HIGHLIGHTS
Madagascar’s Endemism
The world’s oldest island has species found nowhere else on the planet (e.g. over half of its bird and 95% of its reptile species are unique). Stepping outside always offers a treat: leaping lemurs and color-changing chameleons, noble baobabs and tangled octopus trees.

Madagascar’s Landscapes
Landscapes vary from highland mountains to vast grasslands to forests, including the Western dry, Eastern cloud and Southern spiny types. The razor-sharp crags of the Western tsingy, coastal mangroves and coral reefs provide rich areas for many species. Over 4,800 km of coastline offer sandy beaches and scenic rocky shores.

WHAT TO PACK
Like any good traveler, always remember your insect repellent, sun screen and a smile!

Summer (November – April)
Summer is the rainy season. Light showers begin around 4 PM and end at night. Bring light, quick-drying outfits and be prepared to get wet. The sun can be intense, so bring a hat – or buy a traditional straw one from a local market! If you visit the coast, don’t forget a bathing suit.

Winter (May – October)
It is cold at night, especially on les hauts plateaux. Layers are key. However, places out of the highlands are warmer and, possibly, wetter, so don’t forget rain gear!

Shoulder Season (April - May, October - November)
Enjoy these sunny, clear days! Revel in light clothes and short sleeves, but remember your sun screen, camera and hiking boots! Pack some layers for cooler weather.
Staff Picks

Our guide to some of Madagascar’s hidden gems

MAHAJUNGA
Located on the Mozambique Channel, this city is surrounded by colorful fishing villages and impressive examples of the country’s biodiversity. Visit Ankaranfantsika National Park as well as the sacred grottoes at Belobaka and Anjohibe. Admire Fort Ambohitrombikely and hike the Cirque Rouge for the stunning colors of its geologic landscape.

FORT DAUPHIN
Relax on the beautiful beaches around Fort Dauphin, including don’t-miss Lokaro Bay. Explore ruins of early Portuguese and French forts overlooking the ocean and spot migrating humpback whales leaping from the ocean from June to October. Check out the wild spiny forests found inland and visit Berenty Reserve for Madagascar’s flagship species: the ring-tailed lemur.

ÎLE SAINTE-MARIE
Fly or take the ferry to this island paradise in the Northeast. Spend time on the beaches or in the waves, watch whales or poke about the pirates’ cemetery in Ambodifotatra. For fewer tourists and less technology, consider palm-swept Île aux Nattes. An easy swim from the main island, Île aux Nattes prohibits cars, so your relaxation is inevitable.

TSIMANAMPESETSE
This national park in the Southwest has it all. Along with being a birder’s paradise, it is home to delightful species, including flamingoes, radiated tortoises and baobabs. The world’s 3rd-largest reef system and sunken caves offer thrilling dive opportunities. Access to coastal fishing villages and inland spiny forests adds to this place’s wide appeal.