



Country Profile: Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso, previously known as Upper Volta, is a landlocked, developing country in the Sahel region of West Africa. Its capital is Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso is a former French colony; the official language is French. It is one of the world's poorest countries, and tourism infrastructure is limited. Please read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Burkina Faso for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Burkina Faso
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Ouagadougou
Boundary Countries:	Benin 306 km, Cote d'Ivoire 584 km, Ghana 549 km, Mali 1,000 km, Niger 628 km, Togo 126 km.
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Yalgado Ouedraogo (Ouagadougou), Clinique Moussa Kone (Ouagadougou), Centre Hospitalier National Sanou Souro (Bobo Dioulasso).
Main Cities:	Fada-Ngourma, Tenkodogo, Kaya, Dédougou, Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora, Ouahigouya, Koudougou.
Country Size:	274,200 sq km
Population:	14,326,203

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French (official), native African languages belonging to Sudanic family spoken by 90% of the population.
Currency:	Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XOF); note - responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 50%, indigenous beliefs 40%, Christian (mainly Roman Catholic) 10%.
National Holidays:	Republic Day, 11 December (1958)
Economic Status:	One of the poorest countries in the world, landlocked Burkina Faso has few natural resources and a weak industrial base. About 90% of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, which is vulnerable to periodic drought.
Security:	Army, Air Force of Burkina Faso (Force Aerienne de Burkina Faso), National Gendarmerie.
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso American Embassy secteur 15, Ouaga 2000 Rue 15.873 Phone: (226) 25-49-53-00 E-mail: amembouaga@state.gov
Major Airports:	Airports: 34, Airports w/paved runways: 2

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