average annual temperatures vary between 23°C and 27°C along the coast and between 16°C and 19°C in the central mountains.

## SENSITIVITY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

As stunning and captivating as the surroundings may be, always ensure you have permission before photographing private areas or individuals.

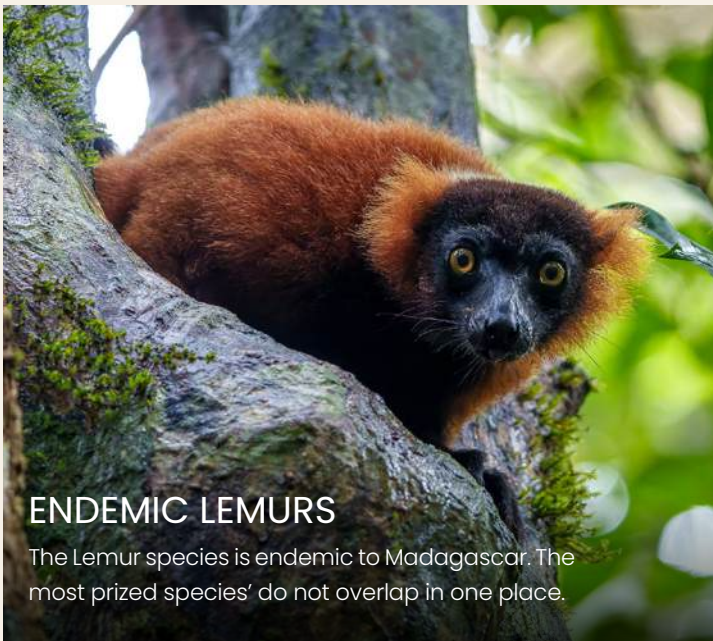
## FADY

Madagascar is regulated by numerous taboos, known as "Fady". In case you travel to a new region, try to get information about local Fady before you go. Some Fady relates to forbidden food (pork, lemur and turtle), some prohibit wearing certain coloured clothing and forbid bathing in rivers. In the city center it's not really enforced, so be aware when travelling from one region to another on the island.

## INTERNET AND COMMUNICATIONS

The country code for Madagascar is +261. Cell phone reception is not always available, especially in remote areas.

Good WIFI is provided by most hotels. If you do not get an email reply from someone in Madagascar try contacting the company on Facebook.



### ENDEMIC LEMURS

The Lemur species is endemic to Madagascar. The most prized species' do not overlap in one place.



### CHAMELEONS

Madagascar is one of 18 countries in the world considered to be "megadiverse." More than half the world's chameleons occur here

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

**Wild Expeditions Reservations:** +27 (0) 82 401 7035