

Madagascar - Economy

Type of Government: Semi-Presidential Republic

Currency: Malagasy Ariary

GDP: \$ 11.5 Billion USD (2017)

Economic Industries: Meat Processing, Seafood, Soap, Beer, Leather, Sugar, Textiles, Glassware, Cement, Automobile, Paper, Petroleum, Tourism, and Mining

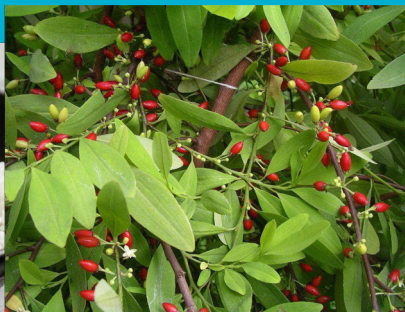
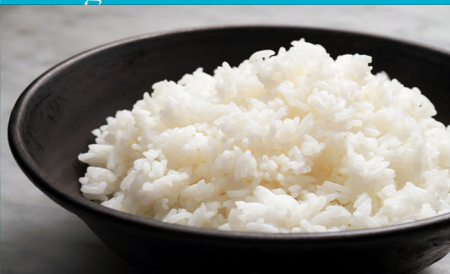
Natural Resources: Coffee, Vanilla, Sugarcane, Cloves, Cocoa, Rice, Manioc, Tapioca, Beans, Bananas, Peanuts, Lychees, Shrimp, Ylang-Ylang

Exports: Coffee, Vanilla, Shellfish, Sugar, Cotton, Cloth, Clothing, Chromite, Petroleum Products, Gems, Ilmenite, Cobalt, Nickel

Export Partners: France, United States, China, Germany, Japan, Netherlands

Imports: Capital Goods, Petroleum, Consumer Goods, Food

Import Partners: China, India, France, South Africa, United Arab Emirates



Society and Government

Official Language(s): Malagasy and French

Life Expectancy:

- Men: 63 Years,
- Women: 67 Years

Population: 26,262,313 (2018 estimate)

Literacy Rate: Overall Population - 74.8%

- Male - 77.3%
- Female - 72.4%

Religions:

- Christianity - 85.3%
- Traditional Faiths - 4.5%
- Unaffiliated - 6.9%
- Other - 0.3%



Ethnic Makeup:

- Merina - 26%
- Betsimisaraka - 15%
- Betsileo - 12%
- Tsimihety - 7 %
- Sakalava - 6%
- Antaisaka - 5%
- Antandroy - 5%
- Other - 24%



Official Name: Republic of Madagascar

Government Type: Semi-Presidential Representative
Democratic Multiparty Republic

Current Leader: President Andry Rajoelina

Capital City: Antananarivo

Suffrage: 18 (Universal)

Art and Music of Madagascar

- Art is mainly expressed through literature (mostly poems)
- Jean-Joseph Rabearivelo and Elie Rajaonarison are popular poets
- Ibonia
 - Ibonia (epic poem) tells about Malagasi culture and traditions
 - Has been handed down through centuries
 - contains diverse traditional mythologies and ideals
- Silk and many plants are used for weaving large tapestries, baskets, mats, and bags
- Embroidered clothing and textiles are things the Malagasy people pride themselves on
- Annual art events and gatherings are a huge part of traditional and modern Malagasy culture
- Wood sculptures are also very popular
- Paper lined and embedded with flowers is a traditional Malagasy craft
- Music is a deep tradition in Malagasy culture
- Coastal salegy and highland hiragasy are the most popular music styles
- They are typically used at traditional dances and celebrations
- Classical music is also very big in Madagascar



Madagascar Cuisine

- Malagasy fare was influenced by Indian, Chinese, European, Southeast Asian, and African cuisine
- Traditional meals start with a base of rice (vary) and a simple topping (laoka)
- Laoka can be meats, plant proteins, curry, vegetable and meat stews and sauces, spices and herbs, onion, garlic, tomato, coconut milk, ginger, corn, and vanilla.
- Fritters, sweet and savory, are popular street foods
- Popular beverages include fruit juices, coffee, herbal teas, rum, wine, and beer
- Chocolate is very important, Madagascar brags of having the world's finest chocolate from Chocolaterie Robert (est. 1940)



Timeline of Madagascar

1500: First Europeans arrive

1883: French invasion

1896: Monarchy ended, Madagascar declared French colony

1945: Declared French Overseas Territory

1947: France ends armed rebellion

1960: People vote for independence, Philibert Tsiranana declared first President

1972: Unrest, Tsiranana dissolves government, power given to army chief, ties with U.S.S.R strengthened

1975: Didier Ratsiraka named Chief of State after coup

1992: Referendum approves new constitution

2000: Thousands homeless after two cyclones hit island

2001: Senate reopens for first time in 92 years



Feb 2002: Violent protests after victor of presidential polls is uncertain

Apr 2002: Constitutional Court awards victory to Ravalomanana, verdict ignored by incumbent President

July 2002: Former President Ratsiraka seeks exile after U.S. recognizes Ravalomanana As president

2004: Cyclone Ivan hits island leaving 93 dead and 340,000 left homeless, Crude oil produced for first time in 60 years

Jan 2009: Violent protests kill dozens after opposition TV and radio stations closed, Opposition leader Andry Rajoelina calls on President to resign and declares himself President

Mar 2009: Rajoelina assumes power with support of military and High Court, move is condemned worldwide and Madagascar isolated

2014: Hery Rajaonarimampianina sworn in after peaceful election

2019: Andry Rajoelina sworn in after election

