



seed **madagascar**

sustainable environment, education & development



# **SURVIVAL GUIDE**

## **SEED Madagascar Conservation**

## **Volunteering Programme**

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## **Welcome to SEED Madagascar's award-winning Conservation Volunteering Programme!**

We are a small, UK registered, grassroots charity, offering you the chance to experience and learn directly from the front line of our conservation work. SEED is committed to delivering well-managed projects with real impacts on the ground in Madagascar, and as a volunteer you will be participating in delivering these projects. From the moment you arrive in Fort Dauphin, you will be welcomed by our team and the community whom we have worked alongside for over 20 years. We invest all our profits from our volunteering scheme into our broad-ranging development projects in Madagascar.

***“For us here in this region, every extra volunteer means extra investment, extra employment and training, and a multitude of benefits.” - Mayor of Fort Dauphin***

You will experience the world from a different perspective, which we hope will provide you memories that last a lifetime and increase your knowledge of both conservation and the Malagasy culture. Life in Madagascar presents many challenges, so it is essential to come with an open mind and a willingness to tackle any obstacles that lie ahead. Your experience may not always be straightforward, but we can promise that it will be extremely rewarding.

This guide aims to fully prepare you for your exciting journey in Madagascar. Our experienced staff in London and Madagascar will support you to prepare for your trip and whilst you are on your placement.

***“Huge thanks to everyone at SEED for looking after me so well and giving me the most amazing opportunity to see Madagascar and contribute, just a little, to their fantastic work here.***

***I couldn't have been better looked after or made to feel part of the team more quickly. Travel constraints meant I could only be in Madagascar for one week, but the team at SEED have made it a really wonderful week! I feel I have seen and done more in the last 5 days than I would have done in a fortnight with anyone else.***

***The passion and dedication that the SEED staff have for Madagascar, and both the wildlife and people of Saint Luce, is clear. If you want to experience Madagascar away from the tourist areas and be part of an organization making a real difference, you couldn't do better than volunteering with SEED.”***

***Emily — Conservation Volunteer  
2019***

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## Meet the Team



**Tsina Endor**  
*Deputy Director*



**Amelia Sandford**  
*Volunteering and Logistics Officer*



**Brooke Friswold**  
*Conservation Research Coordinator*



**Hoby Tsimijaly**  
*Conservation Programme Team Leader*



**Lewis Kramer**  
*Senior Research Assistant*



**Sam Hyde-Roberts**  
*Executive Conservation  
Programme Coordinator*



**Lisa Bass**  
*Director of Operations and Programmes*



**Mark Jacobs**  
*Managing Director*



## How do our projects make a difference?



### Conservation Volunteering Programme

Our conservation projects are located within rare remaining fragments of sandy coastal forest, where very little biodiversity research has been carried out and there is a high risk posed by the local mining industry. We work with the local village community to communicate the consequences of mining and to formulate a strategy to mitigate the negative impacts. The research findings help formulate the conservation strategy which will be key in helping to protect and conserve species before they are lost forever. Volunteers will gain experience in a wide range of practical skills within community development and conservation biology, which is invaluable for anyone looking to pursue a career in these areas, or for those interested in conservation. SEED also runs quarterly afterschool sessions to teach the local children about the importance of the local flora and fauna through activities and lectures relating to current SCRP projects.

## Why are volunteers needed?

**Conservation Volunteers** provide vital support to the long-term research staff with collecting research data on a variety of ecosystems. The more people that help collect data, the more likely we are to record everything in the area and the greater capacity we have in order to achieve more conservation objectives. Data collected on these projects is used to inform and educate governments, businesses and communities responsible for the conservation of these areas and species. Some of our projects include:

- **Long term monitoring of lemurs, amphibians and reptiles**—Creating long term datasets that provide information on population densities, ecological preference of species and changes over time through visual transect surveys.
- **Project Ala**—Increase and improve viable habitat for four endangered species of lemur including a newly discovered mouse lemur in the Sainte Luce littoral forest. This is achieved through the creation of reforested wildlife corridors, coupled with strengthened local and regional capacity to support the conservation of lemurs and their natural habitats.
- **Project Rufus**—Conducting research and education to enhance the long-term survival of Madagascar’s flying fox bats.

Find out more about our current and future projects [here!](#)

*“My time with SEED was unforgettable! There is no place like Madagascar and I was lucky enough to be immersed in the culture and collecting data on the diverse environments for a full 10 weeks.*

*I had a chance to camp in the bush nearby local villages and interact daily with local children, lemurs, and geckos of all sorts. SEED is a wonderful organisation and if you get the chance to volunteer for them - DO IT!*

*The local staff are incredibly educated and friendly, and the international staff make you feel right at home. Camping in the bush is not easy, but I learned so much about the benefits of living a simpler life. Also, Madagascar is simply beautiful, and the beaches are to die for! Your time spent with SEED will not be wasted.”*

*Charlie — Conservation Volunteer 2018*

## Internships and Research



### Conservation Internship

The conservation programme is also offered as an internship for up to 10 weeks, to assist in academic or professional development and/or to gain credits for a college or university course. This is open to anyone, although most interns are students or graduates.

Some universities will provide funding for students wishing to intern with NGOs, but you will have to finance all activities which fall outside of the programme schedule. Activities which fall outside of the day-to-day programme routine will be accommodated where possible, although we cannot make promises since our schedule is busy and so are our staff.

### Conducting Independent Research

We welcome researchers who would like to collect data for a thesis or project. You can either collect data from one of our current projects or conduct research independent of our projects. Depending on the type and length of research, different financial arrangements can be made; we do not ask independent researchers to pay the normal volunteer donation fee. The cost of data collection outside of our projects will need to be covered by the individual. All researchers must submit a proposal for our team to consider and we will endeavor to accommodate your needs and interests where possible. Find previous publications from our conservation team [here](#).

**All interns and researchers must get in touch with our Volunteer Coordinator to discuss your plans. SEED needs to be aware of the requirements for your internship/research to allow us to put you in contact with the necessary team coordinators and decide if it will be possible. If you do not inform us of your needs before your travel, we can give you no guarantees that we will be able to accommodate your requirements!**

*“Madagascar is the most amazing place I’ve been to, and after joining SEED in the summer it is somewhere I’d love to return. It’s such a beautiful country with its biodiversity, friendly people and rich culture but being SEED introduced me to the country in a way I couldn’t have experienced travelling alone. They look after you and make you feel safe, and straight away you can see how the money they raise is making a difference to people and the environment in Madagascar.*

*On the Conservation scheme, having had limited experience in this area, I learnt so much from the placement and enjoyed every minute of it. The tasks were so varied, the food was really good, the people so friendly and everything so cheap. I also came away knowing a bit of Malagasy. If you’re interested in Conservation, their [SEED’S] placement is perfect and I only wish I was there longer.”*

*Daniel — Conservation Volunteer 2016*

## Volunteering with SEED Madagascar - Requirements

Join our fun and dynamic teams where each day and week the activities can vary greatly depending on the current needs of the project. Volunteers work six days a week, starting at 7:00am until 10:30pm with several breaks throughout the day. Work shifts are usually from 7:00-11:45am, 2:00-5:00pm and 6:30-10:30pm - shifts may finish earlier depending on the work being done. We also work a short shift on Saturday morning, but the rest of Saturday and all of Sunday is free. Check out our requirements and the challenges you may face below for the conservation programme:

### Volunteer Requirements

- Be in good physical and mental health
- Be able to communicate in English
- Be open-minded, patient and adaptable
- Be willing to embrace the challenges of the project
- Have an appropriate level of fitness, physical capability and mobility. Conservation work can require long treks on forest trails over rough and uneven ground (up to 10km a day in hot humid conditions)
- Have a positive attitude towards living in a rural setting and working in a team
- Be willing to take WHO approved Malaria Prophylaxis and have all the vaccinations we require (see page XX).

### Challenges you may face when volunteering in Madagascar

<b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot and topical climate with high humidity</li> <li>• Insects and tropical wildlife are common</li> <li>• Language barrier</li> <li>• Attitudes towards time-keeping and plans can be relaxed</li> <li>• Remote locations with limited communications and transport</li> <li>• Basic camping facilities for the duration of the programme</li> <li>• Homestay accommodation</li> <li>• A lack of variety of food</li> <li>• Living in a community with regular power shortages and sporadic supply of water</li> <li>• Living in a low-income tropical coastal town</li> </ul>
<b>Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long hours are sometimes required</li> <li>• Trekking through the forest to the research sites in different weather conditions can be tiring</li> <li>• Physically demanding roles (you can break when you feel it is necessary!)</li> </ul>
<b>Mental/ Emotional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may experience culture shock</li> <li>• You may experience homesickness, this is common in your first few days</li> <li>• Working and living with a diverse group of volunteers from different ages, nationalities and backgrounds</li> </ul>

### Support

*In Madagascar:* you will be fully supported on your placement by our Volunteer Coordinator, the Conservation Research Programme Team and our very experienced local Malagasy Guides.

*In London:* SEED Madagascar UK office staff are available remotely by email or telephone and contactable 24/7 in case of emergency.

## Next Steps and Pre-Departure Checklist

### Application Process

1. Read over the webpages about the conservation volunteering programme at <https://madagascar.co.uk/volunteer>
2. **Apply Online**—Complete the online application form through the website links! We will review your application and usually reply within 48 hours with either a Letter of Acceptance or requesting further clarification
3. **Consider**—Read through this guide thoroughly to understand the environment we work in, challenges and requirements of volunteering with us and steps required to plan your trip. Any questions do not hesitate to contact us!
4. **Book your place**— Once you have received your Letter of Acceptance secure your place with a £200 deposit and submit your online MoU
5. **Confirmation**—We will email you a Letter of Confirmation. Now book your international flights!
6. **Preparation Checklist**—Follow the steps below to get ready to start your volunteer project!

Pre-departure Check List		✓
<b>1-3 months before start date (or as soon as possible)</b>		
To confirm your place:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay your £200 deposit via direct bank transfer or through Charity Checkout</li> <li>• Carefully read and complete the Memorandum of Understanding—the link is in your Acceptance Letter</li> </ul>		
Book international and internal flights (once your place is confirmed)		
Arrange travel insurance		
Visit your doctor or travel clinic to arrange vaccinations and anti-malarials/medications		
Check passport is valid for your period of travel (at least 6 months from entry)		
Arrange criminal record (DBS) / Police Check		
Apply for a visa if you prefer to get one prior to travel (you can also get one on arrival in the country)		
<b>3-4 weeks before departure</b>		
Pay the balance of your donation at least 3 weeks prior to departure		
Complete and submit the online pre-departure form		
Photocopy and store important documents—email a copy of your passport, flight itinerary and insurance to SEED		
Money—obtain Euros or US Dollars and check your cards will work abroad. Inform your bank of your travel plans		
Familiarise yourself with FCO health and safety advice for Madagascar and register with your country’s embassy		
Leave a copy of SEED Madagascar contact numbers with family/friends		
Print a copy of SEED Madagascar’s Travel Document to take with you (this will be emailed to you a couple of weeks before you travel)		



## International and Internal Flights

<b>Arrival Day</b>	<p>Your programme starts on your <b>First Day (Day 1)</b> in the Fort Dauphin Office</p> <p>Fly into Antananarivo - Ivato International Airport (TNR) <b>one day before your first day</b></p> <p>Stay one night in the capital, we can assist in booking hotel accommodation and airport transfers at around 90,000 Ariary (£22) per night</p> <p>Fly to Fort Dauphin on your First Day, Day 1 of your programme</p>
	<p>The internal connecting flight down to Fort Dauphin / Taolagnaro airport (FTU), on the first day of your programme, are flown by Air Madagascar</p> <p>Checked in baggage is <b>20kg</b> (less than the 23kg allowed by international flights)</p> <p>A second bag, whatever size or weight (max 20kg) will cost 50 Euros</p> <p>Hand luggage is limited to 1 piece of no more than 5kg</p>
<b>Departure Day</b>	<p>Depart Fort Dauphin <b>the day after</b> your placement end date (day after your last day)</p> <p>Allow for one night stopover in Antananarivo prior to taking an international flight out of Madagascar</p>

**Compare prices for your travel dates with search engines:**

- Skyscanner - <https://www.skyscanner.net/>
- Kayak - <https://www.kayak.co.uk/>
- Google flights - <https://www.google.co.uk/flights/>
- Tsaradia (internal flights only) - <https://tsaradia.com/>

### Logistics

- Think carefully about your travel plans before you finalise your flights. Once you have finished volunteering with us you may like to travel around to see more of Madagascar but **remember 90 days is the maximum time for a tourist visa!**
- Proof of exit from Madagascar will be required before you're allowed on your outward international flight. **Therefore, ensure you have an exit flight ticket from Madagascar before you start travelling!**
- **Air Madagascar (through the Air Madagascar brand and the sister brand Tsaradia) operate all domestic flights and often change flight times at short notice or cancel them altogether. Although in theory it is possible to make a connection on the same day to/from Fort Dauphin we advise against this. We strongly recommend one overnight stay in Antananarivo between international and internal flights to avoid missing connections on both outward and homebound journeys!**
- SEED Madagascar can organise hotels and airport transfers in Antananarivo and Fort Dauphin

### Costs

- It is always best to book your flights as far in advance as possible
- UK to Madagascar return is approx. £500 - £1000
- Antananarivo to Fort Dauphin return is approx. £150 - £250
- The best internal flight quotes are obtained via Air Madagascar's sister airline company Tsaradia
- Before booking flights through an agency do check if buying the internal flights separate is cheaper. For international flights, you can get amazing deals through agencies, such as Skyscanner, but the internal flight is mostly cheaper when bought directly from Tsaradia.

### Carbon Offsetting

SEED's positive footprints project is a commitment to becoming carbon neutral, part of which is carbon offsetting where possible. Find out more about our new project [here](#). Carbon offsetting is an effective way to reduce emissions and create sustainable development benefits for communities around the world. Using a [flight calculator](#) you can determine the carbon footprint of your flight and what is required to carbon offset it. This flight and offsetting calculator complies with [The Gold Standard](#), which was established by NGOs and WWF is a leader in aiming for climate security and sustainable development for all.

## International and Internal Flights

### Europe to Madagascar

**Kenya Airways** - [www.kenya-airways.com](http://www.kenya-airways.com)

Departures from London Heathrow and Amsterdam via Nairobi

**Air Madagascar** - [www.airmadagascar.com](http://www.airmadagascar.com)

Departures from Paris, Marseille and Bangkok

**Air France** - [www.airfrance.com](http://www.airfrance.com)

Departures from Paris. Can book connecting flights to the UK

**Air Mauritius** - [www.airmauriti.us.com](http://www.airmauriti.us.com)

Departures from London Heathrow, Paris Geneva, Milan, Rome, Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich via Mauritius.

**Turkish Airlines** - <http://www.turkishairlines.com/en-int/>

Departures from London, Manchester via Istanbul

**Ethiopia Airline** - <https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/>

Departures from Europe to Madagascar

### North America to Madagascar

USA based travel agency specialising in Madagascar:

**Cortez USA:** 1-858-755-5136 (CA) or 1-800-854-1029 (USA)

[susan@cortez-usa.com](mailto:susan@cortez-usa.com)

[info@cortez-usa.com](mailto:info@cortez-usa.com)

<http://www.air-mad.com/>

Alternatively you can call Air Madagascar direct on 1-866-933-5963 (toll-free number)

**Air France**

From major cities in the US and Canada to Antananarivo via Paris (CDG)

**Corsair** - [www.corsair.fr](http://www.corsair.fr)

From Quebec, Montreal and Halifax to Antananarivo via Paris

**South African Airways**

From the USA to Antananarivo via Johannesburg

**American Airlines and Kenya Airways**

Via London for cost-effective options

### Africa to Madagascar

**South African Airways** - [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

Departures from Johannesburg

**Air Madagascar**

Departures from Johannesburg

### South America to Madagascar

**South African Airways**

Departures from GRU Sao Paulo Guarulhos - Antananarivo via Johannesburg

**Air France**

Departures from Bogota, Colombia to Paris

**Air Madagascar**

Connecting flights from Paris to Antananarivo

### Australia to Madagascar

**Air Mauritius**

Departures from Sydney or Perth to Antananarivo via Mauritius

**South African Airways**

Departures from Sydney or Perth to Antananarivo via Johannesburg.

For onward flights from Antananarivo to Fort Dauphin, call Air Madagascar's Australia office on +61282480040 or email: [sydm@d@airlinemarketing.com.au](mailto:sydm@d@airlinemarketing.com.au)

### South America to Madagascar

**Air Madagascar - Tsaradia**

Government run monopoly - only option for internal flights  
[www.tsaradia.com](http://www.tsaradia.com)

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is essential and SEED Madagascar stipulates that you have suitable travel insurance to cover both your time on the programme and travel to and from the programme.

This cover must include **emergency repatriation**, including (but not limited to) that relating to medical grounds and **personal liability** whilst working (**without heavy machinery**) on humanitarian and conservation projects in southeast Madagascar, as well as suitably covering you to undertake work abroad.

It is vital that you provide your insurance company with information about

- the work and remote nature of the places you will be visiting.
- Any **existing medical conditions** that you may have.

If you do not provide this information, it is possible that your insurance cover may be **invalid**.

If you already have travel insurance check it carefully as many policies do **NOT** cover volunteering. You may also need to check it covers any other activities you may wish to do during free time or independent travel.

### Other key tips and requirements:

- Arrange travel insurance that includes cancellation cover for flights
- Read your policy details carefully and take a copy of them when you travel
- You must supply the following information on the SEED Madagascar pre-departure form:
  - \* Insurance company name
  - \* Insurance policy number
  - \* Date of issue
  - \* Cover period
  - \* Type of insurance
  - \* Emergency contact details
  - \* Claims information

If SEED Madagascar is required to assist you at any time due to personal, medical, political or another issue to do with anything other than the planned programme, it does so without obligation, and you will be liable to pay for any costs incurred.

SEED Madagascar will, in the case of emergency, shoulder whatever reasonable costs it can afford to ensure a volunteer's best interests, but only on the understanding that these will be repaid irrespective of whether the insurance company agrees to cover said costs. These may include overseas phone calls, hire of 4x4 vehicles to collect you from remote areas, medical fees, accommodation and food whilst away from the group etc.

Once you arrive in Fort Dauphin, SEED Madagascar may only cancel the Volunteer Programme in the case of an **'act of god'** (a natural disaster) or **civil disturbance**, which would cause danger to you or other persons if the programme were to continue or for any other reason beyond SEED Madagascar's control.

We require that you nominate a person who we should contact in the case of an emergency on your application form. By completing the online Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) you **are giving your permission for us to contact this person and your insurer**. It is vital that the London office has full, up-to-date contact information for the nominated person and, if you wish, you may also provide a second contact person. Please provide as many relevant details as possible including emails address and telephone/mobile numbers for day and night. This way we will ensure that we can act quickly in the case of an emergency.

## Health Preparations - Vaccinations

This section only provides some guidelines, you must also seek advice from a healthcare professional

- Arrange to see your doctor or travel clinic as soon as possible, as least **2 months** before your trip, as some vaccines must be given in stages
- UK-based volunteers can access up to date travel health recommendations from the **NHS Fit for Travel** website and travel vaccination services including purchase of medical kits from the websites listed below:
  - \* <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/madagascar.aspx>
  - \* <https://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/travel-vaccines>
  - \* <https://www.citydoc.org.uk/destinations/madagascar/>
- You will be undertaking manual work where nicks and cuts to the skin will be common so all volunteers must have a **Tetanus** vaccination

Requirements change and individual needs differ, so it is important to check the latest advice. The UK National Health Service currently recommends that as well as being up to date with vaccines for life at home you should have the following vaccinations for travel to Madagascar:

**Failure to have the recommended travel vaccinations or medication may invalidate any related medical claim through your travel insurance.**

<b>Essential:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diphtheria</li><li>• Hepatitis A</li><li>• Hepatitis B</li><li>• Tetanus</li><li>• Typhoid</li><li>• Full COVID vaccinations</li></ul>
<b>Recommended:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rabies</li></ul>
<b>Please also discuss:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Polio</li><li>• Tuberculosis</li><li>• Meningitis</li><li>• Yellow Fever - no risk in Madagascar but you may need a vaccination and to carry a certificate if travelling from parts of mainland Africa or South America</li></ul>





# Malaria Prevention and Precautions

## Anti-Malarials

Malaria is common in the region of Madagascar where we work. **To participate in our programme you must take the World Health Organisation approved anti-malarial** as advised and prescribed by your health care professional. This is one of the conditions of the MoU.

Please consider the following information when discussing the choice of anti-malarial with your health care professional:

- SEED will not make a specific recommendation but would like you to be aware that we have had many problems with volunteers taking Doxycycline as malaria preventative. Doxycycline often increases sensitivity to the sun and makes you more prone to sunburn. Over 40% of SEED's volunteers who have taken Doxycycline have suffered unacceptable sun-sensitivity which affected their ability to work.
- Lariam (Mefloquine) is another available antimalarial but the use of this drug does have some severe and long-lasting side effects including insomnia, dizziness and psychiatric reactions. If you are going to bring Lariam on your trip and have not taken it before it is highly recommended you do a three-week trial before you travel to see if you develop any of these side effects.

## Prevention Methods

Malarial prophylaxis is **essential** but the first line of defence is to not be bitten. Please consider the following:

- **Tent** - choose a tent with insect screens
- **Mosquito Nets** - if you plan to stay in basic hotels when travelling after your volunteering programme bring or buy a mosquito net (they are available at low cost in Fort Dauphin)
- **Mosquito repellent** - preferably non-DEET as they damage the wildlife and environment\*. Eucalyptus and citronella oil works great as a natural repellent, can be used inside your tent and to use on your skin.
- **Clothing** - bring long sleeves, light colours and loose-fitting long trousers, preferably with ankle ties. Wear at dawn or dusk, as these are the worst times for mosquitoes
- **Mosquito coils** - these should only be used in well-ventilated areas. They are useful when eating or relaxing outdoors and are available to buy locally.

***\*If you have repellent containing DEET you will not be allowed to touch any of the amphibians or reptiles as it risks hurting them.***

## What if you contract Malaria?

### Do not panic!

Prophylaxis combined with bite avoidance measures significantly reduces the risk of malaria, but nothing is 100% effective. It has been known for volunteers to occasionally contract malaria. The prevalent form of malaria in Madagascar is Plasmodium falciparum, which can be severe, but responds well to Coartem, a very effective drug available locally. Coartem treats malaria rapidly and most people feel better within 24 hours and often return to work within a few days.

Our staff are trained to recognise the early signs of malaria (usually temperature) and volunteers exhibiting signs will be advised to start treatments as soon as possible (malaria tests can be easily bought for 10,000 Ariary = £1.90). Volunteers may return to Fort Dauphin (the nearest town) to recover.

If you are currently taking any other medications or have any health concerns, it is vital to check with your Doctor to ensure they will not interact with Coartem, should you need to take it. If you have concerns about taking this medication, we suggest you do some background research on the drug to help reassure you.

## Passport and Visa

### Passport

- Ensure it is in good condition
- There must be **at least 6 months** before it expires **from the date of entry into the country**
- Leave a photocopy with your nominated next of kin and email a copy of the photo page to SEED Madagascar

### Visa

**Visa online:** all nationalities will require a **Tourist Visa** valid for either 30 or 60 days. You can apply for a tourist visa online [here](#). For those staying longer than 60 days, please obtain the 60 days visa and this will then be extended once down in Fort Dauphin. When completing the visa form, give the purpose of your trip as tourism (avoid using the word work or volunteering as officials may assume you need an employment permit). Use the information below to complete the form.

The visa costs are subject to change but are currently:			
30 Days or less	135,000 MGA	33 Euros	\$37
31 - 60 days	165,000 MGA	40 Euros	\$45
61 - 90 days	<i>*Possible to obtain once down in Fort Dauphin</i>		
The fee must be paid in cash in <b>US dollars or Euros</b> (try to have a number of small denomination notes as they often do not have change for a larger note)			

<b>Address in Fort Dauphin:</b>	SEED Madagascar
	Villa Rabemanda
	Aminanikely BP318 Tolagnaro
<b>SEED Madagascar Contact:</b>	Tsina Endor
	Deputy Director
	Tel: +261 (0) 34 20 520 40 +261 (0) 33 07 350 72

### Obtaining your visa prior to travelling out to Madagascar, consider the following advice:

- Madagascar has embassies in many countries worldwide
- Contact details for Madagascar's embassies can also be found on the internet:
  - UK: [contact@mdg-london.org](mailto:contact@mdg-london.org)
  - Australia: [consul@madagascarconsulate.com.au](mailto:consul@madagascarconsulate.com.au)
  - Canada: [ambamadcanada@bellnet.ca](mailto:ambamadcanada@bellnet.ca)
  - France: [accueil@ambassade-madagascar.fr](mailto:accueil@ambassade-madagascar.fr)
  - USA: [info@madagascar-consulate.org](mailto:info@madagascar-consulate.org)
- For those travelling from other counties we advise you to check [here](#) to see if there is an embassy in your home country
- Aim to apply for your visa at least 8 weeks before you are due to leave for Madagascar, although please note that most visas must be activated within 6 months of the date of issue. To apply for a 90-day Tourist Visa (e.g., for US citizens) you will need:
  - \* Valid Passport (check that it is valid until at least 6 months after your return)
  - \* 4 passport photographs (1 for the US)
  - \* Signed visa application form
  - \* State your purpose of travel as **Tourism**
  - \* Visa fee (please double check with you Embassy for the latest fees)
  - \* A copy of your round-trip flight ticket
  - \* Pre-paid self-addressed special delivery return envelope (if applying by post)

Please do double check these things with your embassy as requirements do change and remember the visa will allow you **90-days stay** in Madagascar as the **absolute maximum**. You can apply in person or by post but do allow at least two months before departures to ensure it is returned on time.

## Registering with your embassy

We advise you register your trip and passport details online with your government prior to departure. You may need to open an online account prior to departure, so allow time for this. It is a very simple process and is a particularly useful tool for Embassies in an emergency like a cyclone or political unrest. Your embassy can also help in the event of losing your passport.

Links for some countries (please let us know if you need help finding the appropriate link for your country):

- Australia: <https://www.orao.dfat.gov.au/pages/userlogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fpages%2fsecured%2fdefault.aspx>
- Canada: [https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration?%20page=start\\_committer&hash=d6kzpo%20vmvuajkg0ywjn6161](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration?%20page=start_committer&hash=d6kzpo%20vmvuajkg0ywjn6161)
- USA: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

### UK:

The British Embassy does not register UK nationals but the FCO now advises overseas British travellers to subscribe to email or social media updates. For those wanting to subscribe, go to [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and select the country you are travelling to.

Travel advise updates will also be issued via the British Embassy Twitter account [@UKinMadagascar](https://twitter.com/UKinMadagascar) and on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ukinmadagascar/about/>

## Keeping in touch

**You will be in a developing country where mobile reception and internet connections can be patchy. Plans change, days in town may turn into days in the bush. We advise that whilst you can tell friends and family you will be in touch, do not promise to contact them at set times and on set days. They will only worry if you cannot contact them. If you wish, SEED Madagascar can call/e-mail a nominated friend or relative on your arrival in Madagascar to let them know you are safe.**

- Mobile phone reception is available in Fort Dauphin - bring an unlocked mobile phone (or purchase a basic phone locally for around £15)
- Purchase a Malagasy Sim card which costs around £1.50 - text messages to the UK cost around 10p per message and calls cost 70p per minute. Our staff use the Telma network in Fort Dauphin.
- Volunteers generally use WhatsApp to message and call home
- Wi-Fi is available at the SEED office and at a number of hotels, bars and restaurants around Fort Dauphin
- You may only be able to access the internet at the beginning and end of your programme when you are in Fort Dauphin.

Emergency contacts for friends/family:			
London	+44 (0)20 8960 6629	mark@seedmadagascar.org	Emails checked at weekends. Daily contact with the office in Fort Dauphin and can reach field-based teams on mobile phones
Fort Dauphin	+261 34 200 1491	lisa@seedmadagascar.org	
Fort Dauphin Office Tsina Endor	+261 (0) 34 20 520 40 +261 (0) 33 07 350 72	tsina@seedmadagascar.org	
Conservation Camp Site Sainte Luce	+261 34 201 9031		

## Money

- The currency in Madagascar is the Malagasy Ariary (MGA).
- Check current exchange rates [here](#)
- Exchange rate is about 5,300 MGA to £1.00 (October 2021) but this fluctuates regularly.
- Malagasy Ariary **cannot be purchased** outside of Madagascar and cannot be legally exported from the country. When you leave Madagascar, you could be searched, and anything other than the official souvenir limit will be confiscated.

### Advice for taking cash:

- **Take cash in Euros, USD dollars or Sterling** to exchange on arrival at the airport in Antananarivo.
- It is best not to take large denomination notes; maximum 50 Euros / £20 / \$50.
- If you need cash in an emergency, Western Union can transfer money immediately from your home country and has offices in all major towns in Madagascar including Fort Dauphin (UK tel: 0800 833 833).

### Advice for bringing debit and credit cards:

- Visa Debit cards are the best for drawing out cash from ATM's in Fort Dauphin. **Credit cards are not accepted!**
  - **MasterCards and Maestro Cards are accepted at two banks (BNI and BOA), but there are always long queues** - consider getting a low commission Visa (Delta, Electron) debit bank card, or a prepaid currency/travel card, to withdraw cash.
  - Notify your bank that you are travelling to avoid your card/account being frozen, check you can use your bank card in Madagascar and what the fees and limits are for withdrawing money.
- ☑ There are two ATM's at the airport from which you can usually withdraw cash (max. 200,000 or 300,000 MGA per withdrawal, multiple withdrawals permitted up to your usual daily limit) though you should not rely on this working.

### Budgeting:

- During your stay with us you will only need money for extra trips, cigarettes, snacks, meals out in town, souvenirs etc.
- You will be able to get by on about £225 (approx. 275 Euros, \$300 USD) for a 4/6-week volunteering duration, but this will depend on your length of stay and if you plan on doing extra trips or activities in your free time during the scheme.
- Do not forget that you will need to take more than £225 if you plan to stay in hotels or travel before or after the scheme.

## Stitch Saint Luce

Stitch is one of SEED's [sustainable livelihoods projects](#) and provides embroidery training to local women, giving them valuable skills as well as a reliable source of income. Stitch Saint Luce Cooperative produce high-quality and beautifully hand-crafted bags, purses and accessories which you will have the opportunity to purchase. Some examples of products can be found on our [Etsy Store](#) and include:

Glasses Case: £10	Tote bag: £25
Tablet case: £15 - 20	Make-up bag: £25
Purse: £15 - 20	Cushion case: £30 - 50

*\*Stitch items can be bought in the Fort Dauphin office once back from the bush, it is not recommended or necessary to take a lot of cash to the bush to pay for the items out there.*





## Packing List for your Trip

### Packing List Essentials

We suggest everyone pack as if for a 2-4 week duration as, for those on 4-10 week programme, most things (e.g. eco- friendly shampoo, conditioner, soap, washing powder, food treats) can be bought in the market in Fort Dauphin when you return for scheduled breaks.

April to September schemes need to double up on clothes for the colder months (e.g., long trousers, warm fleece, extra socks & two pairs of covered shoes) as it is hard to get wet clothes dry when camping in the bush at this time of year! Consider investing in a few items (pants, t-shirts, socks) in fast-drying technical fabrics.

	<b>Travel Bag</b> - A rucksack if travelling around after your programme. If with SEED throughout then a suitcase is fine.
	<b>Small day pack</b> - for day to day use, carrying water bottle/snacks. Waterproof cover for the pack is useful or dry bags to place your items inside your bag into.
	<b>Passport / Tickets / e-Tickets / 2 copies of passport</b> (photo page and visa page) / <b>4 passport photos</b> (for registration with local team) / <b>Other means of identification</b> (preferably with photo)
	<b>Insurance details / Medical details / Money</b> (cash and cards)
	<b>Money belt / neck pouch / small secure bag</b> - essential for carrying your purse/wallet in the evenings
	<b>Mobile Phone</b> - Check with your operator if your phone will work in Madagascar/that you can use a local sim card. <b>Conservation Volunteers in Sainte Luce</b> can access internet and mobile signal most of the time by walking to a 'signal' spot close to the campsite. Download WhatsApp for messaging and calls.
	<b>Padlocks</b> - for your bags during travel, combination locks recommended to avoid losing keys.
	<b>Waterproof 2-man tent</b> - with ventilation, built in ground sheet and integral insect screens. Tent repair kit (duct tape)
	<b>Sleeping bag</b> – 2/3 seasons, sleeping bag liner. Blankets can be purchased in the market if needed.
	<b>Wax / Foam Ear Plugs</b> – these are essential for aiding a good night's sleep
	<b>Camping Mattress / Travel pillow</b> - a Thermarest or another similar self-inflating mat is ideal
	<b>Large water bottle</b> - 1 litre bottle ideally
	<b>Head Torch (LED)</b> - with plenty of rechargeable batteries for general night use and is <b>essential</b> for the Conservation Programme night walks. A good quality head torch will make a big difference in spotting the lemurs and other wildlife at night!
	<b>Pair of covered shoes</b> - e.g., walking shoes or an old pair of trainers. Sandals will not protect your feet from mosquitoes in the evenings or when walking in the forest. Whatever you bring make sure that they are comfortable and be prepared for them to get pretty mucky!
	<b>Adventure Sandals and Normal Sandals</b> - fine for working when you do not require a covered shoe, they are a lot cooler than shoes/trainers. There may be a lot of wading in water and swamps so these will become very useful. Make sure they are comfy and worn in before bringing out! (Crocs are a firm favourite to bring!) Ensure all shoes and boots are cleaned before coming to Madagascar, so not to bring over any unwanted invasive plant/fungus species.
	<b>Flip flops</b> - great for walking round camp and for use in the showers.
	<b>A good quality waterproof jacket and good quality waterproof trousers</b> - suitable for tropical downpours. A poncho can also be handy to place in your day pack for lightweight and quick protection from the rain.
	<b>Warm Clothes</b> - it gets cold at night and wet/chilly days occur. Fleece, thermal vest, a jumper/sweater for layering - both can be worn or wear one/wash one! Hooded tops are a great idea for cool cloudless nights in the bush.
	<b>Everyday work clothes</b> - 3 T-shirts, 3 vest tops and 2 pairs of knee length shorts and 1 or 2 pairs of long trousers - these clothes will get snagged and dirty so do not pack anything you would not want to get ruined.
	<b>Lightweight long-sleeve shirt and long trousers</b> - for mosquito protection when in the forest especially at dawn/dusk

## Packing List for your Trip

	<b>Plenty of socks</b> - <i>as your feet can get very cold and/or sweaty and will get wet on forest walks April-September</i>
	<b>Swimwear</b> - <i>bikinis are perfectly acceptable in Madagascar</i>
	<b>Sunglasses and Sun hat</b> - <i>wide-brimmed for sun protection very important in the hotter months</i>
	<b>Sunscreen</b> - <i>minimum factor 25. It is hard to get in Madagascar and is of debatable quality.</i>
	<b>Insect repellent</b> - <i>see "Malaria Prophylaxis"</i>
	<b>Towel</b> - <i>lightweight fast-drying travel towel. <b>Face Flannel</b> recommended for bucket showers.</i>
	<b>Nailbrush</b> - <i>extremely useful for hand washing clothes and scrubbing feet when camping in Sainte Luce</i>
	<b>Anti-bacterial gel for cleaning hands</b> - <i>this can very handy to have on you</i>
	<b>Eco-friendly soaps/shampoos/detergent</b> - <i>Please bring where possible eco-friendly products as the water drains straight back into the bush</i>
	<b>Ladies</b> - <i>pack sanitary products you rely on at home (the selection available in Fort Dauphin is limited)</i>
<b>Packing List - Nice to haves....</b>	
	<b>One set of nice clothes</b> - <i>for a night out in town</i>
	<b>Travel Mirror</b>
	<b>A good sharp folding knife</b> - <i>or Swiss Army knife is useful with all the gadgets</i>
	<b>Books/Kindle</b> - <i>A good supply for reading and sharing in your spare time</i>
	<b>Camera</b> - <i>(Large capacity memory cards and cable). You can download pictures onto the Coordinator's computer to free up memory space, at the same time as providing SEED Madagascar with an important record of your work.</i>
	<b>A two pin round plug adaptor</b> — <i>(for Standard French/European sockets) for charging digital cameras, phones, tablets etc. There is a secure electricity point (220V) at our campsite in Fort Dauphin, and a USB charging port only at Sainte Luce so you will have the opportunity to charge items.</i>
	<b>Portable solar charger / External battery pack</b> - <i>Conservation volunteers can charge devices in Sainte Luce using the solar panels available on site, although this is weather dependent. Volunteer staying 2 weeks may get by with a supply of ordinary batteries, those staying for 4 weeks+ should bring rechargeable batteries to reduce luggage weight.</i>
	<b>Tablet</b> - <i>can be useful for entertainment and can be recharged (weather dependent)</i>
	<b>Plastic zip-lock bags</b>
	<b>Hilary Bradt's Guide to Madagascar</b> - <i>or a Lonely Planet Guide. The Bradt Guide is a lot more informative on Madagascar as a whole but the Lonely Planet Guide can be useful if travelling independently after the programme.</i>
	<b>Field guides</b> - <i>of personal interest or relevant to projects you will work on</i>
	<b>Pictures of your family and where you live</b> - <i>so that you can talk to village dwellers and staff about your life</i>
	<b>Games</b> - <i>a small travel game, a ball, cards, nooks, personal stereo (with portable speakers for party night!) or musical instrument to keep you amused in the evenings</i>
	<b>Special Treats</b> - <i>that will travel (e.g. boiled sweets, peanut butter, tea bags or energy bars). Chilli sauce (Tabasco, Magi seasoning, soy sauce), BBQ sauce, spices to prep up your rice and beans - these can also be bought in the market in Fort Dauphin. There is not much protein within the bush diet, and the use of protein powder can be very usual if you are staying for a long period of time. Packing sweets/candy and granola bars can be useful for snacks on the go, science can be hungry work!</i>

**\*Please consider when packing, that Madagascar does not have the facilities to recycle or dispose of waste efficiently. Bring where possible biodegradable/green items and be prepared to take home trash to dispose of at home.**

# Madagascar Facts and Weather

## Madagascar Facts

**Capital City** - Antananarivo (“Tana”)

**Time** - GMT +2 or + 3 hours (depending on day light saving)

**Currency** - Ariary MGA

**Human Development Index** - World Rank 161/189 —Extreme Poverty

**Bio-diversity Hotspot** - 95% endemism (plants and animals unique to Madagascar)

**Literacy Rates** - 20% of the population can read

**Infant Mortality** - 34 children out of every thousand die before the age of five

**Population** - 25 million

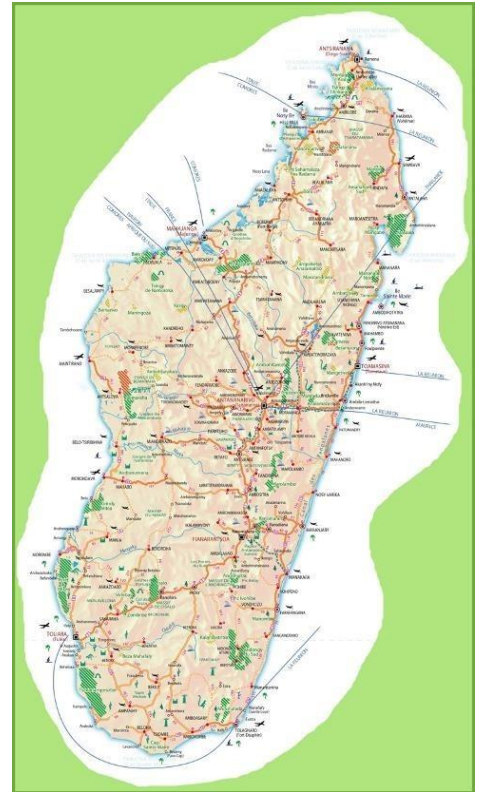
**Area** - 587,041 square kilometres

**Economy** - GDP per capita \$1416

**Main Exports** - Coffee, seafood, vanilla, sugar, fabrics & minerals

**Religion** - 55% Tribal/Ancestral, 40% Christian, Muslim 5%

**Life expectancy** - 63 years (men), 66 years (women)



## Climate - Fort Dauphin (Taolagnaro)

Madagascar is a great place to visit all year-round. We need volunteers throughout the year to support our development work, although some activities are seasonal (e.g., tree planting can only be done at certain times of year).

There are seasonal variations in weather and it might be colder in the bush than in town. **We cannot predict the exact weather** as with climate change the seasons are now very unreliable, but we can make a few suggestions which you should bear in mind when packing. **Good waterproofs are required at all times!**

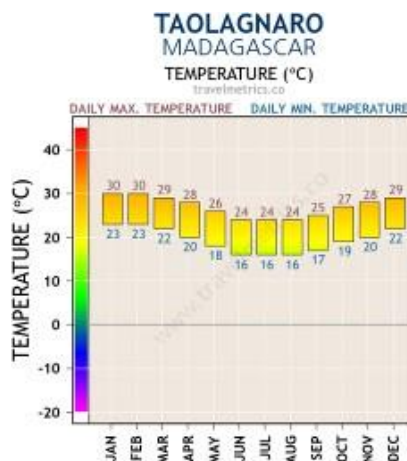
**Summer: January – March:** Hot, rainy season - be prepared to get wet. Bring warm clothes for the evenings.

**Autumn: April – June:** Hot in April, growing cooler. Jumpers needed in the evening and still a chance of rain.

**Winter: July – September:** The driest months but still requires good waterproofs. Cool in July getting warmer as the weeks go by. In September a colder seasonal wind sets in so remember this when packing your windproof/jumper.

**Spring: October – December:** Very windy until the end of October, getting progressively hotter as the weeks go by. Chance of rain increases towards the end of the year.

See today’s weather in Fort Dauphin [here](#)



## Medical Kit

- When working in the bush, you will usually be no further than 12 hours away from Fort Dauphin. There are several doctors and a hospital in the town of Fort Dauphin, but medical facilities are basic.
- For treating serious emergencies, the nearest “Western” standard hospitals are in Réunion or South Africa and would involve repatriation under your insurance
- It is sensible to know and have a note of your blood group when you travel
- Our team carry a first aid kit at all times for emergencies and staff use
- You **MUST** have your own medicines and medical kit - bring a first aid kit and a small medicine kit with essential items listed in the packing list
- Traveller’s First Aid Kit and Small Medicine Kit can be bought online from Nomad Travel by UK based volunteers, or from high street pharmacies

### Medical Kit Packing Essentials

**The drugs mentioned below are based on those licensed in the UK. Licensing laws vary between countries. You should seek the advice of your doctor or travel clinic as to the appropriate medicines that you should bring with you to Madagascar.**

	<b>Malaria prophylaxis</b>
	<b>Any branded drugs that you rely on at home</b>
	<b>Antiseptic powder or spray (creams tend to be ineffective in humid conditions in the field)</b>
	<b>Antiseptic gel (used to keep cuts clean)</b>
	<b>Plasters/band aids - spray on plaster is much more effective in the bush</b>
	<b>Gauze pads/dressings to clean and cover wounds</b>
	<b>A tube of strong antihistamine cream or spray for stings or bites</b>
	<b>Antihistamine tablets for allergic reactions (preferably non-drowsy e.g., Loratadine/Claritin)</b>
	<b>1 tube of anti-fungal cream (Canesten)</b>
	<b>Scissors, nail clippers, tweezers and safety pins</b>
	<b>Needle - handy for splinters and sewing up holes in clothes</b>
	<b>Oral rehydration sachets*</b>
	<b>Tablets for diarrhea (Imodium, Loperamide)*</b>
	<b>Pain killers (aspirin and paracetamol)</b>
	<b>Flea powder - useful when they are more prevalent towards the end of the year</b>
	<b>EpiPens if necessary (ensure to inform us of any allergies)</b>

### Medical Kit Optional but Useful...

	<b>Tea tree oil as an antiseptic</b>
	<b>Flagyl/Metronidazole (for giardia and amoebic stomach infections)*</b>
	<b>Multi-vitamin tablets for 8-10 week volunteer (the diet in Madagascar maybe more basic than your body is used to)</b>

*\*These items may be bought in Fort Dauphin if needed to top up supplies and are items which are regularly stocked at camp*



## A Note on Tents

**Ellipse-shaped dome tents** tend to be the best. It **must** have a good level of waterproofing, a sturdy built-in groundsheet and an insect screen to provide protection from mosquitoes.

We **strongly recommend** you take a 2-man tent for each individual. The extra room is much more comfortable, especially if you are volunteering for a long period of time.

You should be looking to spend approximately £80-150 on a tent - any less (unless in a sale) and it is likely to not be good enough quality to stand up to the conditions in Madagascar.

A tent repair kit (including duct tape) is also important to consider bringing.

### Tent Hire Charge

You may be able to rent a basic tent from SEED Madagascar. This must be pre-booked using your pre-departure sheet and you will need to pay the hire charge and the refundable deposit into our bank account or Charity Checkout prior to your arrival in Madagascar. Deputy Director Tsina, will reimburse your deposit in local currency on the return of your tent in good condition at the end of your stay with us.

Duration	Refundable Deposit (£)	Hire Cost (£)
2 - 4 weeks	50	50
5-10 weeks	50	75



*"I loved my time with SEED! The knowledge and passion of the staff is incredible and volunteering with an NGO in rural Madagascar is an unforgettable experience.*

*As someone who is about to start studying biology at university, I feel that this was the perfect programme for me - you learn so much about research and about the local wildlife. The diversity of the wildlife is mind-blowing.*

*The lemurs and chameleons are great but there are also more varieties of frogs, spiders, snakes, dragonflies, geckos, snails, beetles and grasshoppers than you can imagine.*

*We even saw a baby crocodile!"*

*Phil — Conservation Volunteer 2018*

## Guide to arriving in Madagascar

*We advise all volunteers to stay one night in Antananarivo before flying down to Fort Dauphin!*

### Antananarivo Airport

On arriving at the airport, pay for your visa at the kiosk to your right then present your documents to the passport control point for processing. Collect your stamped passport, and your bags and come through customs into the arrivals hall...

- You will be immediately pestered by porters and cab drivers in the arrivals hall. Keep a close eye on your luggage and do not let them pick up your bags! Porters will be looking for tips for helping (or helping very little!) with your bags, and you should tip around 500 Ariary although they will argue for more if there is a lot of luggage - 1,000 Ariary is okay. You may have 10,000 Ariary notes from the ATM so do not get caught out!
- There are two ATM's near the international check-in from which you can normally withdraw cash
- You can exchange money at bank kiosks to your left as you exit, check for the best rates displayed outside each bureau.  
**Note: the Kiosks are only open during 9am - 5pm.**
- Resist making black market money changes at this stage because you do not know the rate and it is easy to make mistakes when you are tired and flustered
- Buy a Telma sim card (500MGA) and some credit for your phone at the Telma Kiosk (there will be chance to buy this in Fort Dauphin if you do not have time)

### Fort connecting flights straight through to Fort Dauphin (Tolagnaro) (not advised)

- The Domestic Flight Departure terminal is next door to the international arrivals accessed through a connecting passage
- Do not use a porter - trolleys are not allowed down the connecting passage - they will just take you the long way round outside and expect payment!
- There is a small café within the internal departure lounge where you will be able to buy a drink and snack

### If you are spending time in Antananarivo

- If SEED Madagascar have booked a hotel and transfer for you, look for a taxi driver with a sign with your name or SEED Madagascar on it
- Volunteers with alternative arrangements: A cab into the city is around 45-50,000 Ariary and can take an hour or more, traffic dependent. Always check prices before you accept a cab.
- Do not be pressured, you should get yourself a cab only once you are ready!

### Hotels in Antananarivo

SEED Madagascar can organise hotels and airport transfers for you, which you then pay locally. You will have to cover any unpaid hotel bills on rooms we have booked if you do not show up for your booking.

We currently book our volunteers in hotel [Les Flots Bleu](#) which is conveniently close (20 min drive) to the airport. Rooms, food and staff are great, all at a very reasonable cost per night, around 90,000 Ariary per person (about £22) including your airport pick up and drop off. You can pay on a visa card (if the machine is working) but the fees are very high.

If you wish to organise your own accommodation look on Trip Advisor. Volunteers have previously used [Le Manoir Rouge](#) close to the airport, or [The Hotel Sakamanga](#) a lovely boutique style hotel in the city centre.



## Antananarivo - Information, Security and Map

### Information

Tana can be a really nice city in which to spend a day or two before or after your volunteering programme. Our advice on spending time here is dependent on the security situation and currently we recommend that volunteers do not spend time wandering around the city centre, and instead we advise you travel there by taxi. If you would like further advice, please do not hesitate to ask.

Check Trip Advisor or Lonely Planet websites for places to visit in Antananarivo - there are several great restaurants and patisseries well worth visiting, serving excellent food of an international standard. You may also be interest in visiting:

- Marche Artisanal - a great craft market on the road to the airport (short taxi ride from Les Flots Bleu Hotel) with a wide variety of stalls selling lovely souvenirs
- Ambohimanga - World Heritage Site - an ancient royal city and burial site which remains a place of cultural and spiritual significance for many Malagasy
- National Park at Perinet (Andasibe-Mantadia) - we recommend a 2-3 day trip to see Madagascar's largest lemur species, the Indri – possible with public transport or organise private transport through your hotel

### Antananarivo - Security Precautions

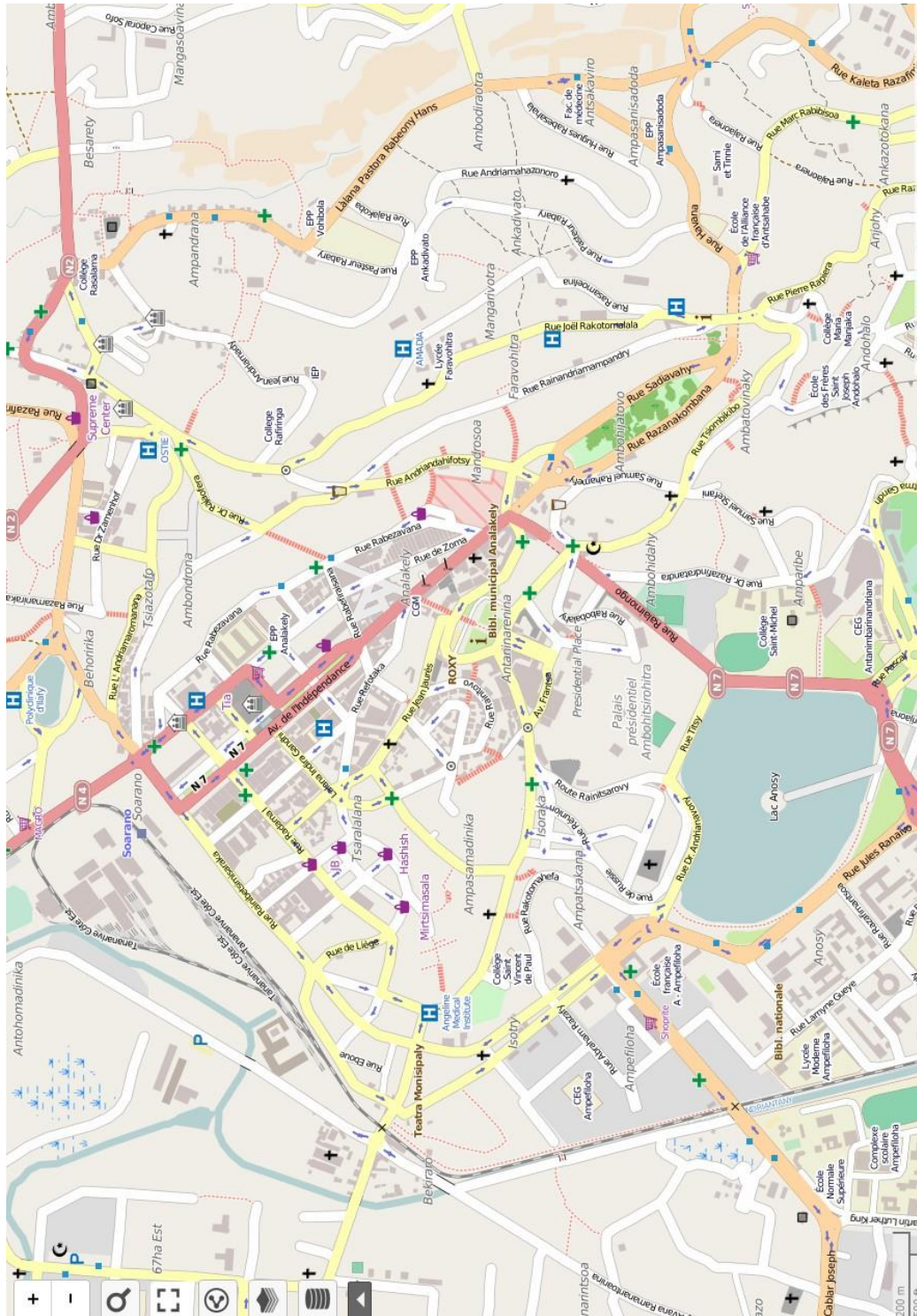
Antananarivo is a beautiful place, with a fascinating history. It is full of wonderful people but like any big city in a developing country, there is also extreme poverty. Here is some safety advice:

- **You must have identification with you at all times!** This is required by law, so carry your passport or an official stamped photocopy (obtained in Fort Dauphin) with you at all times. Police can demand to see passports at any time of the day or night, and the penalty for not carrying it, payable in cash directly to the officer, is usually steep.
- Antananarivo has a reputation for more thefts and robberies than many other part of Madagascar. Be aware at all times, try to never wander the streets alone, and **always take a taxi in the evening.**
- Do not walk around anywhere in Madagascar with expensive smartphones/devices, cameras, watches or gold jewellery on show.
- The Avenue Independence is interesting to visit but has become particularly problematic in recent times and people have their bags snatched on a regular basis. If you do go there, do not take valuables with you.
- Always remember that you are in a very poor city and you will look rich by comparison. Do not make yourself a target for muggers or street children who work as pickpockets.
- On occasion, due to the political situation, people may congregate for political demonstrations and at these times SEED Madagascar may advise you to stay away from the city centre. If this is the case you will be informed before you travel to Madagascar and you will be updated again before you leave Fort Dauphin.
- If you are travelling independently before or after the scheme you are advised to call SEED Madagascar before you go to Antananarivo. You may also wish to keep abreast of the political situation via online news. The same basic rules apply in Fort Dauphin (most of it is common sense) but bear this advice in mind wherever you are before the start of the scheme. You will receive an in-depth security briefing as part of your orientation at the start of the scheme.

Enjoy your stay, look around, explore, be safe and you will have a great time.



## Antananarivo City Map



You can download a pdf of this map [here](#).

## Travelling from Antananarivo to Fort Dauphin

We strongly advise all volunteers to travel to Fort Dauphin by taking an **internal flight with Air Madagascar!**

Although it is possible to travel from Tana to Fort Dauphin by Taxi Brousse (bush taxi) we do not recommend volunteers use this method of transport without speaking to us beforehand, as there have been security threats along this route recently, and the journey can take 2-3 days of hard travelling.



# Fort Dauphin

## About your Programme

We ask you to be in Fort Dauphin on the **First Day (Day 1)** of your programme - it is okay for you to fly in on this day. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your homestay accommodation in town or straight to our office. Then, on Day 1 or 2 you will receive:

- A project orientation which includes information about Madagascar, local customs and the specific development project work you will be involved in
- The programme rules and health and safety guidelines
- Advice on cultural sensitivity when working alongside the village communities and local taboos which are known as “fadys”
- Guidance on local costs, and advice on locking up valuables. Usually you can store valuables and money which you do not need regular access to in the SEED office in Fort Dauphin.

For all volunteers that join us on Day 1 or a new 10-week scheme you will also receive the following (although on occasion this may be delivered at the end of your first session in the bush when you return to town):

- A tour around the town, led by your guide, so you can visit banks (ATM's), shops, the pharmacy, find internet cafes, call at the Telma shop to buy a local sim card. You may have time to visit shops where you can buy chilli sauce, Nutella, peanut butter, biscuits and snacks to supplement your diet in the bush, as well as soap, shampoo and washing powder. This may not be possible for 2-week volunteers on a tight schedule.

A team of Malagasy staff travel work with each group of Conservation Volunteers to offer translation and advice on Malagasy culture and to ensure that the group is safe. Travelling and working with the various programme groups is the Volunteer Coordinator and the Conservation Research Assistant, whose role is to ensure that the group is happy, healthy and busy at all times! This ensures that you have full support and encouragement to understand and appreciate the very difficult culture and environment that your programme will take you into. Volunteers should be prepared for physical work, adventurous road journeys and long walks to reach remote and beautiful project sites. The work and lifestyle are challenging but incomparably rewarding.

### **Whilst in Fort Dauphin SEED Madagascar have security rules that you must follow:**

#### ***Volunteers arriving prior to joining our programme please ensure you follow advice given below***

- During daylight hours always walk in groups, preferably with a guide
- After dark, always take a taxi and travel in a group with a guide, even to go to a nearby restaurant. Taxi fees are around 2,000 MGA per person within Fort Dauphin town
- Always tell your coordinator of your plans. Never walk around after dark - you may attract unwanted attention.
- Pic-St. Louis is out of bounds to staff and volunteers as it is not safe
- Never go to, or stay on, any beach at dusk or after dark
- Never invite any visitor back to any SEED Madagascar campsite, homestay or hotel you are booked into
- Always carry an endorsed/officiated copy of your passport and visa - SEED Madagascar will organise copies for you on Day 1
- Do not walk around with large bags, obvious cameras, expensive smartphones or large amounts of money
- Adhere to current security precautions at the time of your arrival as advised by SEED Madagascar staff

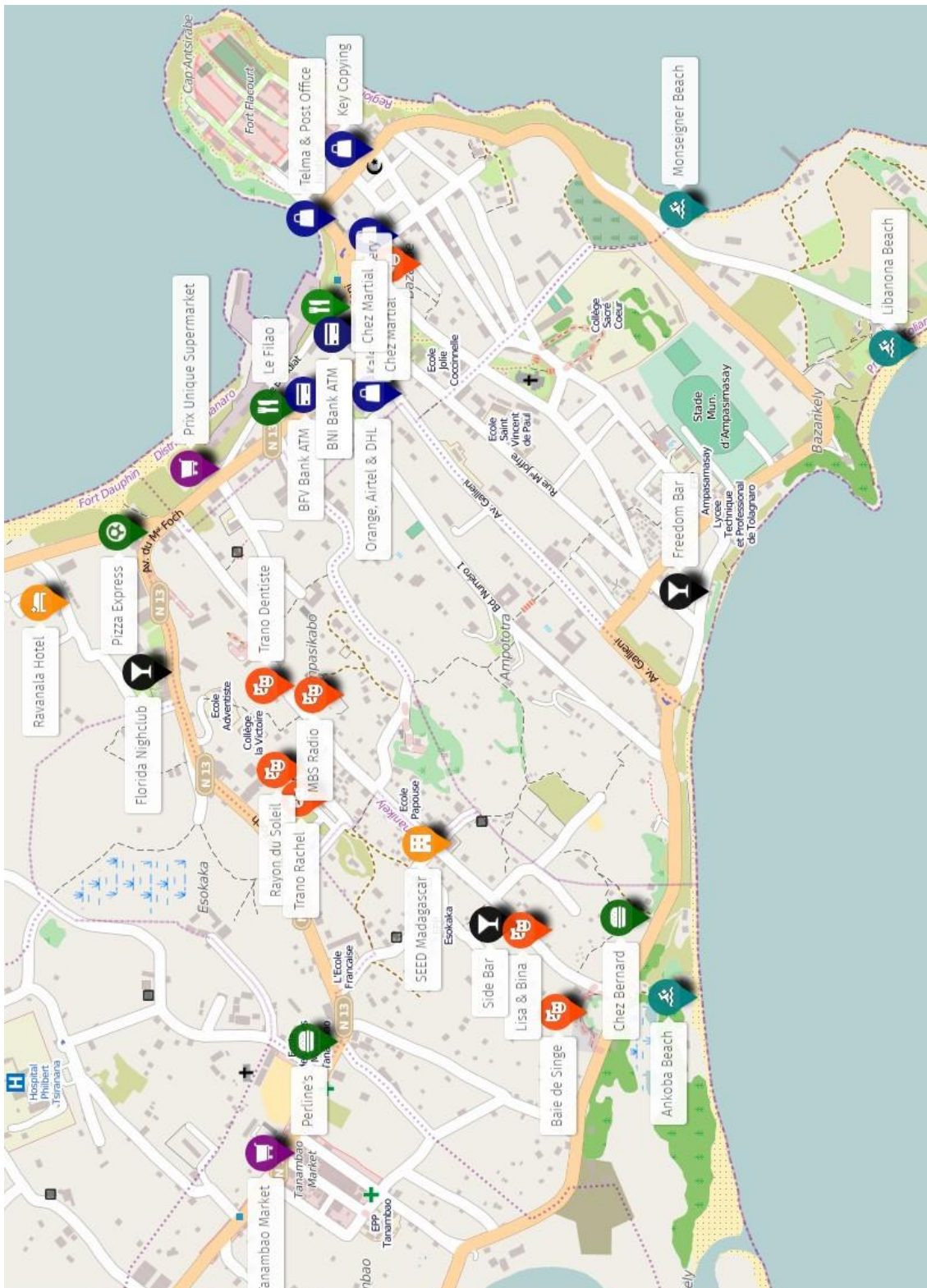
**These rules are for your safety and they have been put in place for good reason. Anyone constantly flouting the security rules might be found in breach of our agreement, which puts you at risk of being asked to leave our organisation.**

# Fort Dauphin

## Contacts:

<b>Ravinala Hotel</b>	+261 33 12 197 65	<b>Recommended Restaurants near Ravinala Hotel</b>	Pizza Express / Le Filao / Kaleta Hotel
<b>Night Taxi - Abdul</b>	+261 34 79 75 576	<b>Health Clinic - Dr. Jane</b>	+261 034 20 00 911
<b>Day Taxi</b>	Easy to get outside SEED office	<b>Air Madagascar Office</b>	+261 34 11 222 008

You can download a pdf of this map [here](#).



# Fort Dauphin

## Facilities in Fort Dauphin

Fort Dauphin offers the usual facilities of any small town, see previous page for a map and check out Trip Advisor!

Banks / ATMs / Pharmacies / Photocopy Shops / Book - Art Shop / Small Supermarkets and souvenir shops ('Maki' brand shop)

**Market** - Open every day! You can buy just about anything in the market including fresh fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, other foods, most toiletries, clothes, furniture, pharmaceuticals, woven baskets. The first price they quote is usually the **vazaha** (foreigner!) price, which is generally 2 to 3 times the local price. You may never get the local price!

**Bars/Restaurants** - These are a wide selection of bars and restaurants you can visit when your team is in Fort Dauphin. There are restaurants serving anything from pizza, to seafood, to traditional Malagasy dishes, and in addition there are numerous roadside stalls selling fried fish, pineapples and cassava fritters.

**Medical Facilities** - There is a Western standard Clinic run by Dr. Jane in Fort Dauphin, which is between 1-4 hours from rural camps under normal circumstances. At rural camp there will always be a First Aid trained staff member and transport can be arranged back to town if required.



## Free Time in Fort Dauphin

### Swimming / Surfing

- Beaches surround Fort Dauphin and they are all worth exploring. **Ankoba** beach is close to the office and is good for swimming and surfing. The best place for swimming is **Libanona** beach, 20 minutes' walk from the office, although you may be hassled with people trying to sell their wares.
- Some beaches are well-used defecation sites and the team in Madagascar will ensure you are aware of which ones so avoid swimming or surfing there, as faecal contamination is not unheard of.

### Local Excursions

- Nahampoana Reserve - optional visit is offered at an extra cost (50,000 MGA) on most schedules. A great chance to get up close to Shifaka, Ringtail and Brown Collared lemurs.
- St. Luce and Evatra have beautiful beaches – both are definitely worth a visit if they are not on your schedule.
- Talinjoo Hotel on the edge of town provides a boutique style luxury pool and restaurant for relaxation!

### Dancing

- Surf's Up is a popular spot, complete with indoor toilets

### Pool

- There are local places to play pool

### Shopping

- There are a few small shops in town to buy gifts and souvenirs. There is a 'Maki' brand souvenir shop that sells more commercial gifts such as branded t-shirts, sun hats and bags. There will also be people following you around town with their silver bracelets, shell necklaces vanilla pods, baskets, spears and tablecloths.

## Accommodation

Once in Sainte Luce, Conservation volunteers will be **camping** for the duration of their volunteering programme. You can either bring your own tent or rent one from us upon arrival. Make sure to bring a sleeping bag and camping map regardless. The facilities at the campsite that you will be using are long drop pit latrines and washing in cold water drawn from a well (water warms quickly in a bucket placed in the sun!) There will be plenty of opportunity to do laundry/washing, so do bear this in mind when packing.

### Accommodation in Fort Dauphin—Homestay

When in Fort Dauphin, either at the beginning of the scheme or during breaks from the field locations, volunteers will be provided with homestay accommodation which is a great chance to live with a local Malagasy family and be immersed in the community. One of our homestay options is to stay with our Deputy Director, Tsina, in a traditional Malagasy house, next door to her family home. It is located outside the city centre (3km), which is walkable during the day, but not at night. The family speak English, and will warmly welcome you into their home. The accommodation here is basic; you will have your own room, a flushing toilet, cold shower and electricity. Bedding is also provided. Issues with electrics and water supply in Fort Dauphin are not uncommon! When staying anywhere in Fort Dauphin you are within the community, we strongly recommend ear plugs and face masks to help with sleep as Malagasy life starts very early 4-5am and without these you might struggle to sleep in.

### Sainte Luce Camp Site - Conservation Programme

SEED has a permanent campsite on the edge of the forest and a short walk from the village of Sainte Luce. There are long drop pit latrines and a screened shower block where you can take a cold-water bucket shower - because of this we ask volunteers to bring eco-friendly toiletries as all the water runs directly into the soil. There is a typical Malagasy style open sided Long House where you take meals, and a research centre which has solar panels where you can charge mobiles and camera batteries (weather dependent). A short walk gives access to small shops selling beer, soft drinks, biscuits, snacks, locally brewed coffee and mofo (crispy fried donut balls), and washing powder sachets. You will be able to find mobile signal here.

### Town Trip Every Four Weeks - Back to Fort Dauphin

All the conservation team, staff and volunteers, all return to Ft. Dauphin at the end of every month for a long weekend. These trips occur around week four and week eight of each scheme. During this time volunteers will need to pay to stay within a hotel, costs around £25 per night at a hotel, or at a homestay. During these town trips it is possible for excursions and one popular trip is to Berenty Reserve, which can cost around £150-200, Nahampoana Wildlife Centre or whale watching. For volunteers who are staying on for the longer programme and those coming over week four and eight, please bear in mind to budget for a couple of nights in Ft. Dauphin. If you would like further information about the excursions that can occur over these long weekends please ask!

### Meals and Drinking Water

At camp a team cook prepares 3 simple, tasty meals a day for the duration of your programme. Breakfast options usually include local 'mofo' (crispy fried donut balls), bananas, rice pudding, local honey and cake. Lunch is a filling portion of rice and beans, with a different bean daily. Dinner is normally rice or spaghetti with a vegetable sauce or vegetable curry and meat, fish or eggs are usually on the menu once a week. Safe, treated drinking water is always available. In the bush we collect and treat rainwater as far as possible. When volunteers are based in town there are some excellent local restaurants serving traditional Malagasy food and an abundance of great international standard restaurants.

### Free Time in Sainte Luce Campsite

Volunteers often spend time walking to local markets, relaxing with a book or playing cards. Villages usually have small local shops selling soft drinks, bottled water, beer, rum, soap, washing powder and biscuits. At Sainte Luce campsite free days are also spent at the nearby beautiful beach. There is a risk of contracting the Schistosomiasis parasite and there have been occasional crocodile sightings in the past, therefore follow the guides advice and we advise to undergo tests for schistosomiasis on return home. Placements are designed for you to be independent, with a core volunteer role and some free time during which you are welcome to explore the local area. Please note that you are expected to act responsibly and take care of your own welfare at all times.



## Final Note

Things do not always go to plan in Madagascar! Go with an open mind, be prepared to be flexible and keep a positive outlook when plans change at short notice as you will have a happier and more productive experience. Be prepared for long waits in the hot sun or in the rain for transport that does not turn up, appointments with people who are not there when you arrive, project leaders who get stuck in the bush and run late, and the need to change your agenda to suit circumstances with a big smile on your face and a light-hearted attitude.

We hope this information has answered most of your questions - let us know if you think there are things for us to add or amend - we always appreciate your feedback so, on your return, please feel free to give us your impressions of your experiences by completing the online [Feedback Form here](#).

*“The experience exceeded all of my expectations and the only thing I would change is that I would’ve loved to stay for longer.”*

*Charlotte— Conservation Volunteer 2016*





## Summary of Useful Links and Information

Flights	
<b>Fly into:</b>	Antananarivo - Ivato International Airport (TNR)
<b>Internal Connecting Flight to:</b>	Fort Dauphin / Tolagnaro Airport (FTU)
<b>Air Madagascar - Internal Flight Baggage Allowance</b>	Checked in baggage is <b>20kg</b> (less than the 23kg allowed by international flights) A second bag whatever size or weight ( <b>max 20kg</b> ) will cost 50 Euros Hand luggage is limited to 1 piece of no more than 5kg
<b>Arrival Day</b>	Your programme starts on your First Day (Day 1) in the Fort Dauphin Office Fly <b>into Antananarivo one day before your First Day</b> , stay one night We can assist in booking hotel accommodation at around 60,000 Ariary (£15) per night Fly to Fort Dauphin on your First Day, Day 1 of your programme
<b>Departure Day</b>	Depart Fort Dauphin <b>the day after</b> your placement date ( <b>Last Day</b> ). Allow for one night stopover in Antananarivo prior to taking an international flight out of Madagascar
<b>Compare prices for your travel dates with search engines:</b>	Skyscanner: <a href="https://www.skyscanner.net/">https://www.skyscanner.net/</a> Kayak: <a href="https://www.kayak.co.uk/">https://www.kayak.co.uk/</a> Google Flights: <a href="https://www.google.co.uk/flights/">https://www.google.co.uk/flights/</a>

### Health and Safety:

- Arrange to see your doctor or travel clinic as soon as possible, at least 2 months before your trip, as some must be given in stages
- Malaria is common in the region of Madagascar in which we work. To participate on our programme, you must take the World Health Authority approved anti-malarial as advised and prescribed by your health care professional
- If working in the bush, you will usually be no further than 12 hours away from Fort Dauphin. There are several doctors and a hospital in the town of Fort Dauphin, but medical facilities are basic
- You **MUST** have your own medicines and medical kit - bring a first aid kit and a small medicine kit with essential items listed in the Packing list.

Essential:	Recommended:	Please also discuss:
Diphtheria Hepatitis A Hepatitis B Tetanus Typhoid Full COVID vaccinations	Rabies	Polio Tuberculosis Meningitis Yellow Fever – no risk in Madagascar but you may need a vaccination if travelling through parts of mainland Africa or South America

Emergency Contacts for when in Transit to Madagascar			
<b>London</b>	+44 (0)20 8960 6629	mark@seedmadagascar.org	Emails checked at weekends. Daily contact with the office in Fort Dauphin and can reach field-based teams on mobile phones
<b>Fort Dauphin</b>	+261 34 200 1491	lisa@seedmadagascar.org	
<b>Fort Dauphin Office Tsina Endor</b>	+261 (0) 34 20 520 40 +261 (0) 33 07 350 72	tsina@seedmadagascar.org	
<b>Conservation Camp</b>	+261 (0) 34 99 203 45		

## Summary of Useful Links and Information

### Resources: Films, Documentaries and Books on Madagascar

There is an ever-increasing number of books and field guides on Madagascar. Some recommended ones include:

- Bradt, H. (2014) **MADAGASCAR – The Bradt Travel Guide**. *Bradt Travel Guides*.
- Bradt, H., Schuurman, D., and Garbutt, N. (2014) **BRADT WILDLIFE GUIDE: Madagascar Wildlife, A Visitor's Guide**. *Bradt Travel Guides Ltd*.
- Brown, M. (2016) **A HISTORY OF MADAGASCAR**. *Markus Wiener Publishers*.
- Durrell, G. (1994) *The Aye-Aye and I*. *Touchstone Books*.
- Filou, E. and Stiles, P. (2012) **LONELY PLANET — MADAGASCAR**. *Lonely Planet Publications*.
- Garbutt, N. (2007) **MAMMALS OF MADAGASCAR**. *A&C Black*.
- Goodman, S., & Patterson, B. (1997) **NATURAL CHANGE AND HUMAN IMPACT IN MADAGASCAR**. *Smithsonian Institution Press Washington and London*.
- Heying, H. (2002) **ANTIPODE: Seasons with the Extraordinary Wildlife and Culture of Madagascar**. *St Martin's Press*.
- Jolly, A. (2015) **THANK YOU, MADAGASCAR: The Conservation Diaries of Alison Jolly**. *Zed Books*.
- McGoogan, K. (2020) **CHASING LEMURS: My Journey into the Heart of Madagascar**. *Prometheus Books*.
- Mittermeier, R. *et al.* (2008) **LEMURS OF MADAGASCAR**. *Conservation International*.
- Morris, P., & Hawkins, F. (1998) **BIRDS OF MADAGASCAR: A Photographic Guide**. *Pica Press*.
- Randrianja, S. & Ellis, S. (2009) **MADAGASCAR: A SHORT HISTORY**. *University of Chicago Press*.
- Tyson, P. (2013) **THE EIGHTH CONTINENT – Life, death and discovery in the lost world of Madagascar**. *William Morrow An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers*.

### Films and Documentaries:

- Passport to the World: Madagascar (2019)
- Our Planet (2019)
- The Lemur's Island (2018)
- Planet Earth II (2016)
- Songs of Madagascar (2016)
- Island of Lemurs: Madagascar (2014)
- David Attenborough's Madagascar (2011)
- Wild Madagascar (2011)
- Souli (2004) - a Malagasy drama based on Shakespeare's *Othello*

## Malagasy Phrasebook

Please note that in Fort Dauphin and surrounding areas people speak Antanosy dialect. Malagasy official language is spoken in Antananarivo, although many people here also speak good French.

Also, see Memrise programme online at: <http://www.memrise.com/course/48680/malagasy-antanosy-dialect-getting-started/>

Some Useful Expressions		
English	Malagasy Official	Antanosy
Hello	<b>Salama (Shalama)</b>	<b>Salama (Shalama)</b>
Thank you	Misaotra	Misaotra
Thank you very much	Misaotra betsaka	Misaotra betsaka
Thank you all	Misatra anareo	Misatra anareo
You're welcome	Tsy misy fisaorana	Tsy misy fisaorana
How are you?	Manao ahoana	
Good, thank you	Tsara fa misaotra	
What's new?	Inona vaovao?	Ino vaovao?
Nothing!	Tsy misy!	Tsy misy!
Yes	Eny	Eka
No	Tsia	Aha
Goodbye	Veloma	Veloma
Goodnight	Soava mandry	Soava mandry
Until tomorrow	Rahampitso e!	Maray
Until we meet again	Mandra pihaona	Maray koa
Bon Voyage	Soava Dia	Soava Dia
I don't understand	Tsy Azoko	Tsy Azoko/ Tsy Mazava
I don't know	Tsy fantantro	Tsy fantako
Excuse me/ please	Azafady	Azafady
How much is this?	Hoatrinona ity?	Hotrino ity?
It's too expensive!	Lafo!	Lafo!
I don't want it, thank you!	Tsy mila/Tsy mi-vidy/Efa nahazo	Tsy mila/Tsy mi-vidy/Efa nahazo
I'm hungry	Noana aho	Resy zaho
I'm not hungry	Tsy noana aho	Tsy resy zaho
Enjoy your meal	Mazotoa misakafo	Mazotoa misakafo
Let's go	Andeha	Ando tsika
Wait	Andraso	Dignaso

Some Useful Expressions		
Stop!	Ajanony	Azanogno
Congratulations	Fiarahabana	
What's your name?	Iza noanaranao?	Iza gnagnaranao?
My name...	Anarako....	Agnarako
Please pass...	Azafady, mba omeo	Azafady, mba omeo
I'm sorry (serious)	Mamela ahy	Azafady
Could I have...	Afaka manana ... zaho	Omeo ... zaho azafady
I'm happy to see you	Faly mahita anao aho	Faly mahita anao zaho
I'm happy to meet you	Faly mahala anao aho	Faly mahafatasy anao zaho
Give my best to ...	Mampamangy an' ....	Mampamangy an' ....
Good luck	Ho ambinin-tsoa	Bonne chance

Numbers		
English	Malagasy Official	Antanosy
1	ray	raiky
2	roa	ro/roa
3	telo	telo
4	efatra	efatsy
5	dimy	dimy
6	enia	enina
7	fito	fito
8	valo	valo
9	sivy	sivy
10	folafola	folafola
50	diman polo	diman polo
100	zato	zato
1000	arivo	arivo
10,000	rayalina	rayaly
1,000,000	ray tapitrisa	ray tapitrisa
Plus	amby	amby
And	sy, ary	sy, ary

## Malagasy Phrasebook

### Some Useful Adjectives

English	Malagasy	Antanosy
Spicy	masiaka	masiaka
Long	lava	lava
Short	fohy	fohy
Here	eto	eto
Far	lavitra	lavitsy
Close	akaiky	mariny
Able	afaka	mahavita
Bad	ratsy	ratsy
Big	ngeza	lehibe be
Clean	madio	madio
Closed	mikatona	mihidy/mihily
Crazy	adaladala	sagnagna
Difficult	sarotra	sarotsy
Dirty	maloto	maloto
Early/before	aloha	aloha
Empty	foana	foa
Fat	matavy	vondraky
Fresh	vaovao	vaovao
Full	feno	feno
Good	tsara	soa
Happy	faly	faly
Hard	mafy	mafy
Heavy	mavesatra	mavesatsy
Light(weight)	maivana	meva
Mad/stupid	adala	mola
Old	antitra	antitsy
Open	misokatra	mivoaha
Poor	mahantra	mahantra
Quick	haingana	malaky
Rich	manakarena	manakarena/ vazaha
Rotten	simba	mavavo
Sad	malahelo	malahelo
Simple	tsotra	tsotra
Slow	miadana	moramora
Little	madinika	kely
Strong	matanjaka	matanjaky

### Some Useful Adjectives

English	Malagasy	Antanosy
Thin	mahia	mahia
Weak	malemy	malemy
Wrong	diso	diso
Young	tanora	tagnora
Colour	loko	loko
Green	maintso	mentso
Red	mena	mena
White	fotsy	fotsy
Black	mainty	menty
Blue	manga	manga
Yellow	mavo	jaune
Pink	mavokely	mavokely
Purple	volomparasy	volomparasy
Mustard yellow	tamotamo	tamotamo
Same	mitovy	mitovy
Sweet	mamy	mamy
Bitter	mangidy	mafaisy
Salty	masira	masira
Sour	marikivy	mitsa

### Some Useful Descriptive Words

English	Malagasy Official	Antanosy
Expensive	lafo	lafo
Very expensive	lafo be	lafo be
Not expensive	tsy lafo	tsy lafo
Cheap/slow/ easy	mora	mora
Thirsty	mangetaheta	mangetaheta
Hungry	noana	noana
Hot	mafana	mafana
Cold	mangatsiaka	mangatsiaka
Tasty/good	matsiro	matavy

## Malagasy Phrasebook

Some Useful Nouns		
English	Malagasy	Antanosy
Hair	Volo	Volo
Men	Lehilahy	Lehilahy
Table	Latabatra	Latabatsy
Bed	Farafara	Farafara
Mat	Kidoro	Kidoro
Pen	Sitilo	Sitilo
Paper	Taratasy	Taratasy
House	Trano Fonenana	Trano Fipetraha
People	Olona	Olo
Mother	Reny	Reny
Father	Ray	Ra
Child	Zanaka/Anaka	Zanaky/Anaky
Elder	Zoky	Zoky
Younger	Zandry	Zandry
Male	Lahy	Lahy
Female	Vavy	Vavy
Madame	Ramatoa	Madame
Sir	Rangahy	Monsier
Brother (Of Girl)	Anadahy	Analahy
Brother (Of A Boy)	Rahalaha	Rahalaha
Sister (Of A Boy)	Anabavy	Anabavy
Sister (Of A Girl)	Rahavavy	Rahavavy
Eyes	Maso	Maso
Ears	Sofina	Sofy
Nose	Orona	Oro
Mouth	Vava	Vava
Teeth	Nify	Nify
Arms	Sandry	Sandry
Legs	Ranjo	Ranjo
Stomach	Vavony	Vavony
Neck	Vozona	Voza
Back	Lamosina	Lamosy
Fingers	Rantsan-Tanana	Rantsan-Tagna
Feet	Tongotra	Tomboky
Toes	Rantsan-Tongototra	Rantsa-Tonboky

Some Useful Nouns		
English	Malagasy	Antanosy
Animal	Biby	Biby
Dog	Alika	Amboa
Cat	Saka	Piso
Cow	Omby	Agnomby
Pig	Kisoa	Lambo
Poultry	Vorona	Voro
Sheep	Ondry	Agnondry
Rabbit	Bitro	Rabitro
Wild Animal	Bibidia	Bibidia
Lemur	Babakoto	Gidro
Chameleon	Tanalahy	Sangorikita/ Tambarikosy
Crocodile	Voay	Voa
Tortoise	Sokatra	Sokaky
Butterfly	Lolo	Lolo
Snake	Bibilava	Bibilava
Spider	Hala	Faroratsy
Tenrec	Trandraka	Tria
Gift	Kadoa	Fagnomezza
Dictionary	Raikiteny	Voambolana/ Dictionaire
Name	Anarana	Agnara
Language, Word	Teny	Fiteny, Zaka
Bowl	Tsatokavy	Boly
Glass	Vera	Vera
Cup	Kaopy	Kopy
Spoon	Sotro	Sotro
Fork	Forsety	Forsety
Knife	Antsy	Mesa
Stars	Kintana	Vasia/Kinta
Sun	Masondro	Masondro
Rain	Orana	Ora
Hands	Tanana	Tagna
Problem	Olana	Ola
Spouse	Vady	Valy



## Malagasy Phrasebook

Useful Verbs		
English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
To drink	migoka/misotro	misotro
To cook	mahandro	mahandro
To wash/to invite	manasa mandihy	manasa mandihy
To dance	mihinana/misakafo	mitsinzaky mihina
To eat		misakafo
To take a walk	mitsangatsangana	mitsangatsanga
To listen to music	mihaino mosika	miteno mosika
To take photos	maka sary	mangalaky sary
To look	mijery	magnenty
To write	manoratra	manoratsy
To sunbathe	mitanin'andro	mitanign'andro
To swim	milomano	milomagno
To run	mihazakazaka	milomay
To go/to leave	mandeha	mandeha
To cut/to decide	manapaka	manapaky
To ask/to inquire	manontany	manontany
To help/ to give a hand	manampy tanana	magnampy tagna
To read/break/ split	mamaky	mamaky
To shop	miantseña	manaobazary
To live	mipetraka	mipetraky
To see	mahita	mahita
To sleep	mandry	matory
To return	miverina	mipody
To come	tonga	avy
To need	mila	mila/mitadia
To ask	milako	Magnotany /mangataky
To speak	miteny	miresaky
To learn	mianatra	mianatsy
To understand	mahazo	mahazo
To have	manana	mana
To think	mihevitra	mieritseritsy
To prefer	aleo	te/tia
To like	tia	tia

Food		
English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
Rice	Vary	Vary
Bread	Mofò	Mofò
Water	Rano	Rano
Cucumber	Kokombra	Kokombra
Salt	Sira	Sira
Pepper	Dipoavatra	Poivra
Potato	Ovy	Pomme De Terre
Banana	Akondro	Akondro
Papaya	Papay	Papay
Avocado	Zavoka	Zavoka
Peanut	Voanjo	Pistache/Kilitra
Beef	Henan Omby	Hena
Chicken	Akoho	Akoho
Pork	Henan Kisoa	Henan-Dambo
Juice	Ranomboankazo	Ranomboankazo
Beer	Labiera	Labiera
Rum (Bush)	Toakagasy	Toakagasy
Butter	Dibera	Dibera
Milk	Ronono	Ronono
Mango	Manga	Mangy
Fruit	Voakazo	Voakazo
Orange	Voasary	Voangy
Pear	Poara	Poara
Peach	Paiso	Peso
Grape	Voaloboka	Voaloboky
Pineapple	Mananasy	Manasa
Lychee	Lodsi	Lodsi
Honey	Tantely	Tantely
Corn	Katsaka	Tsako
Tomatoes	Voatabia	Tomatesy
Sugar	Siromamy	Siromamy

## Malagasy Phrasebook

### Question Words

English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
What	inona	ino
Where	aiza	a ia
Why	nahoana	nagn ino
Who	iza	iza
When(future)	rahoviana	ombia
When(past)	oviana	ombia
For whom	ho an'iza	hoan 'ia
Whose	an'iza	an 'ia
How many	firy	firy

Adding ve to a sentence generally turns it into a question

### Days and Months of the Year

English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
<b>Day(s)</b>	Andro	Andro
Monday	Alatsinainy	Alatsinainy
Tuesday	Talata	Talata
Wednesday	Alarobia	Alarobia
Thursday	Alakamisy	Alakamisy
Friday	Zoma	Zoma
Saturday	Asabotsy	Sabotsy
Sunday	Alahady	Alahady
<b>Month(s)</b>	Volana	Volana
January	Janoary	Janoary
February	Febroary	Febroary
March	Martsa	Martsa
April	Aprily	Avrily
May	May	May
June	Jiona	Jiona
July	Jiolay	Jiolay
August	Aogositra	Aogositra
September	Septambra	Septambra
October	Oktobra	Oktobra
November	Novambra	Novambra
December	Desambra	Desambra

### Prepositions and Adverbs

English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
At, in, inside	ao anaty	agnaty
Outside	ao hivelany	ivelany
Up	ambony	ambony
On, upon	eo ambony	ambony
Down	ambany	ambany
Under, beneath	eo ambany	eo ambany
In front	eo aloha	eo aloha
Before	taloha	taloha
Behind	ao aoriaana	afara
After	taoriana	tafara
During	mandritra	mandritsy
Also	koa	koa
Always	foana	foa
But	fa, kanefa	fa, kanefa
However	na izany aza	na izany aza
Very	tena	tena
And	sy, ary	sy, ary
With	sy, miaraka	sy, miaraka
Or	na, sa	na, sa
Now	izao	izao
Then	avy eo	no fa avy eo

### Time

English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
Today (gone)	androany	adroany
Today(to come)	anio	adroany
Tonight	ranalina	adroany hariva
Tomorrow	rahampitso	maray/kaiky
Yesterday	omaly	omaly
Evening	hariva	hariva
Morning	maraina	maraindray

## Malagasy Phrasebook

Pronouns		
English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
I / me	zaho/aho	zaho
You	anao	hanao
He, she, it	I, izy	izy
We, us	itsika	ĩĩ ka
You	ianareo	hanareo
They, them	izy ireo	ireo

Possessive Pronouns		
English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
Mine	ahy	anaha
Yours	anao	anao
His, her, its	azy	azy
Ours	anay	anay
Yours	anareo	anareo
Theirs	azy ireo	azy ireo

Adjective Pronouns		
English	Malagasy official	Antanosy
My	-ko	-ko
Your	-nao	-nao
His, her, its	-ny	-ny
Our	-nay	-nay
Your	-nareo	-nareo
Their	-ndreo	-ndro

**These suffices are added to the noun**

### Some Notes on Grammar

- **The Alphabet** - there are only 21 letters in the alphabet. They only use the letters C, Q, U and W from words borrowed from other languages.
- **Pronunciation** - Generally the stress is placed on the second to last syllable and the last one is only just whispered, but there are many exceptions to this rule
- **Verbs** - The verb does not change the pronoun. There are only 3 tenses: past, present and future. Generally to change the tense the first letter changes.
  - \* N - Past
  - \* M - Present
  - \* H - Future
- **Sentence Structure** - Verb + Subject is the general sentence structure.
  - \* It is possible to have a sentence with no verb, the sentence structure is Adjective + Article + Noun
  - \* There is no verb 'to be' so you can just have a sentence without a verb, e.g. Faly aho (literally Happy I)
  - \* To form the negative, generally you add 'Tsy' to the beginning of the sentence e.g. Tsy faly aho