



MadagasCaT (Pty) Ltd

Making it happen since 2008

MADAGASCAT TRAVELLER INFORMATION GUIDE



Welcome

Thank you for booking your Madagascar adventure with MadagasCaT.

This guide contains practical information to help you prepare for your journey. Madagascar is one of the world's most unique destinations and rewards travellers who arrive with a spirit of adventure, flexibility and curiosity.

Should you have any questions before departure, please do not hesitate to contact us.\

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Passport Requirements

Your passport must:

- Be valid for at least six months after your departure from Madagascar
- Have at least two blank pages available

Please check your passport well in advance of travel.

www.madagascats.co.za | info@madagascats.co.za | Tel + 27 (0) 84 524 9706

Registration Number: 2025/172231/07

Visa Requirements

Tourist visas are issued on arrival in Madagascar.

Current visa fees are:

- Up to 15 days: €25
- 16–30 days: €35
- 31–60 days: €40
- 61–90 days: €50

We recommend carrying cash Euros for your visa, although card payments are sometimes accepted.

Visa regulations and fees may change without notice and we will advise you of any updates before departure.

Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is essential.

We strongly recommend cover that includes:

- Medical expenses
- Emergency medical evacuation
- Trip cancellation
- Curtailment
- Lost luggage

Please note that many travellers assume their credit card provides sufficient travel insurance. In reality, cover can be limited and may not include cancellation, curtailment or emergency evacuation. We recommend reviewing any credit card insurance carefully and arranging additional cover where necessary.

MadagasCaT is an authorised Hollard Travel Insurance agent and can provide a quotation upon request.

ARRIVING IN MADAGASCAR

Upon arrival:

1. Complete immigration formalities
2. Pay for your visa
3. Collect your luggage
4. Proceed through customs
5. Look for your driver or guide holding a sign with your name

Please do not accept transport offers from unofficial taxi drivers.

HEALTH & MEDICAL INFORMATION

Vaccinations

No vaccinations are currently required for entry into Madagascar unless arriving from a Yellow Fever risk country, in which case proof of vaccination may be required.

Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for professional advice.

Malaria

Malaria occurs in parts of Madagascar.

The Nosy Be area is considered very low risk, but other regions may present a higher risk, particularly during the wetter months from December to April.

We recommend:

- Using insect repellent
- Wearing long sleeves and trousers after sunset
- Sleeping under mosquito nets where provided
- Consulting your doctor regarding malaria prophylaxis

Medication

Please bring:

- Any prescription medication required for the duration of your trip
- A small first-aid kit
- Motion sickness tablets if travelling by boat
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitiser

Drinking Water

We recommend drinking bottled or filtered water throughout your stay.

Most hotels, lodges and charter boats provide/sell safe drinking water. Avoid drinking tap water unless specifically advised otherwise.

Ice served at reputable hotels and lodges is generally safe.

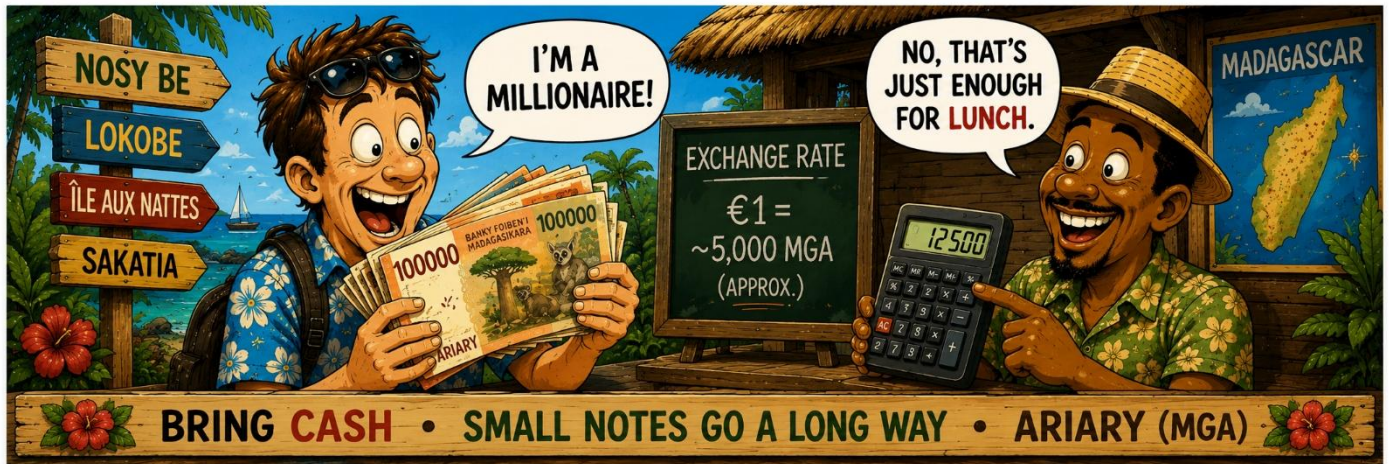
Luggage

Soft-sided luggage is strongly recommended.

Many domestic flights have strict baggage allowances and soft luggage is easier to transport on boats and smaller aircraft.

Please refer to your itinerary for any specific baggage restrictions.

MONEY MATTERS



Currency

The local currency is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA).

Cash or Card?

We recommend travelling with:

- A credit card
- Some Euros in cash
- Local Ariary for day-to-day spending

Credit cards are accepted by some hotels and larger establishments, but cash remains essential throughout Madagascar.

Please note that card machines occasionally experience connectivity issues.

ATMs

ATMs are available at international airports and in larger towns.

We recommend withdrawing Ariary on arrival and carrying sufficient cash when travelling to remote areas.

Exchanging Money

- Euros are generally the preferred foreign currency.
- Never exchange money on the street.
- Use official exchange facilities or ATMs.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

Tipping is discretionary but appreciated.

Suggested guidelines:

Hotel porter:

5,000 Ariary per bag

Restaurant:

Approximately 10% where service has been good

National Park Guide:

15,000–20,000 Ariary per day

Private Guide:

30,000 Ariary per day

Driver on private guided tours:

15,000 Ariary per day

Lodge Staff

Many lodges provide a communal staff tip box. Contributions are shared amongst housekeeping,

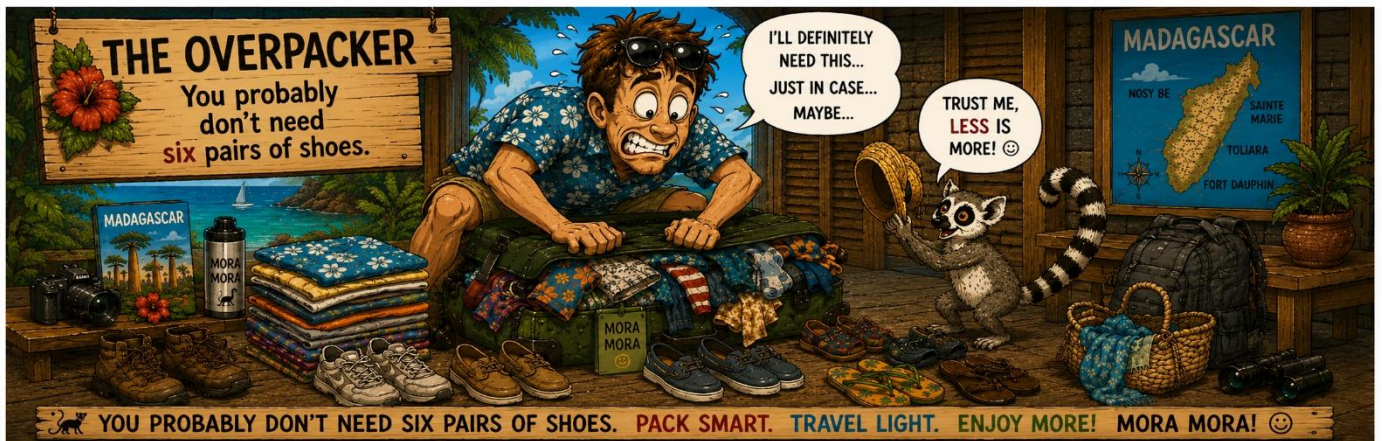
€5 per guest per day placed in the communal staff tip box where available

Charter Crew

For guests travelling on yacht charters, a gratuity of approximately €12–€15 per crew member per day, from the group as a whole, is customary where service has been good. This is entirely at your discretion but is greatly appreciated by the crew. Please tip each crew member equally.

These amounts are intended only as a guide and may be adjusted according to the level of service received.

WHAT TO PACK



Clothing

Lightweight clothing

Swimwear

Hat

Light fleece for cooler evenings

Rain jacket (particularly December–March)

Comfortable walking shoes

Sunglasses

Sandals or water shoes

Sarongs

Essential Items

Insect repellent

Power bank

Camera

Headlamp or small torch

Personal medication

Universal travel adaptor

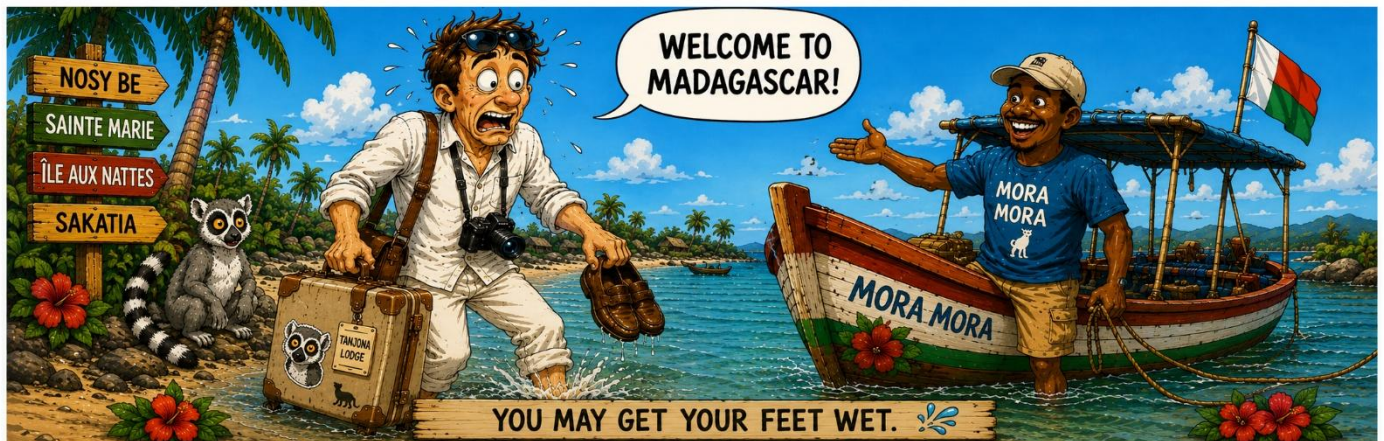
Sunscreen

Binoculars

Refillable water bottle

Waterproof bag for electronics

For Island Transfers & Charters



Please note that you may get your feet wet when boarding boats.

This applies to many island properties, yacht charters and certain transfers.

We recommend:

- Easy-to-remove footwear
- Shorts or lightweight clothing for travel days
- Soft luggage where possible

ELECTRICITY

Electricity supply is generally:

220V

European-style two-pin plugs are used throughout Madagascar.

A universal adaptor is recommended.

Power outages occasionally occur, particularly in remote regions.

INTERNET & COMMUNICATIONS

Wi-Fi is available at most hotels, boats and lodges, although speeds can vary considerably.

In remote areas:

- Connections may be slow
- Wi-Fi may only be available in public areas
- Mobile coverage may be limited

Local SIM cards can be purchased on arrival in Tana if required.

SAFETY

Madagascar is generally a friendly and welcoming destination.

As with travel anywhere:

- Avoid displaying expensive jewellery
- Keep valuables secure
- Use hotel safes where available
- Avoid walking alone at night in urban areas
- Follow the advice of your guide

SHOPPING

Popular souvenirs include:

Raffia products (*the word 'raffia' is the only Malagasy word that has made it into the English Language*)

Vanilla (only from reputable suppliers)

Green peppercorns

Essential oils

Local artwork

Sakay chilli

Handcrafted zebu horn products

Hand-embroidered textiles

Please note that the export of shells, corals and certain wildlife products is prohibited.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS & ROAD TRAVEL



Madagascar is a large island and travel often takes longer than visitors expect.

Road conditions can vary significantly and domestic flight schedules occasionally change at short notice.

These realities are part of travelling in Madagascar and we encourage a flexible mindset.

Our team closely monitors all arrangements and will assist should changes become necessary.

MALAGASY CULTURE & ETIQUETTE

The Malagasy people are among the warmest and most welcoming people in the world.

A few simple guidelines:

- Always ask before photographing people
- Dress respectfully in villages
- Respect local customs and taboos (known as fady)
- Learn a few Malagasy greetings
- A smile goes a very long way

ADDITIONAL AIRLINK SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Travellers carrying diving or fishing equipment may qualify for Airlink's complimentary 15kg sporting equipment allowance.

Please advise us before travel should you wish us to arrange this on your behalf.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

MadagasCaT

Harriet Millson

WhatsApp: +27 84 524 9706

Email: info@madagascats.co.za

Your local guide and accommodation contact details will be included in your personalised travel documents.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Madagascar is not a destination that can be fully understood through photographs or guidebooks. It is a country of extraordinary wildlife, dramatic landscapes and unforgettable people.

Travel here can sometimes be unpredictable, but those who embrace the experience are rewarded with memories that last a lifetime.

We wish you a wonderful journey and thank you for choosing MadagasCaT.

Madagascar! Not just a destination but a life changing experience!