



Clothing and Colours

Ny fitafiana sy ny loko

Clothing of the Malagasy

Clothing in Madagascar varies depending on the region of origin. Most people wear *lambas* (traditional cloth) by either *mitafy* (draping) or *misikina* (wrapping it around themselves).

There are clothes worn daily, some reserved for celebrations, and others for funerals or mourning. During mourning, people often wear dark or white clothing, with red being rarely used.

As Madagascar is a hot country, there aren't specific clothes for cold weather. Instead, people wear more layers to keep warm.

Women: Generally have long hair, sometimes braided, and often wear dresses. In many regions, they also wear *lambahoany* (a type of traditional cloth).

Men: Tend to wear hats more frequently than women.

In some regions:

People remove their shoes before entering a house.

According to Malagasy culture, hats are removed when entering a house, singing the national anthem, or encountering a funeral procession.

1. Types of Clothing (Karazana fitafiana)



In Malagasy, the verb *manao* (to wear) is used with clothing.

Examples:

Manao zipo izy. → She is wearing a skirt.

Malagasy	English	Notes
Ny pataloa	Pants	<i>Tsm: Jôka</i>
Ny zipo	Skirt	
Ny akanjo	Dress/Clothes	
Ny lobaka	Shirt	<i>Tsm: Kazaka</i>
Ny "T-shirt"	T-shirt	
Ny palitao	Jacket/Coat	<i>Tsm: Palito</i>
Ny satroka	Hat	
Ny elo	Umbrella	<i>Tsm: Mahavoly</i>
Ny fehikibo	Belt	<i>Tsm: Ceinture</i>
Ny kiraro	Shoes	
Ny kapa	Sandals	<i>Tsm: Kiraro</i>
Ny solomaso	Glasses	
Mitafy lamba	To wear a <i>lamba</i>	Traditional cloth
Misikina	To wrap a <i>lamba</i>	<i>Tsm: Mandrery</i>



Ny pataloha/ Jôka^{tsm}



Ny lobaka/kazaka^{tsm}



Ny fehikibo/ceinture^{tsm}



Ny satroka/satrocô^{tsm}



Ny solomaso



Ny satroka bà



Ny Akanjo



Ny Kapa/kiraro^{tsm}



Ny bakiraro/fôbà^{tsm}



Ny palitao/palitô^{tsm}



Ny akamjo bà/palitô^{tsm}



"T-shirt "



Ny kiraro/kiraro^{tsm}



Mitafy lamba



Ny Zipo



Ny elo/mahavoly^{tsm}



Misikina/Mandrerity^{tsm}



Mirandrana/Mitaly^{tsm}



2. Colours (Ny loko)

Dark-coloured clothes are typically worn during mourning, while bright-coloured ones are worn for celebrations.

Questions About Colours (Ny fanontaniana):

1. Inona ny lokon'ny ... ? → What colour is the ...?
- o Example: Inona ny lokon'ny zipo? → What colour is the skirt?
2. Inona ny loko tianao? → What is your favorite colour?



Fotsy**

Mavo**/fondragna^{tsm}

Mena**

Volomboasary/fondramena^{tsm}Maitso**/mahitso^{tsm}

Mavokely



Volondavenona



Manga**



Volomparasy

Volontany/sokosokolà^{tsm}Mainty**/mahintigny^{tsm}

** these colour names can be duplicated to signify a more vivid or purer shade:

Fotsy = fotsifotsy

zipo **fotsy** = zipo **fotsifotsy** (pure **white** skirt)



Malagasy	English	Malagasy	English
Mena - menamena	Red	Mavo - mavomavo FONDRANA	Yellow
Volomboasary / fondramena ^{tsm}	Orange	Mainty - maintimainty MAHINTIGNY	Black
Mavokely	Pink	Volomparasy	Purple
Fotsy = fotsifots	White	Maitso - maitsonaitso MAHITSO	Green
Manga - mangamanga	Blue	Volondavenona	Grey
Volontany SOKOSOKOLA	Brown		