

LIBERIA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++231

Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism: PO Box 10-9021
110 United Nations Drive Monrovia Tel: 226269 Fax: 226069

Capital: Monrovia Time: GMT

Background: Seven years of civil strife were brought to a close in 1996 when free and open presidential and legislative elections were held. President TAYLOR now holds strong executive power with no real political opposition. The years of fighting coupled with the flight of most businesses has disrupted formal economic activity. A still unsettled domestic security situation has slowed the process of rebuilding the social and economic structure of this war-torn country.

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone

Area: total: 111,370 sq km land: 96,320 sq km water: 15,050 sq km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid; dry winters with hot days and cool to cold nights; wet, cloudy summers with frequent heavy showers

Terrain: mostly flat to rolling coastal plains rising to rolling plateau and low mountains in northeast

Natural Resources: iron ore, timber, diamonds, gold, hydropower

Population: 3,164,156 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Liberian(s) adjective: Liberian

Ethnic Groups: indigenous African tribes 95% (including Kpelle, Bassa, Gio, Kru, Grebo, Mano, Krahn, Gola, Gbandi, Loma, Kissi, Vai, and Bella), Americo-Liberians 2.5% (descendants of immigrants from the US who had been slaves), Congo People 2.5% (descendants of immigrants from the Caribbean who had been slaves)

Religions: indigenous beliefs 40%, Christian 40%, Muslim 20%

Languages: English 20% (official), some 20 ethnic group languages, of which a few can be written and are used in correspondence

Economy: A civil war in 1989-96 destroyed much of Liberia's economy, especially the infrastructure in and around Monrovia. Many businessmen fled the country, taking capital and expertise with them. Some returned during 1997. Many will not return. Richly endowed with water, mineral resources, forests, and a climate favorable to agriculture, Liberia had been a producer and exporter of basic products, while local manufacturing, mainly foreign owned, had been small in scope. The democratically elected government, installed in August 1997, inherited massive international debts and currently relies on revenues from its maritime registry to provide the bulk of its foreign exchange earnings. The restoration of the infrastructure and the raising of incomes in this ravaged economy depend on the implementation of sound macro- and micro-economic policies of the new government, including the encouragement of foreign investment.

Industries: rubber processing, palm oil processing, diamonds

Currency: 1 Liberian dollar (L\$) = 100 cents

Railways: total: 490 km (328 km single track); note - three rail systems owned and operated by foreign steel and financial interests in conjunction with the Liberian Government; one of these, the Lamco Railroad, closed in 1989 after iron ore production ceased; the other two were shut down by the civil war; large sections of the rail lines have been dismantled; approximately 60 km of railroad track was exported for scrap standard gauge: 345 km 1.435-m gauge narrow gauge: 145 km 1.067-m gauge

Highways: total: 10,600 km (there is major deterioration on all highways due to heavy rains and lack of maintenance) paved: 657 km unpaved: 9,943 km (1996 est.)

Ports and Harbors: Buchanan, Greenville, Harper, Monrovia

Airports: 45 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 2 over 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 43 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 914 to 1,523 m: 5 under 914 m: 35 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 250g tobacco products, 1 litre of spirits and 1 litre of wine, 100g of perfume, goods to the value of US\$125

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers over one year of age. Water should be regarded as potentially contaminated. Fresh water carries risk of Bilharzias

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

MONROVIA

HEADQUARTER URBAN HOTELS LIBERIA, Tubman Blvd.& 20th Street
Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, International Number: +231 6-552-200, Country Code: 231 - Number 552-200, Email: reservations@urbanhotelsliberia.com and info@urbanhotelsliberia.com, www.urbanhotelsliberia.com

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL, MONROVIA, 100 Carey St, Monrovia Liberia,
Phone: +231227196

ROBERTS FIELD HOTEL, Robert Field Int'l Airport, MONRAVIA LIBERIA,
Tel: +231 721014

ROYAL HOTEL, Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor, Monrovia, Phone: +231 (0)77 7ROYAL, Fax: +231 (0)77 07042, reservations@royalhotelliberia.com, www.royalhotelliberia.com

THE KRYSAL OCEANVIEW HOTEL, 1000 Mamba Point Road, Monrovia
00105 Liberia, Phone: +231 651 0424, +231 588 2282 , +231 777 67676,
Email: info@krystaloceanviewhotel.com, www.krystaloceanviewhotel.com



CRUISES AND SHIPPING LINES

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES, ms Tropicale, Liberia, Tel: +231 1240561, Fax: +231 1240561

CELEBRITY CRUISES, mv Horizon, Liberia, Tel: +231 1243527, Fax: +231 1243532

COSTA CRUISES, mv CostaAllegra, Liberia, Tel: +231 1252216,

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE, ms Leeward, Liberia, Tel: +231 1335547010,
Fax: +231 1335547011, Leisure Cruises, mts Switzerland, Liberia, Tel: +231 663601714

MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING CRUISES, mv Melody, Liberia, Tel: +231 335315710, Fax: +231 335315712

RENAISSANCE CRUISES, ms Renaissance Six/Seven/Eight, Liberia, Tel: +231 61250142, Fax: +231 61250141

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL, ms Vision of the Seas, Tel: +231 36367111, Fax: +231363671211

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL, ms Nordic Empress, Liberia, Tel: +231 1243540, Fax: +231 1243547

SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS, ms World Discoverer, Liberia, Tel: +231 1242744, Fax: +231 1242744

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

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