



Country Profile: Benin

Benin is a developing country in West Africa. Its political capital is Porto Novo. However, its administrative capital, Cotonou, is Benin's largest city and the site of most government, commercial, and tourist activity. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Benin for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Benin
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Porto-Novo
Boundary Countries:	Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Togo
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Hopital Saint Luc (Cotonou)
Main Cities:	Porto-Novo, Cotonou, Cové, Bohicon, Abomey, Lokossa, Ouidah, Djugou, Natitingou, Malanville, Kandi, Parakou
Country Size:	112,620 sq km
Population:	8,078,314

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French (official), Fon and Yoruba (most common vernaculars in south), tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)
Currency:	Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc (XOF); note- responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States
Predominant Religions:	Christian 42.8% (Catholic 27.1%, Celestial 5%, Methodist 3.2%, other Protestant 2.2%, other 5.3%), Muslim 24.4%, Vodoun 17.3%, other 15.5%
National Holidays:	National Day, 1 August (1960)
Economic Status:	The economy of Benin remains underdeveloped and dependent on subsistence agriculture, cotton production, and regional trade.
Security:	Benin Armed Forces: Ground Forces Command, Benin Navy, Benin People's Air Force (Force Aerieenne Populaire de Benin, FAPB)
US Presence:	Embassy Cotonou Address: The Embassy is located at Rue Caporal Bernard Anani in Cotonou. The Embassy's mailing address is B.P. 2012, Cotonou, Benin. Telephone: The 24-hour telephone numbers are (229) 21-30-06-50, 21-30-05-13, and 21-30-17-92. Facsimile: (229) 21-30-66-82
Major Airports:	Airports: 5, Airports with paved runways: 1 Cotonou Cadjehoun Airport (COO/DBBB) Cotonou Airport, Benin, BP 96, Cotonou, BENIN Tel: +229 30.14.13, +229 30.14.02 Fax: +229 30.08.39

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