

We Know MADAGASCAR



Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world, split off from the African continent millenniums ago. It is a land of striking contrasts, home to flora and fauna found nowhere else, with over 70 varieties of lemur, including one that sounds like a police siren, the world's biggest and smallest chameleons, prized orchids and brilliantly plumed birds.

MADAGASCAR

Useful Information



CLIMATE

Madagascar has two seasons: a hot, rainy season from November to April; and a cooler, dry season from May to October. Hail is common in many of the higher areas of the island (including Antananarivo).

Antananarivo is subtropical, with a cool, dry period from June to August and a warm, rainy period from November to March. Its average annual rainfall is 55 inches.

CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The monetary unit is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA). Euros are widely accepted, but US dollars and GBP are easily changed in Antananarivo, major cities and tourist areas.

Credit cards are rarely accepted, except at some larger hotels, at Air Madagascar offices and at some larger travel agencies. Visa is the most common card accepted, but not everywhere, and offers more possibilities than Master Card or American Express. Visa and MasterCard can be used at some banks to obtain cash (in Ariary). Major banks change cash in major currencies. Check with your bank for any fees you may be charged. Note: If carrying cash, it is recommended that you take only recently minted U.S. currency.

The foreign-exchange counter at Ivato Airport has exchange rates that are just as good as those at the banks and is usually open for international flight arrivals. Ariary can be converted back into hard currency prior to leaving Madagascar. You will not be able to convert it back outside of Madagascar.

SHOPPING HOURS

Shopping hours vary in Madagascar, but in general, shopping hours are:

Monday - Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm – 6:00pm. Saturday around 8:00am – 11:00 am.

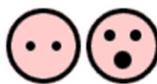
LANGUAGE

Malagasy is the official language; French the business language and English is spoken in the tourism industry. It is advisable to take a French-English phrase book with you if you are unable to speak French.

VOLTAGE

The electrical current is 220 volts. Electric outlets follow the European two-prong round plugs and an adapter to convert the plug of your razor or hair dryer is required.

ELECTRICAL PLUGS



127/220V 50Hz





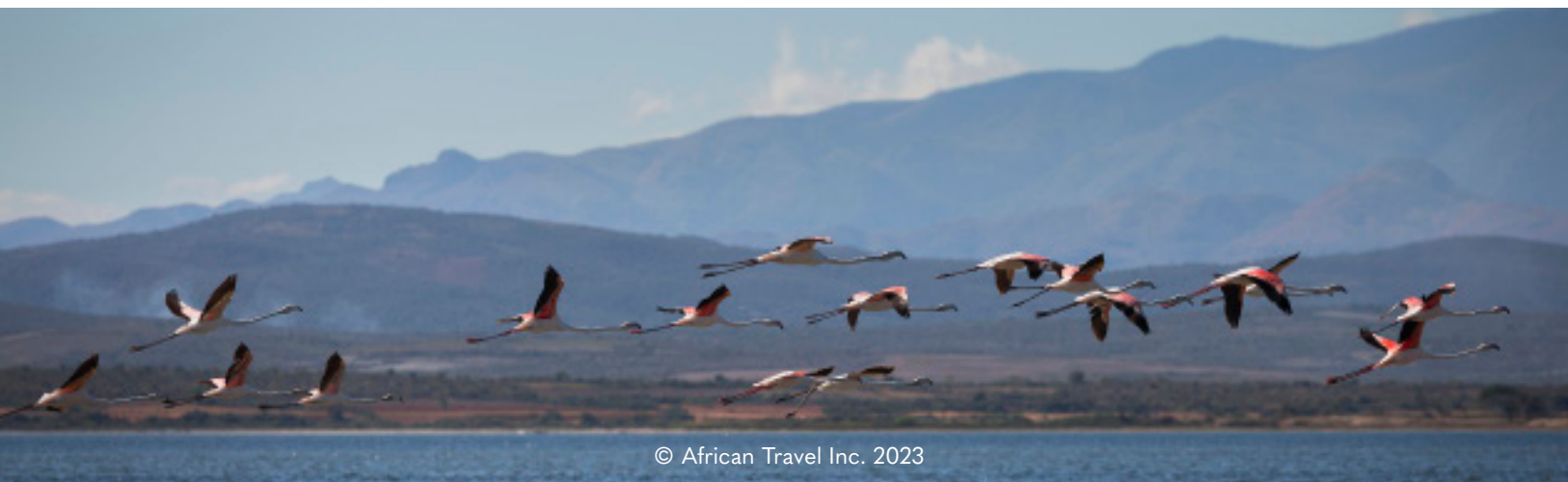
PHOTOGRAPHY

Madagascar is a photographer's dream and there are no restrictions for bringing photographic equipment into Madagascar. Flash photography is prohibited when with the lemurs.

Visitors should respect the outlook of the local people towards photography and only use cameras if they have permission from the person or people the picture is being taken. Never try to "steal" a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let your tour guide or escort help you negotiate terms before you start shooting! It is also against the law to take photographs of border posts, persons in uniform, and of course, military and government installations.

TRAVEL NOTE

Be cautious while traveling in Madagascar. Wear a money belt and leave valuables with hotel reception or in your room safe. Do not leave your possessions unattended anywhere, even on tables in restaurants or in hotel dining rooms! Do not walk alone during hours of darkness. Take a taxi where possible.



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