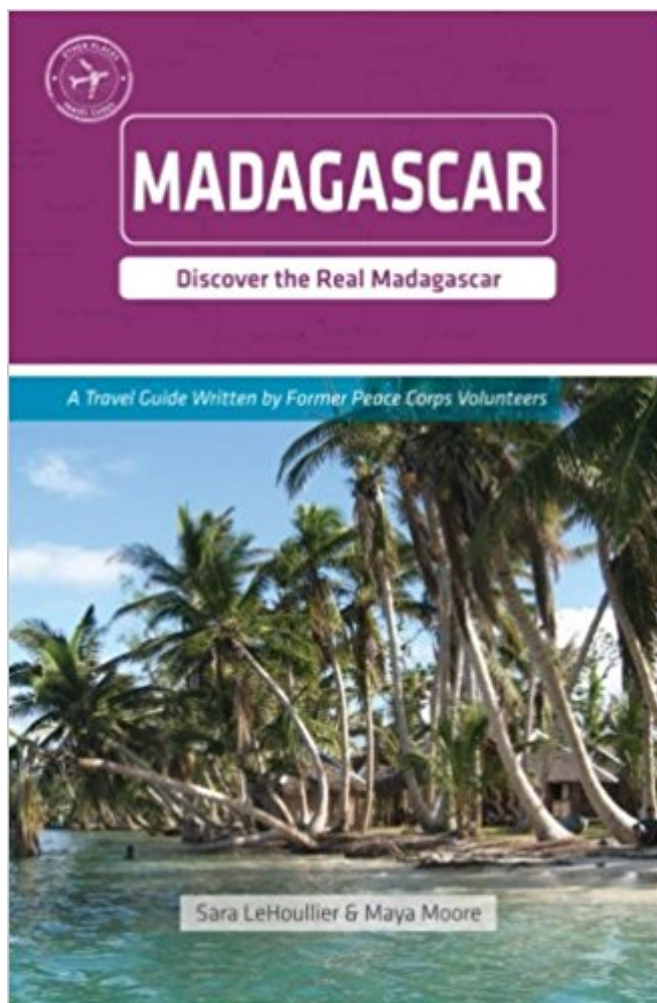


The book was found

Madagascar (Other Places Travel Guide)



Synopsis

The authors, Maya Moore and Sara LeHoullier, fell in love with Madagascar during their time in the Peace Corps, and haven't been able to stay away since. Over the past several years, they have investigated every corner of this stunningly diverse island, immersing themselves in the language and culture, and discovering new adventures (not to mention fabulous restaurants, hotels, and attractions) to share with fellow travelers. This guide provides practical advice, detailed maps, and firsthand knowledge to help explorers navigate both on and off the beaten path.

- Observe thousands of species of wildlife that exist only on this thrilling island.
- Bask on pristine beaches or get your heart racing while kayaking, surfing, or snorkeling in the clear, warm waters.
- Explore Madagascar's National Parks and Special Reserves that will boggle the mind and get the blood pumping.
- Experience the rich culture of Madagascar with its art, heritage, dance, music, and its warm and welcoming people.

Book Information

Paperback: 322 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Accurate information, plenty of details, solid hotel and restaurant recommendations. The chapter on the people and culture is by far the best of any of the guidebooks, and the lengthy descriptions of places allow you to fully get a feel for where you are going before you arrive. There is all sorts of oddball information and random facts thrown in which you don't get in the other Madagascar guides, which proves entertaining for long taxi-brousse rides or nights stuck halfway to your destination at a hotel. This is not a flip to a national park and see a small box with a table of practicalities or list of restaurants with stars next to it, it is a guidebook for travelers who like to read! On that note, there are no color photographs either, which is the book's only drawback. Pair it with the Bradt guide and

you'll have all the lists and photographs you want along with the personal narrative and recommendations of this one!

Did not find advice to be helpful

Traditionally, the typical choice of English-language travel guide for Madagascar has vacillated between the "Lonely Planet" and the "Bradt", with the latter generally recognized as the superior one. However, Other Places Publishing has entered the market with this guide written by two Peace Corps volunteers with input from their friends and colleagues. While traveling in Madagascar as part of a winter 2013/2014 expedition by the Moscow-based hitchhiking club Academy of Free Travel (though I and a partner brought our touring cycles and got around that way), I was able to evaluate all three guides. Spending three years in rural locations, Peace Corps volunteers see a lot of Madagascar that tourists never do. I've benefitted greatly from their insights when I've met them around the island. Consequently, along with the major towns, this guide recommends a lot of out of the way places, especially for those prepared to camp. The authors really push tourists into contact with the locals, and while I question the success of this, as I've seen that long-term residents volunteering here are treated much more warmly than obviously short-term travellers, their enthusiasm is admirable. For each major destination there are hotel and restaurant listings and information on getting there and away. Maps are basic but adequate. While the authors give some information on history, flora and fauna, it is very brief and certainly no competition for the Bradt guide. I think this book can be a valuable accompaniment to the Bradt guide due to its in-country perspectives, but it is not yet ready for primetime. The paper is low-quality digital printing, and there are black and white photos so indistinct that one wonders why they were even included at all. The language guide consists only of a small glossary, but without any guidance on pronunciation (which is needed since Malagasy orthography is rather idiosyncratic). The authors write in an extremely colloquial American style which may turn off or confuse readers from the rest of the English-speaking world. Another downside, common to any guide to Madagascar more than a few months old, is that many of the listings and general context are out of date due to the collapse of tourism in the country since the 2009 coup and the shaky political and security situation that ensued. Many of the accommodations recommended here are now shuttered and overgrown with weeds, foreign investors having given up and gone home. Older travel guides make this seem like a happening place, but the feeling of not just economic stagnation but outright backsliding is felt almost everywhere here.

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