



Madagascar

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The location

- An island country in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of East Africa.

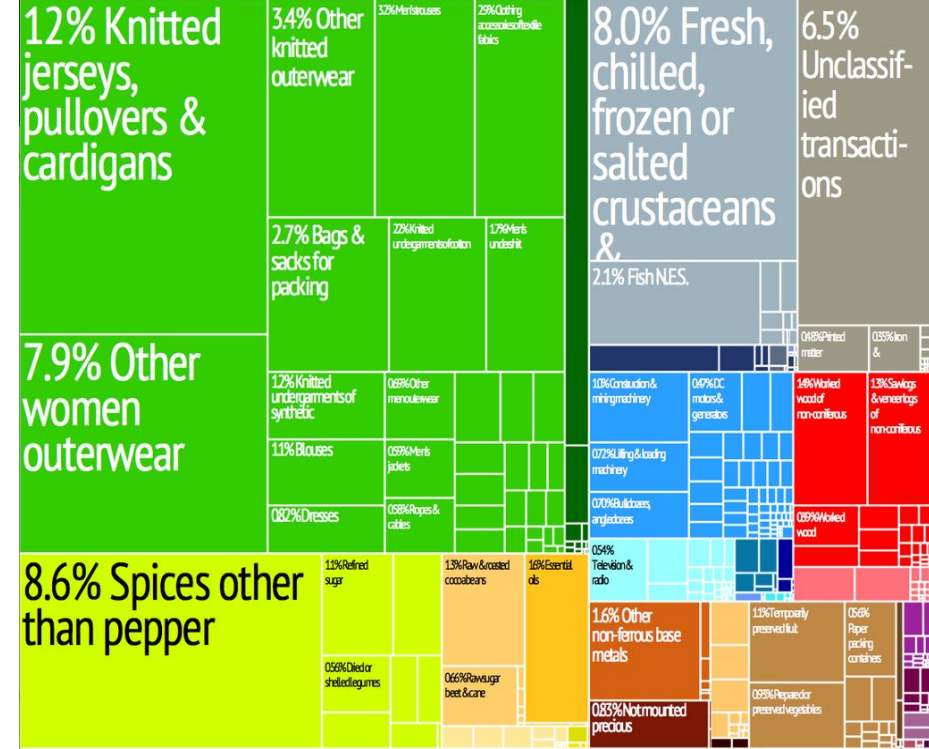


Facts

- The fourth-largest island in the world
- Home to 5% of the world's plant and animal species, of which more than 80% are endemic to Madagascar (lemur, infraorder of primats, the carnivorous fossa, three bird families and six baobab species).
- This tropical paradise is the world's second-largest producer of vanilla, after Indonesia. Ironically, vanilla originated in Mexico.
- Madagascar is one of the poorest nations of Africa. 90% of the population survives on less than \$2 a day.

Business

- Madagascar is the world's principal supplier of vanilla, cloves and ylang-ylang.
- Madagascar has one of the world's largest reserves of ilmenite



- Graphical depiction of Madagascar's product exports in 28 color-coded categories.

Holidays

- New Year's Day



- Alahamadi Be



- Feria Oramena

- Easter





- Madajazzcar

- Hiragasy



Gift giving

- As far as weddings, circumcisions, baptisms, etc, money is more acceptable
- Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped, there is no set protocol surrounding gift giving



- If one is traveling and staying with a family, it is a good idea to take a gift for the family or the husband & wife.

Food



Family

- Cousins are all “brothers” and “sisters,” aunts and uncles are “mothers” and “fathers.”
- All the members in this extended family are truly in intimate relationship with one another.



Language

The official languages of Madagascar are
Malagasy and French

