

# Madagascar

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** Malagasy, French

**Population:** 29,000,000

**Currency:** Malagasy Ariary (MGA)

**Area:** 587,041

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Avenue of the Baobabs', 'writeup': 'A famous dirt road lined with towering baobab trees, iconic for its unique landscape and sunset views.'}
- {'name': 'Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site known for its limestone karst formations and rich biodiversity.'}
- {'name': 'Ranomafana National Park', 'writeup': 'A rainforest park home to rare lemurs and diverse flora and fauna.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Andry Rajoelina

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Famadihana (Turning of the Bones)', 'writeup': "A traditional Malagasy funerary custom where families exhume ancestors' remains, rewrap them, and celebrate their memory."}
- {'name': 'Donia Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual music and cultural festival held on Nosy Be island showcasing Malagasy and regional music.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Madagascar's cuisine blends African, Asian, and French influences, featuring rice as a staple, accompanied by dishes with zebu meat, seafood, and diverse spices.

## Brief History:

Madagascar was first settled by Austronesian peoples around 500 AD, later influenced by African, Arab, and European traders. It became a French colony in 1896 and gained independence in 1960.

## Important People:

- Andry Rajoelina - Current President
- Philippe Rabé - Noted Malagasy historian
- Albert Rakoto Ratsimamanga - Renowned scientist

## Current Conflicts:

Madagascar faces political instability and social unrest related to governance and economic challenges, but no active armed conflicts.

## Youtube Links:

- Madagascar Travel Guide - Top Things to Do & See

- Wildlife of Madagascar - Lemurs and More
- The Unique Culture of Madagascar Explained
- Madagascar's Baobab Trees - Natural Wonders
- History and Politics of Madagascar in 10 Minutes