



Country Profile: Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a developing country in western Africa still recovering from a ten-year civil war that ended in 2002. English is the official language, but Krio, an English-based language, is widely used. Tourist facilities in the capital, Freetown, are limited; elsewhere, they are rudimentary or nonexistent. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Sierra Leone for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Sierra Leone
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Freetown
Boundary Countries:	Guinea, Liberia
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	None at this time
Main Cities:	Freetown, Pepel, Bo, Bonthe, Lungi, Lunsar, Kabala, Koidu, Kenema, Momaligi, Shenge, Makeni, Kailahun
Country Size:	71,740 sq km
Population:	6,294,774

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	English (official, regular use limited to literate minority), Mende (principal vernacular in the south), Temne (principal vernacular in the north), Krio (English-based Creole, spoken by the descendants of freed Jamaican slaves who were settled in the Freetown area, a lingua franca and a first language for 10% of the population but understood by 95%)
Currency:	Sierra Leonean Leone (SLL)
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 60%, Christian 10%, indigenous beliefs 30%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 27 April (1961)
Economic Status:	Sierra Leone is an extremely poor nation with tremendous inequality in income distribution. While it possesses substantial mineral, agricultural, and fishery resources, its physical and social infrastructure is not well developed, and serious social disorders continue to hamper economic development. Nearly half of the working-age population engages in subsistence agriculture. A recent increase in political stability has led to a revival of economic activity such as the rehabilitation of bauxite and rutile mining.
Security:	Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF): Army (includes Navy (Maritime Wing), Air Wing)
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Freetown Southridge – Hill Station Freetown, Sierra Leone Telephone: +232 99 1055 00
Major Airports:	Airports: 10, Airports w/paved runways: 1 Freetown-Lungi International Airport (FNA/GFLL) Freetown Airport, Sierra Leone, c/o Sierra Leone Airports Authority, 24 Rawden Street, Freetown, SIERRA LEONE Tel: +232 (0)22 228133 Website: www.lungi-int-airport.com Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +232 (0)22 025238, +232 (0)22 025335

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