

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## A NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO MADAGASCAR WITH CHARLIE GARDNER

### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of three (3) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

**A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Madagascar.** There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends a visa on arrival.

**Visa on Arrival:** The current fee for a single-entry visa is 80,000 Malagasy Ariary (approximately USD \$30). There is an additional Tourist Tax of approximately USD \$10, for a total per person entry fee of approximately USD \$40. Fees must be paid in cash in either U.S. dollars or local currency. If payment is made in U.S. dollars, change will be given back in local currency. All fees are subject to change without notice.

**Visa Stamp:** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Madagascar consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process. If you obtain a visa stamp you will still be required to pay the USD \$10 tourist tax on arrival.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](https://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

### VACCINATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Madagascar **if** you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

### CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions can be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. Major credit cards are accepted for goods and services at hotels and larger shops. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

# PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

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### BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On flights within Madagascar, each passenger is limited to a maximum baggage weight of 33 pounds (15 kilograms). For carry-on baggage, each passenger is limited to one piece of luggage and one personal item weighing no more than 11 pounds (5 kilograms). Soft-sided luggage or duffels are preferable to hard luggage for storage on charter flights. As a convenience, A&K provides each safari guest with a complimentary, custom-designed A&K Duffel. This bag is specifically crafted to meet airline standards.

On arrival you will receive a complimentary copy of Charlie Gardner's book (one per booking). Please allow space within your luggage to accommodate this. Weight is 4.5 pounds (2 kilograms), dimensions are 10 inches (24 centimeters) x 2 inches (3 centimeters) x 12 inches (29 centimeters). Please factor this in to your baggage weight limitations.

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

### PACKING LIST

Choose comfortable and casual clothing in natural, "breathable" fabrics and versatile styles that can be layered as temperatures may vary considerably in the course of the day. In most areas, long, loose Bermuda-style shorts are becoming increasingly acceptable for both sexes, but women may feel more comfortable in a skirt or long trousers. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

#### Clothing

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long skirt for women
- If you are travelling during Africa's winter months of mid-May through early September, bring a few items warm clothing to protect against chilly early morning and evening temperatures
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- A pair of rubber beach sandals to use as slippers.
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Swimwear/cover-up
- Personal garments
- Sports bra for women for bumpy roads
- Sleepwear
- Socks

#### Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses / Sun block
- Insect repellent with high % of DEET to protect against mosquitos and tsetse flies
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit

- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Small LED flashlight (headlamp type flashlights are especially useful)
- Lightweight binoculars
- Inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can make bumpy roads more comfortable
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter
- Foldable walking stick
- Small daypack or fanny pack
- Low-suds detergent for washing small items of personal laundry

Laundry Service is available at most properties. Because some laundries in Africa do not accept any underclothing, be prepared to wash your own smalls. Laundry techniques may not be suitable for delicate and/or synthetic fabrics. Check costs and return times before using these services.

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## TIPPING GUIDELINES

### A NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO MADAGASCAR WITH CHARLIE GARDNER

As a convenience, all staff gratuities are included on your Limited Edition Small Group Journey: *A Naturalist's Guide to Madagascar with Charlie Gardner*.

Any additional gratuities that you may wish to bestow upon any specific member/s of your tour staff are left to your personal discretion.

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to your main journey, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars).

Local Guides	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added