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Madagascar



Synopsis

Madagascar, the naturalist's 'promised land', attracts visitors with its stunning scenery and endemic wildlife, from lemurs and aye-ayes to mantella frogs and sunbirds. From the Nosy Be archipelago to the enchanting coastal town of Fort Dauphin via the capital Antananarivo and the bizarre limestone plateau at Ankarana, Bradt's Madagascar covers all the national parks and protected areas, with itineraries to suit all interests and budgets. Co-authors Daniel Austin and Hilary Bradt have guided mesmerised visitors on more than 30 trips to Madagascar and their personal anecdotes and unparalleled knowledge, combined with input from around 50 experts, make this the most informative and indispensable guide on the market.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Indispensable' The Sunday Telegraph
'An authoritative and scholarly guide' The Observer
'A great book' Travel Africa Magazine
'This is no ordinary travel guide, but a lively, informative, amusing and sensitive account to be enjoyed from cover to cover' Lee Durrell, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
'The tenth updated edition of MADAGASCAR is a 'must' take-along and travel planner for any destination-bound traveler, and offers itineraries for all budgets and a focus updating all information on how to get to and travel through Madagascar.....A 'must' for any planning a visit to Madagascar!' California Bookwatch

Daniel Austin is the co-author of Madagascar, Madagascar Highlights and the forthcoming edition of Madagascar Wildlife. He is founder of the Madagascar Library and a photographer specializing in Madagascar, particularly its wildlife. He is Secretary of the Anglo-Malagasy Society, a collector of

historical material about Madagascar, and a fanatic of all things Malagasy. Over the past ten years he has spent a total of some 18 months exploring the Great Red Island. The original author of the book Hilary Bradt has visited Madagascar almost every year since 1982, and her in-depth knowledge has bought her lecture engagements at the Royal Geographical Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

This book has really thorough, accurate and up to date information.

Very interesting, very informative book!

I found this guide quite helpful in planning a family trip to Madagascar. There is much to see and do in Madagascar so we needed to be selective on how we spent our time. I found the guide very helpful in making the selections. I found that the information about accommodations was useful in making these selections. We haven't get taken the trip, so I might have some different conclusions after the full experience. But for planning purposes, I found this guide the most useful of those I reviewed.

Good chance that I will grade the book higher. Since I have yet to arrive in Madagascar, it is difficult to heaap praise on the book, which reads well & helps get me excited about my upcoming trip.

So much helpful and interesting info. A must if you plan to go there.

Perfect gift.

I know this is the best guide for Madagascar, where I have lived for 3 years. I have an older version, but just bought this hoping for updates on lodging recommendations, but I'm disappointed to see hotels that closed over a decade ago that are still in the latest version. I get that you can't visit everywhere for each update, but through guide contacts, reader feedback, and email, it should not be that hard to check this for an update.

Visiting Madagascar is all about visiting the National Parks to see its wildlife that is unique in the world. The book gives a good insightful account to tourists of the history, wildlife and culture that you will experience (the first 150 pages). Its clear the country is a classic 'Failed State' with appalling

infrastructure, bad roads, chaotic public transport and a lack of english speaking. Thus with my appalling French I have decided from this intelligence gleaned from the book, that I will be best to go on a guided tour so that my time (a precious commodity once you start working and are no longer a back-packing student) is used most efficiently. The book recognises that many people go on tours and has pages of global to local tour operator reviews to save you much time in who you might like to contact for a tour once you have decided from where you want to visit after reading the detailed area descriptions (remaining 300 pages of the book) For each area i found the book does an great job of acting as a GUIDE for your holiday. Enough maps and details on all the Parks (and the park administration and mandatory guiding system) allows you to fully plan your holiday without having to resort to a whole lot of additional internet searching etc. In the parks with trekking walks, there is usually an inset map showing these and I reckon a visual map is always the best way to portray such spatial information, instead of wordy paragraph descriptions that many guides seem to try and use instead of going for map. There was only a couple of times in the whole book was I left with feeling that guidance style info was lacking¹. Mt Ibity hike (p 194). The hike up the mountain is stated as 'a must' but there is no indication of how long? how rough? what elevation gain? just one sentence covering this critical issues for any hike would be great guidance.² Ranomafana NP (p201/202) has 'a large network of maintained trails' but the inset map is so small that none are shown :(Maybe shrink the scale of the overview map and make the inset bigger and put on the trails to give some guidance of where they are? As a geologist it was also good to see a dedicated geology section outsourced to an expert because much of the spectacular landscape is controlled by the geology but I did find a couple of issues in the geology section (p35-37) that could be tweaked to make some ideas a bit clearer¹. Of course the 900-550 Ma rocks have older zircon in then dating back to several billions years old (almost all sedimentary rocks have old zircon on them). This doesn't mean Madagascar has "far greater antiquity". It just means that some of the sediments that now make up Madagascar were eroded off an even older land, washed along by rivers and dumped into the ocean etc and then eventually got squeezed up in the 900-550 Ma tectonic cycle that turned these older pre-existing sediments into the rocks that make the current foundation of Madagascar². it could be mentioned that this tectonic cycle of 'mountain building' and 'immense collision' that created Madagascar from those much older sediments is called the Pan African Orogeny so that anyone really interested could google this term to find out more about it?³. in the Gondwana continental break-up section, it suggests that the 'a major rise in sea level followed' and deposited limestone over the earlier river and lake deposits. I dont think the sea rose, I think the land sank. When a continent tears apart, the heat rises up from the mantle below thermally

expands the whole crust so that the rift valleys are initially bouyed above sea level (the Triassic Uplift with rivers). As the continents proceed to break up and move apart they cool down and start to sink so that the sea can invade (the following marine limestones). This sequence seems to fit the classic Rift-Drift-Sag phases typical of all rifting margins so was there really a major sea level rise, or just local sinking/sagging of a continental margin? Overall the book was a great 'one stop shop' for my upcoming Madagascar vacation - well done Bradt team!

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