

AFARS & ISSAS-DJIBOUTI

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++253**

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Capital: Djibouti, **Time:** UTC+3

Background: The French Territory of the Afars and the Issas became Djibouti in 1977. Hassan Gouled APTIDON installed an authoritarian one-party state and proceeded to serve as president until 1999. Unrest among the Afars minority during the 1990s led to a civil war that ended in 2001 following the conclusion of a peace accord between Afar rebels and the Issa-dominated government. In 1999, Djibouti's first multi-party presidential elections resulted in the election of Ismail Omar GUELLEH; he was re-elected to a second and final term in 2005. Djibouti occupies a strategic geographic location at the mouth of the Red Sea and serves as an important transshipment location for goods entering and leaving the east African highlands. The present leadership favors close ties to France, which maintains a significant military presence in the country, but is also developing stronger ties with the US. Djibouti hosts the only US military base in sub-Saharan Africa and is a front-line state in the global war on terrorism.

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, between Eritrea and Somalia

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 23,000 sq km land: 22,980 sq km water: 20 sq km

Climate: desert; torrid, dry

Terrain: coastal plain and plateau separated by central mountains

Natural Resources geothermal areas, gold, clay, granite, limestone, marble, salt, diatomite, gypsum, pumice, petroleum

Population: 496,374 (July 2007 est.)

Nationality: noun: Djiboutian(s) adjective: Djiboutian

Ethnic Groups: Somali 60%, Afar 35%, other 5% (includes French, Arab, Ethiopian, and Italian)

Religions: Muslim 94%, Christian 6%

Languages: French (official), Arabic (official), Somali, Afar

Economy: The economy is based on service activities connected with the country's strategic location and status as a free trade zone in northeast Africa. Two-thirds of the inhabitants live in the capital city; the remainder are mostly nomadic herders. Scanty rainfall limits crop production to fruits and vegetables, and most food must be imported. Djibouti provides services as both a transit port for the region and an international transshipment and refueling center. Djibouti has few natural resources and little industry. The nation is, therefore, heavily dependent on foreign assistance to help support its balance of payments and to finance development projects. An unemployment rate of 50% continues to be a major problem. While inflation is not a concern, due to the fixed tie of the Djiboutian franc to the US dollar, the artificially high value of the Djiboutian franc adversely affects Djibouti's balance of payments. Per capita consumption dropped an estimated 35% over the last seven years because of recession, civil war, and a high population growth rate (including immigrants and refugees). Faced with a multitude of economic difficulties, the government has fallen in arrears on long-term external debt and has been struggling to meet the stipulations of foreign aid donors

Industries: construction, agricultural processing

Currency: Djiboutian franc (DJF)

Railways: total: 100 km (Djibouti segment of the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway) narrow gauge: 100 km 1.000-m gauge note: railway under joint control of Djibouti and Ethiopia (2005)

Roadways: total: 2,890 km , paved: 364 km unpaved: 2,526 km (1999).

Ports and Harbors: Djibouti

Airports: 13 (2006), total: 3 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 (2006)

Visa: Required by all except transit passengers not disembarking and continuing their journey by the same aircraft or ship.

Duty Free: As for France (see France section). Firearms must be declared on entry and exit.

Health: As of 1999, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS was estimated at 37,000. Deaths from AIDS in 2002 were estimated at 4,400. There were 1,007 cases of malaria in 1994. Between the mid-1970s and the mid-1990s, 23% of children under five were underweight. In Djibouti nearly every woman has had female genital mutilation

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

DJIBOUTI

ACACIAS HOTEL DJIBOUTI, Lotissement Heron BP 4111 Djibouti, Tel: +49 (0)89 203006333, Fax: +49 (0)89 203006450 ,
reservation@acaciashoteldjibouti.com , www.acaciashoteldjibouti.com

AUBERGE LE HERON, Tél: 253 21 32 43 43, Fax: 253 21 35 75 00 ,
contact@aubergetheheron.net , <http://aubergetheheron.net>

DJIBOUTI PALACE KEMPINSKI DJIBOUTI, Ilot Du Heron ,P.O. Box 1960, Djibouti, T:253 21 32 5555, reservations.djibouti@kempinski.com ,
<http://www.kempinski.com/en/djibouti>

HOTEL RESIDENCE DE L'EUROPE ,Place 27 Juin, Djibouti, Djibouti
IMPERIAL RESORT AND RED SEA HOTEL, Bd Du Marechal Lyautey, Djibouti BP 2056, Djibouti

LA RESIDENCE LAGON BLEU, Tel:00 253 21 32 78 32, Fax:00 253 21 35 48 88, <http://www.lagonbleudjibouti.com>

**Sheraton Djibouti Hotel**

BP 1924

Plateau de Serpent, · Djibouti

Phone (253) 328000 · Fax (253) 328888

sheratondj@intnet.dj

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton>

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

DALLO AIRLINES, Region: Middle East, Address: Al Khaleej Road, Al Firdons Hotel Bldg, Ground Floor, PO Box 12197 Deira- DUBAI-U.A.E, tEL., Tel: 00971 4 73 38 08, Fax: 00971 4 73 44 64, Web site: www.daallo.com

DJIBOUTI AIRPORT, BP 204, Djibouti, Amboudi, REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, Tel: +253 34.16.47, +253 34.01.01, Fax: +253 34.07.23, Email: aeropot@intnet.dj

RESTAURANTS & BARS

DJIBOUTI

CAFE DE LA GARE, Rue Nasaro Houmid Abro, Djibouti, Djibouti, Cuisines: International T: +253 21 35153

KURRY - FLAVOUR OF INDIA, Haramous, Lootah Village, Djibouti, Cuisines: Indian, T: +253 77 62 22 88, kurryrestaurant@gmail.com

L'HISTORIL RESTAURANTS, Rue de Marseille, DJIBOUTI, Djibouti , Cuisines: French, T: +253 21 354767

MELTING POT, Restaurant Djibouti, Rue Bernard, Quartier du Héron, Djibouti, T: 253 21 35 03 99, <http://www.meltingpotdj.com>

PIZZAIOLO ,Rue Ras Makonnen, BP : 4358, Djibouti, Téléphone : 21 354439, pizzaiolo@intnet.dj , <http://www.pizzaiolo.dj>

SINGS RESTAURANT, Plateau du Serpent, Djibouti, Djibouti, Cuisines: Indian, T: +253 21345333

