

# Travel Resources

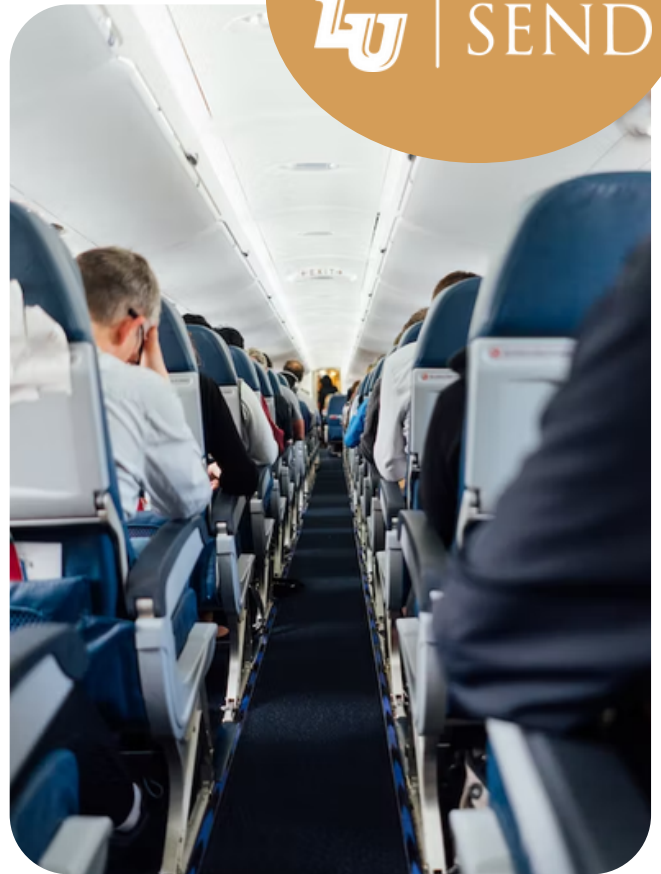
**Madagascar**  
School of Health Sciences



International Travel Insurance | Currency & Credit Cards  
VAT (Value Added Tax) | Cell Phone Usage | Meals | Internet Access |  
Vaccinations | Additional Resources | Fun Facts

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

International travel insurance is included within your trip costs, covering you from January 4th, 2024 through January 18th, 2025. The policy is comprehensive in nature and is used throughout the University for all international travel. If you would like coverage for additional aspects of travel beyond what is highlighted in the policy, please feel free to purchase separate third party insurance as a supplement to what is already provided. For more information on your current coverage email [LUSend@liberty.edu](mailto:LUSend@liberty.edu)

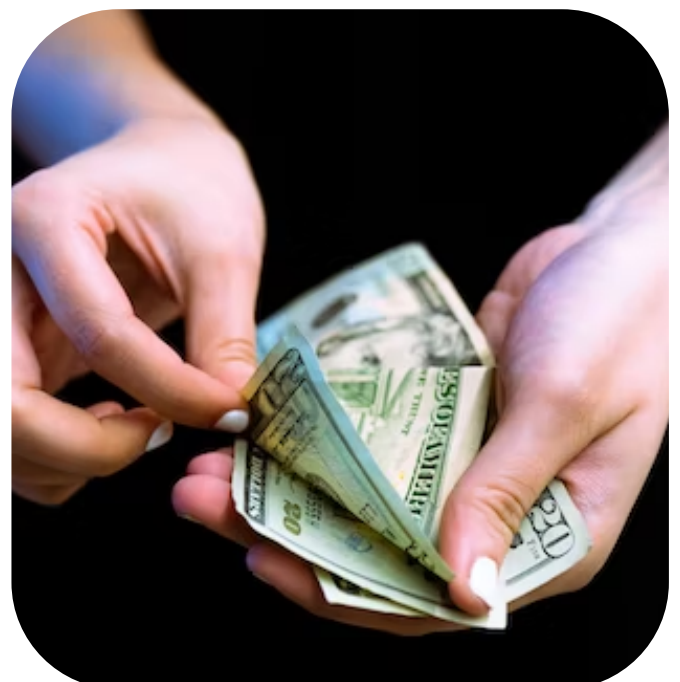


**“WHEREVER YOU GO  
BECOMES A PART OF YOU  
SOMEHOW.”**

– Anita Desai

## CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

In Madagascar, the country’s legal national tender is the Malagasy Ariary. The most accepted foreign currency is the Euro, but US dollars are easily changed too. Major international credit cards are likely accepted in large cities. Local currency can be withdrawn at an ATM with a debit card, but fees will apply. Make sure to contact your bank a few weeks before departure to alert them to your international travel dates and locations. This will keep your cards active while abroad. Keep in mind that fees will be charged for international purchases. Contact your bank for these fees.





## VAT

"VAT" stands for value-added tax. The tax is included in the price of the item, so the price you see is the price you pay. In Madagascar, the VAT is 20%.

## INTERNET ACCESS

Your hotels and bus may have access to the internet, however, keep in mind that unless you have purchased an international data plan for your phone, access to email, texting, and other Internet-based applications will be subject to Wi-fi availability.

## CELL PHONE USAGE

Most cell phone carriers have additional international packages that you can add on at a monthly or daily rate. Depending on the carrier, this can cost anywhere from \$10-\$40 and will provide limited text messages, data usage, and calling minutes.

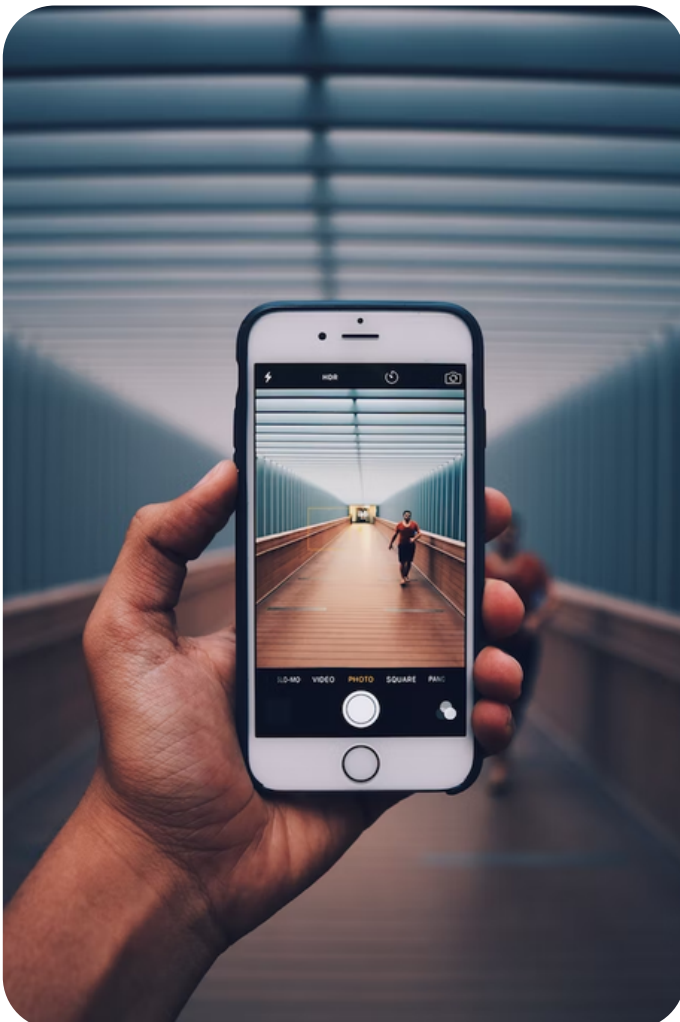
## VACCINATIONS

We recommend using resources such as the Center for Disease Control as you consult with your home doctor or other trusted medical sources, in order to make the best possible decision regarding your health. If you reside in the Central Virginia Region, below are local medical offices that you may consider consulting. Keep in mind some vaccinations require a minimum amount of time to take effect before entering another country. Communicate when and where you will be traveling.

Lynchburg Health Department  
(434) 947-6785  
1900 Thomson Dr. Lynchburg,  
24501

Rustburg Family Pharmacy  
(434) 332-1730  
925 Village Hwy Suite B. Box 1005  
Rustburg, VA 24588

Liberty University Health Center  
(434) 338-7774  
Commons 3 1606 Regents Pkwy



## MEALS

Malagasy cuisine encompasses the many diverse culinary traditions of the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar. Foods eaten in Madagascar reflect the influence of Southeast Asian, African, Oceanian, Indian, Chinese, and European migrants that have settled on the island. Throughout almost the entire island, the contemporary cuisine of Madagascar typically consists of a base of rice served with an accompaniment.

## FOOD & DRINK SUGGESTIONS

- Romazava: a meat stew with green leafy vegetables that have a very distinctive taste (brèdes)
- Ravitoto: stewed pork with shredded manioc leaves
- Kitoza: Dried and smoked meat or fish
- Masikita: skewers of zebu meat, accompanied by rice. The meat is barbecued and the traditional spicy sauces is added to give it flavour.
- Fruit juices and Lemonades: a common drink in Madagascar



\*We will try our best to provide a variety of food options for meals but cannot accommodate every dietary preference. For daily touring, it is highly encouraged to bring your own snacks if you believe you will get hungry during the day. Touring will be on a tight schedule, and it's always a good idea to have a snack if we find ourselves running overtime at lunch.



## FUN FACTS!

1. Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island
2. Madagascar wasn't discovered until 500 A.D.
3. It has a larger population than Australia
4. Many of the animal species on the island aren't found anywhere else on the planet. It is said that 5% of all known plants and animals can be exclusively found here.
5. Madagascar does not have any lions, giraffes, elephants, zebras, or hippos
6. Lemurs are regarded as sacred in Madagascar
7. Many native plants of Madagascar have healing properties

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Lonely Planet** – A helpful guide to understanding culture, travel tips, and additional insights.
- Currency Converter** – Plan how much money you need to bring in US Currency.
- Passport Application** – Don't have a passport yet? Follow the U.S. Department of State's instructions for applying for a passport