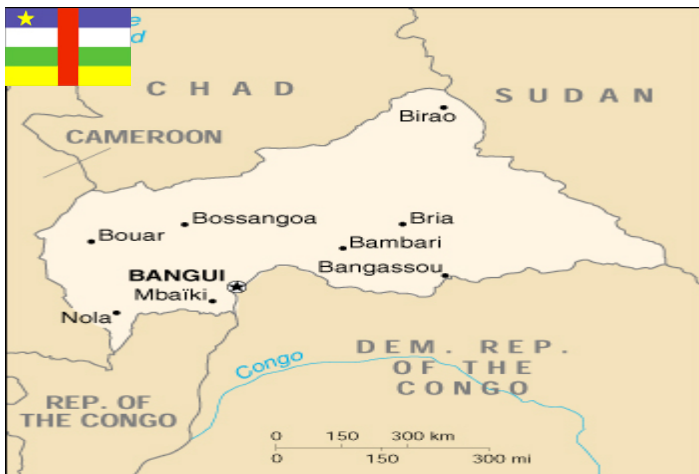


CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++236

Ministere de L'Industrie du Commerce du Tourisme et de L'Artisanat:
BP 655 bangui, Central African Republic Tel: 613-222 Fax: 617-653

Capital: Bangui Time: GMT + 1

Background: The former French colony of Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic upon independence in 1960. After three tumultuous decades of misrule - mostly by military governments - a civilian government was installed in 1993.

Location: Central Africa, north of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Map References: Africa

Climate: tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers

Terrain: vast, flat to rolling, monotonous plateau; scattered hills in northeast and southwest

Natural Resources: diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil, hydropower

Population: 3,512,751

Nationality: noun: Central African(s) adjective: Central African

Ethnic Groups: Baya 34%, Banda 27%, Sara 10%, Mandjia 21%, Mboum 4%, M'Baka 4%, Europeans 6,500 (including 1,500 French)

Religions: indigenous beliefs 24%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15%, other 11% note: animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority

Languages: French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), Arabic, Hunsu, Swahili

Economy: 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. The agricultural sector generates half of GDP. Timber has accounted for about 16% of export earnings and the diamond industry for nearly 54%. Important constraints to economic development include the CAR's landlocked position, a poor transportation system, a largely unskilled work force, and a legacy of misdirected macroeconomic policies. The 50% devaluation of the currencies of 14 Francophone African nations on 12 January 1994 had mixed effects on the CAR's economy. Diamond, timber, coffee, and cotton exports increased, leading an estimated rise of GDP of 7% in 1994 and nearly 5% in 1995. Military rebellions and social unrest in 1996 were accompanied by widespread destruction of property and a drop in GDP of 2%. Ongoing violence between the government and rebel military groups over pay issues, living conditions, and political representation has destroyed many businesses in the capital and reduced tax revenues for the government. The IMF approved an Extended Structure Adjustment Facility in 1998. The government has set targets of annual 5% growth and 2.5% inflation for 2000-2001.

Industries: diamond mining, sawmills, breweries, textiles, footwear, assembly of bicycles and motorcycles

Currency: 1 Communauté Financière Africaine franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 23,810 km paved: 429 km unpaved: 23,381 km (1998 est.)

Waterways: 800 km; traditional trade carried on by means of shallow-draft dugouts; Oubangui is the most important river

Ports and Harbors: Bangui, Nola

Airports: 52 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 3 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 49 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 10 914 to 1,523 m: 23 under 914 m: 15 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: goods permitted: 400 cigarettes or cigarillos or 125 cigars or 500g of tobacco, 3 bottles of spirits, personal jewellery not exceeding 500g, 2 photo cameras, 1 video camera.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age. risk of malaria exists. Water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BANGUI

BANGUI HOTEL, ABoulevard de Gaulle BP 1044 R.C.A., Bangui 0, Central African Republic

DU CENTRE, AVENUE DU PRESIDENTE V.G. D'ESTAING BANGUI
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TEL: ++236 610279

HOTEL LEDGER PLAZA BANGUI, Avenue de l'Indépendance, Bangui, Tel: 236 21 61 00 11, reservations.ledgerbangui@laicohotels.com, <http://www.laicohotels.com/ledger-plaza-bangui>

HOTEL LEVY'S, Bangui Centrafrique - BP 117 Bangui, Tél: 236 21616619, <http://www.levyhotel.com>

KARAKANDJI GUEST HOUSE, Avenue de France, Bangui, Central African Republic, Tel: 00236 75 51 04 94, <http://www.karakandji.com>

NATIONAL HOTEL, Avenue de France Sica 1, Bangui, République centrafricaine, Tel: 236 75 67 67 93, nationalhotel1075@yahoo.fr

SAFARI, BOULEVARD GENERAL DE GAULLE BANGUI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TEL: ++236 614220

SOFITEL BANGUI BOULEVARD GENERAL DE GAULLE BOULEVARD GENERAL DE GAULLE TEL: ++236 613038, fax: 2366 11239

NATIONAL PARKS & ZOOS

DZANGA-SANGHA RESERVE BAYANGA, Johannes Kirchgatter, Officer Africa Projects, Tel: 0049 0 6979144221, johannes.kirchgatter@wwf.de, <http://www.dzanga-sangha.org>

RESTAURANTS & BARS

CARRE GOURMAND, Avenue Barthélémy Boganda, BANGUI, République centrafricaine, Cuisines: Pizza, Tel: 236 75 20 09 74

SALE SUCRE, Avenue Barthelemy Boganda PK0, Bangui, Central African Republic, Cuisines: Lebanese Pizza Mediterranean Middle Eastern, Tel: 75007700



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

AIR FRANCE, LLC, Region: Europe, Address: 45 rue de Paris F- 95747 Roissy Charles de Gaulle Cedex Paris, Tel: 0033 1 41 56 56 00, Fax : 0033 1 41 56 84 19, Web site: www.airfrance.com

BANGUI-M'POKO AIRPORT, BP 828, Bangui Tel: +236 61.33.80, +236 61.33.85, +236 61.44.77, Fax: +236 61.49.18

KLM, Region: Europe, Address: PO Box 7700 Schiphol Amsterdam Airport NL-1117, Tel: 0031 20 649 91 23, Fax: 0031 20 648 80 96, Web site: www.klm.com

