



Country Profile: Guinea-Bissau

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau, a small country in western Africa, is one of the world's poorest nations. The capital is Bissau and the official language is Portuguese. The country underwent a civil war in 1998-99 that devastated the economy. Tourist facilities and infrastructure in general are very limited and not up to American standards. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Guinea-Bissau for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Guinea-Bissau
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Bissau
Boundary Countries:	Guinea, Senegal
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Bissau, Cacheu, Farim, Gabu, Bolama
Country Size:	36,120 sq km
Population:	1,472,780

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Portuguese (official), Crioulo, African Languages
Currency:	Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XOF); note - responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States
Predominant Religions:	indigenous beliefs 50%, Muslim 45%, Christian 5%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 24 September (1973)
Economic Status:	The country underwent a civil war in 1998-99 that devastated the economy. One of the 10 poorest countries in the world, Guinea-Bissau depends mainly on farming and fishing. The inequality of income distribution is one of the most extreme in the world.
Security:	People's Revolutionary Armed Force (FARP): Army, Navy, Air Force, paramilitary force
US Presence:	U.S. Virtual Consulate in Guinea-Bissau Route des Almadies – BP 49 Dakar, Senegal Telephone: (221) 33-879-0000
Major Airports:	Airports: 28, Airports w/paved runways: 3 Bissau – Osvaldo Vieira International Airport (BXO/GGOV) Bissau Airport, Guinea Bissau, Aptado Postal 10527, Bissau Docex, 1501, GUINEA BISSAU Tel: +245 245272, +245 215381, +245 215090 Fax: +245 215090

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