



Country Profile: Central African Republic

Central African Republic is one of the world's least developed nations and has experienced several periods of political instability since independence from France in 1960. Despite an on-going peace process and the presence of a democratically-elected government in the capital, Bangui, rebels still control large portions of the northern provinces in the country, and highway bandits prey on civilians and travelers in much of western CAR. In the country's Dzanga-Sangha National Park in the southwest, facilities for tourists are being developed but remain limited. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on the CAR at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/4007.htm> for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Central African Republic
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Bangui
Boundary Countries:	Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Sudan
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Bangui: CAS Clinique
Main Cities:	Bangui, Birao, Bria, Bambari, Ndele, Bossangoa, Bouar, Carnot
Country Size:	622,984 sq km
Population:	4,369,038

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), tribal languages
Currency:	Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XAF); note- responsible authority is the Bank of the Central African States
Predominant Religions:	indigenous beliefs 35%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15% <i>note:</i> animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority
National Holidays:	Republic Day, 1 December (1958)
Economic Status:	Subsistence agriculture, together with forestry, remains the backbone of the economy of the Central African Republic (CAR), with more than 70% of the population living in outlying areas. Distribution of income is extraordinarily unequal. Grants from France and the international community can only partially meet humanitarian needs.
Security:	Central African Armed Forces (FACA): Ground Forces, Military Air Service; General Directorate of Gendarmerie Inspection (DGIG), Republican Guard, National Police
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Bangui Avenue David Dacko P.O. Box 924 Bangui Central African Republic Phone: (236) 2161-0200 Fax: (236) 2161 - 4494

Major Airports:	Airports: 50, Airports w/paved runways: 3 Bangui-M' Poko Airport (BGF/FEFF) Bangui Airport, Central African Republic, BP 828, Bangui, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Tel: +236 61.33.80, +236 61.33.85, +236 61.44.77 Fax: +236 61.49.18 Customs, hours: 07:30 to 14:30, plus for scheduled flights Tel: +236 34.24.66
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