



# State symbols



Madagascar is a state in the western part of Indian Ocean, on the island of Madagascar and the surrounding small islands.

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world, its flora and fauna contains five percent of animal and vegetable species of the world, 80% of which exist only in Madagascar. The most famous of these are the lemurs.

Madagascar and Mauritania are the only countries in the world that do not use a decimal currency.

# Geographical position



Madagascar is the state on the same island on the east coast of the Indian Ocean. The area is 587 thousand sq. km, the population is 18.4 million. pers. The capital is Antananarivo.



Antananarivo, the "city of ten thousand soldiers", is situated on the sacred hills Imerina, Central Highlands. There is a picturesque lake between the hills. All people (about 1.5 million.) live in a single-storey houses, resembling a medieval European city buildings - a legacy of French colonization. Antananarivo is red town. Walls and roofs of buildings are made of brick or red clay. Bridge cities are paved with large cobblestones, narrow streets can wind.



The first visit took place in Madagascar by Europeans in 1500, when the ship of the Portuguese traveler Diogo Dias, coming to India, lost the course and stuck to the island. The French and the British tried to establish their outposts because of species of the island. However, the inhospitable climate and even less hospitable natives made this task almost impossible.



There are climatic zones on the island : tropical monsoon climate on the east coast, temperate climate in the central highlands and the dry climate in the desert on the southern end of the island.

Typical annual rate of precipitation is 350 cm on the south coast, 140 cm in the central highlands (in this case, in the capital - Antananarivo), 32 cm in the south, on the border of the desert.



Malagasy is an ethnic group that forms the main population of Madagascar. They speak Malagasy language related to the Indonesian group of the Austronesian language family. The total number is about 20 million people. Self-name dates back to the adjective from the word "Madagascar" thus Malagasy is "Madagascar" in Malagasy language.



Madagascar predators is an endemic family of mammalian predators consisting closely related to the mongoose. There are 8 species. The family is divided into two subfamilies: Mungo and Malagasy civet. Previously giant Foss existed on the island, hunting for giant lemurs, but because of man, which killed a lot of lemurs, a giant Foss died, lost food resources.