

**Chandrawat  
& Partners**

# **IMMIGRATION TO MADAGASCAR**

**AN EXHAUSTIVE GUIDE**

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# INTRODUCTION



The island of Madagascar is located in the Indian Ocean. The Mozambique Channel divides it from the continent, which is located east of South Africa.

All foreigners must possess the identification and visas mandated by applicable laws and international agreements in order to enter Madagascar.

The Minister of the Interior and Decentralisation is in charge of immigration. It oversees the territory's administration and ensures everyone's and everything's safety.

Its mission is to develop and implement the general policy of the State, led by the Government, in terms of Deconcentration and Territorial Administration, decentralization and local development, preservation of public order, civil protection and public freedoms.

It plays a central role in organizing the territory and maintaining the cohesion of the country's institutions. It guarantees citizens the exercise of the rights, duties, and freedoms affirmed by the Constitution of the Fifth Republic.

# System of immigration in the country

Everyone needs a visa to enter the Republic of Madagascar. There are different types of visas we can apply for depending on the purpose of your stay in the country.

Here are some options on how to apply for a Madagascar visa:

1. Apply online.
2. Apply at the port of entry.
3. Apply at the embassy or consulate of Madagascar.

## Apply Online

Applicants who want to apply for a Madagascar visa online must follow these steps:

- Enter the official page of the Madagascar e-Visa.
- Select the type of visa we want to apply for.
- Fill out the application form with all the required personal information. Do not leave any blank spaces.
- Confirm your traveling and return date.
- Wait until you receive a confirmation.
- Download the confirmation letter and print a copy of the confirmation.

### Apply at the Port of Entry

Everyone can apply for a Madagascar visa at the port of entry expect for Burundi and Palestine citizens.

To apply for a visa at the port of entry, applicants must have a valid passport and other required documents to support their visa application.

### Apply at the Embassy or Consulate of Madagascar

To apply for a visa at the embassy or consulate of Madagascar in your home country, follow these instructions:

- Contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Madagascar in your home country and book a visa appointment.
- Fill out the Madagascar visa application form, download it and sign it at the end.
- Gather all the required documents.
- Submit the required documents to the embassy or consulate.
- Finish the applicable visa fee payment.
- Wait until you receive a response from the embassy or consulate of Madagascar with your visa application result.

# MADAGASCAR VISAS

## REQUIREMENTS

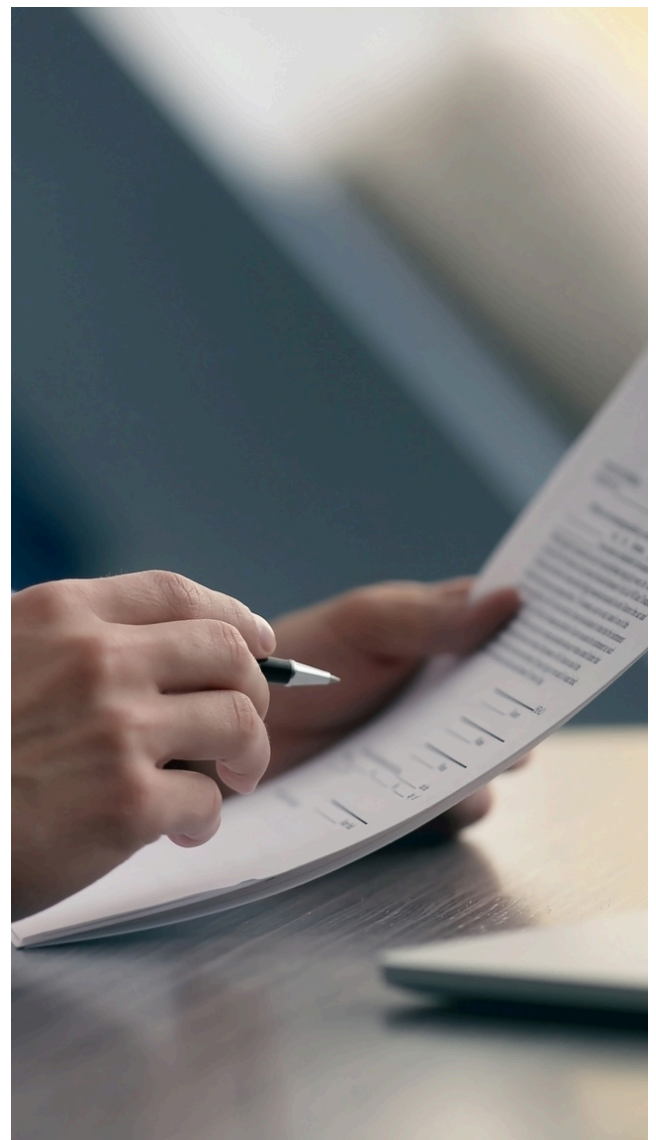
Applicants who want to apply for a Madagascar visa must submit the following documents:

- A passport that is valid for at least six months after the date of return. The passport must have at least two blank pages.
- A fully completed and signed Madagascar visa application form.
- A passport-sized photograph taken within the last three months. Your photo must be in color and in compliance with Madagascar visa photo requirements.
- An accommodation document proving that you have a place to stay in Madagascar. This document can be a rental agreement, hotel reservation, or invitation letter.
- An invitation letter by a host in Madagascar.
- A return or ongoing flight itinerary.
- A valid health insurance that will cover you for any health incident in Madagascar.
- A yellow fever card (if applicable).

## Madagascar Visa Processing Time

The processing time for a Madagascar visa depends on the type of visa you are applying for. The processing time is approx.-four to seven working days.

The Madagascar Immigration Office can extend the processing time if there is any missing or incorrect information in your visa application form.





### Duration of a Madagascar Visa

The duration of a Madagascar visa depends on the type of visa the applicant is applying for. For example:

- A tourist visa is valid for 30 to 90 days.
- A work visa is valid for five years.

The applicant will be informed of the duration of their visa once their visa is issued.

### Madagascar Visa Fees

Madagascar visa fees can change depending on several factors, such as:

- The type of visa you are applying for.
- Your age.
- The country you apply from.
- Your profession.

However, a tourist visa ranges from \$30 to \$50, and a business visa can start from \$50.



# PURPOSE OF IMMIGRATION

## Counter-trafficking Programme

Because of inadequate labour migration management, Madagascar still factors as an important source country for trafficking in persons (TiP). Within Madagascar, TiP takes the form of domestic servitude, prostitution, forced begging, and forced labour, both in rural and urban areas. Internationally, Malagasy women and men have been reported to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, as well as exploitation in textile factories and the fishing industry.

IOM's counter-trafficking programme contributes to the Government of Madagascar and Civil Society Organizations' efforts to improve national capacity in coordinating the anti-trafficking response, preventing TiP, protecting victims of TiP, and prosecuting traffickers.

## Labour Migration Programme

With more than 70 per cent of Madagascar's population living in extreme poverty, the search of an employment abroad continues to represent an attractive opportunity. While labour migration can be a positive agent for development when well-managed, it also presents challenges to ensuring that the rights of Malagasy migrant workers are protected, and that labour migration management is concerted and responds to national development priorities.





## Diaspora Engagement Programme

The Malagasy Diaspora, in its diversity, presents significant but still largely untapped potentials for engagement and contribution in meeting the challenges of sustainable national development, given its generally high levels of education, professional successes, dynamism, and creativity.

In support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM implements activities to establish the sustainable and productive engagement of the Malagasy Diaspora for national development. Such activities include holding consultation sessions on diaspora engagement and mobilization, conducting studies profiling Malagasy Diaspora abroad and developing and institutionalizing a youth diaspora volunteers' programme to build links and engage with rural communities of Madagascar, and to contribute to their local development initiatives.

## Migration and Health Programme

Health is a basic human right and an essential component of sustainable development. Being and staying healthy is a fundamental precondition for migrants to work, to be productive and to contribute to the social and economic development of their communities of origin and destination. The migration cycle can expose migrants to health issues including increased vulnerability to communicable diseases, mental health issues, occupational health and safety conditions and negative sexual and reproductive health outcomes.



## Migration, Environment, and Climate Change Programme

With 80 per cent of the population relying on agriculture as a primary source of income, one of the main challenges lies in the high vulnerability to the devastating effects of environmental disasters and climate change. Madagascar remains one of the most economically impacted countries in the world from natural disasters and one of the most likely to be negatively affected by climate change.

## Emergency and Post Crisis Programme

As Madagascar is regularly affected by natural disasters, IOM seeks to provide actionable and timely information on disaster-related population displacement in the country, respond to humanitarian emergencies, and support prevention and adaptation strategies to reduce incidences of displacement from occurring.

## Immigration and Border Management Programme

With more than 5,000 km of coastline and owing to Madagascar's strategic location across the Mozambique Channel, the porosity of borders and weak controls at formal entry points to the territory has been conducive to forms of transnational and national criminal and illegal activities that can ripple inland and throughout the region. Effective and efficient border management remains essential to ensure border security, reinforce the fight against transnational organized crime, and enhance protection of vulnerable migrants.

## Mainstreaming Migration Programme

It is estimated that more than 100,000 people move from rural areas to the capital, Antananarivo, every year. Unplanned urbanization impacts local development capacities, and it is estimated that between 60 to 70 per cent of all settlements in the capital comprise of informal constructions in slum-like conditions.



# Non-direct or other routes for immigration to Madagascar

There are several routes for immigration to Madagascar, including:

- 1. Employment:** You can apply for a work permit and seek employment in Madagascar. This typically requires a job offer from a local employer, who will need to sponsor your work permit application.
- 2. Investment:** If you have substantial funds to invest in Madagascar, you can explore the possibility of obtaining a residence permit through an investment program. This usually involves making a significant financial contribution to the country's economy, such as investing in real estate or starting a business.
- 3. Family reunification:** If you have immediate family members who are already residents or citizens of Madagascar, you may be eligible for a family reunification visa. This allows you to join your family members in the country.
- 4. Study:** If you are accepted into a recognized educational institution in Madagascar, you can apply for a student visa. This allows you to reside in the country for the duration of your studies.
- 5. Volunteer work:** Some organizations offer volunteer programs in Madagascar. By participating in such programs, you can obtain a volunteer visa that allows you to live and work in the country for a specific period.



# Types of visas available for immigration in Madagascar



The following are the different types of visas available for immigration in Madagascar:

## 1. Tourist visa

This visa is for individuals who wish to visit Madagascar for tourism purposes. It is valid for a period of up to 90 days and can be extended for an additional 90 days. To obtain a tourist visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, proof of return or onward travel, and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay in Madagascar.

## 2. Business visa

This visa is for individuals who intend to conduct business in Madagascar. It is valid for up to 90 days and can be extended for an additional 90 days. To obtain a business visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, a letter from the sponsoring company in Madagascar, and proof of financial means to support their stay in Madagascar.

## 3. Student visa

This visa is for individuals who wish to study in Madagascar. It is valid for the duration of the course and can be extended if necessary. To obtain a student visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, an acceptance letter from a recognized educational institution in Madagascar, and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay in Madagascar.



#### **4. Work visa**

This visa is for individuals who have secured employment in Madagascar. It is valid for the duration of the employment contract and can be extended if necessary. To obtain a work visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, a letter from the employer in Madagascar, and proof of financial means to support their stay in Madagascar.

#### **5. Family reunion visa**

This visa is for individuals who wish to join their family members who are already living in Madagascar. It is valid for up to 90 days and can be extended for an additional 90 days. To obtain a family reunion visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, proof of relationship with the family member in Madagascar, and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay in Madagascar.

#### **6. Investment visa**

This visa is for individuals who wish to invest in Madagascar. It is valid for the duration of the investment project and can be extended if necessary. To obtain an investment visa, applicants must provide a valid passport, a completed visa application form, evidence of the investment project, and proof of financial means to support their stay in Madagascar.

# Licence and documents required for immigration

Applicants must provide the following documents:

- A valid passport with at least six months validity from the date of entry into Madagascar.
- A completed visa application form, which can be obtained from the Madagascar embassy or consulate in the applicant's home country.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs.
- Proof of financial means to support their stay in Madagascar, such as bank statements or a letter from a sponsor.
- Proof of return or onward travel, such as a flight itinerary or ticket.

For some types of visas, additional documents may be required, such as a letter of invitation, an acceptance letter from a university, or a letter from an employer.

It is important to note that all documents must be in French or accompanied by a certified translation into French. Additionally, applicants may be required to undergo a medical examination and provide a police clearance certificate.

Once all necessary documents are submitted, the processing time for a visa can vary depending on the type of visa and the embassy or consulate where the application is submitted.



# Recent changes took place in immigration

Immigration rules are crucial for any nation as they determine who can enter, reside, and work within its borders. Madagascar, a stunning island nation located off the southeastern coast of Africa, has recently implemented several changes to its immigration policies. This article aims to highlight the key alterations in the immigration rules in Madagascar, their implications, and potential effects on individuals and the nation as a whole.

## 1. Streamlined Visa Application Process:

Madagascar has taken significant steps to simplify and streamline its visa application process. The government has introduced an online visa application system, allowing prospective visitors to submit their applications electronically. This change is expected to enhance efficiency, reduce paperwork, and expedite the visa approval process, providing a more convenient experience for travellers.

## 2. Expanded Visa Categories:

In an effort to attract foreign investments and promote economic growth, Madagascar has expanded its visa categories. The government has introduced new visa options, such as investor visas and entrepreneur visas, to encourage foreign nationals to invest in the country. These visas provide streamlined pathways for individuals seeking to start businesses, invest in existing enterprises, or contribute to the development of specific industries.

## 3. Lengthened Visa Durations:

Madagascar has extended the duration of certain visa categories to accommodate the needs of long-term visitors. For example, tourist visas that were previously valid for 30 days may now be granted for up to 90 days. This change is aimed at attracting more tourists, providing them with ample time to explore the country's unique landscapes, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

#### **4. Strengthened Border Control Measures:**

In light of global security concerns, Madagascar has implemented stricter border control measures. The government has enhanced screening procedures at entry points to ensure the safety and security of both visitors and citizens. These measures include thorough identity verification, enhanced luggage screening, and increased cooperation with international security agencies to detect and prevent illegal activities.

#### **5. Introduction of Temporary Work Permits:**

To address labor market demands and encourage foreign professionals to contribute their skills, Madagascar has introduced temporary work permits. These permits enable qualified individuals to work in the country for a defined period, contributing to the growth of specific sectors experiencing a shortage of skilled labor. The introduction of temporary work permits provides opportunities for foreign workers to gain valuable experience while supporting the nation's economic development.

#### **6. Emphasis on Integration and Cultural Exchange:**

Madagascar has placed an increased emphasis on integration and cultural exchange for immigrants. The government has initiated programs to facilitate the integration of immigrants into Malagasy society, including language classes and cultural orientation sessions. These efforts promote understanding, foster social cohesion, and ensure that immigrants have the necessary tools to adapt to their new environment.

#### **7. Stricter Enforcement of Immigration Laws:**

In an effort to maintain the integrity of its immigration system, Madagascar has increased the enforcement of immigration laws. The government has stepped up efforts to identify and address immigration violations, including unauthorized employment, overstays, and fraudulent documentation. This stricter enforcement aims to create a fair and transparent system, while deterring individuals from engaging in illegal immigration activities. The recent changes in immigration rules in Madagascar reflect the nation's desire to attract foreign investments, promote tourism, and ensure the safety and security of its borders. By streamlining the visa application process, introducing new visa categories, and extending visa durations,



# HOW WE CAN HELP?

Chandrawat & Partners , can provide best possible combination of experts in the automotive industry brings the right amount of expertise, experience, and capability needed to explore perspectives and insights for the future.

## **1. Legal advice:**

The team can provide legal advice on the regulatory framework for business in Canada , and companies to drive efficiencies, unlock new value, improve the customer experience, and generate new business models.

## **2. Contract drafting and negotiation:**

Our team can assist with drafting and negotiating contracts with suppliers, customers, and partners. This can help ensure that contracts are legally sound and protect the interests of the business.

## **3. Dispute resolution:**

Our team can help businesses resolve disputes with customers, suppliers, or partners through negotiation, mediation, or litigation. This can help protect the business's reputation and financial interests.

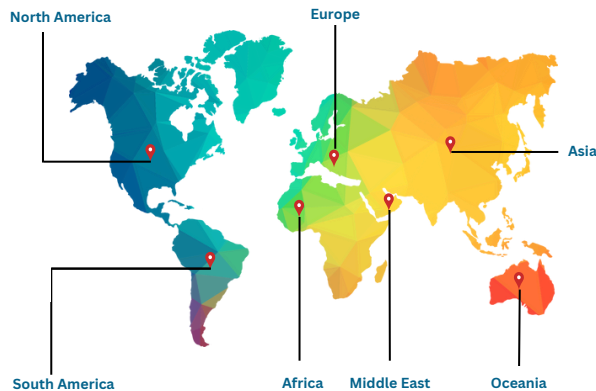
## **4. Due diligence:**

Our team can conduct due diligence on potential partners or suppliers to ensure they are legally compliant and financially stable.

## **5. Compliance monitoring:**

Our team can assist businesses in ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations, including tax laws, labor laws, and environmental regulations.

## SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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