

# Madagascar

## Information for applicants

### Madagascar

After Indonesia, Madagascar is the second largest island state in the world. This presidential republic with its multiparty system lies in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa. Madagascar is the fourth largest island on earth, having broken off from Africa some 150 million years ago and from India around 90 million years ago. This separation enabled the island to develop a unique and fascinatingly diverse plant and animal life, which is why it is sometimes referred to as the 'eighth continent'. The official languages spoken on Madagascar are Malagasy and French. The currency is the Ariary.

### Climate and sights

Madagascar is in the tropical region of the South Equatorial Current, which means precipitation decreases continuously from east to southwest. The west coast has only 500 millimetres of rain a year while on the east coast it can be up to 4,000 millimetres, depending on the region. The average annual temperature is 25°C. Temperatures on the coast are higher, while in the country's upland interior they can fall to below freezing. Summer is the tropical rainy season and winter the dry season. Madagascar has thousands of endemic animal species, rain forests, beaches and reefs. Close to the busy capital of Antananarivo lies the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, replete with palaces and burial sites, as well as a number of beautiful national parks that can be reached in a couple hours' drive, making them ideal for a weekend trip.

### Medical care

The medical infrastructure in Madagascar is not comparable to European standards and in large parts inadequate. Outside the capital, medical care is very rudimentary and access to medication or medical help can be very problematic. In any case, it is advisable to take a first aid kit with you to treat the most important symptoms, such as diarrhoea, vomiting, inflammations, malaria etc.)

### Accommodation and quality of life

Antananarivo's housing market boasts numerous houses and apartments ranging from EUR 400 to over EUR 2,000. Flat-shares are also offered in major cities. Rents vary widely and depend on the location and size of the accommodation. At locations outside Antananarivo, rental costs for comparable housing are usually lower.

In the capital city there are tennis courts, swimming baths, gyms, a cinema, horse riding facilities and a large number of international restaurants.

The highlands are wonderful for hiking and climbing, while the tourist areas along the coast offer a chance to go swimming, surfing – including kitesurfing – snorkelling, fishing and diving.

## Shopping and services

The various supermarkets in the capital sell almost all products to European standards. Furthermore, busy local markets that sell fresh and cheap fruit and vegetables can be found throughout the country.

## Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners have to be married in order to obtain a permanent residence permit. Non-married partners can only enter the country on a tourist visa and have to leave every three months in order to get it renewed.

It is possible to have a national contract of employment with an international organisation. The employer has to apply for the residence and work permits. This requires the applicant to leave the country and re-enter it on a new visa.

**Schools and childcare:** There is a German-speaking pre-school in Ivato, around 16 km from Antananarivo. The capital city itself does have a French lycée (up to baccalaureate/A-level), an American school (also up to A-level) and a British school (from kindergarden to British A-Levels). Annual expat fluctuation means that the schools generally always have vacancies. Most of the larger provincial towns have French schools, too.

## Find out more

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gascar-node](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/madagascar-node)

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