

MADAGASCAR

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++261

Ministry of Tourism: BP 610 Tsimbazaza 101 Antananarivo Tel: 2022-26298 Fax: 2022-26710

Capital: Antananarivo **Time:** GMT + 3

Background: Formerly an independent kingdom, Madagascar became a French colony in 1886, but regained its independence in 1960. During 1992-93, free presidential and National Assembly elections were held, ending 17 years of single-party rule.

Location: Southern Africa, island in the Indian Ocean, east of Mozambique

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 587,040 sq km land: 581,540 sq km water: 5,500 sq km

Climate: tropical along coast, temperate inland, arid in south

Terrain: narrow coastal plain, high plateau and mountains in center

Natural Resources: graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, salt, quartz, tar sands, semiprecious stones, mica, fish, hydropower

Population: 15,506,472 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Malagasy (singular and plural) adjective: Malagasy

Ethnic Groups: Malayo-Indonesian (Merina and related Betsileo), Cotiers (mixed African, Malayo-Indonesian, and Arab ancestry - Betsimisaraka, Tsimihety, Antaisaka, Sakalava), French, Indian, Creole, Comoran

Religions: indigenous beliefs 52%, Christian 41%, Muslim 7%

Languages: French (official), Malagasy (official)

Economy: Madagascar faces problems of chronic malnutrition, underfunded health and education facilities, a roughly 3% annual population growth rate, and severe loss of forest cover, accompanied by erosion. Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is the mainstay of the economy, accounting for 34% of GDP and contributing more than 70% to export earnings. Industry features textile manufacturing and the processing of agricultural products. Growth in output in 1992-97 averaged less than the growth rate of the population. Growth has been held back by antigovernment strikes and demonstrations, a decline in world coffee demand, and the erratic commitment of the government to economic reform. Formidable obstacles stand in the way of Madagascar's realizing its considerable growth potential; the extent of government reforms, outside financial aid, and foreign investment will be key determinants. Growth should be in the 5% range in 2000-01.

Industries: meat processing, soap, breweries, tanneries, sugar, textiles, glassware, cement, automobile assembly plant, paper, petroleum, tourism

Currency: 1 Malagasy franc (FMG) = 100 centimes

Railways: total: 883 km narrow gauge: 883 km 1.000-m gauge (1994)

Highways: total: 49,837 km paved: 5,781 km unpaved: 44,056 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: of local importance only; isolated streams and small portions of Lakandranon' Ampangalana (Canal des Pangalanes)

Ports and Harbors: Antsiranana, Antsohimbondrona, Mahajanga, Toamasina, Toliara

Airports: 133 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 29 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 20 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 104 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 914 to 1,523 m: 59 under 914 m: 42 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all

Duty Free: goods permitted: 500 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 500g of tobacco, 1 bottle of alcohol

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers arriving from infected areas. Malaria risk throughout the year. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated

ANTANANARIVO

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HOTEL MERCURE PALISSANDRE, 13 Rue Andriandahifotsy, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar, Main phone: +261 (20) 222-0300, Main fax: +261 (20) 226-0562

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NOSY BE

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