



Complete Guide to Kitesurfing and Wingfoiling in Madagascar

When to go, wind month by month, spots, how to get there, practical information and budget

Sakalava Lodge · Sakalava Bay · Diego Suarez, Madagascar

sakalava.com/en/

Updated 13 October 2026

Why go kitesurfing and wingfoiling in Madagascar?

Northern Madagascar enjoys the Varatraz, a south-east trade wind that blows with rare consistency over shallow lagoons protected by coral reefs. The result: reliable wind, flat water and warm water all year, with very few people on the water. People come for the riding as much as for the escape: baobabs, tsingy and wild beaches.



When to go: the wind season

The wind season runs from April to November. At Sakalava Bay the wind averages 20–25 knots in April and November, 25–32 knots in May and October, and 30–35 knots from June to September. April, May, October and November are ideal for progressing; June to September is stronger and suits regular riders.

Wind month by month at Sakalava Bay

Month	Average wind	Most-used kite*	Windy days	Profile
April	20–25 knots	10–12 m ²	≈ 70 %	Intermediate
May	25–32 knots	8 m ²	≈ 80 %	Intermediate
June	30–35 knots	7 m ²	≈ 90 %	Strong
July	30–35 knots	7 m ²	≈ 95 %	Strong
August	30–35 knots	7 m ²	≈ 95 %	Strong
September	30–35 knots	7 m ²	≈ 95 %	Strong
October	25–32 knots	8 m ²	≈ 80–85 %	Intermediate
November	20–25 knots	10–12 m ²	≈ 70 %	Intermediate

*For a rider of about 75 kg on a twin-tip. Average wind recorded at Sakalava Bay (source: Sakalava Lodge). April and November are transition months with good sessions on a wing or a big kite and fewer people around.

The main kitesurf and wingfoil spots in Madagascar

Sakalava Bay

Near Diego Suarez (Antsiranana), Sakalava Bay offers a flat, shallow lagoon over a large part of the bay, side-on wind and about 95 % of days rideable in season. There is no strong current, the area is huge and open, and the water is warm all year. It is the best spot to learn, and experienced riders find plenty to enjoy, including waves behind the reef for advanced riders. For wingfoil, conditions are very good, especially at high tide.

The Emerald Sea

The Emerald Sea (Mer d’Émeraude) is a famous turquoise lagoon, reached on a downwind day from Sakalava. It is deeper, so not ideal for learning kitesurfing, but superb for wingfoilers who are already independent. The Babaomby Island Lodge sits in this lagoon.



Anakao and the south

In the south-west, Anakao is an isolated fishing village: steady wind, flat water inside the lagoon and waves outside the reef for more experienced riders. Conditions and logistics differ from the north. Check the season and accommodation first, as access is longer.

The spots at a glance

Spot	Water	Best for	Access
Sakalava Bay	Flat, shallow lagoon, side-on wind	Beginner to expert; best spot to learn	Lodge base, transfer from Diego Suarez
Emerald Sea	Turquoise lagoon, deeper	Wingfoilers and independent riders; not	Downwind day from Sakalava

Spot	Water	Best for	Access
		ideal for learning	
Anakao (south-west)	Flat inside the lagoon, waves outside the reef	Experienced riders	Longer access

Which spot for your level?

- **You are learning to kitesurf:** Sakalava Bay, with its flat lagoon and private lessons on site.
- **You are progressing:** Sakalava Bay in April, May, October or November, when the wind is gentler.
- **Independent kite rider:** a comfortable base at Sakalava Bay, with trips to other lagoons.
- **Independent wingfoiler:** the Emerald Sea, reached downwind from Sakalava.
- **Big air and freestyle:** Sakalava Bay from June to September, when the wind is strongest.

Learning to kitesurf and wingfoil in Madagascar

Lessons are given by IKO-certified instructors, as private lessons with a dedicated instructor and a radio so you are guided live on the water. The shallow lagoon is reassuring for your first waterstarts. Kitesurf and wingfoil can both be practised during the same stay.

Sakalava Lodge houses the first kitesurf school in Madagascar, opened in 2005: IKO-affiliated centre no. 205678, the only school on the island in the One Launch Kiteboarding (OLK) network, 8 instructors including 4 also certified in wingfoil, more than 4,000 students trained and more than 30,000 hours of lessons.



Kitesurf for experienced riders

Experienced riders find sustained wind from June to September, a flat lagoon for freestyle and waves on the reef for big air. Some of the best riders in the world, including Cohan van Dijk, Jason van der Spuy, Stig Hoefnagel and Giel Vlugt, train here, at the lodge and on the spot. The lodge has a fitness and cross-training room and food suited to athletes, and the kite centre holds more than 100 kites.

Equipment: what to bring

With an all-inclusive stay, equipment is provided: kites or wings, boards, harness, helmet and safety gear. Bring a shorty or a full wetsuit depending on the season, sunscreen and your personal accessories. Independent riders can also bring their own gear: the lodge provides storage, launch and landing assistance, safety on the water and wind and tide advice.

How to get to Sakalava Bay

The simplest route: via Antananarivo

1. International flight to Antananarivo (Tana).
2. Domestic flight Tana to Diego Suarez (Antsiranana), about 2 hours. The domestic flight costs on average €250–350 return depending on the season.
3. Transfer from Diego Suarez airport to the lodge: about 40 minutes.

Alternative: via Nosy Be

Nosy Be is well served from Europe (many seasonal direct flights). From there, take a speedboat to Ankify on the north coast, then the road to Diego Suarez and Sakalava Bay (about 4 hours). It is longer, but it lets you combine a kite stay with a visit to Nosy Be.

The team helps guests book the right flights to match the wind and connections.

Practical information

Passport and visa

- Passport valid for at least 6 months.
- Visa on arrival: €10 to €35 depending on the length of stay.

Conditions and fees can change: always check with official sources before you travel.

Electricity and connectivity

Electricity is 220 V with European-style sockets, so no adapter is needed for travellers from Europe. High-speed Starlink Wi-Fi is available at the lodge, and mobile coverage on the bay is good.

Health

No specific vaccine is compulsory. Routine vaccines should be up to date, and a light antimalarial treatment is advised: ask your doctor. Pharmacies are available in Diego Suarez. Travel assistance and repatriation insurance is recommended.

Money and payments

There are cash machines in town, euro-to-ariary exchange is easy and card withdrawals are possible. Payments at the lodge can be made by bank transfer or in euro cash, as agreed.

What does a kitesurf stay in Madagascar cost?

In 2027, an all-inclusive stay at Sakalava Lodge starts at €680 for 3 nights and €1,400 for a week, per person. It includes the bungalow, full board, open bar and the gym; depending on the package, equipment, lessons and coaching are unlimited. Flights and transfers are extra.

Lodge, kite camp or all-inclusive stay?

A standardised kite camp welcomes a lot of people; a boutique lodge keeps a human scale. An all-inclusive stay simplifies the budget: accommodation, meals, equipment and lessons come together. Depending on the package, equipment and coaching are available without limit, and you can practise kitesurf and wingfoil during the same stay.

Why choose Sakalava Lodge?

The lodge sits right on the spot, with ten bungalows facing the lagoon, an IKO school and a lodge open since 1999. More than 400 Google and Tripadvisor reviews praise this human-scale format. The kite centre has existed since 2005 and holds more than 100 kites.

Frequently asked questions

Do I need to know how to kite to come?

No. Beginners are welcome, with private lessons adapted to their level.

What is the best time to learn kitesurfing?

April, May, October and November are ideal for progressing, with 20 to 32 knots of wind. You can also learn from June to September, with smaller kites and adapted coaching.

Are lessons private or group?

All lessons are 100 % private, with a dedicated instructor and a radio to guide you live on the water.

Can I do both kitesurf and wingfoil during the same stay?

Yes. The two disciplines can be combined freely during the same stay, with instructors dedicated to each.

Is a visa required for Madagascar?

Yes: a passport valid for at least 6 months and a visa on arrival (€10 to €35 depending on the length of stay). Check official sources before you travel.

When should I book?

As soon as your dates are set, especially for June to September, the busiest months.

Plan your stay

To prepare your trip, see the rates and packages, then get in touch: we reply quickly on WhatsApp and send you a personalised quote. Website: sakalava.com/en/ · Quote request: sakalava.com/en/contact-booking/

Sources and references

Wind speeds: averages recorded at Sakalava Bay by Sakalava Lodge. Instructor certification: IKO – International Kiteboarding Organization. The centre is IKO-affiliated no. 205678 and a member of the One Launch Kiteboarding (OLK) network.