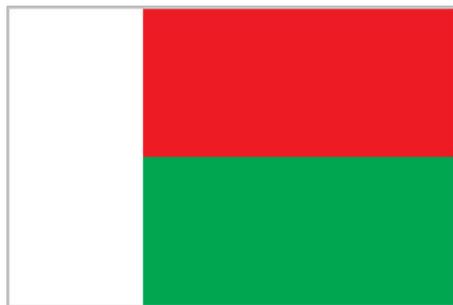




# MADAGASCAR



## INTRODUCTION

Madagascar was one of the last major habitable landmasses on earth settled by humans. Madagascar was a pirate stronghold during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The island was conquered by the French in 1896 who made it a colony. Independence was regained in 1960.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Andry RAJOELINA

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Christian NTSAY

### Government Type

semi-presidential republic

### Capital

Antananarivo

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate or Antenimieran-Doholona (63 seats) and the National Assembly or Antenimierampirena (151 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

total: 587,041 sq km  
land: 581,540 sq km  
water: 5,501 sq km

### Climate

tropical along coast, temperate inland, arid in south

### Natural Resources

graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, rare earth elements, salt, quartz, tar sands, semiprecious stones, mica, fish, hydropower

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

low-income East African island economy; natural resource rich; extreme poverty; return of political stability has helped growth; sharp tax revenue drop due to COVID-19; leading vanilla producer; environmentally fragile

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$41.82 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1,500 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - meat processing, seafood, soap, beer, leather, sugar, textiles, glassware, cement, automobile assembly plant, paper, petroleum, tourism, mining

**Agricultural products** - rice, sugarcane, cassava, sweet potatoes, milk, vegetables, bananas, mangoes/guavas, tropical fruit, potatoes

**Exports** \$5.272 billion (2019 est.)

vanilla, nickel, gold, clothing and apparel, gemstones (2019)

**partners:** US 19%, France 18%, UAE 7%, China 6%, Japan 6%, Germany 5%, India 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$5.855 billion (2019 est.)

refined petroleum, rice, cars, packaged medicines, clothing and apparel (2019)

**partners:** China 24%, France 11%, UAE 9%, India 7%, South Africa 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

27.5 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

2.31% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

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

### Language

Malagasy (official) 99.9%, French (official) 23.6%, English 8.2%, other 0.6% (2018 est.)

### Religion

Christian, indigenous, Muslim

