


# Madagascar



Madagascar is an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa. Though it may look close to the continent on a map, it is actually 240 miles (386 km) away. The country is made of one main island plus tiny neighboring islands. The island of Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world behind Greenland, New Guinea, and Borneo. Most of the people who live there today work in farming and livestock, but in the 1600s and 1700s, it was a popular hangout for pirates. The island was part of the Merina kingdom, which was a kingdom ruled by the Merina, part of the Malagasy people, in the 1800s. It became a French colony in 1896 and became an independent nation in 1960. Up until 1975, it was called the Malagasy Republic.

Malagasy, French, and English are all official languages. It has a mixture of climates, with cool highlands, warm and damp coastal areas, and hot, dry desert areas. It produces bananas, cassava, cloves, coffee, rice, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and vanilla and is involved with food processing.



Antananarivo was founded in the 1600s. It is the capital and the country's largest city. It is also a hub for processing the nation's crops and is linked to the rest of the country by railroads. It sits high on a mountain ridge near the center of the island.

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SAMPLE

I hope you've enjoyed visiting four of the many amazing places in Madagascar! Before you leave to go home, could I ask you to do something special for the people here? A little over half of the people in Madagascar believe in Jesus, but many of the people in Madagascar still haven't understood yet that Jesus loves them. The nation struggles with poverty and political problems.

Will you remember to pray for the people of Madagascar? Here are a few things you can pray for. You can add more prayer requests to the list as you think of them!



Pray that people will have Bibles to read in whatever language they speak.



Pray for the people living in Antananarivo, the Menabe Region, the area of Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park, the areas where wildlife live, plus every city and town to believe in Jesus.

